



# The Bullsheet

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

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

## TDXS Annual Banquet

*Saturday, January 22, 2011, 7:00 PM Annual Banquet: The TDXS annual banquet will be held on Saturday, January 22 at the Salt-grass Steakhouse, 8943 Katy Freeway (near Campbell Road). Social hour begins at 6:00 PM with dinner at 7:00. A cash bar will be available. Notify Paul W5PF (w5pf@cebridge.net) if*

*you plan to attend. The cost is \$23 per person. You may pay at the banquet or pay in advance with PayPal. Make your PayPal payment to [tdxstreaser@gmail.com](mailto:tdxstreasurer@gmail.com). You can save TDXS the Paypal fee by designating your payment as a "gift". See you there Saturday night!!*

### *Inside this issue:*

<b>Prez Sez</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>From the Bullsheet Archives</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>December TDXS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A25 2010 DXpedition</b>	<b>5-10</b>
<b>Officers</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Birthdays</b>	<b>11</b>

## Editor's Note de Jim N4AL

This is my first attempt at publishing the Bullsheet. I'm learning to use this software, so it's a bit of a struggle. The software (Microsoft Publisher) easily accepts Word files, but other formats are more difficult to use. All submitted articles are welcome, but Word is the preferred format.

Why would I accept this job? Why would anyone accept a volunteer position in an organization? We

think the job is important and want to support the organization. And I felt that the skills required for this job are some that I can master.

We still have two unfilled positions in TDXS. Each is important and a good opportunity for someone to get to know other members of the club. Simply attending monthly meetings does not do that. So if you have an inter-

est in working DX, or in operating from DX locations, you should consider becoming DXpedition Chairman. If you think Field Day is an important effort for TDXS, you should volunteer to be Field Day Chairman. Each position is a great way to get to know guys in the club.

Thanks to all those who submitted articles for this edition. I think we have a good issue. I hope to get submissions

next month from more members.

Please report your latest updates to W9DX so our DXCC webpage stays current. Steve puts a lot of work into this effort, but the webpage (like the Bullsheet) is only as good as the content you provide.

## The Prez Sez de Doug WB5TKI

Here we are at the start of another year. A year with improving propagation, lots of contest challenges from which to choose and DX locations throughout the world calling out to us for DXpeditions. Already, TDXS members are planning DXpeditions to 7P8 and YN2 in March, as well as 8P9 later in the year.

Did you take some time away from the bowl games to haul out the old straight key and participate in Straight Key Night? I got on for a bit and had a great time running 3 watts on 40m using an Elecraft KX-1 and the Begali Camelback key.

Congratulations to Wayne W5KDJ. He recently received a certificate from the ARRL for "First Place Single Operator Mixed Mode High Power Zone 53" in the 2009 IARU contest.

I begin my term as TDXS President mindful of all of the challenges ahead, but with a great team of officers. Since we failed to get a nominee for Vice President – Programs, Bob W5UQ has agreed to switch to VP Programs and is hard at work lining up presentations. In addition, Bob WB5IUU has graciously agreed to serve again as VP – Membership. We will vote on these changes at the upcoming

Banquet meeting. Jim N4AL takes over as Communications Chairman (Bullsheets Editor) and most of the other appointed chairmen have agreed to serve another term as well. Thank you, all. You will find all of them listed on the back page of the Bullsheet. We currently have vacancies for the positions of Field Day and DXpedition Chairmen. Please consider serving your club in one of these capacities.

We locked in most of our meeting dates for 2011 at the Tracy Gee Center; however we did not get our primary or secondary dates for April and May. Please let me know if you have a suggestion for another meeting site for one or both of those months.

The January meeting will be in conjunction with the Annual Banquet, which will be held on January 22 at the Salt Grass Steakhouse on the Katy Freeway. Check the TDXS.org website for details, directions and a menu. Please let Paul W5PF know by Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup> if you plan to attend so that we can have the banquet room set up appropriately. 2011 can be a great year for TDXS, but it will take your help and active participation. I'd love to hear your ideas for additional club events (picnics, impromptu field operations, buildathons). And

please continue to invite guests to the meetings. New members are the lifeblood of a dynamic club!

See you at the banquet!

