



THE BULLSHEET

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

MARCH
2005

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

Tomball Invades The Falklands

TDXS March Meeting is Thursday March 10th, 7:00 PM at the Tracey Gee Center



Cal White, WF5W and Paul Frantz, W5PF, will present the story of the 2004 Falkland Island Dxpedition. Madison Jones, W5MJ and Keith Dutson, NM5G were the other two members of the team. There is a slide show during which stories will be told, followed by a video edited by Bill Denton, W5SB. Come find out about the VP8WWW CQ WW CW effort, the penguins, the wind and the hospitality of the Falklanders. We hope that W5MJ is feeling up to telling some tales also.

Cal White, WF5W, is a new TDXS member. He has lived in several countries and held the calls VP7EP, G5EGB and HL9EP. Last year Cal got #326 to make the DXCC Honor Roll. Paul Frantz has also spent several years living overseas and has held the call LA0FV. Paul needs one more to make the Honor Roll. Last year Cal and Paul spent a week in Micronesia as V63WC and V63PF.

Dinner before the meeting will be at La Madeline, 10001 Westheimer in The Carillon Center from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. TDXS members, guests and visitors are welcome.

Texas DX Society Officers

President	Don Daze, N5DD	n5dd@arrl.net	713-464-7286
Vice President			
Secretary	Laurent Thomin, W0MM	tdxs@w0mm.com	
Treasurer	Bill Frink, K5WAF	k5waf@arrl.net	281-286-3330
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Field Day Chairman	Dave Topp, W5BXX	w5bxx@aol.com	281-879-9973
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DXpedition Chairman	Jim Carmody, NN5O		
Outgoing QSL Manager	Buzz Jehle, N5UR		
Webmaster	Steve Smothers, W9DX	cougar70@earthlink.net	
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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>

Last Month's Attendance:

The official attendance at last month's meeting from the files of our secretary Laurent, W0MM:

N5DD, AB5A, W5PF, K5WAF, WD5KCX, WB5TUF, W0MM, NE5B,
W5EET, KG5PP, N4AL, K1TU, W5ASP, W5SJS, W9DX, W5JWM,
WF5W (Total: 17).

Dues Reminder:

Our treasurer Bill, K5WAF, reminds us that 2005 dues are due. There are currently 27 paid up members for 2005:

N5AF, K5TU, W5JWM, W5SJS, W5ASP, KG5U, N5MT, W5PR, W9DX, NN5O,
K5EC, K1TU, W5MJ, N5UR, N5DD, N1LN, W5PF, W0MM, AB5A, WB5TUF,
N5KTN, K5WAF, N4AL, WD5KCX, WF5W, K5PFE, ND5Q

If you want to pay your dues, or believe there is an error, please contact Bill.

Upcoming Events:

March 9 2000 to 2200 Local - 2005 Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase
See www.w5nc.org/ptac/default.htm for details.
March 11 & 12 IOTA Bash at AD5A's in Boerne. Check www.islandradio.org
April 14 TDXS Meeting: Greece by Jim Boockholdt, N4AL at Tracey Gee.
May 12 Middle East and Alinco, KW5O, 7:00 pm, at Tracey Gee.
June 3 & 4 HamCom, Arlington, Texas.
June 9 Field Day info, 7:00 pm, at Tracey Gee.
July 26 (Tue) TenTec Orion, N4PA, location tbd.

TF - Iceland de: **Jim Carmody, nn5o, DXpedition Chair**

In these times of rotten and more rotten propagation, a DXpedition to a Pacific island might be fun, but an Atlantic QTH is likely to yield a lot more on the virtual log sheet and be easier on the travel time. In that vein, I have looked at about six or seven Atlantic prospects for TDXSers.

While they are great vacation destinations, CU (Azores), CT3 (Madeira Is.) and EA8 (Canaries), these cool places always have several excellent European ops with major stations in each one of the tests. You will have lots of local competition if you go there. In fact, to my amazement, a decade or so ago, when I was contesting as GU/NN5O, I worked our own super contester, Eric (NM5M), when he was an EA8 something or other. We were both shocked!

So, what to do? I have already inundated you with info regarding Kerry County, Ireland, but let's consider some other options less close to heaven.

TANGO FOX: They don't call it ICELAND for nothing, but it is a really beautiful place, I am told, and the air connections are good (so is the nightlife!). The location between Europe and the Americas is contest strategic, but the high latitude does create some propagation problems in the colder months. If you check out the various contest result listings, you can probably pick a category guaranteed to yield a certificate, even if you are not the only TF in the contest.

