



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 2014

July 14th, Monday 6:30PM: TDXS Special Dinner Meeting Night.

Place: Silver Palace Chinese Buffet, 4005 Bellaire Blvd (near Stella Link), Houston. Come have a good time, and leave feeling like a happy Buddha! Bring a ham visitor!!!



Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

As I write this, the numbers are 193,4,1. Quite a change from the sub-100's we had just a week or so ago. It's 1 am and 10 meters is still open a bit, 15 meters is hopping and earlier in the day, 6 meters was going at it also. A lot of EU was reported and I see on the TDXS reflector that Orville worked CN8KD! FB Orville! Earlier, I saw some good spots from K5RK not to mention more from up north. Hopefully, I'll have a chance to work some of that good stuff tomorrow.

Field Day! Field Day! Field Day! As far as I am concerned it was a terrific success this year. The joint TDXS/BVARC/Echo Field Day worked out great. I have to give particular credit to three guys...W5TKZ Roy, AD5Q Roy and WB5TUF Roy...oops! I meant Glenn. Roy #1 did a great job of organizing the troops and, I

suspect also knowing when to let certain personnel take care of their own business. Roy #2 also did a superb job of antenna setup (including a 2-el 40 meter wire beam) and operating, making well over 500 CW Qs. Glenn set up the excellent network, provided all computers and made lots of RTTY Qs. As I mentioned before on the reflectors, my hats are off to them! Note also that we had around 68 participants, and Bill WS5H made sure that we clocked in 1450 Bonus points. A brief summary:

Raw Score: 13,374
Bonus Pts: 1,450
GOTA Pts: 60
Total Pts: 14,884

Not too shabby if I do say so myself! (BTW, we are still in 1st place on the 3830.com website!)

I understand there were still a few wrinkles with FD this

year...next year we aim to smooth them out as much as possible.

Not a whole lot of DX to report in June, but did snag: BG4FRZ, DV1JM, FO5RH, ZA/ON6NB, ZA/ON4ANN, 5W1SA, BG3UPA, EW1TO and 9G5ZZ. It was a slow month for me anyway what with the low numbers and all.

Don't forget to the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) held in conjunction with the IARU HF Championship held on Saturday, July 12, starting at 1200Z and lasting 24 hours.

Turns out there is at least one TDXS member participating...George NR5M working it with John W2GD on the "Team 59" team. Go to www.wrtc2014.org for more information.

CU in the contest!

For now, 73, Allen N5XZ

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The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

BS Prez Sez for June 2014

Sorry for not being able to cover the Field Day activities this month. And I am sorry I missed such a glorious occasion in ham radio. Anyway, my wife and I are traveling and have been since June 24th. So someone else will need to cover that activity.

Instead I'd like to cover something that many of us "already are and some are getting close to"..... and that is "retirement". Many hams in the TDXS are retired. Many are not. Retirement has been great for me and I am one of those guys that is.... or was a workaholic. Hmmmmm..... wait a minute, I guess even in retirement I'm still a bit of a workaholic.

Actually retirement to me looked like it could be boring. Instead, I have to say emphatically that I have found it far from boring. Just the opposite in fact. As many of you will attest to as well.

Many people told me that I should retire years before I finally gave up and retired. I loved my job and the corporation I worked for seemed to love to have me working for them. So retirement was something way out in the future for this "young man" with years ahead of me. Well, that is what I thought then. Something changed my mind. I think it is called old age. You know, that age after middle age, or something like that.

Good news is that I've changed my mind now and wished I had retired sooner. Retirement has been great. Lots of things to keep me busy and I am not the least bit bored. And if, by chance, you know someone that is not a ham, then you

might consider giving them this article. Or at least, really encourage them to become an amateur radio operator and tell them what it really can do for them when they retire.

And those of you that are not retired, I suggest that you begin to look forward to retirement. Especially if you are a ham radio aficionado and not just "a licensed ham" that is inactive. Become "Radio Active". Like most hams that are reading this, they really do enjoy their hobby. It helps make friends, meet new people. Not just in Houston area, but all over the world too.

So who am I to tell you that there is so much to do in ham radio? You probably already know that you can explore different modes of operation. Such as EME, RTTY, slow scan TV. And even fast scan TV and digital TV is being practiced by some I hear.

Here are a couple of ideas and there are hundreds more. John Firey, W5ZG, who many of you know, has worked all states by collecting Amateur Radio License plates from every state. He says that it wasn't easy either. Next he is trying to work all states with W1AW/# well you know, operating from the various states.

