



The Bullsheet

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

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

DX Safaris Frosty - K5LBU

Urgent Notice

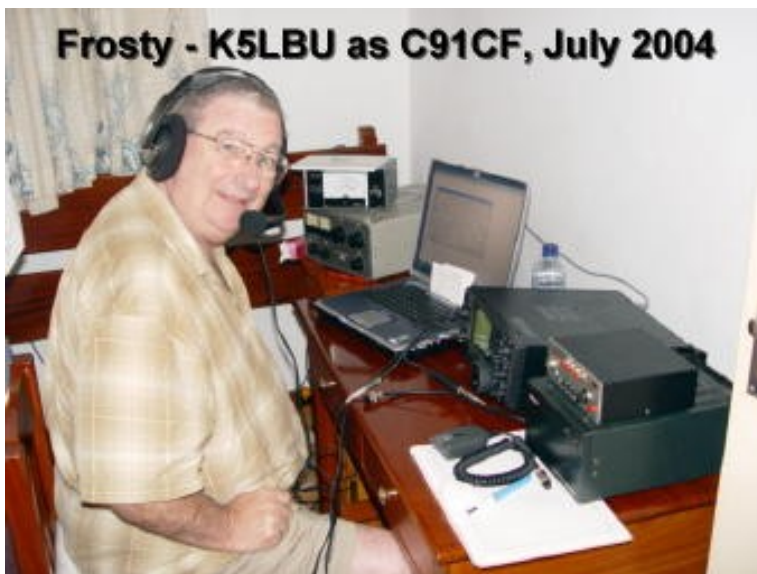
Due to the current situation with Hurricane Ike in the Gulf, the meeting date may be changed. Watch the TDXS reflector for any changes.

This month Frosty, K5LBU, will tell us about the African DX Safaris that he can arrange to several locations in Southern Africa. Along with playing radio it is also possible to include an animal watching trip to a game park such as Kruger National Park.

These trips are the ideal DXpedition because all radio equipment is provided

so there is no need to haul a lot of gear on your air flights. A TDXS trip is in the planning stage for March/April next year. Come hear about it. Places on the trip are available, so why not consider joining the fun? Frosty and Wayne, W5KDJ, have both been on multiple trips and both report having an enjoyable time and working lot's of DX.

As an added feature, Chuck, NO5W, will discuss the upcoming Texas QSO Party (TQP). This year's TQP is Sept. 27&28 and promises to be another good one. Please



see Chuck's article below.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday Sept. 11 starting at 7PM at the Tracy Gee Center. See our web site www.tdxs.org for directions.

The pre meeting dinner will be at Pappas' BBQ

located at Westheimer and S. Gessner beginning around 5:30. As always, visitors are welcome.

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2008 Texas QSO Party de Chuck NO5W

The Astros are hot, the Texans are ready to see what they've got, and, although the frost is not yet on the pumpkin, we've had a few cool mornings the past few days. So the time to kick off

another Texas QSO Party must be close approaching. There's a lot of ways to do the TQP which this year will be September 27-28, the last full weekend of the month as usual. As a Texas station here

are the ways you can be a player in this fun event:

- Single-Operator Fixed Station
- Multi-Operator Fixed Station



2008 Texas QSO Party (continued)

QRP Single-Operator Fixed Station

CW Only Single-Operator Fixed Station

Single-Operator Mobile Station

Multi-Operator Mobile Station

CW Only Single-Operator Mobile Station

Operation is primarily on HF with 20M and 40M seeing the most activity with the main modes of course being SSB and CW but with other digital modes also allowed. The exchange is a simple one consisting of a signal report and your county and the folks you'll be working will be replying with a signal report and their state, province, or DX country, or, if they're another Texas station, their county. Full rules may be found on the TQP web site.

Of course every year the goal, somewhat elusive, is to activate all of the 254 counties in Texas. Last year the goal continued to elude with the following nine counties being inactive:

East Texas - Newton, San Jacinto, Madison, Leon
 South Texas - Duval, Brooks
 West Texas - Concho, Nolan, Yoakum

Activity from the TDXS in 2007 was good with the following stations reporting activity and bringing in enough points for TDXS to garner a fourth place finish in the club aggregate competition, right there behind NARS, the sponsoring organization:

K5EWJ – CW Only Single-Operator Fixed

K5WAF - CW Only Single-Operator Fixed

KG5U - CW Only Single-Operator Mobile

K5DX – Single Operator Fixed

N5MT – Single Operator Fixed

K5LBU – Single Operator Fixed

Several of the above brought home hardware for the shack wall:

