



# THE BULLSHEET

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

APRIL  
2006

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

## April Meeting - Emergency Power - By Charles Birkhead AD5VQ

**Thursday April 13th at 6:00 PM at Los Tios Mexican Restaurant**

9527 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX between S. Gessner and Fondren behind the Firestone store.

Charles will speak about Emergency Power and the Amateur Radio Station. It will be very appropriate considering the recent natural disasters and increased interest in amateur emergency communications. He will have a power point presentation and some extras that he will bring in for show and tell. Charles will talk after we complete some TDXS business.

## Field Day 2006

Field Day 2006 will be a little different. Many TDXS members, past and present, are gathering at the QTH of Tom Taormina, K5RC, for the **20th Anniversary of the Great Armadillo Run of 1986**. This special event will be on Field Day weekend and will include operation using the special event callsign K7A. For details check the official web site

<http://www.consultpr.com/Armadillo.htm>

For those not attending the reunion, TDXS will participate in a joint Field Day effort with NARS. Paul, W5PF, is the Field Day Coordinator this year and will be working with Bill, W5SB, the NARS Coordinator. The location will be near the intersection of Hammerly Road and the West Belt. This is a Spring Branch ISD property that has been used by NARS for the past several years. Paul will be asking for participation and will announce details as they are available. Anyone wishing to participate please contact him.

## Mozambique Calling

I have one CW operator and one phone operator signed on for the Dxpedition to Mozambique this June-July. We will be there and on the air from the 29th of June to the 13th of July. Sure would like to have at least 2 more join with us. We will do the IARU contest And operate EME on 6-2 and 70 cm's. Plan on doing PSK and RTTY in our spare time. Hope to have 2 stations set up but need 2 more CW and one more Phone operators to make it worth Our effort to do both. Yes it costs but so does anything that is fun. Check out the web site [www.tdxc.net/C9.html](http://www.tdxc.net/C9.html) to see the place.

Contact Frosty K5LBU at home 281-437-1978      **Frosty K5LBU/C91CF**

## Texas DX Society Officers

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## How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxx.net> email address: [k5dx@tdxx.net](mailto:k5dx@tdxx.net)  
On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz (100 Hz) On 70cm: 447.00/442.00 MHz (103.5 Hz)  
On Packet: Connect to **K5DX** direct or via **TDXS71** on 145.71MHz.  
TDXS Reflector: To subscribe to the TDXS reflector, go to  
<http://moonbounce.n5iq.org/mailman/listinfo/tdxx-list>

## WANTED:

One or two dedicated straight key operators for the following:

### Straight Key Dxpedition for TDXS/ FISTS 1st Annual SK Contest

When: SEPTEMBER 6 13 (contest 9 and 10) 48 hrs

Where: Belize V31MD's Shack On the Beautiful tip of the Gulf of Mexico.

Who: Bill W5WAF; Cal WF5W, Eddy K5WQG,  
Nancy Kott WZ8C (North American Director of FISTS)

! There is room for ONE OR TWO MORE DEDICATED STRAIGHT KEY PERSONS.

The entire week will be dedicated to straight key only. The contest is sponsored by FISTS and will be a world wide promoted contest. This is the first Straight Key dxpedition in over 50 years so it will be in the limelight, we gotta do it right. Will bring good recognition to TDXS and FISTS ! and the Promotion of CW...old style.

Almost forgot, we will use computer for logging only.... We expect to have some rather nice straight keys donated to the DXPEDITION's use.

**Please contact Cal WF5W, DXpedition Chair, if you are interested.**

## TDXS Wishes Happy Birthday to the following members:

**March:** Al WB5CFI, David W5ZQR, Bob N5ET, Ed WB5TPW, Bill K5WAF, John K5IUA, Buzz N5UR, Ken KZ5KG, Ed AA8PA, John K5EC and Dave K5GN

**April:** Frank W5JWM, Earl K6SE, John W6KNC, Bob W5SJS, Bob N5RF, Orville K5VWW, Sam N5AF, Wayne NX7K, O.J. K1OJ and Frank KE4JY

# Team Malta Invades! Locals Toss Rose Petals! Two Alarm Chili Gets Hot Reception!

De Madison 9H3V

Wow! What a trip, and they said it would not be more than a ripple in the RF! Eight of us crossed the Atlantic to the middle of the Mediterranean and arrived in one of the oldest societies in continuous existence in the world in the middle of the afternoon, March 1, 2006. The Conventional Wisdom was that Malta [EU-023] was in everyone's log, but it would be a nice place to go because the weather was usually good in the early spring and everyone spoke English. We discovered that such was true, but we also discovered a lot of other good things, both before and during our trip.

