



THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

1999

March

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The Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 540291 Houston, TX 77254-0291

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DX Chairman	Buzz Jehle, N5UR (713)-464-6023, dxer@orx.com
Communications Chairman	Jim Lane, N5DC (281)-358-0051, n5dc@cwix.com

Announcements

The March 1999 TDXS Meeting will be at the Cavatore Italian Restaurant 120 Ella Blvd and West 21st. The meeting date is March 11th. Phone 713-869-6622.

How to Reach Us

On the World Wide Web: <http://www.tdxs.org>

On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz

On 70 Cm: 447.00/442.00 (103.5 Hz)

On Packet: Connect to **TDXS95** on 144.95

then connect to K5LV

Reflector: Send to: majordomo@n5uh.tech.uh.edu

In the body of your message only put: subscribe tdxs-list do *not* include your email address, as the reflector will pick it up automatically. Put nothing in the subject line.

The Prez Sez- de Earl, N5TU

We are fast approaching our first ordinary meeting of 1999. Things have really been hopping this year. A cocktail party with the ARRL bigwigs, our annual banquet, and we are currently in between the CW and the SSB trips to XA5T. The CW trip was a hoot and it looks like we are finally getting near the end of any major antenna work at that station. It sure will be nice to go down there knowing that you won't have to bust rump to get things ready prior to a 48 hour contest. By the time you read this the SSB weekend should either be in full swing or history. Good luck to the crew going down, hope I work you on all the bands.

The WEB page is getting a facelift but it needs input. If you have a product review, or pictures of club events, or anything of interest forward it to Dave so he can incorporate it into the page. Also let Dave know of any good links he should add if even to your own home page.

The K5LV DX Cluster antenna is at 112' now. Give it a try on 144.95 and let me know how it is working for you. It is fully functional and maintaining a good connection to the K5DXC cluster via the TDXSU link on UHF.

The agenda for the meeting is going to be discussion on what we want to do as a fundraiser.

Prez Sez Continued

Without the Houston Convention we have not added any funds to the coffers in going on two years and Madison is starting to worry about whether there is going to be anything left for him to count. There will also be a proposal to purchase some prizes for the Texas QSO Party. Be there to offer your two cents worth.

73,
N5TU

DX Report by Buzz, N5UR

NEW DXCC COUNTRIES

Yes there could be two! Palestine hit the airways this month as E44A E44B E44C E44D E44DX E43ZH E44/HA1AG E41/OK1DTP JA1UT/E4 E44/JA8RUZ and probably others hit the airwaves, Martii's (OH2BH) group E44DX was the first big group adding 30,000+ QSOs to their logs and Zoli HA1AG is looking to overtake Martii's totals. Signals have been fantastic. It was the first time I had added an all time new one on 75 meters since Sable Island was added to the list twenty years ago, and Zoli's top band signal was unbelievable! He was my 100th country on 160 using a Carolina Windham draped through the pine trees about 60' above the ground. The only logs I know of available on the internet are HA1AG's at <http://www.okdxc.cz/e44> Contact me by email if you have any QSLing questions. Contacts from February 1 on will count for this one, but cards will not be accepted by the ARRL until after this years October first deadline so as not to affect the current Honor Roll standings.

The other new country will most likely be removing a country from the deleted list and adding it back to the active list. Twenty years after the illegal occupation of East Timor by Indonesian forces, Indonesia has indicated they will let the country become independent. The economic realities of occupying a country are the reason behind this new initiative. East Timor was CR8 and CR10 from 1976 and before, and because it is still the same country geographically, it will most likely just be added back to the list, though not too many people have this one as it was not terribly active. Palestine was not a reactivation of the old country Palestine ZC6 on the DXCC list, because the geographic boundaries of this new Palestine bear no relationship to the old British Mandate area. Timing for this new one is unknown, as the question of how Indonesian troops will leave must be worked out, and second, who will run things in the interim period before independence, the UN, Portugal, or a local group, etc.??

MALPELO Pedro, HK3JJH plans to operate as HK3JJH/OM from Malpelo (SA-007) for a few days starting on 6 March. Look for him on 10, 15 and 20 metres SSB. QSL direct to HK3JJH (Pedro Allina, P.O. Box 81119, Bogota, Colombia). Pedro especially likes 14260 and 21260 the IOTA freqs. Pedro at one time or another has put on all the HK island groups and will be doing more than just Malpelo in March.

