



THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

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

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Announcements

The September 9th Meeting will be at **Ryan's Steak House** on 34th street. To get there, take the second exit off of 290 outbound (34th street, Antoine) from the 610 Loop. Turn left under the freeway on 34th street. The restaurant is 1/2 a block on the left. Dinner is at 6:30. Meeting to follow

How to Reach Us

On the World Wide Web: <http://www.tdxx.org>
On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz
On 70 Cm: 447.00/442.00 (103.5 Hz)
On Packet: Connect to **TDXS71** then connect to K5LV
Reflector: Send to: majordomo@moonbounce.n5iq.org
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

Summer is coming to an end and with fall just around the corner the beginning of contest season is not very far away. Many of the major contests have a club competition. The TDXS did well in the 10 meter contest with a few big scores and a large turnout. CQWW, Sweepstakes, and the 10 meter contest all have a club competition and the TDXS usually does pretty well in these events. We always have a few big scorers but the real difference is made by the casual ops who turn out operate for a few hours then turn in their log with TDXS on the club competition line. So tweak up your station and operating skills and get ready to compete with Team TDXS this fall.

Don't forget the 3C0 DXpedition to Annobon. It should be the DX highlight for September.

The SSB Sprint is this weekend (Sept 12). Check out the NCJ web page for more info and sign up with KG5U for the TDXS team. Topics for the meeting will be the nomination of officers and of course more discussion on the PacketCluster, digipeaters, and repeater. All of which are working better than they have in a long time. Don't forget to bring your QSL cards for the bureau and we'll see you at the meeting.

Earl
N5TU

TDXS Contesting by Dale Martin, KG5U

Darned 2m radio. On my way out of town Thursday on my way to Lost Maples for a little backpacking adventure, I jumped into a QSO with N5DC, N5TU and W5ASP discussing who was going to do the upcoming (this one) contest column for the Bullsheet—Actually, DC and TU were beating up on ASP to do the column.. Did I leave the mic somewhere in it's netherworld lair under the driver's seat? NOOOOOOOO! I fumbled around, picked it up, keyed it, and said "I'll do it!" Geez! I hate when I do that. So, it was a race home Saturday (planned), bring home an awful head cold (unplanned), get the station ready for NA Sprint CW (planned), and try to knock this article out for early Sunday morning (unplanned) delivery to N5DC. Forgive any inconsistencies or incompleteness. I don't get CQ or CQ Contest Magazine, so I don't get ALL the scores. If I do this again, I'll use the tech library at work (QST, CQ, 73, etc.), and have a more complete contest picture to present.

Past Events & Results

1999 School Club Roundup. Among the many schools participating were Kingwood HS, K5KHS, and Bel-ARC Bellaire HS, KM5TY, placing second and eleventh place in the High School category. Baylor University ARC, WA5BU, placed seventh in the College/University category—I know I worked TAMU and UT, but they apparently didn't submit logs. Johnson Space Center ARC, W5RRR, placed first in the Club category. (more info in Sept. 99 QST)

1999 ARRL RTTY Roundup. NT5D and K5NZ placed fifth and sixth, respectively, in the STX section.

1999 ARRL 10-Meter Contest. TDXS placed eighth in the Affiliated Club Competition, one of our best showings in a long time. Way to go guys. Calls (and positions) noted in the top ten boxes were K5DX, 2nd place SSB-LP, KG5U, 3rd place Mixed-QRP,, K5KG, 10th/Mixed-HP. In the Section listings, things looked much better: with K5IUA, N5DU, N5RP, K5LZO, K5NZ, N5ZK (W5ASP, opr), N5TU, K5DX, N5AF, NN5O, KZ5MM, K5LBU, K5XI, K5NA, K5DU and N5MT being reported. In other sections, NACHO (Nevada Assn. of Contest Highland Operators), K5GJ struck fear in the hearts of at least 1700 stations, George, K5KG, was having fun in NNJ, Eric, NM5M, worked some from NTX, Denny, K7BV Showed the Sac-V guys how it's done, while Jan, K5MA, worked some from EMA. Nice turnout, guys (members and ex-, alike)!!

By the time you read this, the fall running of the North American Sprint CW Contest will have taken place. From my own experience, 20m was great fun, 40m was fun, and 80m wasn't. But, when you are QRP, it's all a matter of perspective. Look for early numbers on the TDXS reflector, 3830 reflector or from Michael Dinkleman's summary contest postings to the CQ-Contest reflector.

