



# THE BULLSHEET

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

Month  
2008

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

## B2 Stealth Bomber



Our fellow TDXS member Dr. John Cashen, W5UG, will present a program on the B2 Stealth Bomber. John was a part of the design and development team for the B2 so he will have some interesting insights. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM on Thursday February 14th at the Tracey Gee Center. See [www.tdxs.org](http://www.tdxs.org) for directions to the meeting place. The Pre-meeting Dinner will be at the usual Pappas' BBQ at Gessner and Westheimer starting around 5:30 PM. There has been some discussion of finding a new dinner location so come join us and let your thoughts on the location be known.

## Mozambique Dxpediton

K5LBU is putting together a group to go to C91 in July '08. "We plan on having 2 stations set up with the trailers that have the 60 foot towers. Will be using the Tennadyne T8 LogP's thanks to Tennadyne a 40 meter 4sq a 80meter 4 sq and the good old 70+ foot verticle for 160/75/30 meters. I am pushing Daniel ZS6JR to put the 6 meter beam on top of one tower. Of course we are going to have some folks led by Hal ZS6WB doing EME. We plan on ariving in Mozambique on the 16th of July after spending 6 days at Kruger National Park checking out the animals and going off the air on the 30th of July. Hope to do all modes CW/SSB/PSK and am sure some one will do some RTTY. To date the participants are Jay W5SL, Bill NZ5N, Tom NQ7R, Paul N6PSE and Frosty K5LBU."

The web page is not up to date yet but hope to have it there soon.    Frosty K5LBU  
<http://www.africandxsafari.com/>

## Contest Calendar

Feb 16-17 ARRL DX CW  
Feb 23-24 CQ WW 160 SSB  
Feb 23-24 NAQP RTTY  
Mar 2-3 ARRL DX SSB

## Other Dates

Feb 28-Mar 5 HK0 Dxpediton  
by TDXS Group

Mar 1 Greater Houston Hamfest  
<http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc/HoustonFest.html>

## In this Issue

Page 2 Birthdays  
Page 2 Contest Scores  
Page 3,6,7,8 Prez Sez  
Page 4,5 Member Profile

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## 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>

## February Birthdays

**Happy Birthday** to the following TDXS members with February birthdays:

Dave Blaschke - W5UN	James Clark - N5RO	Fred DeVoto - K5FP
Bob Cooney - K1TU	Mike Bragassa - K5UO	James Parnell - W5JAW
Charles Frost - K5LBU	Bob Moorman - K5VMX	Don Butler - N5LZ
Marshall Dues - K5MMD	Ronald Amox - K5EJO	Jim Broockholdt - N4AL
Bob Perring - N5RP	Tom Shapiro - KD5SP	Marty Kirkland - WA5TMN
Mike Crownover - AD5A		

## Contest Corner Jan/Feb Scores

### KG5U Dale

NCCC Sprint 1/12	LP	38 Q's	24 Mults	912 Points
NCCC Sprint 2/2	LP	23 Q's	13 Mults	299 Points
NAQP CW 1/13	QRP	445 Q's	158 Mults	70,310 Points
NAQP Sprint CW 2/2	LP	187 Q's	39 Mults	7,293 Points

### K5EWJ Cookie

Stew Perry		30 Q's		186 Points
CQ 160 CW	LP	281 Q's	51 S/P 11 Cty	42,036 Points
TenTen SSB		246 Q's		395 Points

### K5LLL Ron

Jan VHF SS	HP	144 Q's	71 Mults	23,288 Points
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**(l-r): W5ZN, K5UO, K1ZZ, W9DX at the ARRL reception January 19th**

Well, January has come and gone already with two big TDXS events now in the history books. On January 19<sup>th</sup>, TDXS and NARS co-hosted a two hour reception at the Greenspoint Marriott for ARRL Board members, spouses and staff at the conclusion of the League's winter board meeting. We had over 100 people in attendance, with at least 13 TDXS members and spouses present. It was a great opportunity to chat face to face with our League representative, and meet newly elected directors from all over the country. Many of the League attendees remembered the TDXS reception we hosted back in 1999 when Earl Morse N8SS (ex-N5TU was President), while the newer directors said, "no one has ever done anything so nice for us before". On January 21<sup>st</sup>, K0BJ wrote:

