



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 2013

TDXS & BVARC - GREAT SUCCESS

MEETING & TIME CHANGE

THIS MONTH IS A DINNER MEETING
JULY 11TH
AT LOS TIOS MEXICAN
RESTAURANT ON WESTHEIMER
AT 6:30 PM.



Editor's Note by Tom N5EA

NOTE: This month's meeting is a Dinner Meeting at the Los Tios on Westheimer at 6:30.

Bill, WS5H has 2 good articles on TDXS experience with BVARC for Field Day. See pgs 8-10

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The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

The dog days of summer have arrived and the bands are lousy. On top of that, my Internet service is out, so I'm writing this on a 3G iPad. You don't know how much you come to depend on something like the Internet until it is not working.

low. I hope to see you there.
73 es gud DX,
Doug WB5TK

Field Day was a lot of fun this year, as we had a joint effort with BVARC at the fire safety training facility in Richmond. The BVARC folks put on a first class feed, and there were plenty of folks to help with set-up and tear down. Especially appreciated were the guys who scampered up on top of Dave Topp's motor home to handle the tower. Bill Stone WS5H did a great job as the TDXS Field Day coordinator and liaison with BVARC.

Thanks Bill!

There has been a lot of interest in having more dinner meetings, so the July 11 meeting will be held at Los Tios Mexican restaurant on Westheimer. The program will feature Frosty K5LBU on his recent DXpedition to Lesotho as 7P8D. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. With the program to fol-



TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5U0

Date: July 11, 2013

Last month's meeting was at the Richmond Fire Training Ground with BVARC and a good time was had by all. See pages 7-8 for more coverage and pictures.



CONTESTING by Willis K5EWJ

From the Contest Director:

It is the hottest part of the summer and we have just finished the hottest part of the contest season, "Field Day". Every year at this time, I hear the same complaint, "Why don't we have Field Day in October or April when the weather is nicer?" The reason is always the same, "The weather is not nicer in Montana, Michigan or Connecticut in October and April and the ARRL headquarters is in Connecticut." Those of us who live in the south are compensated by getting to live in the south, so be glad for what you have.

The weather in June was HOT again, but this year we worked a little bit smarter and managed not to send anyone to the hospital with heat exhaustion from the Field Days that I attended or heard about, so we did something right this year. This year, TDXS elected to combine with BVARC for Field Day and I hope everyone who attended had a good time. Air Conditioning was available to cool off when needed and some younger hams and some Boy Scouts were available to help with the heavy work and give us oldsters a break. I will leave the bulk of the Field Day event reporting to Matt Tatro and Ron Litt who organized for BVARC and to the TDXS Chairman, Bill Stone who all did great jobs. But I do want to mention my endorsement of the

overall plan and my congratulations to those who organized the GOTO station and the Boy Scout participation this year. Encouraging participation of the younger folks is certainly in the spirit of Ham Radio and much needed for the future of the sport. Bravo to all the planners, workers and participants for a job well done!

I spent Saturday with the Tidelands ARS in the Highland Bayou Park Pavilion on Bayou Road which turns off the I-45 Feeder. You need to take the Main Street exit from I-45. TARS runs a relaxed Field Day and usually does not stay all night and operate on Sunday. Joe Wileman has a couple of ready to go vertical antennas which he just sticks in the ground and is ready to operate. I brought out a 45 foot push pole and some hardware to install it which turned out to be more difficult than I had remembered. We did manage to get it erected by about 4 PM on Saturday and installed an Alpha Delta 40 and 80 meter dipole which worked pretty well on 40 meters, but by the time we got it erected, the barbeque was there and we stopped to eat. After dinner I worked a few contacts on 40, but my CW was so rusty that I needed to practice with the paddles for about an hour before I was ready to operate. Then it was time to take down the antenna. Joe and some of the oth-

ers operated on 20 meters for a while, mostly on SSB. I don't think you will see a score from us in QST. I think if I do it again, I will do more planning and have the guys cut, untangled and ready and use a 40 foot fiberglass mast so it will not be so heavy. Planning is always good for these things. But we had some good food and fellowship and I was free to visit the BVARC/TDXS site on Sunday.

