



THE BULLSHEET

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

July
2007

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

July Meeting Thursday, July 12th, 7PM at Tracey Gee Center

Program to be announced. The Pre Meeting dinner is 5:30 at Pappas BBQ, S. Gessner and Westheimer
Check the TDXS web site for the latest information. www.tdxs.org

NARS/TDXS Field Day Washed Out

The plan for this year was to Keep It Simple. So instead of several towers and a large tent push up poles and several smaller shelters were used. Set up began early Saturday morning and went quickly and smoothly. We set up CW, Phone, 6 meter and GOTA stations in quick time. All were on the air and running smoothly as Field Day started at 1:00PM local time.

Soon the clouds began to darken and the weather turned ominous. We learned that some heavy thunder showers were headed our way around 3:30. We secured as much as possible, but we were hit by 40 - 50 mph wind gusts and heavy rain. It was a mad scramble to cover and protect equipment as a couple of the shelters were blown away and the horizontal rain got into the others. We also lost the tribander for the Phone station when a guy for the push up pole failed.

After the storm passed the situation was assessed. The parking and road areas which were already slick were now even worse. We were not sure if we could get all the vehicles out due to the mud and more rain was predicted. We would have to come up with new antennas for the phone station and some new shelters. It was decided to pack up the equipment and see if we could get everyone out of the site. We did finally get everyone out of the mud and on their way home, but it took a 4 wheel drive to get the final trailer out. Several participants ended up with a mud bath after helping to push the stuck vehicles.

Once again we were reminded that a Field Day site in Houston has to be able to withstand heavy rains. I have an idea next year's site will have a covered pavillion and paved parking.

Paul W5PF

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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>

Happy Birthday TDXS wishes Happy Birthday to these members with July Birthdays

Tom Lay - AA5Y
Dennis Alexander - W5KU
Linda Walworth - KE5TF
Bill Price - KE5IW
Walter Schroeder - K5WS
Ron Marosko, Jr. - NN5DX

Pat Sonnier - W5WMU
Tom Wheatley - K5CNN
Mike Davidson - N5MT
Tom Jakubec - N5ZR
Richard Neal - WB5LVL
Wayne Rogers - W5KDJ

Prez Sez:

The June meeting had a total of nineteen members present plus our speaker Drew Kahn who is the CEO from NW Memorial Hospital, who talked about his experiences with Hurricane Katrina.

The Treasurer was not able to make the meeting so there was no report given. Contest information was given by Dale KG5U for the upcoming month. Paul W5PF gave us an update on the NARS/TDXS Field Day plans. The DX chair person updated us on the upcoming trips as follows: The partial club sponsored trip to VP2V British Virgin Islands during the IARU HF World Championship in July by several members is still on schedule. They will operate for one week from July 11-18th so many of our members will not be available for this up-coming meeting as they will be DX.

Two other members are now DX. Frosty K5LBU and Wayne W5KDJ are already in A2 Botswana for several weeks. They have been spotted on 160, 80, 40, 20 and 17 mostly on CW. They also will be in the IARU HF World Championship with a special HQ callsign so look for them as A25HQ. Frosty has been issued A25CF and Wayne is A25KDJ.

There were no other updates from anyone about TDXS activities.

Field Day on June 23rd was a joint venture between NARS and TDXS this year. Paul W5PF was our Field Day chairman and when I talked to him on the phone that Saturday morning of FD, they were just about ready. At the time I was talking to Paul, I was at the ECHO FD site at the American Red Cross building on the Southwest Freeway here in Houston. When I had gotten up Saturday, I looked at the weather radar and saw it was raining in Tomball the site of the NARS/TDXS FD. So I made a quick decision not to drive up to Tomball as I had planned but to go the ECHO FD site as it was not raining in that part of Houston. The ECHO site is classed as an EOC center so they were using the 2F STX as their report for Field Day. The Red Cross has a two large buildings at this site, the building in the back is connected to a three story parking garage with the communications room on the top floor. Most all the antennas are on top of this back building with some running along the top of the parking garage. The SSB station used the beam on the roof of the building and the CW station had to put up a 3 el beam on top of the parking garage and this was done Saturday morning. The ECHO FD went ok, they had 611 CW contacts and about 400 SSB contacts. Several of the NARS members came down late Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning after the NARS FD site was closed due to a little wind.

One other note, it was great to operate some of the different radios that were at the ECHO site. I did not know there was a radio that could display RTTY text using the software in the radio. That worked well in verifying the FD message from the W1AW since our CW versions were incomplete. Hope some of you did not have your FD rained upon and made some contacts.

My most lucky contact on SSB for Field Day was talking to a hospital in the town where I was born and raised in Houma, Louisiana. The call was W5YL and they were using the hospital site as an EOC for the F classification. I told the operator that I was raised four blocks from the hospital and remember it well, small world.

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Prez Sez (continued)

We have one new piece of business concerning HamCom and LSDXA that we need to talk about at the meeting. More information will be available on Thursday night.

There is another Hamfest coming up in the Houston area, at Texas City next weekend on Saturday July 14th. This one day event is at the Doyle Convention Center in Texas City and I expect many people will turn out for the event. Free parking and over 100 inside tables are planned. Admission is \$5 at the door, a dollar cheaper if you pre-register and tables are only \$7 each. Their website is <http://www.tidelands.org>.

At the end of our last meeting, I asked Madison W5MJ if he would like to show us the rest of his VU7 pictures he had not shown during the May meeting. Madison had spend a lot of time getting a lot of pictures ready for his talk two months ago and he only had time to show less than half of them at that meeting. The last report was someone else will be the speaker unless those plans change during the week. As I mentioned before, many people are out of town on DXpeditions and attendance in July will be down.

But please come out and have a good time Thursday as we will be meeting for dinner before the meeting at Pappas BBQ on South Gessner at 530 pm. Then at 7 pm at the Tracy Gee Center.

73 Mike N5MT

(For Sale: I have some UPS backup power supply units rated at 350VA for electronic equipment, like to power a computer and monitor, so talk to me after the meeting.)