



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net July 2011

YN2ET 2011 DXpedition

Thursday, July 14, , 7:00 PM

TDXS Meeting Night Tracy Gee Center, .3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston. Pre-meeting dinner get-together starts around 5:30/6PM at Pappas BBQ on S. Gessner & Westheimer. Keith NM5G will discuss and show photos of his DXpedition to

Nicaragua with Bob N5ET and Eddy K5WQG for the 2011 CQ SSB WPX contest. He will also describe their day trips to local scenic attractions.



Editor's Note de Jim N4AL

This month we have articles written by three Field Day operators. All reports indicate that this was a fun effort mounted from a superb location. Mike K5UO , Bob W5UQ, and Cookie K5EWJ each share with us their impressions, and all seem to be in favor of repeating from the same place again next year.

Later in the issue, Keith NM5G gives us an advance glimpse of this month's meet-

ing topic, his recent trip to YN. Keith (YN2MG), Eddy K5WQG (YN2ER) and Bob N5ET (YN2ET) operated from the shack of Octavio near Grenada. Several TDXSers have visited Octavio and XYL Martha in recent years. Come to the meeting and let Keith tell us why this DX location is so attractive.

Several TDXSers were at Ham Com in Plano, and all were having a good time.

Bob W5UQ was doing a brisk business in the flea market, and getting a good sunburn as well. Amy Daze, YL of Don N5DD won the grand door prize at the LSDXA DX Dinner, a Yaesu FT-2000, Bob N5ET won a beam from Force 12. Congratulations! Thanks to Dennis K7BV and Mark N5WEB for their support of Ham-Com.

Please tell W9DX about any changes in your DXCC totals.

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The Prez Sez de Doug WB5TKI

WOW, was Field Day ever fun! On a hot June day it's hard to beat an air conditioned motor home by the seaside. We had a small but enthusiastic group that operated 1A, enjoying great camaraderie and abundant good food. We made over 1000 contacts, including satellite and solar power, operating on 20 – 6m. Dave Topp's (W5BXX) motor home made a great antenna platform for the low band and 6m antennas, and it greatly simplified antenna setup and take-down. I think that we'll definitely be back to the Texas City Dike in the future.

At our last meeting in May we discussed purchasing a projector for use in club presentations. Currently we have been borrowing projectors from club members, but this has been hit and miss at times. As a result our Program VP, Bob W5UQ, and I have been researching the topic. At the next meeting we will vote on the acquisition of a suitable projector for the club.

I have received two requests for donations for upcoming Dxpeditions. One is for an im-

minent operation from the new country The Republic of Southern Sudan. The Intrepid-DX Group expect to be active late this month. The other request is from Five Star DXers Association for a September or October 2011 operation from Kiritimati (Christmas Island) in Eastern Kiribati. We'll discuss at the meeting whether the club wishes to contribute to either of these efforts.

The highlight of the July meeting will be a program presented by Keith NM5G, Bob N5ET and Eddie K5WQG on their trip to Nicaragua in March 2011 for the CQ WW WPX SSB contest.

See you at the next meeting!



From the Bullsheet Archives by Steve W9DX

Ten years ago this month July 2001: The meeting was held at Mykonos Island Restaurant on Richmond at Greenbriar with a program by Paul Frantz W5PF on his recent DXpedition to J3. Jim Carmody NN5O had a great article on how easy it is to contact the International Space Station. Mike Davidson N5MT wrote up a recap of the club's Field Day results with 1825 phone contacts, and 1662 on CW. Steve Smothers W9DX gave a summary of the Ham-Com 2001 DX luncheon in Arlington, Texas with Martti Laine OH2BH as the featured keynote speaker. Martti spoke about his concept of "missionary DXpeditions" that has brought several "no radio" status countries back to giving us some "new ones". Dennis Motschenbacher K7BV was one of the highlights of the DX hospitality suite in Arlington as he showed pictures of his latest DXpedition to East Timor.

