



# The Bullsheet

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

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

## Field Day

*No TDXS meeting this month*  
There will be no regular program meeting in June. Instead, we will meet at Field Day on the Texas City Dike on June 23-24. This is the same location as last year., and is surrounded by salt water. With a year of experience at this location, we know how to make the most of it. Dave W5BXX, last year's

capable Field Day Chairman, has agreed to do the job again and has provided more information later in this issue of Bullsheet. If you live in a space where your ability to erect antennas is limited, come out and experience operating from an ideal location. This is sure to be a successful Field Day operation!



## Editor's Note de Jim N4AL

This month we have another fine article from Ron K5HM. He is reporting on the BVARC Museum Ships Weekend effort which he chaired. This group made over 600 contacts, mostly on SSB from the Stewart and on CW from the Cavalla. In his Contest Column, Cookie K5EWJ also discusses his perspective on Museum Ships Weekend. I enjoyed helping

Cookie operate CW from the Cavalla on that Saturday. We have lots of good CW ops in TDXS, and hopefully in future years more will help with this effort.

TDXS had a good group at Ham Com in Plano. Our Treasurer, Mike K5UO, arranged for us to have our own table at the DX Dinner. Not only was it in the very front of the room,

but also we were among the first to be served! Great job, Mike! Now if you can just arrange for one of us to win the grand prize in the drawing next year. Bob K4UEE gave another superb presentation on the HK0NA dxpedition.

Please remember to update our webmaster, W9DX of any changes to your DXCC status.

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## The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

Happy summer! May the hurricane gods smile on us this year and refrain from modifying our antenna setups.

On June 9th during the ARRL forum at Ham-Com, Richard King, K5NA (TDXS member #1) received special recognition when he was awarded a "Lifetime DX Achievement Award". We all congratulate Richard for this lifetime accomplishment, his contesting success, and service to the amateur community.

has outdone himself. We will have at least 15 participants this year, so the 1-A operation should be well manned. Last year we were #3 in South Texas with only 10 participants in a mostly SSB operation. This year we hope to do a lot better with more CW and a round-the-clock operation. Please see the article elsewhere in this Bullsheet for details. I hope to see you at Field Day 2012 on the Texas City Dike!

73 es gud dx



It's ARRL Field Day time again! It's time for sun screen, bug spray, lawn chairs and ham radio. We will be activating the far end of the Texas City Dike again this year. Last year was a blast, and our Field Day Chairman, Dave Topp W5BXX,



## Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie K5EWJ

My email has not been very reliable in May. Allen, N5XZ told me on two meters that he submitted an activity report for the CQ WPX contest, but I did not receive it. I think that there may have been others who participated in the WPX or other contests, but I don't have the information to include here.

I may have missed some reports with my internet trouble and my XYL Barbara fell last month and broke her hip. She had a hip replacement and is still in Kindred Hospital in Webster in Intensive Care. I have hope that the new prosthesis will allow her more mobility.

We did have a good Museum Ship Weekend June 2 & 3. We made about 1150 contacts with about 150 on CW and 50 by satellite. We had about 40 people attend with mostly hams and a few non-licensed wives. Most were members of BVARC, but we had 4 TDXS members and 3 TARS members. Two of the TDXS members were also BVARC members and one also a TARS member. We had five active stations, including one in the USS Stewart, and one in the USS Cavalla, Two were in the park on a park bench and the satellite station was also in the park. The contacts

are not as rapid as contest contacts because of the need to explain our location and the Museum Ship awards. It is not really a contest, but a activity somewhat like field day except that we used the ship's antennas for about half the contacts. The beam, vertical operation and the satellite operation were really like field day in that we used generator power. The ships were using power from the electrical mains. The organization for BVARC was headed by two dual TDXS members, Ron Litt, K5HM and Bill Stone, WS5H. Well done for two new TDXS members.

We are all looking forward to Field Day on June 23 and 24. The Texas City Dike was a nice place for Field Day last year. We are all looking forward to this year's event.



# TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5UO

Date: May 10, 2012

Location: Tracey Gee Center

Attendance: K5UO, WB5IUU, K5DD, WS5H, K5LBU, W5BXX, W5GCX, NM5G, N5KTN, W5ASP, N5ET, N5UR,

Visitors: Norma, KE5NDN (XYL of WS5H), Xenia Gerber (XYL of W5GCX)

TDXS Business:

Vice President Bob, WB5IUU presiding:

1. Bill, WS5H discussed the "Historic Naval Ships Association's" event coming up June 2-3, 2012. The local contribution to this event will be held at Seawolf Park, Pelican Island, via Galveston Island. On display there is the USS Cavalla submarine and the USS Stewart, a destroyer escort. The local group plan to have amateur radio setups on the Cavalla (fulltime) and in the park, using the callsign NJ3BB. Additional information is available [hnsa.org/ships/cavalla.htm](http://hnsa.org/ships/cavalla.htm)
2. Field Day 2012, chaired by Dave Topp, W5BXX, will take place at the end of the Texas City Five-mile Dike, at the same place as last

year. It will be the same FD category. Volunteers are again solicited to help set up, operate and tear down. Please, please help out in this fun project.

Further discussions on setup and equipment: use the clubs Butternut HF-2V 40/80m vertical for those bands. Discussed locating a crankup vertical to replace the one removed from the tower trailer. Keith, NM5G, will be SSB Captain. Discussed FD tee-shirts.

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

Repeater Chairman (Glenn, WB5TUF) Not present.

Program Chairman (Bob, W5UQ) Not present

Another outstanding program by Chairman Bob:

George Edwards, K5VUU, discussed his history with mobile screwdriver antenna's.. George's ham radio career started in 1959 as primarily a mobile operator. He started designing his antennas by working from the some of the good screwdriver antennas available for

sale at the time. All manufacturing was performed from the best materials available, in his home machine shop, well-known locally as a first-class setup.

Additionally, he discussed some of the technical concepts of mobile assembly and operating that he has experienced over the years.

As an added treat, George displayed some pictures of his "tower-in-the-attic" at his two-story residence. A very interesting and well built setup for a moderate height tower. Very worthy of duplication for any ham considering a 30 foot or so tower.

A very worthy presentation!

Submitted to record

Mike Bragassa, K5UO

Secy/Treas





## Get Ready for TDXS Field Day 2012! by Dave W5BXX

Field Day is almost on us and we're getting ready. June 23 and 24 are the contest days from 1800 Sat. to 1800 Sunday. Things seem to be falling into place pretty well.

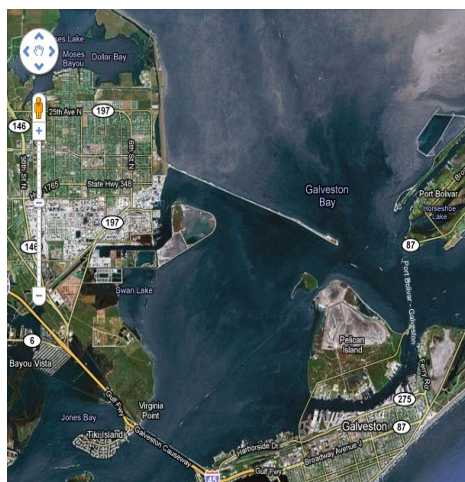
We will again be on the Texas City Dike. I'm going there on Friday afternoon with the RV and checking things out.

We have, so far, 15 participants! Great! We be 1-A again with an HF station in the RV and a VHF (6mtr) station. The HF station will use a 55' tower with a T-8 antenna, and the 6mtr station will use a 5-el M2 at 35'. Both will have rotators. Radios are an IC-756-Pro-III and an IC-746 as a spare. Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF, will handle satellite operations outside the RV. We will use N3FJP Field Day Software. Ron Litt, K5HM, has been indispensable with the Pre Field Day paper work. This will add several hundred points to our total score! Has also invited the local area officials and the local ham club (Tidelands Amateur Radio Club, which will be in LaMarque operating their own station).

