



THE BULLSHEET

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

September
2005

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

September Meeting -- Thursday September 8th

The September TDXS meeting will feature Wayne Wright, W5XD, presenting "Contesting and Station Automation".

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

Wayne will talk about how contest logging software automates your station operation, not only logging QSOs and transmitting exchanges, but how routing your station audio through your sound card enables your PC to control things like two radios at once, and receive CW. Your contest software also automates post-contest operations like sending your log to the contest sponsor, and posting your log to Logbook of the World.

Wayne Wright was first licensed in 1971 as WN5CCT and his elmer was Ed Cannan, WA5RQP who was his high school band director. He became WB5CCT in 1972 and Amateur Extra in 1973--taking both exams at the FCC office at the Federal Building in downtown Houston. Wayne got his present call, W5XD, in 1978. He was active at the club stations at the universities he attended: W1MX at MIT from 1974 through 1978, and W6YX at Stanford 1981 through 1983. Wayne is author of the WriteLog contesting software.

Wayne has been employed in the oil industry since 1978, and has been a professional software engineer since 1983. His current professional projects involve massively parallel software products creating images from seismic data using a cluster of several thousand PCs running for days at a time.

This promises to be an interesting meeting!

Thursday, September 8, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at the 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!

Thursday, September 8, 6:00 - 7:00 pm at Luther's Barbeque 9797 Westheimer, at S. Gessner

Guests and visitors encouraged.

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
Contest Chairman	Joe Staples, W5ASP		
Field Day Chairman	Dave Topp, W5BXX	w5bxx@aol.com	281-879-9973
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf@earthlink.net	832-595-2855
DX Chairman			
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>

Augut Meeting Attendance

de Laurent, W0MM

N5DD, AF5T, K5WAF, VK4UC/W6KNC, VK4KOO, N5MT, W5GCX, K5LBU, W5KDJ, AD8A, N5ET, N5UR, W5MJ, N5KTN, KG5U, W5ASP. Total - 16

From the TDXS Archives

de Steve, W9DX



(l to r): Tom Ashworth-N5EA, Dave Busick-N5JJ (SK), Grady Ferguson-W5FU (ex-NA5R), Bob Sorace-WD5CHY (SK), Ken Martin-K5YCP (SK), Rich Keller-K5WA (SK). Photo taken in the TDXS hospitality suite at the ARRL National Convention, Houston, TX - 1983. Photo courtesy of Zita Sorace, XYL of WD5CHY.

The Prez Sez: de Don N5DD

Meetings. Last month Wayne Barker, AD8A, spoke to us about WinLink. This technology is being used a lot right now to pass Katrina health and welfare traffic.

This month, Wayne Wright, W5XD, the author of WriteLog, will speak to us about Software and Station Automation for Contesting.

In October, Joe Staples, W5ASP, will talk to us about his operation from ZF1A, and in particular about the effects to Grand Cayman when it was hit by a hurricane.

I am still looking for a speaker for our November meeting, if you have a suggestion for a topic or speaker, please let me know.

TDXS Constitution. Bill Frink, K5WAF, and I have been drafting some proposed changes to the TDXS Constitution. Generally, the changes clarify the roles of the various elected and appointed positions in the club. Most significantly, we are proposing combining of the Sectary and Treasurer positions. This way the same individual will be keeping both the attendance and due payment records. Also, we are proposing splitting the vice President responsibilities into two jobs: 1) programs, and 2) membership. These changes will be discussed at the September meeting, and voted upon at a future meeting. If anyone is interested in a copy of the proposed changes, please send an email to Bill or myself.

2006 Officers. Nominations for TDXS 2006 officers will open at the September meeting, and close at the October meeting, with elections taking place during the November meeting. Now is the time to think about who you would like to nominate to serve in an office. A club like ours is a collection of individuals. There are multiple roles and responsibilities that must be performed for the club to function. Each member has different skills and abilities to bring to bear for the good of the club [and for the good ham radio]. I would like to suggest that each member consider serving in one office for a year, at some point in their membership tenure.

Christmas Party. The TDXS Christmas party will be on December 8. This is our regular 2nd Thursday night, so it will not interfere with the weekend contest. Since last years party at Los Tios was so well received, I have tentatively made reservations there for this year. For those who missed last year, Los Tios served up the Mexican buffet which includes beef and chicken fajitas and all the traditional Mexican side dishes, tea and soft drinks. A cash bar is available. Cost to members will be determined shortly. If you have any alternative suggestions for a Christmas party please let me know ASAP.

January Banquet. It is time to start thinking about our January Banquet. Generally this is held on a Saturday evening in mid-January, and right now I am planning on the 14th. I will try to keep this in the same price range as last year [\$30/head]. If anyone has a suggestion for a banquet venue, or would like to help in planning the banquet please contact me.

