



The Bullsheet

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

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

Fast Track Satellites

Thursday, March 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 Tom Campbell, KF5TIO, who will present a pro-

gram entitled "Fast Track Satellites", If time, he will also talk about the changes that have occurred at NASA JSC, and about his experience operating Field Day as a maritime mobile. This should be a program with something that will interest everyone.



Editor's Note by Jim N4AL

It's good to have Cookie's column on contesting in the Bullsheet again this month. His wife's health makes it difficult for him to participate as actively as he would like in TDXS activities. It's good to see how active and successful some TDXS members are in major contests. And I always appreciate the technical insights that show up in his column. Thanks Cookie.

This month's Member Spotlight is on our very own Prez, Doug WB5TKI. It's always interesting to learn more about the guys I see each month at meetings. In each of Paul's Spotlight columns, I am impressed with the experience and knowledge of amateur radio that we have in TDXS. I intend to show my XYL the photo of Doug's shack. She doesn't believe me when I tell her that a ham shack is supposed to

look like that.

A warm welcome into TDXS to Rob HK3CW. When a group of us went to HK0 a few years back, Rob drove us around Bogota and let us sleep overnight in his living room. Rob spent some of his youth in Houston, so come back to see us, Rob.

Please report any changes in your DXCC status to W9DX so he can update our web page.

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The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

The Greater Houston Hamfest was held last Saturday and, from what I saw, it was a success. All of the tables were sold and the bargain hunters were out in droves. Congratulations to the organizers for a job well done!

At the January banquet Steve Smothers W9DX was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his many years as Webmaster and club historian. As he was not at the banquet, we presented the award to him at the February meeting. Thanks again Steve for your faithful service.



Be on the lookout for Frosty K5L-BU/A25CF and crew on March 18-27 from Botswana. They will be operating during the CQWW WPX SSB contest (March 24-25) as A25HQ.

It is with great pleasure that I report that the TDXS Board has voted to bestow an honorary membership to Rob Rey HK3CW for his help above

and beyond during the TDXS Dxpeditons to San Andres Island (HK0). As Rob said in his email:

“I appreciate the appointment! This comes as a very nice surprise to me. I am honored to be a honorary member and I will certainly hold the membership in very high regard. Cal White once told me, you will one day become a member of the TDXS. I honestly thought it would be very cool to become a member but thought it wasn't really deserved, as any ham would probably do the same things for his fellow hams.

Thank you very much!
73 de HK3CW Rob”

We also welcome John Firey, W5ZG, as a new member of TDXS. I know that we have enjoyed his presentations in the past on vintage gear and look forward to more stimulating discussions in the future.

Please keep Richard King K5NA (TDXS member #1), and his XYL Susan K5DU in your thoughts. Richard has started an aggressive treatment for cancer. You can find updates to his condition at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/k5na>.

The next meeting will be held on March 8 at 7 p.m. at the Tracy Gee

Community Center. The presentation will be by Tom Campbell KD5TIO on “Fastrac Satellites FO-69 and FO-70”, plus highlights of operative Field Day 2011 as a /MM. 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 WB5TKJI

TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5UO

Date: February 9 2012

Location: Tracey Gee Center

Special Note:

Attendance: K5UO, WB5IUU, W9DX, K5VWW, W5ASP, K5DD, NM5G, WB5TKI, N5KTN, W5PR, N5ET

Visitors: NO5W

- **President [Doug, WB5TKI]:**
 - Doug touched upon a pending new member; to be discussed by WB5IUU in this report.
 - Doug presented a certificate to Steve Smothers, W9DX, for his service as web master and club historian/archivist for many years.
- **Membership [Bob, WB5IUU]:** Bob, as co-sponsor, presented a new applicant that was approved by the club's board of directors. Presented is John Firey, W5ZG
- **Repeater Chairman [Glen, WB5TUF] Not present.**
- **Program Chairman [Bob, W5UQ) Not present**

Presentation: Chuck Sanders, NO5W, is Texas QSO Party ("TQP") coordinator for the Northwest Amateur Radio (NARS) club. He is also a very active mobile participant in TQP and various other state QSP parties, e.g. Mississippi, Florida, Oklahoma and Louisiana. He 'speaketh' with experience!

