



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net April 2009

Texas DX Society's C91TX Mozambique DXpedition Team Returns!

The C91TX team has returned safely home on Wednesday, April 8. Amazingly, the jet-lagged team made a presentation on the DXpedition the very next day at the April TDXS meeting. For those folks not able to

attend that meeting there will be a feature length article in the May Bullsheet.

Online log search is now available. You can find all the details of this DXpedition [here](#) on the TDXS website.



TDXS'ers in the News

Congratulations to Mike N5MT on making the cover of the April edition of CQ Magazine. Mike reports that he was surprised to see it, as the picture is

about a year old. There is also a profile of Mike on page 92 of that issue.

In addition, look for the May/June issue of

NCJ with a feature article titled "Contest Rules for the 21st Century" by Tom Taormina K5RC and Grady Ferguson W5FU.

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Editor's Note de Doug WB5TKI

I'm not a big podcast listener, but I've found a couple that I enjoy. The first is SolderSmoke by Bill N2CQR. Bill posts his podcasts from Rome every other Sunday. They can be found [here](#). His passions are home-

brewing and ultra-low power communications. Always entertaining.

To get my weekly fix of Ham Radio news I tune into [This Week in Amateur Radio](#).

Ham Radio Videos

from ARRL.

I was recently invited to an organizational meeting for a CERT group forming in Pecan Grove. Don't know about CERT? Check out the details inside.

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The Prez Sez de Paul W5PF

Most of my Ham Radio activity this month was related to our trip to Mozambique. I have just returned and it feels great to be back home. My flights were good with no problems, but 16 straight hours sitting on a plane is a *looong* time. Flying was a lot easier when I was younger.

This month's meeting program will be on the C91TX DXpedition. Dale, KG5U, took a lot of pictures and has agreed to put together a show and tell for us. Most of the crew will be at the meeting, W5MJ was not sure if he would be in town. Dale has some excellent shots and there are lots of stories to tell so join us for the program.

We made something over 12,000 Q's, a bit lower than we had hoped for. We lost power for 8 hours during the WPX contest and periodically during the trip, but the biggest problem we had was the lack of sunspots. Flux was up a little bit for some of the time but still very low so propagation was pretty spotty. The logs will be on line as soon as I can put together a combined log and get it to Steve, W9DX.

On the subject of propagation, there were several references in the many emails in my inbox to an article by Dr. Tony Phillips at NASA regarding the Deep Solar Minimum. I have taken a quick look and there are several interesting effects caused by the extended mini-

mum. I will read it again after the jet lag fog lifts. Check it out at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/01apr_deepsolarminimum.htm

The solar minimum doesn't seem to have slowed down the DXpeditions. There were several during the month including some new IOTA islands as well as some fairly rare DXC entities. I missed some good stuff while I was gone, I hope those chasing islands and entities were successful.

TDXS got some very good media exposure this month as Mike, N5MT, made the cover of the April issue of CQ Magazine. Congratulations Mike and nice shirt! Judging from the response on the reflector it looks like it is time to get together a shirt order. We have talked about it at the last couple meetings so we will work out the details with Bob, WB5IUU, and let you know how to place an order.

Radio Amateurs apparently are passionate when it comes to their radio privileges.

When the Texas legislature was scheduled to consider cell phone legislation that would effectively ban the mobile use of amateur radio the ARRL requested that we contact our legislators. The response was overwhelming and had effective. Phone and Fax lines to the representatives were jammed with calls from amateurs asking for

modifications to the bill to protect amateur radio operations. Thanks to all that participated.

I hope to see many of you at the meeting and the pre meeting dinner at Pappa's BBQ.

73, de Paul W5PF

From the Bullsheet Archives

Ten years ago this month President Earl, N5TU was mourning the loss of Chuck Coleman K5LZO. He was also bemoaning the complexity of using the packet cluster. Communications Chairman Jim N5DC made some suggestions in that regard. Contest Chairman Ben KM5OT was highlighting upcoming contests and DX chairman Buzz N5UR was listing current DX opportunities. Check out the 100 Most Wanted Countries list.

