



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net April 2015

April 9th, Thursday 7:00 PM: TDXS Meeting Night at the Tracy Gee Center Program by Jeff Hoke of CenterPoint Energy

April 9th, Thursday 7:00 PM: TDXS Meeting Night at the Tracy Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston, TX 77042. Program by Jeff Hoke of CenterPoint Energy, who will be discussing RFI causes, detection and mitigation. If you have power line noise issues, don't miss this informative program! Visitors welcome. Pre-meeting dinner get-together starts around 5:30PM at Pappa's BBQ on South Gessner, just south of Westheimer.



Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

As I write this, the 2015 Greater Houston Hamfest is history. We had a great hamfest this time! Attendance swelled to over 1300 (according to preliminary figures) and the programs were second to none. The hamfest was two hours longer than before, which may have helped also. We also had a new major vendor, Elecraft, whose table was manned by volunteers (W5RH, K0NM, WG5H, NE2I and your editor). For our efforts, we received free Elecraft golf shirts! The table was directly across the aisle from my table, and I could see that it got a lot of interest! Hopefully, we can entice them to travel from California soon. Look for an even bigger, better ham-

fest next year! Spring is here, and hopefully there will be more antenna projects soon (I am waiting for enough dry weather to get a concrete truck on my property to pour the base for my 18HT vertical). See Bob's article starting on page 2 for some practical hints.

DXing was generally good again in March. I was able to snag the following goodies in my log: FP/KV1J, 5X8EW, 3G0ZC, ZD8D, 9X0PY, 5Z4/DF3FS, FO8AA, TR8CA, E51UFF, XW3DT, SV5BYR, TI9/KL9A, E30FB, A92GE, 3B9FR, 9Q0HQ, V63JYR, T88HZ, T88GI, C35MF, 7QAA, A35JR, 3DA0NJ, 5Z4LS, D3AM, 7X4AN, V63KI, 9N7WE

and C21EU. Quite a few good DXpeditions going on all at the same time. And there are more good ones coming up this year, including South Sandwich Island and possibly North Korea. So keep your stations in good operating condition and consider doing upgrades when possible. The most important place to upgrade in your antenna, which is similar in high end audio systems (my 2nd and also expensive hobby) where the speakers are the most important piece of gear. At least in high end audio systems, you don't have to climb towers in the middle of the summer heat!

73, Allen N5XZ

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The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

Prez Sez for April 2015.

It is spring again and another winter gone by. Time to get going on those antenna and tower projects. Be careful and remember, you are another year older. Think before you do something dangerous. And realize that the things you used to do without any problem may now be considered dangerous for you to do.

I strongly suggest that you not work alone. Always have someone else around when you are working on tower and antenna projects. Even if you are a young puppy, it is best to not work alone.

And remember the storms when you work on them. If you are touching an antenna, sometimes lightning can be felt from storms that are many miles away. Keep an eye on the weather, get off towers and stop working around the metal objects when you even suspect storms to be within 10 to 15 miles away. In fact, a storm 30 miles away can generate voltages in wires and antennas that can be harmful. It is better to stop and be safe, than sorry.

Here is a montage of ideas to consider.

Grounding systems deteriorate considerably each year. If your system is over 2 years old, then it is a **MUST** that you renew all connections. In fact, it is best to renew connections every year. But how many will do that? *[Another suggestion is to use CadWeld's—Ed]*

If you can, loosen the contacts and coat them with ... oh darn, I never can remember the name of that stuff...you know, the paste. I'm sure you know the one I'm referring to.

To continue. I did some Internet surf-

ing and came up with these interesting recommendations. You can google the suggestion below and it will come up with some interesting ideas. There is soooooo much on the Internet that it causes me to just keep reading and reading. I'm one of those people who used to open a telephone book and just keep reading. Are you too? HI.

