



The Bullsheet

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

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

From Russia With Love

November 11, Thursday 7PM:
TDXS Meeting Night at the
[Tracy Gee Center](#).

Time to volunteer and make officer nominations for 2011. Get involved and make things happen!

Program by Bob Evans K5WA on his trip to Russia for the 2010 World Radio Team

Championships.

Pre-meeting dinner get-together starts around 5:30PM at Pappa's BBQ on S. Gessner (just south of Westheimer). Visitors welcome, so come on down!



Editor's Note de Doug WB5TKI

After playing for a couple of months with the Flex-1500 software defined radio, I've gone back to the Elecraft KX-1 for QRP CW. The Flex has a great receiver, but the built-in keyer is not really usable for me until they release a new USB driver with less latency. The KX-1 is another great little rig with a pretty hot receiver. And, as Cal WF5W, says in his column on Page 6, QRP is fun!

Also check out the photo on Page 2 concerning the Great Armadillo Run of 1986. Thanks

also to Paul W5PF, Steve W9DX and Cookie K5EWJ for their columns. The Bullsheet wouldn't be worth reading without them.

November is officer election month, and we need the membership to step forward and serve. The current officers have done a terrific job and deserve our thanks. Now it's our turn to do more than just show up for the meetings.

Don't forget the upcoming HTV CQ WW CW contest operation from Octavio YN2N's shack in

Granada, Nicaragua. Cal WF5W, Paul W5PF and Bill K5WAF will be listening for your call!

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The Prez Sez de Paul W5PF

As you may have seen by several messages on the reflector, this month is election of officers for 2011. The current group of elected officers has been serving for several years and will not be up for re election. Now is the time for you to step forward and participate in the operation of your club. Doug WB5TKI was nominated for President last month and tentatively accepted with the condition that he would not continue as Bullsheet Editor if elected. Sounds familiar, I put the same condition on my nomination a couple years ago so I can understand his position. That means we need several members to fill the officers slots and a new editor as well. We have the same problem as most Amateur Radio

Clubs these days and that is attracting new and young members. If we want TDXS to continue to be a viable club we will need to have enough members willing to serve. Please think about it and come to the meeting this month.

Enough of the soap box. I hope that band conditions for the upcoming CQWW CW contest provide for plenty of activity on 10 and 15 meters. The higher bands have all been open at various times during the last month with lots of new ones available on 12M. I am looking forward to our operation as H7V from YN2N's QTH, please work us.

The A25 group kept the bands busy, I picked up a couple new bands and also got them on RTTY. I worked Bob and

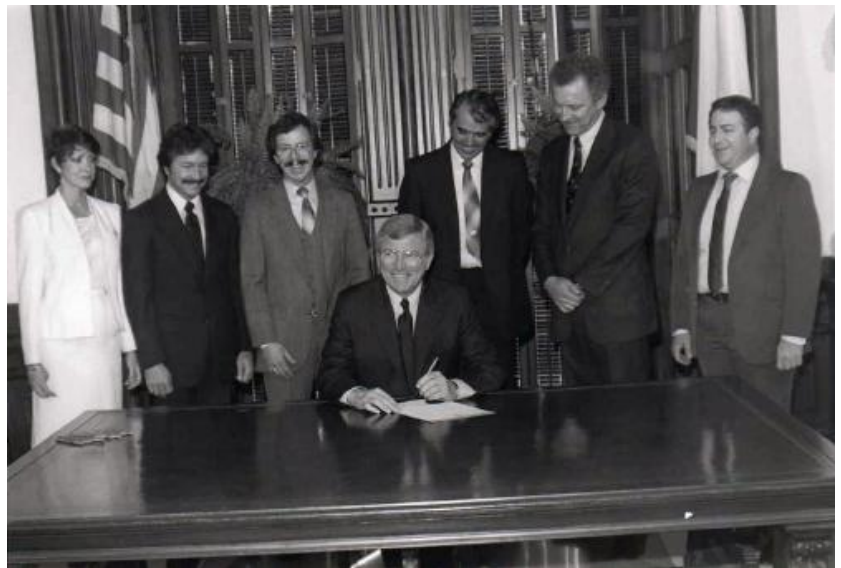
Frosty a couple times and it sounded like they were having a blast. I am looking forward to hearing about the trip, possibly at the December meeting.