I had a report from KM5VI, Matt Flukinger who lives in Houston, but is not yet a TDXS member that he set up in Grimes County (Navasota) for Class 1B1, which is a personal station using emergency power set up and operated by one person. Matt set up his station with a TA-33JR on a 36-foot push pole and a wire vertical with a 40 meter trap and 16 radials. Matt does not state where in Grimes County the station was located. Matt made 1884 contacts with 35/80 mtrs, 283 on 40, 977 on 20, 280 on 15 and 309 on 10. Matt did not report his score, but did report (1) snake, (2) curious eagles, & some really pesky Kamikaze birds that did not think that I should have been there! Weather: Scorching hot - no storms. Band Conditions: 15m really noisy on Saturday, 7.5 hr run on 20m, 40m signals were mostly in the mud, nice 10m opening Saturday morning.

I received a report from member #49, Fred Pevoto, K5FP about a Field Day Operation on a mountain top north of Marble Falls at the contest QTH of N5AW who is

CONTESTING by Willis K5EWJ

often a high scorer in the Low Power Category for many DX and other contests. A group of 6 club members decided to operate from the N5AW station using the contest antennas and the Central Texas DX and Contest Club call W5CT. The operators were N5AW, K5OT, K5FP, W5EK, W5FIT and K5FJP.

Class: 2E LP, QTH: STX, Operating Time (hrs): 23.5, 80 mtr./72 CW/2 SSB, 40/433/143, 20/656 /342, 15/ 520/518, 10/151/277, 6/2/21, Total: 1834 1303 0 Total Score = 10,192 Central Texas DX and Contest Club Fred writes: Total score includes 250 bonus points. This field day continued the tradition of our good friend and field day partner of many years, Gary W5ZL who became a silent key in 2012. Gary's key found its way to one of our operating positions thanks to his widow, K5JFP, Leslie, and handed out quite a few contacts. Despite some visits from Murphy we significantly exceeded last year's score. Having spent most of our time on CW until Sunday morning, the last few hours on SSB were hectic, peaking with a 344 QSO hour and a ten minute period with an hourly rate of 498. Lots of fun!

Non Field Day Activity included a report from K5LLL, #124, Ron Marosko who now lives between McDade and Paige, TX with an impressive score in the ARRL VHF QSO considering that Ron is about 40 miles from Austin and 100 miles from Houston. Running single Op, high power Ron racked up on 50 MHz/239Qs x1pt x 103 gds =24617 pts, 144 MHz/39 x

1 x 15 =585, 222 MHz/ 10 x 2 x7=140,
432 MHz/17 x 2 x 9 = 306,
903 MHz/ 2 x 3 x 2 = 12, 1296 MHz/ 6 x 3 x 3 = 54, 2304 MHz/ 2 x 4 x 1= 8,
10368 MHz/ 1 x 4 x 1 = 4, TOTALS 316 QSO 368 Points
141 Grids for 51888 Score. Ron says he had fun, but it is not a winning score. I'll bet it wins EM10! Might even win Texas, Impresses ME!

Glenn, WB5TTU reported 75 QSOs and 40 Grids on 6 meters and 4 QSOs and 3 Grids on 2 meters for 79 QSOs and 43 Grids and 3397 points in the same contest which seems impressive to me. Glen also reported in the DL DX RTTY Contest he worked 40 Mtr/40Qs, 245 pts, 16 mult, 20 Mtr, 97, 690,30 and 15 Mtr, 5,30, 4 for Total 143 Qs, 965 pts and 50 Mult for Score 48,250.

Coming Events:

July 13 Tideland's Amateur Radio Society annual Hamfest, 0700 CDST to 1200 CDST

July 13-14 IARU HF World Championship

July 20-21 North American QSO Party RTTY

July 27-28 RSGB IOTA Centenary Contest

DX REPORT by Bill WS5H

Mt. Athos, the Rarest Inhabited DXCC Entity

by Jim Boockholdt N4AL/SV0JB

Location

The DXCC entity of Mt Athos is located in northern Greece in the beautiful region called Halkidiki. If you look at a map of Greece, in the northern part just south of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia is Greece's second largest city--Thessaloniki. To the right and slightly below this city, three peninsulas jut into the Aegean Sea. The top, northernmost of these is the one containing Mt. Athos. Admission to the monastic community there is through the port village of Ouranoupolis on the northern part of the southern coast of the peninsula.