Anyway, try googling the following, or whatever browser you use:

[Simple Corrosion/Oxidation vs. Galvanic Corrosion and Burndy's Penetrox A vs. Ideal's Noalox vs. Gardener-Bender's Ox-Gard](#)

Two commonly used pastes are: [NO -OX-ID](#) and [Noalox](#). (Noalox is very good for aluminum connections. You probably used it on your beams when putting two aluminum tubes together, etc.)

For a spray or liquid application, some people choose to use DeOxit, especially the 100% solution. I don't use it outside often. Actually, it probably is better used in electronic circuits. But REMEMBER, to let it dry before applying voltages. ESPECIALLY tube radios with higher voltages than solid state. Even a 5% solution of DeOxit sprayed on a band switch in a tube radio while it is on will definitely cause smoke and burning. Damage can occur.

So...DO NOT DO THIS OPERATION with voltages present. Turn it off. And remember to always let it dry for at least several minutes. An hour or two.... or even overnight is best.

Back to the pastes, I would not glob any paste on the connections. Use it sparingly. The paste should just fill the air gap between the two copper connections. Inhibit air to be between the connections.

Also, if you are making copper to aluminum connections, be sure to use the appropriate connectors. Copper and Aluminum conductors are difficult to connect to each other because they interact. It is therefore necessary to avoid the ingress of moisture or air at all costs. For these applications special cable lugs are needed and accurate operating procedures should be adhered to.

I suggest that you surf the Internet for whatever application will fit your needs best.

Another deep subject is taped connections. Tape, when used in the outside weather, is not as good a sealant as one may think. Have you learned how taped connections can breathe? In fact, coax cable can breathe too, as can anything that has enclosed areas where moisture may penetrate.

Remember to put the weep holes on the traps on an antenna down to drain water. These traps "breathe" too and it doesn't have to rain to get moisture buildup inside a trap.

Here is why. Consider this. If you fry some meat in a skillet, it will release grease. If you leave the meat in the skillet and turn the fire/burner off, then as the skillet and meat cools down, a lot of the grease is absorbed back into the meat.

Many other objects, that one might not suspect, will do the same. For example, coax cable on a tower, that has a break in the outside jacket, can build up moisture inside the jacket and will do so over a short amount of time. As little as a day or two. So consider a full year of this happening. Also, ice is another subject to consider too, as it can cause moisture build up faster due to "surrounding the entrance hole" as it melts.

(continued)

The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

As the coax heats up during the day, even on a winter day, the coax will “breathe out”. Similar to the grease being released from the frying meat.

Then when the sun is blocked, by clouds or by going down, then the coax will cool down some and “breathe in”. Breathing in causes the humid air to enter the inside of the coax jacket.

Even if you have put some tape over the break in the jacket, the tape will expand under the increased temperatures that the sun can generate on the tower. Then when the temperature drops, the tape will compress, breathing in, and take in moist air.

Now, when the sun comes up or out from behind that cloud, the temperature of the taped up joint, or the coax with a break in the jacket, will rise. This will cause the insides of the taped up joint or coax to breathe out, however, the moisture tends to condense inside and stay there. Each time the temperature increases and decreases, breathing occurs and more and more moisture will collect inside the enclosed areas. That moisture can become a deterrent to the operation of the taped joint and the coax. Especially if the inner insulation around the center conductor has a crack or hole for the air to penetrate.

The new tapes that really stick well to itself are much better to inhibit this condition. However, do not forget that there is still minute air space between the tape and whatever it is wrapped around. AND that space will grow and compress with the temperatures which cause the breathing condition to occur. This tape does inhibit the breathing somewhat, but not totally. Especially as the tape ages with ultraviolet radiation, etc. Time is not on your side in this case.

These are just some things to think

about as you do your tower and antenna projects. And I have covered only a small portion of the pitfalls that are waiting for you. This subject can go on and on. Maybe some more next time.

Have a good SPRING.

CU next month.

