



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net June 2010

Field Day 2010 Is Here!

Saturday, June 26, Field Day Meeting!

Our meeting this month will be at Field Day in Tomball. We will be operating from the Tomball firehouse located at

the intersection of Quinn and Rudel Roads. Join us Friday, June 25 at 11:30 for lunch at Goodson Restaurant In Tomball for fellowship and then on to the FD site for setup. It'll be a fun weekend for all.



See you there!



Editor's Note de Doug WB5TKI

Wow, Dayton was a blast! As you can read in Madison's story on page 7, Dayton had something for everyone. In fact, it had lots of something. Judging by the ticket numbers called in the drawings, there were over 17,000 in attendance. I saw

Madison W5MJ there, as well as Steve W9DX. Steve was there with a group of guys from Kankakee, Illinois that I hadn't seen in about 40 years! What a rush. Well, it's coming up on the end of June and, along with hurricane season, Field

Day is upon us. I'll be doing the GOTA station again this year along with my willing assistant Tom KD5TIO. We'd love to give your wife, kids, grandparents and significant others a chance to operate ham radio and give us a few points.

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The Prez Sez de Paul W5PF

Field Day is almost upon us. Mike K5UO and his crew have just about got everything wrapped up, but participation is needed in order to make it a successful operation. Please come out Friday to help set up, Saturday to operate and Sunday to operate and tear down. Help on any or all of these days will be greatly appreciated. Details of the operation including the Saturday

on Low Band DXing as well as a program on Mobile Contesting by Chuck NO5W.

TDXS was well represented. I saw many members there including the crew in this photo taken by Keith NM5G before the DX Dinner Friday evening. I did not attend the dinner but I understand the presentation on the K4M Midway Island DXpedition was very interesting.

tion at Field Day, remember we will be in the Tomball Fire Station so we will be able to get out of the heat this year.

De W5PF



Evening 40th Anniversary BBQ can be found on our web site www.tdxx.org.

I just returned from the 2010 HamCom in Plano. It looks like HamCom is back. There was very good attendance and great participation by commercial vendors. There was a variety of programs including a video conference by ON4UN

The June VHF Contest was also this weekend and conditions on 6M were good. I had a good time with some part time participation and made about 370 Qs. The only DX was VE and XE but there were openings to both the East and West.

I hope to see a lot of participa-

From the Bullsheet Archives by Steve W9DX

Ten years ago this month June 2000: TDXS President Earl Morse N5TU (now N8SS) reported seeing more TDXS members at Dayton than most regular meetings. Madison Jones W5MJ was pushing club raffle tickets for a spankin' new Yaesu FT-100D and asked for the riot police to maintain order! The TDXS grand prize drawing was to be held at the Arlington Ham-Com. At publication time, over 1800 tickets had been sold with much of the proceeds going to upgrade our DX packet node. TDXS did not participate in the ARRL Field Day in 2000. Contest Chairman Dale Martin KG5U said the contesting webpage had been updated and gave a recap of upcoming contests. Bob Walworth N5ET had been appointed by the ARRL as a DX card field checker (thanks for all your hard work Bob!). DX Chairman Buzz Jehle N5UR said it would be a good time to take your summer vacation since most major DXpeditions were over and no new IOTA's were planned for the month.

Twenty years ago this month June 1990: TDXS President Kenny Grabenstein KE5IV (now W5AAC) reported that the June meeting would be held at the Briar Grove Park Club and would be one week earlier for those wishing to attend the Arlington Ham-Com. The June program was Joe Staples' W5ASP slides of

GM0ECO's new QTH in Scotland, and Tom Shapiro's KD5SP slides from the club's XE2FU operations during the ARRL DX Phone contest. TDXS members voted to enter the 2A category for the ARRL Field Day (probably backlash from last year's frantic 23A battery extravaganza)! The Field Day site was Bob Burn's W5SJS ranch just south of Brenham. Dale Martin KG5U, had an interesting article titled "On the Enjoyment of Field Day" targeted for those planning to participate in this year's event. The comments are as timely as ever and worth reading again (http://www.tdxx.net/bs90/Jun90_2.pdf). DX Chairman Bob Walworth AK5B (now N5ET) reported on the recent Conway Reef DXpedition, and rumors of a 7O operation by 9K2 ops. Walvis Bay cards were being accepted by the ARRL DXCC desk starting June 1st. Bob also reported that he was taking 3Y Bouvet card to Ham-Com for field checking and that new one would place him on the Honor Roll!

Thirty years ago this month June 1980: The TDXS June meeting was held at the Marriott Brookhollow with happy hour starting early and a prime-rib buffet starting at 7:30PM. Plans were being finalized for the ARRL Field Day, with TDXS being one of the most formidable groups in the country. Typically 80 percent of the

membership turns out to participate in Field Day. Bob Evans N5DU (now K5WA) was FD Chairman. George Wagner K5KG was planning to operate from Aland Island as K5KG/OH0 June 13-20. TDXS welcomed new members David Rowe WB5PBA (whereabouts unknown), Dusty Rhoades W5URN (SK), Dr. Larry McCollum W5PTJ (SK), and Bill Eckenrode W5SG. Dennis Motschenbacher KA5CHW (now K7BV) wrote a great article on how to maintain frequency control in a crowded CW contest. "CW operating, in my opinion, offers a much better opportunity for a good operator to "finesse" the enemy rather than simply overpowering him with big antennas, or shouting louder like one does in phone contests." Certainly worth reading again http://www.tdxx.net/bs80/Jun80_2.pdf. Richard King K5NA gave a report on TDXS Field Day records from 1971 to 1979.

