



# The Bullsheet

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

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

## Estate Planning

*Thursday, Sep 8, 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 KN5A, Al Vacek, Jr.

He is an attorney and will discuss "Estate Planning". We all need to think about this but often avoid it. Please come and bring questions for Al. See you there!



## Editor's Note by Jim N4AL

This month we begin a new feature, "Member Spotlight". Many of us don't know much about the guys we see at meetings. To remedy this, each month the Bullsheet will single out one member, tell readers about that member, and show pictures of his shack. Our VP Membership, Bob WB5IUU, will be writing this column. So this month we have started with him in the spotlight. The Bullsheet is read

all over the world. So if Bob wants to spotlight you some month, please cooperate. He can make you internationally famous! TDXS owns quite a bit of ham equipment, and many of us don't know it exists. Members should know what is available for dxpeditions or for Field Day. So Cal WF5W has prepared a list for us and included it in this issue. If you have updates to the

list, corrections, or information on other items owned by TDXS please contact Cal. This probably should be maintained on an ongoing basis. Thanks to our authors for making the Bullsheet possible again this month. If you appreciate what they do, thank them! Please report any updates in your DXCC status to W9DX so he can keep our webpage is current.

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# 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. Wait a second, that's what I wrote last month!

I would like to thank all of the generous folks who donated toward the purchase of a new club projector. Thanks to your generosity the projector was fully funded and no club funds were required. In addition, Bob N5ET generously donated a screen to the club. The equipment now resides with the VP Programs, Bob W5UQ.

I have been contacted by a Polish ham who will be in Houston from Sept. 30 – Oct. 9. He is an active DXer and would like very much to meet with some of our club members. Here is his email:

“Dear Mr President,

Since I will be in Houston at an international scientific conference hold the first week of October (coming 30th Sept, leaving 9th Oct), I would be more than happy to visit a TDXS meeting, if any at that time.

I will take with me some pictures concerning my Pacific dxpeditions if anybody wants to see them. At the time of my West Kiribati activity I made a few hundred qsos with Texas hams!

I am in e-mail contact with w4gkr and plan to visit his shack in Livingstone as well.

In the matter of fact only Tuesday the 4th I am heavily loaded.

Sincerely yours

SP5EAQ (Jacek- HR#1 holder) ex ZA/SP5EAQ, ZL7/SP5EAQ, 3D2MJ and T30AQ”

in town (thanks Steve W9DX for the idea). That way we can still hold our regularly schedules meeting on Thursday at Tracy Gee. Please bring your ideas or alternatives to the September meeting so that we can discuss this and get back to Jacek.

You may recall that back in March I addressed the problem of RFI in my shack. At that time it turned out to be an arrestor on a nearby transformer that was radiating into the power line. Jeff Hoke, the head of RFI remediation at CenterPoint got it fixed and I had blissful quiet until recently. Now the S9+ QRN is back. Sigh, I guess it's time for another call to Jeff. By the way, if you are having similar problems, Jeff's information is in the meeting notes section of the December 2009 Bullsheet.

This month's club meeting will feature Al Vacek, Jr., KN5A (TDXS member #79), with a presentation on Estate Planning. We all have an estate of some kind, and it will be interesting to hear about planning for the future from a ham's viewpoint. See you at Papa's BBQ or at the Tracy Gee Center on September 8.

73 es gud dx,

Doug WB5TKI

I'd like to suggest that we call an informal dinner meeting at Los Tios while Jacek is



## From the Bullsheet Archives by Steve W9DX

**Ten years ago this month September 2001:** The monthly meeting was held at the Spaghetti Warehouse in downtown Houston. TDXS mourned the passing of Clarence Sharp K5DX on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Special meeting guests were Irma Sharp (Clarence's XYL), and son Mike. TDXS President Buzz Jehle N5UR welcomed new member Paul Frantz W5PF. Ballots were being sent out for member candidate Laurent Thomin KW5W (now W0MM). Dale Martin KG5U posted a few Field Day archive pictures of Joe Staples W5ASP, Bill Bradford K5GA, and Chuck Coleman K5LZO(SK). Mike Davidson N5MT reported that 10m was opening to Europe and may be the last shot at working some new ones for some time to come.

