



# 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 2012

## TDXS Annual Banquet

*Saturday, January 14 2012, 6:00 PM Annual Banquet: The annual banquet will be held on Saturday, January 14 at the Saltgrass 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 Mike K5UO (bragassa@consolidated.net) if*

*you plan to attend. The cost is \$27 per person. Please pay in advance by check or with PayPal. Mail your check to Mike, or make your PayPal payment to [TDXSTreasurer@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!!*

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## Editor's Note de Jim N4AL

This has turned into a "nostalgia" issue of the Bullsheet. Many of us who joined TDXS in recent years sometimes forget just how long this organization has been around. Richard K5NA dug into his personal archives and found a photo from the very first TDXS banquet. He didn't say where it was held, but it looks to me like the interior of The Old College Inn. That would still be a great place to have a banquet, but it has been gone a long time— replaced by Medical Center sprawl. Check out the slacks under the table on the left. I had some like that, and I wore them proudly.

Included in the photo are nine of the eleven TDXS charter members. Thanks, Richard!

Steve W9DX wrote a fitting tribute to his good friend, Frank W5JWM. The past few years Steve would bring Frank to TDXS meetings, and Frank always attended when he was physically able. We will all miss Frank, but Steve more than most of us, because they were so close.

We are still looking for someone to take over Steve's "From the Archives" monthly column. If you are comfortable

### **Officers**

### **Birthdays**

with word processing and want to make a contribution to TDXS, contact Doug, Steve, or me. I'm sure Steve is willing to help you get started. It's a great way for someone who has left the Houston area to stay involved!

Please notify Steve W9DX of changes to your DXCC status for our web page.



## The Prez Sez de Doug WB5TKI

First of all.....HAPPY NEW YEAR! May the DX gods smile on us all in 2012. It's 78 degrees out on January 7, the bands are alive and Igor is going nearly non-stop on the repeater. I hope that you got the chance to participate in Straight Key Night over New Year's. I had a nice long QSO with a ham in Florida on New Year's Eve. He was using a Navy Flameproof key and I was using my Begali Camelback. As it turned out we were both licensed in the same year (1964). It was sure nice to have a long, slow conversation after too many 35 wpm "599 tu" contacts.

We were all saddened to learn of the passing of Frank Montgomery W5JWM, TDXS member #25 (1974). I didn't know Frank well, but from all of the stories that have been posted on the reflector it is apparent that he was someone special, both as a DXer and as a mentor to others.

As you may recall, I am the proud owner of a little Flex1500 QRP SDR. I enjoy it a lot, but 2.5 – 5 watts on phone

to a vertical just doesn't cut it for leisurely QSOs. So I finally finished building one of Virgil Stamps K5OOR HF Packer amps. Now I can operate QR(little)P with 25-35 watts when necessary. The kit went together OK, and I didn't mind winding all of the 16 tiny toroids, but crimping the tiny 0.100 Molex pins was a real pain!

Congratulations to Chuck W5PR on his new 6m beam. Nine elements on a 50' boom at 85 feet. WOW, that should get out!

Our gala annual banquet will be held next Saturday, January 14 at the Salt Grass Steakhouse on the Katy Freeway. Check the website for details. We'll have good conversation, good food, awards and door prizes, so please plan to attend. If you haven't already done so, please email Mike and let him know you are coming. If you don't pay in advance please bring \$27/person in cash or check only. Lynn and I sure hope to see you at the banquet!

73 es gud dx,  
Doug WB5TKI



## The First TDXS Banquet by Richard K5NA



The first TDXS banquet was held in 1972. The program was a film entitled, "Ham's Wide World,, borrowed from ARRL. Attendees were, left to right:

- Alex Stalinsky (WA5UHT) #3,
- Clint Kerrison – SK (K5ZR, ex WB5CKM) #10,
- David Evans (K5SOR) #4,
- Macky Marshall – SK (KV5S, ex VP2VM, ex K5DEG) #7,
- Richard King (K5NA, ex K5PFL) #1,
- Robert McWhorter (K5PFE) #5,
- Leon Pringle (W5NA, ex W5ZR, ex W5RMC) #15,
- Jan Carman (K5MA, ex W5SBX, ex W3JXS) #12,
- Sammy Neal (N5AF, ex K5LZJ) #6
- Possibly Kim Carr (K5TU, ex WA5WCT) #22 (image was cropped).

Photo by Wes Whiddon (N5WW, ex K5RLW) #2 .

# TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5UO

**Date:** 8 December 2011

**Location:** Tracey Gee Center

**Attendance:** K5UO, W5PF, WB5TKI, W9DX, W5ASP, K5DD, N5UR, N5ET, W5UQ, WS5H, K5LBU, WB5IUU, K5EWJ

Visitors: KE5NDN, AE5NO, W5ZG

- **President [Doug, WB5TKI]:** Discussed annual banquet details. Will be held in conjunction with the January meeting on January 14, 2012 at the Saltgrass Steakhouse Restaurant on Katy Freeway/ I10
- **Membership [Bob, WB5IUU]:** No report.
- **Repeater Chairman [Glen, WB5TUF]** Not present.
- **Program Chairman [Bob, W5UQ).** The members present acknowledged that Bob, W5UQ, had another outstanding presenter/presentation for this meeting:

John Firey, W5ZG, gave another winning presentation. This time it was his image collection from his worldwide

travels or his personal equipment collection of military radio equipment dating back to , yes, WW1!! The presentation is entirely way to large to summarize in this document.

Over the years and during war-time numerous manufacturers were involved in the manufacturing of USA military radio equipment; and not what we would recognize. This seems to be a normal happening when the push is on for war time radios. No one company can provide the demand.

John displayed pictures of radios and what piece of equipment made use of that radio, e.g. B-17, B47, B52 bombers. Neat!

Also, he showed equipment from war-time Great Britain, Germany and Japan.

As an added feature, he showed pictures of various airplanes from war times. For the most part, these are planes in museums around the world.

This was a quality presentation. If you were not present, you really missed something! No denying that!

Submitted to record  
Mike Bragassa, K5UO  
Secy/Treas



## Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie K5EWJ

December was not a very active contest month for the club. If anyone entered the 10 meter or any of the 160 meter contests during the month, they did not give us a report on the Reflector. The best method I have to keep track of contest activity is these reports. Sometimes I have the time to dig it out from the data on 3830, but it is hit and miss, so copy your information to the reflector. The bragging is encouraged and we all like to know who is doing what. I am hopeful that 2012 will be a more active year for us. After several years of bad propagation, we should all be looking forward to better band conditions.

Most of us are aware that Frank W5JWM passed away December 30, 2011. Jim Carmody has suggested that we honor Frank by giving an award in his honor. Jim has offered to start a fund with \$100 to do so. Some of us have discussed awards that could be offered to honor Frank, but we have plenty of time to discuss the award and figure out the type of award that will generate the most interest and activity. All members are invited to participate in the discussion. Frank's favorite activities in amateur radio were chasing DX and propagation forecasts. It is difficult for me to envision a competition involving propagation. Maybe one of you has

a better idea of how to organize such an award.

DXing has a number of awards available that are familiar. ARRL offers the DXCC, 5 band DXCC, single band DXCC, Marathon Award and Honor Roll. CQ Magazine has its WPX, WAZ, 5 band WAZ and their WPX and WAZ honor rolls. There are several Grid Square awards. There are the VHF awards and the Digital awards. No one can work on them all without a lot of bookkeeping.

One idea is to use modified rules for the CQ Marathon contest. They provide an entry form that runs on Excel and makes book keeping manageable. The competition runs for one year and everyone starts over each year. I find it fun to see how many entities I can work in each year, maybe others would as well. Maybe if we include Inactive and Associate Members along with Full members we can coax some interest from those who have dropped out. Digital and RTTY contacts can count, but I am not sure how to include the VHF only operators.

I understand that TDXS had a similar competition in the 1980s. I don't know what was done about

awards in those times or how much interest was generated. I have tried to develop some interest in the CQ Marathon Competition with this column, but did not seem to succeed. If it worked well, what made it work?

We also need to decide whether the plaque should be an annual award, or if the plaque should be passed to the next winner each year. Many of us have more wall decoration than we have wall, but others would value a plaque for their ham shack. Comments about this aspect are also welcome.

### Coming Contests

All Year	CQ DX Marathon
Jan 7-8	ARRL RTTY Roundup
Jan 14-15	North American CW QSO Party
Jan 21-22	North American SSB QSO Party
Jan 21-23	ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
Jan 27-29	CQ WW 160M Contest
Feb 4	Minnesota QSO Party
Feb 4-5	Delaware QSO Party
Feb 5	North American CW Sprint
Feb 11-12	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest

In 1924, Gilbert Frank Montgomery was born in Waco, Texas and his family moved to Houston when he was 2 years old. He grew up in the Heights and Graduated from Reagan High School and later attended the University of Houston. Frank was first licensed as W5JWM at the age of 17 in 1941 just before amateur radio was shut down for the duration of WWII. When he joined the military, his radio skills were a valuable asset when he served as an Army Radio Operator in the 273rd Infantry Regiment while stationed in Europe. His stories of wartime adventure in France were numerous and colorful.

