



# The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net March 2009

## Texas DX Society's 5K0CW San Andres Island DXpedition

*March 12 Thursday, 7PM:*

*TDXS Meeting Night:* [Tracy Gee Center](#), 3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston.

The March TDXS meeting will feature a program by Cal WF5W and Mike K5UO on their recent DXpedition operation as 5K0CW on San Andres Island, Colombia.

You can find all the details of this DXpedition [here](#) on the TDXS website.



### Editor's Note de Doug WB5TKI

This has been an interesting weekend with the Greater Houston Hamfest and the ARRL International DX SSB contest. I didn't work much in the contest, unfortunately, due to the crush of honey-dos that come to fruition about this time of year.

I did attend the Hamfest and had a great time. A bunch of TDXSers showed up to help set up and support an HF station there. We had a 2 element SteppIr and Frosty's rig and amp. There was a lot of interest from the attendees and we were able, with very minimal effort, to

log 23 QSOs in 22 countries for a total of 1,518 points. More importantly, several hams made their first DX contact there, and at least one had his first HF contact. It was great to see their excitement at these achievements.

We just had the change to daylight savings time this past weekend, and it sure helps people like me who have a lengthy commute and have ham radio in the car. Prior to this weekend, 20 m. was starting to shut down about the time that I climbed into my car to drive home. Now it is open and active and the

commute is a lot more fun.

By the way, I hope that you responded to the plea for calls and faxes to the Texas House Transportation Committee concerning opposition to the "Cellphone While Driving" bills now up for consideration. The current wording would prohibit the operation of ham radio equipment from a vehicle. In fact, if it became law as is, it would make ANY 2-way radio user illegal, NOT just hams.....taxi cabs, public safety and industrial as well as utility companies!

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## The Prez Sez de Paul W5PF

February and March are busy months. Plenty of contests and some good DXpeditions have been on despite the lack of sunspots. This last weekend saw the Greater Houston Hamfest as well as the Buffalo Bayou Regatta and the ARRL DX Phone contest.

On the subject of contesting, I would like to thank Cookie, K5EWJ, for accepting the position of Contest Chairman. I'm sure you have noticed that Cookie has posted a lot of contest scores over the last year. Recently he has put notices on the reflector urging our participation in upcoming contests. There has been an increase of score posting on the reflector as WB5TUF and others have been active. Get on and work what you can in the contests and turn in your scores for TDXS.

The March QST How's DX column featured W3UR's review of notable DX in 2008. The TDXS San Andres 5J0E DXpedition was mentioned as well as K5LBU's DX Safari to C9 in July. It was interesting to look back at how much DX activity there was in 2008. Take a look and see how much of it you worked.

I was unable to attend the Greater Houston Hamfest because of my annual commitment to the Buffalo Bayou Regatta. According to the reports I have received the event went well. The TDXS sponsored HF station was very suc-

cessful. There was a lot of activity including some in the ARRL DX Phone contest as K5DX. I understand that several hams who had never been on HF made their first DX contacts and may have been bitten by the bug. Many thanks to WF5W for taking his tower trailer and antennas and to K5LBU for providing the radio and amplifier. Cal says he had a lot of help for setup and tear down. I don't have a complete list of those who helped but I know there were a large number of TDXSers there. Thanks to all who helped make the station a success.

Preparations continue for the upcoming C9 trip by WF5W, N4AL, KG5U, K5WAF, W5MJ and W5PF. We will use the call C91TX for the entire DXpedition. We are planning to have 3 stations on the air when band conditions allow. We will be on all three modes. All stations will run about 500 watts so all we need is some cooperation from the sun spot gods. If you know where the Palos Verdes Sundancers have gone, ask them to do an encore performance. It looks like the best times for Houston to work us will be 1400-1600 UTC on 17 meters and around the C9 sunrise at about 0400 UTC on 80/40 meters. We will be looking this way at those times. See the TDXS web site for more information.