Other large operations planned in the coming month

01/03-16/03 XF4MX: Socorro Isl (NA-030), Revilla Gigedo * by XE1s
15/03-22/03 PY0: St. Peter & St. Paul's Arch. (SA-014) * by ABRA-DX
01/04-10/04 3B9: Rodrigues Island (AF-017) * by MKDXF

and for IOTA

MAR?? OC-076 Ronny, YC8TXW/p Sula Island
MAR13-16 AF-043 TR - Derek, F5VCR and Ken, G3OCA Banie Island
MAR14-21 OC-170 VK6APK/p Woody Island

Good luck everyone with E4 and these upcoming operations.

Contest Corner de Ben, KM5OT

March 1999 - TDXS Contest Corner de Ben KM5OT

I've been a bit busy, got behind, but here's the list of contests I could verify for March 1999.

ARRL International DX Contest, Phone: 0000Z, Mar 6 to 2400Z, Mar 7
Mode: SSB Only Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m
Classes: Single Op All Band (QRP/Low Power/High Power), Single Op Single Band,
Single Op Assisted, Multi-Single, Multi-Two, Multi-Multi

March 13, 1999 - Missouri QSO Party, Wisconsin QSO Party, RSGB Commonwealth,

QCWA QSO Party

March 20, 1999 - Russian DX Contest, Alaska QSO Party, Virginia QSO Party,

Ohio Winter QSO Party, Bermuda Contest

March 27, 1999 - CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

Sources for the above contests, March 1999 QST and CQ magazines.

I hope to have links for most of these contests posted on the Contest Website <http://bfwweb.com/tdxs> by Tuesday March 9th.

Be thinking about a serious effort for the Texas QSO Party, Weekend of May 22, 1999.

The Central Texas Contest Club sounds like they are to have a big effort, NARS of course is going to be a MAJOR competitor, so we had better get some signals on the air if we are to make a good showing!

If there's a contest coming up that you want listed here and on the webpage, please email me with the details, at km5ot@bfwweb.com

The Gang at XA5T



How to stir up your own pileup! by Steve, W9DX

Lake Livingston, July 3rd, 1998:

The alarm clock interrupted my slumber at 5:30am. Who in their right mind would rise so early on a holiday week-end? I rushed into the living room to turn on the weather channel. The forecast for southeast Texas was ominous: moderate to heavy wind gusts, and 6-8 inches of rain as the remnants of a gulf hurricane came ashore. The sky was fairly clear, but the southern horizon was dark as the telltale pinwheel clouds started to appear. The water appeared relatively calm, but this could all change into 6 foot waves without much warning if the wind picked up. Lynn (my XYL) and I quickly decided that it was now or never!

We scrambled into the SUV and headed down to the Cape Royale Marina, and commenced loading our boat with coolers, folding chairs, life jackets, and two arm loads of aluminum, a sledge hammer, plastic dairy cases full of carefully packed radio gear, a deep cycle marine battery, wire & cables, log book and a GPS receiver. The sun was now peeking over the eastern horizon as we headed out of the marina and headed due east to our island destination. The wind started to change direction as we kept a vigilant eye on the sky.

I've always had a fascination for islands, and enjoy boating and jet-skiing whenever the opportunity presents itself. Lynn and I have had a week-end retreat on Lake Livingston for several years, and enjoy the scenic beauty and wildlife as often as we can. Lake Livingston is a 100,000 acre reservoir lake fed by the Trinity River. About 3 miles from the SW shoreline is Pine Island, a large uninhabited island about a mile long that offers good fishing, beaches, and plenty of fire ants. We had visited the island many times by jet-ski and wondered if anyone had officially activated it for the U.S. Islands Award Program. A quick check of the USI database confirmed that no one had put this place on the radio map! Not only was it prime for activation, but it also lies entirely within San Jacinto county, a nice bonus for county hunters. Time for action!

