



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net July 2008

San Andres DXpedition — 5J0E

The July meeting subject is the recent 5J0E expedition by several TDXS members which included the 2008 ARRL DX Phone contest. The crew included Bill K5WAF, Cal WF5W, Chuck W5PR, Keith NM5G, Jim N4AL and Paul W5PF. There will be a slide presentation covering the trip and operations and several of the crew will be on hand to talk about their experiences and answer questions. Our DXpedition

Chair, WF5W, is also working on some future plans that will be discussed. See his column on Page 6 of The Bullsheet.

The meeting will return to the normal time and place this month. It will be Thursday July 10th starting at 7:00PM at the Tracey Gee Center. The pre meeting dinner will be at the usual Pappas' BBQ at Westheimer and Gesssner.



See the TDXS web site www.tdxs.org for further

details and directions.

Field Day Wrap-up de Bill K5WAF

Wow – can you believe Field Day is over! It was a great time. The weather cooperated, the facility was great and the participation was outstanding.

As you know, TDXS operated in the 2A category, running 2 primary stations plus a GOTA station. We also had VHF, Solar and Satellite capability. The

bottom line was we had 1789 total Q's, about equally split between SSB (873) and CW (866) with 40 and 20 meters being the money bands. Contacts were made on 160, 80, 15 and 10 meters as well. This equates to a rate =37/hour on both CW and SSB stations. While this was short of the 60/hour we had hoped for, it was still a very good

showing of our emergency, field operating capabilities, particularly with the problems experienced with the antennas.

All ARRL Sections were contacted with the exception of VI and NT. And we capture most of the bonus points with some hard work by the Captains. A final tally of our total (see page 2)

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2008 Field Day Wrap-Up (continued)

points should be done in about a week or so with electronic submission to ARRL.

We had 17 operators on the SSB and CW stations combined. Steve, W9DX, had the highest overall and SSB QSO totals with 276; Wayne, W5KDJ, had the highest CW total contacts with 267.

But some of the high points of the event were non-operating. We had an outstanding turnout for both setting up and tearing down – much better than anticipated. We also had some new and renewed faces and it was great to have the XYL's involved particularly with the meals.

Special recognition is in order.

Bob Mennell (WB5IUU) – deputy Bob, as he likes to be called, was right at home arrange all the PR, incidental equipment in his Wells Cargo Van, taking video of the entire event, setting up an excellent display table for our visitors – and of course installing and operating the solar station. Really, if you know the effort that Bob put in to make this an excellent outing, you would be amazed. Thanks Bob!

Doug Seyler (WB5TKI) – our GOTA Station Captain made it a real success. Doug was able to get numerous people to give it a try – including my wife, Trish!!! I never thought that would happen. But he did more than just take charge of the GOTA station, Doug was there, ready to help whether it was putting up antennas or making sure everyone had

the water or ice they required. Doug certainly made a difference.

Wayne Rogers (W5KDJ) – our CW Station Captain and boy, does that title fit. Wayne took charge of the CW station and made sure that those who wanted to operate the CW station were able to. But at the same time, the station was never idle. Wayne told me that if no one was there to operate – he would, even if that meant for 24 hours. Luckily that was not the case, but it was a very good operation. By the way, look for Wayne as YN2KDJ – he is there now and on the air with both CW and RTTY.

Buzz Jehle (N5UR) – our SSB Station Captain not only managed the SSB station (which beat the CW station in total number of Q's, in case you didn't

really notice it in the totals above) but really saved the day for us on CW. With the failure of the T8 yagi, Buzz was able to quickly get his Steppir BigIR vertical installed and operating for that station. As with Wayne (W5KDJ), watch for Buzz (N5UR), Max Maxwell (K5PP) and Bob Walworth (N5ET) as they operate from Grand Isle in La during the IOTA contest coming up using the special call N5I.

Dave Topp (W5BXX) – we again were blessed with having the use of Dave Topp's RV, complete with 2

towers and of course, an air conditioned operating space.

Dave also set up a new 6 meter yagi that



Dave works 'em on 6M

was quite effective. Dave, the CW guys really thank you for the comfortable surroundings! (While the SSB guys had to out up with the heat, humidity and BUGS while operating in the pavilion. ..ed)

Glenn Anderson (WB5TKI) – our Satellite Station Captain again did his magic with setting up the antennas and equipment for a satellite station. I know his first contact was a real piece of DX – bouncing of a satellite to contact W5NC (NARS' Field Day station) three miles away! Seriously, though the satellite actively is currently pretty low, this is an intriguing operating that some time I would like to know more about.

