



The Bullsheet

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

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

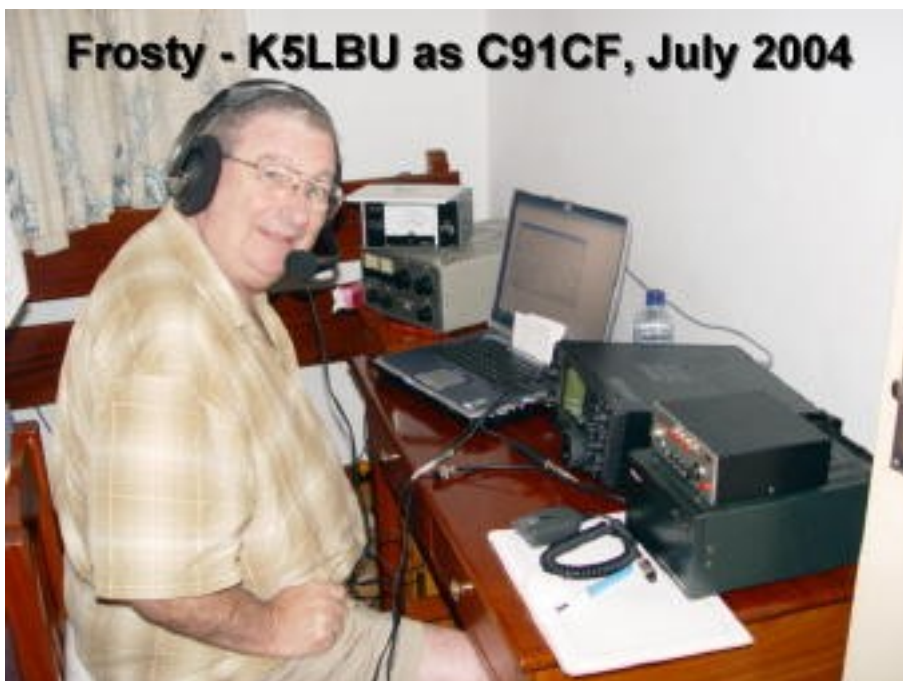
DX Safari 2009 by Frosty K5LBU

Last month's meeting was cancelled by Hurricane Ike so Frosty will be making his presentation this month instead. The subject will be the DX Safari being planned for TDXS members for March 2009. Several members have expressed an interest in the trip which is still early in the planning stage. Tentative plans are to go to Mozambique to play radio and then on to Kruger National Park in South Africa to see some African wild game animals. Frosty will discuss this itinerary as well as some other possibilities. There is still room available on this trip so

come and check it out. It should be a lot of fun, radio and some great sightseeing opportunities.

There will also be time to share your "Ike" stories, come let everyone know how the hurricane affected you.

The meeting will start at 7:00 PM Oct. 9th at the



Tracey Gee Center. Pre-meeting Dinner at Pappas' BBQ located at Westheimer and Gessner. See www.TDXS.org for details.

Election of Officers for 2009

The nomination of TDXS Officers for 2009 closes in October. This is your last opportunity to nominate candidates for next year or to volunteer to serve your club as an officer in

2009.

All current elected officers also hold at least one other volunteer position in the club. Now is the time

to step up and get involved in the running of your club.

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DXpedition Chairman's Report for October de Cal WF5W

Well, Frosty did not get to tell us about Africa last month, so this month he will finally get his chance.....He has some info on Kruger park that is astounding.

DX has been ziltch here. Too many worries about IKE and Co. However The Sea Pumpkin /mm Survived the storm and was one of a few boats that were left floating in Kemah.

We lucked out with a center pole of the dock breaking and allowing the dock and the boat to rise with the water, said to be a 12 foot surge there... Lucky.

Mike K5UO tells me the K9AY survived and is ready for our January trip to HK0. Even had a landline call from Rob HK3CW inquiring about how everyone was after the storm.

Election of Officers will or should be on everybody's minds for this meeting as well, we will pick our new officers for the 2009 season..

Not much more from this old guy, been to the periodontist today and still a little addled with whatever she put in my veins....

Cal WF5W

TDXS Member Profile - Mike Davidson N5MT de W5PF

Mike was first licensed as a Novice, KA5BYF in August of 1978. In order to increase his code speed he decided to get his WAS all on CW. He says this took about 6 months and then he passed the 13 WPM test and got his General. It wasn't long before the DX bug bit him and soon he decided he needed more spectrum so he got his Advanced license and became KC5CP. In 1982 he passed the Extra exam to gain even more spectrum, I guess incentive licensing did work. In 1996 when the Vanity program was re-opened he applied for N5MD but lost in the lottery to another ham with MD initials and had to settle for N5MT.