Steve, please pass along my thanks to TDXS for hosting our post-board reception. It's nice to unwind after spending many hours in a room, even when the subject matter is as much fun as ham radio. And, when it involves the chance to meet with active locals, so much the better. The drinks were appreciated too :-)

I had been on the board a couple years when you last hosted this event at the Sheraton IAH.

73 Bruce Frahm K0BJ Midwest Director Colby KS

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, Dave Sumner, K1ZZ wrote:

Thanks, Steve — it was a great event. The Board members genuinely appreciated the wonderful hospitality and the opportunity to meet so many members of your two clubs. 73, Dave Sumner, K1ZZ

## TDXS Member Profile: Frank Montgomery, W5JWM



Many years ago, TDXS started publishing a series of member biographies in the Bullsheat in order to get to know each other better. It's been a long time since we've done this, and the Board felt it would be good to do this again. Each month we will try to feature a member's life and TDXS experiences for all to share. This month's profile is on long time member Frank Montgomery, W5JWM. Frank joined TDXS in 1974 as member #25, and was nominated by Clarence Sharp - K5DX (SK). **Edited by W9DX.**

### When were you first licensed, and what got you started in ham radio?

I was first licensed in 1941 right before the FCC closed down amateur radio for the duration of the war. Two of my high school buddies were studying to take their exams and convinced me to try it too. I learned the code from taking night classes at a vocational school.

### Who do you credit most with helping you get started in amateur radio?

Two of my high school buddies were Nelson Duller (W5JXR, now W5ODN currently a professor at A&M) and Shannon Young (W5JYR?) at Don H. Reagan High School and they talked me into taking the test. Nelson's mother drove us all down to Galveston to take our exams at the FCC office. The examiner's name was Mr. McCabe. I hadn't studied very much and I was so nervous, I could hardly write. Somehow I managed to get 1 minute of perfect copy out of 3 minutes. Then I had to do the sending test. I was shaking so bad, McCabe told me to settle down first and practice sending code for a couple of minutes, but he was still listening, and when he came back, he said "You passed!" Whew! In those days you had to answer true and false questions, essay type questions, had to draw schematics, and answer questions on regulations.

### Did amateur radio play any part in your career choice(s)?

Yes. When I went into the Army in WW2, I was in the Army's 87<sup>th</sup> Division, 345<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, and because I was a ham, they made me a radio operator. I tried to transfer into the Air Force to be a pilot, navigator, or bombardier, but by the time I was ready, the need wasn't so great. Later I went to the Army's 69<sup>th</sup> Division, 273<sup>rd</sup> Infantry's headquarters and the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon. In the fall of 1944, I was shipped out to England and luckily escaped being sent into the Battle of the Bulge. Later I went to France and eastward till we met the Russians and I eventually had occupation duty. After the war when I finished college, I decided to get my Commercial Radio-telephone License so I could work on servicing commercial FM radios and towers in the oil field industry in Odessa. Some of the towers were 200 and 300 footers.

(Contd next page...)

## Member Profile (continued)

. It was no fun climbing a tower that tall in below freezing weather with no rungs to climb on. After I got tired of West Texas, and the lack of available women out there, I joined Texaco in Bellaire doing seismic work. Shortly thereafter I got married and moved to Pleasanton (just south of San Antonio) with Texaco. I soon got tired of that and moved back to Houston where I started training to be a registered representative in the brokerage business, and got my license in the fall of 1972 just as the stock market was collapsing. It was too hard at that time to build up a customer base. My next job was for Sterling Electronics in Houston that sold components to radio and TV dealers. My sales job however was to sell to large commercial accounts. Tubes were big business in those days and I kept trying to sell to Humble Oil & Refining's research labs on Buffalo Speedway. Persistence finally paid off one day when they placed a trial order for receiving tubes. I was able to supply their whole order without back-orders or delays. Sterling ran into trouble some time later when they tried to expand too fast and I left to start something new. At a friend's urging, I applied for a job in the air freight business where I eventually retired with Emory Freight in 1990.

