



# The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net August 2011

## Everything ... About Propagation

*Thursday, August 11, 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. Program by Roy Radlek, AD5Q,

“Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Propagation.” Roy will give us an entertaining synopsis of his conclusions from years of observing the effects of solar activity and seasonality on difficult dx paths, Don’t miss it!



## Editor's Note by Jim N4AL

Submissions for this month's issue were a little light. Maybe this is due to summer vacations, or (like me) members are home chasing STOR for a new one. This is your newsletter, and other TDXSers want to hear what you have to say.

In his column, Prez Doug suggests that we have a monthly column describing one member's shack. That's a great idea, but it relies on

input from you. Send me a photo (.jpg) with description (in Word) of what we are seeing. Doug did this in his column. I know some of you have very impressive shacks, and put a lot of effort into them. This is your chance to be famous!

This month Cal WF5W sent us an update on what has been happening around his QTH. He has changed from maritime mobile to truck mobile. Oper-

ating successfully from a sailboat is possible but difficult. I have a friend who does this using the sailboat backstay as an antenna. She gets out great while in the Atlantic Ocean, but while in port operation is difficult. A lot of us have experience operating mobile from a truck.

W9DX does a great job with the TDXS webpage. Please notify him of changes in your DXCC status so he can update it.

### *Inside this issue:*

<b>The Prez Sez</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>From the Bullsheet Archives</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>July TDXS Meeting Notes</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Noise from the Shack of WF5W</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Birthdays</b>	<b>6</b>

## The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

As I write this, it's almost 100 degrees out and I've about forgotten what rain looks like. It's a good thing that the air conditioning is working and the bands are active. Right now there's a 10-10 Contest under way, as well as DXpedition activity in ZD8 and TY1. Then there is the mob chasing STOR. It's sure tough to break the pileups with a ground-mounted vertical antenna, even running a KW. I finally got them on 20 CW after HOURS of calling. Now for that TY1.....

FYI, our Field Day club tally was 60 CW, 1031 Phone for 1151 QSO points. Add to this 950 Bonus Points resulted in a Claimed Score just over 2,400 points. Not bad for a low key operation!

Speaking of contests, I'd like to see TDXS have some intra-club competitions. Perhaps a DX sprint to see who can have the most DX QSOs in 24 hours (or 12 hours). Or maybe a Worked All Zip Codes in the Houston area contest. I'd also like to see a really big effort from the club for the Texas

QSO Party. I welcome your suggestions.

Also, please send your shack photos to Jim N4AL. I'd like to see a regular feature in the Bullsheet showing our members' shacks. Here's mine:



That's an ICOM 756 Classic and a Yaesu FT-847 with an Ameritron AL-572 amp. Now there's also a tiny Flex 1500 SDR as well. Antenna outside is a SteppIR Big Vertical.

This month's club meeting will feature Roy Radlek, AD5Q, with a presentation entitled "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Propagation". Propagation is a lot like the weather, in that everyone complains about it but no-

body does anything about it, so I look forward to some enlightenment. See you at Papa's BBQ or at the Tracy Gee Center on August 11.

73 es gud dx,

Doug WB5TKI

## From the Bullsheet Archives by Steve W9DX

**Ten years ago this month August 2001:** The August meeting was held at Tutto Bene Restaurant on Feagan in the Heights. Madison W5MJ and Joey W5BAK were in the early planning stages of a club DXpedition to St. Pierre & Miquellon for CQWW-SSB 2002. Steve W9DX wrote an article on the ever-popular eQSL program.

**Twenty years ago this month August 1991:** The monthly meeting was held at Gabby's BBQ on North Shepherd. TDXS President Jim Lane N5DC and Convention Chairman Jim Carmody NN5O announced that Russian Cosmonaut Musa Manarov U2MIR/UV3AM and Boris Stepanov UW3AX would be guests of the Texas DX Society for the upcoming Houston Ham-Com to be held November 8-10. The renowned TDXS hospitality suite was also on the agenda. Sid Leach K5XI was lining up a stellar cast of speakers for the DX & Contesting forums. DX Chairman Bob Walworth AK5B (now N5ET) announced that the ARRL had officially added North Korea to the DXCC entities list, while eager DXers still awaited the first peep out of ZA land.

**Twenty-five years ago this month August 1986:** The monthly meeting was held at the Bellaire Hospital Professional Building. Chuck Dietz KE5FI (now W5PR) wrote an interesting article on the

making the most of gray-line propagation and the current propagation forecast. Bill Schrader K2TNO reported the results of the CW Armadillo Run with many TDXS mobiles turning in big scores. Dave McCarty K5GN & Bill K2TNO were active from 67 counties logging more than 2244 QSO's and 1900 miles in the 1977 Volvo. TDXS crazies logged more than 4300 miles and covering such distant locations as North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana! Tom K5RC was planning to give a talk on the Armadillo Run at the ARRL National Convention in San Diego in early September. Bill K2TNO announced that part 2 of his famous receiver clinic would be held at his house on September 6<sup>th</sup> as part of a "suds and pool party". Volume 1, Issue #3 of the Armadillo Press was published.

**Thirty years ago this month August 1981:** The meeting was held at the Chimney Rock Medical Plaza. The TDXS 1981 Field Day numbers were finalized by Chairman Bob Evans N5DU (now K5WA) with an expected 3A score of 15,132 points. Dave McCarty K5GN gave a report on the latest claimed contest scores, and upcoming events.

