



# The Bullsheet

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

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

## Field Day Was Fun!

Field Day was a blast! We had lots of members and guests at the site over the 2 days. We operated 2A with additional bonus 6m., GOTA and Solar contacts. Boy was it nice to have air conditioning! The Tomball Fire Department staff were very friendly and accommodating. Bob W5UQ set out a scrumptious BBQ dinner on Satur-

day. We had visits from a Tomball City Council member and the Tomball Chief of Police. All in all a fun time and a great location. We hope that you had a chance to stop by and operate.



## Editor's Note de Doug WB5TKI

So now we are in the Dog Days of summer. It's a good time to do indoor projects. One is to finish the Bionics Tiny-Trak4 that I picked up at Dayton and install it in the car. Another is to replace the battery in my daughter's iPod (not a simple task). Then there are plumbing repairs. Lots to keep me busy.

Look for Bob V31UQ (W5UQ) operating

currently from Belize until July 19. I was there in 1976 and 1978 and thoroughly love it. I stayed on Ambergris Cay, which is on the northern edge of the country. The barrier reef intersects the cay on the north end, so you are never very far from it. Snorkeling on the reef is magical, but watch out for that fire coral! My fondest memory is of heap-

ing plates of lobster tail served family style at Celi's Holiday Hotel in San Pedro (it's still there). Big as your fist, and they kept them coming until you couldn't stuff any more in. And there was the doctor who insisted that a jar of peanut butter be present at every meal, and used it. Great memories and highly recommended!

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## The Prez Sez de Paul W5PF

The TDXS 2010 Field Day operation and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is now history. Our Coordinator, Mike K5UO, had a lot of help to put on this year's edition. The CW Station was captained by Wayne W5KDJ, Dave W5BXX provided the motor home, tower and T8 antenna and Cal WF5W brought his TS-480. We also had a 2 el Hy-Gain 40M from Bill K5WAF, but we found out the hard way that Dave's tower was not quite up to the task of handling both a T8 and the 2el 40 so they made do with a 40/80 loaded dipole. The 6 Meter station was also in Dave's motor home and Dave provided the radio, tower and antenna for that station.

The SSB/Digital station was captained by Glenn WB5TUF. Glenn brought his K3 as well as all of the computers set up with N3FJP logging software, networking equipment and a whole lot of LMR400 coax. Glenn, his co-captain Scott KB4KBS and David NK5G did a lot of work setting up the stations, running coax and getting the network up and going. The SSB/DIGI station had two antennas, Cal WF5W brought his Hy-Craft (we couldn't tell what it was) 2.8 element tribander and his trailer tower. Cal and Tom KD5TIO spent Friday afternoon tuning this one of a kind beauty and finally got it squared away with a few new

sheet metal screws. Joey W5BAK brought his tower trailer which was used for the club's 2 EL 40M Cush Craft. This year we had some guy anchors so the tower was extended to about 40 feet. Ask Doug WB5TKI how much fun it was to screw the anchors into and out of the hard clay. Doug WB5TKI also captained the GOTA station assisted by Tom KD5TIO. Doug, Tom, Scott and others assisted several youngsters make about 25 contacts on this station. Bob WB5IUU provided the solar cells and batteries to power the DIGI station for several "natural power" QSOs. Bob also provided the information table setup and the cold cokes and water.

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BBQ Dinner was attended by approximately 40 members, guests and spouses. Bob W5UQ organized the event and his brother-in-law did all the cooking. There was plenty of good food for all. The longest tenured members in attendance were Mike N5MT and Bob N5ET. They both joined in 1982. Several out of town members sent email congratulations and these were recognized. We also had a moment of silence for those members who are silent keys.

All of these folks as well as many others who loaned equipment, helped the set up

and tear down effort or operated deserve a hearty THANK YOU. I also want to thank the Tomball Fire Department, Chief Randy Parr and the crew at the Main Station for all their help and hospitality.

Oh yeah, a quick summary of our preliminary score: CW 693 Q's, SSB 548 Q's, Digital 145 Q's, GOTA 25 Q's. The score with 800 Bonus Points will be around 5300.