Physically, Mt. Athos is 56 km. (34 miles) long and less than 8 km. (5 miles) wide. The land on the peninsula gradually rises to a summit about 2 km. high near the southern tip before it suddenly drops into the sea. It is inhabited by about 2000 Orthodox Christian monks, all men. Females are not permitted on Mt. Athos.

History

According to Christian tradi-

tion, Mary the mother of Jesus was on a ship that took refuge from a storm in Mt. Athos on the way to Cyprus. Mary, admiring the place, asked God to give her the mountain as a present. Since then, Orthodox Christians have considered the peninsula to be "Garden of the Virgin Mary". In the 5th century the first Orthodox monks came to the peninsula, and the first monasteries were established there during the 10th century. Today the monasteries of Mt. Athos preserve medieval Christian traditions and constitute the largest museum of Byzantine art in the world.

Currently the monastic community contains 20 Orthodox monasteries, each surrounded by other smaller cloisters, cells, and hermitages. The men living there are of many nationalities: Greek, Russian, Romanian, Cypriot, and others. The monks devote their lives to solitude, prayer, and fasting. Most live communally in the monasteries, but some live solitary lives in the surrounding settlements. Monks living communally share in the food, work and worship of the monastery. Visitors are welcome in the community, but they must get advanced permission and their stays are limited by the ability of the monasteries to accommodate them.

Government

Each monastery is self-governing and is headed by a Superior who is elected by the monks for life. The Superiors from the twenty monasteries form a Holy Assembly that has legislative authority within the community. Each monastery also elects a representative to the Holy Council, which has administrative authority. This self-governing administration, which has existed since Byzantine times, has given Mt. Athos its status as a separate DXCC entity. Recognized internationally as a part of Greece, the monastic community is overseen by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For religious purposes, Mt. Athos is governed by the Patriarch of Constantinople in Istanbul, Turkey.

Amateur Radio

Amateur radio operation in the monastic community is difficult. An operator from a nation that participates in the CEPT agreement can operate from Greece as SV/home call/P. Others must first obtain a Greek license from the Greek Ministry of Communication and Transportation. This permission is not difficult to obtain, but does require advance communication with the Ministry.

Operation from within the monastic community also requires the permission of the Holy



DX REPORT by Bill WS5H

Council, which is difficult to obtain. The Council is understandably hesitant to admit visitors that it thinks may distract from the community's religious purposes. Mt. Athos is not a vacation destination, and its inhabitants do not want it considered as such.

Currently only one person, Monk Apollo SV2ASP/A has permission from both Greek authorities and the Holy Council to operate from Mt. Athos. Monk Apollo lives in the Monastery of Docheiariou, which is located about half-way down the peninsula on its western side. Other licensed Greek amateurs are resident monks, but none have the permission of the Council to operate.

Baldur DJ6SI/SY operated from Mt. Athos in 1991 after obtaining permission from the Patriarchate in Istanbul, but not from the Holy Council. Following this operation, the ARRL decided that future operations should have the permission of the Holy Council. A number of Greek amateurs had operated from Mt. Athos prior to his visit. Since then, no one has been able to get permission to operate from the Holy Council. However, according to ARRL DX Bulletin #37 issued in 1998, Dominic DL5EBE operated from Monk Apollo's QTH in September of that year. He gave a few lucky people the only CW contacts from Mt. Ath-

os in decades.

The prognosis for future radio operation from Mt. Athos is not good. Monk Apollo has been very cooperative and willing to operate and give a "new one" to many of us when he has time. But he does not know Morse code, and his duties at the monastery are understandably more important to him. Thus few DX'ers have a CW contact from Mt. Athos. We will have to be patient and hope for a change in the Holy Council.

For pictures from the 1979-80 dxpeditions to Mt. Athos by SV1DC, SV1IW, and SV1JG, visit Cliff's web site at <http://www.sv1jg.gr>.

[This is an updated version of an article that was published in the December, 2004 issue of QST.]



FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by Bill WS5H

2013 Field Day Chairman Short Report

The FD operation at the Fire Field with clubs TDXS and BVARC was a very worthy and fun adventure for all. The BBQ was good. Breakfast and lunch was also served up. Our club member Ron K5HM / BVARC co-chairman XO has submitted a great article so I will just touch on some of the TDXS side of the operations. With RV set-up and attending FD members there were 13 members and 5 guests that signed the TDXS list. All contributed as volleys / operators in the FD effort. Many other visitors forgot to sign the list. The RV antenna / tower setup and breakdown went smooth with as many as 11 volleys at one time to assist. The 5500 watt 30 amp generator worked well but one of the two RV AC's kept tripping the motor home breaker so it was rather warm in the RV for the digital operators.

