



The Bullsheet

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

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

The Ghost of Dxpeditions Past

Thursday, February 11, 7:00 PM Gessner & Westheimer.

TDXS Meeting Night: Tracy Gessner & Westheimer. The program will feature Dave Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston. Pre-meeting dinner get-together starts around 5:30/6PM at Pappas BBQ on S. See you there!



Editor's Note *de* Doug WB5TKI

When, oh when, will 10 meters be back? I know that there are hams making regular contact now, but that's with nice beams up high in the air. My ground mounted SteppIR vertical doesn't quite measure up to that. When I was a teenager back in the 1960s my Dad and I built a G4ZU Bird-cage Beam for 10 meters. As I recall it had two horizontal X supports on a cen-

tral pole and was sort of like a 2-element quad folded in at the center. It worked pretty well, even though it was only up about 15 feet. Then again, 10 meters was so open then that you could work the world on a bent coat hanger. Oh well, patience, I am reading the latest edition of the QRP Quarterly. It has a number of really interesting

articles on QRP radio construction, Software Defined Radio and WSPR. WSPR is an automated system for listening and bea- coning in a very narrow bandwidth, usually for stations running extremely low power. Fascinating stuff. Makes me want to build a QRPp SDR, hook it up to a di- pole and join the fun!

Inside this issue:

The Prez Sez	2
From the Bullsheet Archives	3
In Memoriam, K5IY	4
Contest Chairman's Report	5-6
Program and DXpe- dition Chair Report	7
Annual Awards Ban- quet	8
Birthdays	9

The Prez Sez de Paul W5PF

It was good to see several contest scores on the reflector after the recent CQWW 160CW contest. Conditions on 160M have been very good lately so it was possible for those of us with not so big 160 antennas to work a little DX, in the contest and otherwise. There are currently a couple of European visitors in 6W that several of us have worked. And there are some Pacific stations concentrating on 160. Cookie has been beating the contest drums so get in there and make some contacts and post your score on the reflector.

It looks like there will be a little more RF in the air in the Magnolia area soon. W5KDJ, K5UO and I were at Bob, W5UQ's QTH on this past Saturday morning to help him get his tower installed. His W51 is now upright waiting for the rotor and antennas. Bob still has some work to do to get the shack put together but I hope to hear some more activity from that direction soon.

This week I received a certificate from CQ magazine for the efforts of C91TX in the 2009 World Wide WPX SSB contest. We managed 4th place in Africa in the multi-single category despite the poor propagation and substantial power outages we had during the contest. This year WF5W, K5UO, NM5G and WB5TKI are going to Nicaragua for the ARRL DX Phone contest in

early March. They will also be on the low bands outside of the contest on CW and RTTY. Look for them and give them as many Q's as you can in the contest.

TDXS was saddened last week when Bob King, K5IY, became a silent key. Bob was very active with TDXS in the 80's participating in many TDXS contest efforts at XE2FU and NR5M. He was TDXS member #70. Rest in peace Bob.

Tom K5RC and several others have built W7RN in Nevada as a memorial station to friends and SKs. Those memorialized include Dave Busick, N5JJ, TDXS #17. To commemorate Dave's passion for Top Band W7RN obtained a WAS 160M Award. Dave became an SK 22 years ago this month. Thanks Tom for sending TDXS a copy of the award certificate and helping us to remember friends and SKs.

January we had the annual TDXS Banquet at the Saltgrass Steak House on Katy Freeway. We had a good turnout and from what I could see all had a good time. The "Yagi on a Roll" was awarded to Mike K5UO for making the most band mode slot contacts with the major DXpeditions in 2009. Can you say "DX Hog?" Jim N4AL was recognized for attaining #1 Honor Roll Mixed. 7O1YGF was his last country. Congratulations Jim. The Door Prize, a one year subscription to the Daily DX, was won by

Lynn Smothers. I think she let W9DX Steve have it. Thanks to Bernie W3UR for donating the subscription.

See you all at the meeting and pre-meeting dinner this Thursday Feb. 13th. Dinner is 5:30 PM at Pappas' BBQ at Fondren and Westheimer and the meeting follows at 7:00 PM at the Tracey Gee Center. Details on the web site www.tdxs.org.

73, Paul W5PF

From the Bullsheet Archives by Steve W9DX

Historical Bullsheets now online!