Then there is contesting, which is a big deal for some and not such a big deal for others. How about DXCC and going past 100 because you have time now to get that DXCC of over 346 or so entities. Especially if you have some deleted entities you can go over that number easily.

For me, I now have time to work on electronic ham and test gear. Something my job/career would allow very little time to do before retirement. In fact, I have bought test equipment and am having fun

testing ham gear like I always wanted to do but didn't have the time to do then.

Anyway, far be it from me to tell you that there are so many things to do in ham radio to keep one busy. Because, as most of you know, I have just barely scratched the surface. Of course you all know that ham radio is one of the best and most versatile hobbies in the world.

Aren't you glad you are one? A lucky ham radio operator with a future even when you retire. Well, look at it this way, it does keep you out of your wife's hair, off the streets and out of bars.... Hmmmmm... well hopefully it does. J

See you next month.

Bob Hardie

July 2014

DX Report by Cookie K5EWJ

The pace of major DXpeditions has slowed some for the summer, however I did run across 4W6LU on East Timor (Timor Leste) on June 27 on 17 meters which was a surprise to me. Sei appeared on the cluster unexpectedly and I was able to barely hear him for country number 323 for me in mixed. It pays to monitor the cluster for new ones unless you are down to very few and can keep up with the DXpeditions. Even when you need less than 10 or 20 to complete you can still find a berry in the briar patch now and again.

There are still a few DXpeditions planned for the fall which may produce some rare ones for us. The Tromelin DX pedition for Oct 30 to Nov 10, 2014 seems to still be on schedule. The Tristan de Chunha DXpedition is now planned for Sept 15 to Oct 6, 2015. The much awaited Heard Islant DXpedition seems to have slipped to an unspecified date in 2016. A more complete list is available at <http://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html> for those of you who are not so near the end or want band country fills. Many less difficult expeditions will keep up our interest as participants arrange for their trips. There is some chatter about the US Possessions that are currently off limits to amateur operators. I personally do not see much hope for changes to the government position in the near future since the current status is confirmed by both the Obama Democrat Regime and the Republican George W. Bush Regime. No relief seems on the horizon from the DXCC desk either but there is some talk about eliminating the entities that are

banned for environmental or species reasons from the active DXCC list. I personally do not have a problem with the idea, but it does not appear that it will happen in the near term. I have most of them confirmed as do most DXers that have been around since the early nineties.

Club Log also has a good list of DXpeditions that they sponsor and lot of other aids to help you find a new country or two. Keep checking Club Log and any other lists that you find helpful.

From the political world, the big hold out seems to be P5, North Korea. It is a dictatorship, so a change of attitude or political circumstance would change the picture as quickly as it changed in Myanmar.

I was very busy during the first part of this month getting ready for Museum Ship Weekend for which I was BVARC Chairman. We had a successful operation with 721 contacts and the new site worked out well. We had a good crowd and used the BVARC TH-3 beam with a Dunestar Triplexer, Bill Stones Worm Burner, a portable Quad for 6 meters and a triple inverted Vee with an Alpha Delta 80-40 dipole and a 75 meter dipole addition. I got some good reports, but I was so busy with other things that I did not get a chance to operate and check it out. I put it up again at the Tidlands Field Day, but only got to operate about 30 minutes on 40 CW. It seemed to work well there. I will put it up here and try it and give you a report when I know more.

I bought a DX-60B/HR-10 station at HamCom to try a bit of Boat Anchor

operation. I am getting that together so I can see how it goes.

I have gotten back active with the Straight Key Century Club. They have a new award for Senator (Rank?) which requires working 400 different Centurions and Tribunes (TX8) then working 200 Tribunes and Senators. Interesting, but I have a way to go to get there. I called CQ SKCC this morning and was answered by a Russian, two Australians and a Zambian. I guess that DX is not completely dead for the summer. I also worked about 15 US Stations.

Next month I will get back to some CW tips and more DX news. This is not the best propagation ever, but it will do and you can work plenty of DX if you have a decent station.

Contest Chatter by Joe W5ASP

CONTEST CHATTER

While I recognize that there isn't a whole lot of interest in contesting among the majority of the current members of TDXS, I have to assume that most of you are amateur radio "operators", i.e. with an interest in getting on the air and making contacts with others. I understand the fascination of DXing ... (been there, done that). So the idea of chasing elusive callsigns should be of interest to everyone. Well there's a unique opportunity to gather up a bunch of new callsigns rather quickly and easily. It's known as WRTC ... the World Radio Team Championship that will take place later this month. (Saturday, July 12th, 1200 UTC)

It is held in conjunction with the IARU HF Championship, but it is NOT A CONTEST! It is an "operating event" open to all amateurs. You can work as many of the WRTC stations (59 of them) as you wish, SSB or CW on all bands. You are not competing with anyone. Your log is submitted only to help the organizers determine which of WRTC teams did the best. There are many awards for participation. It's simply a fun way to operate your radio.

