



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net September 2014

September 4th, Thursday 6:30 PM: TDXS Held another special Dinner Meeting

The TDXS dinner meeting was held at the "Cafe East" 6771 Highway 6 S, Houston, TX 77085.

Dinner started at 6:30PM. There is a more detailed report on page 3.

Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

Things are definitely slowing down DX wise on the bands. We've have a few wild fluctuations in band conditions and flux levels, right along with elevated levels in the A and K index, which don't help things at all.

DX-wise, for August I have worked S01WS, J28NC, 4W/NB3MM, VP2ERM, 3D2CO, 9M57MS, JT1AA/5, 3D2AC, 3D2LJ, 3D2TR, HS5SRH (who called me a couple other guys at about 9:30 pm on 10 meters!), 4W/N1YC, A35AC, XR0YH among others, so the DX is still out there, just seems harder to get some times.

I received an email from Ted Rappaport N9NB who stated:

"Over the past few weeks, the "against" comments regarding RM 11708 at the FCC website have slowed to a trickle."

Without strong, steady, and well reasoned "against" comments, I fear

some form of RM 11708 will pass, and there are likely more RM's in the pipeline by the proponents of wideband digital data as a way to crowd out CW.

Instead of asking for a small partition of spectrum, with some narrow allotment for wideband data in the upper CW or SSB subbands, RM 11708 instead asks to put wideband digital signals anywhere on the CW/data subbands. This has never been allowed before, and will kill the narrowband CW incumbents.

I will have more on this later in this newsletter.

Mike Davidson N5MT has provided an excellent article on 10 Meter Propagation, but actually the article covers all bands. We only have this scientific data to rely on...of course I realize the mankind has not been studying the sun for very long, and these are only predictions. I sincerely hope that they are wrong, but I guess only time will tell. Some commenters on a re-

flector suggested that Mike shouldn't report this data, but I think we need to be informed and prepared.

I hope you have contacted your congressman regarding HR 4969 as I reported in the last newsletter. If somehow you missed it, please go to the TDXS website and look at the last copy. It may be a long shot, but sometimes they happen, too.

BTW, I ordered a Telepost LP-100A wattmeter and have to say it is an excellent piece of equipment. It reports my peak or average power and SWR digitally and with bar graphs vie up to two remote sensors. It is also an antenna analyzer, however, I have not explored those capabilities yet. I can now sell my old, old Motorola labeled Bird 43 wattmeter and slugs (hint, hint).

For now, 73, Allen N5XZ

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The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

Prez Sez

Hi y'all,

Time to go to another TDXS Dinner meeting and I'm sure looking forward to it too. The dinners seem to have been a lot of fun for many in our group, not to mention those from other groups or just plain visitors. Many have brought a friend or two. I've really enjoyed seeing so many of our friends having so much fun and chatting up a storm. These meetings sure are different to the Tracy Gee meetings.

We created the TDXS Dinner Meeting Evening for 2014 to be able to schedule TDXS meetings on evenings other than the typical second Thursday. Not to take away from those meetings, however at Tracy Gee, all meetings had to be reserved in the months just before the next year, for a full year. And those meetings can not be easily changed.

However the TDXS Dinner Meetings can be held on any evening and changed easily. That is an advantage. We have found that there are many hams who really want to attend but either can't make the Tracy Gee meetings or don't really like them. The Tracy Gee meetings will continue as they do serve their purpose and many enjoy having a nice program presented.

Here are some things that we have learned. Having the meetings on a

Tuesday evening just before or after the 2nd Thursday seems to be about the best time for them. Monday was also a good evening, as long as it doesn't fall on the same Monday that other local ham groups may meet.

Frankly I hope that we continue the TDXS Dinner Meetings nights next year since they have been reasonably successful. The atmosphere of a TDXS Dinner Meeting seems to have drawn so many other hams that really enjoy just sitting with a nice group of their peers, enjoying dinner and maybe making some new acquaintances in the process. It's been fun.

Most of us feel that the Texas DX Society is an elite society of DXers and Contesters. In that vein, I believe that the camaraderie that occurs during the dinner meetings, where there are other hams that are not avid DXers or Contesters, seems to be good for all. As you know, "one never knows" how our DXing and Contesting stories might just rub off on some of them creating new members for our society. And we sure could use some new members.

