



THE BULLSHEET

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

February
2006

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

What the Heck is a SteppIR?



You have heard about them, they have been used on major DXpeditions and now they'll be used on the TDXS Malta DXpedition. So what is a SteppIR? Paul, W5PF, will talk about the construction, assembly and care & feeding of SteppIR antennas. There will be pictures as well as some real live parts of the two element SteppIR yagi that will go to Malta. Paul and Cal, WF5W, took a similar two element SteppIR loaned by Fluid Motion, the manufacturer, on their V63 trip in 2003. Paul has a 3 element at home which has been up about a year and a half. Come see some of the latest antenna technology up close and personal.

The meeting is Thursday Feb. 9, 7:00PM, at the Tracy Gee Center. Dinner before the meeting is at Luther's at S. Gessner and Westheimer starting about 5:30. Friends and guests always welcome.

Check the Log lookup and 9H spot checker that Steve has put on the Team Malta web page. It is on the TDXS web site under Dxpeditons.

Also see the article by W5MJ on the preparations for the Malta trip in this issue.

Texas DX Society Officers

President	Mike Davidson, N5MT	n5mt@aol.com	
VP Membership	Steve Smothers, W9DX	cougar70@earthlink.net	
VP Programs	Arthur Alvarez, N5KTN	kingarthur@msn.com	
Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Frink, K5WAF	k5waf@arrl.net	
Contest Chairman	Don Daze, N5DD	n5dd@arrl.net	
Field Day Chairman			
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf@earthlink.net	832-595-2855
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Outgoing QSL Manager	Buzz Jehle, N5UR		
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How to reach US

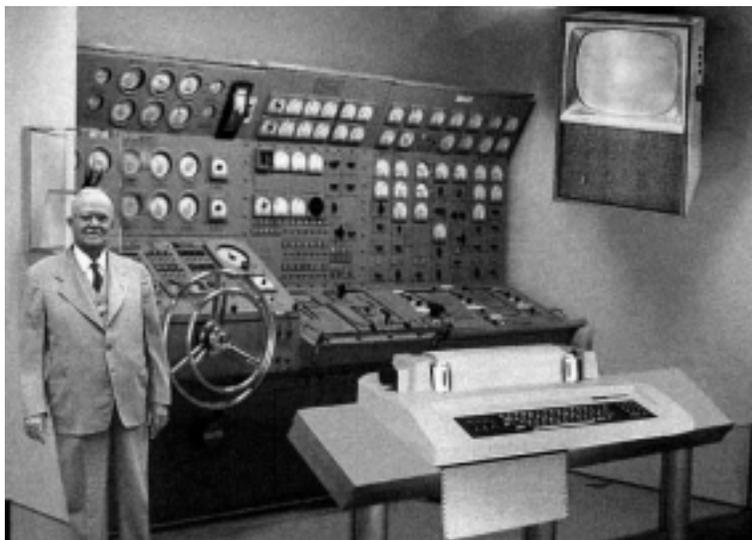
On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxx.net> email address: k5dx@tdxx.net
On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz (100 Hz) On 70cm: 447.00/442.00 MHz (103.5 Hz)
On Packet: Connect to **K5DX** direct or via **TDXS71** on 145.71MHz.
TDXS Reflector: To subscribe to the TDXS reflector, go to
<http://moonbounce.n5iq.org/mailman/listinfo/tdxx-list>

Birthday Corner, Congratulations to TDXSers celebrating birthdays in February:

Dave Blaschke - W5UN	James Clark - N5RO	Fred DeVoto - K5FP
Bob Cooney - K1TU	Mike Bragassa - K5UO	James Parnell - W5JAW
Charles Frost - K5LBU	Bob Moorman - K5VMX	Don Butler - N5LZ
Marshall Dues - WB5MYO	Ronald Amox - K5EJO	Jim Boockholdt - N4AL
Bob Perring - N5RP	Tom Shapiro - KD5SP	Marty Kirkland - WA5TMN
Mike Crownover - AD5A		

From the N5DD Archives:

Pre-sound card on getting his RTTY SuperStation ready for this weekends RTTY WPX Contest.



