



# 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 2011

## Radio from Galveston Historic Ships

*Thursday, May 12, 7:00 PM*

**TDXS Meeting Night** Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, 9527 Westheimer. Dinner starts at 5:30 PM followed by a program presented by Cookie, K5EWJ. Cookie will describe his efforts at restoring the radio rooms on two historic ships at Seawolf Park on Pelican Island in Galveston. They are a submarine, the USS Cavalla, and a destroyer escort, the USS Stewart.

They have a large selection of World War II and early cold war radio equipment that is still intact. Cookie will describe what his research has uncovered about radio equipment from this time, and show what is available in the ships is Galveston. Come out, enjoy a Mexican dinner and good camaraderie, and learn about naval radio from a bygone era.



## Editor's Note de Jim N4AL

The Bullsheet is a little sparse this month because no member submitted a feature article. I hope this doesn't happen often.

If you have a new ham toy, or discovered a new ham-rekated interest, or operated from a unique location, tell your fellow TDXSers about it! Write an article for the Bullsheet. Your article doesn't have to be long—in fact, I think one page is an ideal

length. With a picture or two, one page is many words. Don't worry if you have never written an article before; just get your ideas down and I will edit them.

When you get a chance, please thank our regular columnists (Doug, Steve, Mike, and Cookie) for making our monthly newsletter possible. They put together a column each month, sometimes without a lot to

write about. We couldn't do without you, guys!

The past month has had some good propagation. Twelve and ten meters opened up and I was able to work some new ones on these bands. Now that I am retired, I realize how much my job had interfered with my life!

Please keep your DXCC totals updated with W9DX. He reports them on the TDXS web site.

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## The Prez Sez de Doug WB5TKI

It's May and time for the Dayton Hamvention! I won't be able to attend this year (sigh) but I know that some of our members will be there once again in the Hara Arena, rubbing elbows with 15,000+ other lucky hams. I'll be looking for you via the W5KUB HelmetCam broadcasts. Safe travel!

I received word that TDXS member (#46) and past President (1982) Bob Evans K5WA had an interesting article in the January-February issue of National Contest Journal entitled "A Texas-Sized Band Decoder". You can check out this fascinating article on setting up and automating a serious contest station at:  
<http://www.ncjweb.com/janfeb11feat.pdf>

I mentioned last month that the club is planning to operate Field Day from the end of the Texas City Dike. I've not been there before, but from what I can see from Google Earth and the many online stories and blogs, there should be plenty of room to set up a low-key operation. As a bonus,

there should be lots of fishermen there to whom we can introduce ham radio.

The April 14 joint club meeting with the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) was a resounding success. Jim N4AL and Cal WF5W did a great job of presenting the planning and execution of a successful DXpedition. It was well received and there is already talk of doing another joint meeting in the not too distant future.

On May 12<sup>th</sup> we will have a dinner meeting and program at Los Tios Mexican Restaurant on Westheimer. Cookie K5EWJ will present an historic overview of two WWII warships, the USS Cavalla and the USS Stewart. These ships are on display in Galveston.

Cookie will also discuss the joys and challenges of restoring and maintaining the period radio equipment on board. This promises to be a fascinating discussion. See you at the meeting!

73 es gud dx and contesting,  
 Doug WB5TKI

## From the Bullsheet Archives by Steve W9DX

**Ten years ago this month May 2001:** The May meeting was held at Quisimodo's Restaurant on Welch Street, and Dave Topp W5BXX discussed Field Day plans. Bob Evans K5WA and John N6MU gave a nice report of their driving adventures in the sunshine state for the Florida QSO Party and the true meaning of "high speed CW" (speedometer pegged!). Bill W5SG thanked all that attended the joint TDXS/NARS meeting in April. Dale KG5U reported on efforts to make the popular DOS contest logging program TRLog work in a Windows environment. W9DX made an updated Houston Beam Heading Chart available on the mail list. Efforts to revive the once popular "need list" fell flat with only 2 responses.