Upcoming Contests and Operating Events:

EA-QRP CW Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 18 (20-10m) and 2000Z-2300Z, Apr 18 (80m) and 0700Z-1100Z, Apr 19 (40m) and 1100Z-1300Z, Apr 19 (20-10m)
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 30 to 2359Z, May 31
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z, May 2 to 1959Z, May 3

From Wayne W5KDJ: Guess ya'll will have to wait till December for a Thursday night of 5R8/Madagascar presentation. Political situation is too bad to operate from there so I am cancelling my July trip. Got to find somewhere else to go.

S04R has just begun operations from Western Sahara. They will be operating 3 stations. Check out their website at <http://www.dxfriends.com/s04r/plans.php>.

VK9GMW Mellish Reef has ceased operations after a very successful DXpedition. They made over 20,000 QSOs (and over 2000 on 160 m.). Apparently, the weather was a real challenge, with high winds and rain playing havoc with their antennas.

S21UGV should now be underway from Dhaka, Bangladesh. He will be QRV from April 12—June 20 and will concentrate on 80 and 40 m. SSB and RTTY.

The Daily DX is an excellent source of up-to-the-minute DX information and is available from www.dailydx.com. A trial subscription is available from www.dailydx.com/trial.htm. I've been making extensive use of the subscription that I won at the January TDXS Banquet.

The Secretary/Treasurer's Report de Bill K5WAF

As of the April meeting, we have 24 Full Members and 10 Associate Members. There remains 1 Potential Member who has attended 3 meetings.

What is CERT? by Doug WB5TKI

Recently, I was invited to attend an organizational meeting for a CERT group in Pecan Grove. CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is a volunteer group of citizens who often act as first responders to natural disasters in their communities. Here is the explanation from the www.citizencorps.gov website:

Introduction

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.

One also expects that under these kinds of conditions, family members, fellow employees, and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training.

If we can predict that emergency services will not meet immediate needs following a major disaster, especially if there is no warning as in an earthquake, and people will spontaneously volunteer, what can government do to prepare citizens for this eventuality?

First, present citizens the facts about what to expect following a major dis-

aster in terms of immediate services. Second, give the message about their responsibility for mitigation and preparedness. Third, train them in needed life saving skills with emphasis on decision making skills, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. Fourth, organize teams so that they are an extension of first responder services offering immediate help to victims until professional services arrive.

Background

The Community Emergency Response Team concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985. The Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 underscored the area-wide threat of a major disaster in California. Further, it confirmed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs. As a result, the LAFD created the Disaster Preparedness Division with the purpose of training citizens and private and government employees.

The training program that LAFD initiated makes good sense and furthers the process of citizens understanding their responsibility in preparing for disaster. It also increases their ability to safely help themselves, their family and their neighbors. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes the importance of preparing citizens. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and the National Fire Academy adopted and expanded the CERT materials believing them applicable to all hazards.

The CERT course will benefit any citizen who takes it. This individual will be better prepared to respond to and

cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Additionally, if a community wants to supplement its response capability after a disaster, civilians can be recruited and trained as neighborhood, business, and government teams that, in essence, will be auxiliary responders. These groups can provide immediate assistance to victims in their area, organize spontaneous volunteers who have not had the training, and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders with prioritization and allocation of resources following a disaster. Since 1993 when this training was made available nationally by FEMA, communities in 28 States and Puerto Rico have conducted CERT training.

Conclusions

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

Sound interesting? With the 2009 hurricane season fast approaching it should. For Harris County information go to

www.harriscountycitizencorps.com.

There you can find links to volunteer opportunities and training in surrounding counties as well.

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President	Paul Frantz, W5PF	w5pf at cebridge.net	
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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 April

Frank Montgomery - W5JWM

John Cashen - W6UG

Bob Burns - W5SJS

Bob Bradshaw - N5RF

Orville Burg - K5VWW

Sam Neal - N5AF

Wayne Bailey - NX7K

OJ Quarles - K1OJ

Frank Moore - KE4GY

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.