73 es GUD DX,

Doug WB5TKI

## From the Bullsheet Archives by Steve W9DX

**Ten years ago this month January 2001:** TDXS President Buzz Jehle N5UR was looking for a DX Chairman with almost any qualifications. Madison W5MJ announced that Melanie Bradford (XYL of K5GA) had made arrangements with Brennan's for the annual banquet. Police agencies were asking hams to monitor 2m frequencies and report any suspicious activity since 7 escaped convicts were believed to be in possession of stolen ham gear. N5UR noted a planned operation from Bouvet by astronaut N4BQW as 3Y0C. Several slims from P5 were reported. Other DXpeditions included Bhutan, Comoros, San Felix and Conway Reef. Madison W5MJ was busy recruiting teams for the planned ARRL DX CW and SSB contests from XA5T.

**Twenty years ago this month January 1991:** The annual banquet was held on January 12<sup>th</sup> at Brady's Landing. Newly elected President Jim Lane N5DC was looking for a permanent meeting place inside 610. NR5M George DeMontrond was heading up the 1991 Ham-convention activities, and looking to fill slots for the DX and Contesting forums as well as our hospitality suite. DX Chairman Bob Walworth AK5B (now N5ET) reported several attempts to activate Albania ZA but so far nothing firm. Meanwhile Romeo UB5JRR was slated to start operations as

YA0RR. W5IUJ was expected to activate Navassa Island as /KP1 for 10 days starting sometime in March or April. Chuck Coleman K5LZO (SK) was finalizing plans for the club's operations from Nuevo Laredo for the ARRL International DX Contest for both CW and SSB weekends. N5DC reported on repairs to the 2m repeater, and Kenny KE5IV (now W5AAC) reported on improvements to the packet system, and suggested TNC settings to stay connected.

**Thirty years ago this month January 1981:** The January meeting was held at the Marriott Brookhollo with program by George Wagner K5KG on operating from his various overseas locations. TDXS Bullsheet Editor Dennis Motschenbacher KA5CHW (now K7BV) gave a recap of the Winter Banquet held in December with 65 attendees. Bob Evans N5DU (now K5WA) won the "Special Achievement Award" for his outstanding contribution to the club score. Special kudos to all those members who worked hard on club activities during 1980 and the fine efforts during Convention 1980. The club was hopeful that our 1980 November Sweepstakes score of 5.4 million points set a new record and qualified for a gavel. Membership ballots were about to go out for candidates: W5ASP, KB5FU, KD4M, and W5JQ. Dennis wrote a thought editorial on what qualifies one

to be a member of TDXS ([http://www.tdxs.net/bs81/Jan81\\_2.pdf](http://www.tdxs.net/bs81/Jan81_2.pdf)).

**Thirty five years ago this month January 1976:** The 1975 ARRL Field Day results were in, and TDXS took 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the 3A category. Kudos to Wes Whiddon K5RLW (now N5WW) and crew for a fine effort. South Texas was favored with excellent band conditions during the November CW Sweepstakes with 3 TDXS members making over 1000 Q's. Tom Taormina WA5LES (now K5RC) set the new record score with over 1200 QSO's,; K5LZOWB8FUO taking the number one spot in the multi-single category. A recap of the December 1975 Winter Banquet reported that 53 members and guests attended the event at the Continental Steakhouse in Pasadena. 1976 officers were announced with Tom Taormina WA5LES (now K5RC) serving another term as President, Chuck Coleman K5LZO (SK) as Vice President (or "President of Vice" as Chuck used to say), Richard King K5PFL (now K5NA) as Secretary/Treasurer, with Tom Lay WB5IFY (now AA5Y) serving as meeting chairman, and Jan Carman W5SBX (now K5MA) as Contest Chairman. To celebrate the U.S. Bicentennial, the FCC announced special authorized prefixes to be used on a voluntary basis. WA5LES presented a draft of the rules for our "Contester of the Year Award".

# TDXS Meeting Notes by Bill K5WAF

## TDXS Meeting Minutes

**Date:** December 9, 2010  
7:00-9:00pm

**Location:** Tracy Gee Center, 3599  
Westcenter Drive, Houston, TX 77042

**Attendance:** TDXS Members: Paul (W5PF), Cal (WF5W), Bill (K5WAF), Doug (WB5TKI), Mike (K5UO), Bob (WB5IUU), Lance (WD5X), Wayne (W5KDJ), Don (N5DD), Chuck (W5PR), Jim (N4AL), Bob (N5ET), Mike (N5MT), Bob (W5UQ) and Keith (NM5G)

Visitors: John (W5ZG)

- **President [Paul, W5PF]:**

- **Annual Banquet:** The annual banquet will be held on Jan 22, 2011 at the Salt Grass Restaurant – same place as last year. The cost is \$24 per person plus any cash bar with TDXS picking up the tax and gratuity on the meal. More details are to follow, though there is anticipated to be 3 choices. Payment can be by check either before or during the banquet or in advance via PayPal (TDXSTreasurer@gmail.com)

- **TDXS Leadership**

**Opening:** The club is still looking for a few additional officers; (1) VP Programs, (2) DX Chairmain and (3) Field Day Chairman. Please consider volunteering.

