



# The Bullsheet

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

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

## *Expert Amplifiers*

Thursday, November 8,  
7:00 PM TDXS Meeting  
Night: Tracy Gee Center,  
3599 Westcenter Dr, Hou-  
ston. Pre-meeting dinner get-  
together starts around 5:30 to  
6 PM at Pappas BBQ on S.  
Gessner & Westheimer. Pro-

gram on the line of Expert  
Amps by Frosty K5LBU and  
Bob W5UQ. These amps are  
all solid state, cover HF  
through 6 meters, have an  
automatic tuner, and make  
great Christmas stocking-  
stuffers. Bring the XYL!



## **Editor's Note** by Jim N4AL

This month, frequent contributor Cal WF5W has sent us another antenna article which each of us will find interesting.

Our speaker at the September meeting was Vlad, UA4WHX. He described how he can operate successfully from may rare DX entities with minimal

equipment and expense. Some attendees showed a lot of interest in the antennas that he uses, and some took notes. Cal was one of these, and has constructed an antenna based on Vlad's design. His article describes his experiend. Cal plans to use this antenna on a DXPedition to Majuro next spring. I hope that

other readers will experiment with this antenna design and report their results to us. Thanks again, Cal. Please report any changes in your DXCC status to W9DX so he can update our web page. It shows our DXCC totals, including those for DXCC Challenge.

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## The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

WOW, what a wild time at the CQ WW SSB contest. I didn't operate much due to other commitments, but did do some hunt and pounce on 10m. As Allen N5XZ said "10 was open and active all the way up to and above 29 MHz". And as Chuck W5PR put it, "You know the conditions are REALLY good when it is open to EU and JA at the same time. That did not happen for me, but it was close." Propagation is a funny thing on 10m. Normally it's as dead as a doornail, but on contest weekends it often is wide open. Go figure!

Speaking of propagation and such, I heard a guy on 20m the other day. He lives in Kansas City and was describing how he had a hard time working much DX from his home there due to antenna restrictions. But he could log into a buddy's super station on the west coast and operate it remotely. Now I understand that operating a station remotely via the internet means that you are the control operator and the internet acts as a long microphone cord and that the operator must state that he is transmitting via the remote base station. So if I work a rare DX station via someone else's super station, I worked him. Now for the part that is troubling me. According to the

DXCC rules, that QSO is valid for DXCC, as long as I was located in the US lower 48 (same DXCC entity as the transmitter and receiver). Taken to the extreme it could cheapen the meaning of the DXCC awards. What do you think?

I'm not a big "joiner" but one other organization of which I am a member is the Commemorative Air Force. In the September issue of their monthly magazine they ran an article about the Collins ART-13 transmitters that were installed in the B-29 bombers. It describes what an innovation it was at the time with its Collins Autotune, and how band changes that had taken 10 minutes with precious equipment now took 30 seconds. The CAF recently restored an operational radio position in their B-29 "Fifi" and received help from the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Group to fully restore an ART-13 for the plane. If anyone is interested in reading this article let me know and I'll find a way to reproduce it.

At the November meeting we will present an award to one of our members, Bill "Buzz" Loeschman N15DX on behalf of The GoList and DX Publishing. Buzz was voted by DXers, around the world, as

the 2012 QSL Manager of the Year. Congratulations Buzz!

Last month we asked for volunteers to run for the elected officer positions, and the silence was deafening. As a result, Bob Menell WB5IUU has agreed to stay on as V.P. Membership, Mike Bragassa K5UO has agreed to have another go at Secretary/Treasurer and I've acquiesced to do the President thing one more time. However, Bob Hardie W5UQ no longer has the time to be V.P. Programs due to other commitments, so that spot is currently open. Unless someone steps up, the 2013 meetings will largely be dinner only social gatherings. I know that we don't want this to happen, so please consider stepping forward.

See you at the meeting!