**Twenty years ago this month May 1991:** The May meeting was a BBQ and covered dish affair on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> at the Ashford West Swim Club courtesy Bob N5RP. Program was to discuss FD plans. President Jim Lane N5DC gave a brief wrap-up of the Dayton Hamvention DX dinner, as well as eyeball reports of all the new gear including the Drake R-8 receiver. Bullsheet editor Bill Schrader K2TNO was soliciting articles in all formats including ASCII files! DX guru Bob AK5B (now N5ET) reported that the League had accredited Vince Thompson K5VT's operation as

S20VT. The Visalia DX Convention had a nice turnout of TDXSers including: Chuck K5LZO (SK) & Barbara WB5RUS, Joe W5ASP, Bob AK5B, Tom K5RC & xyl Midge (now K7AFO), and Sid K5XI. Mike AA5NK (now K5UO) gave part two of his in depth article on amateur radio in China. Jim N5DC wrote up a product review of the new AEA MM-3 CW keyer. Jim claims it's got more crammed into it than his "20 meg PC laptop"!!!

**Twenty-five years ago this month May 1986:** President Joe Staples W5ASP announced the monthly meeting would be held at the Bellaire Hospital Professional Building with a program by Ken NZ5I on packet radio. Steve KN5H (now AA7V) reported on the TDXS sponsored Armadillo Run for 1986, and a list of the counties on the Texas Independence Trail to be covered by members with maps and pointers by Bill K2TNO on best operating practices for this event.

**Thirty years ago this month May 1981:** TDXS held it's meeting at the new location at the Bellaire General Hospital thanks to Tommy KA5GJO (now KD5SP). Al K5BZU (now K5FK) and Kim K5TU presented a program on something new called "computers", how they work and how they can benefit your hobby related activities. TDXS was number 1 in the ARRL Sweepstakes medium club category beating its nearest competitor by

1.4 million points! Tom K5RC gave a report on the happenings at Dayton and Bob N5DU (now K5WA) was whipping up the troops for Field Day. DX Chairman Orville K5VWW reported on all the legal difficulties over the last Palmyra/Kingman DXpedition. Dave K5GN emphasized understanding the rules of each contest to maximize the result, with examples for the CQWW WPX contest. TDXS welcomed new members Tom Shapiro KA5GJO (now KD5SP), Jim Lane N5DC, and John Davis KN5T. BS editor Dennis KA5CHW (now K7BV) thanked all who regularly contributed articles to the Bullsheet while he washed dishes as xyl Holly typed it!

**Thirty-five years ago this month May 1976:** TDXS President Tom Taormina WA5LES (now K5RC) met with W5ZSX President of RWK to map out plans to organize a Texas contest club organizing the resources of contesters across Texas with the purpose of yielding a significant aggregate score to unseat the bigger clubs from their perennial 1-2-3 positions. Don Mayhall WA5WQF (now N5DM) was organizing FD at the Mayhall farm near Navasota. BS Editor Kim WA5WCT (now K5TU) soon to be /PY1 marked the 3<sup>rd</sup> issue of the Bullsheet and invited comments, criticisms, and contributions.

# TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5UO

**Date:** April 14 2011 parked on the dike.  
 Setup, tear-down  
 and radio operators  
 will be needed.  
**Location:** Sugar Land Community Center Please let Dave  
 Topp know your  
 intentions to help.

**Special Note:** This was a special joint-meeting with Brazos Valley ARC (BVARC) Minutes will reflect TDXS business, only.

- **Membership [Bob, WB5IUU]:** Not present
- **Repeater Chairman [Glen, WB5TUF] Not present.**
- **Program Chairman [Bob, W5UQ)**

**Attendance:** 11 TDXS members and approximately 20 BVARC members  
**TDXS:** K5UO, NM5G, KD5TIO, N5MT, WF5W, N5XZ, WB5TKI, W5BXX, N4AL, K5LBU, W5UQ  
 Visitors: None \*

A two-part presentation:

1. Jim N4AL described with photos the 2010 TDXS dxpedition to Mozzambique.
2. Cal WF5W discussed important planning and operation techniques necessary for a successful and affordable dxpedition. Especially useful was his suggestions on how to accomodate the airlines recently imposed restrictions on weight and dimensions.