I'm happy to report that virtually every issue of the TDXS Bullsheet is now online (<http://www.tdxx.net/bullsheetsindex.html>). Weeks of scanning, compressing and uploading have been completed. A special thanks to Richard King K5NA, and Bob Perring N5RP who donated their original copies many years ago, and Bill Frink K5WAF for help in organizing the archives. I felt it was imperative to preserve our history in digital form before the original copies were damaged or lost. To speed download and web viewing, all scanned pdf documents have been compressed. High resolution copies of all scanned issues are available on request if you need good print quality. Scanned issues are not word searchable in Acrobat Reader. We still need January 1980; April 1989; December 1994; December 1996, November 1999; February, April and October 2001. If you have any of these issues, please let me know!

Ten years ago this month February 2000:

TDXS President Earl Morse N5TU (now N8SS) was lamenting the fact that TDXS had difficulty putting a 5 man team together for NAQP in spite of our long history of doing crazy things in a big way (multi-multi contesting south of the border, 23 Battery Field Day, Armadillo County). The January banquet at the Confederate House was a big success. The need to recruit some younger members was highlighted. DX Chairman Buzz N5UR reported that the 2 week XZ0A operation was over without much effort to satisfy the demand in the central

US. Madison Jones W5MJ was rounding up souls willing to play in the ARRL Intl DX CW Contest from XA5T, with plans for a phone team in March. Jim Lane N5DC reported that the 70 ft tubular tower was about to be put up at DeMontrond Buick to host our 2 meter DX packet cluster.

Twenty years ago this month February 1990:

President Ken Grabenstein KE5IV (now KZ5KG) reported that his DX packet cluster was operating from Hempstead on 144.95 and 144.91 with a digipeater on the north side of Houston. Jim Lane N5DC and Bob Morman K5VMX said the new 2 meter and 220 MHz repeater should have received final approval for its new location atop the First City Bank Building. The February meeting at St. John's School was a video of Martti Laine's DXpedition to 4J1SU. The winner of the TDXS sponsored plaque for the 1989 ARRL Intl DX CW Contest, multi-multi category was I3JSS with a score of 3.86M. DX Chairman Bob Walworth AK5B (now N5ET) reported on the successful January DXpedition to Bouvet 3Y5X with approx 47K Q's in the logs.

Thirty years ago this month February 1980:

Bullsheet Editor Tom Taormina K5RC announced the February dinner & meeting was to be held at the Red Carpet Inn (Katy Freeway) with a program on the Kingman/Palmyra DXpedition. The TDXS Executive Committee met and announced newly filled board positions: Orville Burg K5VWW as DX Chairman, and Bob Evans N5DU (now K5WA) as FD Chairman. The new Spec-

trum repeater was put on the air, but increased sensitivity has caused a lot of intermod problems, and efforts were underway to address those issues. Lee Norman W5DOZ (SK) agreed to be net control for the club's weekly Tuesday 8PM net on 36/96. During the last board meeting, member candidates Don Busick K5AAD, Dr. Larry McCollum W5PJT (SK), Bill Eckenrode W5SG, and "Dusty" Rhodes W5URN (SK) were deemed eligible for membership and were to be introduced and voted on. Contest Chairman Rich Keller K5WA (SK) had a nice article regarding more club contesting participation to increase our club aggregate score, especially in the upcoming ARRL DX and CQ WPX contests. Rich regretted that our XE2FU score could not be counted in the club total. Rich said, "If your station is capable of working DX, then it's certainly capable of contesting, all you have to do is want to support the only contest club existing in south Texas, of which you are a member."

Bob King K5YI, SK



*In memory of our
friend,*

**Robert J. King, Sr. - K5IY
(ex-WB5IXK)
November 19, 1930 -
January 31, 2010**

**Houston Chronicle
Obituary, February 4,
2010:**

ROBERT JOHN KING passed away peacefully at his home in Houston, Texas on Sunday, the 31st of January 2010, following a courageous battle with cancer at the age of 79. A long-time Houstonian, Bob was born in Chicago, IL to Lawrence Francis King and Alice Burgoyne King, on the 19th of November 1930. A veteran of the Korean War, Bob served in