Bring the following: Your favorite headset, CW keyer or key, mosquito repellent (no mosquitoes showed up last year), favorite chair for outside, laptop computer if needed, change of shirt (please) and

any desired exotic drinks. We will furnish soft drinks, water, sandwiches/ and chips for lunch Sat and Sun. The club will pick up the tab for the Saturday night BBQ. Fishing is allowed but if you catch any, you will have to cook the damn things!

This year we will operate the entire 24 hours, starting at 1800 Saturday. Set up will be Saturday morning beginning around daylight. Cleanup will be Sunday PM after it's over. I will put out an update if things materially change or items needed.



To get there from Houston: Take I-45 South toward Galveston. Take exit 16 (FM 1764) and loop over I-45 to the left. Go all the way through Texas City on that road (there may be some construction and if so follow the detour signs). FM1764 becomes 9th Avenue in town but continue until it dead ends. Take a right and first left onto the dike entrance road. A toll booth is a short distance (\$5.00) and then go to the end of the dike (about 5 miles). Our spot is on a grassy knoll and overlooks everything!

**LOOK OUT AMERICA, HERE WE COME!!!**

## Museum Ships Operation 2012 by Ron K5HM

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, sponsored a fifth successful year of participation in the world-wide Museum Ships Weekend 2012 event June 2-3. Ninety nine historic ships were part of MSWE 2012 and over 30 were ships located in foreign QTH's.

The USS Cavalla and USS Stewart at Seawolf Park were prominently represented to stations around the globe by volunteer operators from area clubs, including several from TDXS. This was the largest effort for BVARC in the five years it has been participating in Museum Ships Weekend as more than 50 members and guests from area clubs descended on Seawolf Park in Galveston to operate or just help out. TDXS members at the park included, Jim N4AL, Cookie K5EWJ, Ron K5HM, and Bill WS5H.

For a two day period, the radio rooms of the two ships were brought to life. The crackle of radio static, the dit-dah of CW and the voices of radio operators could be heard by visitors as they toured the ships. We had sufficient interest in CW that we were able to dedicate the Cavalla radio room for CW operation and eventually logged approximately 150 Q's on

CW. There were two shore side stations set up in a picnic shelter, plus the Stewart Radio room too.

Much of the radio equipment on the ships no longer works due to age and lack of parts. So operators brought their own gear. On the Stewart, the original seventy year old shipboard antennas gave great performance during the event. During the weekend long operation, we made radio contact with more than 1,000 stations throughout the US, Canada and as far away as Australia. The final numbers are yet determined, but it will be a record for us.

The satellite crew logged over 40 Q's on three satellite passes, including contacts with the Lightship Overfalls in Lewes, Delaware, the Battleship New Jersey in Camden, NJ and N1S, the USS Nautilus, in Groton, Ct.

This year we decided to offer a Texas Navy Certifi-

cate for stations that contacted all five Texas-based ships during the event, including the USS Lexington, W5LEX, in Corpus Christi.

We also operated two VHF nets on Saturday and Sunday for local amateurs using the 146.94 repeater. The repeater coverage was wide enough to permit NA5DV on USS Texas, and N5E on the Tall Ship Elissa, to participate in the nets too. With the addition of these two ships and KK5W, representing the Cavalla and Stewart, more than 50 local stations logged contact with four of the five Texas based Museum Ships on the net.

All in all this was an event in the best traditions of amateur radio. It demonstrated the power and flexibility of ham radio to the general public, it was a tune up field day and a public service to the community. The weather was great too!



## 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                         |                              |
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| Bullsheet 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 June.

Alex Stalinsky - WA5UHT

Joe Brassfield - N5AQT

Cal White - WF5W

Al Loeckle - K5FK

Madison Jones - W5MJ

Larry Vehorn - W9AJ

Dave Topp - W5BXX

Paul Frantz - W5PF

Mike Anderson - N5MV

Grady Ferguson - W5FU

Kirby van Horn - K7EC

Bill Stein - WB5SJS

Don Busick - K5AAD

William Goins - K5WMG

Steve Smothers - W9DX

Bob Evans - K5WA

Paul Jaeger - KY5A

Wes Spence - AC5K

Glenn Anderson - WB5TUF

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