



The Bullsheet

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

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

Vintage Military Aircraft Radios

Thursday, Dec 8, 7:00 PM, TDXS Meeting Night: Tracy Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston. Pre-meeting dinner gathering starts around 5:30/6PM at Pappas BBQ on S. Gessner & Westheimer. Program by John Firey W5ZG, on "Radios in Vintage Military Aircraft". John has given TDXS programs before and always provides an interesting mix of photos, anecdotes, and information. Come and you will enjoy it—guaranteed!



Editor's Note by Jim N4AL

This month we are pleased to have the return of Cookie's column on the TDXS contesting efforts, Cookie's column keeps us up-to-date on the impressive contest performances of some of our members. Cookie has had family obligations that kept him from being as active in TDXS as he would like to be. Welcome back, Cookie!

Steve W9DX continues

his "From the Archives" column. Steve has done this for many years, and would like to turn the column over to someone else. Anyone undertaking this should be comfortable writing, and be willing to devote a few hours each month to summarize TDXS events from the past. This information is available from the past issues of the Bullsheet on the TDXS web site. If you are interested in

taking over the column, please contact Steve and let him give you more details. Steve also is looking for a volunteer to distribute to the TDXS reflector the four DX bulletins each month. This requires some comfort with email and an interest in DX. This is a good way for a new member to get involved in TDXS. Contact Steve or Prez Doug if interested.

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The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

Cool days and hot bands, what a combination! Last weekend was amazing for the CQ WW DX CW contest. I got a few new ones....how about you? December 10-11 is the ARRL 10m contest. With the band this hot, it should be a blast! At the November meeting we held elections of officers. All of the current officers graciously agreed to run again for 2012, and all were elected by acclamation. So your 2012 elected officers are:

Doug WB5TKI – President
 Bob W5UQ – VP Programs
 (with help from Keith NM5G)
 Bob WB5IUU – VP Membership
 Mike K5UO –
 Secretary/Treasurer

I've also confirmed that the current appointed board members have agreed to serve for another year. They are:

Cookie K5EWJ – Contest
 Chairman
 Dave W5BXX – Field Day
 Chairman
 Glenn WB5TUF – Repeater
 Chairman

Jim N4AL – Communications
 Chairman

Steve W9DX – Webmaster

Scott K5DD – Outgoing QSL
 Manager

Thanks to all of these fine folks for their continuing service. I would also like to encourage our newer members to get their feet wet by taking up some of the responsibility for club activities. For example, Steve W9DX has been posting the free DX bulletins for 10 years. He would like for someone to take over the reformatting and reposting of these useful articles on the reflector. He is also looking for someone with webpage savvy to rewrite the club web page in CSS. Also, you may have noticed that, for the past year, we have not had a DX/DXpedition Chairman. You don't need to be a big-time DXpeditioner to fill this position. You just need a desire to promote the DX side of our club's charter.

The TDXS Annual Banquet will once again be at the Saltgrass Steakhouse on I-10 on Saturday, January 14. Details will be

published in the January 2012 Bullsheet.

The December meeting will again feature John Firey W5ZG. His topic this time is "Radios in Vintage Military Aircraft". As you know, his programs are always interesting and informative. As usual, the pre-meeting dinner get-together will start around 5:30 p.m. at Papas BBQ on S. Gessner. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Tracy Gee Center. Guests are always welcome, so come on down!

I want to thank you for the support that you have shown me this year, and I'll endeavor to do even better for the club in 2012.

73 es gud dx,
 Doug WB5TKI



From the Bullsheet Archives by Steve W9DX

Ten years ago this month December 2001: Chuck, W5PR and XYL Ruth Dietz hosted a TDXS Christmas party at Chuck's office near downtown. Great party! North Korea had just been approved as the latest DXCC entity with 4L4FN/P5 showing up almost daily on 10 and 20 meters. On November 16th, Ducie Island became a new DXCC entity. The club's application for an "in memoriam" callsign honoring Clarence Sharp K5DX (SK) was on hold with no applications being processed at the FCC for over a month due to the anthrax scare. The TDXS packet cluster was being revamped with new hardware and AR software. TDXS was voting to approve sponsorship funds for ARRL contest plaque in memory of Clarence Sharp K5DX (SK).