Trish Frink (unlicensed – but a really strong supporter of TDXS). I asked Trish if she would mind taking charge of the food for Field Day. I only had to ask once and the next thing I know she was on the phone to every active member of TDXS asking for either a desert, salad or other dish – and if that wasn't possible, a donation would do just fine! Just ask Chuck Dietz! And she also got Lowes and Brooklyn Café to chip in for free. I really hope you all enjoyed the dinner Saturday night and
(concluded on page 6)

The Prez Sez de Steve W9DX

June was a bitter sweet month for TDXS. Just as we were setting up our Field Day operations on Friday June 27th, we received word that TDXS member #162, Mack Arp W5EET became a Silent Key. Mack joined TDXS in 2005, and loved QRP and chasing DX. His ever present smile could

brighten your whole day. His wife Kay said that Mack loved Field Day and would have been there if he could. In my last conversation with Mack, he said that one of



the things that kept him fighting was the hope of feeling well enough to attend another meeting and seeing all his friends. Our 2008 Field Day efforts were dedicated to his memory. He will certainly be missed. Sympathy cards should be sent to his wife and family at his callbook address. Since we didn't get to order flowers for Mack's funeral, the club is making a donation to Houston Hospice. If you would like to add your tributes to Mack's memory, please send them to me and I will add them to his memorial webpage at

www.tdxx.net/SK/w5eet.html.

The sweet news for the month comes from John Cashen W5UG, who has announced that he and his girlfriend Kathy are getting married on August

2nd at 12:30 PM at Covenant Lutheran Church at Barker Cypress & Clay. John says "all from TDXS are welcome, and there will be a reception at the church following the wedding". Congratulations John! Let's hope one of her wedding gifts is a license study guide!

Ham-Com-Plano is now in the history books. I decided not to go this year since I was just back from a one month trip including Dayton. None of our other officers were available to represent TDXS at the VIP table for the DX dinner, so I asked Mike Davidson N5MT to represent us. Well, lucky Mike came home with the DX dinner grand prize of a Yaesu FT-2000 transceiver!!! If you ever buy raffle tickets, be sure to stand next to Mike or have him at least touch your ticket stubs. Mike was also the lucky winner of the TDXS raffle several years ago in Arlington and came home with the Yaesu FT-100D, and had won \$500 cash at a previous New Orleans DX Association convention. Some guys have all the luck!

If you missed Field Day this year, you missed a great time, great food, and camaraderie. The facilities were fantastic, and special kudos to our FD Chairman Bill Frink K5WAF, and Co-Chairman Bob Mennell WB5IUU for organizing the weekend and all the hard work by our station captains: Buzz N5UR, SSB Captain; Wayne W5KDJ, CW Captain; Dave W5BXX, VHF Captain; Glenn WB5TUF, Satellite Captain; Bob WB5IUU, Solar Captain, and Doug WB5TKI, GOTA Cap-

tain. Our special thanks to Bill's XYL Trish and the TDXS XYL's for the excellent cuisine. I believe we will turn in a very respectable score from the SSB, CW, VHF, and the GOTA stations, plus loads of bonus points for our satellite Q's, solar power, official visit by the Red Cross, and more guests than I've seen in a long time (some even coming back a second time). Regardless of points, we had a blast! It was a thrill to see the excitement on kids' faces as they made their first QSO. It's been a couple of years since TDXS did it's own FD event, and I'm pleased to see the group come together and pull this off. We certainly had some technical challenges, and lost some valuable CW time when the log periodic wouldn't play nice, and had to scramble to get the SteppIR vertical up. The phone station was in operation for all but the last 2 hours when a SteppIR motor quit on the 2 element yagi. Thank goodness we had good dipoles up thanks to Tom Rum W5RUM's rope launching expertise. A nice surprise was seeing expatriate TDXS'er Earl Morse N8SS pull up after a long drive from Michigan, and do a stint on the CW station. At least Earl stopped home to see Cindy first! Another visitor, Ed Swiderski KU4BP from Lexington, NC did a great job running rate on the SSB station late Saturday night. He just made it out the park gate before the manager locked it closed for the night. Ed later wrote to say, "I wish to pass on a huge THANK YOU to all for your hospitality during my visit to this years Field Day. I enjoyed meeting everyone involved and hope I get the chance to do it again