The attendance was a tad bit light tonight as probably some members thought Chucks presentation would be the same as past years; a duplicate! Wrong! IT was a very informativeand new...presentation by Chuck! He did review last years TQPm abd maybe some have seen that at other club gatherings. But, that is where the duplication stopped.

After reviewing last years TQP statistics and mixed within the recap was Chuck's new digital and internet tools used to plan, follow and recap the contest...in almost real time! Amazing tools he has developed using Google mapping, GPS, APRS, digital graphics and his own mobile logging software.

He can control his K3 transceiver with his SmartPhone, also. He has developed a small remote operating tool for this. It is a home built Android IO interface board at the operating position wirelessly operating the radio, which is located in the rear of the SUV.

Chucks excellent operating and computer skills along with these tools made for an excellent QSO party run

on his part. Keith, NM5G , was chucks driver and cameraman.

A short TQP recap:

There were as many out of state logs turned in as there were in-state logs.Only four of a potential 254 counties were missed by mobile operators: Hardeman, Zapata, Lynn and Baylor counties. To cover all 254 counties takes at least 20-30 active mobiles.

The NO5W/NM5G duo scored 393,305 points covering 40 counties, 1402 QSO's in 900 total miles driven.

Submitted to record
Mike Bragassa, K5UO
Secy/Treas



Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie, K5EWJ

To write this column I have been copying into a file material which appeared in the TDXS Reflector that I stored on Yahoo.com email. This month one of my DX friends (I hope unlicensed!) in Nigeria decided that I needed some help with my email account. Several of you received the email that he so helpfully sent to let you know that I was stuck in London and needed urgent help. He kindly included a slightly modified email address so that you could make a contribution to help support him in Lagos. I trust none of you made any contribution as I am sure that you have all seen this ruse a couple of times per week for a year or so. My Nigerian helper also deemed that I had stored my information long enough and deleted all my saved messages, including the material that I saved for this column and my contact list. I started over, so I have a few items. I apologize for the contest reports that were deleted and I cannot recreate.

ARRL has a nice contest newsletter which is issued every two weeks. The ARRL Contest Update is published every other Wednesday (26 times each year). ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/>.

Chuck, W5PR made a nice score in the CQ 160 meter SSB contest with QSOs = 629 State/Prov = 54 Countries = 23 Total Score = 118,811. Chuck is using

an 80 foot tower with gamma match and two tune elevated radials for transmit. Chuck uses multiple beverages for receive. Glenn, WB5TUF had a nice score in the North American QSO Party, RTTY contest with 173 QSOs and 81 multipliers for score of 14,013.

There has been an extensive thread about tuning an inverted L antenna on the Elecraft reflector. A member is experimenting with an Inverted L that is fed with a folded counterpoise. This is something that I had not considered, but some of us have a lot of difficulty with keeping counterpoises on our property, particularly on 80 and 160. The experimenter had installed his counterpoise 14 inches above the ground and was having difficulty with observing two resonances when measuring at the shack end of the coaxial feed line. No conclusions have been reached at this time, but the idea is interesting. I did a lot of investigation using EZNEC. Conclusions about the effectiveness of different counterpoises were limited by my lack of confidence in EZNEC for this purpose. I did conclude that when a support of limited height must be used it is better to keep the vertical leg as near vertical as possible rather than making it longer and sloping it. It does not seem to make much difference whether the horizontal portion is flat or sloped back toward the ground. The antenna pattern seems to be similar to that of a shortened vertical, but the horizontal matching wire seems to make the bandwidth similar

to that of a full quarter wave vertical and much wider than the short vertical. Also, the radiation resistance is closer to the 35 ohms of the quarter wave vertical, thus the ground losses will be less than the short vertical. I have enjoyed a lot of success with my installation on my 65 foot tower with the 80 meter trap near the vertical and the 160 tuning element sloping downward.

