



# The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net June 2008

## Field Day 2008 Final Planning

### Note Day and Location

This month we will have a dinner meeting at Goode Co. Barbeque on the Katy Freeway. The day will be Thursday June 19th. Dinner at 6PM and the meeting at 7PM. See The Prez Sez or the TDXS Web Site [www.tdxs.org](http://www.tdxs.org) for details

TDXS Field Day plans are coming together and are building on the information provided in last months Bull Sheet. The Spring Creek Park site continues to look ideal, equipment and antennas have been defined and the SSB (Buzz Jehle), CW (Wayne Rogers), GOTA (Doug Seyler), Solar (Bob

Mennell), VHF (Dave Topp) and Satellite (Glenn Anderson) Captains are all filling out station details, need lists and starting to recruit operators.

Plans are to place the CW station in Dave Topp's RV along with the VHF and possible the Solar Station. The SSB and GOTA stations will be in the Pavilion. Antenna's for CW will include a T8 log periodic yagi on the RV Tower for 10-20 meter coverage along with a "Chicken Wire" special for 80 & 160 meter and a 40 meter dipole. Antenna's for SSB will be the clubs 2 element Steppir

Yagi for 6-20 meters mounted on the trailer mounted tower, and separate 40, 80 and 160 dipoles. The GOTA station will use the clubs Alpha Delta DX-CC multiband dipole.



**Don't miss TDXS Field Day fun, June 27-29.**

Food is being coordinated by the XYL Captain, Trish Frink. Trish is getting donations from Sam's, Kroger's, among others to support our Field Day effort. (Go to Page 2)

### Inside this issue:

Field Day continued	2
DXpedition Chairman's Report	2
The Prez Sez	3-5
Short Takes	5
Editor's Note	5
A Tale of the Pearl Land Flea Market	6
Birthday's	7

## 21again.net is Up and Running

Jim, NN50, reports that there are now 30 members of the new 21again.net which meets at 0000Z on UTC Thursdays (7pm CDT Wednesdays) on 21.295 Mhz. The purpose of 21again.net is to generate and sustain interest in 15 Meters as the Solar Cycle slowly helps HF propa-

gation. Two ZLs, and an HI3 are on the list as well as several past presidents of TDXS: K5NA in Austin, N5LZ in Utah, W5MJ in Houston (soon Austin), N8SS in Michigan, N5ET in Houston, N5DC/7 (and W5XYL/7) in Sin City, as well as W5PF, K5UO, K5LBU and K5EWJ in

de Jim NN50

the Houston area. All with an interest in 15 Meters and propagation are more than welcome to attend. Questions/comments to Jim at [carmody-jim@yahoo.com](mailto:carmody-jim@yahoo.com). Assistant net control stations wanted.



## 2008 Field Day Plans (continued)

Plan to participate and mark you calendars:

June 27 (Friday) 1:00 pm -- Setup antennas and stations

June 28 (Saturday) 9:00 am -- Final assembly and checkout

11:30 am -- Lunch

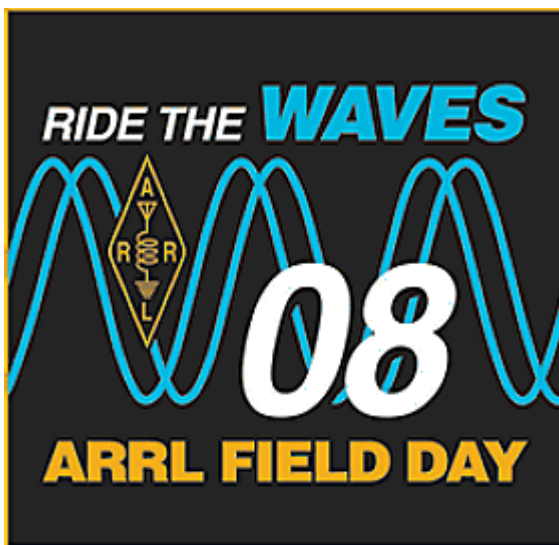
1:00 pm -- Begin Field Day Operation

5:00 pm -- BBQ @ site

10:00 pm -- Park gates close -- night operators must be on site

June 29 (Sunday) 7:00 am -- Park gates reopen

12:59 pm -- Field Day Operation ends



1:00 pm -- Field Day celebration luncheon

2:00 pm -- Tear Down

For a map and a layout of the Field Day Site at Spring Creek Park go to [www.tdxc.org/FD2008.html](http://www.tdxc.org/FD2008.html).

## DXpedition Chairman's Report for June de Cal WF5W

Letter sent to the Manager of the Midway Island Refuge requesting info as to how and when a team of radio operators could come to the island.

