



The Bullsheet

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

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

Bimini Dxpediton

Thursday, October 11,
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. Program by
Bob WB5IUU on his holi-
day style DXpediton to
Bimini in the Bahamas.
Come and hear Bob's sto-
ries and see his photos
from his fun and sun trip
to a tropical paradise.



Editor's Note by Jim N4AL

This month President Doug sent along a photo of a young geek that reminds me of, well, me. He suggests that some of you old-timers write articles for the Bullsheet about how you got started in amateur radio. I think that's a great idea, so send them along, folks. If you have photos showing a younger you, that

is good too. Welcome to Vaclav AA7AJ as a Bullsheet author. He described his participation in the last Texas QSO Party. TDXS has always supported TQP and Vaclav is a regular. This shows that normal activities can provide interesting reading. Thanks Vaclav.

Cal WF5W provided another article on an easy DXpediton antenna. He experiments a lot with antennas and is a good writer. We all enjoy his contributions. 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

I was looking through some old papers recently and came across a copy of the Novice column from CQ Magazine, October 1965. There was a familiar face pictured there, me, aged 14.

That started me on a mental ramble through my life in amateur radio. At the time I was WN8OKL in Cincinnati. My dad was a ham, so I had ready access to equipment. In our case it was a converted Navy TCS transmitter and National NC-183D receiver into a vertical for 40 & 15. Of course, then it was CW with a J-38 straight key (that I still have!). We also had a homebrew 2 meter AM transmitter and a converted ARC-3 receiver. With a 4 element beam at 25 feet, we got out pretty well from Southwestern Ohio. After I got my General Class License I fell in love with 10 meters. For 5 years I was very active, mostly chasing DX. Then off to college and ham radio put on hold for 5 years.

After college I built a Heathkit

HW-101 and ran along wire antenna out of the apartment window to a nearby tree. In the mid-1980s I set up the first packet BBS, running on a Kytronics KC-85 (like the Tandy TRS-80 Model 100) with 8k of ram. After that came more DX, rag chewing, Packet, APRS, digital and analogue satellite, PSK-31, SDR. I guess that what has kept me active in ham radio for so many years is the sheer variety in this great hobby. I know that I am not unique, so I'd love to hear some of your reminiscences of your life in ham radio. Send them to our esteemed Bullsheet editor, Jim N4AL, so that we can share them with the world.

Our program for this month's meeting will be by Bob Mennell WB5IUU. He will recount his holiday-style DXpedition to Bimini Is. in the Bahamas. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend, as I have to be out of town. Bob W5UQ will run the meeting in my absence.

October is the month in which we take verbal nomination for elected club officers. Please consider stepping up (or stepping back up) to one of these positions, and give a bit of your time to the club.



A Navy TCS converted for amateur use and an NC-183-D used with a vertical antenna has snagged 42 states, Canada, Puerto Rico, Brazil, France, Columbia and Argentina for Doug Seyler, WN8OKL, 14, of 3286 Rinda Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio. Doug's favorite bands are 15 meter c.w. and 2 meter phone.

73 es gud dx.



TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5UO

Date: September 13 2012

Location: Tracey Gee Center

Attendance: K5UO, WB5IUU, K5DD, W5ASP, W9DX, N4AL, K5EWJ, N8SS, WB5TKI, K5WAF, WF5W, W5PF, WS5H, W5GCX, K5LBU, K5VWW, WB5TUF

Visitors: Irina, WA4WHX, Vladimir, UA4WHX, Norma, KE5NDN

TDXS Business: (President Doug WB5TKI)

1. Announced that officer nominations for 2013 are due at next months meeting. Solicited volunteers.
2. Following the program, Doug presented an honorary membership to TDXS to Vladimir, UA4WHX, for his contribution to the amateur radio world and particular to TDXS members in his many Dxpeditions to difficult areas.

Membership (Bob WB5IUU): Present and nothing reported.

Repeater (Glenn, WB5TUF) Present. Nothing reported

Program (A worthy presentation chaired by WB5IUU.)

Vladimir, UA4WHX, was in Houston to visit with his wife, Irina, who is attending school here. The

Program VP arranged for him to make a presentation to the club.

Vlad has been travelling internationally for many years putting on the air numerous hard-to-find DXCC countries. He always travels light; maybe two shoulder bags, 15-25 kgs each containing his radio, small power supply, key, coax and antenna wire.

Unless he is using the station of a local ham, he always uses 100 watts or less and sloping dipole antennas.

Vlad spent several years in Africa,. Probably 90 % of the countries in Africa have no ham operation at all; it is either not allowed or not affordable. Vlad was able to overcome the bureaucratic problems and obtain amateur radio licenses. His one best technique was to show how amateur radio can be advantageous in publicizing a country, thereby possibly bringing in tourism or industries. Usually this was brought to the attention of a minister-level person. Worldwide some of his more difficult countries to obtain (or not obtain) a license were North Korea, Rwanda and Comoros. As a continent, Africa is the most difficult to operate in as licensing is a big issue.