The planning part went smoothly because of the abundance of information on the Internet and the help we received from our Hams On The Ground long prior to our departure from Houston. We were able to get the call signs we wanted because the Malta Ministry For Competitiveness and Communication [don'cha just love those names?!] issues them for visiting hams for a reasonable price and reissues them every three months. Of course, that makes for interesting QSLing, especially when the chosen call has been used more than once. We learned a little too late that our chosen CW call, 9H3V, had been used by a Dutch group with 10 or so members in 2003, and the fellow who had been issued that call then did not put any time limit on his QRZ listing. [We have been assured that if qsls go to that fellow that he will forward them to us, but we shall see . . .]

The trip itself was uneventful. We had taken pains to plan our equipment and equalize the baggage loads ahead of time, so each of us had golf bags and trunks weighing exactly 50# each piece, the airline limit. Our total equipment came to around 700 lbs, so we had enough but not-too-much stuff. We left Houston on time, went to London Gatwick on the overnight flight (except for Mike K5UO, who went via Paris), then hooked up with Air Malta for a three-hour hop to Valletta, Malta.

We were given a fine welcome at the airport by Maureen and Alan Wright, 9H1JN and 9H1AW, who themselves arrived there from Wales about 6 years ago. They explained how things worked locally and led us to the villa overlooking the Med, which we had rented for the week at a very attractive price. The society has been there so long that the roads go every which way through and around the many hills there, and it would have been impossible to navigate our way from the airport to the villa without their very able assistance. The villa itself was almost an ideal location for our operation, on a hill overlooking salt water with a clear takeoff from West to North to East, just north of the city of Mellehia. We were able to put up all our antennas the first night except for 80 and 160, and were on the air at 1845 hr GMT, 1 Mar 06. The first contact was on CW was ES5RNC with Cal WF5W at the key.

During our planning stage, I called Carl Smith N4AA, the editor of DX Magazine, to inquire about how rare 9H might be in everyone's logbook. Carl politely informed me that everyone, yes everyone, had 9H but that it should be a pleasant vacation spot. Well, Carl, you were right about the pleasant vacation spot but not so right, apparently, about the logbooks. The pileups were instantaneous, loud, and lasting on all bands and modes! To give an example, you could tune across a dead band, then take a stab at hand sending 9H3V on the paddles a time or two or three [that is NOT easy, even for you First Class Operators, and nearly impossible to do correctly the first time if you are member number 626 of the Second Class Operators Club.]

Continued next page...

## Team Malta Invades... continued

Once you give the “K,” there would be an instant pileup!<sup>\*</sup> It was usually the Russians, but they were all hanging around the bands waiting for us, any band, any hour of the day or night. Even with long periods off the air, once you signed on than any band that had even a promise of propagation, there were always takers!

We had picked the dates of our adventure to give us access to the ARRL DX SSB contest. Several of us already knew what fun that ought to be from our Mexican adventures at XE2FU/XA5T. We purchased an Ameritron ALS-600S, a lightweight amp/power supply combination that would fit into a small package. We also had a BiggIR vertical, a SteppIR beam, two Force 12 verticals and wire for 160. By the time the contest rolled around [at 0100 local Saturday morning] we thought we were well prepared. Unfortunately, someone packed Murphy in one of the equipment bags, and he did enough mischief that we did not have a strong presence at the start of the ‘test. By the time we realized that we were transmitting to our target market off the back of the beam, the first night had passed into daylight. We also did not remember that we, as a DX station, would be competing with a lot of Europeans who could [and did] run Big Guns. Our signal, even with the push from the amp, was simply not audible over the roar of the Guns where we were setting up shop. But we did finally figure out all the glitches and put up 918 contest Qs to happy customers in the US.

Even though we had given advance notice that we would have 160, we did not know exactly how we could rig an antenna until we got there. All the trees on Malta have long since been utilized to build ships, so we had to be resourceful. Because the property on which the villa was located sloped toward the ocean, we were able to string our dipole from the wall at the back of the villa to a flagpole on a boathouse at the water’s edge. At no point was any of the dipole over 15’ in the air, but it performed handsomely for us, to everyone’s surprise. We made a total of 228 on Top Band. Though most were in EU and AS, now some of The Deserving even have 160 in their logs including 5 from stateside.

During our week’s stay, we were able to visit the Malta Amateur Radio League’s headquarters, a building formerly used by the armed services there. The building housed an extensive collection of modern and antique radio equipment and was used daily by its members. The members gather for dinner three times a week, and graciously invited us to stay. While we were there, I used their radio to make a contact on SSB, and was so embarrassed by having done a Q by other than CW that I had to leave, so we all missed out on a fine meal.