Doug WB5TKI

**TDXS Meeting Notes** by **Mike K5UO**

Date: October 11 2012

Location: Tracey Gee Center

Attendance: K5UO, WB5IUU, W9DX, N8SS, W5PF, WS5H, K5VWW, N5XZ, K5HM, N5ET  
Visitors: Norma, KE5NDN

TDXS Business: Chaired by Bob, WB5IUU:

1. Announced that club nominations for FY2013 are still open but election is next month, in November. Solicited volunteers; no response.
2. Unless volunteers surface, WB5TKI, WB5IUU and K5UO have agreed to stay on during 2013. We hope that Bob, W5UQ will reconsider as he was an extremely fine program director.
3. Bill Stone, WS5H, is interested in the DX Chairman appointed position. He admits to his lack of experience with TDXS, being a newer member, but wants to learn and most of all "help by doing his part." Bill should be commended for this.

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

Repeater Chairman (Glenn, WB5TUF) Not present.

Program Chairman (Bob, W5UQ) Not present. Chaired by WB5IUU  
The program this month, presented by Bob, WB5IUU, was about his and his XYL's combination scuba diving and ham radio trip to Bimini Island in the Bahama Island Group, C6, IOTA # 048, in June.

When it comes to DXpeditions, Bob is known as "Mr Ace Hardware". Bob admitted to having carried more tools and supplies than really needed, especially in this day of expensive travel luggage costs. But, he was well prepared!

Bob made an excellent presentation about his ham radio activities as C6AUU. His small DX station was located at a local tourist museum run by Ashley Saunders, called "The Dolphin House". Mr Saunders volunteered his 3<sup>rd</sup> floor guest house kitchen with roof access to contain Bob's well provided station. The Dolphin House was also located on probably the highest point on this end of the island, a better location than the motel where they stayed.

Bob had a lot of the antenna equipment with him at the presentation, including his MFJ-2286 stainless steel vertical "Big Stick"; and eighteen-foot telescoping antenna and pvc tubular stand. Numerous

QSO's provided S9+ reports for C6AUU.

Another feature of this location was it's proximity to "Radio Beach", so called because of two very large transmit towers down the way from *The Dolphin House*.

Bob had lots of photos which showed that the island is a very beautiful place worthy of a nice holiday! Thank you Bob, C6AUU for an outstanding presentation.

Submitted to record October 12, 2012

Mike Bragassa, K5UO  
Secy/Treas

## Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie K5EWJ

Fall is here again and with it the Fall Contest season. Last month we kicked it off with the Texas QSO Party which was fun as usual and this month we had the CQWW SSB DX Contest. Some of us prefer the CW DX Contest, but there is little question that the SSB contest has more participants and is the keynote of the contest season. We had three members who put in a good show and reported their effort on the reflector this year. Your reporter was busy again this year and did not get to participate, but I did get a chance to tune through the bands while checking out the new 14AVQ antenna on the USS Stewart. Actually, I heard so many Canadians on the bands that I thought it was the W-VE Contest. The bands seemed to be very open and I was surprised that SSB stations filled the entire ten meter band. I am glad that I did not know what was going on or I would have quit working and played in the contest.

Chuck Dietz put in a good show on ten meters this year as usual. Chuck was hampered by not having his short antenna which was knocked down by the storm this summer and his "only" antenna was a 48 ft. boom yagi at 150 feet, which jumped over some of the closer stations. Also, his 756 Pro III was struck by lightning and

Chuck was barely able to get it fixed by contest time. His favorite amp, a TenTec, was on the blink and Chuck had to use his Alpha 99. Chuck gave a lot more detail that I don't want to take up the space here to repeat, but it is available on the reflector and probably 3830. W5PR entered the SOSB/10 meter High Power category with 2124 QSOs in 36 zones and 117 countries for 913,257 points. Chuck was a bit disappointed, but most of us would be elated with a performance like that.

Steve Smothers made a good showing in SOAB(A) High Power using his Yaesu FT-1000D and Alpha 76PA. This year Steve reported using his Force 12-XR5 Antenna at 70 feet. W9DX reported 514 QSOs in 231 countries and 81 zones for 452,088 points. The band results were 20 meters, 102 Qs, 56 countries, 26 zones; 15 meters, 185 Qs, 88 countries, 28 zones; 10 meters, 227 Qs, 87 countries, 27 zones.

Allen Brier did almost as well in SOAB(A) High Power using his Elecraft K3 and P3 with an Alpha 78 amp and 4 element 30/40 StepIR Yagi at 75 feet. Allen managed 427 Qs in 163 countries and 71 zones. His band breakdown is 40 meters, 61Qs, 18 zones, 32 countries; 20 meters, 27 Qs, 8

zones, 21 countries; 15 meters, 41 Qs, 15 zones, 19 countries, 10 meters, 298 Qs, 30 zones, 91 countries.