SCOTT NT5SM, Scout Masters Hal Fuglaar N5BXP, RALPH PHILLIP KE5HDF, David Krusleski KF5ICC and BVARC member Theresa Williams KE5MUX did an excellent job with the K5DX GOTA station. A total of 36 contacts were made by the 2 troops of Scouts on the GOTA station. This seems a small amount of Q's but the operators were very instructed about HF operations and then if they had a license went over to

the 10 meter SSB station to finish spitting the frog out of the mouth on HF. Many of the 25 B.S.A. Radio Merit Badges were attained by the use of our K5DX 147.360 repeater. Other Scout merit badges were awarded during the Field Day and overnight camping.

A few things TDXS was involved with in the set up and points aside from our contest skilled operators was to provide the tower and antenna / RV digital station platform, supply and setup radio station for SSB 10 meters. Put together the 10 meter V-Quad antenna, oversee 10 M station and to set a few ops to run it. Also help oversee K5DX GOTA , set the info table (100 points), set VHF radio and antenna, VHF talk in, supply antenna for ISS contact, keep the RV self supporting, Make gas runs and other needed items to and from FD site, 100 point NTS airmail bonus, solar bonus by Solar Bob (100 points). Guess throw in the 160 meter I thought I could play with for fun. For those who kept up with the 160 meter box of doughnut bet I lost by default as the station interfered with the digi PSK waterfalls so the operators shut me down.

We all had MORE FUN WITH LESS STRESS AT FIELD DAY.

73 Bill Stone WS5H
2013 TDXS Field Day Chairman

THOUGHTS ON FIELD DAY by Ron K5HM

Field Day - The Movie

It was like a movie. A carefully orchestrated ballet of people, technology and location.

The location: The Fort Bend County Fire Training Facility, a jointly operated school for firefighters throughout the area. Handy too, in case someone let the magic smoke out of their radio, we would have plenty of help.



Partnering with the Texas DX Society provided additional manpower and some valuable resources including a motor home with a 30 foot crank up tower and a log periodic antenna

For BVARC and TDXS, it was a technological leap. We operated Class 9A and having that many RF streams in the air at one time took some coordinating. Hats off to Matt Tatro, K5NGU, the over all Field Day Chairman, Bill Stone TDXS FD Chairman and to Michael Wrenn, K5WRN, the Antenna King. Careful site planning minimized interference.

Band conditions on all bands and especially 20 meters were good. It seemed to be open all night. Perhaps Cycle 24 redeemed itself

a little at Field Day or perhaps it had just as much to do with the number of people around North America that were operating.



Class 9A takes a lot of people to operate that many stations. At times there were easily 45-50 members from both clubs at the site. Operators from both clubs pulled long hours on the HF bands. In addition to the usual stalwarts like Allen, N5XZ John K5IZO, Bill WS5H, we had notable help from TDXS too. Thanks to Earl N8SS and John W5UG. Their night operating helped to squeeze all we could out the bands.



We used BVARC's three element Tribander with the new Triplexer. That gave us three bands on one antenna simultaneously. It worked perfectly. The only argument among the three CW opera-

tors was where to point it. "This way; no that way. No leave it alone!"

TDXS member Dave Topp, W5BXX's motor home and Log Periodic was dedicated to Digital operation. Digital mode operations played a major role in Field Day and dedicating a major resource to it paid off. We logged 362 digital Q's, the last one coming on Sunday at 1259 UTC, just under the wire. PSK DX included Australia, Japan, Indonesia and South Korea.



This year we switched logging software to N1MM Logger. The internal data base technology allowed us to capture log entries even when a station was accidentally disconnected from the server. We displayed real time log entries and score on a big screen display. The effort was successful as we were able to easily familiarize operators with the entry and logging screens. The real payoff from N1MM will come in future years when we can begin to utilize some of the advanced features of the system. We set up a local WIFI network to communicate with the W5BXX motor home, located across the field from the radio operations room.