### Are any of your family members hams?

No. I never could get any of my kids interested in radio.

### What do you consider your greatest achievements in ham radio?

Getting #1 on the DXCC Honor Roll! When I started DXing on AM phone, Clarence Sharp - K5DX (W5NMA back then) and I were always competing for new countries. I think I was the first to make DXCC with certificate number 195! We were the best of friends and competitors. Back then earning DXCC was a lot more difficult without all the DX newsletters, spotting nets and clusters. I finally achieved #1 DXCC Honor Roll, but that was many years ago. (Frank still outranks most of us with 351 countries and hasn't been on the air for many years and needs most of the new entities).

### What is your favorite mode, band, or ham radio activity?

I would say that chasing DX on 20 meter phone has always been my favorite pastime. I remember one time when Gus Browning was running a pile-up from Jan Mayen Island, and the east coast stations had a big advantage over the gulf coast stations. I kept calling and couldn't break through no matter what clever phonetics I could think of. Gus was familiar with Houston having visited here a number of times and knew many of our locals. Suddenly I yelled out "Foley's in Houston"! Gus came right back and asked who said "Foley's". I worked him, and remember it well to this day.

### What do you enjoy most about being a TDXS member?

I love the camaraderie among our members and to keep touch with those that have moved away. We were a pretty small group when I joined as member number 25. My friend and competitor Clarence Sharp (member number 20) K5DX (ex-W5NMA) nominated me. We were always competing with each other on who would be first to get DXCC or WAZ. I think I beat him on those 2 awards, but he may have been first to get #1 DXCC Honor Roll.

### What is one of your most memorable events in TDXS history? (serious, humorous, or other)

I would say it was one of our contesting trips to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico (XE2FU) in the mid 1980's. I remember Sammy Neal N5AF, sleeping on a cold slab of concrete on one of those trips. We had a lot of fun together back then.

### What do you wish to accomplish in ham radio during the next few years (awards, station upgrades, personal milestones)?

I'm not able to work HF where I am now, and hopefully someday soon I'll be able to put up a new antenna at my home station, get on the air and chase some DX again.

## Prez Sez: (continued)

Speaking of Earl Morse, N8SS, we were all pleasantly surprised when Earl and Cindy showed up at the reception. They were in town that day to scout for new housing as they are preparing to return to Houston. It will be great to have Earl back in the fold again!



### **K5NZ and W5MJ having way too much fun at the January banquet!**

The TDXS Annual Banquet was held on Saturday January 26<sup>th</sup> at the Steak & Ale Restaurant at Mangum and 290. We had 38 attending this gala event. If you missed it, you missed some great groceries, a fun evening of socializing, awards, and fabulous prizes. I think everyone went home with something nice. A big thanks to all of our prize donors, and Bob Mennell WB5IUU, Cal White WF5W, Frosty K5LBU, Bob Walworth N5ET for donating and rounding-up contributions. We were especially thrilled that Dave Topp W5BXX and Linda Walworth KE5TF were feeling well enough to attend. Continue to keep them in your prayers as they continue to recover. Wayne Rogers W5KDJ was the recipient of the TDXS “Yagi-On-A-Roll” Award for his more than 17,000 QSOs from Botswana and Mozambique in 2007. Ruth Dietz was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for all her work putting together the TDXS Christmas party. Jim Carmody NN5O was awarded a Certificate of Accomplishment for working his “last one” (BS7H) to achieve #1 Honor Roll - Mixed. Dale Martin KG5U was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for having the highest claimed TDXS SO-mobile-CW score in the 2007 Texas QSO Party. Check out the banquet pictures on [www.tdxx.net/Banquet08.html](http://www.tdxx.net/Banquet08.html). If you won a prize, please be sure to send a thank you note to the donor, and let them know how much you appreciate their support.