Steve Smothers, W9DX, became our Members Chairman for 2014. (Note: Steve has been chairman of membership several past years.) As we all know, the task of generating situations that can lead to new members is not an easy one. All of us need to do whatever we can to help

bring new blood into our group. That is how the TDXS will survive and continue to be a respected and envied group in the ham radio community.

Okay now, it's time to thank all of you who have helped make these TDXS Dinner Meetings successful. Your laughter and presence at those dinners says a lot. And I must give a lot of the credit to Lance Rumfield, WD5X, who has done a great job of scheduling the meetings on different days of the week so we could come up with the best evenings. As well as his finding us some interesting restaurants that are conducive to our meetings.

And that feat is not as easy as one might think. The obstacles seem to be growing each year. There are less and less private rooms or back areas in restaurants that allow groups like ours to meet. And add to that, some of the nice restaurants that were suggested by our members, simply want too large of a guaranteed deposit in advance. That is not something any one of our members wants to accept nor should we let them. And it is not something we want to add to the TDXS treasury. The risk is simply not one that either should be taking.

(cont.)

The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

Summarizing, the idea of TDXS Dinner Meetings on different evenings than the regular meetings is a good one. We have found it best to schedule the dinner meetings on an evening other than a Thursday. However, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays do not seem to be good times. And Mondays and Tuesdays do seem to be the best evenings.

Looking forward to having yet another good time at our next TDXS Dinner Meeting, this Thursday the 4th of September. Yes, Thursday... it was scheduled before we realized that changing from the 2nd Thursday to the 1st Thursday still con-

flicted with a BOD meeting of one of the largest clubs in the area. So, again, I strongly suggest a Tuesday evening, the ones just before or just after the 2nd Thursday.

Thanks for your support and involvement within our group. See you at our September Dinner Meeting. I'm looking forward to it. And then in October we will be at Tracy Gee for our regular 7pm meeting. I expect that evening we will need to hold our election.

Bob Hardie, W5UQ and TDXS 2014 President

Meeting Minutes of the September TDXS Dinner Meeting

Held September 4, 2014 6:30PM at Cafe East, 6771 Highway 6 S, Houston, TX 77085.

Attendees and Guests:

1. Orville Burg, K5VWW
2. Steve Smothers, W9DX
3. Ed Gerber, W5GCX
4. Mike Bragassa, K5UO
5. Bob Hardie, W5UQ
6. Scott Patout, K5DD
7. Chuck Dietz, W5PR
8. Lance Rumfield, WD5X
9. Bob Mennell, WB5IUU

Keith Dutson, NM5G

Guests: Xenia Gerber (W5GCX XYL) and Beth Dutson (NM5G XYL)

ipient of the Frank Montgomery W5JWM Memorial Award that was established in 2012. Orville was presented with a check to pay for his new DXCC Honor Roll plaque.

Lance announced that the next meeting will be October 9th in the Tracy Gee Center with Dr. Pat Reiff presenting a program on Space Weather.

We are searching for new venues for the next dinner meeting in November. Xenia Gerber suggested the Lasagna House, near Westheimer and Eldridge Parkway (13306 Westheimer Rd). See: www.lasagnahouse.com.

We are told they have a separate meeting room. Lance will check it out, and get back to us.

A special presentation was made to Orville Burg K5VWW as the first re-



10 Meter Propagation Report by Mike Davidson N5MT

Many of you have asked what propagation will be like in the future. Well, the only way to predict is by using past history of what the Sun has done and try to use it in today's situation. So, here is a NOAA website that illustrates the current and previous two solar cycles.

[Http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/images/Cycle22Cycle23Cycle24big.gif](http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/images/Cycle22Cycle23Cycle24big.gif)

<http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/images/Cycle22Cycle23Cycle24big.gif>

A quick look at this graph will tell you that the past 25 years shows a steady decline in solar activity with lower flux numbers each cycle! Using my advanced math skills to extrapolate the three solar cycles leads me to believe that Solar cycle 25 will begin about 2021 and the sun could produce less energy/flux than our existing cycle 24! So, this analysis finds that we will have a lower solar flux in cycle 25 with a peak in about 2024-2025 and fewer DX contacts as a result!