Bob Hardie W5UQ

TDXS Prez 2014/5



Contest Report by Willis "Cookie" Cookie K5EWJ

Contest Chairman's Report: Most TDXS members are experienced contesters by now and know the vast variety of contests that are available to meet every interest in amateur radio. These days there are several contests offered every weekend and many are offered during the week. However, some prospective members or new members are beginning contesters and may need to find their niche. The major contests may be too intimidating or demanding to start with for some people. There are many organizations that offer a variety of ways to get your feet wet. The ARRL and CQ magazine sponsor major contests that last for two or even more days that cover most modes and frequency bands and on can begin with the biggies by participating part time and at slower speeds. The winners of these contests have expensive equipment and antennas with a lot of experience and make thousand of contacts, yet even they must contact a lot of people with beginning equipment and not so much experience. Toward the end of the contest they are eager to contact you because they have already

worked most of the big guns, so it is time for them to seek out the little pistols and they do.

You can set your goals where you are comfortable. It is easy to work a lot of stations and grow your totals toward the awards that you seek. Set your goals in accordance with your experience and equipment and have fun while you work toward your goals and learn the ropes.

There is much information published by the ARRL and CQ to help you start, so subscribe to one or both of the big magazines and take advantage. Try to achieve new personal bests with each contest. Register your station and sign up for the email help that you need and want. Participate in Field Day, The CQ Marathon and the various specialty clubs that help starting hams learn the hobby and soon you will get better and better equipment and more skill.

The Straight Key Century Club is one of my favorites. They use older technology for CW keying and help beginners build speed. They only use straight keys, bugs or cooties

(no electronic keys or keyboards) for club activities and have a lot of CW activities at slow speeds.

The ARRL holds a Field Day every June and most clubs participate by going to a place, park or other place and setting up stations temporarily with antennas and emergency power to talk with each other. Beginners can learn from more experienced persons to learn how to set up stations and operating techniques in simulated emergency conditions. Most organizations maintain web sites to disburse information and to collect some basic information from you. You can sign up for periodic emails from the ARRL and other organizations. I would suggest that you include some of the ones that I take as indicated below. Also, the National Contest Journal (NCJ) is published every other month and has several articles by big contesters each month. It is worth reading to see how the usual winners spend their money.



Contest Report by Willis "Cookie" Cookie K5EWJ

How do I log in and edit my online ARRL profile?-

The "Site Login" is found at the top of every page or you can **Login here**.

Type in your ARRL Username

Type in your ARRL Password below your Username

Click "Login"

To edit your ARRL profile:

Click "**Edit your Profile**"

Make changes

Click "Save"

Email Subscriptions

Temporarily disable all automatically sent email

Notification of ARRL membership expiration

Notification of license expiration

Notification of monthly digital edition of QST

The ARRL email newsletter, The ARRL Letter

ARRL Contest Update (biweekly contest newsletter)

The ARES E-Letter (monthly public service and emergency communications news)

The ARRL Club News (monthly club news)

ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter (Radio Waves)

The IARU E-Letter (International Amateur Radio Union news)

News and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (Note: Some Divisions/Sections may not send notices.)

Publication Announcements and Special offers

ARRL Legislative Update

ARRL Board meeting agendas and minutes

W1AW bulletins

General/Special

DX

Propagation

Satellite

Keplerian

Contest Report by Willis "Cookie" Cookie K5EWJ

Activity: A group from our club entered a RTTY contest as a team and placed number 10 in the nation in the event sponsored by the North American QSO Party. The Group was Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF; Allen Briar, N5XZ; and the club station, K5DX, I believe operated by trustee Steve Smothers, W9DX. They scored a total score of 228,401 points. Club Member, Kim Carr, K5TU also entered and scored 4,460 points using an attic Dipole antenna and only 50 watts. Kim is invited to join the growing group next year.