Upcoming Events

Sept 11-12 - ARRL September VHF QP, Worked All Europe (SSB), NA Sprint (SSB)

Sept 18-20 - WA St. Salmon Run, QCWA QP, Scandinavian Activity Contest (CW), Tennessee QP

Sept 25-26 - Scandinavian Activity Contest (SSB), CQ/RJ WW RTTY Contest, Heart of Dixie QP, VHF/UHF Fall Sprints.

Oct 2 - PSK31 Rumble, VK/ZL/Oc Contest (SSB),

Oct 3 - CA QSO Party, RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest (SSB)

Oct 9/10 - VK/ZL/Oc CW), BARTG RTTY Sprint, EU Autumn Sprint (CW), PA QP, FISTS Fall Sprint, 10-10 Day Sprint,

Oct 16 - Worked All Germany

Oct 17 - Asian Pac Sprint (CW), RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest (CW), IL QP

Oct 30/31 - CQ WW DX Contest (SSB), 10-10 Int'l Fall Contest (CW)

(from WA7BNM contest page:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>)

Contesting By Dale Continued

In closing, let me remind everyone that ARRL Sweepstakes, ARRL 10m and CQ WW SSB/CW contests are coming up. Get your stations ready for this fall/winter contest season. Plan to make an effort for these contests and remember to identify your club affiliation as TDXS on your summary sheets. Last year, TDXS had good representation in the SS CW contest. Let's pack those and other contest listings with the TDXS presence! That's it. Get off your duffs, get out there and work 'em!!

73,

dale, kg5u

(ed note: thanks to Dale for a well done job. See the announcement below concerning Sharp, K5DX and his score)

Correction to the Score of Sharp, K5DX

1. Sharp, K5DX was #1 W/VE Low Power Phone
(W5MN who is listed by QST as the winner called Sharp and told him that his score was incorrectly listed..)
2. TDXS placed 8th in the Medium Club category, AND beat the North Texas Contest Club.

DX Report by Buzz, N5UR

We had a great time as always at the New Orleans International DX Convention in late August. Bob and Linda, N5ET and KE5TF, Mike AD5A, Mike N5MT, Frosty K5LBU, and myself were all present along with 150 others. I was a speaker on Island Chasing and IOTA as it relates to DX, where I showed some slides of three island operations I have been on. Just like the pileups, there were too many URs at the convention! Not really, but I was seated next to W3UR at the dinner with K5UR behind us. If you haven't been, you are missing out on a great weekend in the heart of the French Quarter. Maybe we will see you next year.

Here is my calendar for September. 3C0 is the big one if they get there. This operation has been postponed many times, lets hope they make it! A return to OJ0 will be welcomed by many who need this on the low bands, maybe propagation will be more favorable than last June. T31 is a toughie on CW. The Fall season is starting with a bang.

SEP2-14	AF033	S79GI Bert PA3GIO, Desroches Island, http://www.xs4all.nl/~pa3gio/S79/ QSL preferable by the Bureau to PA3GIO
SEP8-13	AS-new BI7Y	PARACEL ISLANDS, sponsored by IREF see below
SEP12-17		T31T, T31K T31YL from Central Kiribati (OC-043)
SEP-13	ZV7G	Ilha de Santo Antonio, IOTA SA 046, DIB (new one)
SEP14-20	OJØ/K7BV	RTTY
SEPT14-24	3CØR	AF-039 They will have four rigs, two amplifiers, two beams, two verticals, dipoles, one PC for CW (operator EA5YN) and RTTY (operator 3C1RV)
SEP21-6	VK9	Rowley Shoals (OC-new) * by VK6LC and others
SEP24-27	ZW7G	Ilha de Itamaraca, IOTA SA 046, DIB 18

Now a little advertisement for what two club members have been working on in our spare(?) time. The Island Radio Expedition Foundation, Inc.(IREF) 118 Oak Ridge Drive New Braunfels, Texas 78132. <http://www.sat.net/~iref/>

IREF is an organization created to provide support to IOTA expeditions. The Foundation will depend on contributions from members on at least an annual basis. IREF has been born out of a grass roots desire to advance the sport of "Island Chasing" and has not received any endowments to help achieve these goals. IREF is seeking to become a Section 501(c)(3) organization. This designation will allow for US contributors to deduct contributions from their taxes. However contributions are not currently tax deductible.

