



# The Bullsheet

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

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

## Field Day 2010 Planning and a DXpedition Redux

*Thursday, May 13, 7:00 PM*

**TDXS Meeting Night:** Tracy Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston. Pre-meeting dinner get-together starts around 5:30/6PM at Pappas BBQ on S. Gessner & Westheimer.

We will have a double-header program. First, Mike K5UO will outline Field Day plans. Then Dave W5BXX will show a DXpedition video.

Don't miss it!



### Editor's Note de Doug WB5TKI

First, announcements. Wayne W5KDJ reports that QSLs for the YI9PSE DXpedition have been ordered and the QSL manager is N6NKT. Logs are at [www.yi9pse.com](http://www.yi9pse.com).

Next, Bob WB5IUU says that, if you ordered a polo shirt, it will be available for pickup at the meeting. He has also received his 5BDXCC plaque # 6766. Fine

business, Bob! Also, Bob N5ET has been appointed as a field checker for CQ Magazine's WAZ award.

If you have not yet done it, check out the HAM-MAG website at <http://www.ham-mag.com>. It is out of France and has recently become a membership magazine, but it's worth the read. This month,

for example, is an article on constructing your own homebrew condenser microphone. Wow, now that's hard core! Please keep those articles coming. Our regular contributors are great, but we'd like to hear from you, as well.

73,  
Doug WB5TKI

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## The Prez Sez de Paul W5PF

It is May and Field Day is just around the corner. Our Field Day Chairman, Mike K5UO, has been working hard to put together a competitive effort. Station captains are in place and the hardware is coming together nicely. New member Bob W5UQ has agreed to coordinate a barbeque meal for Saturday evening. What we need now is PARTICIPATION. That means operators, but just as importantly it means help to put things together on Friday afternoon and tear things down on Sunday. None of us are getting any younger so we need to have as many people as possible come out to help. When Mike asks for folks to commit to helping with set up and tear down please show your support and put your name on the list. We will be at the Tomball Fire Station so we will be able to go inside and get away from the heat from time to time. Let's all pitch in and make this a competitive showing.

A couple of weeks ago I attended the International DX Convention in Visalia. As always it was a fun time and I had the opportunity to visit with a lot of friends. A highlight for me is the IOTA dinner on Friday evening. As usual there were some very interesting presentations including the KL7RRC/p expedition to NA-233. It was a very eventful trip as told by Yuri N3QQ. The

P29 Expedition to several Papua New Guinea islands in October and November of 2009 was also presented. It provided a very interesting look at the daily lives of those living on these remote islands with very little in the way of modern conveniences. Most of the islands did not have electric power and the only running water was the ocean.

This year's convention was very well attended with over 700 attendees. Several vendors had their latest and greatest to show. Elecraft showed their P3 panadapter which was very impressive. They also showed a small solid state amplifier that will be available later this year. I got to talk with Dennis K7BV about the new Yaesu FT-5000 rigs and his upcoming expedition San Andres. Look for him on 6M this Summer. I also got to use the new SteppIR compact 3 element 20-6M DB-11 to work a new IOTA from the demo station at the convention. It's a neat little antenna with an 11 foot boom. Great for limited space locations.



I walked out in the parking lot and for a moment I thought WF5W our "Chicken Wire Special" guru had driven all the way to California. I never did find the guy who owned the truck so I didn't find out what the CKN WIRE plates meant.

See you all at the dinner and meeting,

Paul W5PF

## From the Bullsheet Archives by Steve W9DX

**Ten years ago this month May 2000:** The May meeting was to be held at Gabby's BBQ on Wesleyan (you guys sure like BBQ!). President Earl Morse N5TU (now N8SS) was trying to drum up interest in Field Day, but no plans were firm yet. Madison Jones W5MJ was pushing club raffle ticket sales for a Yaesu FT-100D transceiver to be awarded at the Arlington HamCom on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Bob Burns W5SJS generously provided the raffle tickets again. Jim Lane N5DC reported that the DX packet cluster took a near lightning strike and scrambled the computer. Raffle ticket sales would help underwrite the upgrading of hardware and software for the DX packet cluster. George De-Montrond NR5M offered packet access to the dealership's internet connection. The W5NN contest team (N5TU, K1OJ and K5NZ) won the TDXS sponsored plaque for their win in the August NCJ North American QSO Party, Multi-Two Class. DX Chairman Buzz Jehle N5UR reported that propagation during the recent A52A and A52JS DXpeditions from Bhutan limited our contacts to 15-20m, as there was no gray-

line overlap for us this time of year which made 30-160m contacts virtually impossible from 5 land. Lots of speculation still swirling on whether the ill fated 7O1YGF DXpedition to Yemen would count or not.

**Twenty years ago this month May 1990:** The May meeting was held at Madison Electronics on Fannin Street as a final farewell before the retail store's closing at month end. Madison Electronics would do mail order business only from the Zavalla location. TDXS owes the Busick family a debt of gratitude for their support over the years. TDXS President Ken Grabenstein KE5IV (now W5AAC) reported on the visit to Houston by LY2BIG, one of the operators of super contest station LY2ZZ. DX Chairman Bob AK5B (now N5ET) gave a report on the recent operations from A5, S2, ST0, 1S0 Spratly, and the possible new country AH3C/KH5J by Martti OH2BH and crew. Reports from Dayton confirm that Vince Thompson K5VT (recently SK) did operate as S20VT with permission. In other news, contrary to the rumor that the acrid humor of Chuck K5LZO (SK)

drove Dennis K2UA (now W5KU) off the repeater, it was a chance encounter with one of the Texas wild critters. Dennis not only totaled one of the local whitetails but his 2m equipped sedan as well.