Chuck Dietz entered the ARRL DX Single Sideband Contest in the category of High Power and Single Operator, Ten Meters only and made 1555 contacts in 114 Countries for 531,810 points. Chuck Commented: "I don't like to whine, but I still have antenna problems. Tried some fixes on the switching at the shack during the contest that made it a little better. My favorite antenna, the K5RC 6 el at 75 feet was dead. It is the 'bread and butter' antenna. I hope for some weather and time to get it all fixed before WPX. Had great fun anyway!" Chuck must have fixed it because he entered the CQWW WPX SSB using his club call KZ5MM to make 1815 contacts with 825 prefixes for 3,469,950 points. Chuck commented: "Conditions on Saturday were not quite as good as last year. I finished Saturday night with 1443/727. VU at 1545 was a surprise! Not many VUs on 10m in Texas. Sunday had very strange conditions. It was not bad because some long haul DX was there, but it was not good because I had less than 400 Qs all day. I kept trying to see what direction scatter might be coming from and it seemed to keep changing. A few W1s then nothing. Then a few W6s then nothing. Sometimes signals seemed to be loud on all antennas no matter what direction. I finally opted for all directions at once and narrowed it down for the weak ones." You represent the Texas DX Society well Chuck.

Contest Schedule extracted from the WA7BNM 12-Month Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Apr 11 to 2400Z, Apr 12
New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 11 to 0200Z, Apr 12
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 11 to 0359Z, Apr 12 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 12
Nebraska QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 18 to 0200Z, Apr 19 and 1700Z-2300Z, Apr 19
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 18 to 0400Z, Apr 19
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 18 to 1800Z, Apr 19
North Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 18 to 1800Z, Apr 19
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	1800Z-2359Z, Apr 19
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 25 to 2359Z, Apr 26
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 25 to 0159Z, Apr 26 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 26
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, May 9 to 2400Z, May 10
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-1200Z, May 9



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

After the activity last month, April is going to appear tame. As this is being written, the activity by 5 PY stations operating as PQØT, Trindade es Martin Vas Islands, is anticipated momentarily. This is a very short Dxpediton, and they will be on the air for 3 days. They have transport to Trindade by the Brazilian Navy, and are at their mercy as to arrival and departure. This entity is the 29th most needed according to ClubLog. They have requested that contacts be limited to one per station as they are trying to give as many ATNO (All time New Ones) qso's as possible.

There are several short lived expeditions planned or in progress during April and the beginning of May. Watch the DX bulletins for information.

Some of these bulletins are:

The Daily DX by W3UR, Bernie McClenny, <http://www.dailydx.com/trial.html>

<http://www.dx-world.net>

<http://www.dxcffee.com>

Major funding has been granted to the forthcoming operations to South Sandwich, South Georgia, Chesterfield, and Heard Islands, and preparations are in progress for these entities.

Of great impact is the operation from P5, North Korea, which has received written permission for an operation by Dom, 3Z0DX, during January or February next year. Negotiations are continuing as to number of operators, mode and duration of the effort.

Some of the band activity reported in the Houston area in the past few days or weeks include:

5V7BD – Togo – 10M CW
5JØB – San Andreas – 12M CW
C21EU – Nauru – 40 CW
5TØJL – Mauritania – 15 CW
VP8DOZ – South Georgia – 17 SSB
3XY5M – Guinea – 15 CW
CE2AWW – Chile – 6M CW
V6V – Micronesia – Upper Bands, All Modes
E3ØFB – Eritrea - Many Bands, All Modes
9OØHQ – Democratic Republic of the Congo - Many Bands, All Modes
7QAA – Malawi – Many Bands, All Modes
PQØT – Trindade & Martin Vas Islands – Upper Bands, CW and SSB

Good Luck,
Orville



Invitation to Club Log by Willis "Cookie" Cooke K5EWJ

Introduction to Club Log: The Board of Directors met on March 7 and one of the agenda items was Club Log. Several of the BOD members did not have a good understanding of what Club Log offers to DXers so some of us that are more familiar gave them a brief rundown. We had many items to cover and not enough time for a thorough briefing, so the BOD asked me to write an article for the Bullsheet. One article will not be sufficient to fully explain everything, and I don't think that I have experienced everything, but I will give it a shot and write subsequent articles as I can.