I was also thrilled to receive an update report from Mack Arp, W5EET as he undergoes new treatments at Methodist Hospital. By the time you read this, Mack will be in his tenth week of treatments. Initial reports are very encouraging, and it looks like Mack is on the road to recovery. Mack says, “miracles do happen - one is happening to me”. Keep Mack on your prayer list too. Hurry back Mack, you are missed.

## Prez Sez: (continued)

In other news, we learned of the death of 71 year old Alan Wright 9H1AW in Malta. Alan fell to his death while working on his antennas. Alan and his wife Maureen 9H1JN were extremely helpful to us during Team Malta's visit there for the ARRL International DX Contest in March 2006. They met us on arrival at the airport, escorted us to our rented house, brought groceries and local delicacies, showed us the headquarters of the Malta Amateur Radio League, and treated us like family in so many ways. He will certainly be missed. This brings Cal White's recent thought provoking article, "Are You Smarter than a 5<sup>th</sup> Grader?" to mind. As we all get older, maybe it's time to consider what you can and can't do as you enter your golden years of amateur radio, and some of the sacrifices we have to make may not be such a big deal after all. See the link to Cal's article on our homepage. This brings up another point. What will happen to all our lifetime accumulation of "stuff" when we're gone? Would your spouse know what to do with your gear, or what it's really worth? Check out the ARRL article at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2008/01/23/1/?nc=1>

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the TDXS website hit counter passed the 50,000 mark since March 28, 2004. The number of visitors is especially high (up to 800 hits/day) when we have a TDXS member or team DXpedition in progress. Our website and mail list server went down on the weekend of the banquet. My attempts to reach our host of several years, Brad Killebrew N5IQ, were unsuccessful. When I found Brad's obituary online from last September, I was stunned! I was able to reach one of his former colleagues who was able to turn the server back on. This is a short-term solution however. The Texas Network has told us that it's best if we move since they do not have the manpower or resources at this time to continue serving our needs, especially for a non-paying customer. Sometime in February I will be busy moving our files to a commercial web hosting site with 24/7 service, daily back-ups, and a lot more space. They cannot however host our mail list server without charging for a premium package. Kim Carr, K5TU has graciously offered to host our mail list server here in town. Kim is currently configuring a Linux machine to host our files. I will inform all mail list subscribers when the changeover is occurring. I will unsubscribe all users of the current list, and send out e-mail notices from the new list that will ask you to confirm your new subscription. Once you do this, you will need to re-set your password and other preferences.

Local TDXS members made five DXpeditions in 2007: W5MJ to VU7RJ in January; K5LBU and W5KDJ to Botswana in July; WF5W, W5PF, K5WAF, and WB5IUU to BVI in July; W5KDJ to Mozambique in November; and NN5O to Ireland. Once again, thanks to the contributions of the Topp DXpedition Fund, the next TDXS team to hit the airwaves from an exotic location is Team HK0 from San Andres Island starting February 29 through March 8<sup>th</sup>, including participation in the ARRL International DX Phone Contest. Be sure to work them and help rack up the points. For more details, see: [www.tdxs.net/hk0.html](http://www.tdxs.net/hk0.html). TDXS expatriate member Dennis Motschenbacher K7BV is also headed to San Andres during June 28 till July 6<sup>th</sup>. Dennis will be concentrating on 6 meters. Be sure to visit his webpage at: <http://www.qth.com/k7bv/caribe2008> for more details. Also keep tabs on Wayne W5KDJ since he has the itch to go somewhere again soon. Possible destinations include Wake Island, or Palau, and don't count him out yet for another trip to Africa!