TDXS Topp DX Fund. Dave Topp, W5BXX, has made a very generous contribution to TDXS for the purpose of supporting TDXS DXPeditions. Dave's letter appears elsewhere in this Bullsheet issue. Since a DXPedition planning cycle may not correspond to our elected officer terms, a special committee will be set up to oversee the planning and disbursement of these funds. I wish to join TDXS in thanking Dave for his very generous gift.

73,

Don, N5DD

Open letter from Dave Topp, W5BXX...

Nine years ago I had to give up golf and a friend persuaded me to take up ham radio after a 42-year layoff. I did and radio and TDXS have been an important part of my life ever since. About 3 years ago God blessed me, and others, with some significant production near Brookshire, Texas. It's a wonderful feeling to be able to sincerely and unsolicitedly "give back" to ministries of my church, special Olympics, law enforcement and ham radio.

For about the last two years I have been donating to DXpeditions that I thought were worthy, the education fund of ARRL, the spectrum defense fund of ARRL, Ten-Ten scholarship fund, hospital expenses of hams injured in DXpeditions, etc. I made a significant donation to the VU4 trip to Andaman-Nicobar Islands. In January I received a long email from Charles Harpole stating that my funds provided for Bharathi Prasad's air fare and hotel expenses, and we all know the importance of her presence meant to the relief efforts. It is very satisfying to see the tangible results come full circle. I have visited with her by email and am convinced it was God's grace that allowed her to render aid so dramatically.

Three months ago I gave a check to TDXS for \$10,000 for its use in conducting some DX/Contest trips, at the Board's discretion. I hope to be able to make this an annual contribution (as long as oil prices stay up)! and hope the use would solidify our current membership as well as attract new, quality members.

Make no mistake, I do this strictly out of my appreciation of ham radio and TDXS and do not accept certificates, coffee mugs or t-shirts! Being a member of TDXS is thanks enough.

'73,
Dave
W5BXX

TDXS Calendar

24-25 September **Texas QSO Party** see www.txqp.org warm up the rig and PARTICIPATE
October 13, **TDXS meeting**, Joe Staples, W5ASP, will speak about ZF1A. Tracey Gee at 7:00 pm.
November 10, **TDXS meeting**, Tracey Gee at 7:00 pm.
December 8, **TDXS Christmas party**, 6:30 pm, Los Tios, 9527 Westheimer Road.

Contest Corner de Joe, W5ASP

Looking over the Contest Calendar at our options, I quickly ruled out the Ten Meter (usually a great event, but probably it's too far into the cycle minimum to count on), and the two CQWW events (too intense and hardware demanding for most of us). That leaves Sweepstakes as probably the most interesting alternative. Since we did a phone contest in March, why not chose CW this time ? This year it will start the afternoon of Saturday, November 5th. Plenty of time to get ready. Way back when, TDXS won several "gavels" in the Medium Club category and was a major player for many years. It might be fun to see how well we could do, if we really could get a "best effort" from those of us who still remember the code.

I can already hear the anguished cries ... the exchange is too long, the bands are too crowded, the contest is too long, the sky is falling But when one looks more carefully there are some often overlooked aspects of SS that in fact make it one of the easier contests even for the "non-contester".

1. Everybody is "needed", i.e. your call sign is "rare"; by Sunday afternoon anyone with less than a few hundred Qs will be top dog.
2. Low power with modest antennas are the norm. Yes, there will be the Big Guns but you'll hear them begging after the first eight hours.
3. It's strictly a domestic contest, i.e. lots of good solid signals ... all day, all night.
4. QRS and fills are the rule. And you'll be surprised at how quickly your code speed will pick up after a short period of operating. (I'm assuming that most of us did pass a code test once upon a time).
5. There's LOTS of mults ... 80 I think. so it's not at all difficult to get a reasonable score quickly. For instance, working 50 or more mults in the initial few of hours of operating is almost a certainty, and a S&P rate of 40-50 per hour (in your initial hours) can mean a score easily in excess of 25K.
6. There's lots of time to operate. Three or four sessions of a couple hours each (particularly on Sunday) can result in a really nice number to turn in for TDXS.

I'll leave it at that. It would help if those of you who might be interested would let me know. If we find enough folks willing to commit to say six hours of operating, we can start putting together an effort. We may have to get together and hang some wires, or find some spare radios, etc. but it is doable. I'll be listening.

[Joe has reported no response to last month's article, so I have taken the liberty of rerunning it. Please let Joe know if you plan any Sweepstakes operation.Ed.]