- **Secretary/Treasurer [Bill, K5WAF]:**

- **2011 Dues:** It is time to pay 2011 due which are \$25 for the year. Payment is now being accepted via PayPal (TDXSTreasurer@gmail.com), check or cash to the Treasurer no later than Jan 31 2011.
- **7P8 DXpedition:** Topp Funding was approved to support the 7P8 DXpedition in March with Frosty (K5LBU) and Wayne (W5KDJ) participating.

- **Membership [Bob, WB5IUU]:**

- **Membership Pins:** Membership pins are available for the new 2010 members. See Bob Mennell to pick them up.
- **Jackets:** Jacket similar in quality to NARS's jackets but in

a navy blue color and with TDXS logo and Member Call signs are being proposed. If interested drop a note to Bob Mennell. Given enough interest, Bob will get prices and set up an order.

- **Contest Chairman [Cookie, K5EWJ]**

- **ARRL 10 Meter Contest:** Don't forget that this weekend is the 10 meter contest. Conditions are likely to be much better than the last couple of years. Be sure to get on and give W5PR a Q – he is making another major effort in the contest.

- **DX Chairman [Cal, WF5W]:**

- **2011 DXpeditions:** Several DXpeditions are already planned for early 2011. They include (1) 7P8, (2) YN and (3) 8P6.
- **Ham Radio Cruise:** Lance WD5X announced a 7-day ham radio cruise on Carnival Lines for October. It will originate in Galveston and visit several ports in the Caribbean.

## A25 2010 DXpedition Texans and Italians in Botswana by Frosty K5LBU

October 21st through November 3rd were the official dates for five Texans and 3 Italians to join together for a DXpedition to Botswana. The group was led by Frosty, K5LBU (A25CF) and Lor, IK5MDB (A25DF) and joined by the other principal operators Gianfranco, OZY (A25ZY), Pier, IZ5MMB (A25MB), Bob, K5ZOL (A25BI), Matt, KD5TAN (A25AN), Jay, W5SL (A25SL), and Bob, W5UQ (A25UQ). Jay's wife Dee and Bob's (W5UQ) wife Elva also joined us for the trip.

Frosty, Jay, and Dee travelled from Texas about a week early to begin gathering equipment. Meeting at the Washington Dulles Airport we endured the nearly 18-hour South African Airways flight to Johannesburg, South Africa, including a one-hour refueling stop in Dakar, Senegal. We stopped in Pretoria for a couple of days and stayed in a nice lodge (Ndlovu Lodge...Zulu word meaning Elephant) while we visited with Hal, ZS6WB with whom we did some sightseeing and shopping for last minute needs for the DXpedition. Also, while we shipped ahead what we could, Hal had been collecting and borrowing rotators and some aluminum poles, coax cables, and antenna parts and supports for us so we didn't have to

ship everything to Botswana, thus saving some expensive shipping fees.

We rented a van in South Africa to carry our supplies. On Sunday the 17th of October we

set out in the van for a 4-hour trip to Gabarone where we met with Linda Armstrong, who with her husband Neal are the owners of the game reserve that we used for the radio operations. We had shipped some antennas and radios to them and we picked that up there. She arranged for us to stay in a nice B&B and treated us to a fine restaurant meal. They had also been very helpful in doing the legwork to get our licenses thus enabling us to pick them up after our arrival with minimum difficulty.

Gabarone, a modern city of some 200,000 population, is the capital of Botswana, a country with a 46% urban population of just less than 1.8 million. Named



Bechuanaland prior to its independence granted by the British Commonwealth in 1965 it is a land-locked country in sub-Saharan Africa just north of South Africa and bordered also by Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. The official language is English, although a significant number speak the native language Setswana. There is only one native tribe in Botswana giving it a remarkably stable government as compared to some other African nations. Religion is over 50% Christian with a small percentage of Islam and Hindu. Botswana is bisected by the Tropic of Capricorn at 28.5 degrees south meaning it is about as far south of the equator as central Mexico is north. The time zone is SAT, 2 hours ahead

of UTC.

Frosty and Jay proceeded to the Stevensford Game Reserve located on the Limpopo river, on the border with South Africa, about 4 hours northwest of Gabarone in an area known as the Tuli Block. Arriving there on the 19<sup>th</sup>, we started putting antennas together. Jay was able to do some CW operating before the actual DXpedition started firing up the K3 at 100 watts and using an R7 multiband vertical mounted on a fence post. Even with this minimum setup, pileups were at times quite exciting and challenging.