Thanks again to all participants,

Paul W5PF

## From the Bullsheet Archives by Steve W9DX

### Ten years ago this month July

**2000:** The TDXS club raffle for a spankin' new Yaesu FT-100D at Ham-Com in Arlington was a smashing success with about 4000 tickets sold for a total of \$3500. Almost no one escaped Madison's W5MJ strong arm sales tactics on the convention floor. A special thanks went to Bob Burns W5SJS for providing the tickets. Bill Denton W5SB was welcomed as our newest member. Communication Chairman Jim Lane N5DC continued work on the new DX cluster software and hardware. The July dinner meeting was held at Agave, just west of downtown Houston.

### Twenty years ago this month

**July 1990:** TDXS President Ken Grabenstein KE5IV (now W5AAC) reported that we did very well at Field Day at the W5SJS ranch near Brenham, and may have just missed setting a new record for 2A. "15 meters was the money band". The only problems reported was "the 2 element 40m CW beam was a dummy load, the cattle tore down the 80m delta loop, and the novice 10m quad discovered gravity." The Arlington Ham-Com forums on contesting, DX and packet were well attended, and an informal hospitality suite was held in the KE5IV (now W5AAC), K5WA (SK) and KG5U hotel suite. Chuck Coleman K5LZO (SK) and Frank Wyatt KC5M gave a presenta-

tion on our 1985 Desecheo DXpedition during the Ham-Com DX Luncheon. Repeater Chairman N5DC continued work on the Spectrum and GE repeaters with one of them moving to 1 Houston Center and a new digi link at Greenway Plaza to improve access to the KE5IV cluster in Hempstead. DX Chairman Bob Walworth N5ET reported that 3Y5X and A51JS cards were starting to show up in the mail, and 1S0XV had been approved for DXCC credit. Rumors were flying about a potential ZA operation by HA5WE. Clarence Sharp K5DX was collecting club member QSL cards for display in upcoming TDXS hospitality suites.

### Thirty years ago this month

**July 1980:** A prime-rib buffet dinner meeting was held at the Marriott Brookhollow followed by a program by Joe W5HMK on VHF/UHF. According to Richard King K5NA, the ten most needed countries by TDXS'ers were: VS9K, ZA, BY, VU/Laccadives, XU, VK0 Heard Is., XZ, 4W1, FR7/J, and VU/Andamans. TDXS welcomed new members Steve Nace WA3OVC (now KN5H), Will Stein WB5SFS, and renewing member Don Busick K5AAD. Dennis Motschenbacher KA5CHW (now K7BV) had an informative article on honing one's contesting skills for Radiosport, by participating in Field Day and Sweepstakes.

Richard K5NA reported that the 1980 Field Day effort was deemed a great success in the 3A category in spite of 107F temperatures and marginal conditions, while beating 3 of our own band total Field Day records and setting 18 new hourly rate records with 1765 SSB Q's, 1517 CW Q's and 451 Novice station Q's for a total of 3733 QSO's (before dupes). Club secretary Dennis Motschenbacher KA5CHW (now K7BV) was reminding everyone to attend club meetings so that voting rights are not lost, and imploring everyone to return membership ballots. Jan Carman K5MA was selling his Drake C-line with all the goodies.

## Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie Cooke, K5EWJ

June was dominated by Field Day. The Field Day Chairman will report on our effort, but I will say that I had a great time at the TDXS Field Day and those around me seemed to enjoy most of it as well. A lot of people put in some considerable effort and we were all hot, thirsty and tired by the time everything was disassembled and packed Sunday afternoon. I hope that everyone recovers in time to do it again next year.

Allen, N5XZ, using his club call, KL5DX made a major effort in the All Asia Contest on June 19 and 20. Allen worked 714 QSOs for 709 points and 250 prefixes. Total points were 177,250.

The ARRL VHF QSO Party was held June 12 & 13. I did not get any reports from members for

this QSO Party. I was busy that weekend and I am not much of a VHFer, but I did manage to make 42 Six Meter CW contacts and found that enjoyable. I am sure others did better.

