



THE BULLSHEET

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

**January
2008**

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

TDXS Annual Banquet

Instead of the monthly meeting we will have the TDXS Annual Banquet this month. The Banquet will be on Saturday Jan. 26th at the Steak & Ale at 2425 Mangum at 290 starting at 6:00PM. They have agreed to provide individual checks and we will order off the menu. See Mike's Prez Sez column for further details. There is also information and a map on the TDXS web site www.tdxs.org

TDXS Christmas Party 2007



The annual TDXS Christmas Party was held Thursday Dec. 13th at the Law Offices of Chuck W5PR. Details are in the twin Prez Sez articles. (Both the incoming and outgoing Prez's provided articles. Thanks guys...ed.) Lots of stories were told as can be seen in the photos on pages 5&7 courtesy N5MT.

2008 TDXS Dues are Due!

2008 TDXS dues of \$25 are now payable. Make all checks payable to TDXS and send to Bill Frink, K5WAF.

Contest Calendar

Jan.12-13 NAQP CW
Jan.12 070 Club PSKFest
Jan.19-20 UK DX RTTY
Jan 19-20 NAQP SSB
Jan 19-21 ARRL Jan VHF SS
Jan 26-27 CQ 160 CW
Jan 26-27 BARTG RTTY Sprint

Feb 2-3 1010 Winter SSB
Feb 2-3 Mexico RTTY
Feb 3 NA Sprint CW
Feb 9-10 CQWW RTTY WPX
Feb 9-10 Dutch PACC
Feb 9 FISTS Winter Sprint
Feb 10 NA Sprint SSB
Feb 16-17 ARRL DX CW
Feb 23-24 CQ 160 SSB
Feb 23-24 NAQP RTTY

Mar 1-2 ARRL DX SSB
TDXS operation from HK0

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Field Day Chairman			
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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>

Repeater Alert! Houston Marathon

Please note that our 2 meter repeater on 147.96/39 mHz will be in use during the Houston Marathon on Sunday January 13th. The 70cm repeater 447.00/442.00 is a backup repeater and may also be in use. Please defer any use of these repeaters until after the completion of this public service event.

January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following TDXS members with January birthdays:

Barbara Coleman - WB5RUS	Lon Cottingham - K5JV	John Stevens - K5JS
Dale Martin - KG5U	Al Vasek - KN5A	Dennis Motschenbacher - K7BV
Bill Bradford - K5GA	John Duncan - WA5ZVE	Mike Hance - K5NZ
Allen Brier - N5XZ	Ben Worrell - NE5B	Ken Eckel Jr. - AB5A
Earl Morse - K8SS (ex-N5TU)		

From the TDXS Archives de W9DX

Ten years ago this month, TDXS President Bob Walworth reported the sudden and unexpected death of Ken Martin, KZ5KM (ex-K5YCP) in late December, 1997. The annual banquet was to be held at the Wyndham Warwick Hotel with many fabulous prizes donated by George DiLetto KDORW of Houston Amateur Supply. Contest Chairman Joe Staples W5ASP reported the club's participation in the ARRL Sweepstakes Contests with 18 CW entries, and 10 phone logs submitted. The club was planning another trip to XE2FU's QTH for participation in the ARRL DX phone and CW contests in March. DX Chairman Buzz Jehle N5UR reported on the latest operations from Loas, Sprately, 8Q7, Crozet, Kerguelen, and Amsterdam Islands. (Remember when we had propagation to those areas?) Repeater Chairman Jim Lane N5DC reported on the new packet software by IK4VYX. Bullsheat Editor Dave Sarkozi WB5N was commenting on the slim content of the Bullsheat with 5 pages of articles.

Prez Sez: de Mike N5MT

The December meeting was our 2007 Christmas party at the offices of Madison Jones and Chuck Dietz and it was one of the best meetings of the year! My thanks to Madison, Chuck, and Ruth Dietz who did most of the party setup to get all the goodies together. We had seventeen TDXS members and six wives in attendance and one guest Don K5AAD. The program for the meeting was the party, the TQP presentation and each member received batteries for Christmas.

The first business that was taken care of was the presentation of prizes for the 2007 Texas QSO Party. I was hoping to generate extra activity amongst the local club members that might be mobile or at home for the TQP. The results are as follows: The top Mobile score was by Dale KG5U with 223,562 points so Dale got one of the bottles of wine. In second place mobile was Bill K5WAF with 77,750 points. There were four scores turned in by home stations: The top home score was by Steve W9DX operating K5DX with 152,528 points and he took home the other bottle of wine. Second place was Cookie K5EWJ with 126,336 points (who may be our next member to be voted in the club). Third was Mike N5MT with 32,622 points and fourth place was Frosty K5LBU with 25,112 points. Cookie and Frosty were not at the party. Again, these were only the locals that were in competition for the prizes that were sponsored by N5MT. The complete list of scores are posted on the NARS website. Yes, more TDXS members from out of town did have some higher scores but this was for local competition only. TDXS club score was 637,910 points which was fourth place as reported on the NARS website.