So, here is how to check out Club Log. First start your favorite browser and type in clublog.org or you can type it in Google if you prefer. You should get the log in page. You can log in or sign up if you are ready. Have a password in mind to use. The site is run by Michael, G7VJR and he is an upstanding Good Guy. He will not ask you for a credit card and he may ask for a donation, but things are truly free. Take the time to read each page as you select it because he explains things very well. It is well worth your time. Then, go to the About Page and read some more good information.

The settings page is where you can change the information you just gave Michael to set up your account. You can skip this page unless you need to change something already. The Upload page will allow you to upload your QSOs to the ClubLog data base. By all means do this if you want the full benefit of the site. They can't very well know how you are doing and show you the stats if they don't have the info. It will probably differ slightly from the ARRL because they will use your log. If you find something screwy, check your log and your logger because the error is probably there. At the end they ask you if you want to erase the data base and repopulate it or add the contacts to the data that they have. For your first download, it does not matter, but they ask you not to erase the data every time. They want you to add your data whenever it is convenient, but if you are adding a couple hundred Qs to a log of 50,000 or so, you can see why they would rather you only erase when you thing things are screwed up. They do a really nice job!

The Donate page is where you sooth your conscience for being a freeloader so far. They probably will not ask, but they do accept donations. And they post what others have donated, so let your conscience and how much you begin to rely on Club Log along with your affluence be your guide. You can donate anonymously if you prefer.

The DXpeditions tab will show you the parties that have most recently reported, along with their vital statistics and if you select the long list will show you the data that they have collected. Finally, the Help section will tell you all the services they offer. It is alphabetized for convenience. Michael asks that you state your needs in English. I think he reads Texan and American, but he probably writes Brit.

Now go down the menu on the left side of the page and take a look at the personal options Michael gives you. Each one is a powerful diagnostic tool for working on DXCC and keeping up with your QSLs. A particular favorite of mine is about in the middle called Club Leagues. If you click on this it will lead to a list of 98 clubs who are active in the League. The clubs are listed in order of Band DXCCs held by club members. You will find TDXS at number 18 on the list. The site will remove us when our number falls below 15 and we are not at either 17 or 19 depending on which list you look at. We have a large number of members who are not regularly updating their logs and an even larger number of members who have not joined Club Log and have no logs recorded. It is very easy to enter your log if you have a computer log as you can enter the ADIF file directly without the hassle that you get from LOTW.

(continued)

Invitation to Club Log by Willis "Cookie" Cooke K5EWJ

When I started TDXS with Club Log last year, I was the DX/DXpedition Chairman and I could generate little interest in the club. I unilaterally decided to solicit memberships from anyone who is a TDXS member to be a Club Log TDXS member. I moved from Contest Chairman to DX Chairman in 2014 to replace Bill Stone who accepted the presidency of BVARC and to accommodate Joe Staples, W5ASP who wanted to be Contest Chairman last year. This year I moved back to Contest Chairman because Orville Burg volunteered to take DX Chairman. Club Log is primarily a DX chairman activity, so I emailed Orville and told him about what I have been doing and we agreed that at least for this year we would be co-administrators for Club Log.