The facilities at the game reserve, sometimes described as only a few steps above camping, were comfortable. The huts had thatch roofs, comfortable beds with mosquito nets, a necessity, and indoor plumbing, but no heating or air conditioning. Meals were served buffet style and were quite adequate and were carefully prepared by an accomplished cook, who along with her fiancé also managed the lodge. The management of the lodge made many efforts to help us set up our equipment and antennas and that was very much a help to us.

The remainder of the operators flew into Gabarone where Frosty



picked them up a couple days later. The only problem encountered in the travelling to Botswana was that Lor's luggage didn't arrive in Gabarone. A side trip became necessary to visit a nearby village for a few articles of clothing and necessities. Eventually he caught a ride back to Gabarone after the luggage did arrive. He was able to return in a small rental car that was used later by the Italians for a side trip to Victoria Falls.

With the full team working we installed a 3-element tribander, a TET HB433DX, at about 30 feet in the air and a Tennadyne T6 Log Periodic at about 35 feet. Both were on rotators and mounted on the ground using 6-foot roof towers anchored with sandbags. An old Butternut HF2V was erected for those bands along with the R7 previ-

ously mounted. We planned but didn't use a 160 meter vertical since it didn't arrive because of a snafu at the airport in Italy.

Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> Frosty, Bob, Matt, and Bob along with his wife Elva loaded up in the van for a 4 night trip to the north part of Botswana which was an 8 hr drive. Staying in Kasana, they visited Victoria Falls and Chobe game Park and reported that they had a great visit. They went on a river cruise looking at the game along with 2 game drives into the park each day. There was a full day guided trip over to Victoria Falls. Frosty said that this was the first time he had been back there since 1991 when he lived in Lusaka, Zambia. He said it still looks the same except now the US Dollar is the currency that they use.

As mentioned before, the three Italian operators also took a two-day trip to Victoria Falls after the first group retue kept 3 HF stations on the air most of the time. One of the two main stations used a Yaesu FT450AT driving a new SPE Expert 1K-FA amplifier connected to the tribander. This station was used in the contest. The second main station consisted of a mix of rigs with an Icom 746PRO driving the second 1K-FA amplifier using the Tennadyne LP with the exception that when A25SL was on CW he used a K3 driving the same amp and antenna. For both these stations the amps worked flawlessly and being totally automatic, seemed like part of the rigs. The third station initially used a Kenwood TS570 and was later replaced with a Yeasu FT450AT. This station was used barefoot for RTTY and PSK31. All rigs, amps, and antennas performed flawlessly for the duration of the expedition. rned, giving much the same report of having a great visit there.

## TOTAL HF QSOs including contest

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BAND	PHONE	CW	PSK	RTTY	TOTAL
80	8	0	0	0	8
40	922	0	0	0	922
20	2,171	843	37	225	3,276
17	1,443	1,605	18	333	3,399
15	6,347	1,521	2	385	8,255
12	1,223	2,567	0	274	4,064
10	3,970	526	0	361	4,857
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,084</b>	<b>7,062</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1,578</b>	<b>24,781</b>

n HF, total contacts made were 22,206 not counting the contest we entered which was 2,575 more netting a grand total of 24,781 QSOs. Mainly during the contest we had some "forced" off times because of thunderstorms and some power outages.

### DXCC Totals

Mixed 167  
 Phone 158  
 CW 106  
 Digital 38

### HF QSO By Continent

Africa 549  
 Asia 1,116  
 Europe 15,918  
 North America 5,512  
 Oceania 115  
 South America 499

Propagation was interesting on the high bands; especially comparing to a trip Frosty and Jay participated in at the same location in 2007. At that time we accomplished maybe around a hundred QSOs on 12 meters and almost none on 10 meters. This time, Jay, alone, did some 2,567 CW contacts on 12 meters and over 500 on 10 meters. Totals for all operators on these bands were 4,067 on 12 meters and 4,857 on 10 meters. These numbers, of course, reflect the difference between the two years for sunspot numbers and solar flux. We didn't accomplish many contacts on 80 meters because of the QRN levels, which were likely due to the start of the thunderstorm season in this part of the world. It was late spring in the southern hemisphere and we did indeed have some spectacular lightning displays at times, not to mention power outages. Forty meters met with some of the same problems with band noise. Otherwise this was a very quiet location with almost no QRN of the higher frequencies most of the time. That really helped when signal fading occurred, as very weak stations could be heard and worked with relative ease.