the U.S. Army, was awarded two Purple Hearts and was a retired entrepreneur in Houston. Bob is preceded in death by his father, his mother, and his sister Shriley and husband Nels Moe. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Mary, son Bob and wife Dawn King, two grandsons Drew and Bryan King, sister Jean and husband David Gibbs, sister Joyce and husband Jim Dillon, sister Linda King, sister Pat and husband Harold Stanley, sister Sandy and husband Carl Chaney, brother Larry and wife Monica King, sister Laurie and husband Jeff Jatras, sister Roberta and husband Larry Skrabanek, sister Annette and husband Richard Martinak, and numerous nieces and nephews. The family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who offered their love, prayers and support throughout his battle. It will never be forgotten. He will always be remembered for his kindness, generosity, compassion, intelligence and dry humor. He touched everyone's lives that knew him. A celebration of Bob's life is to be conducted at eleven o'clock in the morning on Friday, the 5th of February, in the Chapel of Woodlawn Funeral Home.

From Steve W9DX:

Bob joined TDXS in 1979 (Member #70) and was an active contester during the late 70's through late 80's. He was a frequent participant in the NR5M Multi-Multi contesting efforts during that time, and made a number of trips with Bob Jr. NM5L to Nuevo Laredo for our contesting activities at XE2FU. He was a strong contributor to the TDXS Field Day activities, and our hospitality suites during convention events. He was a friend and mentor to many of our member-candidates during those years, and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie Cooke, K5EWJ

Last weekend was a wonderful 160 meter experience. The band was in excellent shape, opening about 1600 and staying open all night. Working all states in a weekend on 160 was accomplished by many, but it eluded yours truly. I looked hard for North Dakota and South Dakota, but was not successful. DC also eluded me. Here are some interesting scores from the 3830 page. Of course none are official and have not been subjected to checking which usually costs some points.

The very top scores seem to be concentrated in the north east, mostly New England, but spread out some along the east coast. The contest stations in our area scored well. Richard at K5NA near Manor, TX made 1397 Qs with 58 state/provinces and 71 countries for 653,901 raw points and 8th

place on the 3830 claimed score list for Single Operator High Power. NR5M was not far behind with 1359 Qs, 58 s/p, and 65 c for 595,074 for 10th place. NM5M, Eric Silverthorn from Plano was guest operator at NR5M. The US leader was K1DG (N1LI) in New Hampshire with 1,292,265 points. K8PO in Maine was second with 1,185,900 points. Being 1700 miles closer to Europe has some advantage. Top non US score was EF8M (RD3AF) at 2,155,580 points. That is a lot of QSOs in the allowed 30 hours of operation.

The top score in Multi Op US was by the team at KC1XX in NH with 1,154,256 and second was K1TTT in MA with 967,096. It is interesting that the top scores in Multi were not quite as good as in SO HP in spite of having the extra help and 40 hours to operate. Top Multi-

Op, non US was PJ2T with 1,847,520.

Single Operator Low Power US was led by N2WN in TN with 971 Qs, 56 s/p and 51 c for 295,596. Non US leader was VE3NE with 663,288.

Single Operator QRP US was led by N1ZZ in CT with 1130 Qs, 58 s/p and 66 c for 539,524. Non US leader was HA8BE with 213,384.

Single Operator Assisted HP US was led by K3WW in PA with 1519 Qs, 59 s/p and 75 c for 807,082. Non US was LX7I (DF1LON) with 1,487,767.

Single Operator Assisted LP US was led by NN3W in VA with 577 Qs, 55 s/p and 39 c for 165,158. Non US leader was OK1FC with 167,535.

The detailed 3830 reports are available on the web at <http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/3830/2010-February/>

Contests coming up:

Year Around: CQ Marathon DX

Feb 6/7 Ten-Ten Winter SSB QSO Party * Vermont, Minnesota & Delaware QSO Parties

Feb 13/14 CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest

Feb 20/21 ARRL International DX Contest (CW)

Feb 27/28 CQ WW 160 SSB Contest

Mar 6/7 ARRL International DX Contest (SSB)

Mar 27/28 CQ WW WPX (SSB)

Contest Chairman's Report (cont.)

Stations reporting for TDXS were K5WAF (SO Assisted HP) with 314 Qs, 56 s/p and 37 c for 92,535; K5EWJ (SO HP) with 365 Qs, 52 s/p and 22 c for 70,448; W5PF with 326 Qs, 50 s/p and 22 c for 63,4332; WF5W (SO LP) with 228 Qs, 46 s/p and 7 c for 27,612.