Looking at the website graph above, clearly it shows

the double peak of cycle 24 from winter 2011 and the spring of 2014. This double peak is similar to what occurred in cycle 23 but that cycle had larger flux numbers recorded as compared to our present cycle 24 and likewise cycle 22 had more energy and larger flux numbers reported as seen in the graph. That's why we worked more DX during cycle 22 vs the present cycle!

The September solar flux prediction has been revised up from the recently NOAA published forecast. A flux level of 141-123 peaked the last week of August 2014 with a expected decrease to 120 by September 12th. The flux will rise again to 140 by September 15th just a few days before the Fall equinox and then the flux will decline again. Remember, the fall contest season begins in October when we usually start to hear Europe in the USA.

Propagation: Over the past nine months, average propagation was about the same as during the first peak of the cycle in November 2011 when the monthly average flux reached 153.5. The maximum flux was 193.5 in February 2014.

I expect the solar flux to range from 95-145 this next

quarter, which is less than the past three months. It will be interesting to see what the fall DX season gives us for propagation into Europe this coming contest season!

On September 1st the solar flux was 125, the A index was 15 and K index 4.

Look for the best conditions: September 17-20th; October 13-16th; November 7-9th; December 2-5th. The conditions for the ARRL Ten Meter contest do not look good. I expect a low solar flux of about 110-115 for the December 13-14th contest which will be down from the 150 level we had in 2013. Over the next three months, for USA stations, expect a 10-25% chance of DX in the mornings to Europe or Africa and the same chance into Asia, South America or the Pacific in the late afternoon. To see what DX paths are open, listen for the beacons from 28.175-28.300 (especially 28.200).

Contest Chatter by Joe W5ASP

CONTEST CHATTER

I want to thank Dave, K5GN, who put together the excellent article in last month's issue of the Bullsheet on the biannual Sprints sponsored by the National Contest Journal. I hope that those of you who read the article will consider taking part in these events. You have to actually give them a try to really understand how much fun they can be.

The Texas Party QSO is set for the last weekend of this month. At the August TDXS meeting Keith, NM5G talked about the Texas QSO Party giving us an overview of the event and some insight into the role played by mobile operators. I'm sure those who attended will agree that it was an interesting and informative session. There is though another aspect of the TQP that deals directly with the TDXS that I think is worth recalling.

Back in 1983 the Texas DX Society put on what has become known as the Great Armadillo Run. Nearly all of the then members of the TDXS hit the highways of Texas and activated all of the 254 Texas counties in a single weekend. At the conclusion it was discovered that there was a single out-of-state operator who had worked every county. And he did it without packet, or spotters ... just a Texas road map and a great pair of ears. This was Jim White, K1ZX who later became the prime mover in the revitalization of the Florida QSO Party.

In the following two years TDXS covered all of the counties in each of the other states in the 5th Call Dis-

trict. Then in 1986 the TDXS organized a nation wide effort to put every county in the 50 states on the air over two weekends. The majority of the three thousand plus counties in the US were activated.

These experiences led TDXS to arrange to acquire the sponsorship of the Texas QSO Party in 1988. Previous to this the TQP had been put on by the West Texas DX Association. Working with Les Bannon, WF5E the transfer was made, and the TQP became the responsibility of the TDXS. For the next twelve years TDXS ran the TQP annually with Henry, W5HNS taking the lead and seeing to the details.

Then in 2000 the task was passed on the Northwest Amateur Radio Society (NARS) who continue to run it to this day. NARS has done an excellent job with the TQP as evidenced by the scores reported on the TQP website at: www.n5bai.net/txqp/.

An interesting outgrowth of the TQP has been the development of the CQ/X GPS-Enabled software for Mobile contesting created by Chuck, NO5W. To appreciate the scope of this logging program visit the website at www.no5w.com/ This is contest logging software at its best. And to top it all off ... it's free !

And where does all this history lead us ? Simply put TDXS has vested interest in the Texas QSO Party. As such, the members of today's TDXS should consider participation in the TQP as a integral part of their membership activity. Most everyone has a radio and an antenna. It shouldn't be too hard to get on during the

weekend of September 27 - 28th and give out a few Qs from Texas. Try it, you'll like it !