Expatriate member Tom Taormina K5RC has been busy remodeling his shack in Virginia City, Nevada with the help of Grady Ferguson W5FU. Tom's station is the hub of frequent multi-multi activity for all major contests, and is the home of two club stations: W7RN (Nevada Association of Contest Highland Operators), and K7RC (Radio Amateurs of Northern Nevada). Check out Tom's new station layout at: [http://www.consultpr.com/ham\\_radio/Inside.html](http://www.consultpr.com/ham_radio/Inside.html). Sweeeeet!

For those that made recent DXCC card submissions to the League, Bill Moore NC1L says the backlog is now about 2300 applications with a turn-around time of 12 weeks. Another full time

## Prez Sez: (continued)

employee has been added to the DXCC staff, and another addition is planned. You might want to wait a while before sending in your FJ cards. Here's another good reason to register for ARRL's Log Book of the World program. Kosovo may become a new entity on February 17<sup>th</sup>, so you can bet that OH2BH has his bags packed already! The Netherlands Antilles may produce 4 new entities after December 15<sup>th</sup> of this year (Curacao, Saint Maarten, Saba, Saint Eustatius and Bonaire).

This year's Contest Chairman is Don Daze, N5DD. Please plan to participate in more contests this year, even if it's just for a few hours. I know how busy everyone's life can be with family, church, and other commitments, but every little bit helps. Even if you can't turn in a log, at the very least work your fellow club members to help maximize their score when it counts. Remember that there are far more stations hunting and pouncing than those commanding a frequency and calling "CQ Contest". The only way to work those "pouncers" is to call "CQ Contest" yourself. You'll be surprised how many new multipliers you can work that way, and possibly give a new operator the thrill of working his first one! During the last Texas QSO Party, I had a least 3 stations say that it was their first HF QSO ever! The following week, I received a letter from Ovide Flannery, KB1FRF who wrote, "My communication to your QSO was my first contact on HF with a General amateur radio license (quite a big deal for me - at 76 years old)!" It's never too late to start!

It's not too early to start thinking of Field Day. FD used to be one of the club's major activities of the year. TDXS set a number of ARRL FD records in the past. Maybe we're getting older and lack the vim and vigor of our youth, but this is something we can all do together. Our participation with NARS the last 2 years hasn't brought out many TDXS operators, and it may be better to do our own thing at a location more suitable for our members. That being said, we still need a volunteer or two to help organize this. We have the antennas, towers, trailers, generators, and motor homes. All we need is a location, the desire to get it done and just do it! Volunteers???

Cal White, WF5W is our VP of Programs this year, and we've all been busy lining up interesting programs to amaze, educate, and entertain you. We're mixing up the subject matter from high tech programs (including a visit from a NASA ham-astronaut), club DXpeditions, how-to forums, and special guest speakers. For one of the summer months, we're going to do a Saturday picnic for the whole family on Galveston Bay near Kemah. Weather permitting, you can even go sailing and operate maritime mobile from the "Seapumkin"! Good food & drink, sailing, friends and ham radio! It doesn't get any better than this! Plan to invite another ham friend or young person to our meetings. I'd love to see our monthly meeting attendance double by year-end. Don't miss our February 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting night at the Tracey Gee Center (map is on the website). Our featured program speaker is our very own Dr. John Cashen, W5UG who will present a program on his design and development work on the B2 Stealth Bomber. Don't miss it!

Lastly, don't forget the Greater Houston Area Hamfest at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 8 AM till 2 PM. The Grand Prize this year will be an Icom IC-7000. You won't go hungry this time with Otto's BBQ offering breakfast and lunch. Going southwest on US-59 from Houston, pass Beltway-8. Continue about 8 - 9 miles to Highway 36 (you will see signs to Rosenberg and also to the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds). Exit and go south about 1 mile. You will see the fairgrounds on your right.

Talk-In: Primary - 146.94 Minus Offset Tone 167.9

Backup - 145.47 Minus Offset Tone 123.0

Club call: KK5W

For more information and directions, visit the BVARC hamfest page at:

<http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc/HoustonFest.html>

de Steve W9DX