K5WAF is equipped with an Icom IC-7800 and IC-2KL amp for 500 watts. The antenna is one of Cal's Chicken Wire Special with two full length wire radials for a counterpoise. Bill found his trap open at the last minute and jumped around it. This was Bill's first experience on 160 and he went from no states worked to all 50 during the 11 hours of operation on Top Band. Of course, all 37 countries were new as well, so Bill has a good start on DXCC. Congratulations Bill! You picked a great week end to start on 160, we don't have these conditions or the CQ 160 every week!

K5EWJ is equipped with an Elecraft K3 and Dentron Cliperton-L amp for 600 watts. The antenna is another Chicken Wire Special with five 50 ft wire radials. I was not able to find North and South Dakota this time, but worked

the other 48. I also missed DC for a US sweep plus several of the Canadian provinces. Five new countries bring my 160 total to 87 worked and 68 confirmed.

W5PF is equipped with a Yaesu FT-2000 and Quadra for 1KW. His transmit antenna is an inverted L with elevated radials. Paul has a K9AY for receive. Paul also worked five new ones of his 22 countries.

WF5W is equipped with a Kenwood TS-480 and modified Hi-Tower. Cal did this contest the hard way, low power and hand key. He had a nice respectable score with only 8.75 hours of operating.

For all of you CW operators who are dragging your feet getting started on 160, the Chicken Wire Special is not too hard to make and install. If you have a tower for your beam, you can just pull it up on a pulley like I do. I can't tell that this harms the beam function or the 160 antenna. It also works well on 80 and is not too shabby on the other bands.

K5LLL, Ron posted a nice score for the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes. Ron made 147 Qs in 78 grids for 26,208 points. The QSOs

covered the spectrum from 50 Mhz to 10 Ghz. Maybe one of these days I will catch a 6 meter opening between Santa Fe and McDade for a QSO.

The CQ Marathon DX Contest is a fun activity for year around. If you are losing interest because you have completed you "Worked All Everything" award this will bring back the spark. Everybody starts over clean each January 1 to see how many countries and CQ zones can be worked in a calendar year. There are categories for 100 watt and 10 watt stations with simple antennas as well as the Unlimited Category. You can pit your DX skills against the multitudes. For 2009 I made 203 countries and 40 zones for 243 points. So far in 2010 I have 86 countries and 27 zones. The best claimed score for 2009 is 331 with 291 countries and 40 zones. We will find out who owns that score and how he fared with the checkers when the magazine report is published, probably in the July CQ Magazine.

Happy Contesting and DXing for February, Cookie, K5EWJ

Programs, Dxpeditons and Stuff de Cal WF5W

From the V.P., Programs:

Got a hot one for this Feb. Our own Dave Topp is going to present some of the videos from recent DXpeditons that he has helped to sponsor. Several other programs are in the pipeline for March and April but won't reveal them now, other than to say Keith YN2NM better get his camera ready and edit quickly after next months journey to Nicaragua.

Got a good response from the membership on other program ideas, thanks to all.

From the DXpedition chair:

Off to Nicaragua March 4 ! Newby DXspeditioner Douggy will be getting his first challenge after more than 40 years of hamming from the "other side" Call signs have been given. Doug: YN2TKI; Keith YN2NM; Mike YN2UO and me YN2EA. Look for us on all the bands all the time.....SSB, CW and that other machine mode stuff. (does that sound a little biased against it) sorry. We will do the contest as YN2EA But you can bet you will hear the RATTY stuff from UO outside the contest. Now the only thing we will have to do is keep him within the power limits of the antennas....

Still looking at the IOTA near Coasta Rica, there seems to be some interest. More on that later.

Some General Stuff :

From: Shack of WF5W: Orion II back to Ten Tec for op amp and oil and grease job, should be back this week. in the mean time have been getting re-joined with the TS480 in prep for the big YN trip. Lots of good stuff on the air, worked a G3 on 160 with 200 watts....

AND been getting a little blasé on a lot of the things so to gin up some new interest, am going to build a qrp transceiver for 30 meters and see what that will bring. Ordered it off yesterday so will be standing by the mail box starting Monday. This all started from having to build a cable out of the mini din plug for the 480, had to borrow a little vice from NM5G to complete the job, then of course had to go and buy one for myself, now that I have the vise surely have to have some work for it ! Sound reasonable??? And from NM5G's workshop borrowed his idea to cradle all the tools needed to work on stuff including the solder and iron, of course the vise and proper lighting. SO...;..am ready and waiting....Mailman get here!!