- **President [Doug, WB5TKI]:**
  - o Doug presented to BVARC members the purpose and activities of TDXS primarily the Dxpeditions of the past.
  - o Field Day plans: Small operation on the Texas City Dike, Field Day chairman Dave Topp, W5BXX. Dave will have his motorhome

Submitted to record April 15 2011

Mike Bragassa, K5UO  
 Secy/Treas



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

This was a slack contest operating month for the club, at least if anyone operated a contest I did not see it reported on the reflector. Propagation seems to be picking up, at least we had Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and several state-side skip stations check into our 10-10 SHOT net this week. Maybe activity will pick up some next month.

Steve, W9DX, alerted me that the 2010 CW Sweepstakes report was published in the April QST. George Wagner, K5KG, Member #43, had traveled from his home in Sarasota FL to Dickinson, ND to operate the 2010 CW Sweeps at the QTH of N0UD. George was able to make 966 QSOs with a clean sweep of all 80 multipliers to set a new North Dakota SOLP-CW record of 154,560 points. The high score was a tie between N9RV in Montana and N0NI (A9GA operator) in IA with 232,480 points, 1453 QSOs and 80 multipliers. It seems that the north-central part of the US was the hot spot for big scores. The best Texas score was by W5KFT (K5PI operator) near Lake Buchanan in the Hill

Country with 222,560 points, 1393 QSOs and 80 multipliers in SOHP-CW. K5WA, Bob Evans, #46 scored 206,880 with 1293 QSOs and 80 multipliers. NR5M (KU5B operator) scored 192,640 with 1204 QSOs and 80 multipliers. You can see the write up in the April QST and the score details online at <http://www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles>.

I was thumbing through the October 1977 QST that I found cleaning my Mother's attic this morning. My Dad, KB0DP had stored them years ago. I found the report on the 1977 ARRL DX Competition. K5PFL, now K5NA, won STX Multi-Single CW with 1,209,780 points, 1551 QSOs, 260 countries. Other operators were K5RLW, N5DM, WA5NVI, WA5WCT, WB5HOD, WB5LIC, WB5MYO and WB5QWX. WA5LES, now K5RC, won STX Multi-Multi CW with 4,456,722 point, 3742 QSOs, 397 countries. Other operators were K5AAD, K5KG, K5LWL, K5WA, W5VAH, W5VQ, W5VX, WA5OCN, WA5ZNY and N5AM. K5LWL, now K5GA, scored 1,908,498 points, 1777 QSOs, 358 coun-

tries in SOHP Phone, W5SBX scored 72,963 points, 201 QSOs, 121 countries in SOHP Phone, K5EWJ scored 19,899 points, 99 QSOs, 67 countries in SOHP Phone.

### Upcoming Contests:

- |            |                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| May 28-29  | CQ WW WPX Contest, CW               |
| June 4-5   | Museum Ship Weekend                 |
| June 4-5   | 10-10 Int'l Open Season PSK Contest |
| June 4-5   | Alabama QSO Party                   |
| June 11-13 | ARRL June VHF QSO Party             |
| June 25-26 | ARRL Field Day                      |
| July 4-10  | 10-10 Int'l Spirit of 76 QSO Party  |
| July 9-10  | IARU HF World Championship          |
| July 16-17 | CQ WW VHF Contest                   |
| July 31    | US Counties QSO Party               |

## Texas DX Society Boardmembers

<b>President</b>	<b>Doug Seyler, WB5TKI</b>	<b>djseyler at comcast.net</b>
<b>VP Membership</b>	<b>Bob Mennell, WB5IUU</b>	<b>bmennell at consolidated.net</b>
<b>VP Programs</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</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>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.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 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.