



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net December 2010

Classic Collins

Thursday, December 9, 7PM:
TDXS Meeting Night at the
[Tracy Gee Center](#).

Program by John Firey,
W5ZG on the Collins S-line &
KWM-2.

Pre-meeting dinner get-
together starts around
5:30PM at Pappa's BBQ on S.
Gessner (just south of Wes-

theimer). Visitors
welcome, so
come on down!



Editor's Note de Doug WB5TKI

The year is winding down. It's
been a great time of Dxpediti-
ons, contests and camarade-
rie. We added 5 new members
to the roster: Steve N5ED, Stan
K5STZ, Bob W5UQ, Tom
KD5TIO and Steve W5HPQ.
That is the most in one year
since 2006.

This is my last issue as editor of
the Bullsheet. Wow, 2 years
have sure gone by quickly!
Thank you to all who contrib-
uted columns and feature arti-
cles for the Bullsheet. I couldn't
have done it without you! Next

month I move over to the role
of TDXS President. Jim N4AL
has graciously agreed to take
over as Bullsheet editor. I trust
that you will support him with
piles of articles from which to
choose each month for inclu-
sion in the Bullsheet.

Have a great holiday season. I
plan on doing some extended
DX chasing in spite of out of
town company and football
games. Maybe even build
something.

See you at the meeting!

Inside this issue:

The Prez Sez	2
From the Bullsheet Archives	3
Contest Chairman's Report	4-5
Update from A25UQ	6
Facing Your Fears	7-8
Programs, Dxpediti- ons and Stuff	8
VHF Repeater Mainte- nance Update	9
Birthdays	10

The Prez Sez de Paul W5PF

It is December and time for my final Prez Sez column. At the meeting last month we elected new officers for 2011. Doug WB5TKI will be our President and Bob W5UQ is the VP of Membership. Since we did not manage to twist anyone's arm hard enough to be VP of Programs we will have to come up with programs by committee. Bob has been working on some but if anyone has any program ideas please let your officers know.

Mike K5UO has taken on the Secretary/Treasurer position and will be working with Bill K5WAF to transfer all of the financial records and club archives. Cal WF5W has stepped down as the DXpedition chairman and that position is open and looking for a volunteer. Doug will be handing the Bullsheet over to a new editor (Communications Chairman) Jim N4AL. All of the other board members will continue in their offices.

I would like to thank Bill K5WAF for keeping me up to date with club business and making sure we got things done on time. He put in a lot of time keeping up with attendance and handling all of the voting for new members and other board business. I also thank Cal for his encouraging members to participate in our Dxpeditions and for arranging many of them. And also Bob WB5IUU for your help as VP of

Membership, many thanks.

January will be our annual banquet. It will again be held at the Saltgrass Steakhouse on Katy Freeway on Saturday January 22. We will have further details at the meeting on Thursday. We will also put out information on the reflector.

I have just returned from Nicaragua where K5WAF, WF5W and I participated in the CQWDX CW contest as HTV. We were a multi op, single transmitter low power entry. We used the station of Octavio YN2N except we used a Kenwood TS480 as our radio. The pile ups were unexpectedly large and lead to some slower than hoped for rates. We managed just over 4000 Q's with a score just under 4 million. We found that we had a lot less mults than many entrants, I guess we should have changed bands a little more often. We did not have a "mult station" or anyone actively looking for multipliers. We'll be sure to do that next time. If you haven't tried a contest from the DX side you are missing something. It is a lot of fun and quite an experience.

I have enjoyed my two years as President of TDXS. I appreciate all of the support that I have received from many members as well as the Board of Directors. I know that Doug and the new officers will continue to get that support from the membership.

73,

Paul W5PF

From the Bullsheet Archives by Steve W9DX

Thanks to Dave Evans K5SOR (TDXS Charter Member #4), we now have online some of the meeting announcements, member nominations, Field Day plans and other club news starting in 1970. Click the "Newsletters" tab on our homepage and take a look at the earliest days of TDXS. We're still looking for some missing issues of the Bullsheet. If you don't see the month hyper-linked, we need the issue in archives. Let me know what you have.