Anxious to be on the receiving end of a pile-up? Eager to make a DX-pedition to an "exotic" island, but don't have the time, money, or corporate/club sponsors? Well, you're not alone! Just look at all those packet spots for IOTA listed islands (Islands On the Air). It's easy to understand why so many people collect contacts with U.S. counties and IOTA islands. It's FUN! Few people realize however that there's also an active group of hams activating U.S. islands (freshwater included) and competing for awards, and hosting their own contests. The U.S. Islands Award Program is gaining in popularity, and offers a bit of "DX" excitement during the summer months. Putting an island on the air somehow combines the best aspects of a field day operation with a mini Dx-pedition. Not only do salt water islands count, but so do river islands, and lake islands. Many of the salt water islands have both IOTA and USI numbers. USI designations start with the 2-letter state abbreviation, followed by the island number, and ending with S for salt water island, or R for river island, or L for lake island. As of February 1st, 1999 there are 1427 islands activated in the U.S. Florida takes the lion's share with 458 islands activated to date. Texas has only 26 listed, but there must be more out there! For a list of current islands, and rules for activation, visit the USI webpage at:

<http://www.eng.mu.edu/~usi/>

It took about 30 minutes t

o reach the NE shore of the island, where the water is shallow, and a nice sandy beach

offered a good landing site out of the now southerly winds. We dropped anchor in about 3 feet of water, and started off-loading the Hustler 5-band vertical, ground rod, radial wires, and coax. Next came the plastic crates with the ICOM IC-706 MkII, tuner, cables, and miscellaneous items. The real challenge came when it was time to haul that heavy deep-cycle marine battery ashore. You really get a workout carrying that much weight while trudging through the resistant water! I kept having fears of stepping off into a hidden sink hole or the old river bed with the battery carrying me down over the abyss!

The old Trinity River bed lies within a hundred meters of our landing site, where the water depth drops abruptly to 90 plus feet. Local tales of man eating giant catfish conjured up images from an old Japanese monster movie! But we pressed on.

W9DX continued

A 4 foot piece of water pipe served as the mounting mast, and one whack from the sledge hammer sent it down a foot in the soft wet sand. Two more hits and it was ready for the vertical and radials. I used color-coded electrical tape to mark the matching vertical sections, and assembly only took a few minutes to complete. As I was down on all fours, hooking up the coax, a big slobbery yellow dog came up to lick my face! Where the heck did he come from? Too bad he didn't have a little keg under his chin, but it was too early for that anyway. A hippy looking bearded dude with cut-offs and a straw hat came walking up the beach to investigate our activity. (No it wasn't N5RP). He had camped out all night with his boat and dog about a hundred meters west of our landing site. After explaining our doings, he wondered back toward his boat scratching his head and must have been wondering how much brain damage I had suffered as a result of RF exposure! A quick check with the antenna analyzer confirmed the SWR on 14.260 to be 1.2:1. No problem anyway since I brought the ICOM matching auto-tuner just in case. I grabbed the GPS receiver from my tool bag and waited for it to acquire a fix. Ten seconds later, up popped the location: N 30 40.152, W 95 03.237, and I noted this in the log book. The island hunters hang out on 14.260 and I was about ready to fire up! The rig came to life and was tuned to 14.260 where scores of anxious island hunters awaited my callsign. I had announced our schedule to activate Pine Island on the USI webpage well in advance, and knew that many would be waiting. What's this?! Another island pile-up was already working 14.260 from New Jersey. Rats! I slid up to 14.263 and made the first CQ de Pine Island at 1336 Z. USI rules require at least 25 contacts including 2 DXCC countries for the island to be officially activated. Canada is a slam-dunk with lots of dedicated island chasers north of the border. All I needed was a European or maybe a South American contact. On QSO number 25, I heard "Juliet Juliet Hotel". Another QRZ confirmed it! It was Pedro, HK3JJH giving me a 5-9+ report from Bogota, immediately followed by USI islands registrar WB0TVP confirming to me that the island was now officially designated TX-024L! Word had spread to 14.260 that I was operating up 3, and even other island operations were moving up to work me! The sky was growing more threatening, with the wind starting to pick-up and filling the air with pine needles like confetti. I quickly filled a couple more log pages, and decided it was time to go QRT. The take down went quickly with less care taken to repack things than the first time. Better to get moving than be stuck on an island with no shelter to ride out an approaching storm front. Half way back to the marina the rain started! At full throttle we headed westward. The rain was hitting my face like a water hose as the wind drove it over the windshield. Lynn struggled to keep the gear dry as the boat sliced through the growing swells. The bimini top wasn't much good in this mess. We slid into our boat slip and under the metal roof. Whew! Made it! Typical for Texas weather forecasts, the heavy rains did not materialize as predicted. After a 45 minute shower, the clouds started to break and the sun came out. Ah, shucks, - could have made a few more Q's! Total operation completed and packed up again, all before lunch time. Anyone can do this. If you just have a canoe or rubber raft (or better yet a friend who has one) and a QRP rig and dipole it's easy! Many islands are not that hard to get to. If there's a string of islands in a river, you can operate from several in a single afternoon. Easier yet are those islands accessible by roads and bridges, making HF mobile operations the natural choice. There's still lots of islands ready to be credited with your callsign as the first activation. Just start checking your maps, and make your plans! And don't worry about getting a mailbox full of QSL card requests. You can confirm contacts by e-mail if you want. If the bands are dead, just keep your fishing pole handy and have fun. For the local TDXS-ers that I missed last time, I promise to start on 40 meters this summer.