We had a DXpedition report from Cal WF5W about plans for 2008. A DXpedition to San Andres Island HK0 February 28th to March 6th including the ARRL International DX Phone Contest. A Fall trip for RTTY possibly from Crete SV9 in September is being planned. The DX trip to Saipan is out for 2008. A DX trip to Midway for 2009 is still being investigated.

We had a contest report from Dale KG5U for the upcoming six weeks. Not much was happening in December but several things were coming up in January. There is even a conflict with a 160 CQ contest the night of our banquet on January 26th.

Most of the elected officers for 2008 were in attendance at the meeting. President is Steve Smothers W9DX, VP Programs is Cal White WF5W, VP Membership is Paul Frantz W5PF and Treasurer is Bill Frank K5WAF. There was no new business discussed.

The planning for the Yearly Banquet was briefly discussed. The banquet will be at the Steak and Ale at 2425 Mangum & the 290 NW Freeway. Date is January 26th at 6 PM. Please send me a email confirmation that you will be there and if you will have a guest. I need the count before Friday January 25th. I would rather have a count this week and those that have to cancel can send me something by the 25th. RSVP email to N5MT@aol.com. We will be ordering off the regular menu the night of the banquet and if you run a drink tab, that should be no problem.

Steve W9DX has been working with the NARS club in putting together a reception for the ARRL board of directors during their Winter meeting on January 19th at the Marriott Greenspoint Hotel. Final details and times are on the TDXS website. The club had previously voted to do this project with NARS and TDXS splitting the cost for the event.

Please come out on Saturday the 19th and the 26th for the banquet. **73 Mike N5MT**

Prez Sez: de Steve W9DX

Happy New Year to all! 2008 is off to a great start, with a new DXCC entity and reports that the new solar cycle has finally started.

I see 2008 as an exciting opportunity for TDXS to continue its traditions as one of the country's elite DX and contesting clubs. Our sponsorship of member DXpeditions with the generosity of Dave Topp W5BXX, and individual DXpeditions by K5LBU and W5KDJ and others, have put us on the world map once again with growing exposure on the world wide web. If you haven't signed up yet for a club sponsored DXpedition or helped plan one, you don't know what you're missing. Participation in such events, builds life-long friendships and brings the membership closer together. Cal White WF5W has already organized a trip for six of our members in March 2008 to San Andres Island to participate in the ARRL International DX Phone Contest. Check out the latest news on this event at www.tdxs.net/hk0.html.

The officers-elect for 2008 met during the first week of December to discuss ways to reinvigorate our contesting and Field Day activities, increase meeting attendance, and bring fresh and informative programs to the membership and guests. Cal White WF5W is already busy at work on an exciting program schedule that I'm sure you won't want to miss. We will have a number of member DXpedition programs, a planned visit by a NASA ham-astronaut, technical presentations, and more. We're always looking for more program topics, so be sure to contact Cal if you can do a program. Don Daze N5DD has graciously volunteered to serve once again as Contest Chairman, and he is working on ways to get more members involved in major contests. If you have a station on the air, participate and turn in your points! Every little bit helps. We still need a Field Day Chairman or chairmen. I know this is a big job, but if 2 or more members can work together on this, we can make it happen. Our participation in the joint NARS-TDXS Field Days during the last two years has been minimal. Part of this may have been location for some, but we need your ideas. TDXS set many FD records in the past, and we can do it again! We have the gear, antennas, generators, and towers, so let's put them to use. All we need is a location and operators.

Special kudos to Paul Frantz W5PF for volunteering to continue his duties as Bullsheet Editor while serving as Vice President of Membership. We need more contributors of articles for the Bullsheet, so if you have anything interesting to report, let Paul know. We are also planning to publish member biographies every month so we get to know each other better. I just recently found out that Doug WB5TKI and I grew up in the same town! What are the odds?

In an effort to increase meeting attendance, we will be circulating a survey momentarily asking for member and guest responses about changing the monthly meeting night to avoid conflicts with other Houston area radio club meetings. Bill Frink K5WAF our new Secretary/Treasurer will be sending this out momentarily. A number of people have expressed interest in attending TDXS meetings but haven't been able to do so in the past. Let's make an effort this year to bring a guest to every meeting, get inactive members interested again, and offer to provide transportation to disabled members and guests. We also plan on having some dinner meetings at a number of locations when we don't have a video program at the Tracey Gee Center. The socializing at the December Christmas party hosted by W5PR and W5MJ was great, and we need more of that. Our sincere thanks to Ruth Dietz for organizing this wonderful party! A number of people said it was the best meeting in a long time! We are also working on a summer weekend event for the whole family on Galveston Bay with lots of food, drink, and sailing.