"The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) is a competition between two-person teams of amateur radio operators testing their skills to make contacts with other Amateur Radio operators around the world over a 24 hour period. Unlike most on-the-air competitions, all stations are required to use identical antennas from the same geographic region, eliminating all variables except operating ability. WRTC2014 will include 59 competing teams from 29 qualifying regions around the world." (per the Official Announcement)

All competitor's sites will be as identical as possible and located in the same geographical region with similar topography scattered around the Boston area. The teams bring their own radios, switching systems, computers, and logging software. Each station will run a maximum of 100 watts. Equipment that will be installed by the organizers at each site includes a tent, generator, desks, chairs, a 40-foot tower, and three antennas. The antennas consist of an identical tribander and separate inverted Vs for both 40 and 80 meters hanging from the tower. The day before the contest, each of the competing teams will be escorted to their randomly selected operating locations for their first visit.

The competitors will be using distinctive call signs that will make them easy to recognize. The call signs will all be 1x1 call signs from the USA first call area. Sixteen of the available 75 call signs will not be used, including the longest and shortest CW suffixes and suffixes that are frequently mis-copied on CW. The exchange is 59(9) 07. Teams will not know the call sign they will use until the referee hands them a sealed envelope just 15 minutes before the contest begins.

To show the best times to work the WRTC teams, Stu Phillips, K6TU, has made his propagation prediction service available. Enter your call sign, grid square, and type of antenna system and the service will provide a table of expected band openings from your location to the WRTC2014 area. See <http://www.wrtc2014.org/k6tu-provides-propagation-forecast-service-for-wrtc2014/> for more details.

A checklist that can be used to keep track of the WRTC2014 stations will appear in the July/August issue of the National Contest Journal and on the WRTC2014 web site. In addition to working the individual stations, you can monitor their progress on an online

scoreboard at the WRTC2014 website at www.wrtc2014.org.

It will be important to collect as many logs as possible as quickly as possible from around the world to help with the checking. All logs submitted by e-mail to the IARU HF Championship robot (iaruhf@arrl.org) within 6 hours of the end of the contest will be eligible for a WRTC prize drawing.

For additional WRTC2014 details see: <http://www.wrtc2014.org> In addition Randy, K5ZD, a TDXS member, has an excellent article on the WRTC in the July issue of QST. It's also available online from *the ARRL website*:

<http://www.arrl.org/> To review the rules for the IARU contest itself see: <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>

ARRL Field Day was held this past weekend (June 28th & June 29th). A report on the TDXS's activities can be found elsewhere in this issue. Until next time ... "dit dit" ... Joe, W5ASP

The Great Harvey Wells Caper Part 2 by Ron Litt, K5HM

I stared at her for a long time. A pristine beauty with big black eyes and creamy white face. She looked back at me from the half page ad in QST.

Six months earlier, I discovered her buried in the back pages of the magazine. I grabbed every new issue that arrived from the mailman. I turned quickly to the ad, to be sure she was still there; the Harvey Wells Band Master Z-Match Antenna Coupler. I had to have one.

For the last two years I had one single band antenna for 20 meters. It was great but I was getting close to my WAS and I needed practically all the New England states. Connecticut and New Jersey were almost impossible from New York City without a 40 or 80 meter antenna. I was desperate.

As a 17 year kid with no car and no money, I had next to no social life. You might convince a chick to take the subway ride to night court in lower Manhattan. Watching the evening people routinely scooped up by the cops, get arraigned. Or to the Staten Island Ferry for the nickel moonlight cruise across the harbor. After that, your options for a second date were badly limited without personal mobility.

I was obsessed; like an electrolytic capacitor that was fully charged all the time. Ham radio was my only way to bleed off the stored energy. The informal Saturday Night Nerd net was regularly attended by the guys from high school that couldn't get a date. I was a regular member. We lasted until one or two in the morning talking about antennas and Q-multipliers and Collins gear we could never afford. It was my only relief from the teen age hormones running amok.