Ten years ago this month December 2000: Outgoing TDXS President Earl Morse N5TU (now N8SS) was preparing to live high on the hog with his TDXS retirement package (NOT!). Incoming 2001 President Buzz Jehle N5UR was busy signing up volunteers for various club functions including a planned Houston Hamvention. US postage rates were going up sharply (and seem like a real bargain now). Buzz said to fill in your needed band countries with 2001 sunspot numbers expected to decline. The TDXS Christmas Party was held at the downtown law offices of Chuck Dietz W5PR.

Twenty years ago this month December 1990: The monthly meeting was held at Gabby's BBQ on N. Shepherd. Outgoing President Ken Grabenstein KE5IV (now W5AAC) announced the 1991 officers

would be: Jim Lane N5DC as President, John Stevens K5JS as Vice President, "Butch" Barber K5GB (SK) as Secretary, and Dale Martin KG5U as Treasurer. Plans were being finalized for the January banquet to be held at Brady's Landing, and it was rumored that Jim N5DC would be there without his wheelchair, no thanks to the garage door from Hades that broke both kneecaps! Chuck Coleman K5LZO (SK) was back in the states from his shipboard duties in the Middle East. Martti Lane OH2BH's new book "Where Do We Go Next" was about to go on sale. Frank Wyatt KC5M wrote an interesting article on the challenges and excitement of chasing DX with a modest station and how chasing IOTA credits can be rewarding. Jan Carman K5MA reported on his new set-up in the "colonies" (West Falmouth, MA). We received a report that Romeo Stepanenko was planning DXpeditions to Spratly Island and Afghanistan, and was soliciting funds (again!).

Thirty years ago this month December 1980: Bullsheet Editor Tom Taormina K5RC announced that the TDXS winter banquet would take place on December 19th at the Red Carpet Inn on the Katy Freeway. The TDXS WAZ Competition came to a close on November 30th and winners for single band and five band categories

would be announced at the banquet. K5RC noted that this was his last issue as Bullsheet editor and reminisced about the club's beginnings, growth, and some of the characters that shaped the organization. Incoming 1981 officers were: Wes Whiddon N5WW as President; Al Loeckle K5BZU (now K5FK) as Vice President; Bill Eckenrode W5SG as Secretary; and "Butch" Barber K5GB (SK) as Treasurer.

Thirty five years ago this month December 1975: TDXS Secretary Richard King K5NA announced the winter banquet was scheduled for December 27th. Three nominees for TDXS President were in a run-off election. Nominees were: Tom Taormina WA5LES (now K5RC), Chuck Coleman K5LZO (SK), and Clarence Sharp W5NMA (K5DX-SK). Membership ballots for Mike Young W5RRX were still pending the required 50% member response. 1976 club dues were payable at \$10 for full members, \$6 for student members, and \$1 for associate members.

Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie Cooke, K5EWJ

The CW World Wide DX CW is now in the rear view mirror. Much to my displeasure, I did not get to play this year, but several members did play with nice scores to report. Radio-sport.net issued the following bulletin:

["Bands Open, Some Records Fall In CQ WW CW"](#)

Posted: 29 Nov 2010 05:54 PM PST

Despite solar conditions that had many worried about a lack-luster weekend on the high bands, the 2010 CQ WW CW Contest was better than expected in terms of propagation, as defending Single Operator champ Valery Komarov RD3AF quickly staked his claim to a repeat of his 2009 CW victory, and a number of records fell in the US."

Valery operated from the Canary Islands using the call EF8M.

Valery holds both RD3AF and RD3A. He reported an incredible 7725 QSOs to average nearly 161 QSOs per hour for 48 hours. The TDXS contest expedition of Paul, W5PF; Cal, WF5W and Bill, K5WAF operated the contest from Nicaragua using H7V.

They operated Multi/Single, Low Power and made an impressive 4150 QSOs for 86.45 QSOs per hour. They were the only group in the M/S LP, Non USA category to post a claimed score on 3830 but the 4,019,526 points with 122 zones and 315 countries seems impressive to me. N5XZ, Allen and KL7SB, Steve operated the KL7AA station using Allen's KL5DX call to make 2254 QSOs ub 80 zones and 169 countries for 1,320,477 points. Way to go guys.

The local scores included 2001 QSOs , 139 zones, 421 countries for 3,021,312 points by N5AW, Bob Evans. N5EA, Tom made

155 Qs, 88 zones, 43 countries for 55,413 points. W5HPQ, Steve, made 71Qs, 32 zones and 34 countries for 10,362 points and W5MJ, Madison made 165 Qs in 22 zones and 48 countries, all on 10 meters while helping Chuck, W5PR ring out his 10 meter station prior to the ARRL 10 meter contest for 25,480 points.