The regular meeting will be Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> at the

Tracy Gee Center. This month's meeting program will be a recap of January's 5K0CW trip by WF5W and K5UO. If QSL cards are received from the printer in time we will have them at the meeting. The pre meeting dinner will be at the usual spot, Pappas' BBQ at Gessner and Westheimer. Check [www.tdxs.net](http://www.tdxs.net) for details.

That's it for this month, 73 es  
Gud DX W5PF

## VP Programs Report de Cal WF5W

Ladies/Gents, we need some help with programs, if any of you have ideas or friends that are interesting

and want to share their interests, let me know. sometimes its hard to please our crowd with the same old

stuff. Let me hear from you.

## Upcoming Contests and Operating Events:

Mar 7, 0000Z - Mar 8, 2400Z: [ARRL International DX Contest - SSB](#)

March 25 - April 5,: [TDXS DXpedition to C9 - Mozambique](#)

March 28, 0000Z - March 29, 2259Z: [COWW WPX SSB Contest](#)

**Late Breaking News:** Wayne W5KDJ reports that his upcoming trip to 5R8 (Madagascar) is on hold due to political unrest. He talked with 5R8FU and discovered that the current government is under attack and there is widespread looting going on. They expect things to get back to normal in a few weeks, so stay tuned.

## Repeater Report de Glenn WB4TUF

The DX Cluster is operating normally on telnet. In addition the antennas

and feed lines were installed this month at my office in the Woodlands.

This has restored packet, IRLP, and Igor.

## C91 Calling... by Madison W5MJ

Very soon Team Mozambique will be on the air, all modes and codes including digital! The TDXS guys, Paul W5PF, Jim N4AL, Dale KG5U, Cal WF5W, Bill K5WAF, and Madison W5MJ are departing for Africa on 23-24 March. After arriving from various locations like Amsterdam, Dubai and Newark in order to confuse everyone, including themselves, the team will assemble in Johannesburg, South Africa and travel by bus through Crocodile Gate to the C91TX secret site [though you can see the exact location (25 17' S, 33 14 E, but don't tell because it is

possibly a secret hideout!! Then again, maybe not . . .) if you go on Google Earth or a really big map]. With wire for the low bands and aluminum for everything else, you should be able to pick signals up on 17 and 20 MHz from about 10 am CDT and on 40/80 at sunset CDT. Your mileage may vary, however, so check DX Summit or DX Watch for more accurate information as it unfolds.

Team Mozambique will have a couple of amplifiers to help get the sig-

nals out, and various rigs and antennas to decipher everything. C91TX will have operators standing by for your calls for WPX Phone, but will have a few hard core CW ops on at all times if the signals won't interfere with the contest. The guys say they will be listening for Texas over the din of EU and Russia. From past experience they know that for unknown reasons there are a lot of east European ops who like to dupe many times, often within a few minutes, so keep trying!



# The Greater Houston Hamfest 2009 photos courtesy Doug WB5TKI

Here are some pictures from the 2009 Greater Houston Hamfest. TDXS had a very good turnout of members and a lot of interest from the attendees. I even had a fellow ask to take a picture of me with his wife since I was a TDXS member. One cannot over-emphasize the importance of having a presence at these events. I sat with one fellow who did not yet have a license, and he was intrigued that we were talking to places like Poland and Serbia right there in front of him!



Bob WB5IUU being a real "ham"



Bill K5WAF trying to hear the DX over the PA system



Frosty K5LBU showing Cal WF5W how to adjust the amplifier while Scott K5DD looks for more help