Mike was very interested in 10 Meter DXing and joined Ten Ten International (#24949) not long

after becoming a General. In 1980 he became the head of the Houston Chapter of Ten Ten. At that time he also took over the



weekly Tuesday night net and he continues to run that net every week. He estimates he has run over 1400 nets. Mike has been very active with the Ten Ten organization and is the DX editor

for their Quarterly newsletter. He also runs a 10 meter DX net when the sun spots cooperate. Because of the contacts he has made as DX Editor and on the DX net over the years, he has been able to encourage many DXers like Jim Smith, VK9NS, to join Ten Ten. This has lead to the activation of several countries by a Ten Ten member that otherwise would not have occurred. He says the satisfaction from be able to do this has made all the work worthwhile.

Mike is also the Ten Ten Countries Award Manager, the equivalent of the DXCC Desk for Ten Ten. He says in these time of low sun spots he is only getting about one application per month so the work load is not bad right now.

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The Prez Sez de Steve W9DX

President's Report de W9DX:

The TDXS September meeting was cancelled as we prepared for the arrival of Hurricane Ike. We were hoping to have our meeting one week later, but with the wide spread power outages, and disruptions to phone and internet services, we decided to cancel the September meeting entirely. Many had power restored within a few days, but some of us were still running on generators more than 2 weeks after the event. My XYL probably thought I was nuts when I bought "Big Red" (5KW Honda water cooled generator) from N5DC many years ago. She sure was glad we had it this time! It was only a matter of time till its services were pressed into nearly continuous duty. Having a transfer panel made life much easier too. If you don't have one yet, I highly recommend it. With a transfer panel you only need one heavy duty cable to feed the whole breaker box, select which circuits you need and avoid the risk of back-feeding the line. Since I had a 50 ft run from the transfer panel to the patio, I made up an 8 gauge 4-conductor cable to reduce any possible voltage drop. New retail prices for transfer panels are a bit

steep, but you can find new ones on Ebay at reduced prices, and hook-up is pretty easy. The MFJ-850 plug-in Line Voltage Monitors are handy for monitoring your voltage, but I don't recommend plugging one into the generator outlet. Mine quit after a couple of days probably due to excessive vibration. While on the subject of generators, you might be well advised to inspect your rubber fuel lines on older model generators since hoses back then were not rated for ethanol containing fuels. Just as I was getting proficient at gourmet grill cooking, our power, phones and internet were restored 2 weeks later. Thank God the weather had moderated and we didn't have to deal with sweltering temperatures like we had during Hurricane Rita!

From the TDXS mail reflector reports, it appears that most of us had some damage to trees, antennas, and towers. My free-standing 70 feet of Rohn 55G with XR-5 yagi came through just fine with no bent or broken elements. Thank you Rohn for over-engineering! I suppose the tower bolt holes are a bit oval shaped now! The yagi boom did twist though in the clamp with one side higher than the other. I'm not exactly horizontally polar-

ized now, but will be an easy fix. None of my slopers or dipoles survived falling tree limbs. With cellphone service spotty during the first few days following the storm, I relied on the Maritime net at 14.300 to relay messages to friends and family. It was certainly an odd feeling checking in from the "disaster area". Each time I checked in with traffic, several stations were eager to pass info. Thanks guys! Members south of town suffered the most damage with Don Busick K5AAD losing his 140 ft tower, and Cookie K5EWJ in Santa Fe getting his SteppIR trashed. Cookie reports that the "Chicken-Wire" special survived though! Don N5DD says he lost almost everything. Repeater Chairman Glenn Anderson WB5TUF says the antenna for our 147.36 machine is damaged will need repair or replacement. Oddly enough the 442 machine is louder now on the north side than before the storm! Come to the October meeting and share your storm stories. For those needing help restoring their antenna farms, let's see if we can put some antenna parties together and get back on the air for the fall contest season! CQWW Phone is only a few weeks away!

The Prez Sez (continued)

On the DX front, it looks like Marion Island has been a complete bust so far with no news whatsoever on the situation there. For those still needing Desecheo Island (KP5) you'll get your chance starting sometime January 15, 2009 till March 30, 2009 with 15 operators putting on a 2 week DXpedition. The team will be led by Glenn Johnson, WØGJ, and Bob Allphin, K4UEE. No doubt they'll place some major emphasis on the Far East openings, but there should be plenty of opportunities for mode and band fillers.

