



THE BULLSHEET

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

December
2003

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

The Prez Sez - de Madison, W5MJ

This is my parting column, since next month's will be the responsibility of our incoming president, Mike Anderson N5MV. Thus, I will be gentle.

Too bad if you were too busy to go to the Christmas Party! There was a great crowd of about 40 souls, and great food provided by several of the members and their spouses. We even had some members whom we have not seen in much too long make an appearance. Accountantships were renewed, stories were swapped, antennas were modeled, DXpeditions were planned, food and beverage consumed, and much fun had. Unfortunately, we will not have another Christmas Party for a year now. Check out your calendar for the next one: second Thursday in December, 2004.

Speaking of calendars, the annual Winter Dinner will be on January 31, 2004. Last year we were at the Wyndham Hotel, but this year it will be on the west side of the city at Churrasco's, 9705 Westheimer. TDXS will pick up a significant portion of the bill of this one, but because we have not determined the menu, the exact cost to the members is still up in the air. Traditionally it has been \$30 or so per head, and perhaps that is the amount we should announce. More on this later.

The SFI has been in the tank lately, so it's probably time to dust off those projects on the workbench. I started a CMOS keyer a month or two ago. I should have finished it in a couple of hours, but I got bogged down somewhere. When I finish it, maybe I will start on my K2 I bought about 4 years ago. But maybe not. We shall see.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. See you in the pileups! - **73 de Madison, W5MJ**

TDXS Calendar

Upcoming events of interest to TDXSer's

January 10-11 NAQP CW

January 17-18 NAQP SSB

Please let me know about any planned operations for the ARRL DX contests or other upcoming events.

Have a Happy Holiday Season and may the New Year bring you all the New Ones you need!

Paul, W5PF, Editor

Monthly Meeting Announcement

December Meeting -The December meeting was the Christmas party held on December 11th. See you in January

Texas DX Society Officers

President	Madison Jones, W5MJ	mjones16@houston.rr.com	281-350-4330
Vice President	Charles Frost, K5LBU	frosty1@pdq.net	281-437-1978
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Field Day Chairman	Dave Topp, W5BXX	w5bxx@aol.com	281-879-9973
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf@earthlink.net	832-595-2855
DX Chairman	Ken Eckel, AB5A	ab5a@clarc.org	832-722-3780
Communications Chairman	Paul Frantz, W5PF	w5pf@ev1.net	281-351-8930

How to reach US

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

Latest News from Mexico!

de Madison W5MJ [an Open Letter to Mexico as well]

To set the record the straight, this is MY editorial and these are MY opinions. This article is NOT the official policy of TDXS, CRANTAC or anyone else. If anyone doesn't like what I say, you can take it out on me, and no one else.

According to second hand information which was emailed to me in October, COFETEL will refuse to issue the contest call, 6D2YFM [which has been the latest CRANTAC/TDXS call] for the upcoming ARRL DX Contest to any of us who participated in last year's CW or SSB contests. I received this from a Mexican op that I did not know. He sent me text of a letter from COFETEL saying that our operation was illegal and that the licenses of several Mexican ops who had assisted us in getting the contest call had been suspended or revoked as of last July. Furthermore, the letter said certain of us, including yours truly, were not eligible to be licensed in Mexico ever again.

Bruce N1LN contacted Jim Haynie, ARRL president, who asked the ARRL vice president of international affairs to look into it. He is apparently still looking into it, with predictable results.

According to Luis Chartarifsky XE1L, with whom I had a lengthy discussion at Dayton last May, the subject of issuing licenses to US amateurs has split the Mexican equivalent of the ARRL right down the middle, with about half saying Mexico should never issue licenses to US citizens, and the other half wondering what the fuss is about.

The Mexican government [our friends from NAFTA, in case you forgot] apparently has decided reciprocity is good as long as the Mexicans come out on the long end of the bargain, and that having no contest operation is better than having a bunch of Norters come to Mexico and do well in the contest.

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Mexico...from previous page

The theory seems to be that there is some [unwritten] agreement that if there are to be multi-op contest stations in Mexico which include Americans, there have to be at least 50% Mexican operators, or that Mexicans have to operate at least 50% of the time, or — or — or —. For your historians, this – IMHO – is the Mexican equivalent of the poll tax. I'll bet that if we did have 51% Mexican ops, they would think of some other reason we should not operate.

By this line of reasoning, if the contest crew consists of 9 folks [which is often the case], then there have to be at least 5 Mexican ops on board. If memory serves me, at least in recent CW portions of the contest, there would not be even 5 logs turned in by Mexican ops! If that is true, then it would be highly unlikely that we could recruit 5 Mexican operators to work with us. We keep an open door policy for this contest, and in the past have actively sought Mexican operators. While we do get one or two now and then, and offer them the opportunity to be on the schedule, we get almost no requests from Mexicans to be on the team. If we don't get 51% ops, we should not have been operating, according to the information I received.

AND NOW FOR OUR MEXICAN FRIENDS: Come on, guys, what's the big deal? This is a hobby, after all. I have been on these excursions about 10 times now, and I assure you we spend money there, we only go to have a wonderful time, we come back to the US with great stories, and we ALWAYS leave Mexico in better shape than we found it!! [We even have pictures to prove it.] We actually applied for – and paid for, and were issued – XA5T and 6D2YFM, and used them very well.

For those of you in the Mexican amateur community reading this, it sounds very much like those who do not want us to operate have the attitude that Mine-Is-Bigger-Than-Yours, and if you can't have your way, you will make sure no one else will have fun either. We believe in reciprocity. If you want to come to the US and operate, all you have to do is show up, add a slash and W-something to your call sign, and have at go at operating in whatever contest you want, from whatever island you want, whenever you want. If you do well [or even not so well], who cares? It's a hobby.