**Twenty years ago this month September 1991:** The monthly meeting was held at St. John's School at Claremont & Westheimer. TDXS President Jim Lane N5DC was asking for help with the upcoming Houston Hamconvention. Jim Carmody NN5O had arranged for special guests Russian Cosmonaut Musa U2MIR, and Boris UW3AX to attend. Bill Schrader K2TNO had volunteered to run the TDXS hospitality suite. DX Chairman Bob Walworth AK5B (now N5ET) reported that Romeo Stepanenko was now active from Myanmar as XY0RR, but was weak copy in Houston. Joe Staples

W5ASP and Andy Burns GM0ECO were planning to participate in WAE SSB from Andy's QTH in Scotland.

**Twenty-five years ago this month September 1986:** The monthly meeting was held at the Bellaire Hospital Professional Building. The program was video highlights of the TDXS Contest and DX forum presented at the ARRL National Convention. Additional topics covered were officer nominations for 1987 and the club's planned participation in the upcoming Houston Ham Convention. Larry VeHorn W9AGH (now W9AJ) was heading up the Contest & DX Forum, George DeMontrond was heading up the raffle activities, and Ken Manchester NZ5I was rounding up donations for the flea market table. Bill Schrader K2TNO hosted a pool & suds party at this QTH with his famous receiver clinic on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Contest Chairman Steve Nace KN5H (now AA7V) was rounding up team members for the upcoming September Sprint contests. Bill K2TNO wrote an interesting report on his recent holiday style solo DXpedition from VP9 logging 600 QSOs. DX Chairman Steve Smothers WA9VLI (now W9DX) reported that ZS2MI showed up without warning on September 1<sup>st</sup>, but the operator's license was in question with VHF only privileges.

**Thirty years ago this month September 1981:** Bullsheet editor Dennis Motschenbacher N5DKG (now K7BV) announced that the meeting would take place at the Chimney Rock Medical Plaza, with a program most likely on ARRL Sweepstakes. Dennis gave a report on our historical Sweepstakes results with goals for our newest entries. Randy Thompson K5ZD wrote an excellent article entitled "A Recipe for Winning Sweepstakes" (all great tips still relevant today). TDXS was doing the Hamconvention in a big way with Bob Sorace WD5CHY(SK) handling the hospitality suite, Sharp K5DX(SK) and Lee Norman W5DOZ(SK) collecting cards for the QSL display, and Grady Ferguson N5CDO (now W5FU) handling the flea market table.

**Thirty five years ago this month September 1976:** Randy Thompson WB5QDW (Now K5ZD) was welcomed as our newest member. Nominations were open for 1977 officers. A number of proposals were considered. The club decided to continue contributing aggregate contest scores under the TDXS name rather than the newly formed Texas Association of Contest Operators (TACO). The club was also considering holding regular full monthly meetings instead of bimonthly meetings. "Contester of the Year Award" was proposed with guidelines to consider.

# TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5UO

## TDXS Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 11 2011  
**Location:** Tracey Gee Center

**Attendance:** K5UO, WB5TKI, W9DX, K5WAF, W5UQ, W5UG, WB5IUU, K5LBU, N4AL, W5PF, K5DD, K5EWJ, W5ASP, N5MT

Visitors: WS5H, KE5NDN, AD5Q

- **President [Doug, WB5TKI]:**
  - Reported the Ameritron amplifier has been sold by K5UO, using the QTH.COM classified equipment section. Funds will go towards another amplifier or necessary DXpedition equipment. Purchase must be pre-approved by the board.
  - Testing of the newly acquired projector has been completed. On that note, another \$100.00 was received during the

monthly meeting from two members donation towards this purchase. Purchase price was \$431.92 with donations...thus far... of \$340.00. Other donations are welcome.

We thanked Roy for this presentation and additionally commend Bob, W5UQ for arranging the speaker. This is the type of program I like to see.

Submitted to record

Mike Bragassa, K5UO  
Secy/Treas

- **Membership [Bob, WB5IUU]:** Present. Nothing to report
- **Repeater Chairman [Glen, WB5TUF]** Not present.
- **Program Chairman [Bob, W5UQ]** Brief update by Bob.