Twenty years ago this month December 1991: The December meeting was held at St. John's School at Claremont & Westheimer. A video program by Jim Carmody NN5O covered Musa Manarov UV3AM and Boris Stepanov UW3AX's visit to Houston. The 1991 Houston Ham-Vention concluded with special thanks to AA5NK (now K5UO), AK5B (now N5ET), K2TNO, K5XI, K7WOC (now K7EC), KC5CP (now N5MT), KE5IV (now W5AAC), KF5MY (now W5XYL), NN5O, NR5M, & W5ASP for all their efforts. The convention was also the first showing of the ZA1A story by Chip K7JA

and Martti OH2BH. See pages 75-76 of the January 1992 issue of QST for full details. Field checking of new DXCC applications started. Incoming 1992 officers of TDXS were announced with Bill K5GA as President, Jim NN5O as VP, Mike AA5NK (now K5UO) as Secretary, and Don KI3L (now N5LZ) as Treasurer.

Twenty-five years ago this month December 1986: President Joe Staples W5ASP announced that the following 1987 officers had been elected by acclamation at the November meeting: President Kim Carr K5TU, VP Dave McCarty K5GN, Secretary Ken Grabenstein KE5IV (now W5AAC), Treasurer Dale Martin KG5U. The January banquet was being held again at Magic Island on the SW Freeway. Bob Evans N5DU (now K5WA) and Bill Schrader K2TNO were taking reservations, with seating limited to 70 persons. K5RC and KB5FU were busy wrapping up details and certificates for the Great Armadillo Run of 1986. Tom Shapiro KD5SP's motion had passed at the November meeting to establish a contest station at XE2FU with Chuck Coleman K5LZO (SK) in charge of initial planning and logistics.

Thirty years ago this month December 1981: On December 18th TDXS held a Christmas Party at the Greenwood Forest Country Club starting at 8PM followed by an open house at Jan Carman K5MA

& Sarah's house. Outgoing President Wes Whiddon N5WW handed over the gavel to the 1982 incoming President Bob Evans N5DU (now K5WA) and fellow officers Kim Carr K5TU as VP, Joe Staples W5ASP as Secretary, and Butch Barber K5GB (SK) as Treasurer. Randy Thompson K5ZD wrote an open letter to TDXS praising the club's contesting accomplishments and regretting his inability to contribute to future aggregate scores having moved out of the Houston area and "sink into an observer status as associate member".

Thirty-five years ago this month December 1976: TDXS held its annual banquet on December 18th at the Continental Steak House on South Shaver (just north of Spencer Highway) in Pasadena with a program of pictures taken by members throughout the year's various events and activities. The general membership had voted overwhelmingly in favor of submitting member's ARRL DX, CQWW, and SS scores as TDXS club affiliation versus TACO. Tom Taormina WA5LES (now K5RC) had taken over the editorship of the Bullsheet in November from Kim Carr WA5WCT (now K5TU), as he ended his two year run as President. Jan Carman W5SBX (now K5MA) had been elected President for 1977 with incoming officers Richard King W5PFL (now K5NA), and John Stevens K5KYU (now K5JS) as Secretary/Treasurer.

TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5UO

Date: 11/11/2011

Location: Tracey Gee Centre

proved by the board.

An email will be sent to all full-members for the consideration.

Submitted to record
Mike Bragassa, K5UO
Secy/Treas

Special Note:

Attendance: K5UO, WD5X, K5WAF, W5PF, WB5TKI, N5EN, W5BXX, WF5W, W5GCX, W9DX, W5ASP, N5MT, K5DD, N5UR, N5ET, K5PP, W5UQ,

Visitors: WS5H, KE5NDN, Margie Davidson, Michael Masucci (Belden), Jeff Grubbs (Belden)

- **Membership [Bob, WB5IUU]:** Not present
- **Repeater Chairman [Glen, WB5TUF]** Not present.
- **Program Chairman [Bob, W5UQ)** Bob has an outstanding schedule of event coming up:
 - December: John, W5ZG, will give another winning presentation on his massive Collins Radio Corp collection. In January the club will have our annual banquet. February: NO5W, Chuck will present his outstanding presentation on the annual Texas QSO Party. Chuck represents NARS, the event sponsor, as the coordinator of TQP. He has done a fantastic job of running this annual event.

