



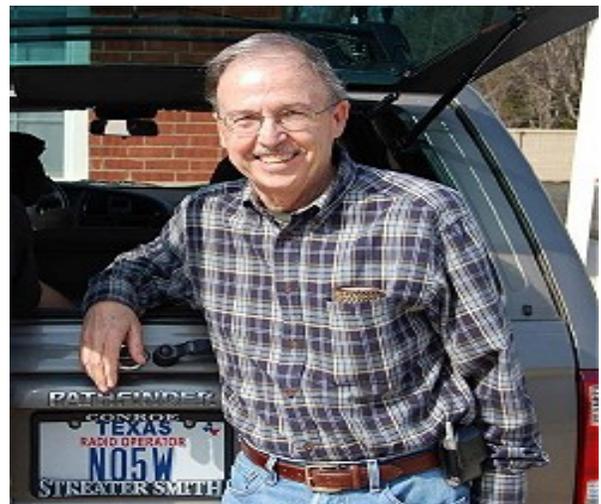
The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net February 2012

2011 Texas QSO Party

Thursday, Feb 9, 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 Chuck Sanders NO5W and Keith NM5G. Chuck will present the results of the 2011 Texas QSO Party. Keith will then show some photos and videos of the NO5W mobile CW operation during that contest. It covered 40 counties and almost 1000 miles in a total of 18 hours.



Editor's Note by Jim N4AL

The Bullsheet is shorter than usual this month. We had a short month since the last meeting (the banquet). And because the banquet replaced the normal monthly meeting, there were no minutes to report.

One of our favorite contributors, Cal WF5W, produced another of his charming articles. In this one, he describes his recent experience with kit building. This is some-

thing that I once enjoyed doing, back when I had no time for it. Now that I have time, my eyes are weak and the arthritis in my thumbs makes it difficult. So I understand what he went through. I have an "old guy" friend here who recently started a surface mount project. I don't know whether that is gutsy or foolhardy! Thanks for the nice article, Cal.

We are still looking for

a volunteer to take over the "From the Archives" column that was ably done by Steve W9DX for several years. This will take maybe a couple of hours a month, and can be done from the archives on the TDXS web site. Steve does a super job maintaining the web site. Don't forget to let him know about any changes in your DXCC status so he can update the totals he keeps there.

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The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

HKONA has finally folded up the tents. After over 190,000 QSOs their DXpedition has ended. It is amazing to think that, after all of those QSOs, there were still pileups to the end. I was only able to work them on 7 band slots, but I have to admit I didn't make an exceptional effort.

We had another great Annual Banquet last month. I think the final attendance count was about 36....we had to keep adding tables to accommodate everyone. The food was good, as was the conversation. I gave away a bunch of door prizes and also several awards. Steve W9DX was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his many years as Webmaster and club historian. Steve is now into his 8th year of providing these essential services, so, the next time that you see him, let him know how much YOU appreciate his efforts. I also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Glen WB5TUF for his almost 10 years of faithful service to the club as Repeater Chairman. I also awarded Glenn this year's Yagi-On-A-Roll award for the assistance that the club repeaters and DX

Cluster, packet node and IRPL provide to all of us in our pursuit of DX and Contests.

The next meeting will be held on February 9 at 7 p.m. at the Tracy Gee Community Center. The presentation will be by Chuck Sanders, NO5W, who will give us the results of the 2011 Texas QSO Party, along with video and pictures of his mobile CW operation from 40 counties in 18 hours. As usual, many of us will gather at Pappa's BBQ on S. Gessner before the meeting, so see the TDXS website for details and directions. I hope to see you there!

73 es gud dx,

Doug WB5TKI

Kit Building for Old Guys . . . by Cal WF5W

I was struggling for some new thing to do last year and thought why not try a kit.. I hadn't done one in 50 years so it should not be that hard. DUH.... When the Ten Tec 1330 kit arrived, I was astounded by the number of parts, the size of the board. In the old days (as many of us remember) the boards were BIG and the parts placed far enough apart that you could use the old solder gun (the 500 watter)

I weathered thru this kit and made it work. Now have 86 countries and about 700 contacts on QRP. However nothing stays the same . The little Ten Tec rig developed a hearing problem...



The reason was this little plug.. The big Polystyrene cap (seen in the middle of the photo, nearly white in color and lying behind the middle pot). This HO16 quit working and had to be replaced. Well

you can see from the photos that it would not be an easy task, especially if one can't see it, can't feel it, and is a little shaky at the end of the solder stick.

I had to take it all apart— all the knobs, switches, SO239, speaker—all to be unhooked, unsoldered, then take off dozen or so

small bolts and nuts, then try to snake the board out of the setting.

This was FUN stuff. I couldn't get the solder out of the holes in the

PC board, so I had to drill them out with a little bit from the DREMEL kit. Then it became a piece of cake, (with glasses, a light with a magnifier in it and of course the head set magnifier. BUT all that could not stop the shaky stick solderer. BUT - some how it got done . The back side of the board looks like it has solder dots everywhere. Now it has two pretty new ones..

I snaked the board back inside the case; knobs on, switches in place, wires resoldered AND the rig works again!. EASY? Not so . DOABLE? Yes, with patience.



Before you start a new kit, think back to when your last kit was.....You might want to practice your soldering technique, get some good specs, magnifiers, and Keep the instructions nearby just in case.. You may have some modern day "learning" to do. I sure had to.

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How to reach US

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

Dave Blaschke - W5UN

James Clark - N5RO

Bob Cooney - K1TU

Mike Bragassa - K5UO

James Parnell - W5JAW

Charles Frost - K5LBU

Bob Moorman - K5VMX

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Please notify the editor if I have missed anyone.