(continued next page)

Prez Sez: (continued)

We have two important events in January that I'm sure you'll want to attend. On Saturday January 19th from 4 - 6PM, TDXS and NARS are co-sponsoring a reception at the Marriott Greenspoint Hotel bar for ARRL board members and staff at the conclusion of the ARRL winter board meeting. This is a great opportunity to meet League officers, directors, and staff members and tell them how they're doing. Our January meeting will be the TDXS Annual Banquet on January 26th, starting at 6 PM at the Steak & Ale Restaurant, 2425 Mangum Road, located just north of the 610 Loop and 290 Northwest Freeway junction. There is no preset menu, so order what you like. A map and list of prize donors can be found at www.tdxs.net/Banquet08.html. Send Mike Davidson N5MT a note if you plan to attend so we can get an accurate headcount. We have a number of awards to present, and lots of prize goodies from generous donors so don't miss it!

After being a TDXS member since 1985, I figured it was my time to volunteer to serve as President for 2008. I appreciate all the hard work that Mike Davidson N5MT has undertaken on the club's behalf during his 2 years of leadership. I've seen a lot of changes in the club in my 23 years of membership and have learned a lot from the masters of DX and contesting within our ranks. We continue to grow and evolve as new members join our ranks and bring new ideas and enthusiasm for new things. We need every member's participation this year. Get involved, contribute and ask where you can help. Let's make this the best year yet for TDXS!

Steve - W9DX

The ladies are plotting something - Hint, one of them is from Greece.



K5UO holds court

Contest Corner

As your 2008 contest chair it is my responsibility to foster contest participation in the club. I want to encourage contest participation because getting members engaged in club activities is good for the well being and health of TDXS. Also, I want to see TDXS rank high in club aggregate score listings for major contests. This would make people feel better about TDXS, and improve TDXS's visibility in the national and international ham community. It would be great if TDXS's reputation as a high powered DX contest club could open doors for us when asking vendors for door prizes or DXpedition help. Right now, we just want to focus on the spring contest season. In the fall we will revisit it. I would like to ask each TDXS member to do three things this spring: Report, Operate, and Collaborate.

1) Report. For each contest you work, even if you just make a few Qs, please make sure that you report your results as follows.

- a) Send your log to the contest sponsor. With today's software, almost every logging program can output a Cabrillo formatted file quite easily. Then it is a simple matter to email it to the contest sponsor. Please be sure to indicate *Texas DX Society* as your club affiliation.
- b) Post you summary sheet, or at least your total score, to 3830. <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>
You can browse the 3830 archives to view others scores http://lists.contesting.com/_3830/
- c) Post you summary sheet, or at least your total score, to the TDXS reflector. tdxs-list@moonbounce.n5iq.org [Or, just cc the TDXS reflector when posting to 3830.]

Like they say "It doesn't count until the paper work is done."

2) Operate. Pick a contest for TDXS to focus on, encourage all members to make at least 100 QSOs and report scores toward an aggregate TDXS score. TDXS did this last year and had great participation. I've prepared a list of major spring contests from which we can choose. We would have to decide on mode; SSB or CW, or if enough interest RTTY or other mode. Then we would have to pick a contest. The Sprints are short 4 hour contests, that would be good for folks who can't devote a full weekend to a contest. WPX allows both domestic and DX contacts, if propagation is good we could work a lot of DX, if propagation is poor, there would still be a lot of domestic stations to work. The ARRL Intl DX contests are strictly DX QSO affairs. Remember, club DXpedition scores can be included in the club aggregate score. Please email me with your vote for which contest to focus on. If I've left your favorite contest off the list please let me know that also. We will discuss at the next TDXS meeting.

3) Collaborate. Pick a contest to operate a multi-single, or multi-multi. Remember how much fun we had past TDXS Field Days? This would be like that, except with out all of the antenna setup, and with out all of the hot weather. This will require a member to step forward and volunteer his shack for a multi-op, or possibly, a multi 2 transmitter, contest operation. Probably schedule 3 to 6 operators, per transmitter, over a 48 hour contest. It doesn't need to be a super station, but a beam and an amp would be nice. Again, we would have to decide on a mode and a contest. Any shack host volunteers?

Spring contest calendar-

Jan 12-13 NAQP (CW)
Jan 19-20 NAQP (SSB)
Feb 3 Sprint (CW)
Feb 9-10 CQ WW WPX (RTTY)
Feb 10 Sprint (SSB)
Feb 16-17 ARRL Intl DX (CW)
Feb 23-24 NAQP (RTTY)

Mar 1-2 ARRL Intl DX (SSB)
Mar 9 Sprint (RTTY)
Mar 29-30 CQ WW WPX (SSB)
May 24-25 CQ WW WPX (CW)

Please let me know your thoughts about which contest you think we should focus on this spring, and if you would be able to host a multi-op in your shack.

Thanks,
Don, N5DD

Are his lips moving?



I'll bet Cal doesn't believe it.



Did somebody say "Dinner is served"?