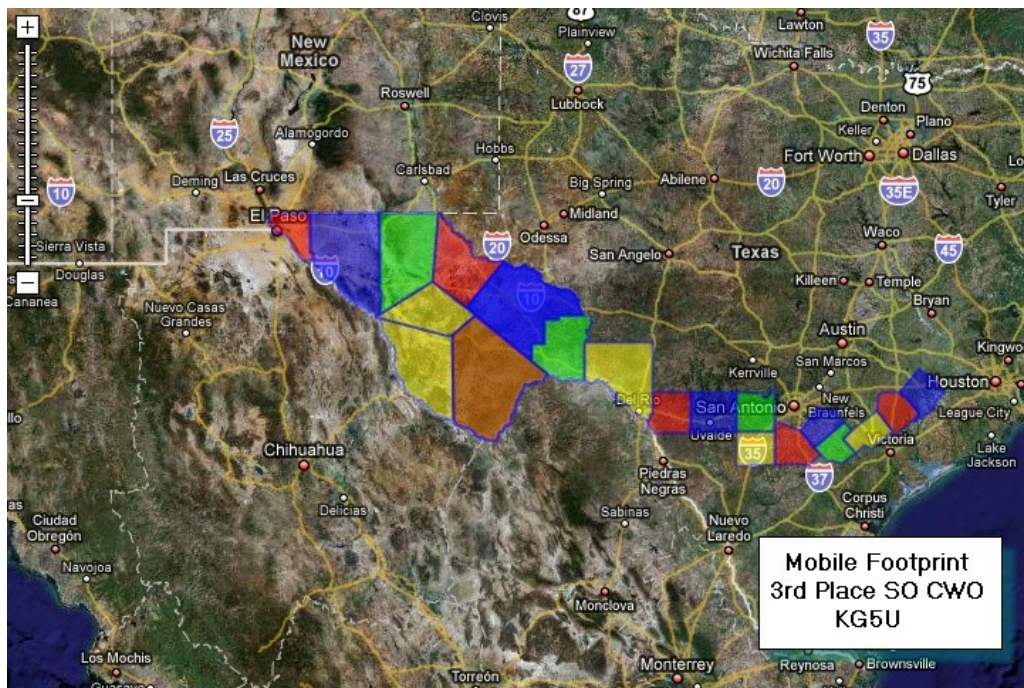
K5EWJ – Second Place CW Only Single Operator Fixed

K5DX – Second Place Single Operator Fixed

KG5U – Third Place CW Only Single-Operator Mobile

You can imagine the fun Dale-KG5U had driving out to near El Paso, and then turning around and navigating the following footprint along the southern Texas border operating sans driver. Dale's soapbox write up was a classic as was the writeup of Bob – W0BH who came down from Kansas to operate the TQP and ended up operating tow-truck mobile when his ancient van decided it had had enough. Bob plans to be back this year but is looking forward to more radio time and less time as tow-truck mobile.

Fixed, mobile, CW Only, Mixed Mode, Multi-Op, anyway you choose to get involved can be a lot of fun with all of the rest



of the world, and Texas, looking for Texas stations. While TDXS was well-represented in 2007 it surely would be nice to have additional folks involved in 2008 in an event that originally grew out of the Armadillo Runs of the 1980's that were spearheaded by K5RC and other members of the TDXS.

73 es Hope to hear you on September 27-28

Chuck NO5W

The Prez Sez de Steve W9DX

The August TDXS meeting had a great turnout for Tom Rum W5RUM's presentation of the Tokyo Hy-Power line of solid state amps, and his use of the Bazooka launcher for our Field Day operations. I think the Bazooka launcher had about as much interest as the amps! Tom gave us a run down of the importance of running a clean shack (no stray RF) and matched antennas for solid state amps. TDXS DXpeditioners plan to use one of Tokyo Hy-Power's new lightweight amps for future DXpeditions. Thanks Tom! With more and more baggage restrictions by the airlines, we have to make every pound count.

This is one advantage of taking part in one of Frosty's (K5LBU) DXpeditions to Africa. No radios, amps or antennas to carry. Everything needed is already in Africa, and all you need to bring is your laptop for logging, camera and personal items. With this in mind, plans are currently underway for a TDXS group to go to Mozambique or Swaziland next year for the WPX-Phone contest in March 2009. Frosty will present the September program on this topic. If you've ever had a interest in visiting Africa and seeing the wildlife in Kruger National Park in RSA, this trip is for you! There are still sev-

eral positions open, so plan to attend.

While on the subject of packing light for DXpeditions, Roger Western, G3SXW has just released his new book entitled "Micro-DXpeditioning Uncovered". Roger's book of 100+ pages with pictures collects the stories of visits to over 20 mostly European DXCC entities, all done "on the cheap". The availability of feature packed 100 watt rigs that weigh less than 7 pounds makes this easy to do. For more info, e-mail Roger at his QRZ.com address.

