



# THE BULLSHEET

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

August  
2007

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

## HF Packing and Travel Antennas



Virgil Stamps K5OOR will discuss and show several kits he has available for HF Back Packing. He will cover several home construction projects and travel antennas including the HF PACKER-AMP, a tiny HF Amplifier for back packers; the HF SuperPacker Pro 100W Amplifier which is compact and has auto band switching; a portable manual screw driver antenna covering 80-2 meters with various mounts and a portable 10-band rotatable dipole and 21 ft mast and tripod.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday August 9th at the Tracey Gee Center. The usual pre-meeting dinner is at Pappas' BBQ at Gessner and Westheimer beginning around 5:30. Join us for good food, good company and a good program.

## Texas DX Society Officers

President	Mike Davidson, N5MT	n5mt@aol.com	
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## How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxx.net> email address: [k5dx@tdxx.net](mailto: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>

## From the TDXS Bullsheat Archives:

Ten years ago this month: TDXS President Bob Walworth N5ET wrote about the upcoming Houston Convention in October 1997 where Wayne Mills N7NG will speak about the abbreviated BS7H DXpedition, Chuck Dietz KE5FI would be handling the TDXS raffle, Dale Martin KG5U would be presenting "Contesting for the Beginner", and Dennis Motchenbacher K7BV would make a presentation on his CY9AA Dxpedition. TDXS VP Henry Schneider W5HNS listed the Texas QSO Party Results. Contest Chairman, Joe Staples W5ASP listed the results of the NCJ Sprint CW and SSB contests, as well as NAQP contests. TDXS did quite well in the Sprint contests with several members in the top 10 scores. DX Chairman Buzz Jehle N5UR gave a review of upcoming DXpeditions, and noted the SFI was 80 during the IOTA contest during which N5ET, AD5A, and N5UR collectively worked 50 new ones.

Steve - W9DX

## TDXS wishes "Happy Birthday" to the following members with August birthdays:

Jim Lane - N5DC  
Richard King - K5NA  
Kirk Kridner - KV5Q  
Eric Silverthorn - NM5M

Evie Lane - W5XYL  
George Wagner - K5KG  
Randy Thompson - K5ZD  
Trey Garlough - N5KO

Frank Wyatt - KC5M  
Bill Wibker - WI5P  
Brent Levitt - NT5D

## The Prez Sez

The July meeting had about fifteen members present due to the fact that many members were traveling out of town on DXpeditions. Madison W5MJ reported that his planned speaker had to cancel so after the business meeting was finished, we just talked about a ham radio things and finished early about 8:30 pm.

The Treasurer Keith NM5G gave us a financial report and said all bills had been paid and he gave us the combined bank balance for general funds and the DX funds.

A new piece of business was brought up by the President N5MT which was a request from the LSDXA association for help funding the DX activities at HamCom this year. They had some unexpected expenses bringing in some of the BS7 members that presented at the convention this year. They asked for our support and a motion for \$250 was made, seconded and passed to help this activity.

We had no DX report as Cal and crew had already left for the British Virgin Islands for the upcoming weekend IARU HF World Championship contest. Their callsign was VP2VEA during the contest and they were on from July 11-18th.

Frosty K5LBU/A25CF and Wayne W5KDJ/A25KDJ were being reported on the DX cluster from A2 Botswana and would remain in Africa until late in July. They had been spotted mostly on CW. They were to be in the IARU with a special HQ callsign of A25HQ.

There were no other updates from anyone about TDXS activities.

The Texas City Hamfest was held on Saturday July 14th. This event was at the Doyle Convention Center in Texas City and I estimated about 400 people turned out for the one day event. Free parking and about 100 inside tables were taken. I had a friend from the Medical Center with a table and he let me put some of the 350 watt UPS backup power supply units that I have for sale up on his table. I now only have two left out of the ten that I started with so if you want one get it after the next meeting.

Madison W5MJ had a speaker lined up for us for the next August 9th meeting at Tracey Gee Center. Virgil Stamps K5OOR will present a program called "HF Packing & Travel Antennas". Virgil makes a few HF radio kits and HF antenna projects that he produces as a sideline business etc. Do not miss out on a chance to talk with Virgil at the meeting if you need some help with a mobile or portable antenna or a HF project kit.

Please come out and have a good dinner Thursday the 9th of August, as we will be meeting for dinner before the meeting at Pappas BBQ on South Gessner at 5:30 pm. Then at 7 pm at the Tracy Gee Center.

**73 Mike N5MT**

**Editor's note:** This article was contributed by TDXS member **Jim Clark N5RO**. It was written for his local newsletter in Yavapai County Arizona. The intention is to discuss the SATERN system so it has not been edited to reflect the ARES/RACES system in the Houston area.