The Prez Sez:

TDXS Starts A New Year 2006

I hope you enjoyed yourself at the Saltgrass Steakhouse where we had our January banquet. We had about forty members and friends attend a great banquet organized by Don Dazz N5DD and his wife Amy KC5DJI. Thanks Don for the coffee mugs and for picking a great place for our annual social get-together. The room, service and food were great, as well as all the door prizes that Don had rounded up for us. I do not remember a past banquet when everyone got a prize and many of you received several things. Please remember to drop a "Thank you" to any vendors that may have given you a prize.

Part of the formal business at the banquet was the change over to the new TDXS officials. Don turned over the presidency to Mike Davidson N5MT. Mike in turn thanked Don for a successful 2005 and presented him with a plaque of appreciation for his past years as VP and President in 2005. As we did not have a VP last year, we now have two VP's doing different jobs. VP of membership is Steve Smothers W9DX. VP of Programs is Arthur Alvarez N5KTN.

The position of Secretary has now been combined into a Secretary/Treasurer position filled for another year by Bill Frink K5WAF who was collecting dues and taking moneys for the banquet. If you have not paid your dues then you are past due for 2006.

The Contest Chairman has changed to Don N5DD. The DXpedition Chairman is Cal White WF5W who will be the team leader for the DXpedition going to Malta in March. The other four officers remain the same, with Glenn Anderson WB5TUF, as Repeater Chairman; Buzz Jehle N5UR, handling the outgoing QSL's; our Webmaster is Steve Smothers W9DX; and Paul Frantz W5PF, as our Bullsheet Editor. The only position still pending is the Field Day Chairman.

The Field Day topic was discussed and as you know we have an offer from Tom Taormina K5RC, to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Great Armadillo Run of 1986 and the Texas Sesquicentennial. Tom has invited all those who participated in the events of 1986 and anyone who wants to share some fellowship with the old TDXS Rowdies to come out to his place in Nevada for Field Day 2006. This western FD site is a good two or three day drive by motor home but will be a great get together for many of us. Please advise Tom of your plans and make your accommodations accordingly.

The other Field Day topic that has not been finalized is to have a joint effort with a few of the TDXS members that do not go out to Nevada and the larger NARS radio club at the same NARS site as last year. If you were at the TDXS 2005 site at Dave Topp's beach house in Freeport last year, it was a nightmare for power line noise for a second year in a row. Therefore, the Freeport site has been ruled out for this year. So if you do not want to go out to Nevada for TDXS FD, then a station can be setup with the NARS group. This combined effort still has to be voted on by the NARS group, so there is no final plan as of this date. I expect the K5DX callsign would be used at the Nevada site and not at the NARS site. So if you were concerned about K5DX not being on for Field Day, it will be on the air in 2006.

The next topic discussed was the Ham-Com convention scheduled for June 9-10. The site of Ham-Com has moved to Plano, which is north of downtown Dallas, and from looking at the website and their description of the layout, you are in for a shock. There will only be fifty indoor flea market tables and by the time the website was made available, ALL of the tables were sold. The outside flea market will have the same number of tables and will be shaded but bring your own fan! The wording for the tail gate space has not been finalized so they do not know how much space will be available until next month. There will be about sixty commercial vendor spaces available at the convention. From this description, the amount of space is about half of what we had in past years at the Arlington Ham-Com site.

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Prez Sez: (continued)

At the banquet we decided to have our yearly give away at Ham-Com and we discussed an ICOM 7000 radio. Now that we have convention details from the website, we now know that the amount of available space has been greatly reduced for the flea market area and that they have sold all of the indoor tables!