The Prez Sez (continued)

someday." The weather was great with nice breezes through the pavilion, with only one short shower. We were pretty much bug free till the only mosquito in the park found my ear at 3 AM Sunday morning and woke me up! By the time the heavy downpours moved through the area about 5 PM Sunday, we were long gone! It was also nice to log Q's from expatriate TDXS'ers in the pile-ups. As in many years past, the TDXS spirit of hi-jinks was alive and well. Bob Perring N5RP/W9 operating from Indiana wrote to say, "*Greatest kick was working K5LBU before the contest started and giving him a premature FD report, then telling him he was my 18th QSO, then asking why he had not started FD yet. Told him he must have not got the official FD bulletin advising all operators that FD would start 1 hour early this year. Fell out of my chair when Frosty said, 'Really, Wow!, We didn't even read the bulletin; Thanks Bob'.*" I sure hope BVARC doesn't get busted for "rubber clocking" the event! See K5WAF's recap report for all the details. Pictures will be posted to our FD webpage www.tdxs.net/FD2008.html as soon as I have the disk from WW5L. A huge thanks to all who participated in FD this year. TDXS teamwork is alive and well!

The TDXS FD shadow team headed by Bob Evans K5WA operated FD from a ranch near Glidden, Texas. Operators were K5WA, K5TU, NZ5I, KB5GTB, K5GN (on home leave from Qatar), KB5JJW and KG5U. Bob said, "We went CW only in 2A and had 1650 QSOs. That was WAY

down from what I expected, but we really only had one good band open during the first 6-8 hours. We got both 60' towers up. We had a 2 element delta loop on 40M @ 60', a 40M ro-



K5WA sweltering in the STX heat

tatable dipole on top of each tower, a 204BA@ 50', a Tennadyne LP at 45', a 3 element tribander at 40' and an open wire fed 80M dipole at 50'. I didn't get around to shunt feeding one of the towers for an 80M vertical however, but we still had 190 QSOs on 80M from the dipole. We had a 4 ele-



K5WA Antenna setup

ment 6M antenna at 25', but only got about 50 QSOs on 6M with limited openings. We heard AO-51 on one satellite pass, but we couldn't contact the only guy we heard. We had my

church's scout troop out for a few hours to show them radio and let them make a few Qs on 6M for bonus points. They also got to see us copy the PSK31 ARRL message which seemed to interest them. They helped put up tents (we had 3). We had a local from Weimar drop in after doing a search on the ARRL FD site locator. I had listed us as a public site and he came out to visit with us and was a huge help taking things down because we were all dead tired.

Our GOTA station, KB5GTB, is the friend of mine who bought my dad's house. So we had a small, but determined crew. We used both my K3s with full station automation: ICE band-pass filters, WX0B Stack Matches and a WX0B 6 Pack to share antennas between the 2 stations. I also had full UPS power so we didn't miss a



NZ5I working the pile at K5WA

beat if/when the generator went down. We used N1MM software running on 2 networked HP 2.8 Ghz CPUs with LCD widescreen monitors. The only equipment problem came when the temp hit 104, the UPSs REALLY didn't want to stay on, but after some proper positioning of our fans, they cooled down. I'm sure their designers never intended for a computer room UPS to be stuck in a hot dusty tent on a ranch. ;-) My major excitement was at NOT getting a 38'

The Prez Sez (concluded)

U-Haul truck stuck in the mud like I did last year. It took me two days to get that thing out. This year, I got everything into a 5 x 8 U-Haul trailer. We had about 1500' of coax and about 2500' of 3/8 polypropylene rope. We only used half the coax, but we used ALL the rope with a Rube Goldberg rigging of pulleys in a tree to help raise the 60' towers in one shot...no tower stacking for this crew."

You just can't keep globe-trotting TDXS'ers at home! As we go to press, Frosty K5LBU and crew are now in Africa, and plan to be QRV in Mozambique starting July 16th through July 31st. They will be operating all bands and modes including EME. For more information visit www.tdxx.net/C9.html.

Wayne Rogers W5KDJ is now operating as YN2KDJ. If you hear Wayne, be sure to spot him. Eddy Reynolds

The Editor's Notes

Again this month I had great input. Thanks Steve for the comprehensive Prez Sez article and the photos used throughout the Bullsheet. Your coverage of both local and "Expatriate" TDXS members activities is greatly appreciated. We had hoped to have more pictures of the Field Day site but were unable to get them in time to make the Bullsheet. These photos will go on the web site when they are available.