K5WAF, W5PF are tentatively slated for this trip, if it happens, there is room for at least two more operators.

I have also sent a letter to Hetty Pierce Louis in Dominica regarding rental of her ham property for four of our members later this year. (J73HPL) Members who want to go or not go please let me know soonest. there are four slots open. [www.hettyscottage.com](http://www.hettyscottage.com)

should show you the place and other data. The rental is \$60 per night with 7 day stay given for 6 days rent. that brings it to about \$52 bucks a night. Flights would be from here to Puerto Rico then on regional plane to Dominica.. It looks like a great place and with ease to do the Caribbean for ham radio. There is a radio and antennas available there, but four guys would probably want an additional radio and filters, (which the club has for use). W9DX and W5MJ have indicated interest for this trip, so at least two or three more can be in the planning....

W9DX came back from Dayton

with a new Magnetic Classic Begali Key for my shack. Pretty and smooth !!! and pricey.....

That's it for this month,

Cal WF5W



**Hetty's Cottage in Dominica**

# The Prez Sez de Steve W9DX

A lot of things happening in May and June with Dayton over, Ham-Com coming up next weekend and ARRL Field Day just around the corner! We had a great turnout for the May meeting's double-header program by Wayne Rogers W5KDJ showing us pictures from his November 2007 DXpedition to Mozambique as C91KDJ, and rocket scientist Tom Campbell KD5TIO showing us his work on the Fastrack satellite communication systems.

During the May meeting, the board also approved the granting of Honorary Membership



**While at Dayton Steve W9DX welcomes Nancy Kott WZ8C as a TDXS Honorary Member.**

status to Nancy Kott WZ8C and the members readily approved this action. Nancy is President of the FISTS organization, and editor of World Radio. She joined TDXS for some of our recent Dxpeditions at her expense, and has given the club excellent press with the publishing of articles in World Radio covering our trips. Cal White WF5W's recent article "Are You Smarter Than a 5<sup>th</sup> Grader?" which appears on our website is in the current issue of

World Radio being mailed now. Cal's article deals with antenna considerations and the limitations we all face in the golden years of our ham radio careers. He has received a number of very positive comments from readers across the country. Speaking of Honorary Members, some meeting attendees mentioned that we had other HM's in the past but their names do not appear on the membership list. The only other HM listed besides Nancy is Trey Garlough N5KO. Some names mentioned include Jim Smith VK9NS, and Father Moran 9N1MM. If anyone remembers when they were added or have a copy of an old Bullsheet mentioning this, let me know so I can update the records.

May was also a month of mourning for TDXS members and friends with the tragic death of Dennis Alexander W5KU's son. Dennis' daughter-in-law and grandchildren are in a real financial crisis with the loss of their breadwinner, so if you can help, please be generous. Linda Walworth KE5TF's mother also passed away last month. Our condolences also go out to Kent Marshall W5TXV whose wife passed away several days ago. Many of you know Kent from his membership in the Echo Society of Houston and his active participation in BPL watchdog projects in the Houston area. Our heartfelt sympathies to all the families.

Belated anniversary wishes to Jim N5DC & Evie Lane W5XYL who celebrated their 57<sup>th</sup> on May 25<sup>th</sup>. After reading about the Wal-

worth's anniversary last month, Jim wrote, "The Walworth's are still in the cradle!!!! :)"

Mid-May, I made my annual trek north to visit family and hook up with my 9-land buddies and caravan to Dayton together. In spite of rain showers and thunderstorms in the forecast, the weather held out, and the flea market did a brisk business. I didn't hear the final attendance numbers, but most felt the numbers were down somewhat with the high cost of fuel to get there. I didn't buy much other than some "must haves" for K5WAF and WF5W. Bill K5WAF is completing his move to the new house and getting ready to get his very first yagi and tower up and needed new magic boxes from Microham and Ameritron to complete his station set-up. After seeing Don N5DD's magnetic Begali key at a recent meeting, dedicated straight-



key man WF5W just had to have one! That's beautiful **Bruna Begali** (Piero's daughter) holding Cal's new magnetic classic. Other TDXS'ers spotted in Dayton included: KG5U,





## The Prez Sez (continued)

W5PR, W5BXX, N5RP, K5NZ, K7BV, and K5WQG.



**Dennis Motschenbacher**  
**K7BV** was busy working the crowds all weekend in the Yaesu booth.



No that's not Hugh Hefner of Playboy fame wearing the sexy bathrobe! It's **Eddy Reynolds** **K5WQG** sporting his Japanese kimono as he greets visitors in the Toyko High Power booth. Sure makes me want to buy one! The amp I mean, not the kimono! ARRL CEO Dave Sumner K1ZZ said his wife Linda KA1ZD was starting a 6 month work assignment in Houston.