Since the space for the convention has reduced, the number of people attending will probably be reduced as well and therefore, our chance of selling enough tickets is very questionable. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting. Now that we know that the convention is going to be at least half the size of last year, we need to discuss what our convention plans need to be given this new information.

The planning for the eight members going on the DXpedition to Malta is making progress. The group is meeting once a month to work out details. Tickets are purchased and the villa rooms for the eight are reserved. A new two element Stepper Antenna was purchased and has been received by Paul W5PF. Paul will present a program at the February 9th meeting talking about what it takes to build a Stepper Antenna. The group is planning on taking a lot of video and putting this together as a video tape or a DVD for distribution after their DXpedition trip in March. (See the article by W5MJ in this issue. ed.)

Please look at the TDXS website for a lot of pictures by Steve W9DX and Bill K5WAF. There was the topic of the CQ DX Marathon 2006 discussed. Several years ago we as a club did a similar event, seeing who could work the most DX starting on January 1st. So lets try that again for TDXS in 2006 as an operating event for the club. More discussion? The last item talked about is the BVARC Hamfest scheduled for Saturday March 4th at their Sugarland meeting place. Look for their webpage at: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc/>. Several of us will have a table so if you have something you want to sell, let me know. Tables are five dollars if ordered ahead of time or ten dollars at the door.

That was all of the business discussed. As mentioned above, I want to thank Paul W5PF for putting together the program for this week's meeting. I have never seen a Stepper Antenna up close and have a vague idea how it goes together to work. So bring your self to the meeting. Dinner at Luther's, Westheimer and S. Gessner, about 5:30 pm before the meeting at Tracy Gee's at 7 pm. Guests and friends are always welcome!

de **Mike N5MT**

Secretary/Treasurer Report de Bill K5WAF

January's meeting was highlighted by the annual TDXS banquet. This years affair at the Salt Grass Steakhouse was simply outstanding (thank you Don and Amy Daze!). We had a great turnout, good/lively conversation, and happy members and YL's with everyone getting one or more door prizes. It doesn't get much better than this!

Speaking of turn out, we totaled 39 members and spouses:

Arthur (N5KTN) & Mrs. Alvarez, Glenn (WB5TUF) & Debra (KA5SLW) Anderson, Jim (N4AL) & Angela Boockholdt, Mike (N5MT) & Marge Davidson, Don (N5DD) & Amy (KC5DJI) Daze, Chuck (W5PR) & Ruth Dietz, Paul (W5PF) & Georgina Frantz, Bill (K5WAF) & Trish Frink, Frosty (K5LBU) Frost, Ed (W5GCX) & Mrs, Gerber, Buzz (N5UR) & Gay Jehle, Madison (W5MJ) & Millie (KC5UTP) Jones, Max (K5PP) & Margaret Maxwell, Wayne (W5KDJ) & Carol Rogers, Lance (WD5KCX) & Debbie (N5DSR) Rumsfield, Doug (WB5TKI) & Lynn Seyler, Steve (W9DX) & Lynn Smothers, Dave (W5BXX) & Lynda Topp, Bob (N5ET) and Linda (KE5TF) Walworth, and Cal (WF5W) & Pat White.

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Secretary/Treasurer Report (continued...)

N5DD, Don Daze was extremely successful in getting door prize donations from some very notable contributors:

Bob Heil, K9EID	National Contest Journal
Daily DX	Tennadyne
DX Magazine	TenTec
DX Videos (9V1YC)	Vibroplex
Houston Amateur Radio Supply	W4MPY QSL Man
Icom	World Radio
Kenwood	

As a reminder to prize winners, if you have not already sent a thank you note to our donors, please take a moment and drop them a note/e-mail.

Club Business was also conducted during the banquet. Specifically;

1. Fairwell to our 2005 Officers – plaque of appreciation for Don Daze, N5DD
2. Introduction of new Officers
3. Hamcom: ICOM's new IC7000 transceiver was approved as the grand prize for the Hamcom TDXS raffle.