In those days the \$70 price for the coupler was beyond astronomical. It cost more than a senior prom date! Day after day, I sunk deeper into depression. The kind only pubescent teenagers know when they are rejected by the head of the cheerleading squad.

Little did I suspect salvation was at hand. The very next Saturday, fate struck a blow right out of left field, KAPOW!

I had gone to Saturday breakfast with the Queens County Bagel, Bowling and Spark Club (QCBB&SC). For about the twentieth time, I bent my old buddy Ralph's ear about the Harvey Wells Coupler.

Ralph, the greatest Elmer of all time, listened patiently while preparing his bagel. I whined on for five full minutes. He was quiet, but nodded appropriately and grunted in assent when I paused for a breath.

Precision was Ralph's key to success. He could lay down 25 turns on a coil form without a gap or an overlap; as if it had come from a machine. So Ralph had a system for preparing a bagel with cream cheese and lox. Like brain surgeon, he spread the cream cheese evenly, carefully leaving no space uncovered. Then he layered the lox on top, using a fork to mash down the smoked fish so it was buried into the cream cheese.

Finally, he looked me straight in the eye and said, "Listen kid." Everybody was a kid to Ralph. "Whyncha go home and work the South Dakota QSO Party? There's only two hams in the whole state. You might get lucky."

Lucky? I hadn't gotten that lucky, since I got to second base with Wanda Louise Schwartzberg on the ferry ride a month ago but I needed South Dakota for WAS. This might be the day. I threw down a couple bucks for my share of the bill and took off for the bus stop.

I had just bounded up the front steps and into the house when the old man hit me with the letter. The mail had arrived early this day and clutched in his trembling hand was the dreaded pink ticket.

"You better take care of this", he said. The old man didn't get the enormity of transgression that a pink ticket represented. But he knew that anything that came in an envelope with no stamps and "Official Business" printed on it was trouble. As far as he was concerned, I was as good as being carted off to Leavenworth.

Without uttering a word, I snatched the letter from his hand, turned and fled down the basement stairs. I had to figure out what to do.

I sat for a long time; thinking. The U.S. phone band ended at 14200 KC. Most of the good DX was always just below that great divide. We worked split back then, running full carrier double sideband AM, pushing as close to the band edge as we dared, calling for that rare station we needed. Calling from the US side of the 14200 divide and listening on the DX side.

The QRM from 14205 and down was like shock and awe in the Iraq war. Screaming heterodynes beating against one another. Guys over modulating their rigs and the infamous California Kilowatts tuning up. Kaah-Chunk! Hello Test . . . Hello TEST...HEELLLO Test...1,2,3,4... 4,3,2,1! Okay, okay, I know you can count already.

Night after winter's night I spent in the chilly basement shack looking for that rare one on 20 meters. The only warmth created by the glow of the parallel 6146's in the final and the 807 modulator tubes.

My stubby little fingers were numb as I gripped the bandspread knob and tuned my receiver into the low end of 20 meters. Across the great divide at 14200 KC between the U.S. phone and CW bands; it was there the great DX lived. You could hear them calling CQ; siren's voices from places like Australia, Tahiti, Japan and Pitcairn. It was a drug. The call signs and those strange accented voices from exotic places drew you in. You just had to make contact.

Finally I mustered the courage to call my old buddy Ralph on the land line. I laid it all out in one breath. "Listen kid", he began; his voice had a way of piercing through the QRM in my head. "You just need an accurate marker for the band edge. A crystal calibrator. You can pick one up at Harrison Radio for about ten bucks."

"Hey Ralph", I said. "What about the letter I have to write? What should I say?" Ralph started in again, "Just tell them the truth kid, you'll be fine. See you later kid." And then there was a click.

That's it? Tell them the truth? Finally, the beginnings of a diabolical plan began to form in my head. If I played my cards right, I would solve my FCC problem and snag the Z-Match in the bargain.

(continued)

The Great Harvey Wells Caper Part 2 by Ron Litt, K5HM

Anyone who has ever gotten a pink ticket will tell you it is a serious matter. In my kid mind it was like getting called to the Vice Principal's office. Mr. Murphy. The Vice principal at Millard Fillmore High School was like the FCC, he knew everything. He was the most feared man at school. It was rumored that he had some medieval torture mechanism in his office. A relic from the Spanish Inquisition that would make the toughest kid confess.

Just like the FCC letter, when you went to see the Vice Principal, you had to confess your transgression, explain why and then describe how it was never, ever going to happen again. I spent the rest of the day composing the response to the FCC notice. I pulled out my No.2 Dixon Ticonderoga, the same pencil I use in my logbook. The same pencil that was an accomplice to my crime. Its penance would be to help me contrive this document of contrition. I began writing and correcting phrases; adding more verbiage where it was needed.