Steve, W9DX (ex-K9VX)

QSL Information on the KH6X operation by Richard King, K5NA

HAWAII, KH6. Richard, K5NA, will be active as KH6X from Maui until February 27. He will participate in the ARRL CW DX Contest. QSL to home call.

The QSL route is incorrect. All KH6X QSL requests should go to N2AU. All K5NA/KH6 QSL requests should go to K5NA.

73, Richard
k5na@texas.net

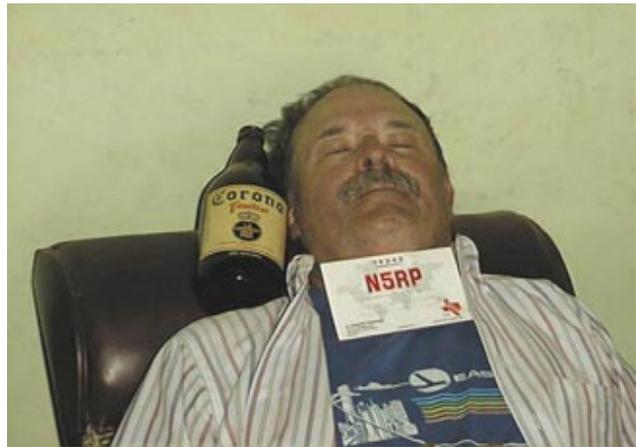
XA5T CW Weekend, Photos by Mike, K5NZ



AD5Q and KG5U



N5TU looks like he needs the restroom to rest!