I have NEVER done a multi-op where I considered myself one-upped just because I wasn't the best operator. I have NEVER done a multi-op when I did not learn some good technique or two from someone else, either in person or on the air. I have NEVER felt bad because someone else did better. I have NEVER been resentful that someone else come here to contest. And, finally, I have NEVER not wanted to improve myself in the next contest. I don't know any TDXS contester who doesn't have those same attitudes. Can you say the same?

Get a life, guys, because it's a hobby. If you don't want me, I'll go somewhere else where I can get a license without getting hassled, spend my money, play radio, learn a few things, and probably do better than I did in Mexico anyway because the propagation is certainly better over salt water than over dry desert. I will shake the dust of Mexico off my shoes and go to one of the many QTH's where they are delighted to have me. I'd say CU in the pileups, but you probably aren't there anyway

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After all, it's a hobby, and a great one at that. I'm glad I'm in it for the long run. And for those of you who ARE in the pileups, CU there!

Madison, W5MJ

TDXS Meetings -- Don Daze, N5DD

As incoming TDXS Vice President my goal is to increase meeting participation by having interesting meetings. I believe that in order to make meetings worth people's time to attend, the meetings should be informative and or entertaining. I am putting together an agenda of topics that are current and relevant to DXers and Contesters. Several members have come forward and volunteered to put on presentations for our club next year. We have already scheduled one good DX presentation and one good contest presentation for early 2004.

I am asking for suggestions of potential topics, speakers, meeting format, and meeting venue, to plan better meetings and improve attendance.

Are you knowledgeable in any of the following topics?

DXing

Award programs, QSLing, How to work your first 100 countries, How to make Honor Roll

Contesting

Operating strategies, Station layout

VHF/UHF/Sat

How to work the easy SATs, Roving, 6m

Equipment

Transceivers

How do modern transceivers work? (IF filters, DSP, computer control etc)

Selecting, Troubleshooting and repair

Amplifiers

Selecting, Troubleshooting and repair, How to refurbish old linears

Antennas

Modeling, Towers, Knots for antenna and tower work, Grounding

How to refurbish old antennas/towers, Legal issues,

What else can you do with an antenna analyzer?

Station accessories

Rig-Computer interface, Software, Computer controlled rotors, Alternative power sources

RFI, Boat Anchors, QRP, Mobile, How to eBay

Emerging ham technologies

802.11b (part 97), VoIP, Software Defined Radio, DSP, ATV

Your favorite ham niche

What about non Ham topics? (like BBB, FBI, NWS, Mattress Mack, etc) These types of topics might make it easier to include family members.

Presentations geared toward beginning contesters or DXers might be a good draw for attracting new members.

If you don't know anything about these topics, pick one and learn about it. Read a book, do a Google search, or take an ARRL CCE course. That may not make you an expert, but it will make you more knowledgeable than the majority of other hams.

I could really use your help if you know anything about any of the above topics and can talk about it to our society. If you know of any one who might be able to give a presentation, I would also appreciate a lead.

I am also soliciting ideas for improving the meeting format and venue. If you have any suggestions please let me know. The best way to contact me is by email: n5dd@arrl.net.

I am looking forward to serving the society membership in 2004.

73 de N5DD

DX Report by Ken – AB5A

Hello TDXS'ers. Who needs a Sun to talk on the radio? We can spend the bucks and go on a Dxpediton and talk to ourselves if that's all propagation will allow. We really have had some delicious DX operating radios. We may not have been able to hear them in TX but they were there. Now is when Dxing is going to get yield results directly in proportion to effort. Lets all put up our lowband antennas and turn on the coffee pot and DX on the lower edge.

3C0, Annabon Island This operation has received approval for DXCC credit. I have heard some news of QSL cards being received in EU. QSL via DJ9ZB

FR-J, San Juan de Nova Several French operators using the callsign TO4E and TO4WW have been conducting what must be a very challenging Dxpediton to Europa Island IOTA AF-009. There adversity has not limited to lack of 24-hour generator power nor tropical cyclonic weather nor amphibious wildlife. They wanted to get on the low bands but had lots of trouble with antennas. Special permission locations come at the cost of following the location rules. This operation is good for 1010 international DX as one of the 10M operators has a 1010 number. The operators are still on the island as I write this and I wish them safe passage home. QSL via F5OGL.

VK9-C, Cocos-Keeling Island This entity was activated using the callsign VK9CVon several bands including RTTY mode. Not heard often on RTTY. QSL via JA8VE.

J8, St Vincent This entity has been active on top band using the call J8DX. Those of you actively pursuing DXCC on 160M know how important each and every DXCC entity is on this band. J8 is not heard often on top band so when there is a top band operator there one must spend the time to pursue them. QSL via W8IQD

5X, Uganda An American operator, K3JT was active in this entity. He was heard on several bands including the low bands. QSL via K3JT.

TR, Gabon Alain, F6CBC is active from Libreville from time to time. He has been heard on 12 and 40M. QSL via F6CBC.

IOTA OC-265new Cato Reef A couple blokes have activated a new IOTA in the downunder. VK4GL/P was operating from Cato Reef for several days. QSL via VK4APG.

A Hundred others, DX These are the one that I failed to mention for lack of omniscience. You can help me with these. I most likely to mention stuff I'm chasing so keep me posted of what your chasing and I'll be certain to share it. DX is out there!!! Go get it, wrangle it and tell me about it.