DX by Buzz continued

IREF is an International organization. The Board of Directors comes from Great Britain, Portugal, Japan and the United States. The Board will make all of the expedition funding decisions. The principles that the foundation is based on are:

- a. To provide funding and other support for expeditions to IOTA qualified islands for the purposes of operating amateur radio and to promote radio science through portable island operations.
- b. Provide funding and other support to amateurs resident on IOTA qualified islands where such assistance can be shown to improve their capabilities in achieving the same objectives.
- c. Promote International Goodwill through Amateur Radio.
- d. Advance the body of knowledge for those interested in portable island radio operations in the areas of expedition planning, antenna use and design, radio propagation studies and general radioscience
- e. Unite Amateur Radio Operators as a potential force to deal with issues concerning the advancement of the Amateur Radio hobby.
- f. Promote expedition effectiveness by encouraging multi-operator, around the clock operating.
- g. Promote prompt QSL delivery.

The Board of Directors are:

Neville Cheadle G3NUG
Jose de Sa CT1EEB
Taizo Arakawa JA3AER
Buzz Jehle N5UR
Buzz Loeschman N5FTR
Don Chamberlain W9DC
Mike McGirr K9AJ

The Officers are:

Mike Crownover AD5A President
Michael Crownover AB5EB Vice President
Charles Allen, C.P.A. W5DV Treasurer
Bob Nadolny WB2YQH Secretary

Membership forms are available on our web site. Because we are just getting started we are offering some special certificates for those who make significant contributions by December 31, 1999. The categories are:

Founders Lifetime Membership - \$500
Founders Sustaining Membership - \$250
Founders Membership - \$100

The amounts above are suggestions only, any contribution will be appreciated.

IREF wants you to feel comfortable that the money you are donating will be spent wisely. If for some reason you don't feel comfortable contributing to IREF, please contact us and let us know why. Perhaps we can satisfy your concerns. We are only beginning, our web page, our forms, our processes are in the development stage, so please be patient with us. We will build an organization that you will be proud to be a part of.

Now go work some DX and Islands and have some fun. 73 Buzz N5UR

Fearless Restaurant Review - New Orleans 1999 de Madison, W5MJ

I know you all have been waiting with baited, garlicky breath for the next edition of the Fearless Restaurant Review, so here it is! This time it was prompted by a visit on the last weekend of August to the Crescent City for the 9th Annual International DX Convention. As a comment on that affair, I have to admit that I was overwhelmed by the presence of so many eminent DXers that I was ashamed to stay, and didn't. (An additional comment is that I have not seen that many double knit suits in one place in probably 30 years. Confirmed country count aside, it is plain to see that I am much too young to join the ranks of the Truly Deserving just yet. One fellow I met was willing to endlessly debate my unfortunate comment that "If it isn't CW, it's CB." That encounter helped in making the decision to tour the Vieux Carré a little easier, however.)

Not being burdened with attending tales of DXpeditions won and lost, we took to the streets in search of quality cuisine. For you stay-at-homes, New Orleans is said to be the culinary capital of the Western Hemisphere, so we presumed we would be able to grab world class meals from even the streetcorner hot dog vendors. There are many choices, unfortunately limited by one's time and money.

Our first stop was Patout's, a French Quarter standard since 1913, according to the sign, just down the street from one of the larger topless-bottomless joints (two stages, no waiting) and across from the Old Absinthe House. It was dark and dingy, but not moreso than most of the other establishments in the area. The menu showed a variety of Cajun items, and the prices were reasonable for the area. Thinking the chicken and sausage gumbo would be a good test of the chef's talent, I ordered it, while Millie ordered the catfish po' boy. When the orders arrived, there was plenty of chicken and sausage in my bowl. Nonetheless, I was disappointed to see that the gumbo was watery and light bodied, as well as not being the rich brown one expects in good roux. The chef had liberally added celery to the mix, and an abundance of white rice. It was a good attempt, and filling, though the mélange only got a 2 on my scorecard. Millie's plate was a little better, deserving a 3, I suppose. While the catfish is au fond de fût in the fish world, deep fried in a light batter and an excellent bun, it makes for a adequate sandwich. The fries were typical frozen-then-fried in the finest tradition of McDonalds, but they were filling. A liberal dash of Tabasco covered the remaining sins, and left us with a full stomach for a reasonable price. The bill came to about \$22, including gratuity. We did not ask for a doggie bag when we left, I confess.

Our evening meal, on the other hand, was excellent. After being assaulted on Bourbon Street by a seemingly endless stream of young people in search of the Ultimate Experience, we chanced upon the Storyville Jazz Cafe, just up the street from Galatoire's. Galatoire's, I can tell you from past experience, is worth the time and the money, and is one of the finest restaurants in the world. Take plenty of both, since a meal there is an experience to savor. I was apprehensive of what we might find at the Storyville, considering what used to be offered to the public in the Good Old Days (prior to the onslaught of STDs [if you don't know what an STD is, you should consider not going to New Orleans]), but we were very impressed by what we found: the Storyville Jazz Cafe, while lacking the lustre of Galatoire's, was an excellent place to dine at a moderate price by local comparison, and included about 125 dB of music from 2 different bands.

