



THE BULLSHEET

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

**March
2008**

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

“Chicken Wire Special”



The meeting topic for March is a discussion of a version of the Battle Creek Special antenna. Several of these antennas have been constructed and used by local amateurs. One was also used on the recent 5J0E Dxpedition. The antenna can be constructed to work on the 160, 80 and 40 meter bands. It is a low profile antenna that can be installed on a city lot. Results obtained with the Chicken Wire Special will be discussed by several users as well as by the 5J0E cerw. It will be an interesting presentation.

The meeting is Thursday March 13th starting at 7:00PM at the Tracey Gee Center. See the TDXS web site for directions. The pre meeting dinner will be at Pappas' BBQ located at Gessner and Westheimer beginning at 5:30PM. Come join us for food and good stories.

5J0E Dxpedition

The TDXS San Andres Dxpedition was on the air from Feb. 28 to March 5, including the ARRL DX Phone Contest. The contest resulted in 3830 QSO's for 2,550,000 points. The total number of QSO's was 8982 including SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK31. The trip will be the subject of a future meeting presentation. More details and a log lookup are on line on the TDXS web site.

www.tdxs.org/hk0.html

Contest Calendar

Mar 15-16 Russian DX Contest
Mar 15-17 VA QSO Party
Mar 22-24 BARTG Spring RTTY
Mar 29-30 CQ WW WPX SSB
Apr 5-6 SP DX
Apr 5-6 MO QSO Party

Other Dates

Mar.14-15 IOTA Bash 2008
Jun 13-14 Ham Com 2008

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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://www.tdxx.net/reflector.html>

March Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following TDXS members with March birthdays:

Al Bayer - WB5CFI	David Bean - W5ZQR	Bob Walworth - N5ET
Ed Seeger - K5EBS	Bill Frink - K5WAF	John Godwin - K5IUA
Buzz Jehle - N5UR	Ken Grabenstein - KZ5KG	Ed Sikorski - AA8PA
John Bonica - K5EC		Dave McCarty - K5GN

From the TDXS Archives:

Ten years ago this month, TDXS President Bob Walworth N5ET reported the death of Iris Colvin W6QL who passed away February 18, 1998. Iris and her husband Lloyd W5KG (SK), operated from over 100 DXCC entities from the 1960's through the early 1990's. Lloyd and Iris were among the first DXpeditioners to use ARRL's LoTW, and helped put many of us on the DXCC Honor Roll. Contest Chairman Joe Staples W5ASP reported on the results of the NAQP with TDXS CW Team #1 placing 4th overall, and CW Team #2 placing 15th overall with limited participation. In the Phone NAQP, TDXS placed 10th with only 3 scores to report. In the CW Sprint Contest, TDXS placed 8th with only 5 logs submitted. Joe discussed recognizing TDXS members (regardless of dues status) for their contributions to club and team scores each year in an effort to encourage more club participation in contesting activities. DX Chairman Buzz Jehle N5UR reported on DXpeditions to ZL7 and KH9, as well as a number of expeditions to Zone 23 during the month. Henry Schneider W5HNS reported on the upcoming Texas QSO Party to be held in May. Earl Morse N5TU reported the results of the TDXS entry in the ARRL International DX CW Contest from XA5T with 4367 QSOs for a claimed score of 4,061,310 points. Dave Topp W5BXX reported on his good experiences dealing with Ameritron.

Prez Sez: de Steve W9DX

It's been another busy month for TDXS, with a club sponsored DXpedition, several contests, and major website changes. Our move to a new web host is now complete, except for the waiting period to transfer our domain names, and the new mail list is up and running well with more than 75% of the old list subscribers signing up for the new mail list. Apparently some people didn't read the instructions on subscribing to the new list, or many of the addresses on the old subscription list were invalid. If you're reading the Bullshead on the website, but wish to receive it along with other club announcements and bulletins via e-mail, you need to sign up for the new list by visiting www.tdxx.net/reflector.html.