Lots of vendors and lookers



Bob WB5IUU and Cal WF5W breaking the pileups

## Texas DX Society Boardmembers

<b>President</b>	<b>Paul Frantz, W5PF</b>	<b>w5pf at cebridge.net</b>	
<b>VP Membership</b>	<b>Bob Mennell, WB5IUU</b>	<b>bmennell at consolidated.net</b>	
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<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	<b>Bill Frink, K5WAF</b>	<b>WAFrink at msn.com</b>	
<b>Contest Chairman</b>	<b>Willis "Cookie" Cooke K5EWJ</b>	<b>wrcooke at flash.net</b>	
<b>Field Day Chairmen</b>	<b>Bill Frink, K5WAF</b>	<b>WAFrink at msn.com</b>	
	<b>Keith Dutson, NM5G</b>	<b>kdutson at sbcglobal.net</b>	
	<b>Bob Mennell, WB5IUU</b>	<b>bmennell at consolidated.net</b>	
<b>Repeater Chairman</b>	<b>Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF</b>	<b>wb5tuf at earthlink.net</b>	<b>832-595-2855</b>
<b>DXpedition Chairman</b>	<b>Cal White, WF5W</b>	<b>cwhite314 at sbcglobal.net</b>	
<b>Outgoing QSL Manager</b>	<b>Scott Patout, K5DD</b>	<b>K5DD at arrl.net</b>	
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### How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxs.net> email address: [k5dx@tdxs.net](mailto: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 March

Al Bayer - WB5CFI  
 David Bean - W5ZQR  
 Bob Walworth - N5ET  
 Ed Seeger - K5EBS  
 Bill Frink - K5WAF  
 John Godwin - K5IUA

Buzz Jehle - N5UR  
 Ken Grabenstein - KZ5KG  
 Ed Sikorski - AA8PA  
 John Bonica - K5EC  
 Dave McCarty - K5GN



## From the TDXS Archives: Remembering Jim Smith VK9NS

It was with great sadness that DXers around the world learned of Jim Smith's passing on February 10th. Jim passed away after a brief illness. He was 80 years old. Jim was an avid DXer having worked them all for phone and mixed mode DXCC, and only lacked one for CW. He was responsible for many TDXSers working new ones on his many DXpeditions, especially Heard Island. According to the ARRL web article, some of the callsigns used by Jim included: CAR (VU4 Nicobar), VS1BQ, DL2TH, HZ1AB, MP4BER, 9V1PR, P29JS, VR4BJ, H44BJ, G3HSR, C21AA, T3KJ, T3AJ, VK9YS, VK9XS, VK9NS, VK0JS/VK9N, 9M8JS, VK0JS, ZL0AAB, ZM7JS, ZL1BUN, T30JS, T1JS, T32JS, T33JS, A35MR, A51JS, S21U, WR1Z, WR1Z/KH9, S21ZA, VK9WW, A35MR/p, A51MOC, VU2JBS, NO1Z/KH1, VK9WW, WR1Z/KH8, H40AB and A52JS. As founder of the Heard Island DX Association, Jim could be heard every Saturday night on 14.222 for many years.

In 1990, Jim visited Houston on his way to the Hamcom convention and was the house guest of Jim N5DC and Evie Lane W5XYL. N5DC said, "I was contacted by Greg Clark, KO9Y/5 from the Lone Star DX Association, and asked if we (TDXS) could support a visit from Jim Smith, VK9NS. We said absolutely (ed). Jim arrived on United flight 973 on October 10, 1990. He stayed only overnight, with Evie and I, and departed the next morning for Dallas for the Convention. He returned to Houston on October 8th to spend some time with the gang in Houston." It was at that time that Jim Smith became an honorary member of TDXS. He was a true gentleman with DX running through his veins, and few could handle a pile-up as well as Jim. He will certainly be missed. (photos courtesy N5DC)

Steve - W9DX



(l-r): Jim Smith VK9NS and Jim Lane N5DC



(l-r): TDXS President Kenny KE5IV (now KZ5KG), Bob N5ET, Jim VK9NS, Mike N5MT & Margie, Mike N5MV (back)



(l-r): Jim VK9NS, Kenny KZ5KG, Bob N5ET, & Don N5DM



(l-r): Jim VK9NS, Rich Keller K5WA (SK), & Don Mayhall N5DM

## From the TDXS Archives: Remembering Jim Smith VK9NS—continued



**VK9NS speaking with Max Busick W5GJ (SK) with Don K5AAD in background.**



**VK9NS with Dale KG5U. What's in the envelope Dale?**