



The Bullsheet

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

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

Lesotho Calling!

Thursday Sept. 10, 7:00 PM

TDXS Meeting Night:

Tracy Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston. Pre-meeting dinner get-together starts around 5:30/6PM at Pappas BBQ on S. Gessner & Westheimer.

The program will feature Laurent W0MM (7P8MM) and Frosty K5LBU (7P8CF) describing their recent DXpedition to Lesotho.

Don't miss it!



Editor's Note de Doug WB5TKI

As I write this I am admiring my new Begali Camelback key. I figured that after 45 years the J-38 needed a rest. I guess that I have no excuses now for not making the SKN free-for-alls.



I have a coworker (a non-ham) who has been interested in old-time radio for a while, strictly

tube-type (he also collects manual typewriters). He has built regenerative receivers and gotten an old tube-type grid dip meter to work. When he found out that I am a ham we talked radios and antennas, and he started getting interested in ham radio. The upshot of this is that he is now about ready to take his Technician class license test. As I'm sure many of you know, it is exciting to be an Elmer and see the interest blossom.

Ed Gerber W5GCX has sent me a number of links to interesting articles about the current solar situation. Check out http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/03sep_suns_pots.htm, and <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/01/15/sunspot-lapse-exceeds-95-of-normal/>. Thanks, Ed.

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The Prez Sez de Paul W5PF

September is here already, school is back in session and there are definite signs that fall is around the corner. Last year our September meeting was canceled because of Hurricane Ike, this year we are fortunate that so far the tropics have been very quiet. I'm sure we have all learned lessons and will be better prepared the next time we have a hurricane.

The approaching winter season should also bring improving low band conditions. Time to get those 80 and 160 meter antennas tuned up and to string those beverages if you are fortunate enough to have room for them. We are almost a year into the new Solar Cycle and the sunspot machine is still having trouble getting started. Maybe we'll have another good year on the low bands.

The contest season is at hand so it's time to get on the air and participate in some of the activities even if it is only to work some new band or mode countries. When you operate please post your scores to our reflector and of course turn them in for TDXS. September 26 and 27 will see the 2009 edition of the Texas QSO Party. Several operators are planning their efforts and will be active. Join in no matter how limited your operating time may be. Any activity will help to make the TQP one of the premier state qso parties.

I will be out of town this Thursday so I will leave the meeting in the capable hands of Cal WF5W. The program will be by Frosty K5LBU and Laurent W0MM. They will present their recent DXpedition to 7P8. Conditions were poor but several mem-

bers worked them. They gave me Lesotho on a couple new bands and RTTY. It will be interesting to see what it was like on the other end. The meeting will start at 7:00PM at the Tracy Gee Center. The pre meeting dinner will be at the usual Pappas' BBQ located at Gessner and Westheimer. As always details and directions are on the web site www.tdxs.org.

Glenn WB5TUF our Repeater Chairman has added Echolink capabilities to our 442.00 MHz repeater. Details on how to use Echolink are on our web site. Check it out. I have heard a couple people try to stir up some activity but have been unable to make the repeater while mobiling in Montgomery County. It would be good to hear some of our expatriate members check in on the Echolink connection, but there has to be someone on this end also. Monitor the 442 machine and say hello if you hear someone.

Steve W9DX is spearheading the planning of activities to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of TDXS next year. Steve is working on a questionnaire to generate ideas of possible activities. Please give him your input. This could be an opportunity for newer members to meet older members and hear about the club's history first hand.

TDXS has changed significantly over the years. Many early members have moved away or have become interested in other things. It has been increasingly difficult to maintain an active membership for several reasons. Changing demographics of the ham population, we are all

getting older, and a decline in the number of new hams entering the hobby are two of the major reasons. I hope that the anniversary activities provide an opportunity to develop some ideas to increase members' participation and attract new members.