By the time you read this, Jim Carmody NN5O will be trying just that! Jim is taking his FT-817 and wire antenna with him to Argentina and Chile this week, and will try some CW and PSK QSOs running QRP and a dangle antenna out the hotel windows. Jim will probably be concentrating on 20, 30 and 40m around his sunset time. You can use the grayline map link on our homepage to determine best times to listen for Jim. He should be QRV from Buenos Aires on Wednesday evening September 10th.

Cal WF5W and crew have determined that the club's trailer mounted crank-up tower is beyond repair. It was determined that

welding and galvanizing just wouldn't make this a safe bet. So unless someone wants the tower part as-is, it will end up going to the junkyard. That tower has a lot of history in TDXS, and we should probably put a K5DX QSL in the tower leg before saying our tearful good-byes. The trailer has been wire brushed and primed and is in good shape.

In other news, George DeMontond NR5M reports that his super-contest station in Hempstead is being refurbished and several towers with stacked mono-banders are already in operation. George has been busy buying up mint used IC-7800's for multi-multi operations. The next big project is the erection of a 340-foot tower with stacked 80-meter yagis! George is also awaiting the delivery of K3LR's newest design for 10-meter long boom yagis. Yup, he's gonna be loud!

The Virginia City Highlands antenna wars continue with General Taormina K5RC directing the troops in full battle mode. It now turns out that another traitor ham in the neighborhood is a ring leader in the "stop K5RC" movement! Ugh! He has apparently gotten copies of Tom's building permit applications and crafted some poorly written rebuttals to

The Prez Sez (continued)

the Deputy DA's office. The DDA now says that she is not going to grant building permits for the existing towers because Tom ignored the "law" all these years by not obtaining building permits. Tom is now seeking injunctive relief from the arbitrary and capricious actions of this small-time politician. Tom says, "it appears that we are still QRX on major tower work. Even though we have enough compelling legal arguments to be the USS Enterprise doing battle with a dinghy, this is shaping up to be a time consuming and costly battle." Latest update: "Despite yeoman's effort by K1VR and the local attorney, the Deputy DA is making no meaningful concessions at this point. Last week, she was steadfast that the 45' height limit was enforceable and that I would have to apply for a special use permit for each tower. That was challenged and is no longer at the top of the hit parade (although it is still not resolved). Then, I was accused of flaunting (her words) my antennas by ignoring the County requirement for building permits and for violating the CC&R's prior to 2003. This has all been explained in writing to her and we have a solid case for why we are right, but no concession yet. Today, she added another ridiculous piece to the mix saying that the antennas themselves had to be less than 45' x 60' because that number is in a statue relating

to buildings. Fred responded to that this afternoon with the message that only the 80M beams are larger and WHY THE H*** HASN'T SHE GRANTED THE REMAINING PERMITS? Bottom line is that this drama is apparently going to continue for weeks to come." Keep Tom in your thoughts and prayers concerning this issue since it affects all of us regardless of locale.

Larry VeHorn W9AJ/T88AJ (TDXS member #110) has been busying burning the candle at both ends, working 17 hour days at his company's 100 KW station in Palau for the last two months. Larry says it's almost impossible to hear anything on the ham bands with that much RF so close. After putting that many hours working on the antennas, and equipment, Larry says he falls into bed and sleeps very well - even with the noisy transmitter on the other side of the wall! Larry should be home hopefully in late September.

Chuck Dietz W5PR got everyone excited when he reported that Mike Hance K5NZ was on the cover of the September-October issue of NCJ! Bob Perring N9RP was eager to shell out some hard cash for an autographed proof copy for a future windfall profit on Ebay! (Be careful Bob, a certain political party is targeting those

guilty of windfall profits at the expense of poor testers!) But nevermind..it was only his callsign captured by CW Skimmer!

The fall contest season is about to get started. Is your station ready? Let's try to get as many member stations participating in all major contests as possible. Even a few hours helps contribute to the club aggregate score. A good way to get ready is the Texas QSO Party coming up September 27-28. Chuck NO5W will make a brief presentation on this year's plans for TQP at our September meeting. Chuck will let us know which counties still need covering by mobiles and how to get involved. Even a fixed station can easily make hundreds of Q's in this popular event. Last year I was called by quite a number of stations claiming it was their first HF QSO ever! Why not help give the newest members of our ham community a taste of contesting and their first QSL card from a Texas station! You know that one will get framed and placed on the wall with pride! The NARS prize plaques for this event are really nice and certainly worth putting in the effort!