The program this month covers the 2010 World Radio Team Championships and is presented by Bob K5WA who traveled to Moscow for the event. Pre meeting dinner as usual at Pappas' BBQ near Gessner and Westheimer. Eating begins around 5:30. Meeting will be at The Tracey Gee Center at 7:00 PM. All on Thursday November 11th. Details as always on our web site www.tdxs.net.

See you there,
Paul W5PF

The Great Armadillo Run of 1986 thanks to Jim N5DC via Steve W9DX

Here's a picture courtesy of Jim Lane N5DC taken October 24, 1985, with Texas Governor Mark White signing a proclamation creating Armadillo County (The Texas Independence Trail) with members of the Texas DX Society as sponsors of the proclamation request. The proclamation stated that "from March 2-December 31, 1986, any amateur radio operator operating from along the Texas Independence Trail may broadcast that he/she is operating from Armadillo County, Texas." This was one of the highlights of the Great Armadillo Run of 1986.



(l-r): unknown YL, Grady NA5R (now W5FU), Dennis KZ5M (now K7BV), Jim N5DC, Bill K2TNO & Tom K5RC

From the Bullsheet Archives by Steve W9DX

Ten years ago this month November 2000: The November meeting was held at Pappa's BBQ on the SW Freeway. Outgoing TDXS President Earl Morse N5TU (now N8SS) announced the 2001 TDXS officers were elected by a vote of affirmation: President Buzz Jehle N5UR, Vice President Madison Jones W5MJ, Ed Gerber W5GCX Secretary, and Dave Topp W5BXX Treasurer. Communications Chairman Jim Lane N5DC said the club's DX cluster was finally working well with special thanks to Roy AD5Q, and to George NR5M for use of his company's network. CHUCK W5PR will host the December meeting and club Christmas Party at his law offices near downtown. W5MJ was working on plans for the 2001 ARRL International DX Contest-CW in February at Enrique XE2FU's QTH in Nuevo Laredo. K5LBU & W5GCX had just returned from their CQWW-Phone adventures in Nicaragua. Joey W5BAK was scouting locations in St. Pierre & Miquelon (FP) for a 2001 CQWW-Phone effort. Dale KG5U reported on members' results in the CQWW-SSB contest, and how to submit logs in the newly adopted cabrillo log format. Buzz N5UR said that conditions on 6-15m were at their peak for the next 11 years and was a good time to add new ones to your total.

Twenty years ago this month November 1990: President Ken Grabenstein KE5IV (now

W5AAC) announced that the Nov. meeting would be held at the Sheraton Crown Plaza on JFK Blvd in conjunction with the Houston Com-Vention '90. TDXS members were hosting convention forums: KE5FI (now W5PR) on designing and construction of antennas for DX & contesting, K2TNO was holding one of his famous receiver clinics, and KC5CP (now N5MT) on DXing on 10m. Members' activity during CQWW-Phone was noted with K5GA, W5ASP & WB5N operating from V31K, K5RVK and crew from the lumberyard, K5LZO/MM, NR5M may have just missed setting a new USA record on 10m, and KE5FI (now W5PR) toughing it out on 75m. The November QST had just arrived confirming that TDXS took First Place in the 2A category for Field Day! KG5U recapped local claimed CQWW-SSB scores, and upcoming contests. Special kudos to our most recent DXCC Honor Roll members and newest DXCC endorsements.

Thirty years ago this month November 1980: Convention '80 was over and a special thanks to Bob WD5CHY (SK) for hosting the TDXS hospitality suite, Orville K5VWW & Dennis KA5CHY (now K7BV) for running the DX & Contesting forums, Lee W5DOZ (SK) & Sharp K5DX (SK) for the QSL card display, and Al K5BZU (now K5FK) for running the raffle. Special thanks to Contest Chairman Rich Keller K5WA

(SK) and his team captains for excellent club participation in the ARRL CW Sweepstakes. Ballots were mailed out for 1981 TDXS Officers with the following candidates: For President: Wes N5WW, or Tom AA5Y; for VP: Al K5BZU (now K5FK) or Kim K5TU; for Secretary: Bill W5SG, or Rick K5WA (SK); for Treasurer: Butch K5GB (SK) unopposed.

Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie Cooke, K5EWJ

Last weekend was one of the favorite contests, the CQ WW SSB. This year, all I could do is look at the certificate for 2nd place finish in 5th call Area for 2009. My XYL was released from the Hospital on Friday and I had electricians connecting my new service entrance on Friday and Saturday. I unfortunately could not play this year, but I do have hope for at least some operating time during the CQ WW CW on Nov 27/28. I had some indication that some members were able to play this year, but the only reports that I have received so far are from Allen Brier who started the contest at KL7AA in Anchorage using KL5DX and had to turn the operation over to Rick Gillen, AL4S mid contest to catch the flight to Texas and finished the contest as N5XZ at home in Richmond.

KL5DX claimed 643 Qs with 168 zones and 58 countries for a creditable 269,962 points. In Texas N5XZ made 482 Qs in 168 zones and 76 countries for 324,984 points in spite of a lightning hit that kept the tower from extending and wiped out the rotor indicator. Also Allen operated part time because of being in Anchorage at the start and in the air for a long flight. I hope there are some other scores, but I have no info at this writing. Apparently, the conditions were very good on 15, reasonably good on 20 and 40 and terrible on 10 meters.

The results are all in for the TDXS Anniversary QSO Party. Twelve stations submitted activity reports for the party. The most contacts by far were made by mobile station, K5NA with 184 member contacts reported. Richard, TDXS #1 re-

ports that he was the designated driver and did not make any of the contacts personally, but none the less, it is great to see such activity from #1. Expat member N5LZ, Don Butler who now lives in Mendon, UT made 56 member contacts (31 with K5NA). W5NA, Leon Pringle in Hattiesburg, MS made 14 contacts. K5JS, John Stevens in Peoria, AZ made 11 contacts. Here in Texas we had seven members and one non-member who submitted entries. Our president, W5PF, Paul Frantz led the pack with 29 contacts. W9DX, Steve Smothers who used the club call K5DX followed with 21 contacts. NG5NG, Neil Gardner, a recent member who now lives in Lowry Crossing, Collin County followed with an all CW 17 contacts. K5EWJ, Cookie Cooke scored an all CW 15 contacts. N5EN, Steve Niles, another recent member

Contests coming up:

Nov 6/8	ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW
Nov 13/14	WAE DX Contest, RTTY
Nov 20/22	ARRL November Sweepstakes, SSB
Nov 27/28	CQ WW DX Contest, CW
Dec 3/5	ARRL 160-Meter Contest
Dec 11/12	ARRL 10-Meter Contest
Dec 18/19	Stew Perry Topband Challenge
Jan 1	ARRL Straight Key Night

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

scored 14 contacts. K5TU, Kim Carr made 3 contacts. KD5TIO, Tom Campbell who is a very recent member operated maritime mobile from his sail boat anchored near Redfish Island on the Chambers and Galveston county line made 2 SSB contacts. Tom reported that he heard K5DX and called several times, but Tom's back stay antenna and Steve's vertical just couldn't make the two way trip between Cyprus and Redfish Island. I am fairly close, but operated only CW and Tom operated only SSB. Our sole non-member entrant was AF5T,

Dave Beers who worked 10 members. Dave is an interesting operator in that he is an octogenarian who is a retired merchant marine CW operator. I have had the privilege of getting to know Dave while operating aboard the ships at Pelican Island. The reports show that at least 33 member stations made at least one contact during the Anniversary Party.

Here is my new electrical service entrance. My old SE was over 30 years old and an above ground feed which was an hazard in working with antennas. The new entrance is buried in

conduit, so not a problem. The center box is a 200 amp manual transfer switch. The panel on the right feeds the air conditioner/heat pump, well house, garage, house panel, ham equipment and sewer plant.



This is the circuit breaker that failed and burned up my feed panel. The coax is my computer modem feed which just happens to be in the picture.

Programs, Dxpeditions and Stuff de Cal WF5W

Not much more to say, one more month till I become a regular member with no extra duties....

Have been working on a new antenna for DXpeditions. It is made from 2" wide Electric Fence Horse wire. Its 33'1" on a side and weighs in at 2.1 pounds, so it packs very nicely . Best thing of it is the broad band response. It is flat from 7.0 to 7.3 and again from 21.0 to 21.4. It is also very easy to use on the

bands in between with very low SWR and no tuner. (I have several hundred feet left over if any one wants to build one).

See photos below.