73, Paul W5PF

From the Bullsheet Archives by Steve W9DX

Ten years ago this month: TDXS President Earl Morse N5TU (now K8SS) was starting to beat the drum for the fall contest season, and encouraging all casual operators to get on, even if for only a few hours, and credit their scores for the club aggregate totals. Dale Martin KG5U, reported that TDXS placed 8th in the ARRL 10m contest, with K5DX placing 2nd (SSB-LP), KG5U 3rd place (Mixed-QRP), K5KG 10th (Mixed-HP). Overall club participation was great with K5IUA, N5DU, N5RP, K5LZO, K5NZ, N5ZK (W5ASP, opr), N5TU, K5DX, N5AF, NN5O, KZ5MM, K5LBU, K5XI, K5NA, K5DU and N5MT reporting scores. Buzz N5UR reported the latest DX news and goings on during the New Orleans International DX Convention where Buzz gave a presentation on IOTA. Madison Jones W5MJ and XYL Millie KC5UTP gave a comprehensive restaurant review of New Orleans eateries during their stay at the convention. Jim Lane N5DC gave us an update of work on the club's DX packet system.

Twenty years ago this month: TDXS President Kenny Grabenstein KE5IV (now KZ5KG), reported that the "GO List" database was now online for the club's DX packet cluster. Call for officer nominations for 1990 to be submitted to club secretary Linda

Walworth KE5TF. Talks started regarding TDXS participation in the Houston Ham-Convention with special emphasis on the TDXS hospitality suite, contest and DX forums, and prize to be raffled. Dennis Moschenbacher KZ5M (now K7BV) was preparing to move out of the area, and gave an extensive list of goodies for sale. Dave McCarty K5GN wrote an article extolling the benefits of CQWW contest participation to the serious DXer and the ability to work many rare countries.

Thirty years ago this month: Clarence Sharp K5DX was TDXS President. In the September/October 1979 Bullsheet, Editor Tom Taormina K5RC was making last minute preparations for the club's participation in the ARRL West Gulf Division Convention. Tom opened the forums as moderator and introduced guests as well as giving the forum on the CQWW Contest Committee Report. The TDXS hospitality suite was to feature a display of member QSL cards from all the current DXCC entities and most of the deleted countries since WWII and a continuously running slide show of TDXS members' DXpeditions and world travels. Tom was also pleased to report that TDXS placed FIRST in the 1979 ARRL Field Day 3A class with condolences to 2nd place winner North

Texas Contesters. The Great TDXS DX Competition was drawing to a close and records were to be submitted to Richard King K5NA for compilation and awards preparation. The TDXS Tuesday night 2m net at 8PM was deemed a great success with emcee duties passing from Ron Amox K5EJO to Fred Pevoto K5FP. Contest Chairman was Rich Keller K5WA. Three teams of Sweepstakes members were drawn by draft with team captains and members as follows: Team #1 Captain K5WA and the "Wise Acres" - K5WA, K5GA, K5LZO, K5ZD, K5NU, K5GB, K5KG, K5GN, K5SOR, AD5W, N5JJ, W5JWM, WB5LVL, WB5CFI, K5CNN, W5VUM & K5YCP. Team #2 Captain N5DU and the "Dirty Underwears", N5DU, WB5USV, K5VWW, W5DOZ, W5HNS, AC5K, K5JS, WA5UHT, K5DX, WB5IGX, N5RF, N5AF, N5RO, N5AM, K5DEG, WB5GJD, & W5ZQR. Team #3 Captain KA5CHW and the "Wimps", KA5CHW, K5RC, K5FP, K5NA, K5TU, N5WW, K5BZU, WB5YJX, K5TP, AA5Y, WD5CHY, K5MA, N5ZR, W5SJS, K5PFE, WB5TMN, & W5RRX. Call for officer nominations for 1980.

Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie Cooke, K5EWJ

The results for the ARRL DX Phone were published in the September 2009 issue of QST. We did not have a lot of participation in this one with only two members turning in logs. AL, N5XZ participated as single operator, all band and scored 120,558 and Chuck, W5PR participated as single operator, 10 meters and scored 9,867. I was not able to par-

ticipate this year since my XYL, WB5NVH was released from the Texas City Mainland Hospital on Friday and my mother was the hospital in Ft. Smith, AR.

The Ten-Ten Summer Phone QSO party was held August 1 and 2. The Houston SHOT chapter had 13 entrants who submitted logs and was the highest scoring chapter in the

world with 2775 points. Individually TDXS/SHOT members K5EWJ scored 558 for 8th place and N5MT scored 539 for 9th place. SHOT member WS5H, Bill Stone scored 343. Ten-Ten International sponsors several interesting contests each year. Several members of TDXS are also members of Ten-Ten and the Houston SHOT chapter.