Dues! It is that time of year again. So here is a **General Call for Dues** — \$25.00 payable to TDXS and hand delivered to Bill Frink at the next TDXS meeting or alternatively mailed:

(1) to preferably to the Secretary Treasurer or (2) alternatively to the TDXS PO Box

William A. Frink, K5WAF	Texas DX Society
2314 Oak Links Court	PO Box 540291
Houston, TX 77059	Houston, TX 77254

18 Members have currently paid their 2006 dues.

K5NZ, Mike Hance	K5UO Mike Bragassa
K5WAF Bill Frink	KE5TF Linda Walworth
N4AL Jim Boockholdt	N5DD Don Daze
N5ET Bob Walworth	N5KTN, Arthur Alvarez
N5MT Mike Davidson	N5UR Buzz Jehle
W5BXX Dave Topp	W5GCX, Ed Gerber
W5JWM, Frank Montgomery	W5MJ Madision Jone
W5PF Paul Frantz	W5PR Chuck Dietz
W9DX Steve Smothers	WD5KCX Lance Rumsfield

Team Malta Ready To Go [Almost] de Madison W5MJ

The second-most anticipated Dxpediton of 2006 — right behind 3Y0 — is about set to blast off for Malta on 28 February. Because of poor planning on our part, we did not see the spectrum conflict between the 3Y0 adventure and ours, but the tickets were already purchased. Team Malta will be on the air 1 - 7 March 2006, through the ARRL DX Contest for sideband. We anticipate being on the air 1 March, starting about 2000z.

During a recent interview on television, the team organizer, Cal White WF5W/9H3WC, explained that the crew was so enthusiastic about going that it did not matter if the pileups were non-existent. “We plan to be a major presence on all the bands, and we will be loud! We have arranged for a sked with the 3Y0 gaggle during our trip, so all the team members will be able to give a 9H QSO to the Peter I team,” said Cal, holding his straight key at arm’s length as if it were a foreign object.

After drawing lots for operating slots, this is the lineup, with modes, codes and additional duties:

- Cal White WF5W/9H3WC - CW [straight key, paper logs], captain
- Paul Frantz W5PF - phone, CW, RTTY, QSL manager
- Keith Dutson NM5G - phone, shipping coordinator, photographer
- Steve Smothers W9DX/9H3DX - phone, cook #1, web master
- Don Daze N5DD/9H3RY - phone, RTTY, song leader, liaison to MARL
- Mike Bragassa K5UO/9H3UO - CW, team enforcer, network specialist
- Bill Frink K5WAF/9H3WF - CW, phone, digital modes, secretary
- Madison Jones W5MJ - CW, cook #2, keeper of the tools and coax

As you can see, we have covered all the bases. We have secured a SteppIR beam, SteppIR vertical, a WARC band vertical, an 80 mtr vertical, various wires to toss over whatever trees we can find for 160, and an Ameritron ALS-500S to make smoke signals when the RF is in the tank. The Team Malta Banner with the TDXS logo will be fluttering in the breeze made by the phone troops, too.

We have secured a villa in Mata overlooking the Med at modest cost, and have been assured by a local travel agent that it has a good look at NA. We have been corresponding with a local ham who has been very helpful in advising us on locations, activities and the like. The rep from the ministry of communications has been very accommodating to us as well. Cal even got his desired call sign, 9H3WC [now you know why he uses paper logs and makes sure his pencil has an eraser on it, so he can quickly correct mistakes in the off chance he makes any].

To cement our relationship with the local amateur community, we have procured a large supply of Wick Fowler’s Two Alarm Chili and will whip up a batch sufficient to impress a dinner gathering before we leave. Although Malta is one of those places, like Hawaii, where all the good stuff has to come in from the Mainland somewhere, we hope to be able to secure local hamburger, red beans and tomatoes sufficient to give everyone a case of Texas heartburn to remember us by.

Check it out on <http://tdxs.net/9H3.html> . See you on the bands!