Below are some links to sites to get you started in your research on an Iceland DXpedition:

<http://www.icelandtouristboard.com/datetime.html>

<http://www.simnet.is/hamradio/veeng.htm>

<http://icelandsagatravel.com/tours05/featured2005.shtml>

And, yes, licensing is easy via the CEPT treaty. Check out the following:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/cept-list.html>

I would make some propagation/contest comments, but there are so many contests and seasons, and the sun is so unpredictable, that any comments would be of little value. Suffice it to say that Tom Taormina (K5RC) gave me the best advice long ago: "From Europe, solo, go 15 meters." That won me EU from GU on 15, and I would go with that from TANGO FOXTROT as well.

Any recommendation for a TF visit would not be complete without a mentioning that you visit with another TDXS super contester, Dale Martin, KG5U. Not only is Dale a great QRP contester and champion, he is a veteran of US NAVFAC Keflavik, Iceland, where he operated TF/ in the 70's. Dale is a wealthy, retired US employee and will be happy to discuss Iceland with you at any reasonable time, and he will buy the beer!

Finally, I note that there have been about 10 different TF stations on HF in the last month:

<http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs/>

If you are tempted to flap up NORTH, I would contact several of the stations on this DX Summit site to get suggestions.

Other Atlantic DXpedition sites will be considered in the future, and I VERY much appreciate your feedback.

73,

Jim, nn5o/ei2vno

The Contest Corner **de Joe, W5ASP**

At the February meeting we agreed to stir up the embers and make a real club effort during the upcoming CQ WPX Phone contest. We picked this particular contest as it is both a “DX” and a stateside contest ... i.e. every QSO counts. What’s more a KC5 multiplier counts just as much as a ZA.

There’s usually good activity from all points of the globe, and low power with modest antennas will play well, especially after the initial surge has calmed down. Even a few hours can net a decent score.

The contest is scheduled for the weekend of March 25-27 starting at 6 PM (CST) on Friday and going until 6 PM Sunday ... 48 hours of fun and frolic.

The basic rules are easy ... work anybody, anywhere ... exchange signal report and QSO number ... log it, and go on to the next one. In this one there is even a separate category for those with just a tribander and wires ... keeps you out of the “Big Gun” jungle. You can get the full set of rules at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>.

The contest will be a lot more fun, and submitting a log a lot easier, if you will use one of the various contest logging software packages. The classic logging program by K1EA is now available at no cost, and can be downloaded from <http://www.k1ea.com/>. For those who insist on using Windows try the N1MM logging program, <http://pages.ctime.net/n1mm/>. It has the added advantage of allowing access to DX Telnet packet spots. (Don’t hesitate to use packet, though in this contest its value is questionable.)

I suggest you get your software up and running well before the contest weekend. You can check with me, if you need help in setting things up. (We’ll talk about submitting logs later.) Also fire up the rig and check out each band/antenna, the mike, switch boxes, etc. Remember Murphey lurks !

I’d like to hear from all of you who feel that they can spend some time in this contest helping build up the TDXS score. Just post a note to the TDXS Reflector or email me directly. Keep in mind that even a few hours picking up the easy Qs and Mults can make a real difference. I hope everyone with a HF rig and some wire will join in the effort.

Finally, I would like to urge anyone who operates any contest to pass along his or her numbers to me. While I urge everyone who spends time contesting to post their scores to the 3830 Reflector, I may not always pick it up, and I do want to keep tabs on our activity. Thanks ...

W5ASP

The Prez Sez: de Don N5DD

I would like to recap a few things that have been going on in TDXS and in the DX community at large.

Contesting. TDXS has picked the CQ WPX SSB (March 26 & 27) contest to make a good showing of our club contesting capabilities. Every member is challenged to get on the air and make at least 100 QSOs, during the contest period, then submit your score the contest sponsor, showing Texas DX Society as your club affiliation, and send a copy to Joe, W5ASP.

DXpedition. Jim, NN5O, thrown out several potential destinations for a possible TDXS DXpedition. We have received a significant pledge to help with the costs of such an expedition. If any one would like to step forward and put together a plan for such an expedition, now is the time to do so.