Some upcoming contests are:	
Sept 12-14	ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party Sept 12, 1800Z to Sept 14, 0300Z
Sept 13	SKCC Week End Sprintathon
Sept 26-27	Texas QSO Party http://txqp.net
Sept 26,	1400Z to 0200Z (27) and Sept 27 1400Z to 2000Z
Oct 10	Ten-Ten Day Sprint
Oct 11	SKCC Week End Sprintathon
Oct 24-25	CQ WW DX (Phone)
Oct 24-25	Ten-Ten Fall CW & Digital
Nov 7-8	ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)
Nov 21-22	ARRL Sweepstakes (Phone)
Nov 28-29	CQ WW DX (CW)
Dec 4-6	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
Dec 12-13	ARRL 10 Meter Contest

A good resource for contest information is the ARRL Contest Update, released by email each week. The subscription is free for ARRL members and you can sign up at www.ARRL.org/contests/update. Another good resource is the National Contest Journal, a magazine published by ARRL six times per year. The cost is \$20 per year by regular magazine post or \$28 per year by First Class Mail. Subscribe at www.ARRL.org/NCJ.

www.RadioSport.net reports that the CQ Contest Committee has been taking a close look at some of the high scores in the CQ WW Contests. They have removed a few offenders from

the results list and are considering paying visits to some of the suspect stations. They suspect some of the winners of using more than one operator when submitting the score as single operator and of using DX clusters when entering as un-assisted. Certainly, we all want a level playing field with no cheating and I applaud the Contest Committee for enforcing the rules. You can get more details on this subject and many others from the above URL. You can also get an email feed of periodic contest related bulletins.

I am certainly looking forward to the fall CQ WW DX Contests. I hope that the Hurricane Gods will leave us

alone this year so we can have some DX fun. Most of us missed a lot or all of last year's activities with broken antennas.

Don't forget the Texas QSO Party this month on Sept 26-27. This is an annual fun event for those in Texas and those who would like to work all our 256 counties. Every year we try to activate as many counties as possible and usually come really close to making it. This is another contest that I had to forego because of Ike last year. Chuck, NO5W made a really interesting presentation at last month's meeting.

TDXS August Meeting Notes by Bill K5WAF

Date: August 13, 2009
7:00-9:00pm

Location: Tracy Gee Center,
3599 Westcenter
Drive, Houston, TX
77042

Attendance: TDXS Members:
K5WAF, K5UO,
N5MT, W5GCX,
NI5DX, WF5W,
W9DX, K5EWJ,
N4AL, N5ET, W5PF,
N5UR, WB5TKI,
N5KTN, WD5KCX,
K5DD, W5KDJ

Visitors: NO5W

- **DX Chairman:** 5R8KD returned safely (presentation to-night); Lesotho DXpedition wrapped up and on the way home; W5KDJ looking to go to Paraguay next month; some interest (by W5MJ) in Laos

- **Treasurer:** No report

- **Membership:** Bob Mennell, VP Membership, is on vacation – no report

- **Other Business:**

- **TDXS 40th Anniversary in 2010**

- ✦ Steve Smothers to lead the organizing effort

- ✦ General interest expressed

- ✦ Requests: Any old pictures, accomplishments, DXpedition info, Bull Sheets, etc – please provide to Steve Smothers

- ✦ Ideas: include (1) a Dinner,

(2) Special Event Station, (3) TDXS Contest, (4) Event/Recognition @ 2010 Ham-Venture and/or HamCom

- ✦ **Web Master:** The DXCC standings have been updated on the TDXS Webpage – there is an entry for 5BDXCC but it can be modified to show the number of bands you have DXCC confirmed – eg 8BDXCC, etc. Please let Steve Smothers know how many bands should be noted.