### USS Cavalla/USS Stewart Report

Those of us who have been working on the ship's radio equipment and manning radio rooms for Museum Ship Week End felt the need to have a station license for testing and QSOs from the radio rooms. We decided to form the Cavalla Historical ARS and obtain a club license. WS5H of BVARC is the interim President, Joe Wileman of TARS is the Vice President and I am the Trustee and Technical Vice President. I have applied for and secured the station li-

cense. Our call is presently KF5HMC, but as soon as I got the required paper work, I applied for the Vanity Call, N5BPS, which is similar to the USS Cavalla Navy call, NBPS. I also named about a dozen alternates, but at this point it looks good for our first choice.

Our activity so far has centered on getting the long wire antennas on both ships functional. We installed new coax and an unun on the Cavalla in May and it functioned well in the June Museum Ship Week End. We also discovered that the port long wire on Stewart was not functioning. We thought that the problem was rusty washers on the antenna connection. We also knew that an inspection port had rusted off on the pipe type coax and that pigeons had

### Contests coming up:

July 10 & 11 IARU HF World Championship

July 17 & 18 NA RTTY QSO Party

July 24 & 25 RSGB IOTA Contest



## Contest Chairman's Report (cont.) by Cookie Cooke, K5EWJ

nested in the coax. We replaced the washers with some brass washers and fabricated a new cover for the port. When we cleaned the straw from the bird nest from the pipe we found that the center conductor for the coax was disconnected as well. We need to remove another access port cover and repair the center conductor. We also inventoried the equipment in the radio rooms, pho-

tographed the equipment and started looking for technical data for the equipment. cursory inspection would indicate that the equipment is in place and has not been cannibalized. The equipment has not been operated in many years, so it is likely that repairs will be needed, but it seems we have a good starting point. I am having good success in finding technical information on the major equipment and am

slowly piecing together how the antennas and equipment were used.

If you are interested in getting involved in our efforts, contact Bill, Joe or me for more information. We have a work day every month on the second Saturday of the month. The next one will be next Saturday, July 10. Most of us will be attending the TARS Hamfest in Texas City on Saturday morning and going out about noon.

## Field Day 2010 Remembered



## Texas DX Society Boardmembers

<b>President</b>	<b>Paul Frantz, W5PF</b>	<b>w5pf at cebridge.net</b>	
<b>VP Membership</b>	<b>Bob Mennell, WB5IUU</b>	<b>bmennell at consolidated.net</b>	
<b>VP Programs</b>	<b>Cal White, WF5W</b>	<b>cwhite314 at sbcglobal.net</b>	
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	<b>Bill Frink, K5WAF</b>	<b>WAFrink at msn.com</b>	
<b>Contest Chairman</b>	<b>Willis "Cookie" Cooke K5EWJ</b>	<b>wrcooke at yahoo.com</b>	
<b>Field Day Chairman</b>	<b>Mike Bragassa, K5UO</b>	<b>bragassa at consolidated.net</b>	
<b>Repeater Chairman</b>	<b>Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF</b>	<b>wb5tuf at earthlink.net</b>	<b>832-595-2855</b>
<b>DXpedition Chairman</b>	<b>Cal White, WF5W</b>	<b>cwhite314 at sbcglobal.net</b>	
<b>Outgoing QSL Manager</b>	<b>Scott Patout, K5DD</b>	<b>K5DD at arrl.net</b>	
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Steve Smothers, W9DX</b>	<b>cougar70 at earthlink.net</b>	
<b>Bullsheel Editor</b>	<b>Doug Seyler, WB5TKI</b>	<b>dseyler at dseyler.com</b>	
<b>DXCC QSL Card Checker</b>	<b>Bob Walworth, N5ET</b>	<b>rwalworth at charter.net</b>	

### How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxs.net> email address: [k5dx@tdxs.net](mailto: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 July

Tom Lay - AA5Y

Pat Sonnier - W5WMU

Dennis Alexander - W5KU

Tom Wheatley - K5CNN

Mike Davidson - N5MT

Bill Price - KZ5DP

Tom Jakubec - N5ZR

Walter Schroeder - K5WS

Richard Neal - WB5LVL

Ron Marosko, Jr. - NN5DX

Wayne Rogers - W5KDJ

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.