Vlad has possession of a hundred or more ham radio licenses as a product of his travels. Additionally, he

has travelled to 150+ countries to operate his radio.

Vladimir also described some of the technical challenges in his travels:

1. Attempt to locate on top of a mountain or the highest point in a country. Operating from higher levels allows him much better transmit and receive performance. The only exception may be a near-seaside location with verticals.
2. He described in detail the single band slopers he uses. This created a lot of interest among those in attendance. *[Expect a Bullsheet article on this later.-Ed]*
3. Pileup techniques: Vlad does not like to run split. He cited contests, where split frequencies are not used but they manage pileups well. When the pileups become too much to handle or “policemen” become too much, Vlad cuts his power back to maybe 5 Watts. This clears up the problem instantly. He then increases the power as the pileups thin out.

Submitted to record September 13, 2012.



The Bullshead

A Lightweight Portable Antenna by Cal, WF5W

Step 1. Cut a piece of any wire 33 foot long.

the ground side of the 239 to the chicken wire.

Step 2. Hang it up in a tree or some where up about 33 feet. If you can't make 33 feet then at least 30 feet and run the wire over the tree limb.



Step 3. Get some local chicken wire (any hardware store in US and in most 3rd world countries.) lay it out in a cross fashion (2 ft X 25 foot times two) At the intersection wire tie the two pieces together and make a short piece of the wire to stand up so you can use it to connect to the ground side of the antenna (your chicken wire used as radials)

Take a piece of coax and run it out 50-100 feet and walla walla you have a vertical that is flat on 40 meters and also on 15. The total setup, except chicken wire, weighs about 3 pounds with the 100 foot of coax. With a tuner you can use it on all bands.



My first contact on 40 was Cuba with a CO8. The second was an east coaster. On 15. Total cost: Zero, NADA, NOTHING. Think about it. It might just work for you....

Step 4. Get an SO 239 connector and solder about 6 inches of wire to the center and a 6" wire to a place on the side (one of the screw holes). Strip insulation from the loose ends of the wires about 1/2 inch back.



Step 5. Using electrical wing twist-nuts (2 of them) First connect the center of the SO 239 wire to the vertical piece of wire. Then connect

Texas QSO Party Report by Vaclav AA7EJ

“...five nine in Navarro county..”

In a span of about six hours this phrase was acknowledged from over 190 operators from most of the states, Venezuela and Virgin Islands.

After restraining ourselves from loading up the car from eager vendors in the annual Round Top antique extravaganza , my XYL and I headed North. Our destination – Navarro Mills Lake. Half way there, Mother Nature struck with miles and miles of blinding rain and wind gusts. Same conditions at the arrival at camp site, and during the erection of a 20 meter dipole on top of 15 feet of fiberglass stuck in four sections of surplus cammo poles. According to the park ranger, it rained 4 inches in that Saturday afternoon. The soggy antenna, whipping in the constant wind, finally began to radiate useful RF around 1700 CDT and the equally soggy operator lasted until 2000. However, the ionosphere returned the 100 watt signal all over US and Canada making for

steady stream of contacts. Majority of them pretty short, ho-hum con-

test style, until a Czech voice from Canada poked through. That was the end of the “contest” for almost an half an hour, as I reminisced with a fellow victim of the Prague Spring. He knew the neighborhood I walked through to the elementary school – bare footed, in the show and uphill both ways. We yakked until the pipeline between us folded.

Sunday started with an empty 20 meters, until I asked for a clear frequency and overheard pretty much same request back. Ended up talking to Ron in Vermont for good 15 minutes. The rest of the “contest” which ended for me around 11 was pretty slow.

All together , the “portable five” operation netted only 3 TX counties. Actually I did not hear a single TX station calling CQ, hopefully just proving that 20 meters is not a good local band. Needless to say – it started to rain again so we packed the car and headed for Dale

Chihuly's glass exhibit in Dallas.

What did not work:

Trees “eat” small fishing line, especially in the rain. I will go back to mono-filament 30 - 50 pound plastic line next time. The dipole support lines need to be very loose in high wind – 1 inch fiberglass tube breaks easy.

What did work:

Paper log,. When you are always calling CQ and do not need to check for dupes, it is faster than ANY computer. Fiberglass cammo poles are great for a temporary set-up.

To do next QSO party:

Find a simple mobile dipole antenna that can be set up in minutes. There are lots of counties between Houston and wherever our next campground is going to be. Overall, the TQP may not be a hardcore, splatter all over the band, thing for many, but it sure is a great way to get rare states or counties quickly and make friends in the process.

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
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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 October.

Jim Whitmire KD4M

Bob Hardie, W5UQ

Wes Whiddon N5WW

Ron Marosko, Sr. K5LLL

Bill Schrader, K2TNO

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.

Jeff McClain, K5MV

George DeMontrond, III, NR5M

Kim Carr, K5TU

Laurent Thomin, N0MM

Bob Mennell, WB5IUU

Tom Campbell, KD5TIO