And if you do get on, remember when CQing to sign your call with a /Cnty where "Cnty" is the 4-letter abbreviation for your Texas county, e.g. HARR for Harris county, even if you're not mobile. This will allow out-of-state operators to distinguish between fixed and mobile Texas stations and will prevent your being duped needlessly.

Until next time ... "dit dit" ... Joe, W5ASP

RM 11708 by Ted Rappaport N9NB

RM 11708

Over the past few weeks, the "against" comments regarding RM 11708 at the FCC website have slowed to a trickle.

Without strong, steady, and well reasoned "against" comments, I fear some form of RM 11708 will pass, and there are likely more RM's in the pipeline by the proponents of wideband digital data as a way to crowd out CW.

Instead of asking for a small partition of spectrum, with some narrow allotment for wideband data in the upper CW or SSB subbands, RM 11708 instead asks to put wideband digital signals anywhere on the CW/data subbands. This has never been allowed before, and will kill the narrowband CW incumbents.

Vic Poor and the ARRL managed to slip through what has led to Pactor 3 in the 1990's, before the internet became viable. Now, RM 11708 would surely lead to an absolutely horrible situation for today's CW bands....

IF CWOps really wants to encourage and preserve CW, we need your help, as there must be thousands more well reasoned comments filed at the FCC that urge the rejection of RM 11708 and the preservation of CW/narrowband of signals on HF.

Please read the public FCC comments filed by W5DAN (easy to see at savecw.com) for

a careful, well reasoned critique of the proposed RM—there are vast flaws and a clear and utter (intentional) lack of concern for the interference consequences to CW ops.

The future enjoyment of our hobby is at stake.

Others say "don't worry about RM 11708", or "deal with it," but they simply don't understand the terrible impact and vast difference in bandwidth that exists between one Pactor 4 data signal, and existing CW signals. And this gets even worse (!) if other commercial SW HF Data modulations are then introduced, as will be inevitable (all allowed under RM 11708).

We have bolstered the "save CW" website with more public comments and a great deal more detail.

Somehow, we must get thousands of CW enthusiasts, in the US and abroad, to write to the FCC against RM 11708.

Please see the new content, and instructions how to file at the FCC, at savecw.com, and see some of the recent international comments now coming in to the FCC.

Please spread the word! If CW enthusiasts remain passive or remain convinced there is nothing to worry about, we will lose our enjoyment of CW on the ham bands.

I dearly hope you can spread the word and help get thou-

sands of well-reasoned "against" comments filed at the FCC! Time and global awareness is of the essence.

73, Ted n9nb



The KP1-5 Project—Latest Update

News / Updates
August 29, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From The KP1-5 project
RE: Navassa Island (KP1) Operation
August 29, 2014
KP1 Navassa Island

The KP1-5 Project is pleased to announce that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to allow an amateur radio operation from Navassa National Wildlife Refuge (KP1). The operation will occur within the next 18 months and will be coordinated with the USFWS work flow.

Over the past year, the KP1-5 Project has had numerous meetings with various levels of USFWS management. Throughout our

discussions, their personnel have been courteous, professional and cooperative. We have been treated with sincere interest and respect and believe that amateur radio operators may now be viewed as partners and not adversaries.

As with the Desecheo operation in 2009, and in order to be transparent and fair, the USFWS has requested proposals for the amateur radio operation from those individuals and groups that have already applied for a Special Use Permit in the past. The

