



# THE BULLSHEET

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

January  
2005

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

## Annual Banquet is January Meeting de Don, N5DD

The annual TDXS Winter Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 15. This year's banquet will be held at the Monument Inn, 4406 Battleground Road in La Porte.

The social hour will begin at 6:00 pm, and dinner will be served at 7:00 pm.

Dinner will be your choice from several great entries:

- . Fisherman's Platter,
- . Broiled Redfish Ponchartrain,
- . Chicken Teriyaki, or
- . Grilled Ribeye Steak.

And include

- . tossed green salad,
- . baked potato,
- . rolls, muffins,
- . iced tea, hot coffee, and
- . desert.

The cost is \$30.00 per person, and a cash bar will be available.

The Monument Inn is located at 4406 Battleground Road, right at the Lynchburg Ferry landing. This is about 4.5 miles north of TX-225.

All friends of TDXS and other interested parties are invited and welcome to attend.

For those who are interested in looking at the Battleship Texas, we will meet on the ship at 3:00 pm.

Please RSVP to [n5dd@arrl.net](mailto:n5dd@arrl.net).

See you on the 15th.

## February TDXS Meeting

Thursday, February 10, 7:00 pm, Tracey Gee Center. Speaker tba.

## Texas DX Society Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Don Daze, N5DD</b>	n5dd@arrl.net	713-464-7286
<b>Vice President</b>			
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Laurent Tomin, W0MM</b>		
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bill Frink, K5WAF</b>		281-286-3330
<b>Contest Chairman</b>	<b>Joe Staples, W5ASP</b>		
<b>Field Day Chairman</b>	<b>Dave Topp, W5BXX</b>	w5bxx@aol.com	281-879-9973
<b>Repeater Chairman</b>	<b>Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF</b>	wb5tuf@earthlink.net	832-595-2855
<b>DX Chairman</b>			
<b>DXpedition Chairman</b>	<b>Jim Carmody, NN5O</b>		
<b>Outgoing QSL Manager</b>	<b>Buzz Jehle, N5UR</b>		
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Steve Smothers, W9DX</b>	cougar70@earthlink.net	
<b>Bullsheat Editor</b>	<b>Paul Frantz, W5PF</b>	w5pf@ev1.net	281-351-8930

## 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)  
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>

## Prez Sez... de Don, N5DD

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of the Texas DX Society for 2005, this is quite an honor for me. Fortunately we have a fine slate of elected and volunteer officers whose contributions will be very valued, including Bill Frink, K5WAF, Treasurer; Laurent Thomin, W0MM, Secretary; Joe Staples, W5ASP, Contest Chairman; Jim Carmody, NN5O, DXpedition Chairman; Paul Frantz, W5PF, Bullsheat Editor; Dave Topp, W5BXX, Field Day Chairman; Buzz Jehle, N5UR, QSL (outgoing) Manager; Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF, Repeater Chairman; and Steve Smothers, W9DX, Webmaster.

With all of the threats, from BPL to restrictive covenants, facing Amateur Radio, in general, and the HF DX and contest operator in specific, it is important that our club grow in numbers, activities, and visibility during the next year and beyond. I plan to increase member participation, draw more visitors, and recruit new members by improving our club activities.

**Meetings.** The core activity of our club is the monthly meeting. I plan to continue having a speaker at each meeting. Please send me suggestions for program topics or speakers. You have given me many comments, both pro and con, regarding meeting at Tracey Gee. On the con side it's a pain to have to drive from a restaurant to the meeting location, it's too far south, it's too far north, parking is usually a problem, and we have be out of there by 9:00. On the pro side it's meeting room is quiet and free from distractions thereby letting us concentrate on the speaker and presentation, the price is right (free), we don't have to guarantee a minimum number of attendees, and it's conveniently located near Beltway 8. One suggestion that I have received is to alternate meetings between north and south locations. Please send me suggestions for meeting locations that are just north of town and just south of town. The main criteria is that they have a meeting room that can be closed to cut down on noise, and that the room can be darkened for using a projector. Secondary criteria are cost, minimum headcount, and parking. If any TDXSer wants to step forward and fill the VP slot please let me know now.

## Prez Sez, contd.

**Outreach.** TDXS needs more visibility, both to protect our good name, and to help recruit new members. I consider TDXS to be the “graduate school” of amateur radio. Therefore it’s more appropriate for us to recruit potential members from the ranks of existing licensees than from the general public. I propose forming a TDXS “Speakers Bureau”. This would be a group of members who could put on presentations about DXing or contesting to other ham groups. The purpose would be to expose amateur licensees, who are not currently active on HF, or maybe don’t have HF privileges, to the excitement of DXing and contesting. This effort will target general interest ham clubs. Club program planners are always looking for speakers, so I know this will be an easy sell. Of course, behind each program would be a subtle message to join or participate with TDXS. Many of our members have been involved in activities that would make interesting presentations. DXpedition trips come to mind, an overview of award programs, or contesting are others. If anyone has a presentation they would like to share with other clubs please let me know.