We did operate the CQ WW Phone contest, entering as a one transmitter, multi-operator station. We made 2,575 contacts

netting a claimed score of 2,452,562 We lost about 8-9 hours out of the allowable 48 because of thunderstorms and related power outages, one of which was for about 4.5 hours. We apparently were the only station in Zone 38, much less A25, meaning a double multiplier in the contest for the zone and the country, so the pileups did develop when propagation allowed. Some operators have commented that one problem with doing a contest from that far south is that most of the time the testers in US and EU point their antennas east or west for the most contacts and therefore sometimes don't hear the southern hemisphere as well as they might otherwise.

On the 22nd Hal, ZS6WB (A25HL) and Hannes, ZS6JDE (A25JD) joined us with the goals of making 2 meter and 6 meter EME QSOs, to give some South African operators a chance to work A25 on 2 and 6 meter meteor scatter and tropo, and to activate some rare grid squares via satellite for the ZS WAGS Award.

EME conditions on 2m were poor during the two nights that they operated and only about 20 2m contacts were completed with their small station, three of

those being JAs. On 2m they used a Yaesu FT-857 driving a TE Systems solid state linear to about 300 watts output. The antenna system used two M-Square 2M9SSB Yagis manually aimed at the moon.

The 50 MHz EME/MS system used the Yaesu FT-857 driving a



3CX800A7 amplifier to about 400 watts output. The antenna was a fixed elevation M-Square 6M5X 5 element Yagi and the EME contact with Lance, W7GJ, making him very happy, was completed near the moonset at about 15 degrees elevation.

Hannes, ZS6JDE did all the EME operating on this trip and he has previously operated small portable EME stations in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. All of the EME and meteor scatter con-

tacts were made using the popular K1JT WSJT software.

So, in summary, if you consider one of the main goals of going on a DXpedition is to have fun, then that goal was certainly accomplished. Everyone seemed to enjoy each other's company and the camaraderie was great. Our team consisted of some relatively newly licensed hams with two holding licenses less than a decade. Five of the group had no particular experience operating on a DXpedition but in spite of that, considering their level of experience, they all jumped right in and did an incredible job of working the pileups and making contacts. The main accomplishment though was that all had a great time doing it. We will all hold fond memories of making some new friends and enjoying our wonderful hobby.

We would like to thank all the stations that worked us, it was a pleasure to give many a new country on a new band. Special thanks go to all the sponsors that helped to make this DXpedition happen. SPE with the 1K-FA amplifiers, Tennadyne for the LogP beam, Gold Print for the QSL cards, Texas DX Society, Brazos Valley ARC, Fannin Radio Club, MDXC, GDXF, Clipperton DX Club, EUDXF, Nippon DX. DX

Coffee, Ham Radio Shop, Magh Elettronica, Hobby Radio, Diet & fitness. There were many hams that also helped out. All of which was used for shipping.

Frosty enjoys making such trips to Africa and will undoubtedly make others over time. If you are interested, you might want to contact him and join him on one in the future.

Or if you would like to do your own thing you can contact Linda Armstrong direct at [linda@neillarmstrong.com](mailto:linda@neillarmstrong.com). We left the Tennadyne T6 LogP antenna along with a HF2V for 80 and 40 there. There is coax for both antennas and rotor cable. Frosty will need to go back and install a rotor in the tower so that the beam can be turned. All you would need to take with you is

your rig, amp and laptop.

The web page for Stevensford Game Reserve is:  
[www.stevensfordgamereserve.com](http://www.stevensfordgamereserve.com).



## 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>open</b>	
<b>Repeater Chairman</b>	<b>Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF</b>	<b>wb5tuf at earthlink.net</b>
<b>DXpedition Chairman</b>	<b>open</b>	
<b>Outgoing QSL Manager</b>	<b>Scott Patout,, K5DD</b>	<b>k5dd at arrl.net</b>
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<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.tdxx.net> email address: [k5dx@tdxx.net](mailto: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 January

Barbara Coleman - WB5RUS

Lon Cottingham - K5JV

John Stevens - K5JS

Dale Martin - KG5U

Al Vasek - KN5A

Dennis Motschenbacher - K7BV

Bill Bradford - K5GA

John Duncan - WA5ZVE

Mike Hance - K5NZ

Allen Brier - N5XZ

Ben Worrell - NE5B

Ken Eckel Jr. - AB5A

Earl Morse - K8SS (ex-N5TU)

Doug Seyler - WB5TKI

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.