Presentations: Michael Masucci and Jeff Grubbs from the Belden Cable Corporation gave an excellent presentation on their company and the coax industry as it applies to the amateur radio community. It was a learning experience for all of the members in attendance. This was a quality presentation.

- **President [Doug, WB5TKI]:**
 - All nominees for office have been elected.
 - Discussed annual banquet details. Will be held in conjunction with the January meeting.
 - Bob Walworth, N5ET, presented a plaque to Dave Topp, W5BXX for “outstanding service and support to the IOTA organization.
 - Bill Stone, WS5H has been submitted for membership and ap-



Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie K5EWJ

The two most popular contests of the year are behind us now (CQ World Wide DX and ARRL Sweepstakes). I want to thank the members who represented TDXS in these contests.

Our **Field Day** Chairman, Dave Topp, W5BXX, reported that our group was 3rd of 7 entries in South Texas for Class 1A. The Texas City Dike turned out to be a very good area to set up and surrounded by the Bay was fairly cool. Glen Anderson, WB5TUF, represented us in the **CQWW RTTY Contest** on September 24/25 in the Single Operator, All Band, Low Power category with 329 QSOs, 610 Points, 102 States/Provinces, 113 DX entities and 15 zones for a nice claimed score of 167,750.

Chuck Dietz, W5PR, entered the **Oceana DX-SSB Contest** October 2 in the Single Operator-Single Band category with 109 contacts and 29 multipliers for score of 9,483 using 10 meters.

The **ARRL November Sweepstakes** was held November 7 for CW and November 19 for SSB. Allen Brier, N5XZ, made 641 contacts in 80 sections for 102,500 score in the CW portion.

The **2011 CQWW DX-SSB Contest** was held October 29-30. Chuck Dietz, W5PR, operated Single Operator, Single Band on 10 meters and reported 2,108 contacts in 38 zones with 126 countries for a score of 994,004. Impressive Chuck! Richard and Susan King held a Multi-Multi party with a special invitation for new hams and inexperienced contesters to join the party. They used the K5NA contest station and the Central Texas Contest Club call, W5CT. K5NA is near Manor, just East of Austin. They reported 21 participants with breakdown of about 1/3 experienced and 2/3 new contesters. The mix must have been productive because they reported 3,387 contacts in 174 zones and 556 countries for 5,600,560 score. The

real test is how many of the new contesters will come back for more. I trust we will see most of them in future contests. Steve Smothers, W9DX, stayed on 10 meters for Single Operator, Single Band. Steve worked 666 contacts in 34 zones and 121 countries for 298,840 score. Ron Litt, AE5NO, used the contest to work on his DXCC. Ron used the Hunt and Pounce method to make 41 selected contacts and increase his country count. I believe this increased his count to 89 confirmed and 121 worked. Good luck with finishing the DXCC Ron.

The **2011 CQWW DX-CW** contest was held November 26-27. Despite a forecast Minor Proton Event for the weekend contestants reported that conditions were very good, particularly on 10 meters. Allen Brier, N5XZ, made 1,566 contacts in 140 zones and 486 countries for an impressive score of 2,681,158. The K3/P3, Alpha and 4-element SteppIR-30/40 @ 75 feet are doing a fine job for Allen. Tom Taormina, K5RC, in Virginia City, NV reported 669 contacts in 122 countries on 10 meters in 13 hours of operation with a 6 element Yagi at 30 ft. Tom Ashworth, N5EA, made 402 contacts in 84 zones and 219 countries for score of 330,573 using an FT-1000MKV and an R8 Vertical. Bob Evans, K5WA worked ZF1A in the Caymans and reported that 10 meters was great. Nizar Mullani, K0NM, made 231 contacts with 175 multiplier for 110,775 score. Charles "Frosty" Frost, K5LBU, made 187 QSOs in 107 countries and 56 zones for a claimed score of 85,142.