Twenty years ago this month July 1991: The July meeting was held at St. John's School at Claremont & Westheimer. The program featured Dave Blaschke W5UN who had just received the world's first DXCC for 2m EME! TDXS President Jim Lane N5DC reported that Field Day Chairman Bob Burns W5SJS had reported about 3100 QSO's in our 2A FD effort, equally split between CW and phone. Jim enjoyed using the K8CC contesting software for FD

logging for the first time. DX Chairman Bob Walworth AK5B (now N5ET) reported that North Korea was being added to the ARRL's DXCC entities list. Romeo Stepanenko's (3W3RR) licensing documentation for his XZ operation "appeared to be valid and acceptable" to the DXCC desk. Ken Grabenstein KE5IV (now W5AAC) won the Icom 725 grand prize at the Arlington Ham-Com DX luncheon. Tom Taormina K5RC reported that we can now apply for callsign plates for each vehicle we own. Jim Carmody NN5O gave details on how to contact the Russian MIR space station on 2m. Don't miss Bob Burn's (W5SJS) hilarious letters to and from the Dept. of Agriculture for turning our FD site into a "not raising hogs" operation.

Twenty-five years ago this month July 1986: The July meeting was held at the Bellaire Hospital Professional Building. The program was by Bill Schrader K2TNO giving one of his famous receiver performance clinics. FD Chairman Bob Burns W5SJS reported that our 3A FD effort should yield over 3700 Q's plus bonus points. K2TNO gave a list of action items to improve our Field Day performance. Special 1986 FD awards included: "Silkiest Shampoo Award" to Tom Shapiro KD5SP for contaminating the stock tank with baby shampoo; the "Lloyd Bridges Award" to Dale Martin KG5U for

swimming in the pond surrounded by a catfish feeding frenzy (I hope you weren't skinny dipping Dale!); "Outstanding Vaquero Award" to Chuck Coleman K5LZO for chasing the cattle away from the antennas Friday evening. Galen Graff KB5FU was organizing the Armadillo Run '86 in conjunction with the CW County Hunters Contest and needed help putting 21 more counties on.

Thirty years ago this month July 1981: The meeting was held at the Chimney Rock Medical Plaza on Mapleridge. The program was a recap of the 1981 Field Day results by FD Chairman Bob Evans K5DU (now K5WA). Bullsheet Editor Dennis Motschenbacher (now K7BV) reported membership approved constitutional amendments. The 1980 ARRL Sweepstakes results for 16 members were reported. Joe Staples W5ASP was working out some bugs with the ARRL on how to handle QSL cards from the TDXS Outgoing QSL Bureau.

Field Day Report by Mike K5UO

To those of you that were not there; you missed a blast!



The Texas DX Society (operating as K5DX), had its Field Day June 25-26 in a motorhome at the end of the five-mile Texas City Dike in Galveston Bay. What a site! Propagation was outstanding. Having saltwater 99% around your location does make the difference. On 6 meters we were getting S9 +20~30 dB over reports on our 4 ele Arrow Yagi up about 25 feet.



Our HF antenna was a tribander at 35 feet on a crankup tower, permanently mounted on the motorhome. Just driving out the dike and listening on 20m, signal's went from, say s4 to S8 by the time I arrived at the site...

We also had a satellite station working the passes...whatever that is, hi!



It was pretty hot; maybe 90 deg F but we had a decent breeze going that help. Also helped keep 'squito's away, too. The A/C in the M/H helped....some.

I think we should go back to this site next year.



It was interesting to watch the large container ships ply their way towards the Houston Ship Channel or towards the Texas City refineries. They would come close by the dike. There was a

National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia (NCSA) passing by. Notice the fold up drive-ramp on the stern. 'Betcha' it to load up all those fancy new SUV's and pickup trucks to take back to Saudi!

Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie Cooke, K5EWJ

The big club event for June was of course Field Day. Our Field Day Chairman for this year was Dave Topp, W5BXX, and he did a great job. Dave's motor home tow-ers made good installations for his log periodic and 6 meter beams. The group was smaller this year because several members had commitments to other clubs. I regret missing the Saturday night barbeque dinner but I know it was good because the barbeque came from my favorite place, Grand Prize in Texas City.

We had a couple of problems that we can try to do better with next year. We had two generators, the one in Dave's motor home and mine. We had some trouble with both of them. Dave's generator tended to overheat at times and mine had a leak at the seam in the gas tank. I bought a new tank and I am in the process of getting it installed so hopefully I will not have the same trouble again. Also, in putting up the 50 ft tower and log periodic no one thought to put a pulley and rope for the dipole on the tower so the antenna was more of an NVIS than planned with the apex as high as could be reached from the motor home roof.

We had two prospects that helped us this year. AE5NO, Ron Litt, was at the site when I arrived Saturday morning. Ron fits with the group well enough that I thought he was a member that I had just missed. Ron made a big contribution to the effort. W5SH, Bill Stone is a guy that I have known several years. Bill showed with the equipment for a software demonstration and with his wife Norma, KE5NDN. I hope that both these guys will choose to join us. Bill has been the organizer for the Museum Ships Weekend for four years and does a great job with that event.

The Museum Ships Weekend occurs the first weekend of June each year and is sponsored by the Battleship New Jersey ARC. This year 79 ships around the world participated in the event. Amateurs around the world attempted to contact as many of the operators on the ships as they could. This year our group at Pelican Island made 900 contacts and contacted 35 of these ships. We had operators in each of the two radio rooms and two additional stations on the picnic grounds adjacent to the ships. It is a Field Day like operation for the ship groups except that we can use power available on the ships and installed antennas on the ships. Some of the ships use original equipment and we hope to do that in coming years. The Battleship Texas also participates, but with a different group operating. The ships on Pelican Island can be seen from the Field Day site on the end of the Dike and the operating conditions are similar. Our operation on Pelican also counts for NA-143 (as does Galveston) for the IOTA program.

TDXS had a good number of participants in the ARRL June VHF contest this year. Chuck Dietz traveled to Nicaragua for the contest and had a great time making 573 QSOs on 6 meters with 150 multipliers for 85,950 points. Chuck stayed with Octavio and Martha Miranda and found them wonderful hosts and the food great. Ron Marosko, Sr., K5LLL, operated from McDade, EM10, and made 148 50 MHz, 42 144 MHz, 8 222 MHz, 21 432 MHz, 3 903 MHz, 3 1296 MHz, 2 2304 MHz, 2 3456 MHz, 1 10368 MHz in 154 grids for 44,044 points. Ron Marosko, Jr., NN5DX, operated in Ft. Stockton, DM80 and made 262 50 MHz, 6-144 MHz, 3-220 MHz and 5-432 MHz QSOs in 140 grids for 39,760 points. Glen Anderson, WB5TUF, made 82 contacts on 6 meters with 60 multipliers for 4,920 points.

Coming Operating Events

CQ World Wide VHF Contest
1800 UTC, Jul 16 to 2100 UTC, Jul 17

CW Ops Mini CWT
1300 UTC – 1400 UTC and 1900 UTC –
2000 UTC Jul 27 and 0300 UTC – 0400
UTC, Jul 28

US Counties QSO Party
1200 UTC, Jul 30 to 0600 UTC, Jul 31 and
1200 UTC -359 UTC, Jul 31

10-10 Int'l Summer QSO Contest, SSB
0001 UTC, Aug 6 to 2359 UTC, Aug 7

CW Ops CW Open Contest
1200 UTC-1600 UTC and 2000 UTC -2400
UTC, Aug 20 and 0400 UTC-0800 UTC,
Aug 21

All Asian DX Contest, Phone
0000 UTC, Sep 3 to 2400 UTC, Sep 4

CW Ops Mini CWT
1300 UTC – 1400 UTC and 1900 UTC –
2000 UTC Sep 3 and 0300 UTC – 0400
UTC, Sep 4