TDXS Meeting Notes by Bill K5WAF

Date: May 13, 2010
7:00-9:00pm

Location: Tracy Gee Center,
3599 Westcenter
Drive, Houston, TX
77042

Attendance: TDXS Members:

W5PF, NI5DX,
K5WAF, N5ET,
N5UR, W5BXX,
WB5IUU, W5UQ,
WF5W, K5UO,
KD5TIO, NM5G,
K5EWJ, W5KDJ,
WB5TUF

Visitors: Scott
Straw, KB4KBS
[meeting #3]

- **President [Paul, W5PF]:**

- Several members this month are not at the meeting but instead are on their way to Hamvention in Dayton, OH. Next month is HamCom in Plano, TX.

NARS will have a special guest speaker at their next meeting and TDXS is invited to attend – it Casey Curry, the Channel 13 Meteorologist.

- **Secretary/Treasurer [Bill, K5WAF]:**

- Bank & Topp Fund Balances: The checking account continues to be healthy though TDXS should be considering a fund raiser for 2011, such as the past raffles at HamCom.

- **Contest Chairman [Cookie, K5EWJ]**

- Contest activity since the last meeting has been a bit slim – saying that, see the latest Bull Sheet for details.

- **DX Chairman [Cal, WF5W]:**

- **YI9PSE DXpedition** is complete and Wayne Rogers, W5KDJ, has returned safe and sound. Wayne will be giving a full presentation in the next month and will be the presentation developed for Hamvention this week. TDXS should invite other local clubs to attend the TDXS presentation particularly since it will be presented by a member of the YI9PSE team.

- **Field Day Chairman [Mike, K5UO]: Presentation**

- Field Day 2010 – Field Day 2010 – Field Day plans were reviewed in detail by Mike Bragassa, K5UO. There is a lot of enthusiasm for this year's Field Day and plans are coming together. Make your plans to participate!

Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie Cooke, K5EWJ

The big event for this month was the CQWW WPX CW Contest. We had four club entries into that contest that were reported on the reflector. Allen Brier, N5XZ operated from his Alaska QTH and used his club call, KL5DX. He spent 27 hours for 756 Qs, 115 on 40 meters and 641 on 20 meters with 354 prefixes for 738,444 score.

Wayne Rogers, W5KDJ worked 15 hours and 32 minutes for 500 Qs with at least 20 on each contest band from 160 through 10 for a score of 160,035.

Wayne did not list the number of prefixes, but the math shows 320. Madison Jones, W5MJ used his call at the W5PR QTH for a 385 Q effort on single band 80 meters. Madison snagged 206 prefixes for 130,398 points. Kim Carr,

K5TU made 44 Qs on 20 meters with an attic dipole and only 5 watts. Good job guys!

The Museum Ship weekend at the USS Cavalla and USS Stewart was a lot of fun and we made 495 contacts with 18 different ships and memorials contacted. We had approximately 40 hams during the weekend, but I don't have a count. Most of the hams were from BVARC, but we had a couple from TARS and me from TDXS. We made the initial steps to form the Cavalla Historical ARS with the intent of getting a vanity call to honor the ships as soon as we can get the paperwork through. We used the BVARC club call, KK5W this weekend. The recently reconnected Cavalla

long wire antenna worked pretty well. Most of the contacts were on SSB, but we made 40 or 50 on CW, some on satellite and some on 2 meter FM. We are making plans to activate the old equipment as we can and make a few QSOs with it. Anyone interested please contact me for further information.

My CQ WW Marathon score stands at 158 Countries and 38 Zones for 2010. Anybody else participating? Let me know how you are doing.

Contests coming up:

June 12-13 ARRL June VHF QSO Party

June 26-27 ARRL Field Day

July 1 RAC Canada Day Contest

July 10-11 IARU HF Championship

July 17-18 CQ WW VHF Contest

Programs, Dxpeditions and Stuff de Cal WF5W

From the V.P., Programs:

See what we can do as a club... Field day what a day it is. It will act as our Program for the Month, Hope all can make it.....AND the 40th anniversary Bar-be-que.

Now looking forward to Wayne's travel story for our July meeting.

From the DXpedition chair:

Not much new to report but....all seems to be getting ready for the CQWW/CW contest from YN2 land. Tickets in hand for the flight.

Frosty has an offer to him to participate in another C91 adventure (not his old outfit) for the CQWW/SSB event.

Keith and crew are pretty much set for the spring at YN2 land .

Octavio's place is a popular ham site, easy to get to, cheap to stay and great antennas.