The primary activity for the Administrator is to approve prospective members to join the Club Log TDXS Team. I did not anticipate that non TDXS member would want to register, but apparently quite a few people think that they can join Club Log and check TDXS to join TDXS. I have accepted all TDXS members who wish to join the Club Log team who appear on our member number roster as Inactive, Associate, Full or Honorary. I realized that I needed a policy when Tom Horton, K5IID, the ARRL QSL sorter for region 5 asked to join us. I approved Tom but one of our Board asked that Tom be dropped unless he wanted to apply for TDXS in the regular manner. As I wrote this article, I realized that K5TIA had also been added to the roster by either my mistake or some other way. Rick, K5TIA lives north of Clear Lake in Houston and seems a good prospect for a member. I solicit other opinions about how we should handle this. Tom is a good guy and lives in Hillsboro. I met him at the DX Dinner at Ham Com. I am working on Rick to get him to a meeting and join us. We certainly need more members.

Take a good look at Club Log. I think you will like it. I will write some future articles if it takes off. Feed me some information about areas that need explanation or shoot me an email for a quick answer. wrcooke@yahoo.com.



Broken Parts, Broken Hearts by Madison Jones W5MJ (Part I)

Kosrae 2015

After having a great solo DXpedition to Pohnpei in 2012, I thought it would be appropriate to return to Micronesia, this time to Kosrae, OC-59, especially since I now had a 500 watt amplifier light enough to carry with me. I knew V6 was in the Top 100, so why not? Micronesia is just north of the Equator, and the 8000 mile haul to North America was doable. Although ClubLog propagation charts do not show any 160 activity to NA out of the 350 or so logs submitted, I figured that it was because no one had attempted that path yet. A challenge, true, but one I was willing to accept!

This one would be the same route as before – Texas to Honolulu and then island hopping to Kosrae. I did an Internet search and came up with the Village Resort and Eco Lodge, complete with thatched huts on the beach, a restaurant and bar, pretty solid wireless, 110 volts and US style outlets, drinking water, dancing girls, the whole package, and the price was reasonable. I could sleep under a mosquito net, run the pileups day and/or night as I chose, 160 through 10. Even better was that my calendar was mostly free in mid-February, so I could do the ARRL DX CW contest as DX.

I started planning right after Visalia and Dayton in the spring months of 2014, asking around to see who might be interested in either going with me. Well, to be sure it was like the story of the Little Red Hen: nobody wanted to go, but there was no end to the volunteers to see if they could work me on 160 once I got there! This is not to imply there were none to assist me in my preparations, as we shall see. I always look for travel buddies on these trips to share the weight of equipment, to share to operating time, to share to experience, and to help me figure out how to fix the things which always go wrong.

Having learned from past adventures the chancy nature of going to a distant land even when all is arranged and the skids are greased (see, for example, *Going to Palau*, DX Magazine, Nov./Dec., 2013), I thought it prudent to advise as many folks as possible of my plans so I could get input. This one was going to be MY 160 trip, in addition to the more pedestrian bands. Having been impressed with the capabilities of a top-loaded vertical when I was in VU7 some years ago, I studied up and learned I could get great results on 160 with a Spiderbeam 40' pole, appropriately guyed and using elevated radials. Not only that, the Village Resort was on an east facing beach, an almost direct path to NA.

160, here I come!

My best Christmas present last December was a 40' Spiderpole from Germany. I knew these were robust and could easily handle a top loaded vertical with a top hat, even when only guyed at 15' into a stout breeze. Figuring two, three, or four heads were better than one, along about the first week in February I mustered my friends who claim to know about antennas, gathered some wire, and set forth proving the concept. With some experimentation, we put it into the air and it tested a 1.3:1 SWR at 1.815 MHZ. Shazam!!

I had previously made reservations in Kosrae so that I would be set up and on the air by mid-week prior to the DX contest. I would have a few days to warm up The Deserving via the cluster and the 160 chat room prior to the 'test, and then position myself to be the Rare DX. I booked my passage on the Island Hopper out of Honolulu, consulted my checklist, packed my radio gear into a couple of carry cases [you get two 70# bags nowadays on United, so a small amp is possible with just one traveler], and set on my way.