A big group manned NR5M for a Multi-Multi effort. K5GA, NO5W, NX5M, WoMM, KG5U, N1XS, W5ZL, W5OV, N5XJ, K5NZ, N9NB and KU5B gathered to work 6482 Qs, 191 zones, 713 countries for a whopping 15,364,384 points. Quite an effort!

The following exchange was on the Straight Key Century Club Yahoo Group. The operators in the group have experience levels that run the gamut from beginner to very experienced. The

Contests coming up:

Dec 11/12	ARRL 10-Meter Contest
Dec 18/19	Stew Perry Topband Challenge
Jan 1	ARRL Straight Key Night
Jan 8/9	ARRL RTTY Roundup
Jan 28/29	CQ WW 160 Contest
Feb 25/27	CQ WW 160 SSB

Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie Cooke, K5EWJ

beginners are intimidated by the rapid fire of the major contests and the high code speeds that are generally used. Several of us try to encourage those who express interest to jump in and get their feet wet. It is interesting that many of these are new hams with no code licenses who are taking the effort to become proficient and many of them do very well. Many are also hams who have been license many years but learned just enough code to get the license then abandoned code for SSB and FM.

I didn't participate - it's still too fast. BUT I did listen for awhile & I was able to follow a LOT more than previously. Maybe next time I'll jump in. THANKS, SKCC !! I also think that Bob Denny's news feeds & also the traffic nets, esp. RN6, have helped me a lot in getting my speed & comprehension up there.

TU ES 73 DE Kate

Kate, if you stay with hunt and pounce the only thing you have to get the first time is your call. Most of us can copy our own call a lot faster than anything else. It is fair to listen to the DX as many times as it

takes to copy the call. You can do it one letter at a time if need be. You will not win the contest, but you can work some nice DX and run your country count up. Be sure and get your log in to LOTW because a lot of contesters are LOTW members. Most will also QSL if you send a SASE or a couple of green stamps. It is a great way to build speed and great practice. Remember, the big guns want YOU in their log at least as bad as you want them in yours, maybe more. They can't be a BIG GUN without working most of the other big guns, most of the good contesters and a whole lot of small pistols, QRSers, QRPers and a few lids. You can't win a contest without working most everybody. Contrary to some posts on this forum the contesters CQing at 25, 30 or 40 WPM copy by ear and CAN copy your QRS hand key even if your fist is just so-so. They want you to play, the organizers want you to play and it is FUN. Then send your log into the contest and LOTW. A good contest logger will help you get your Cabrillo entry in shape and you will get the pleasure of seeing your call in

CQ.

While this exchange was directed at beginners it is good for all of us to consider what goes on during contests and what makes them work. The truth is that contests have aspects for everyone from the operators just getting a start to the most proficient operators with the best and most expensive equipment. It takes all of us to make a good contest and the more the merrier!

The ARRL 160 contest is happening as I write this and next week is another good one, the ARRL 10 meter contest on Dec 11/12. Then we have the Stew Perry 160 contest on Dec. 18/19. Don't forget the ARRL Straight Key Night on Jan 1, the ARRL RTTY Roundup on Jan. 8/9, the CQ WW 160 Contest on Jan 28/30 and the CQ WW 160 SSB on Feb 25/27.

Here's wishing you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holliday and a wonderful 2011 and many fun contests during the new year!

DX Update from A25UQ by Bob Hardie, W5UQ

Note that the TDXS logo is on the sponsors page of A25-2010 <http://www.qsl.net/a25-2010/7115/>

Africa. Also, it is on the QSL card. See attached. They are on the way to the printer right now. Hope to have them in a few days. A25UQ's QSL mgr is W5JAY.