Upcoming contests:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Mar 3-4 | ARRL Int'l Phone DX Contest |
| Mar 10-11 | Idaho QSO Party, Wisconsin QSO Party |
| Mar 11 | North American RTTY Sprint |
| Mar 17 | 10-10 Mobile QSO Party |
| Mar 17-18 | Oklahoma QSO Party, North Dakota QSO Party |
| Apr 7-8 | Montana QSO Party |
| Apr 15 | ARRL Rookie Roundup |
| Apr 21-22 | Michigan QSO Party, South Dakota QSO Party |

Member Spotlight by Paul W5PF

Doug Seyler WB5TI



Doug came by his interest in Amateur Radio very naturally. His Father was W8JRB, so he grew up hearing the code frequently when his dad operated. In 1964 while his family was living in Cincinnati, OH, Doug became WN8OKL at the age of 13. He says that shortly after that the radio gear which had been in his parent's bedroom was moved into his room and it became the shack. The HF gear was on a table in his room and the 2 meter equipment was in his closet. His father was into converting surplus equipment. The HF rig consisted of a converted Navy TCS transmitter running a pair of 1625's as the final to get 75 watts out. They also had a 75 watt modulator running 1625's for AM. The receiver was an NC-183D. Eventually they added a Heath SB-10 SSB adapter. During this part of his amateur career Doug enjoyed chasing DX. While in high school he met Buzz Jehle, WA8TFJ, now N5UR.

After high school other things took precedence for a while and Doug was fairly inactive for several years. In the late 1980's he became very interested in operating the amateur satellites. By this time he was WB5TKI and he was active in the Houston AMSAT group. He put together a satellite station which included computerized antenna tracking and he worked the satellites for several years. Doug has never been a serious contester since he has preferred to spend valuable weekend time with his family and doing other things.



Lately he has become interested in QRP operation. He has an Elecraft KS-1 and a Flexradio Flex 1500 which has aroused an interest in Software Defined Radio. He also has an Icom IC-756 and an Ameritron AL-572 which he admits to cranking up when conditions are not so good for QRP. He has a Yaesu FT-857 with an ATAS-120 in his car so he can pass the time while stuck in traffic.

One of his favorite ham radio memories is of a Field Day back in Ohio when he and a group of hams decided to do a real field day. They found a rural hilltop in Indiana and set up a complete field station including operating shelters, temporary power and all. Their power source was a 400 cycle generator and he remembers that operating with the 400 cycle hum was a challenge. More recently Doug went on a Dxpedition to Nicaragua with several TDXS members and really enjoyed operating as YN2TKI. Doug attributes his life long interest in amateur radio to the wide variety of activities included within the hobby. If he gets tired of one area there is always something new to explore.

Outside of ham radio Doug is interested in astronomy. He has a 10" Meade Schmidt Cassegrain reflector telescope. He also enjoys reading, photography and spending time with his family. Doug found out about TDXS a few years ago when his friend N5UR tracked him down and introduced him to the club. Doug became TDXS member #166 in 2006. Since then he has been active in the club serving as Bullsheet Editor for two years, and he is currently in his second year as TDXS President. Stop by and say hello at the next meeting.

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
Bullsheel 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

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 March

Al Bayer - WB5CFI

Steve Niles N5EN

David Bean - W5ZQR

Bob Walworth - N5ET

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.

Ed Seeger - K5EBS

Bill Frink - K5WAF

John Godwin - K5IUA

Buzz Jehle - N5UR

Ken Grabenstein - KZ5KG

Ed Sikorski - AA8PA

John Bonica - K5EC

Dave McCarty - K5GN