Last month's program was presented by Dr. John Cashen, W5UG on his design and development work on the B2 Stealth Bomber. What a great program for the technically inclined! In spite of our February meeting night being on Valentine's Day, we had a good turnout. We even had 3 wives and girlfriends attending. How romantic guys!

On March 1st, BVARC held the Greater Houston Hamfest at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg. It was fabulous weather for a hamfest, and attendance appeared to be much higher than last year. Flex Radio also made a special appearance with the chance to do some hands-on evaluations of their magic box. Business appeared to be brisk in the flea market area, and commercial vendors were ringing the cash register. It was good to see many TDXSers, including some old timers and charter members. Among those attending were: Frosty K5LBU and Allen N5XZ (organizers for BVARC), Bob N5ET doing DXCC card checking duties, Ed W5GCX, Eddy K5WQG, Mike N5MT & Margie, Henry W5HNS (who arrived late by taking the scenic route - time for a GPS navigator Henry!), Sammy N5AF (TDXS Charter Member # 6), Marshall Dues K5MMD (TDXS Member # 28, Glenn WB5TUF and son, and Doug WB5TKI. Doug took the opportunity to finally put the exam review manual he won at last year's TDXS banquet to use, and try his luck on the Extra Class exam. I am happy to report that Doug is now signing WB5TKI/AE! Congratulations! Doug is now prowling the lower band edges in search of rare and elusive DX formerly beyond his reach!

Special kudos go out to Sammy Neal N5AF this month for his recognition by the League as the number 2 ranking ARRL VEC examiner on the VEC Honor Roll. Sammy has more than 460 exams to his credit. See page 55 of the March issue of QST. Well done Sammy! Keep up the good work to bring more people into our hobby and life-long passion.

Six of our globe trotting members are now back from their week long DXpedition to San Andres Island from February 29th through March 5th. HK0 Team Leader Cal White WF5W reports that they made around 9000 QSOs including about 3830 during the ARRL International DX Phone contest on March 1 & 2. The special callsign 5J0E was used for all QSOs on SSB, CW and RTTY. This event generated over 1100 hits per day on our website at the start of the DXpedition. The team also had a special visit by Mauricio Londono HK4GSO, President of the Radio Club Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia who presented welcome certificates to TDXS HK0 Team Members. Don't miss Cal's recap of their adventures at the March meeting. A special program of the HK0 trip will be coming up at a TDXS meeting soon.

It's not too early to start thinking about the Ham-Com 2008 Hamfest in Plano, Texas scheduled for June 13-14. We have a special link on our homepage to help you make your plans with hotel links, maps, and event schedules. Click the link for more details. This is no doubt the largest hamfest in Texas, so make your plans early to attend.

TDXS Member Profile: Mike Bragassa, K5UO



Mike began a lifetime career of Ham radio in 1953 At the age of 12 with the call sign of WN9BNL. He lived in Evansdale, Indiana. A year later upgraded to W9BNL (conditional license) Mike's Dad was an oil drilling contractor so they moved back and forth to Wyoming part of the time while growing up. The conditional license expired during that time frame. Mike got back into Radio as a General, WB8AHS, in the early 70's.

While working rotation out of London to Algeria he acquired G5CON. In 1979 he moved back to Wyoming and lived in Casper then Billings MT and then back to Casper. He acquired the Advanced Class in 1984, KB8KW, while living in Casper. (Still in the oil patch) Then in 1986 EXTRA Class, NS7Z, while still living in Casper. 1989 was the big move down to Texas. In 1996 he changed his call to the K5UO as we all know Mike.

During the mid years Mike worked in China 4½ years Starting in '86 until '89 he hammed out of Ching Hea University in Beijing as BY1QH and then in 1992 went to Russia working as portable R3. (Still working the Oil Patch) In Russia Mike had an I-Com 730 and Butternut vertical on the roof of an apartment house, someone stole the vertical and the tv antenna. He worked the /R3 during 1992 – 1994 and then stopped when the antenna was stolen. He Changed apartments but was living too close to high Russian officials so they denied a 2nd license. During the 12 years in Russia Mike came home to Texas about 2 months each year.