If you hear Dave or Linda on our repeaters, be sure to say "hello" and welcome them to Houston!

For those of you who worked the recent Ducie Island DXpedition and are waiting on VP6DX cards, I have good news. During the Dayton DX dinner, Eric Scace K3NA said that QSL cards will be in the mail momentarily. Those requesting cards will receive a special QSL sized 36-page booklet with detailed information on the island and the DXpedition. This is a first! If you worked them, be sure to get your card in the mail so you can receive this special confirmation.

In other news, Tom Taormina K5RC reports that phase 3 of the K5LZO/N5JJ Memorial Super-Contest station in Virginia City is now complete with the addition of the rotating monopoles for 15m, 80 and 10m. See [http://www.consultpr.com/ham\\_radio/2008.htm](http://www.consultpr.com/ham_radio/2008.htm) for pictures. Wow! Makes our little tower projects seem pretty insignificant!

Frosty K5LBU also reports that he's had a cancellation for his July 16-31<sup>st</sup> trip to Mozambique. This trip includes 6 days of sightseeing in Kruger National Park and lots of multi-mode operating time in C9. If you're interested in going, give Frosty a call or e-mail. See [www.tdxx.net/C9.html](http://www.tdxx.net/C9.html) for more information.

TDXS VP & DXpedition Chairman, Cal White WF5W has identified a promising location in J7 for a group trip to the Caribbean this fall. Details have yet to be worked

out, but it looks like antennas are already in place. With all the new airline baggage restrictions, this looks like the way to go. If you're interested in participating, contact Cal for more details.

Bullsheet Editor and VP of Membership, Paul W5PF reports that we will now be using MS Publisher 2007 to edit the club's newsletter. This should make life easier with ready to use templates and improved graphics. We always need more articles each month so send your ideas and columns to Paul.

Due to the number of TDXS members attending Ham-Com in Plano this coming weekend, we are pushing our June meeting back to Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup>. You will have two opportunities to get meeting credit this month, once for the regular meeting, and once for Field Day participation. This will be a dinner meeting at Goode Company BBQ at 8911 Katy Freeway. Start gathering for dinner around 6PM with the meeting starting at 7PM. FD Chairman Bill K5WAF, and Assistant Chairman Bob WB5IUU will be discussing our Field Day plans along with station captains: Buzz N5UR - SSB Captain, Wayne W5KDJ - CW Captain, Glenn WB5TUF - Satellite Captain, Bob WB5IUU - Solar Captain, Dave W5BXX - VHF Captain, and Doug WB5TKI - GOTA Captain. We need more volunteers and participants! We need help with set-up and tear-down, and have lots of good operating slots still open. We will be operating from Spring Creek Park, just northwest of Tomball. Compared to some of our previous

## The Prez Sez (concluded)

FD locations, this one is fairly close-in for everyone. For maps and directions see:

[www.tdxs.net/FD2008.html](http://www.tdxs.net/FD2008.html). Even if you have a few hours to commit, please join the fun! We will have a covered pavilion, and air conditioned motor home (compliments of W5BXX). Bring lots of water and Gator-Aid, cool clothes, sun screen, gloves, hats and tools (mark your

tools). The facilities have rest-rooms, showers, and lots of shaded pavilion areas next to the operating locations. Trish Frink and some of the XYLS are also putting together a BBQ to feed the masses, so make your plans to attend! Let's see if we can set another FD record! See you there!

Steve - W9DX



## From the TDXS Archives:

Ten years ago this month, TDXS was busy making plans for FD at Bob Burns' (W5SJS) ranch in Brenham. Buzz N5UR and crew were back from their activation of new IOTA NA-209 in Nicaragua in spite of equipment problems and heavy rains.

## TDXSers in Print

The June 2008 edition of CQ Magazine contains a listing of the results for the year long CQ Magazine DX Marathon for 2007. Cookie K5EWJ placed well in the Unlimited class with 206 countries and 38 zones worked. Way to go Cookie.

## The Editor's Notes

Hopefully you have noticed the changes in this month's Bullsheet. I have acquired Microsoft Publisher 2007 and this is my first attempt at using it. I hope to make improvements in the appearance of the Bullsheet, it handles photos much better than the previous program. It will also import text documents from current programs, something I couldn't do before.

I would also like to improve the content and for that I ask your

help. The Prez Sez column in this issue is a good example of the type of articles I would like to get. Steve sent photos to go with the text. He also sent the photo that is on the front page, I don't know what he had to do to get it, but way to go Steve!