**Thirty five years ago this month August 1976:** The meeting was held on August 20<sup>th</sup> at the Continental Steakhouse in Pasadena.

Special guests included well known contester and DXer, and ARRL First Vice President Vic Clark W4KFC, and ARRL West Gulf Division Director Roy Albright W5EYB. Bullsheet Editor Kim Carr WA5WCT (now K5TU) was turning over the editor duties to Tom Taormina WA5LES (now K5RC) as he was heading to PY1 for a two year work assignment. The club's 96/36 repeater was undergoing an overhaul by WB5CFI due a failure in the control system. When reactivated the repeater will have an autopatch function for members only. Rules for assignment of the available 1x2 callsigns were published.

# TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5UO

## TDXS Meeting Minutes

**Date:** July 14 2011

**Location:** Tracey Gee Center

**Special Note:** None

**Attendance:** K5UO, WB5TKI, WD5X, W5PF, W9DX, W5ASP, NI5DX, N4AL, WB5IUU, K5EWJ, K5WAF, N5EN, N5ET, NM5G, N5MT, W5GCX (16)

Visitors: AE5NO (1)

• **President [Doug, WB5TKI]:**

- Reviewed Filed Day results at Texas City Dike
- Reviewed policy of no-funding of Dxpeditions. Continue that policy as there is inadequate funding available.
- Sell via auction or QTH.com the clubs Ameritron AL-600 amplifier. Too light for DXpedition/continuous duty operation. Continued repairs were always needed. K5UO to handle the sale.

- Solicited donations for a new projector. \$240 was raised towards a Epson projector at \$431.92. Balance will come from clubs funds. One \$50.00 donation still outstanding due to member travel.
- Jim, N4AL suggested we use TDXS;s Butternut 40/80m vertical for FD that is being stored in his garage. Agreed by the members. Jim will bring it to a meeting. K5UO will store it. TC Dike has no trees and perhaps this vertical can be surf mounted.

- **Membership [Bob, WB5IUU]:** Discussed several potential members.
- **Repeater Chairman [Glen, WB5TUF] Not present.**
- **Program Chairman [Bob, W5UQ] Not present.**
- **Contesting Chairman [Cookie, W5EWJ]: Updated us on several upcoming contests.**

1. Mike Davidson, K5MT presented/discussed two various Field Day activities: The Houston Red Cross location that he participated in and, of interest, W3AO, Md/DC 25A location...Interesting!
2. Keith Dutson, NM5G presented the successful WPX contest Dxpedition to Nicaragua at Octavio, YN2N Renta-shack. Always an excellent place to operate. Other ops were Bob Walworth, N5ET and Eddie Reynolds, K5WQG. Lots of excellent pictures of their side trips to downtown Granada, Lake Nicaragua, the Pacific coast and a local volcano. Interesting!

Submitted to record July 15 2011

Mike Bragassa, K5UO  
Secy/Treas



## Noise from the Shack of WF5W (by Cal WF5W)

After the sad time on field day (high winds, waves, anchor did not want to stick, heat, more heat, some sea sickness), it became clear that the Sea Pumpkin was not the venue for ham radio anymore, at least for me. So, I sold the IC7000, put the Kenwood 480 in the truck and now am ready for some mobile operations.

Hope all of you have worked the STOR station many times. Great ops!!

If you hear WF5W/m on the air, give me a call.



It seems to work oK but I had to make a filter for the 12 volt feed line to keep the engine noise down. W5PF had a screwdriver antenna that he was not using so that is in the process of getting installed. In the meantime, I am using ham sticks with some success. Nevertheless, I have heard few people on the air operating mobile with straight keys.....



## Texas DX Society Boardmembers

<b>President</b>	<b>Doug Seyler, WB5TKI</b>	<b>djseyler at comcast.net</b>
<b>VP Membership (interim)</b>	<b>Bob Mennell, WB5IUU</b>	<b>bmennell at consolidated.net</b>
<b>VP Programs (interim)</b>	<b>Bob Hardie, W5UQ</b>	<b>w5uq at att.net</b>
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	<b>Mike Bragassa, K5UO</b>	<b>bragassa at consolidated.net</b>
<b>Contest Chairman</b>	<b>Willis "Cookie" Cooke, K5EWJ</b>	<b>wrcooke at yahoo.com</b>
<b>Field Day Chairmen</b>	<b>Dave Topp, W5BXX</b>	<b>w5bxx at aol.com</b>
<b>Repeater Chairman</b>	<b>Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF</b>	<b>wb5tuf at earthlink.net</b>
<b>DXpedition Chairman open</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>Bullsheat Editor</b>	<b>Jim Boockholdt, N4AL</b>	<b>n4al at arrl.net</b>
<b>DXCC QSL Card Checker</b>	<b>Bob Walworth, N5ET</b>	<b>rwalworth at charter.net</b>
<b>CQ WAZ 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 August.

Jim Lane - N5DC

Evie Lane - W5XYL

Frank Wyatt - KC5M

Richard King - K5NA

George Wagner - K5KG

Bill Wibker - WI5P

Kirk Kridner - KV5Q

Randy Thompson - K5ZD

Brent Levitt - NT5D

Eric Silverthorn - NM5M

Trey Garlough - N5KO

Please notify the Editor if I have missed any-one.