Meetings. At the last meetings suggestions were made for speakers on Software Defined Radio, TenTec, and Elecraft. Looks like we will have Scott Robbins, N4PA, from TenTec as a speaker in July, but we will have to change the date from our normal meeting night. This month W5PF and WF5W will be speaking to us about their recent DXpedition to the Falkland Islands, in April N4AL will be speaking to us about operating from Greece. On May 12, Russell Dudley, KW5O, will be speaking to us, topic to be determined, but will include his operations from the middle east and his work for Alinco. Please keep the suggestions coming for meeting ideas and speaker topics.

Arlington HamCom. HamCom is June 3 & 4 this year, less than 3 months away. TDXS's major annual fundraising activity is to raffle off a radio at HamCom. The plan this year is to have two people in the booth at all times, and schedule two shifts of 3 to 4 hours each day. To make this work we need four volunteers each day. Please email me to let me know if you can help, and your preference for shifts. Also, the Lone Star DX Association is planning another great DX luncheon, at HamCom, this year, and rumor has it that VU4RBI may be the guest speaker.

Field Day. Field Day is coming up June 24 & 25. Last year we operated 2A, plus a GOTA and VHF station. We had the SSB station in the garage of W5BXX's beach house, the CW station in his air conditioned motorhome on the beach, the GOTA station under the carport, and the VHF station up on the deck. We used two 3 element tribanders, two 2 element 40 meter beams, and a log periodic antenna. We earned a competitive score and a good time was had by all. We are looking for strategy suggestions to improve our plans for 2005. Please let me know if you plan to participate with TDXS at Field Day this year. The number of responses will determine the scope of our plans.

ARRL Membership. The ARRL is offering affiliated clubs, like TDXS, an opportunity to earn a few dollars. If you renew (or sign up for new) your ARRL membership through TDXS, our treasury gets \$2.00. See Bill, K5WAF, for more details. I encourage all TDXSers to maintain their ARRL membership.

TDXS Roster. Laurent, W0MM, is working on gathering updates to the TDXS roster. Once collected, this information will be distributed to members only, it will not be published on the web site or reflector. If any of your contact info has changed please send updates to Laurent.

Continued next page ...

Prez Sez, contd.

Peter I. I think we were all disappointed to see the Peter I expedition canceled. Lets hope the team has better luck next year.

BPL. Idacomm has received permission from the FCC to deploy BPL in Bellaire, Texas! This is something we all need to watch. The following is a link to their F.C.C. application.

https://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/oet/cf/els/reports/442_Print.cfm?mode=initial&application_seq=28994&license_seq=29247

Desecheo (KP5) and Navassa (KP1). Please see <http://www.kp1-5.com> for information about the bill before congress to open Desecheo and Navassa for amateur radio operation. This is something that we should all write our congressmen about.

Swains Island, new DXCC entity, or not! The KH8SI expedition to Swains (IOTA-200) is underway. Quite a controversy has arisen concerning what it would take to make Swains count for DXCC, and why that might be bad for all American amateurs.

Currently, American Samoa is a point 2 entity. Separation from Swains is not far enough for Swains to count as a separate entity. As I understand it, if American Samoa was represented by its own member society at the IARU, then American Samoa would become a point 1 entity, and Swains would become a point 2 entity. The American Samoa Amateur Radio Society has asked the A.R.R.L. to support their independent membership in the IARU, and to represent them at the IARU. The A.R.R.L.'s position is that in dealing with government agencies it is essential that that United States Amateurs have a single voice to represent them.

Please see <http://www.arrl.org/announce/American-Samoa/> and <http://www.swains-island.org> for background on this issue.

That is it for this month. Please advise me of anything you think that TDXS should be doing that we are presently not doing.

73,

Don, N5DD

TDXS Web News deSteve W9DX

Netscape and Firefox browser users can now rejoice. The TDXS Home page is now more compatible with non-IE browsers. Although some differences still exist, the appearance in non-IE browsers should be almost the same as Internet Explorer.

I've added a number of pictures to our Member Number page where member names are hyperlinked to pictures, homepages, or SK tributes. I need more pictures, so if you have a picture of you in your shack and/or antenna farm that you would like to share with the world, please send it along. It would be great to have a picture of each member.

Our DXpedition page has been expanded to highlight some of our members DXpeditions. I need more pictures, so if you've been on a DXpedition or overseas contesting event, send me pictures, call signs and dates.

Thanks to Henry - W5HNS, our SK Tribute page is now complete with the addition of an obituary for Dusty Rhoades - W5URN. I still need pictures for some of our Silent Keys, so check your photo albums.

Our club shirt supplier has informed me that our shirts will be shipping on Monday March 7th. I doubt that UPS will get them here in time for the March meeting, but I'm hopeful.