As we prepare for the 2011 **ARRL 10 meter Contest**, the awards for the 2010 contest are reaching their winners. Our new member, Bill Stone, WS5H, was surprised to receive the certificate for the highest score for Mixed Mode, High Power in the South Texas Section. Bill made 398 contacts with 61 multipliers for a score of 47,580. The surprise is because Bill has

only a modest amount of contest experience and a modest station. This was Bill's first CW contesting experience. Bill's station is an older Icom transceiver and an older amp running about 300 watts. His antenna is a single band V-Quad at only about 23 feet on a city lot. Well Done Bill! And congratulations on your new contest wallpaper! Chuck Dietz, W5PR, used his fine contest station with 100 plus foot tower and long boom Yagi to capture first place in W/VE/XE for Single Operator, Phone Only, High Power. He bagged 1,858 contacts with 110 multipliers for 408,980 score. Well done Chuck! Our inactive member and one of the founders, Richard King, K5NA, now near Manor, Texas had the second high score in W/VE/XE in the CW Only, Single Operator, High Power category and the highest in South Texas with a score of 561,816. Fred Pevoto, K5FP, was 7th in W/VE/XE and highest in South Texas for CW Only, Single Operator, Low Power with a score of 129,712 from his Marble Falls mountain top QTH using his SteppIR. Soon we will see if the better ten meter propagation in 2011 will eclipse these scores.

There has been a lot of interest in improving the scoring of contests. The contest scorers have been developing better software to cross check logs and find the contacts that should not be counted because of logging errors. The scorers also report that they are checking to see if calls that appear very few times match calls published in the data bases. The contest sponsors would like to have a log from every contester, even those who only make a few contacts. It is in all our interest to have contests scored as fairly as possible and to document how many stations participate. We need to submit our logs even when we can't make a major effort. The leaders will have more incentive to copy our calls correctly if they stand to lose the contact.

Contest Chairman's Report (continued) by Cookie K5EWJ

Computer-generated CW

There have been some questions on the air and elsewhere about operating CW with computers. This desire and need has been around since we started using computers with our ham stations. It is very helpful when contesting to use canned messages so that the operator can concentrate on logging instead of sending CW manually. Most if not all contesting logging programs furnish utilities to generate the CW as well as memories for the needed macros. Usually they also have a utility so that a message can be typed by keyboard in real time. Initially, either the serial port or the line printer port had one or more lines dedicated to keying the transmitter. When the serial port was used the DTR line was usually selected. The RTS line was used sometimes. This worked very well with DOS computers and hams became accustomed to the benefits.

When Windows was introduced, most computer users and hams were familiar with DOS and the Windows program itself allowed running DOS programs. For a period, we were able to avoid Windows for logging and stay with DOS where we could control the interrupts. As Windows grew in popularity and new versions were released everyone grew more dependent on the graphics and indeed many younger operators had no familiarity with DOS at all. Windows is much more capable than DOS in many ways, but also has many automatic routines that require the operating system or a program to control interrupts. We began to have difficulty with the interrupts altering the CW timing. The problem is more acute with higher CW speeds and with more multi-tasking.

Logging software authors were not able to find a good software solution and to

make matters worse Microsoft was constantly upgrading Windows, so non-standard solutions were subject to these changes without notice. When I set up my station up in 1966 after a hiatus to explore flying airplanes I found warnings in the logging software against trying to use DTR for keying. By this time the K1EA WinKeyer had become a pseudo standard. It was available as a stand-alone keyer and was embedded into several accessory products. This keyer uses a microprocessor with a built in ASCII converter. It accepts a serial ASCII message from the computer and then converts it to Morse at the commanded speed and features optic-isolators to key the transmitter. This makes the keying timing independent from the interrupts to the computer processor. The problem is not as noticeable with late model computers with fast processors and a lot of RAM, but still may occur with fast CW speeds, particularly with multi-tasking. Some say it is possible to generate usable CW with DTR using today's equipment. I have tried it and generated some good CW for short periods, but I am still more comfortable using my WinKey USB. I don't have enough understanding of the problem to know when trouble is likely.