I don't know about the rest of you guys but have been having a Amazon attack lately, buying too much stuff on the web with the trusty old credit card. Before long I might just end up on the shopping network!! Spring, hurry and get here.

From: Deck of the Sea Pumpkin: /mm is willing and ready, as soon as the engine doctor fixes the injector and water pump..... Back stay is now fully insulated and the 12 volts actually goes out the lines and is 12 volts at the working end again... Corrosion is a never ending battle near the salt water. The Ham crew of the Pumpkin (W5PF,K5WAF and me) are planning a joint trip to Red Fish Reef with our neighbor and possible candidate for TDXS, Tom KD5TIO, to spend the night dxing from both boats. More on that later.

SKN night: N05W Chuck Sanders of Texas QSO party fame, won the Christmas Key for the next year as having the best fist of the year ! Presented to him at the NARS banquet in Jan.

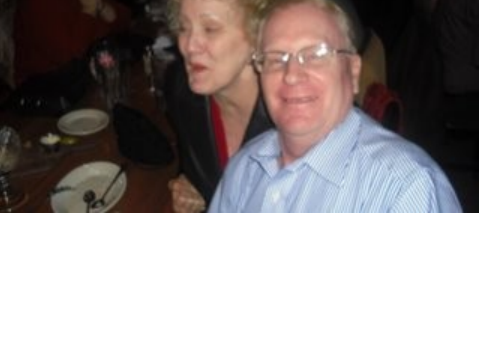
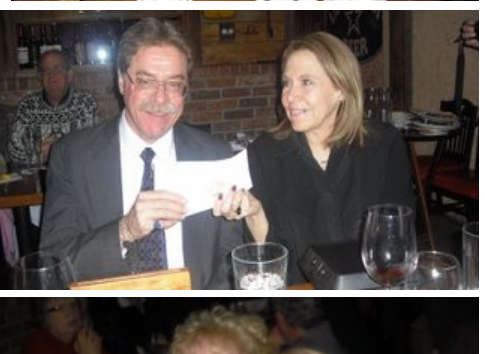
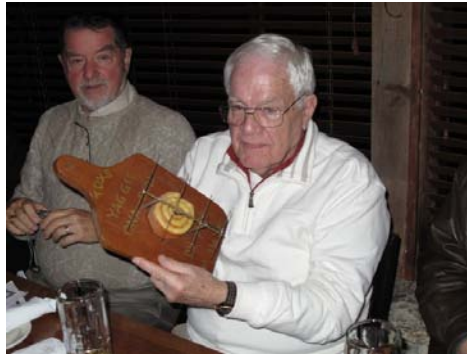
NOW hoping to hear more of our club on the air, gonna change the night from 2nd Tuesday to 2nd Sunday night, 7 PM to 8:30 PM. You will still have time to see and hear Mr. Andy Rooney (AGE 91) before the run on 80 meters (3540-3550) SO no excuses.... get the old key out, oil her up and pound the brass....

That's it from this end.....WF5W

TDXS Annual Awards Banquet

The TDXS Annual Award Banquet was held on January 9 at the Salt Grass Steakhouse in Houston. There were about 30 attendees who enjoyed the good food and camaraderie. Here are a few pictures from the event.

Thanks to Keith NM5G for making all of the arrangements for a great event! Also thanks to Cal WF5W for contributing pictures.



Texas DX Society Boardmembers

President	Paul Frantz, W5PF	w5pf at cebridge.net	
VP Membership	Bob Mennell, WB5IUU	bmennell at consolidated.net	
VP Programs	Cal White, WF5W	cwhite314 at sbcglobal.net	
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	Keith Dutson, NM5G	kdutson at sbcglobal.net	
	Bob Mennell, WB5IUU	bmennell at consolidated.net	
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DXpedition Chairman	Cal White, WF5W	cwhite314 at sbcglobal.net	
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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 February

Dave Blaschke - W5UN

James Clark - N5RO

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 Boockholdt - N4AL

Bob Perring - N5RP

Fred PeVoto - K5FP

Tom Shapiro - KD5SP

Marty Kirkland - WA5TMN

Mike Crownover - AD5A

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.