The TDXS website is now approaching 82,000 visitors since March 28, 2004. Popular attractions for non-member visitors are the DXpedition pages, and log search functions. 68% of visitors are running the Windows XP operating system with 8% now running Vista. Hopefully it won't be much longer till program writers get ham software to "play nice" with Vista. For those of you with several e-mail addresses, remember that the TDXS mail re-

flector will only accept posts from the address you subscribed with. Everything else is rejected as possible spam. At the bottom of each message you receive via the mail list, you can see the address it was sent to. You can manage your subscription by entering this link in your browser address bar. The message size limit is set at 1.5 MB which is generous enough to cover almost anything.

Our October meeting will feature Frosty K5LBU's rescheduled program on DXing in Africa, and plans for a TDXS trip to Mozambique or Swaziland next March, 2009. This trip will coincide with the CQWW WPX Phone Contest end of the month. If you've ever had a yearning to see Africa, visit Kruger National Park in South Africa, and be on the end of a DX pile-up, this trip is for you! Several TDXS members have already committed to go on this adventure, but there's room for more!

The 2008 Texas QSO Party is now over. If you participated in this year's TQP, let us know how you did. I suppose local entries were a bit more limited due to storm recovery activities, but give us a report at the meeting.

The October meeting is also the end of the nominating period for TDXS officers for 2009. With the loss of our September meeting, this will be your last chance to nominate someone willing to serve or volunteer yourself. Everyone has special talents the club can use, so think about what you can contribute to keep TDXS an active and thriving organization.

It's also time to think about our January 2009 Awards Banquet. With the demise of the Steak & Ale chain, we'll need to find another centrally located venue for this celebrated event. If you have ideas or suggestions, let them be known. It's not too early to start soliciting prize donations and making nominations for special recognition and awards (serious or humorous). Anything goes!

See you October 9th!

Steve - W9DX

From the TDXS Archives:

Ten years ago this month TDXS President Bob Walworth N5ET was getting ready for the W5-DX Bash. The TDXS monthly meetings were officially moved to the second Thursday of each month. Joey Clements W5BAK, Ben Worrell KM5OT (now NE5B), and Charles Frost K5BLU were welcomed as the newest members.

DX Chairman Buzz N5UR reported that Linda KE5TF worked her last one (except P5) with the addition of E31AA making her count 330. Jim Carmody NN5O reported on his plans for a QRP DXpedition while visiting HB9 and DL. Contest Chairman Joe Staples W5ASP reported on the excellent showing by TDXS mem-

bers in several major contests. Plans to activate VO2WL during the CQWW Phone contest by N5RP, W5BAK, K5NZ and AD5Q were announced. Has it been ten years ago already?! Chuck Dietz KZ5MM (now W5PR) announced that he was bringing Martin Ellis ZL1ANJ to the meeting.

Mike Davidson N5MT (continued)

Mike has worked Ten Ten members in 288 DXCC countries. Not surprisingly that is the highest total and top of the list for this award. One of Mike's goals is to work a Ten Ten member in all current DXCC entities. He realizes that that may be impossible but is enjoying the challenge.

In 1985 Mike made the DXCC Honor Roll and made #1 in 1992 so he is an active DXer on most bands. He is also a "semi-serious" contesteer and participates in many contests on 10 meters. He regularly places in the top 5 in the 10-10 QSO parties.

In 1982 he became TDXS member #93. He has held many offices in TDXS including DX Chairman, Field Day Chairman, Treasurer, VP in 99/00 and was President in 06 & 07. His fondest TDXS memories are of the early Field Days and listening to the stories told by the Old Timers such as Sharp, K5DX and Chuck, K5LZO. He feels that the strength of the club has been the diversity and motivation of its members and the mix between contesters and DXers.

Mike is currently retired from about 30 years in the IT business, most with Methodist Hospital here in Houston. While there he helped organize a club station, NM5H, and continues to be the club trustee.

Besides radio he keeps busy by doing computer consulting mostly for his church and its members.

Paul W5PF



Texas DX Society Boardmembers

President	Steve Smothers, W9DX	cougar70 at earthlink.net	
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Contest Chairman	Don Daze, N5DD		
Field Day Chairman	Bill Frink, K5WAF		
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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 October

JIM WHITMIRE - KD4M
RON MAROSKO, SR. - K5LLL
JEFF MCCLAIN - K5MV
KIM CARR - K5TU

WES WHIDDON - N5WW
BILL SCHRADER - K2TNO
GEORGE DEMONTROND, III - NR5M
LAURENT THOMIN - WOMM