



# 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 2012

## ***Classic Rigs of the Past***

*Thursday, Dec 13, 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 "Classic Rigs of the Past". 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 mourn a new silent key in TDXS. Steve W9DX has written a very nice memorial for Steve Niles N5EN who passed away suddenly in November. Please remember his family.

Ron K5HM has written an article reminding us of the Mayan Doomsday special event station N0D which occurs later this month. Ron tells how you can, if

you wish, become an official Doomsday Network Station. Or you can do like me, contact N0D, and earn the special Doomsday QSL card. Ron gives all the information you need. Thanks, Ron, for another entertaining article.

This is my last month as Bullsheet Editor, This is an important job in TDXS and it has been fun, but it is now someone else's turn. I

know some members who are good writers, and have called on them repeatedly. It's time to give them (and me) a break.

TDXS is also looking to fill another important position, that of V.P. – Programs. Call Prez Doug to volunteer. You won't regret the contributions you make to keep TDXS vibrant. See you in the pileups and at the meetings!

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# The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

What a difference a month makes. Last month 10 meters was alive with propagation to Europe, Asia and South America. This weekend, for the ARRL 10 meter contest, it seems pretty subdued. Perhaps all of those holiday lighting displays are absorbing the RF.

It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of Steve Niles, N5EN. Steve joined TDXS in 2010 as member #175 and had 332 DXCC entities confirmed and credited. His memorial page can be found at

<http://www.tdxc.net/SK/n5en.htm>.

In accordance with the wishes of his family, TDXS has made a donation in his memory to Cypress Bible Church.

Congratulations to Trey Garlough N5KO for receiving the YASME Excellence Award for his contributions to many infrastructure projects that benefit the ham community at large. Trey is TDXS member #120.

As I write this we are still in need of a Bullsheet editor for 2013, as well as a Programs VP. Jim and Bob did a great job for the past 2 years, but it is now time to pass the baton. I know that there are some of you that feel that you “checked

that box” by serving in some club capacity in the past, but that’s not the way it works if the Texas DX Society is to continue in its proud tradition. A viable organization is about stepping up, not just showing up. Mike K5UO and I are entering our third year as officers, and Bob WB5IUU will be in his 5<sup>th</sup> year.

It’s not that we fervently desire to stay “in power” but rather that no one else came forward. Please consider giving a couple of hours of your time each month to ensuring that the TDXS remains a viable organization.

I’ve been looking for a new venue for our Annual Banquet but have as yet not found one that doesn’t require a lot of up-front guarantees. Accordingly, I’m going to make an “insurance” reservation for the Saltgrass Steakhouse for January 12, 19 or 26 (in that order). If you know of another restaurant that could host about 30-35 folks in a separate room and will do individual checks, please let me know. Or if you have an alternative suggestion for the annual get-together, I’d love to hear it.

Our program for December will be another stroll down memory lane with John Firey, W5ZG. The program is called “Classic Rigs from

the Past” and will feature the restoration of a 1930’s vintage Collins transmitter. I sure plan to be there and I hope that you do as well.

73 es gud dx,  
Doug WB5TKI



# TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5UO

Date: November 8 2012

Location: Tracey Gee Center

Attendance: K5UO, WB5IUU, W5ASP, W9DX, N4AL, K5EWJ, N8SS, WB5TKI, W5GCX, K5LBU, K5VWW, NM5G, NI5DX, W5ZG, W5UQ, W5PR, N5KTN

Visitors: Matt Flukinger. KM5VI

TDXS Business: President Doug Seyler, WB5TKI:

1. Presented Buzz Loeschman NI5DX, Member No. 173, the "QSL Manager of the Year Award" from the Go-List and DX Publishing. Buzz has provided above-board service to the ham community as the QSL manager for numerous DX stations.
2. Election of officers for 2012 was accepted and completed by the attending membership. Still needed is the programs chairman and the Bullsheet editor. Volunteers for these positions are needed. Please contact WB5TKI. Your help is needed...now.. and much appreciated.

3. Solicited choices for the clubs January Banquet location. Doug will do some research on this issue and advise the membership. Due to poor service at last years location, we hope to find another place! Any location ideas, please contact WB5TKI.

Membership Chairman (Bob, WB5IUU): Present and nothing reported.

Repeater Chairman (Glenn, WB5TUF) not present.

Program Chairman (Bob, W5UQ) Present. The program this month was about the two amplifiers manufactured by SPE Expert of Rome, Italy. The program was presented by Expert's Western hemisphere distributors Charles ("Frosty") Frost, K5LBU and their Service Manager, Bob Hardie, W5UQ. Expert Amps USA is a one-product distributor in the western hemisphere selling and servicing Expert's models 1K-FA and 2K-FA solid-state, fully automatic linear amplifiers. They call their amps "Amps with a PHD".

Frosty and Bob had the 2k-FA set up and running with an Icom HF

transceiver. The 1K-FA was also on display.

Properly set up, the amps are fully automatic. Two transceivers can be attached for remote operation which seems to be one of the key features of these amps as remote operations is a very growing trend. If your operation position is getting too crowded, the amp can be put in the closet or another part of the house and operated remotely. All controls are on your computer display. Nice!

Of interest, perhaps, is that Frosty has taken the 2K-FA, at 66 Lbs., to Africa on flights as checked baggage with no problems.

Further information is available on their website, [www.expertampsusa.com](http://www.expertampsusa.com) or via email at [contact@expertampsusa.com](mailto:contact@expertampsusa.com).

A very nice presentation by Frosty and Bob and two fine pieces of equipment.