THOUGHTS ON FIELD DAY by Ron K5HM

Our initial plan was to operate the digital stations in the motor home remotely. Although the WIFI link worked, there were network problems that kept us from being totally successful

The GOTA Station, operating with call TDXS club call, K5DX was



prominently located by the front building entrance. Scott McKEE, NT5SM ran the station .

More than 25 Boy scouts attended a Radio Merit badge class, conducted by Hal Fulgaar, N5BXP during Field Day. As part of the merit badge requirement, each scout made contacts using the GOTA station.

For some, including Stephanie Vessey, K5SFV it was their first experience with digital. During Saturday night, she logged over 100 PSK Q's, including one with VK3FD! Not bad for a first time contester. Her husband Nathan, N5NYV had to pry her from the radio at 3 AM, Sunday morning. A stellar performance was turned in by Scott Royall W5RUA, who worked throughout the night on 40 meter PSK, logging over 60 Q's. Other PSK operators included Matt, K5NGU and Ron, K5HM

TDXS' Bob Menill, WB5IUU, provided the solar bonus using solar cells and battery lash up. We hooked it up to the digital station to provide the requisite 5 Q's for the 100 point bonus.

John, K5LKJ made his first contest CW QSO.

There was plenty of food. Saturday's Kickoff lunch about an hour before the official Field Day start was provided by the Vessey's, Nathan N5NYV and Stephanie K5SFV with burgers and hot dogs all around. A good way to fuel up for the event. Saturday evening BBQ with all the fixin's was provided by Jack Van de Mark,



W5BXX'S mobile station

WN5A and crew. The brisket was just the ticket. delicious.

John Stratton N5AUS, Vice Director ARRL West Gulf Division, paid a visit to the site. He stayed for dinner.

Murphy, although he is not a ham, he always seems to be around when things go awry and this year was no exception. We had problems communicating with via the WIFI network . We later traced that to a router problem, which will be corrected next year. Meantime we went to Plan B and ran the digital ops from the RV directly. The motor home AC was not up to the weather and the generator for the coach did not have enough capacity to run both AC units. As temperatures climbed, it felt like a sauna inside where the 20 meter PSK station was situated. So 40 meter PSK ops were set up under an awning and at night it was actually cooler than inside.

One other generator in the operations area gave out and would not restart. Fortunately we had a spare to replace it.

The final victim to Murphy was my HT, which fell out of my back pocket Saturday evening and seemed lost. On Sunday a fire-fighter at the training center returned it. It had been dropped in the road and run over by a vehicle. Though the battery case has a large dent in it, the VX-7 radio still works.

It took us two hours to tear down and clean up, even with a great crew. In any case, a good time seemed to be had by all. At least

Repeater Musings by Bill WS5H

Enjoy the extra activity on our wide area coverage K5DX 147.360 VHF positive + offset PL tone 100 repeater. Along with our usual traffic and the DX voice spots on the repeater BVARC has been given permission by Glenn WB5TUF repeater trustee to use the repeater for back up until the WA5CYI 146.94 machine is back to 100 %. This permission has given the repeater a good work out as per the commute rides to and from work and the BVARC Public Info net each Monday night 8 PM local time. The 146.94 machine for years has been a great repeater with known coverage from parts of Galveston to the far reaches of North Houston / North Harris County. The repeater is set for new coax and antenna however the repeater is on a commercial tower at 800 ft and as we know there is much red tape to perform the maintenance per insurance ect. Also to mention Pump WA5CYI has had a recent surgery and is resting at home so the use of our K5DX repeater by BVARC should give him a break to get back to good health soon. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Our K5DX repeater is in the Galleria Area 600 Ft @ 100 watts. At one time I asked Glenn if he should cut the power back with so much traffic on the repeater to save the finals in the 100-watt amp. In a true TDXS style answer Glenn said

LIFE IS TOO SHORT FOR QRP. Our repeater has coverage that I have heard from the Woodlands up North to Santa Fe down South. Thanks Glenn for your service work for TDXS as trustee for the K5DX 147.360 and 442.000 repeaters.

Bill WS5H

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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

Birthdays July 2013

AA5Y - Tom Lay

W5WMU—Pat Sonnier

KZ5DP - William Price

K5CNN - Tom Wheatley III

N5ZR - Tom Jakubec

K5WS - Walter Schroeder

WB5LVL - Richard Neal

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