Also, I celebrated my 71st birthday while we were in Botswana. October 26th. :-)

Bob Hardie
W5UQ

I had it put on before we left for



BOTSWANA 2010

A25HQ

Special call for CQ WW SSB Contest
QSL via K5LBU

Team: K5LBU(A25CF), IK1MDF(A25DF), IZ5MMB(A25MB), IOZY(A25ZY), KD5TAN(A25AN), K5ZOL(A25BI), W5SL(A25SL), W5UQ(A25UQ).
<http://www.qsl.net/a25-2010/7115/>

With a Special thanks to our sponsors

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QSL via K5LBU

A25DF
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QSL via K5ZOL

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Thanks also to: IK4DS, ND7TT, G0VY, I0TDE, K5NGB, IZ0GGR, IZ1JUF, EA4KX, IZ1HQ, I5NOK, W5CAM, N8PHT, W6GCK, W8BKA, K5RDM, K5ZNC

MAGH ELETTRONICA

VENDITA, INSTALLAZIONE E ASSISTENZA RICETTASMETTITORI PER OM-CB-CIVILE MATERIALE R.F.

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Facing your fears, part 1 by Madison W5MJ

I know most of you have been afraid to tackle a surface mount project because of old age, bad eyes and a few excess bucks in you pocket [being for paying someone who manufactures what you want, even if it's more than you really want to pay]. You further rationalize by remembering the Heathkit stuff you built in your youth which did not initially pass the smoke test even though the parts were relatively huge. Besides, you are too busy watching the Texans/Astros/Rockets suffer another disappointing loss.

Well, if you want a winner, inexpensive [\$15] and useful, here's one for you: the Morse Code Buddy by K5BCQ and K5JHF. You can build the kit in

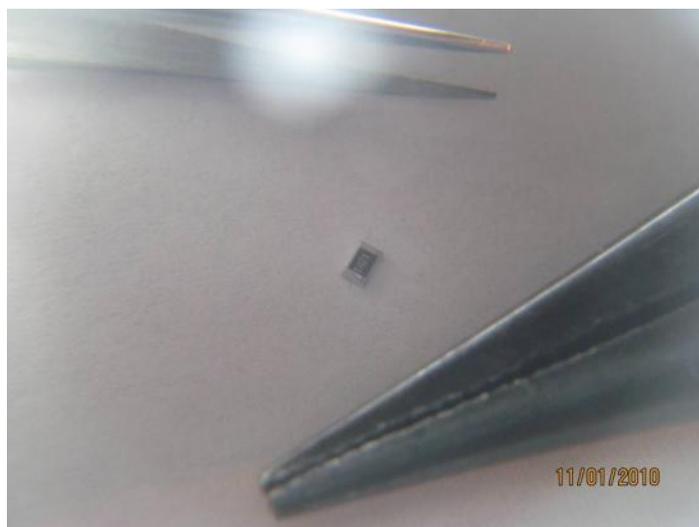
an evening, and will learn that SMT isn't all that tough. When you are finished, your Code Buddy will give you practice either with random code or call signs at whatever speed you select. It has adjustable tone, keyboard or paddle input, output for headphones or a beeper, has 12 memories, runs almost forever on two AA batteries and will key your rig, either through the paddles or keyboard.

The board is about 1.25" x 1.5" and has tinned holes. The LED is not part of the kit, but I put it in the picture to give an idea of the sizes.

The little things in the white cardboard are the resistors and disk capacitors. While

their small size may make you think you can't do, of course you can, though starting your first SMT after knocking back a couple of brewskis may not be the best way to begin the project. I suggest you Google a video or two on how to do surface mount. After a couple of resistors get onto your board, you will know about all there is to know about the technique.

The black object between the tweezers and the needle nose pliers is a 1.8K surface mount resistor. Tweezers, a magnifier, a device to hold the board [I like the PanaVise 315 with the swivel base] and rosin flux are musts, but you can probably borrow those items for your first kit. [Construction hint: use a biscuit pan or similar to lay out the parts, and take



Facing your fears, part 1 (cont.) by Madison W5MJ

pains to lock your cat in the bathroom when putting SMT together, lest you have to get more resistors and capacitors to finish. I assure you that you will not be able to find them on a wood floor, much less shag carpet.]