**Contesting.** Joe, W5ASP, will be helping us regain our contesting inertia. One effort will be to pick one or two contests during the year to focus effort on as a club.

**DXpedition.** Jim, NN5O, will be identifying potential destinations for a possible TDXS DXpedition.

**Field Day.** Each of the past two years has shown an improvement in our Field Day organization effort, resulting in significant improvement in our scores. We collectively need to decide what we want to do for Field Day (June 25) this year. We can continue to operate from Surfside, or find a different location. To continue to improve on our past successes, this year will require more operators to keep three or more stations staffed around the clock, and more work sessions to get our antennas in shape. The time to start thinking about Field Day is now.

**Fund Raising.** In 2004 we had another successful raffle tick sale at HamCom. However it seems like each year it gets a little harder to sell as many tickets as the year before. Should we raffle another radio at HamCom (June 4) this year? If so, we need to get started planning how the both will be staffed, selecting and ordering a radio, and getting tickets printed. If not, maybe we should consider other fund raising activities, maybe selling tee shirts, jackets, caps, etc, or maybe something that could be sold to non-hams, like chocolate bars, or raffle tickets for a rifle. A lot of options to consider. The other side of this issue is what do we want to do with the funds after they are raised? In the past they have been used to support club activities like Field Day, the Christmas Party and the Banquet. Other possibilities are to upgrade our Field Day antenna arsenal, pay travel expenses for out of town speakers, support DXpeditions, or help finance our own DXpedition. I welcome any input on fund raising.

To make all of this happen will take a lot of people, I would like to ask each TDXS member to think where he can help out. If you have an opinion about anything on this list, or anything you think should be on this list, I would like to hear from you.

73,

Don, N5DD

## TDXS Website News

As many of you already know, we experienced problems with the web server on December 17th. N5IQ was able to put a new server on-line almost immediately, but did not have a recent back-up of the web files. Accordingly, the website was out of date till I could restore the files when I returned from vacation January 1st. The other problem was with the mail reflector database. Our subscription data was lost, and we tried to rebuild it from the membership e-mail lists. Accordingly, some addresses were lost (especially non-members) and some invalid addresses may have been used. If you are no longer receiving club e-mail via the reflector, you will need to re-subscribe. To do so, just go to the website at [www.tdxs.net](http://www.tdxs.net), select Reflector from the menu, and follow the on-line instructions. Be sure to reply to the automated mail administrator message asking you to confirm your decision to subscribe or unsubscribe. If you are receiving reflector mail and do not wish to be a subscriber, please let me know. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused. We appreciate all the work our web host Brad Killebrew-N5IQ does on our behalf, so be sure to thank him when you have the chance.

I have also added a new site counter that tracks visitor information such as browser and version used, domain name, time zone, language, pages visited, etc. With this information, I hope to fine tune the web and improve its appearance as time permits. Our site was originally built with frames and compatible with Internet Explorer version 4.0 and higher. Accordingly, it does not display properly in other browsers such as Netscape, Firefox, or Safari. With some expert help and advice, I hope to do away with frames, and make a cleaner look that will display properly in most browsers.

This month, we've had about 14 hits/day, with an average stay of 4.25 minutes, and average 33 page views per day. 70% of our visitors are in the central time zone, 13% eastern, 5% mountain, 5% western, with the balance from European and Asian time zones. 83% of our visitors use a version of Internet Explorer, over 12% use Mozilla's Firefox, 4% use Netscape, and rest use Safari.

We will soon restore the Contesting web page since Joe Staples has agreed to take the Contesting Chair this year. If you haven't visited the website lately, be sure to do so. The content is always changing, and there's lots of new and useful tools on the Links page. I'm always looking for new ideas on how to improve our window on the world, so all input will be greatly appreciated.

**Steve - W9DX**

## TDXS Club Logo Shirts:

I'm negotiating with our supplier of TDXS club shirts to get another order placed so we can have them in time for Dayton, and HamCom. This is the same supplier that makes the high quality ARRL shirts. These shirts are the same style that you've seen many of members wear at club meetings and hamfests. They are 100% cotton pique in gray, and are polo style with or without the optional pocket. As soon as I have pricing, I'll put it on the reflector along with size chart and order form that you will need to return to me with your payment. So far, I have requests for 11 or 12 shirts. There's still time to let me know if you are interested in a shirt. Don't forget, you can also order a shirt for your spouse, or other family members and friends!

**Steve - W9DX**