**Presentations** Guest speaker was Roy Radlek, AD5Q.

Roy gave a very interesting presentation of propagation techniques he has used since 1964 on his quest for 5BDXCC and 5BWAZ. It was a practical discussion of propagation on different amateur bands during different seasons and sunspot cycles. The presentation was easy to understand and not too technical. Most interesting was his discussion of long-path and short-path DXing from W5 land.



## Member Spotlight by Jim N4AL

The spotlighted member for September is Bob Mennell, WB5IUU. Bob is repeating this year as TDXS VP of Membership, and will be taking over this column next month.

Bob became interested in ham radio as a teenager after buying a short wave radio from the PX at Camp Shelby, MS. He would listen to it at night, using a long wire hanging from a tall tree in the back yard. Later someone gave him a CB radio. He fired it up, talked to someone across town, and decided that talking was better than just listening. So in 1973 he passed his Novice test and became WN5IUU.

Bob got interested in DXing one evening when he heard VR6TC on 15m working a pileup. Bob worked him on the first call, and became hooked. Bob had worked 300 countries by 1992, and currently lacks only P5, BS7, BV9, A5, SV/A, and XZ. He also enjoys going on DXpeditions, operating Field Day, and a little contesting. On DXpeditions, Bob has operated as WB5IUU/VE3, /6Y5, /VP2V, /KL7, /KH6, and XE2GHB, V31UU, and 8P9UU.



As you can see from the photo, Bob has a shack worthy of envy from most of us. His primary station (in the corner of the photo) consists of a Yaesu FT-1000 MP Mark V Field, a six element triband beam, and wire antennas for the lower bands. He plans to get on 160m this fall.

In the photo you see Bob's vintage Collins station to the left, and his vintage Drake station to the right. He also has a Yaesu FT-897D with some accessories that he operates strictly on solar power. All Bob needs for Top of the Honor Roll is some help from propagation!

Bob came to his first TDXS meeting in the early 80's. Again in 2006, Cal White WF5W invited him to a club meeting, He continued coming, and has been an active member since.

Outside of ham radio, Bob spends much of his day working in his garden, and is currently studying to become a Master Gardener in Conroe. He and XYL Sue are also certified scuba divers.

We all appreciate Bob's service to TDXS, so when you see him at a meeting, shake his hand and thank him.

# Inventory of TDXS Equipment by Cal WF5W

## Inventory of TDXS equipment ; description, location, value

As of 11/10/2010

Described	location	value
1. Steppir Vertical 40/10 (as new)W/ Radial Kit	WF5W	\$ 650
2. Ameritron LS 600 Amplifier (as new Solid State /w/power supply		\$800
3. wire antenna w/traps (usable)	WF5W	???
4.		
4. Butternut Vertical 40/80	K5UO	\$100
5. 6 sections fiberglass 4' poles (as new)	WF5W	\$30
6. 110 VACpower distribution cable w/outlets(usable)	WF5W	\$50
7. Various pieces of coax, some antenna parts		
Other wire antennas	?????	?????
8. Antenna rotator with cable	(?)	?????
9. Tower trailer without tower (Cleaned up and ready)	WF5W	\$400
(tower is rusted out and not usable)	WF5W	No value
10. Small Tower (40 ft) with crank (usable)	N5ET	\$40
11. 9 I.C.E. New, unused band filters (all ham bands)	WF5W	\$400

If the whereabouts of the items noted above with ???? are known to anyone, please advise me. Also please advise of any corrections or any other TDXS-owned equipment not on this list,.

Cal White WF5W

## 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
Contest Chairman	Willis "Cookie" Cooke, K5EWJ	wrcooke at yahoo.com
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
Webmaster	Steve Smothers, W9DX	cougar70 at earthlink.net
Bullsheat Editor	Jim Boockholdt, N4AL	n4al at arrl.net
DXCC QSL Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net
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](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 September.

Bill Denton - W5SB

Dave Evans - K5SOR

Galen Graff - KB5FU

Tom Taormina - K5RC

Jay Temple - W5JQ

Lance Rumfield - WD5X

Steve Nace - KN5H

Bob King, Jr. - NM5L

Dave Sarkozi - WB5N

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