Here's the finished product, with my average size thumb for comparison:

You will be so enthralled with your success you will want to carry it around in your shirt pocket. The Code Buddy will not only help your code speed, it will also make you a hit of the Christmas cocktail circuit, and you learned something! Drop me a note and I will get the kit in your hands. I will try to remember to bring one to the

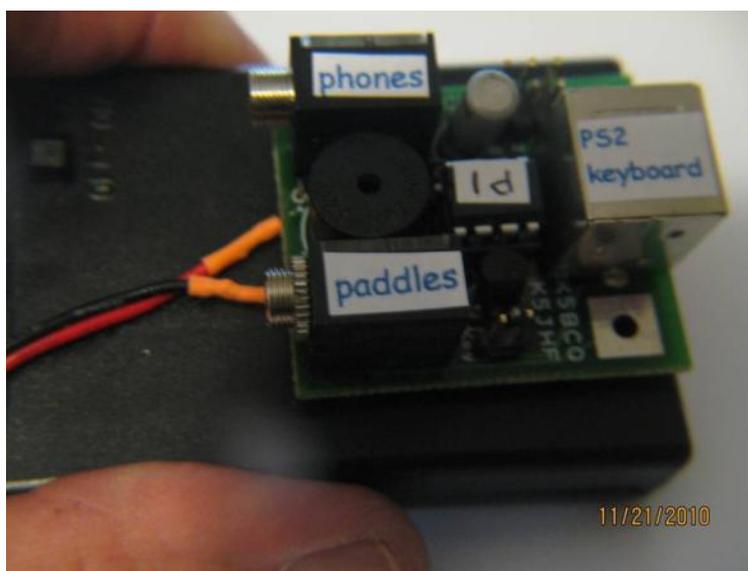
next meeting so you can see for yourself what a neat thing it is.

73,

Madison

W5MJ

PS: CW forever . . .



Programs, Dxpeditions and Stuff de Cal WF5W

[ed. A dispatch from Nicaragua]

Hello from your favorite DX location. We are having a field day! 10 meters went wild this am.... we are over 3.2 million so far so not sure what our standing will be.

As to Octavio and Martha they are doing well. They checked our radio and wrote in my passport this time so will have

to go by their office when we leave.

WX is fine, sleeping when we can. Bill and Paul have not had their shoes on the whole time here.

Tired and ready for the contest to end.... 10 meters took a toll.....wall to wall for 3 hrs straight.

If any of our guys ever want to

try a DXpedition, as you know this is the place....

That's it for now...must get some sleep.

73s for now your soon to be ex VP and DXpedition chair.

Cal

VHF Repeater Maintenance by Glen WB5TUF

(ed. Thanks to Glenn WB5TUF and crew, the 147.36/96 repeater is back on the air from its new location and full quieting around town. Thanks Glenn)

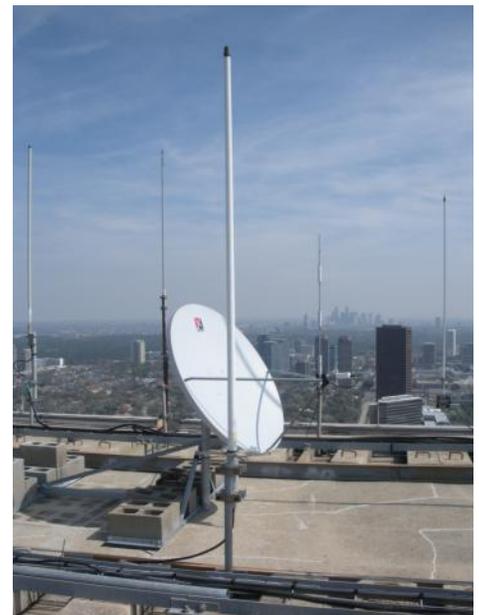
Here are some pics of the recent repeater project. The VHF repeater has been replaced with a 100-watt GE/Ericsson MASTR 3 and relocated to the

same site as the UHF. They are now in the same rack.

The pics are the UHF in it's small rack before and both repeaters in their new rack. The VHF is on the bottom and the UHF is on top. The EchoIRLP and DX alert link radios are in the center of the rack. The third pic is a view of the UHF antenna and the downtown skyline. The participants were

myself, my son Evan, Lance Rumfield WD5KCX, Tim Rumfield W5TMR, Dan Rumfield WA5DTR, James Urbish WD5IJD, and Bill Cordell WA5KXG.

73,
Glenn



Texas DX Society Boardmembers

President	Paul Frantz, W5PF	w5pf at cebridge.net	
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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 December

Arthur Alvarez - N5KTN

Mike Young - W5RRX

Sid Leach - K5XI

Buzz Loeschman – NI5DX

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.

This is especially true if you joined TDXS in the last couple of years, as I am working from a list passed to me by the previous Bullsheet editor.