I skipped lunch and supper. I was hungry but I didn't want stem the creative juices while they were flowing. Mostly, I wanted to avoid the old man until I was ready.

It was a work of classic prose worthy of the Pulitzer Prize. In the first part, I acknowledged my crime; plead guilty and promised not to do it again. I said, I'm sorry three times in the first paragraph. In the second part, I described what I was going to do. Purchasing a crystal calibrator, using it to mark the band edge and NEVER operate any closer than three kc from the marker.

Then, in the midst of my epistle of contrition, I slipped a tiny little paragraph about adding an antenna impedance matcher, like the Harvey Wells Band Master Z-Match Coupler. I went on for a couple of sentences about how it would eliminate spurious emissions and reduce any TVI. There it was! My secret was out.

Then I really started pouring it on. I swore to check my receiver monthly against WWV, recalibrate my VFO and receiver every 90 days. I even promised to buy a crystal for 14.203 in the event my VFO became unstable. I finished the letter with a recap of the whole inci-

dent and how it would never happen again . . . ever.

Finally it was ready for typing. As a southpaw, my handwriting was beyond bad. I was the only kid in Mrs. Shapiro's fourth grade class to flunk Penmanship. Most guys got a fancy fountain pen for their 13th birthday. Instead, the old man had wisely decided on a portable typewriter for me. Carefully, I typed each word on the Smith-Corona. To avoid any erasures or mistakes; I had to redo whole pages until it was perfect and pristine. I wanted to make a good impression on the FCC about the sincerity of my penance. Finally I signed it and typed the envelope too.

I spent the rest of the day typing the final version of the letter. By the time I was done, it was after eight in the evening. I could hear the TV in the living room. The old man was watching Sid Caesar; his favorite show. He was laughing; a good sign. At least for the moment he wasn't thinking about the FCC or Leavenworth. I slipped out of the basement, up the stairs to my bedroom without notice and turned out the light. I'd decided to wait till Sunday morning to launch my plan. By now, I was drained.

Now it was Sunday morning. Time for the final act.

I came down to breakfast with the letter in my hand. The old man was eating a bagel with smoked whitefish; his favorite. He had a copy of the *Sunday New York Times* on the table. Even though he was a blood sworn Democrat, he read the Times from cover to cover each Sunday. Mom was cooking eggs and my kid sister was nowhere in sight.

Nervously, I proffered the letter with the pink ticket on top. The old man looked up from the Times. He was reading the financial section and mumbling about the Republicans. He took the letter and started reading.

I'd worked up my simple letter into a literary masterpiece worthy of the Pulitzer Prize. I mentioned the purchase of additional equipment a couple times in the letter to include the crystal calibrator. In addition to the letter itself, I added a diagram of the shack, descriptions of my equipment, including the Z-Match

and my ARRL membership certificate.

I tried to maintain an air of calm detachment but inside I was shaking like a nervous cat as the old man looked it over. As usual, he got right to the heart of the matter. "How much is this all going to cost?"

The old man was a depression era high school dropout. What I didn't know at the time was how committed he was to seeing his kids get the education he had to forgo. He would never understand the in's and out's of amateur radio. He inherently believed that there were only four acceptable career paths for young male children; Medicine, Dentistry, Accounting or Engineering. As long as my interests fit into one of those niches, he was willing to do anything to help it along.

I mumbled something about eighty dollars. "What? How Much? Eighty?", he raised his voice raised to the fight or flight level. "You better make sure this fixes it!" In one single motion, he reached into his wallet and dropped four brand new twenty dollar bills on the kitchen table.

I grabbed the money and the letter and dashed from the kitchen. Took the basement stairs two at a time and called Ralph on the phone. Once again, I unloaded on Ralph about the letter, the crystal calibrator and the Z-Match. I could swear he was smiling on the other end of the phone. He was of course, the greatest Elmer of all time, so he probably knew how it was going to come out.

"I know kid. That's great.", he said. He knew, how could he know? I took the cash out of my pocket and stared at the four crisp, sequentially numbered bills. I wondered for a second if Ralph and the old man had worked it out in advance.

Ralph's raspy voice broke into my thoughts, "Make sure you mail the letter, kid. I'll meet you down at Harrison Radio Tuesday afternoon." "And go work that W0 from South Dakota on 14235." Click went the phone in my ear.