Mike K5UO recently reported that propagation was improving on the low bands as we approach the fall season. He worked V51XG Namibia on 3512MHz 00:30UTC

The Prez Sez (concluded)

(Aug 28) 7:30PM CDST.

"Transmitted and received on my full size 80m vertical. Sometimes received on a K9AY receive antenna. 559 and building...Time to put the Beverages back up!" says Mike.

Where does all the time ago? According to the TDXS Constitution, it's that time of year again to start thinking of officer nominations for

next year. Nominations start in September, and close in October. If you know of someone willing to serve, nominate them! What have you done for your club lately? A club's success depends on the active involvement of its members - all its members. If you've never served as an officer of the club, or it's been a long time since you've served, give it careful consideration. The jobs are easy when eve-

ryone contributes. Just look at what we accomplished at Field Day with so many helping hands. We need the same attitude all year. My time will be limited next year, and I do not plan on running again as President. The nominations are open, so please plan to attend the September and October meetings and let your voice be heard and your raised hand be counted as you volunteer!

From the TDXS Archives:

Ten years ago this month, TDXS President Bob Walworth N5ET reported on the most recent New Orleans DX Convention with Mike N5MT hauling away the grand prize (again!), and Jim N5DC and XYL Evie W5XYL taking home prizes as well (not counting the haul they made at the Lake Charles Casinos)! DX Chairman Buzz N5UR reported that the sunspots were coming back, but the A index was the highest ever. But that didn't stop him from working two A21 stations on 15m at 10:00 AM local time!!! Contest Chairman Joe W5ASP reported on the results of the 1997 CQWW Phone contest with Don N5LZ operating as NN5ZZ taking first place in the 5th callsign district SOAB-HP. Sharp K5DX was close behind taking 3rd place honors. Jan K5MA/1 took 4th in the 1st district standings. Chuck W5PR as KZ5MM took 1st place honors again on 10 meters. Joe was also lamenting that the club frequently failed to put a full team together for the Sprint contests. Joe also reported that the current IRC situation was a complete mess with various post offices disagreeing on a coupon's value, with many foreign issued IRCs being completely worthless. Ed W5GCX gave a nice product review of his new FT-1000MP.

Now is the Time Nominations for Officers Open

Nominations for club officers for the next year open in September. In his Prez Sez column Steve, W9DX, has indicated that he would rather not serve another term as president. This is not surprising as Steve is also our web master and moderator for the TDXS reflector.

The other three elected officers each also fill an appointed posi-

tion on the TDXS Board. That is, the four current elected officers hold 8 of the 11 board positions. What this means is that there is plenty of opportunity for you to volunteer to serve your club in some capacity.

It would be good to spread out the work a little more. It would also be good to get a broader input into the decision making

process for TDXS. Think about it and consider putting your hat in the ring.

Nominations close at the October meeting so there is a little time to decide how you can help TDXS.

Paul W5PF

VP Membership/
Communications Chairman

Greetings from the DXpedition Chair de Cal WF5W

Some of your officers put some sweat equipty into our trailer tower this past week. Sanded, cleaned up and painted with a good coat of primer. Two full days work for three guys. So its ready for a tower now.

DXpedition talk still just San Andres in Jan with K5UO and I on the CW 160 kick. A bit of bad news about our hotel in San Andres, the owner died two weeks ago and his daughter is

now taking care of it. He was supposed to vacation in the lower rooms when we were there. So one never knows. Better do the DXpeditions while we can huh.....

I hope we have a good turnout for Frosty's talk on the African adventure that is being planned. Also we have CHUCK, the resident TQP expert from NARS to present his program so it will be a full and informative meeting.

Does anybody know where the Isle of Pines is located???? Bring it up at the meeting...

Just a question. hah

Our resident Maritime Mobil hams W5PF, K5WAF and WF5W have the Sea Pumpkin back at the dock after a new bottom job. She is now ready to get out there and do some MM stuff again.

Thats about it for this one. C U on the Bands.

Attention Lowbanders de Mike K5UO

Get your low-band antenna's in shape pronto! North America is working Europeans in the evenings and VK's and ZL's in the mornings on 160 meters. Much better on 80 meters.. Fall is upon us.

Working / playing with a K9AY low-band antenna for small footprint use in HK0. The jury is still out.

Putting up reversible Beverages for 80 and 160 using 450 Ohm ladder-line. Que-sera-sera.

Mike, K5UO

Member DX

Look for Jim NN5O as LU/NN5O on Wednesday September 10 and as CE/NN5O on Sunday the 14th. He will be QRP on CW or possibly PSK31. Look for him in the late afternoon of early evening our time on 20/30/40.



Texas DX Society Boardmembers

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