Some of the logger programs are multi-tasking in themselves. Programs such as N1MM and Ham Radio Deluxe are being written to generate almost any digital method as well as logging and mapping. They are very capable and provide many functions but absorb much of the computer resources. It is tempting to blame keying difficulties on the CW keying software, but most of the keying errors are caused by the operating system or the hardware rather than our logging software.

Coming Contests

December 10-11	ARRL 10 Meter Contest
December 15	Russian 160 Meter Contest
December 17-18	Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge
December 18	ARRL Rookie Roundup
January 1	ARRL Straight Key Night

Member Spotlight by Paul W5PF

This month the Member Spotlight is on Bill Frink K5WAF. Bill became interested in Amateur Radio while he was in Jr. High School. He and a neighbor enlisted the help of another neighbor who was already licensed. It didn't take long for the two of them to earn their novice licenses. Bill received his first license as WN2LYO, on the day that President Kennedy was assassinated, Nov. 22, 1963. Bill enjoyed building equipment and used homebrew transmitters for several years, his first bought receiver was a National NC100.



Bill attended college at Purdue University where he chose the fraternity he joined because some of the members were hams and had a station in the frat house. They graduated and moved away but Bill continued on the air using the university club station. After graduation Bill joined the military and

was stationed at the White Sands Missile Range. While there he operated the club station W5WSM. After the military he moved to Cleveland and was licensed as WB8TKD in 1974.

For the next several years some other interests such as earning a living and raising a family took first priority and Bill let his license lapse. During this period one of his work assignments took him to Wales. He worked at the BP Swansea refinery in 1991-1994 but was unlicensed at the time. His work with BP eventually brought him to the Texas City refinery in 2000. He renewed his interest in Ham Radio and was relicensed as K5WAF. Not long after earning his new call he got an email from his high school friend he had not seen in many years NILN. It turns out Bruce was in Houston with Compaq so they renewed their friendship. Bill found out about TDXS through Bruce and became member #158 in 2004. Bill served as TDXS Secretary/Treasurer from 2008-2010 and has also been Field Day Chairman.

Bill's favorite modes are CW and RTTY. He enjoys dxing, and has 7 band DXCC with 305 countries

confirmed. He is currently working on the DXCC Challenge. While he participates in a lot of the major DX contests, he really enjoys the state QSO parties. Bill also enjoys DXpeditions and has been to 9H, VP2V, 5J0E, C91, YN and 8P over the past few years. Currently Bill's shack includes an Icom 7800 and PW-1 and a Kenwood TS2000. He has a 3 el StepIR yagi for 40 thru 6 meters and BigIR vertical with the 80M coil.



Outside of radio Bill enjoys his family (especially the grandkids), investing, computers, and traveling. Bill has designed and built several homes including his present one. If you want to hear some interesting stories about the BP oil spill cleanup in Louisiana, Bill can give you some first hand insight into what really happened.

Texas DX Society Boardmembers

President	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	djseyler at comcast.net
VP Membership	Bob Mennell, WB5IUU	bmennell at consolidated.net
VP Programs	Bob Hardie, W5UQ	w5uq at att.net
Secretary/Treasurer	Mike Bragassa, K5UO	bragassa at consolidated.net
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Field Day Chairmen	Dave Topp, W5BXX	w5bxx at aol.com
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net
DXpedition Chairman	open	
Outgoing QSL Manager	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
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CQ WAZ Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net

How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxx.net> email address: k5dx@tdxx.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 December.

Arthur Alvarez N5KTN

Mike Young W5RRX

Sid Leach K5XI

Buzz Loeschman NI5DX

Please notify the editor if I have missed anyone.