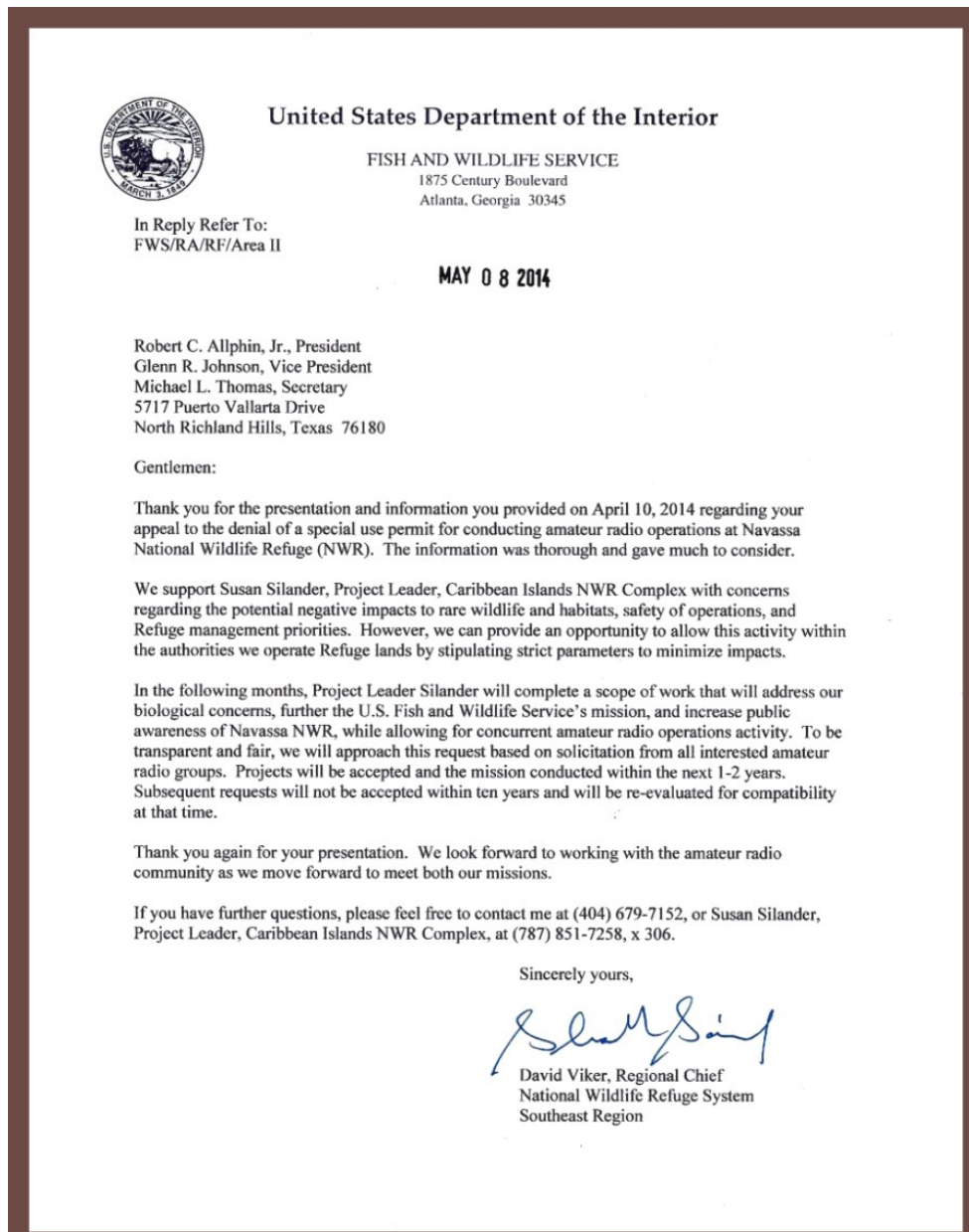
KP1-5 Project will be submitting a proposal and hoping to be selected as they were for the very successful Desecheo (K5D) operation.

We wish to thank the USFWS for their decision to allow this operation. Navassa Island is ranked #2 most-needed DXCC entity by The DX Magazine and #1 by ClubLog.

Please visit our website for up to date information. <http://kp1-5.com>

73,

The KP1-5 Project
Bob Allphin,
K4UEE, President
Glenn Johnson,
W0GJ, Vice-
President
Mike Thomas,
NA5U, Secretary
Jim Bass, K5KQI,
Treasurer



But what about South
Sandwich Island??
Still waiting: XZ

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
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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 September

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Bill Denton - W5SB

Dave Evans - K5SOR

Galen Graff - KB5FU

Tom Taormina - K5RC

Jay Temple - W5JQ

Lance Rumfield - WD5X

Steve Nace - KN5H

Bob King, Jr. - NM5L

Dave Sarkozi - WB5N