Though initially seated directly in front of the band, we requested - and were blessed with - a table in the next room from the band when we realized they were using Alphas to help the music penetrate every pore. (For those of you who have seen the Maxell audio tape advertisement of the young man sitting in front of a loudspeaker in an overstuffed chair with his hair and tie streaming behind him, I feel confident it was photographed at the Storyville Jazz Cafe.) As for the meal, for less than \$40, Millie had a huge salad covered with shrimp and crab, and I had blackened amberjack with asparagus, done to a turn, and some wine. The wine was forgettable, but the fish was étonnant, sans pareil! It was doubly good because I could see the chef, a young man of about 20 summers, proud of his accomplishment. We recommend the place highly, especially if you wear a hearing aid. It gets an 8 in our guidebook.

Well, that's it for this edition, folks. Keep those cards and letters coming.

73 es gud DX,
Madison W5MJ and Millie KC5UTP

Packet report by Jim, N5DC

By now, those of you, that are using the TDXS packet system, should see some improvement in your ability to stay connected to the system. One of the major problems turned out to be a very sick Kenwood 2 meter radio. I shipped it back to Kenwood, and at this writing, it should be enroute back to us via UPS. I still have some additional things that I want to do to the system, to make it more reliable. I would like to hear from some of you users, as to what you would like to see in you cluster. Such items as need lists, callbooks, etc can be added. I recall; however, that when KZ5KG Kenny was operating the system, his complaint was that nobody updated, or used the needlist function. With the QRZ on line callbooks. being available, I'm not sure that is needed. If anyone has a spare computer UPS, that the Club could "scrounge", please get in touch with me. With the lousy HL&P service, that I get here, a UPS would help. I have already had one dropout, that took the system down. With me back in the working world, I don't, and won't have much time to devote to upgrading the system, but will do as much as I can. If any of you are having problems getting or staying connected, get in touch with me, and I will try to help you get the problem solved. At the meeting Thursday night, I intend to ask the Club to support Bobby, K5BC, by paying some of his phone bill. Bobby is our source for all of the internet spots, and it is costing him a considerable amount in phone bills to supply it.

Interesting URL by Dale, KG5U

Hey guys. I'd like to introduce you to a project we have been working on for the past couple of months. When you get time, please check out www.eham.net. You TenTec folks might be interested in the product reviews as well as the chat. You can create a room called 'TenTec' and then meet other people with the same interest in the chat area. Amateur Radio finally has it's community site in eHam.net. On September 1, 1999, eHam.net opened it's doors at <http://www.eHam.net>. eHam.net can best be described as a community of ham radio operators from all over the world. These ham radio operators share ideas through chat, contribute news articles, buy & sell, take practice exams, get propagation information, DX spotting, and a variety of other applications designed for hams.

eHam.net Features (version 1.0)

- 1) Callbook - More than just the FCC data, it also includes interesting personal notes submitted by each person.
- 2) DX Spots - Spots from around the world with one click access to QSL manager and callbook info.
- 3) Classifieds - Buy and sell your ham gear here (it's free!)
- 4) Ham News - Latest ham radio news with an opportunity to post your comments on each story.
- 5) Chat - Chat with hams around the world. Hold club meetings. Meet people here for on air schedules.
- 6) Ham Exams - Exams automatically generated from the FCC test pool. Take a test and see your graded answers immediately.
- 7) QSL Managers - Find the fastest way to get the cards you need.
- 8) Propagation - Why wait for WWV when you can get up to the minute data from NOAA.
- 9) Survey - Answer the question of the day.
- 10) Speak Out - A lively editorial forum for comment on ham radio topics.
- 11) eHam Detective - Search ALL ham radio mailing list archives on the web. Not just contesting.com.
- 12) Ham Spotlight - Each view of the home page includes a profile of someone from the ham radio world. Every time the home page is refreshed, the spotlight changes.
- 13) Links - On every page of the site you can type in a keyword to search. The site has over 2500 different ham radio links already. By far the biggest and best collection of ham links on the Internet. We also have a rating system for each link entered. The eHam.net community can rate any link from 1 to 5 stars!
- 14) Friends Remembered - A place to remember SK friends. It occurred to us that a callsign listing in the pages of QST magazine just wasn't enough.
- 15) Product Reviews - Review any ham product you own or come here to read reviews about products you are considering buying. I know a couple of companies that will hate us for putting this one up!

73 & thanks for your time & consideration.

Bill Fisher, W4AN