## **THE "OTHER NETWORK".**

### **Health And Welfare Traffic Handling During A Major Disaster**

#### **Introduction**

We sometimes hear – “We don't have major disasters in this area and we'll never have any unless there's an earthquake\* or something like that.” It is said that we don't need to worry about **large-scale** health and welfare message handling.

This is a provincial view that ignores the connectivity of our modern society, especially as it applies to our local population who have many family members, relatives, and friends in other states and localities. Hence a major disaster elsewhere in the country or even in this state will have a significant impact here. Also, as we found with Katrina, significant numbers of refugees could be sent to our state, requiring our assistance.

Primary goals of emergency communications are to help: Save lives and preserve property; Prevent or minimize injury, contamination and illness; Prevent or find missing persons; Provide food, comfort and shelter for displaced persons; etc. One may think that amateur radio may be all that is left. But there is another – the Internet which by its very nature was originally designed (by DOD as ARPANET) decentralized so it couldn't be destroyed by singular attack or disaster.

In spite of best intentions and technology, it's mathematically impossible for any ham-radio-only network by itself to manage large-scale volumes of messages in real-time as needed in a large disaster. The classic method over the years during an emergency has been: A concerned person or served agency creates a request/message that is relayed into the affected area. The message is delivered by a local ham, who sends a reply back up the line. This worked well for many years – but due to heavier volume in recent disasters, ARES/RACES and others are presently moving toward a combined system (ham + Internet) using packet and Winlink. The ARRL “ARESNET” committee is also developing a system using Airmail and HF Packet.

#### **History of A Message Handling System**

For those who don't know, SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) is made up of a very large group of Amateur Radio volunteers dedicated to assisting during time of disaster. One function of SATERN is handling Health and Welfare traffic messages. Several years ago The Salvation Army (TSA) created an on-line form so the general public or ham operators could fill out a form online that was forwarded to The Salvation Army Traffic Manager. An initial response back to the originator provided an 800 number to call for status information. The Salvation Army traffic manager developed links into the disaster area and the process worked as before: local hams delivering the message and obtaining a response back to the requester. During Katrina, this system was upgraded to handle the huge volumes occurring during this disaster.

Requests now come in from the Internet and are routed to a computer that generates automatic acknowledgments and gives instructions to contact SATERN plus an 800 number to cancel the message if resolved before SATERN resolves it. The computer sorts the messages depending on various things such as means of response, email or telephone, if a telephone number is available, etc. A telephone bank handles all replies possible by telephone. Those that require somebody to follow up are routed to the SATERN National Traffic handler and his/her **amateur radio** team, who then move messages to people in the various areas. The messages are handled and pre-processed all before distribution, then dispatched to the hams in the area who handle a much lower volume – each ham only gets messages assigned to him/her.

The hams do all the legwork in the disaster areas and send messages back — routine messages being sent back to the requestor's email address, to the phone bank to call, or to a ham to resolve. If a death, that information is sent to TSA and a nearby officer contacts the requester and delivers the news (all Salvation Army officers are clergy).

ARES and RACES, the primary Red Cross communications support groups, are not yet capable of such a system, having no similar central command-type structure or unified resources at the national level, though ham-Internet communications are being developed to deal with some of these issues. Some of these units are only now beginning to address digital and train in digital messaging modes like packet and Winlink. Exceptions are ARES/RACES units that train and drill with SATERN units such as those in Kansas and Missouri (Note the Dayton hamfest presentation at <http://www.saturn.org/daytonpresentation.pdf>), or drill with MARS as in Cochise County, Arizona.

This type of system, with its message handling using the Internet, computers and amateur radio combined, can handle **large-scale** health and welfare messages when all other systems break down. This system enabled SATERN to handle over 65,000 messages during Katrina – many more than all other systems combined – at rates up to over 1000 per hour at times.

## WHAT IS NEEDED

In a mega-disaster, EVERY system available should be utilized and coordinated, one with the others. While tactical messages may be best handled by local packet radio or Winlink, supplemented with traditional voice circuits, health and welfare traffic should be routed through a high-speed system such as that described. MARS should also be added to the mix with its interference-free frequencies, automatic format conversion software (amateur to military and vice versa), and SHARES links. Such a coordinated combination will be much more effective in a large-scale disaster.

## NOTES

\*[According to NOAA Yavapai County has **FOUR** major earthquake faults and historically experienced several major quakes over magnitude 6 in the 1900's, and one exceeding magnitude 5 in 1973.

See <http://www.saturn.org> for details and net frequencies/times. Sunday night the Western States SATERN net which meets on 3977.7 at 9:00 p.m. MST, welcomes any amateur to check in. Early check-ins at 7:00 p.m.

Material for this article was furnished by K7CWA and the SATERN North American Command.

## Contest Results:

IOTA Contest, N5XZ

CW q's 199 CW mults 29 Phone q's 213 Phone mults 42 **Total Score = 166,140**