W5MJ Running them on ZZZ Band

CALL	ME#	FIRST_NAME	LAST_NAME	ADDR1	CITY	STATE	ZIP	HOME	WORK/FAX	EMAIL
W5KU	115	Dennis	Alexander	1964 FM 1094	Sealy	TX	77474	409-885-4838	713-646-6174/409-885-0438	w5ku@iamerica.net
W5USV	53	Mike	Anderson	14718 Waynewood Dr	Cypress	TX	77036	281-373-4902	713-688-9100	mikean@earthlink.net
N5EA	82	Tom	Ashworth	4951 Braesheather Dr.	Houston	TX	77096	713-729-0939	713-988-2884	
K5GB	45	Butch	Barber	14014 Myrtlea	Houston	TX	77079	281-497-0962	713-467-5071/467-5017	
N5XZ	117	Allen	Brier	2018 Old Dixie Dr.	Richmond	TX	77469-6811	281-342-1882	281-342-1882/281-342-0940	74323.1140@Compuserve.com
W5SUS	64	Bob	Burns	6015 Deerwood	Houston	TX	77057	713-978-5937	281-463-7575/855-9739	
GM0ECO	118	Andy	Burns	Blairhill Farms Cottage	Kenoshire	GM	KY137PU	011-44-259-81451		burns_al@grpr21.dnet.jp
N5LZ	123	Don	Butler	3410 Bluebird Way	Pearland	TX	77584	281-489-9832	713-500-4380	ki3l@ix.netcom.com
NN5O	116	Jim	Carmody	15910 Congo	Houston	TX	77040	713-466-1856	713-227-9000	carmodyjim@earthlink.com
W5BAK	147	Joey	Clements	1903 Brimberry	Houston	TX	77018	713-680-2744	713-977-3000	kc5bak@aol.com
K5JV	131	Lon	Cottingham	1110 Golden Bear	Kingwood	TX	77339	281-358-4207	713-790-3049	k5jv@vonl.com
N5MT	93	Mike	Davidson	3518 Bellfontaine	Houston	TX	77025	713-668-8408	713-853-7644	n5mt@aol.com
N5DD	143	Don	Daze	8706 Winingham Ln.	Houston	TX	77055-6634	713-464-7286	713-626-8171/626-8173	kc5ak@amsat.org
KZ5MM	103	Chuck	Dietz	4396 Croix Pky	Manvel	TX	77578	281-489-4330	713-626-8171/626-8173	dietz@texas.net
K5LBU	148	Charles	Frost	3722 Quailmeadow Dr	Missouri City	TX	77459-3730	281-437-1978	281-634-1982	806cf564@fortbend.k12.tx.us
W5GCX	140	Ed	Gerber	2407 Briarlee Dr.	Houston	TX	77077	281-531-4170	281-647-5085	w5gcx@fnn.net
NJ1V	139	John	Guida	55 Windmill Dr.	Hempstead	TX	77445	409-826-8434		nj1v@phoenix.net
N5UR	141	Buzz	Jehle	8 Leisure Lane	Houston	TX	77024-5123	713-464-6023	713-621-6688	dxer@orx.com
W5MJ	135	Madison	Jones	3631 Coltwood Dr.	Spring	TX	77388	281-350-4330		w5mj@hal-pc.org
K5NA	1	Richard	King	RR1 Box 140	Manor	TX	78653	512-272-5713		k5na@texas.net
N5DC	88	Jim	Lane	1602 Chestnut Ridge	Kingwood	TX	77339	281-358-0051	281-358-0051	n5dc@cwix.com
W5XYL	114	Evie	Lane	1602 Chestnut Ridge	Kingwood	TX	77339	281-358-0051	281-540-9145	n5dc@cwix.com
NT5D	106	Brent	Levit	7519 Romney Road	Houston	TX	77036	713-777-6352	713-749-9392	m_blevit@insync.net
KG5U	91	Dale	Martin	12610 Barbizon	Houston	TX	77089	281-484-4465	281-244-7364	kg5u@hal-pc.org
K5PFE	5	Robert	McWhorter	619 Third Street	Jasper	TX	75951	409-384-5540		
W5JWM	25	Frank	Montgomery	6314 Wister	Houston	TX	77008	713-862-4407	713-862-4407	kz8e@wt.net
N5TU	138	Earl	Morse	33626 Commanche Tr.	Magnolia	TX	77355	281-356-2128	281-927-3607	perring@texas.net
N5AF	6	Sam	Neal	Box 152	Cleveland	TX	77327	800-801-5265	713-247-3775	dsarkozi@flash.net
N5RP	108	Bob	Perring	12715 Westmere	Houston	TX	77077	281-493-5780	281-466-6751/466-1163	w5hms@aol.com
WB5N	111	Dave	Sarkozi	111 B Welch	Houston	TX	77006	713-520-5906	713-788-7091	sharpk5dx@aol.com
W5HNS	58	Henry	Schneider	3518 Longwood	Pasadena	TX	77503	713-473-0097	713-321-4728	cougar70@earthlink.net
K5DX	20	Clarence	Sharp	216 Meyers Road	Highlands	TX	77562	281-843-2495	281-872-3030	jastaples@aol.com
W9DX	107	Steve	Smothers	12703 Cloverwood Dr.	Cypress	TX	77429	281-376-9248	713-974-7495	stevensj@tsound.net
W5ASP	87	Joe	Staples	10031 Meadow Lake Ln.	Houston	TX	77042	713-974-3455	504-642-2129	w5bxx@aol.com
K5JS	30	John	Stevens	6435 Celestial Dr.	Baton Rouge	LA	70817	504-751-9421	281-879-9973/933-9054	
W5BXX	144	Dave	Topp	16444 Old Richmond Rd.	Sugar Land	TX	77478	281-498-5098		
KE5TF	94	Linda	Walworth	3210 Chaparral Way	Spring	TX	77380	281-363-0209	713-829-4359	walworth@worldnet.att.net
N5ET	95	Bob	Walworth	3210 Chaparral Way	Spring	TX	77380	281-363-0209	512-446-8079	bworrel@bfweb.com
KM5OT	148	Ben	Worrell	P.O. Box 534.	Lexington	TX	78974	409-773-4484		