As it turned out, the members of Team Malta were the folks blessed by the generosity of the radio community. We owe many thanks to TDXS, which sponsored us, and the other benefactors of our success, Maureen and Alan Wright, MARL, Timewave, Ameritron and all the others who made it possible. Thanks and Gud DX!!

<sup>2</sup> \* I am not making this up.

## From the TDXS Contest Chair

As your new contest chair it is my responsibility to foster contest participation in the club. I want to encourage contest participation because getting members engaged in club activities is good for the well being and health of TDXS. Also, I want to see TDXS rank high in club aggregate score listings for major contests. This would make people feel better about TDXS, and improve TDXS's visibility in the national and international ham community. It would be great if TDXS's reputation as a high powered DX contest club could open doors for us when asking vendors for door prizes or DXpedition help. TDXS decided to focus on the ARRL International DX SSB Contest, and 5 members submitted scores. I know that more were on the air. No matter how big or small your score please reports it.

For each contest you work, even if you just make a few Qs, please make sure that you report your results as follows.

- a) Send your log to the contest sponsor. With today's software, almost every logging program can output a Cabrillo formatted file quite easily. Then it is a simple matter to email it to the contest sponsor. Please be sure to indicate *Texas DX Society* as your club affiliation.
- b) Post you summary sheet, or at least your total score, to 3830.

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

You can browse the 3830 archives to view others scores

[http://lists.contesting.com/\\_3830/](http://lists.contesting.com/_3830/)

- c) Post you summary sheet, or at least your total score, to the TDXS reflector.

[tdxs-list@moonbounce.n5iq.org](mailto:tdxs-list@moonbounce.n5iq.org)

[Or, just cc the TDXS reflector when posting to 3830.]

Like they say "It doesn't count until the paper work is done." This is an important step to improving TDXS's visibility at the national and international levels.

The weather is getting warmer and the spring contest season is almost behind us. But, there are two important contests coming up. The CQ WPX CW Contest is May 27-28, and the IARU Contest is July 8-9. Mark your calendars for both.

Thinking ahead to the fall, TDXS is putting together a plan for a multi op contest from a members shack, for one of the big contests.

Please keep your contest reports coming in.

Thanks,  
Don, N5DD

## **WAE Awards** de Don N5DD

If you are active in the DXCC program, especially if you are chasing the 5B-DXCC or DXCC Challenge awards, you may already have earned points toward the WAE [Worked All Europe] award. WAE is the oldest and most renowned of all DARC [German Amateur Radio Club] certificates and is awarded for contacts with stations in European countries and islands on different bands. Awards may be earned at different levels, and are based on a combination of country count and band points.

**WAE Country List.** All QSOs for WAE must be on the WAE Country List. This is basically the European entities from the ARRL DXCC list, with notable exceptions listed in the table below. A total of 70 entities are on the WAE active list, and 7 are on the WAE deleted list. The complete WAE Country List can be found at <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/xed0wae.htm>

### **WAE – DXCC Exceptions**

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>4U1I</b>	<b>ITU Headquarters Geneva</b>
<b>4U1V</b>	<b>Vienna International Center</b>
<b>IT</b>	<b>Sicily</b>
<b>JW/b</b>	<b>Bear Island</b>
<b>GM/s</b>	<b>Shetland Islands</b>
<b>TA1</b>	<b>Turkey</b>

**Counts for WAE, but is just Switzerland for DXCC.**  
**Counts for WAE, but is also just Switzerland for DXCC**  
**Counts for WAE, but is just Italy for DXCC.**  
**Counts for WAE, but is part of Svalbard for DXCC**  
**Counts for WAE, but is part of Scotland for DXCC.**  
**Only the European part of Turkey counts for WAE, all of Turkey counts for DXCC.**

**Points.** Each confirmed QSO on the WAE County list counts one point per band. QSOs on 160 or 80 meters count 2 points each. There is a maximum of five bands per country. WARC band QSOs count, but you can only count up to a total of five bands per country.

**Awards.** WAE Awards are earned based on a combination of countries and band points. The ladder has four award levels, that may be earned in mixed mode, or for any specific mode. See the table below for the country and points requirements for each level.

<b>classes</b>	<b>countries</b>	<b>points</b>
<b>WAE III</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>WAE II</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>WAE I</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>WAE Top</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>300</b>

Newly revamped certificates are available for each level. The WAE-I level include a nice gold pin, and the WAE-Top level includes a nice plaque.

**QSLs.** When I received my award, cards had to be hand checked by the USA checkpoint in Mississippi, now simply a list of QSLs certified by a local radio club can be submitted..

**Fee.** Current fee for a WAE submission is approximately \$6.75.

For more information about WAE please see the DARC web site <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedd.htm>