I would like to encourage you submit articles such as Dale's account of an interesting ham radio experience he had. I would also like to receive reports from officers and board members such as

the one from Cal.

I had tremendous input this month and I hope you agree that this is one of the better issues of the Bullsheet. I have more plans but I would really like to hear your ideas on improvements. This is the TDXS Bullsheet, the more participation we get, the better it can be.

de Paul W5PF

Bullsheet Editor

## Pandemonium at the Pearland ARC Flea Market de Dale Martin, KG5U

A couple of months ago, the widow of WA5PLK, a long-time Johnson Space Center ARC member who passed away last year, called me and said she and her kids had found a bunch of his old radio equipment in the garage of their house. She asked if the club would have any interest in it. I told her we'd take it off her hands and see what we could do with it.

When I got the boxes of stuff home, I found that a lot was junk: Old, beat up CB radios (8 or 10 of 'em), tubed IF plug-in modules (to what???), an old IC-230 2m radio, an old TR-33C 2m radio, a Radio Shack Scanner, an old frequency counter, a capacitance substitution box, a signal tracer, a couple of whip antennas (1 1/2m and 2m), a Vic-20 computer with AEA plug-in module, a couple of Kenwood SP-series speakers, a homebrew 5-band transmitter, a couple of aluminum chassis/boxes with partially completed circuitry, a Heathkit 75m SSB Transceiver & Power Supply, a Heathkit station monitor (only the SWR

circuitry inside was wired up. But the manual was inside the case, too), a bag of old CB microphones, old tubes, a bag of coils and coil forms, and more.

Two weekends ago, Pearland ARS held their flea market out on one of the parking lots of Pearland High School. Friday night, I put up everything in cardboard boxes and loaded it all in the back of my SUV. Saturday morning, I drove over to PHS and pulled into a parking slot.

I opened up the back of the SUV and began placing a couple of empty cardboard boxes out upsidedown to serve as 'tables' for some of the stuff. I then started putting out stuff on the boxes. I heard a noise behind me and there were two guys digging through the boxes still inside the SUV asking what else I had.

For about 30 minutes, it was near pandemonium. I had guys holding up something and asking 'how much you

want for this?' or 'I'll give you X dollars for this'. I got there about 8 am. I left there about 9:45am. I left PHS with four items left over: the two 2m radios, the RS scanner, and the frequency counter. Oh, yeah, I also left with \$280. What an experience.

These plans never had a chance to materialize:

1. Park such that the back of the SUV is pointing away from the sun. My fault: I drove right into the first available slot -- back end to the sun.

2. Leisurely and carefully put labels with prices on all the equipment...something I was going to do when I got parked and started putting stuff out.

Yeah, right. I should have done it at home. It was a wasted \$5 (Felt Tip Pens and Labels). If I'd been a smarter and quicker thinker, I probably could have sold the pens and labels, too.

## Texas DX Society Boardmembers

President	Steve Smothers, W9DX	<b>cougar70 at earthlink.net</b>	
VP Membership	Paul Frantz, W5PF	<b>w5pf at cebridge.net</b>	
VP Programs	Cal White, WF5W	<b>cwhite314 at sbcglobal.net</b>	
Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Frink, K5WAF		
Contest Chairman	Don Daze, N5DD		
Field Day Chairman	Bill Frink, K5WAF		
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	<b>wb5tuf at earthlink.net</b>	<b>832-595-2855</b>
DXpedition Chairman	Cal White, WF5W	<b>cwhite314 at sbcglobal.net</b>	
Outgoing QSL Manager	Buzz Jehle, N5UR		
Webmaster	Steve Smothers, W9DX	<b>cougar70 at earthlink.net</b>	
Bullshead Editor	Paul Frantz, W5PF	<b>w5pf at cebridge.net</b>	<b>936-449-4873</b>
DXCC QSL Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	<b>rwalworth at charter.net</b>	

### 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)

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 June

Alex Stalinsky - WA5UHT

Al Loeckle - K5FK

Dave Topp - W5BXX

Grady Ferguson - W5FU

Don Busick - K5AAD

Bob Evans - K5WA

Glenn Anderson - WB5TUF

Joe Brassfield - N5AQT

Madison Jones - W5MJ

Paul Frantz - W5PF

Kirby van Horn - K7EC

William Goins - WB5YJX

Paul Jaeger - KY5A

Cal White - WF5W

Larry Vehorn - W9AJ

Mike Anderson - N5MV

Bill Stein - WB5SJS

Steve Smothers - W9DX

Wes Spence - AC5K