2014 BVARC-TDXS-ECHO Field Day – An Example of Distributed Management and Teamwork

Nizar Mullani – K0NM

It is almost impossible for one person to document all that happened during the 2014 BVARC-TDXS-ECHO joint Field Day Event. With over 68 people participating in this joint event, eight stations operating simultaneously with multiple modes of operation, there were too many things going on at the same time for me to capture them all. But, two things stuck in my mind at the end of this 48 hour ordeal – distributed management and teamwork. Both working in synchrony with unselfishness and commitment to the hobby to make this joint Field Day a major success. Here are some of my observations, experiences and commentary.

SETUP

Probably the most amazing image I have of this Field Day is how seamlessly everything came together to get this mega station on the air. Eight stations, four beam antennas, two wire antennas and a GOTA station all came on the air at 1:02 pm on Saturday. The eight stations were all set to go with N1MM and linked together by cable so that the total score at any time was displayed on two large screen TVs. All of this came together in less than 24 hours.

How did this all come about so fast and so seamlessly? Was there a master plan that outlined the procedures and delegation of duties? Did we have a master document, such as those prepared by FEMA, on how to do this in case of an emergency? No. It came about because of what I call the distributed and shared management of the amateur radio communi-

ty, and the unselfish teamwork that characterizes it.

The co-chairs of the event had outlined the basics of what needed to be done prior to the Field Day. They recruited the help of experts, who had experience in previous Field Day events, to help plan this event and be in charge of different projects. Other members of the three clubs were encouraged to come and be part of the team by doing what was needed to execute the basic plan. The management of the whole project was distributed to several sub managers who took charge of their projects. A perfect example of distributed management system that a lot of businesses strive to achieve.

People with expertise on putting up antennas took charge of erecting these with the help of others who got a chance to learn from the process. The computer systems, software and the networking were done by experts in this area who spent a lot of time prior to the Field Day to make sure everything worked seamlessly. The rigs were installed and tested with emergency power and a list of operators with allocation of time periods was setup. Newbies learnt the process of setting up a Field Day event by helping the experts.

Of course, food was setup by seasoned amateur radio chefs to feed the workers and operators during this 48 hour period. Most of the chefs did this unselfishly because they care and want to help their fellow amateur radio operators.

OPERATION

At 1:02 pm on Saturday, the whole communications system came to life. Three of the stations started sending CW at a frantic speed, four were communicating by voice and one by digital RTTY. The master display showed the number of QSOs as they were happening. One antenna erection crew was still installing the 40 and 80 meter antennas for operation during the evening and night time hours. There were some minor glitches but these got resolved quickly. The main communications system was humming along smoothly doing what it was designed to do – to provide emergency communications in the field.

Eight stations operating for 24 hours straight requires a fair number of operators, especially during night time when most of the hams are tired from working all day in the 90 degree heat putting up antennas. This is where the die-hard contesters came in handy. Armed with coffee, five hour energy drinks and the adrenalin rush of working a contest, several operators ran long shifts at night to keep the QSOs coming. We all know that Field Day is not supposed to be a contest, but, the number of QSOs is a good measure of how well the operation worked in communicating with the other stations. These seasoned contesters made sure that the day would be complete without donuts for Sunday morning breakfast.

2014 BVARC-TDXS-ECHO Field Day – An Example of Distributed Management and Teamwork

Nizar Mullani – K0NM

CATERING

Of course, no Field Day would be complete without the excellent catering of the food and drinks by the hams that excel in this area. All of these particular areas of work had people with prior experience who could take over the leadership of their area. The designated chefs stepped forward, prepared the menu and served a majestic feast for the hungry hams. Of course, no Field Day would be complete without donuts for Sunday morning breakfast.

TEARDOWN

Teardown is one of those dreaded times when the main organizers of Field Day sometimes find themselves with very little help. Not this time. Many of the hams that participated in this joint Field Day, stuck around to help get the job done. Once again, there was no manual on how to do what. Everyone seemed to know what needed to be done. If they did not, they would offer their help to the ones who did. The different sub managers took charge and got the process started.

In less than five hours, the whole mega stations was dismantled, stowed, carted off and the facility cleaned to original condition. The Richmond Fire Training Center was returned to its original condition. It would have taken FEMA people longer than that to just read the manual on how to do the teardown. Kudos to amateur radio operators for showing the world the value of Amateur Radio operators in an emergency.