Mike finally came home to stay in 2004 to retire in the home place with his beloved antenna farm. It consists of: T12 log, & KLM 3 ele 40 on 105 ft tower, A 75 footer with 6 mtr 7 ele, and a home made 2 ele 30 meter yagi and an 80 meter vertical made out of Rohn 25 with 67¼ wave elevated radials. He has an Inverted L wire for 160 out on a tree with several raised radials. He listens on 2 - 400 foot, reversible beverages. His station consists of an Orion 1, FT1000, (both can use his Alfa 78), Icom 746 (dedicated to 6 mtrs with a converted SB220 also for 6), The low bands are Mike's interest, 160/80/40. The Last 10 years he has spent filling in band counters. Mike holds: 9 band dxcc, Is # 1! honor roll. DXCC/CW/Mixed with 347 countries. He only needs Scarborough on CW and E. Timor on phone. Mike's latest venture is RTTY. He made his first qso in March 2008 and now has a Total of 20 countries !!

Mike is active in both TDXS and NARS, He is the current President of NARS. Ham Radio has been his life long pursuit and is the perfect hobby for this active Ham. **de Cal WF5W**

Prez Says, (continued)

Thanks to the scouting efforts and initial contact by Trish Frink (K5WAF's XYL), we have identified one of Harris County's parks as a good candidate for our Field Day activities June 27-29. We are awaiting word from the park committee about our reservation for this site. The park has on-site restroom facilities, BBQ pits, covered pavilions, plenty of parking, and a lake for fishing for those so inclined. I hope to have more details by the time we meet for our March meeting.

As discussed at our last meeting, we are planning a weekend event for the whole family to enjoy a potluck BBQ, and sailing in Kemah on Galveston Bay. We were originally thinking about doing this for one of the summer months. However, the board voted to do this in April when the weather is more agreeable. More details will be discussed at the March meeting, and via the TDXS mail reflector.

Our next meeting will be Thursday March 13th at the Tracey Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive, Houston, TX 77042. Visitors are welcome, and a map link can be found on our website, www.tdxs.net. Our featured program will be presented by Cal White, WF5W and crew on the "Chicken-Wire Special". This will be an informative "how-to" meeting on building a stealthy 80/160m antenna that works well on 40 meters too for city lots. It was used with great success on the HK0 DXpedition, so don't miss it!

Steve - W9DX

Contest Corner

I've been looking over the TDXS contest score postings, and I see 10 submissions, from 5 callsigns, in the last month. I suspect that maybe more than five TDXSers have been on the air during some contest in the last month. Without the score postings it looks like we are never on the air!

Contest	Call	QSOs	Score
NCCC Sprint	KG5U	23	299
NAQP CW	KG5U	187	7,293
Ten Ten Winter			
Phone QSO Party	K5EWJ		246
SKCC Sprint	K5EWJ	85	3,255
CQ WPX RTTY	N5DD	138	45,938
ARRL DX CW	N5EA	262	112,398
ARRL DX CW	N5DD	100	23,400
ARRL DX CW	K5EWJ	231	89,397
ARRL DX CW	KG5U	177	50,976
ARRL DX SSB	5J0E	3830	2,550,000

March 29-30 promises to be an interesting weekend, with both the CQ WPX SSB contest and the QCWA QSO Party. The CQ WPX SSB contest combines both DX and domestic QSOs. This can help even a little pistol keep the rate up in the evening, after the higher bands have closed. You can work stateside and VE stations all night long on the low bands with modest antennas. During daylight hours the higher bands are as hot with DX activity as during any other DX contest.

If you do get on the air March 29-30, please make as many contest QSOs as you feel comfortable with, and submit your score to the contests sponsor, post your summary on 3830 and the TDXS Reflector.

**Thanks, and 73,
Don, N5DD**