ARRL September VHF QSO Party
1800 UTC, Sep 10 to 0300 UTC, Sep 12

CQ World Wide DX Contest, RTTY 0000
UTC, Sep 24 to 0200 UTC, Sep 25

Texas QSO Party 1400 UTC, Sep
24 to 0200 UTC, Sep 25 and 1400 UTC –
2000 UTC, Sep 25

A New Old Timer's View of Field Day by Bob W5UQ

Field day this year was FUN! And I expected it to be hot and uncomfortable. Instead, it was breezy, and of course it was hot but it was not so bad.

This was my second field day since I have become an adult. My first field days were when I was 16 and 17 years old. Having gotten my license when I was 14 meant that everything was new to me then.

So, even though I'm over 70 years old now, Field Day is still new to me. Bottom line, I sure enjoyed it.

Why? Because of the company at the Field Day events. Because getting on the air and going from one QSO to another is fun. And because being outside in the elements really doesn't fry one's brain like watching TV. It actually invigorates the brain.



Doug, Norma, Bill, and Mike

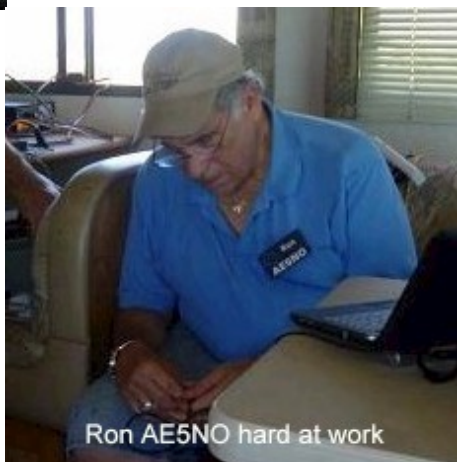


Dave W5BXX pulling out the weak ones



Cookie K5EWJ copying CW

Try it, you'll like it. Even if you don't think you will.....



Ron AE5NO hard at work



Bob WB5IUU takes a break

YN5ET DXpedition by Keith NM5G

The July meeting will feature the Nicaragua DXpedition of Keith Dutson NM5G, Bob Walworth N5ET, and Eddie Reynolds K5WQG.

shack of Octavio Miranda YN2A and XYL Martha, just outside Granada.

Otavio has an impressive antenna farm and living quarters. Martha is an excellent cook, providing 3 meals each day.

Volcano- One of many extinct volcanoes in Nicaragua, this is Mombacho, located south of Granada along the side of Lake de Nicaragua.



Three days were spent sightseeing. Lake de Nicaragua and Granada- This 300 mile lake runs from Granada down to Costa



Highlight of the trip was participation in the 2011 CQ WPX SSB contest. The score was 2582 QSOs, 681 prefixes and 5,879,073 points. Postings on the 3830 reflector indicate this is 31st place in the world. However, no linear amplifier was used and there is no classification for low power, so this is an impressive score.

Rica. Granada is said to be the oldest city in the Americas (North and Central).

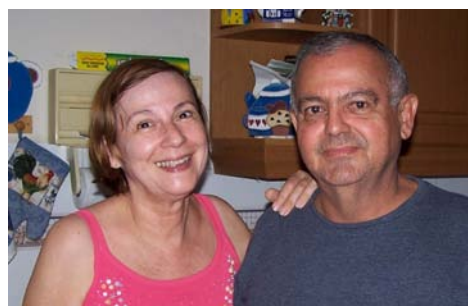
See many more photos and a few videos, and hear commentary from the DXpeditioners at the meeting.



Beach- This is on the Pacific, at San Juan del Sur.



Radios were brought from home to the



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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 July.

Tom Lay - AA5Y

Stan Polak K5STZ

Pat Sonnier - W5WMU

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.

Dennis Alexander - W5KU

Tom Wheatley - K5CNN

Mike Davidson - N5MT

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