Because the Daily DX and a couple of other publications knew I was going, the interest level was high. 160 from V6 is a fill many need for their logs. I received a number of inquiries from throughout NA and SA from people who said they would be listening at V6 sunset – about 0720 GMT – and beyond.

I had no misgivings at all about getting on the air, even though I had promised 160 in my trip to Palau a year or so ago. That trip was a bust: even though I was assured there would be a 160 access, it did not happen for a lot of reasons, all of which were beyond my control. Because I learned from that one should not to rely on other people, this time I had done it all. I had my Spiderpole, my receive antenna, my amplifier, my radio and a spare radio. What could possible go wrong?

Rather than depart from Austin to Houston at OhDarkThirty, I took a leisurely trip into Houston the day before and spent the night at KC5HOR's place. Gary graciously provided a bed and assistance with all my gear as well as a trip to the airport. Because Gary is an employee of the airport, he badged through security and waited for me on the other side of the TSA machines after they checked out my carry on baggage.

(continued)

Broken Parts, Broken Hearts by Madison Jones W5MJ (Part I)

Murphy, always lurking in the shadows, stuck not 50' on the other side of security! With a crash, my power supply fell to the tile floor – the result of a TSA inspection which did not include a zippering up of my back pack and my failure to check to see if all was in order. Aaaacccccck! Though everything was intact, the fan housing was broken. I had no idea what else might have survived the impact.

And of course it was the only power source I had for my transceiver. I pressed on the Honolulu, however, thinking there was no way to check its condition without hooking the K3 to it and seeing what worked. I figured there would be more available repairs and/or other power supplies during my layover in Honolulu than at Houston Intercontinental Airport. Indeed, at the hotel, I fired up the power supply, hooked up the transceiver and a dummy load [you never know when you might need one, eh?], transmitted in Data mode for a couple of minutes, and was pleased to see the fan on the supply spin up. The racket it made went away when I bent the fan guard away from the blades. Success!

After about 6 hours of flying and a couple of stops, the Island Hopper dumped me and my bags in Kosrae in late afternoon. There was a ride waiting to take me to the Village, a 20 minute journey through some of the most lush land on the planet. My thatched-roof cabin was about 50 feet from the high tide mark, and the tide was crashing against the sea wall with so much vigor it was like those hurricanes in Houston which I endured. Obviously I would have to wait until low tide to even inspect the beach for suitable places for antennas. Because the sea quits at the jungle trees, I would have to elevate everything on tree stumps extending over the water. I used the time to set up the K3, the amp, the power supply and the tuner, and let the pounding surf put me to sleep. That night I dreamed of huge pileups, high rates, and smiles on the faces of The Deserving.

Low tide was late morning. Given the speed and energy of the surf -- the flat nature of the beach meant the waves really moved fast -- I thought it prudent to wait until I was sure no rogue wave would catch me looking the other way. I scouted the beach, located some huge fallen trees which would serve well as the base for my verticals, and get busy putting up a vertical dipole for 40-10. I stuck my vertical in the tree, guyed it tightly, and sat down at the key.

After about 15 minutes of calling CQ on 17 with no responses, W9BF got the first contact in my log. Apparently the Skimmers were not picking me up, though I understood when I returned home that Reverse Beacon Network had me from the beginning. At any rate, once V63MJ was on the packet cluster, the race was on! *(I saw V63MJ on the cluster and worked him at 0121Z on February 18th—Ed)*

(Part II continued next month)



Texas DX Society Board members

President	Bob Hardie, W5UQ	w5uq at att.net
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Field Day Chairmen	Mike Davidson, N5MT	n5mt@aol.com
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.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 April

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

John Cashen - W5UG
 Bob Burns - W5SJS
 Bob Bradshaw - N5RF
 Orville Burg - K5VWW
 Sam Neal - N5AF
 Wayne Bailey - NX7K
 OJ Quarles - K1OJ
 Frank Moore - KE4GY
 Steve Flannigan—W5HPQ