- **Constitutional Changes:** The first reading on 3 proposed Constitutional changes was read by TDXS President, Paul Frantz. Briefly these were:

(1) Full Membership Requirement -- modified and empower the Board to waiver in the 4 meeting requirement for Full membership for a member who is actively and substantially supporting TDXS and petitions the Board for such a waiver on an annual basis. The idea here is that we want members who are active with the club but at the same time understand that there are circumstances where fulfilling the 4 meeting requirement is not possible. Waivers again are on a case by case basis and only for the one year at a time.

(2) Appointed Officers:
Add QSL Manager as a

Board Position. As we have discussed occasionally at our meetings, the QSL forwarding service provided by TDXS via the QSL Manager consumes a significant portion of our annual budget and is a valued service by our members. I therefore seems to the current Board that the position of the QSL Manger should be on the Board.

(3) Election of Officers: Modify Election Procedure for when there is only 1 candidate. In the last couple of years, we have only had 1 candidate per position and in effect have been electing them by acclamation. This modification is to bring the Constitution up to date with recent practices.

- **5R8KD DXpedition:** A presentation was made by Wayne Roger, W5KDJ, on his recent DXpedition to Madagascar.

- **Texas QSO Party and Related Contest Software:** A presentation was made by Chuck Sanders, NO5W, on the upcoming TQP on Sept 26-27, 2009 (see <http://txqp.net/>) and the special GPS enabled software especially designed for mobile operation, CQ/X (see <http://www.no5w.com/>)

From the DX Chair de Cal WF5W

Frosty and Laurent back from the big one in Africa. Buzz, Keith, Eddy, and Bob getting ready for the Caribbean later this year.

Some talk by a few others..... of the Faeroes, Laos, and Rotuma. Will see what bubbles up on those....

Every body who worked the 70

years ago and can't find their card should email Gus DJ3XD. He is the keeper of the records and will respond quickly if you have a date, time, even if you're off some (as I was).

Bands are starting to open up on 15, 10, started to get some good openings to DXpeditions in Africa, besides our travel-

ers.

Your DX guy will have lunch in Croatia this month with the 9A guys in Dubrovnik. More on that later...

That's it from here.

From the VP Programs de Cal WF5W

The captains of the Sea Pumpkin held their annual barbeque at Cap't Bill's House (K5WAF) on Saturday the 29th. Of course three of the crew are TDXSers and TDXS business was discussed as well as a 2nd Wedding held for one of our other Capt's. Steve married his bride on the 8th in Houston, but had to be confirmed by the crew with the appropriate questioning. She was unanimously approved with an appropriate certificate given... !!

Other news.....No rain, but some winds kept the tower down to about 40 feet for most of the month.

Program wise: Frosty and

Laurent will do the honors at the coming meeting in September (maybe even hand out some cards....) Frosty says he is now looking at pics to see which may be appropriate to show this audience without any embarrassment (hi).

October Brings our resident camera pro, Dale , KG5U, doing a program that will enhance everybody's ability to make good digi pics.

Texas DX Society Boardmembers

President	Paul Frantz, W5PF	w5pf at cebridge.net	
VP Membership	Bob Mennell, WB5IUU	bmennell at consolidated.net	
VP Programs	Cal White, WF5W	cwhite314 at sbcglobal.net	
Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Frink, K5WAF	WAFrink at msn.com	
Contest Chairman	Willis "Cookie" Cooke K5EWJ	wrcooke at flash.net	
Field Day Chairmen	Bill Frink, K5WAF	WAFrink at msn.com	
	Keith Dutson, NM5G	kdutson at sbcglobal.net	
	Bob Mennell, WB5IUU	bmennell at consolidated.net	
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net	832-595-2855
DXpedition Chairman	Cal White, WF5W	cwhite314 at sbcglobal.net	
Outgoing QSL Manager	Scott Patout, K5DD	K5DD at arrl.net	
Webmaster	Steve Smothers, W9DX	cougar70 at earthlink.net	
Bullsheat Editor	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	dseyler at dseyler.com	281-734-9221
DXCC QSL Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net	

How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxs.net> email address: 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 September

Bill Denton - W5SB

Dave Evans - K5SOR

Galen Graff - KB5FU

Tom Taormina - K5RC

Jay Temple - W5JQ

Lance Rumfield - WD5KCX

Steve Nace - KN5H

Bob King, Jr. - NM5L

Dave Sarkozi - WB5N

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.