**Thirty years ago this month May 1980:** Bullsheet editor Tom Taormina K5RC announced that the May meeting would be held at the Marriott Brookhollo with a prime rib buffet (for \$8.75) starting at 7:30PM, followed by a program on Kingman Reef by Rob K5VAH. Tom reported that TDXS' participation in the NCJ North American Sprint contest was terrible with only 3 members of the 10-man team submitting logs. We did well however in the SS effort with TDXS placing 5<sup>th</sup> in the medium class clubs. Even with "stinko" conditions, K5RC (KA5CHW ((now K7BV)) operating and in the photo on page 77 of the May 1980 QST) and K5GA (K5ZD op) took the division in CW and Phone respectively.

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

The contest world has not been very busy this month. No scores were reported on the reflector since my last report. My own activity was confined to the Ten-Ten Spring CW contest this month on April 24 & 25. Conditions were not very good, there was a small amount of E skip which was spotty to various areas of the country. I made 87 Qs, 69 members and 18 non-members for 156 points. Mike, N5MT and Bill WS5H both participated but I am not sure what their scores are. The Peach Tree Chapter in the Atlanta area was fighting storms that week end, so it looks pretty good for the SHOT Chapter. The scores are not posted at this writing, so I don't know how we will rank but the high score last year was 96. The Ten-Ten group does not have a lot of CW activity, so the Ten-Ten contest is not nearly as big as the December ARRL activity. I mentioned the Museum Ships

of the Air activity last month. Since that time we have had a work day last Saturday and have another scheduled for May 8. The big project for this time is to reconnect the long wire antenna which runs from the sail to a mast on the stern. We installed a 100 ft piece of high quality Wireman Super 8 coax, connected to the wire through a unun to the wire. We were able to install the unun inside the sail so that it does not show and look out of place. We have left to route the coax to the entry point and then to the radio room inside the boat. We hope to finish that work May 8 and test to see how good the design is. We had a novice climber to do the antenna work, Stephen Cook (not related to me), KE5WCP. Stephen is a new ham who has not yet chosen his niche in the hobby. I will try to introduce him to Contesting and DX a little later. For the moment I am introducing him to some an-

tenna installation and climbing techniques and safety practices. Stephen is a really good addition to our hobby. BVARC is taking the lead in the Sea-wolf Park Museum ship activity but TDXS and other club members are welcome and invited to participate.

Future projects include restoration of the whip antennas on the Cavalla sail and possibly restoration of some of the original equipment to operational status. It would be super to put one of the antique transmitters on the air.

The project has afforded me the opportunity to learn to use my AIM-4170C Antenna Analyzer and to study Baluns and Ununs in more depth. I bought the book "Understanding, Building, and Using Baluns and Ununs by the late Jerry Sevick, W2FMI. My first project was to purchase a Jetstream Balun and test it to see if it would work as a Unun. I found it would not, so I sawed the ends off and

Contests coming up:	
All Year	CQ DX Marathon
May 29 & 30	CQ WW WPX CW Contest
June 5 & 6	Museum Ships of the Air
June 25	TDXS Field Day Setup
June 26 & 27	ARRL Field Day

## Contest Chairman's Report (cont.)

removed the windings and core. I found that it was wound with #12 wire and pretty well made, but had only a 0.5 X 1.75 inch ferrite rod for a core. I was able to rewire it into an Unun and it seems to work with tests by the AIM. The bandwidth seems a bit less than the 80 through 10 meters promised with a 2.5 SWR at 3.5 and 2.0

SWR at 29.0 MHz. I bought two Amidon Balun kits to experiment with and look forward to building and testing these toroids to see if they don't have a better band width. Jerry's book is quite good, but a bit hard to absorb all the information presented. I have some more work to do before I am an expert.

CQ Marathon DX Contest : K5EWJ, 157 Countries, 38 Zones If anyone else is participating and would like to have your score listed, send it to me.

## Programs, Dxpeditons and Stuff de Cal WF5W

### From the V.P., Programs:

Getting ready for field day this month. Make sure you give Mike K5UO your word on what you can do for the day. Also Dave is going to have another video for us.

June: Field Day

July: Wayne's (W5KDJ) report on Iraq

Aug: ???? so far but have some things in mind.

### From the DXpedition chair:

Nothing new to report, Wayne is back. the CQWW/CW team is ready for YN land in November, Keith NM5G and Co. are going back to YN in March next spring. W5PF, K5WAF and

WF5W are going to Barbados in April next Spring.

Who else is thinking of going out???? Let me know.

### From the deck of the Sea Pumpkin :

Ic7000 is up and running.

When you get out of the marina its a whole other world from a noise standpoint. The rig comes alive. W5PF and I went out a couple of weeks ago in 20 knot wind, made some contacts and just about got sea sick for the first time in years. Rough bay waters... BUT the thing is, the radio worked very well... More later from Red Fish Reef.....

Cal WF5W

## 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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Contest Chairman	Willis "Cookie" Cooke K5EWJ	wrcooke at yahoo.com	
Field Day Chairman	Mike Bragassa, K5UO	bragassa at consolidated.net	
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net	832-595-2855
DXpedition Chairman	Cal White, WF5W	cwhite314 at sbcglobal.net	
Outgoing QSL Manager	Scott Patout, K5DD	K5DD at arrl.net	
Webmaster	Steve Smothers, W9DX	cougar70 at earthlink.net	
Bullsheel Editor	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	dseyler at dseyler.com	
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](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 May

Leon Pringle, Jr. - W5NA

John Guida - K5XA

Henry Schneider - W5HNS

Jan Carman - K5MA

Mike Mauldin - K5NU

Mitch Whitney - AD5W

Kenny Manchester - NZ5I

Gregg Erlenbusch - W5IDX

Joey Clements - W5BAK

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.