Those who have an itch to go DXpeditioning would do well to consider this place.,

The Spring Barbados trip is working for a new QTH near the water...

QRP stuff:

Would you believe JA1VND on 2 watts at 12:30Z on 11 May.....

I just about jumped out of my chair when he answered my call. Guess this little stuff really does work!! The rig is the Ten Tec 1033 and the antenna is the Mosley WARC rotating dipole at 65 feet.

From the deck of the Sea Pumpkin :

Quiet at Red Fish Reef, we finally (KD5TIO and I) made it out there for a 4 hour afternoon session. 20 meters was hot, worked ZB2; G, EA, DL. with ZERO Noise. Took over 2 hrs to get there and found our anchor was partially gone from Rust, (we have never used it in the 5 years we have had the boat) But it held and contributed to a great afternoon. Will go out there again, soon.....hopefully with the other boat captains W5PF and K5WAF.

Got a new anchor so we should be in better shape for the next trip. Flash (5/26 K5WAF is NOT going away, at least for now.) Not much else going on The Sea Pumpkin is having its annual barbaque and bus meet-

ing on Friday the 18th. Probably take her out for a sail and maybe some cw...

That's it from the White-house.....

Cal WF5W

Dayton 2010 de Madison W5MJ

Every May, the Dayton HamVen-tion opens its doors for a 3 day run. I saw several present and past TDXSers were there: Steve W9DX, Doug WB5TKI, Wes AC5K, George NR5M, Lon K5JV, Richard K5NA, John K5XA, Allen N5XZ, Earl N8SS. There were probably others I missed, too.

This year's event was full of new-and-different and tried-and-true, just like always, but a little different from my point of view because of Contest University, more vendors, more flea market, and more visitors. For those of you who have not been, but have gone to Plano, it is about ten or 15 times as big. The short version is that even though I have gone to Dayton about a half dozen times, this was the first time I was unable to get completely through all the vendors and exhibits.

For the past four years, Contest University has been presented on Thursday prior to the HamVen-tion. I had not been to CTU before, but everyone I knew who had gone in the past told me it was a very rewarding experience.

The price for the day at the Crown Plaza was \$85, which is the same as in past years, I think. That got you an excellent buffet breakfast and lunch on site, a big compen-dium of articles from which the various classes were taught by instructors carefully chosen – not for their high contest scores, particularly, but rather for their ability to impart knowledge quickly and efficiently to the students – and a bunch of very helpful topics.

The format was a general session for an hour, then breakout sessions from which you could pick and choose. At lunch, all of us voted for our favorite of the three we had attended following the general session [there were a total of 12 classes on which we could vote], and those getting the highest marks were presented again, giving us the chance to hear the best presentations which we had missed.

I learned a lot decided at the very first session that my time and money were well spent. The next time I go I will be sure to sign up for CTU again.

When the Friday flea market opened, there was a long line waiting for all those wonderful things we had been unable to find elsewhere. It seemed to me that there were a lot more vendors than the last time I went, three years ago. Of course there are lots of offerings from someone's garage or basement, and the usual collection of telephone and computer parts, but there were also opportunities to compare items with various users and get ideas. I did not buy much, but I was able to acquire a circuit board and some instructions for a kit I didn't need until I spied it. I also bought a few little items I could stuff into my suitcase, and some software, but I reluctantly passed on the Little Giant ladder and a couple of items which would have had me spread-eagled on the floor at airport security.

The inside vendors had all the usual suspects and dozens of smaller commercial offerings of hats, shirts, wire, software, wire strippers, electronic kits, keys, special interest organizations, and exotic concepts to steal your spare time. There are literally hundreds of them. Nearly everyone who advertises to ham radio in one or another media is represented. You will see things you did not know existed.

There were a number of programs offered on a wide variety of topics of general or special interest, including one featuring one of TDXS' own, George De-Montrond, and his Hempstead super station. I attended that particular program, in part because I have operated there, but also because there was a talk given by a young man who had been unable to pass a code test when first licensed but now who was part of the US delegation to the World High Speed CW contest in Bulgaria last year. It shows you what one can do if only you think you can!

All in all, it was an excellent trip. As I always do, I flew into Cincinnati and rented a car there because the saving in airfare pays for the car rental. Plan on attending next time if you can, because it will be a rewarding experience. [You get meeting credit, too.]

Texas DX Society Boardmembers

President	Paul Frantz, W5PF	w5pf at cebridge.net	
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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)

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 June

Alex Stalinsky - WA5UHT

Joe Brassfield - N5AQT

Cal White - WF5W

Al Loeckle - K5FK

Madison Jones - W5MJ

Larry Vehorn - W9AJ

Dave Topp - W5BXX

Paul Frantz - W5PF

Mike Anderson - N5MV

Grady Ferguson - W5FU

Kirby van Horn - K7EC

Bill Stein - WB5SJS

Don Busick - K5AAD

William Goins - K5WMG

Steve Smothers - W9DX

Bob Evans - K5WA

Paul Jaeger - KY5A

Wes Spence - AC5K

Glenn Anderson - WB5TUF

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.