



THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the
Texas DX Society
An ARRL Affiliated Club

February
2005

The Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 540291, Houston, TX 77254-0291

February Meeting Announcement

All interested in learning more about DXing or contesting are invited to attend!

The first part of the February meeting will be an open discussion about TDXS's plans for 2005, including meetings, speakers, contesting, DXpeditioning, fund raising, field day, and more.

The second part of the meeting will be a viewing of the FO0AAA Clipperton DXpedition video. This video is an excellent balance of the ham radio aspects of the expedition, and the fascinating history and ecology of the island, it was professionally produced by 9V1YC. This expedition made over 75,000 QSOs, and at the time broke the record for the number of QSOs made by a DXpedition.

Mark your calendar to attend this interesting meeting!

Date: Thursday, February 10

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: Tracey Gee Community Center

Address: 3599 Westcenter Drive

Directions: One block east of Beltway 8, between Richmond and Westpark.

Dinner before the meeting

TDXS members will meet for eats before the meeting, please join us!

Date: Thursday, February 10

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Location: Luther's Barbeque

Address: 9797 Westheimer, at S. Gessner

Guests and visitors encouraged.

For more info please contact Don Daze, N5DD, email n5dd@arrrl.net.

Please visit www.tdxs.org

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How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxs.net> email address: k5dx@tdxs.net
On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz (100 Hz) On 70cm: 447.00/442.00 MHz (103.5 Hz)
On Packet: Connect to **K5DX** direct or via **TDXS71** on 145.71MHz.
TDXS Reflector: To subscribe to the TDXS reflector, go to
<http://moonbounce.n5iq.org/mailman/listinfo/tdxs-list>

The ARRL DXCC List

The January 2005 Edition is now available from the League for \$5.00
The official source of DXCC information! Record the DXCC Entities you've worked and QSLed! This new edition includes a complete listing of DX Century Club rules including the latest changes and clarifications. It contains information about each entity on the DXCC List, deleted entities, and recent DXCC Entity additions. Also included are a prefix cross-reference, the list of international call sign series, and much more. Descriptions of all DXCC awards are covered, and information about how to get numerous DXCC items, such as pins and plaques. This is a "must have" for every DXer. You can order it on-line or call toll-free 1-888-277-5289.

TDXS Congratulates:

The XYL and son of our new secretary Laurent, W0MM. Marylou and Dominic both passed their license exams on January 22nd and are now KE5DQY and KE5DQX, respectively. Dominic is 12 years old. Congratulations to all the Thomin's on becoming an all ham family.

TDXS Website News and other items of interest:

As posted to the TDXS mail reflector a couple of weeks ago, the ARRL's DXCC desk now has your DXCC credits available for look-up online. Visit their webpage at <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/> and navigate to the category you wish to search. I have already updated several TDXS member credits on our own DXCC page, so if you have any new totals to report, e-mail me so I can post them to our website. Also check your e-mail address on the "Member Numbers" webpage. If you have any changes, let me know so I can update the links. Callsigns with hyperlinks go to an e-mail address, hyperlinked names go to pictures, homepages, or SK pages. Don't worry about spambots harvesting your e-mail address from our website since all e-mail links are encrypted in the html code. If you have pictures of your shack or antenna farm that you would like to share with your fellow members and the world, send them to me for posting on the website.

Thanks to Ken Eckels - AB5A for maintaining the membership database (roster) the last few years. Ken's time has been in short supply recently due to work obligations, so if you have any address/telephone/e-mail or other changes to make, send them to me so I can update the roster. We will try to bring copies of the roster to the February meeting for distribution. Check your listing, and if you have any changes, let me know. Out-of-town members can request a copy by e-mail.

I now have enough orders and checks to submit our logo shirt order to the supplier. If you haven't sent me your order form and check already, the deadline is February 10th (meeting night). I will be finalizing the order on Friday February 11th for submission. I currently have orders for 13 shirts from: WB5TUF, W5BXX, WD5KCX, WF5W, N4AL, K5WAF, N5DD, NN5O, and K6SE. This may be your last chance to order shirts for the next few years due to minimum order sizes. Dayton and Hamcom will be here before you know it, so why not look your best in your TDXS team logo shirts! I will bring some extra order forms to the meeting, so bring your checkbook if you want a shirt.

A number of website visitors have complained about not being able to see the entire menu, and as a result cannot navigate to all the available pages. This can be caused by using 800 x 600 screen resolution instead of 1024 x 768, using large or extra-large fonts in Windows, or laptops not having the same aspect ratio as desk top monitors. As a temporary solution, I've added a scroll bar to the menu. When we do away with frames, this will not be an issue.