My thanks to the three members who reported their CQWW DX SSB results. I suspect that more members participated in the contest to some extent but did not report. Please report your activity so I can get it recorded in the Bullsheet. If you don't have much time, your participation is still important and I would like to report on the results.

I regret that YL Barbara's (WB5NVH) illness keeps me away from the radio most of the time. She is on a ventilator and receiving dialysis, but her prospects are much better. I hope to eventually get her back home, but it will take a while.

I have been working quite a bit with the Pelican Island Ships. They have hired a new Executive Director and the Board of Directors has been taking a more active role. The new management has been in place since October 1, 2012.

This is the month when we decide new officers for next year. I missed last meeting because Barbara was sent to the Emergency Room that day, so I do not know who is running. I will try to make it this month!

## A 2-1/2 Pound DXPedition Antenna by Cal WF5W



Our speaker at the September TDXS meeting was Vlad UA4WHX. He told stories from his DXPedition to 150+ countries. He also gave a rough description of the gear he carried to those countries. He only carries a backpack and can only take 22 kilograms of luggage, so everything had to be small. He said he uses a Kenwood TS480 100 watt rig with built in tuner.

He described his antenna as a “sloper on steroids”. The extra punch for the antenna comes from its use of a reflector. The antenna and coax are cut to exact resonance on his desired operating frequencies. Several of us took notes on the antenna, intending to try to replicate it. Well, I have done so... Here is my description of the 2.5 pound wonder.

First I called one of TDXS’s previous speakers at ABR Industries in Houston, and asked for the lightest coax that he had. This turned out to be Belton RG58A/U, which weighs 3 pounds per 100 feet. I bought 200 feet at \$.55 per foot. My junk box contained a Ten Tec hard plastic center connector, so that was all I needed in parts.

I measured the sloper accurately after considering the velocity factor of the coax. This antenna uses coax for the entire system. I added one foot to allow adjustments to the correct frequency as measured by a meter. That allowed 6 inches for trimming on each side of the sloper.



Then for the feedline I measured a length of the coax which was an odd multiple of  $1/4$  wavelength (I used 5). I then carefully soldered a PL259 on one end (this stuff is small and its hard to clear all the braid). Once again I had to take into consideration the velocity factor of the coax (which for Belton 'RG58A/U is .80) I removed about 2 inches of the outer cover of the coax from the end that would attach to the sloper center, and then carefully parted the outer braid from the center conductor. Next I removed about the same amount of outer cover from each of the two pieces of coax that I had prepared for the radiator. I then put the center connection together, careful not to let any braid short the connection. If you do this, you will need to use a meter to adjust the antenna to the frequency you want. Lengths can be adjusted by bending back the extra coax

Once I had the radiator and feedline on frequency, then I used another length of coax to prepare a reflector. I cut a length of coax equal to the velocity factor (.8 in my case) times the length of  $1/2$  wave plus 5%. Then I hung it from the hauling line where it attached to the upper end of the sloper and let it drop down to the ground. It was a little longer than the height of the antenna, so I stretched it out and set a weight on the end to hold it in place. I used a slingshot to put the 2.5 pound sloper in a tree. The upper end needs to be at least 25 or 30 feet in the air.

Then came the fun when I hooked it up to a radio. It is quiet, it seems to have directivity, and gets a signal out. I worked a G4 on the first call, an HA, and a lot of east coasters with it positioned pointing northeast. I do not have another dipole or sloper for comparison, but it does hear well and gets my message across.

I spent about \$130 bucks making this up and had a good day enjoying ham radio.

## 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](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 November.

Keith Huges - KA5F

Joe Staples - W5ASP

Charles Brues - N5AM

Robert McWhorter - K5PFE

Chuck Dietz - W5PR

John Davis - KN5T

Bill Eckenrode - W5SG

Jim Carmody - NN5O

Bob Chmielewski - N5PJI

Bruce Meier - N1LN

Ed Gerber - W5GCX

Chuck Hornburg - K5IX

Don Mayhall - N5DM

Don Daze - N5DD

Matt Thomas - anyone. WX5S

Willis "Cookie" Cooke - K5EWJ

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.