K5WQG and Colin Jenkins KU5B are on their way to Belize and plan to be active during the IARU contest July 11-12 as V31MR and V31UB.

Dennis Motschenbacher K7BV is finishing up his DXpedition to Belize V36M and San Andres Island 5J0M. Dennis was active on 6 meters mostly, but managed to hand out some 20m CW Q's as well. W1JJ is handling QSL card requests for Dennis' latest DXpeditions. For more information visit:

<http://www.qth.com/k7bv/caribe2008/>

Cal WF5W and Mike K5UO will be active from San Andres Island as HK0CW for the CQWW 160m contest next January 24-25 in the Multi-Single category. W5PF will handle the QSL duties.

Tom Taormina K5RC reports that his phase 3 antenna project is not com-

plete as reported in last month's Bullsheet, but it's well underway. Tom will be the keynote banquet speaker at the NW DX Convention on Saturday, August 2nd near Portland, Oregon. Tom will be speaking about "Building Your Dream Station - Without a Divorce". For more info see: <http://wvdx.org/dotnetnuke/DXConvention/TechnicalSessionsSpeakers/tabid/87/Default.aspx>

Tom says, "The banquet speaker is worth the trip."

The TDXS July meeting night is this coming Thursday, July 10th at 7 PM. We will be meeting at the Tracey Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive, Houston. Our featured program will be on the TDXS DXpedition to San Andres Island last March (www.tdxx.net/hk0.html), and will be presented by WF5W, W5PF, NM5G, K5WAF, W5PR, and N4AL. Don't miss it!

Steve - W9DX

I intended to make a couple additions to the Bullsheet this month but computer problems and the busy schedule got in the way. I'll try again next month.

I will gladly accept articles as well as ideas from all TDXSers. Please consider writing an article for your Bullsheet.

Paul W5PF
Bullsheet Editor

DXpedition Chairman's Report de Cal White, WF5W

A reply was received from the Midway Island Administration. They have us on the list but will not allow any ham radio visitors until late in 2009. They promised we would hear from then. That's about the best we can do on that one.

Dominica is shaping up to be maybe another straight key dxpedition. Still in the initial stages.

CQ 160 CW contest in January 2009, will bring K5UO and WF5W back to San Andres using the call sign HK0CW. Our famous TDXSer QSL manager W5PF is going to do the honors again for QSLing...

Still looking for more info on the

Caribbean. If any of you have ideas please pass them along...

Continental is still fairly reasonable on pricing through January next year. BUT hard to say what we can expect from then. I think we must look for places to go that equipment, or at least big antennas are already in place. Maybe think WIRE antennas, small carry on rigs @200 watts, No amps...

That's it from a still tired from FD, DX guy...

Cal White WF5W

2008 Field Day Wrap-up concluded

the availability of water, snacks and the like throughout the event.

And though I can't mention everyone, Steve Smothers (W9DX), Paul Frantz (W5PF), Cal (the truck tailgate wrecker) White (WF5W), Madison Jones (W5MJ), Bob Walworth (N5ET), Keith Dutson (NM5G), Cookie (K5EWJ), Eddy Reynolds (K5WQG), Max Maxwell (K5PP) and Jim Carmody (NN5O) provided outstanding help and support to Field Day. My apologies for any TDXSers that I missed.

We also had some guest ops – Colin Jenkins (KU5B), Ed Swiderski (KU4BP), Tom Anderson (WW5L),

who by the way was quite helpful

with our antenna problems, Scott Patout (K5DD), Earl Morse (N8SS) and Tom Shaw (K5LOT). Tom

Rum (W5RUM), Joey Clements (W5BAK) along with some others lent a valuable hand or resources.

And the visitors list was quite long. We had a lot of guests, young and not so young, that participated on the GOTA station as well as showing a general interest in what Field Day was all about.



N8SS on CW

I am personally pleased with the way the event turned out. Beyond the great

participation already mentioned,

no one got hurt,

the facility and support we received at Spring Creek Park was outstanding, and we have come back to the tradition of TDXS having their own Field Day. Lets do it again.

Bill Frink K5WAF



N5ET Phones Home

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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)

DX Cluster—On Packet: Connect to **K5DX** on 145.71 MHz or telnet via IP address 75.148.198.113

TDXS says "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to these members with birthdays in July

Tom Lay - AA5Y

Pat Sonnier - W5WMU

Dennis Alexander - W5KU

Tom Wheatley - K5CNN

Linda Walworth - KE5TF

Mike Davidson - N5MT

Bill Price - KE5IW

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