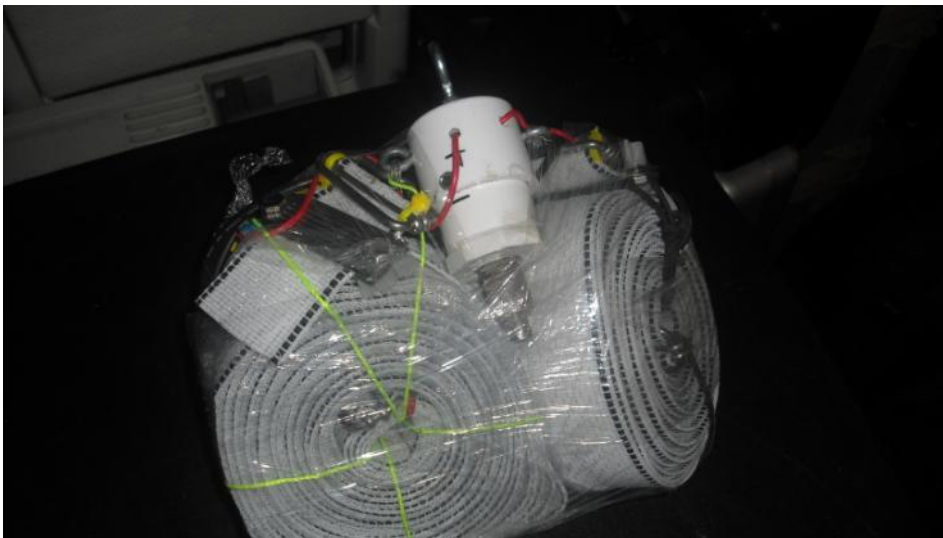
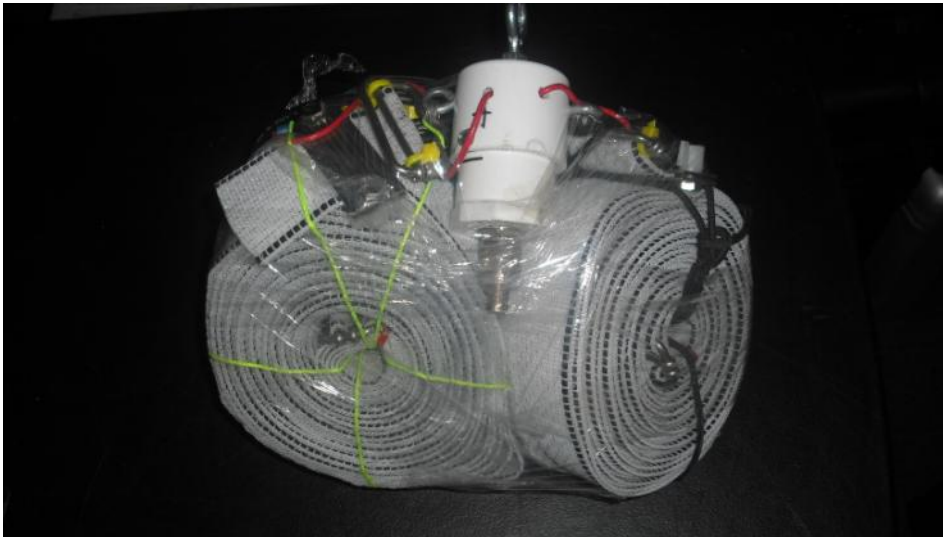
Working around the SSB contest with the K-1, not so many DX on the air for CW this weekend. But lots of state side to talk to.

Sea Pumpkin. Tom KD5TIO and I went out to Red Fish last week, the

new little Ten Tec 40/30 worked out well, made several QSO's with it.

QRP is FUN.....

C U at the meeting 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	
Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Frink, K5WAF	WAFrink at msn.com	
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

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 November

Keith Huge - KA5F

Joe Staples - W5ASP

Charles Brues - N5AM

Robert McWhorter - K5PFE

Chuck Dietz - W5PR

John Davis - KN5T

Bill Eckenrode - W5SG

Jim Carmody - NN5O

Bob Chmielewski - N5PJI

Tom Ashworth - N5EA

Bruce Meier - N1LN

Ed Gerber - W5GCX

Chuck Hornburg - K5IX

Don Mayhall - N5DM

Don Daze - N5DD

Matt Thomas - WX5S

Willis "Cookie" Cooke - K5EWJ

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.