THE SCORE

The final score provides a measure of how well the joint Field Day operated for communications. The combined number of QSOs was 3,762 with 2,476 CW, 838 Phone and 448 RTTY modes. This is an average of 157 QSOs per hour for the 24 hour period. A total of 23 operators participated in the event with 9 operating CW mode, 12 phone mode and 5 RTTY mode. CW operation provided 74% of the QSO score with 45% of the CW QSOs provided by a single person, who shall go unnamed because you all know him.

The final tally does not include the GOTA station that had several QSOs even with their poor antenna. The total score for the QSOs was 13,372 not counting the over 1,400 or so bonus points.

FINAL IMPRESSION

What a wonderful experience of seeing the hams come together as a team to establish a complex emergency communications, operate it and dismantle it within a matter of less than 48 hours. All of this was made possible because of experience of the hams in such operations, the distributed management of each function and the unselfish teamwork of the amateur radio operators.

If there is any doubt in any one's mind about how amateur radio operators can come together in an emergency situation to provide an independent channel of communications, this Field Day laid these doubts to rest. All over the United States, about 2,000 or more Field Day sites were

setup and operated for 24 hours to provide uninterrupted communications in case of an emergency. To be a part of this event was truly an amazing experience.

NOW THE MOST IMPORTANT PART – THE PEOPLE WHO MADE IT A SUCCESS

Every one of the 68 people who attended the BVARC-TDXS-ECHO joint Field Day, contributed something by being there and participating in the event. However, a few of the people who stepped up to take on the leadership role need special recognition. They deserve a separate section to themselves for their contributions. My apologies in advance to people who I have missed in my list below.

Co-Chairs – W5TKZ Roy and N5MT Mike. Roy and Mike volunteered to chair the job of coordinating the joint Field Day just two months before the event. Roy had never done this before but he had Mike and the members of the three clubs to support him. Roy coordinated the BVARC members, the Field Day site at the Richmond Fire Training Center and working with NU5K Eddie to get the information out to the members through the BVARC web site. Mike was instrumental in coordinating the efforts from the TDXS and the ECHO societies. He also got several members involved in planning the antennas placement, erection and tear down. Mike served as a safety officer for the event.



2014 BVARC-TDXS-ECHO Field Day – An Example of Distributed Management and Teamwork

Nizar Mullani – K0NM

W5BXX Dave. Dave Topp has a unique motor home that is basically a full ham radio operation on wheels. This motor home can deploy a 40 foot tower with a rotor and an 8 element Log Periodic antenna that operated on 10-20 meters. The motor home provided a second air-conditioned location for operating the RTTY and 6 meters stations. Dave celebrated his 75th birthday during the Field Day with a big cake during the main meal.

KC5QDN Dennis Harper. Dennis has been instrumental in obtaining permission from the Richmond Fire Department, Richmond, Texas for the use of the Fire Training Facility used during the joint Field Day. He is a retired volunteer fire fighter with 35 years of service to Richmond Fire Department and is the main reason why we are able to use this great facility for the Field Day. He also provided us with a 40 foot portable tower we used for the three element tri-band Yagi used for CW operation.

WB5TUF Glenn. Wow. I could write a whole page on Glenn's contributions towards the success of this Field Day. He brought nine computer systems, all networked to operate in a LAN, all loaded with N1MM and support for rig interfaces. These computers were linked together using the LAN system he provided for instantaneous display of total QSOs and operators. As if this was not enough, he was instrumental in erecting the tower and antennas in the motor home. Finally, he not only operated the RTTY station but also had the patience to teach a newbie (KF5ZAC Jose) on how to op-

erate RTTY. What a thrill for Jose who got 35 QSOs that weekend. Thank you Glenn. You showed us how the computer systems and the rigs should be setup and how much fun it is to operate radios using that system.

N5XZ Al. Most of you know that Big Al is a major contester and competitor. He is a strong supporter of BVARC and TDXS and behind the scenes, he played a very big role in the success of this Field Day. He knew that CW mode would be important to the total score and recruited several seasoned CW operators from TDXS to work the three CW rigs. He worked over 20 hours of the Field Day and made 1123 contacts. Not only did he operate long hours but also helped set up the antennas and the rigs prior to the start of the Field Day. On top of all that, he allowed a newbie CW operator, me, to listen in on his CW operation and let me operate for a while. Big Al recruited N5EA Tom to operate CW. Tom is a seasoned CW operator who is recovering from a major surgery. It was inspirational to see him enjoy working CW again. Another recruit AD5Q Roy, was instrumental in bringing the 40 meter two element wire beam and erecting it for use at nights. He also stayed the night and operated with Al in the wee hours. Other recruits included KE8G Jim and N8SS Earle.