Submitted to record November, 2012

Mike Bragassa, K5UO  
Secy/Treas



## Steve Niles N5EN by Steve W9DX

TDXS mourns the passing of Steve Niles N5EN (ex-KD5AIJ) on November 19th after a brief battle with liver cancer. Steve passed away peacefully in his sleep only 3 weeks after being diagnosed. He was 56 years old.



Steve joined the Texas DX Society in 2010 as member number 175. He was born in Shenandoah, Iowa. His early interest in sound and technology led to a career as a sound technician for traveling music groups such as ZZ Top and Clint Black. After Steve got married and stopped traveling with music groups, he was a manager in the freight forwarding and transportation business with Daniel F. Young, Inc. for 21 years. After Steve's employment with Daniel F. Young ended, he went to work for Hewlett Packard. Steve was a very skilled

Information Technology Manager who worked many hours to provide technical support to a large number of people.

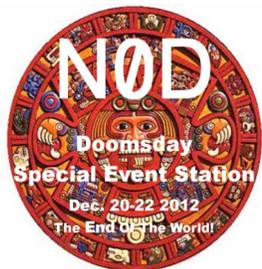
To his personal friends, Steve was always available to help with technical or sound related issues. He enjoyed the opportunity to share his expertise and assist others. Many friends relied on Steve as their personal IT guy. Steve taught his wife Nancy how to use a computer and provided coaching and all the technical materials Nancy would need to develop her own media ministry at their church. As Steve would say, "I am the techie--Nancy is the talent." This continued until the present. He even helped her get her technician class license.

Steve was a hardworking, generous man. He enjoyed serving others and it was a source of great joy when he could use his skills to help others. He was also a trained drug abuse and alcohol counselor. Steve appreciated the many friendships he developed through his interest in ham radio. At the time of his passing, he had 332 DXCC (Mixed) entities to his credit. Steve was also a collector, especially of computer or technically related items. He never wanted to throw something away in case he might need it to help somebody in the future. Steve leaves behind his wife Nancy (N5EEN),

daughter Jill, step-children and their families: Trisha and Martin Perez, Tyler, Justin, and Ashley Perez; Logan and Justine Hill and Gabriel Winter; Morgan Hill and Lyle Hill. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

# The End is Near by Ron K5HM

**The End is Near! Don't Miss it!**



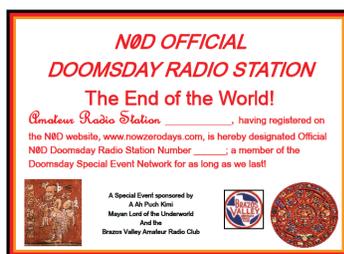
Even if you are not a believer that the world will end this month. Its still a good excuse for a QSO Party.

Call Sign N0D will be activated for three days beginning December 20<sup>th</sup> – December 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like to be a guest operator on N0D for an hour or two you will be certain to have a good time. Contact Ron, K5HM by email at his special Doomsday e-mail address, N0D.doomsday@gmail.com. Sign up to operate for an hour or two, CW, SSB or RTTY, whatever is your preference. You won't have to leave the safety and convenience of your personal shelter. Operate from your home QTH.

Check out the web site for a copy of the QSL you may never receive... [www.nowzerodays.com](http://www.nowzerodays.com)

N0D will be the rarest of rare DX (Only three days). N0D has already gone viral, just Google "N0D Doomsday" on your web browser and see how many web sites, blogs and e-mail lists have picked us up. More than 800 amateur radio stations have already registered from places as far away as India and Japan. They are stoked and waiting to contact the mother Doomsday station, N0D.

Visit the N0D web site and register to become an Official N0D Doomsday Network Station. . .for as long as we last. You will receive an Official Doomsday Network certificate by e-mail.



Saturday afternoon, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, The Southeast Texas Balloon Launch Team will send up the Doomsday Balloon from an undisclosed location near Fulshear, Tx .

<http://www.w5acm.net/b32.html>  
Trackers on the balloon will sign N0D. Follow it on the APRS tracker web site. Beginning that same weekend, Allen Mattis, N5AFV

will operate N0D on available satellite passes through Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> . . .or for as long as we last.

I hope you'll be willing to volunteer. It should be fun. You'll be in the middle of a pileup in short order. If you couldn't make it out to 7P8D with Frosty, N0D can be almost as much fun. Grab a sandwich and sit down for an hour or two.

E-mail me for details and sign up to operate N0D.

## Texas DX Society Boardmembers

<b>President</b>	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	djseyler at comcast.net
<b>VP Membership</b>	Bob Mennell, WB5IUU	bmennell at consolidated.net
<b>VP Programs</b>	Bob Hardie, W5UQ	w5uq at att.net
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	Mike Bragassa, K5UO	bragassa at consolidated.net
<b>Contest Chairman</b>	Willis "Cookie" Cooke, K5EWJ	wrcooke at yahoo.com
<b>Field Day Chairmen</b>	Dave Topp, W5BXX	w5bxx at aol.com
<b>Repeater Chairman</b>	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net
<b>DXpedition Chairman</b>	open	
<b>Outgoing QSL Manager</b>	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
<b>Webmaster</b>	Steve Smothers, W9DX	cougar70 at earthlink.net
<b>Bullsheel Editor</b>	Jim Boockholdt, N4AL	n4al at arrl.net
<b>DXCC QSL Card Checker</b>	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net
<b>CQ WAZ Card Checker</b>	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 December.

Arthur Alvarez N5KTN

Mike Young W5RRX

Sid Leach K5XI

Buzz Loeschman NI5DX

Please notify the editor if I have missed anyone.