We are currently averaging 18 visitors per day with 3.5 page visits per session, and an average visit time of over 4 minutes. Some visitors have stayed up to 40 minutes. This week the browser share is: 68% Internet Explorer, 15% Firefox, 10% Netscape, 3% Opera, 2% Safari, and 2% Mozilla. About 81% of our visitors are in the central time zone, 10% eastern, 3% western, and 2% mountain. All other world time zones combined account for 4%.

In anticipation of revamping the website to use style sheets instead of frames, I've drafted a sample test page to evaluate compatibility with various browsers including Netscape and Firefox. Our current WebPages do not display properly in non-Internet Explorer browsers. If you are using something other than IE, please take a look at the "test page" link near the bottom of our "Links" page, and let me know how it looks. The menu keys are not functional yet. Comments, suggestions, and new ideas on how to improve our window on the world are always welcome.

Steve - W9DX

LIFE'S TOO SHORT—TO MISS OUT ON DXPEDITIONS

By: Jim Carmody, nn5o, DXpedition Chair

As the first DXpedition Chair, please forgive me if I struggle in figuring out what my job is. Having operated in 13 countries over 44 years of hamdom, I confess that I love the hobby and taking it on the road overseas. Thanks to the CEPT treaty, it is easy and free to operate in Europe using (DX prefix)/(home call). If you want to go through the lengthy but fairly inexpensive paperwork process, you can get a true DX call, such as my EI2VNO Irish call (which I have used on 4 visits).

The modern, very high quality and compact HF gear is less expensive than it was some years ago. An entire station, including power supply and antenna can be easily mixed with your clothes in an ordinary suitcase. I have never had any serious problems with airport security or customs in transporting ham gear.

TDXS is very blessed with members and friends (OH2BH, e.g.) with far more DXpedition experience than I have. It is one of my goals to collect some of that experience in the form of .jpg and text files. Another goal is to disseminate that valuable information to you members and our friends in a useable form. This would include suggestions as to transceivers, power supplies, antenna systems, band and mode considerations.

Finally, I hope to suggest some DX countries and QTH sites for your thoughts. These suggestions will take into account contest conditions, including the presence or absence of entries in the past, propagation issues, travel issues, local hams, etc. Again, I know that many of you out there have very valuable experience. I want to find a way to lasso it and save it for the future.

Is there interest? Hell yes! Almost as a joke, a few days ago, I put out a suggestion of a 2006 DXpedition to 3B8, Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean. To date, I have three members interested in going to 3B8 and a possible. No, these do not need to be major, expensive contest trips like the recent very successful VP8 operation. You can have a blast as a solo, even QRP, from a castle in Spain, as I have done. Like the folks at Nike say: "Just DO it!"

Please contact me with your suggestions and may the fierce be with you....carmodyjim@yahoo.com

COMPACT DXPEDITION STATION FOR EI2VNO



The Contest Corner

de Joe, W5ASP

It seems I'm back in business again as TDXS Contest Chairman. It's been some years since my previous stint in the job, and a lot of changes have taken place in the world of TDXS. We are no longer a recognized player in the arena of club contesting, and some of the members who are still active testers no longer turn their scores for TDXS. But then life is change, and I don't intend to try to reverse the course of events.

What I will try to do is to point those who may be interested in doing some contesting towards some of the more interesting events, and suggest sources of information that will make contesting more enjoyable. Perhaps we will even pick a contest or two during the year to focus on as club effort. I intend to work with Steve, W9DX our Webmaster to provide access to some contest goodies on the TDXS website. I'll also be using the TDXS Reflector to pass on reminders and choice bits of news. That's the plan ... now to get started.

If you have not already done so, I strongly urge you to go to the ARRL website and sign up for the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet put out by Ward Silver, N0AX. It is an excellent collection of the latest and greatest in not only contesting but other related areas. Anyone with an active interest in amateur radio will find choice items that are interesting and useful. Try it, you'll like it. If you need help in getting signed up, let me know.

February is a big month for contests featuring the Sprints and ARRL DX CW (plus a bunch of foreign affairs). I won't urge anyone to get in the sprints, although they are a bundle of fun once you've figured out how to play the game.

ARRL DX CW is a must, if you are seriously into the Band/Country mode of DXing. The activity level should be reasonably high this year even with the demise of 10 M. It's not a good contest to get serious about from the states unless you've got lots of steel and aluminum with big watts. However if you find some time on Sunday, a couple of passes through the bands in the Hunt & Pounce mode can be fun ... everyone needs you.

That's it for now. Should you have any questions about the when, where or how of contesting get hold of me ... I'll come up with some sort of answer.