N5VCX Mike. Mike has been a tireless supporter of the BVARC group. He brought the tower and antenna owned by the club to the field site and helped erect the 3 element Yagi used for phone operation. He also

took over the dismantling and storage of the portable antenna system.

WS5H Bill. Bill is the president of BVARC and took on the responsibilities of organizing the bonus points and the GOTA station. He managed to get over 1,400 bonus points for the Field Day by making sure we did as many of the things we can to earn these bonus points.

K5WRN Michael. If you have ever been to a BVARC function, you will immediately recognize and remember Michael as the guy who wears a kilt, not to be confused with quilt. He is a tireless worker who helped erect and take down several antennas at the Field Day. He also operated phone and RTTY.

KD5AT Bob. Bob took on the task to set up a GOTA station, manning it, presenting amateur radio to potential new members and earning points for the Field Day.

The BVARC Elmers K5IZO Little John, K5LKJ Big John and W5HFF Ross.

These three elders of BVARC have been there to support most of the BVARC functions. They are there to help in any way they can and help the newbies. In addition to helping with the setup and tear down, they operated the rigs and got in CW and phone mode.

The BVARC Chefs WN5A Jack, AK5G Randy and KC5JAR Darrel. Jack, Randy and Darrel, thank you once again for providing us with a memorable feast during Field Day.



2014 BVARC-TDXS-ECHO Field Day – Summary

ARRL Field Day

Call: KK5W

Operator(s): AD5Q AF5T K0NM K5IZO K5LDL K5LKJ K5WRN KD5FBA KE5WQU KE5XV KE8G
KF5VLM KF5ZAC KG5BEK N5EA N5MT N5XZ N8SS NK5G W5HFF W6YEP WA5KXG WB5TUF

Station: KK5W

Class: 8A LP

QTH: Richmond, TX

Operating Time (hrs): 24

Summary:

| Band | CW Qs | Ph Qs | Dig Qs |
|------|-------|-------|--------|
| 160: | | | |
| 80: | 161 | | |
| 40: | 648 | | 98 |
| 20: | 1073 | 479 | 312 |
| 15: | 524 | 316 | 38 |
| 10: | 79 | 12 | |
| 6: | | 32 | |
| 2: | | | |
| 222: | | | |
| 432: | | | |
| 903: | | | |
| 1.2: | | | |
| 2.3: | | | |
| 3.4: | | | |
| 5.7: | | | |
| 10G: | | | |
| 24G: | | | |

Total: 2476 839 448 Total Raw Score = 13,374

Club: BVARC, TDXS, Houston Echo Society

Comments:

Total Bonus Points: 1,450

Total GOTA Points: 60 (K5DX)

Grand Total Points: 14,884



Texas DX Society Board members

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| President | Bob Hardie, W5UQ | w5uq at att.net |
| VP Membership | Steve Smothers, W9DX | cougar70 at earthlink.net |
| VP Programs | Lance Rumfield, WD5X | ltrumfield at sbcglobal.net |
| Secretary | Arthur Alvarez, N5KTN | KingArthur at msn.com |
| Treasurer | Mike Bragassa, K5UO | bragassa at consolidated.net |
| Contest Chairman | Joe Staples, W5ASP | w5asp at yahoo.com |
| Field Day Chairmen | Mike Davidson, N5MT | n5mt@aol.com |
| Repeater Chairman | Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF | wb5tuf at earthlink.net |
| DXpedition Chairman | Willis "Cookie" Cooke, K5EWJ | wrcooke at yahoo.com |
| Outgoing QSL Manager | Scott Patout,, K5DD | k5dd at arrl.net |
| Webmaster | Steve Smothers, W9DX | cougar70 at earthlink.net |
| Bullsheat Editor | Allen Brier, N5XZ | n5xz at arrl.net |
| DXCC QSL Card Checker | Bob Walworth, N5ET | rwalworth at charter.net |
| CQ WAZ Card Checker | Bob Walworth, N5ET | rwalworth at charter.net |

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

Pat Sonnier - W5WMU

Dennis Alexander - W5KU

Tom Wheatley - K5CNN

Mike Davidson - N5MT

Bill Price - KZ5DP

Tom Jakubec - N5ZR

Walter Schroeder - K5WS

Richard Neal - WB5LVL

Ron Marosko, Jr. - NN5DX

Wayne Rogers - W5KDJ

Stan Polak K5STZ

John Firey W5ZG

Please notify the Editor if I have missed any-one