After the war, he returned home and married his sweetheart Ernestine, and started a family. From the 1950's through the 70's he lived at 1608 Kowis Street, just off Hardy and north of Little York where he built a 100 ft tower. It was the tallest structure in the area, and many gave directions with the tower as a reference point. His kids helped him install lightning rods and screw anchors by sitting on the wrench while he walked in a circle to bury them. Before that, lightning would sometimes flash across the den according to Sherrill. Frank had his hands full trying to keep the kids from climbing the tower. One summer day in 1957, Sam Neal was a newly minted Novice with the call

KN5LZJ and had gone to visit his aunt and uncle on Cromwell Street. The next morning Sam walked outside and saw that beautiful 100 ft Vesto Tower and walked over and introduced himself to Frank who said he was "W5 Just Wasting Money". Frank had a love of crazy callsign phonetics and enjoyed telling everyone of all the humorous combinations he had heard over the years.

Frank joined the Texas DX Society in 1974 as member number 25. Although he was an accomplished DXer, he also enjoyed being part of the Texas DX Society contesting efforts with multi-multi operations from the K5LZO, NR5M and the "Lumberyard" contest stations and the club's adventures to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico for several of the ARRL DX contests. Although Frank didn't have a particular interest in personal contesting, he would get on the air to give the TDXS aggregate score 100,000 points or so in most Sweepstakes. Eric NM5M reported that Frank was amazing to watch on 75 meters as he knew every gray-line opening by heart. Frank also knew the band segments of all the EU/Russian stations. Amazing since the band was pretty fragmented in the 70's and 80's. One of Bob K5WA's favorite memories of Frank was when he came out to Sammy Neal's place in the 1980's for a CQWW DX SSB contest and

just sort of sat back to advise Bob of when to move to certain spots of a particular band. Bob was flabbergasted when he told him to spin the receiver down to 3625 (or somewhere around there) and just call CQ "for a Russian" up in the US portion of the band. Sure enough, first call, there came a gaggle of Russians! Apparently, it was some kind of Russian DX net and Bob was fresh meat. Bob felt like just letting Frank take over right there and then but he was having such a good laugh at being proven right that he didn't need to operate at all!

Frank achieved #1 DXCC Honor Roll - Phone on at least two occasions. This was long before the advent of DX clusters and "easy DX", and was earned the hard way by spinning the dial and listening. Frank had the uncanny ability to recall many of those early contacts and enjoyed telling stories of those DX accomplishments. He often told me that he thought Gus Browning W4BPD (SK) could handle a DX pile-up better than anyone he had ever experienced and there was no doubt whether your contact was in the log or not. He and Clarence Sharp K5DX (SK) always had a friendly competition on who could "bag the new one first" or who had the most DXCC entities credited. Many of his favorite contacts were from the golden days of AM Phone. In spite of not

being active on HF for the last 15-20 years, Frank still had 351 entities credited. I'd be happy with just half of his deleted country count!

Frank had the opportunity to visit the W5SJS station about a year ago when K5WA, K5TU, NZ5I, KG5U and NW7DX had a little post Field Day pow-pow out there. Frank even enjoyed a Mexican food lunch during the trip. When he got to the station and saw the K5WA PLC control system, he knew exactly what all the electronic do-dads did even though he hadn't had a working station in a long while. Since Frank clearly understood intuitively the workings of the whole thing in one glance, there was no sense for Bob to patent the thing, or pursue any "top-secret" negotiations with the U.S. government for remote control of drones. He loved spinning the dial to let Bob know if the antennas were working or not (and most of them met his approval). It was his dream to leave assisted living and have an active station again, but it was not to be.

Frank had several interesting careers in his life, including stock brokerage, electronics, and air freight. Tom, K5RC's earliest memories of Frank go back to 1964 when Tom worked at Madison Electronics and Frank worked down the street at Hamilton Elec-

tronics. "We got to see him nearly daily and "enjoying" his big cigar. He was also a member of the West Gulf DX Club and a regular at the monthly bashes at Captain John's restaurant. Frank was a real character and a credit to the world of DXing."

When Joe W5ASP was introduced to TDXS back in the late 70s was when he started listening to the "Big Three" i.e. Frank (W5JWM), Sharp (K5DX), and Lee (W5DOZ) who gathered every Sunday evening on the 96/36 repeater and swapped stories of their DXing "in the good old days". For years Frank was the de facto "voice of the 96/36 machine"...seemingly always available to those passing through. The mere mention of the stock market would evoke words of wisdom...well worth listening to. His other love was Basketball and the Houston Rockets. Back in the mid-80's the mere mention of "hoops" during the morning commute time could cause Frank to "lock-up" the repeater for half an hour or more with his latest predictions. Many of us reached our places of work without the chance to sign out. Frank must have wondered where everybody went when he took his hand off the mic! Henry W5HNS said he was also fond of college basketball and always had an "expert" opinion during March Madness days.

We will all miss the wit, wisdom, advice and friendship of one of the icons of TDXS. A true fraternity brother many affectionately called "Uncle Frank". Until we meet again old friend...



## 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>
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<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>	
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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.