



The Bullsheet

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

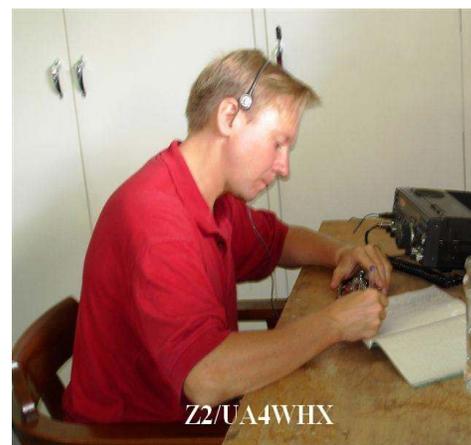
The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net September 2012

Vlad UA4WHX

Thursday, September 13, 7:00 PM

TDXS Meeting Night: Tracy Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston. Pre-meeting dinner get-together starts around 5:30 to 6PM at Pappas BBQ on S. Gessner & Westheimer. Program by Vladimir Bykov, UA4WHX. Vlad is in Houston visiting his YL after a dxpedition to EY. His previous dxpedition last-

ed over 2 years to Africa & the Middle East. On that trip, Vlad logged over 310,000 QSO's from 21 countries. He has also operated from several countries in the Pacific. At the meeting, he will share his experiences and describe his observations on conducting one-man low-cost dxpeditions. See you there. This is a program not to be missed!



Editor's Note by Jim N4AL

This month the "Member Spotlight" column returns, introducing us to new member Ron Litt. Ron is a long-time ham who has been very active in TDXS, BVARC, and with the museum ships in Galveston. This column is a good way for the rest of us to get to know our officers and new members, and Paul

W5PF does a FB job with it. Thanks, Paul. I noticed in the last OPDX Bulletin that TDXS honorary member Rob, HK3CW, has been elected president of the Colombian Radio Amateur Association. I met Rob when I went on a TDXS dxpedition to HK0, and they were nice enough to let

us stay with them overnight. Rob is multilingual and has his own translation business. He has translated ARRL documents into Spanish. Congratulations, Rob! Please report any changes in your DXCC status to W9DX so he can update our web page.

Inside this issue:

The Prez Sez	2
August TDXS Meeting Notes	3
Contest Chairman's Report	4
Member Spotlight	5
Birthdays	6



The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

As I write this column, I'm also trying to work NH8S, the Swains Island DXpedition, on 10 m. CW. The propagation isn't really cooperating, but there are still 10 days of operation. No wait . . .that's my call coming back at me. I got him and it only took an hour!

I just had a fellow from the neighborhood stop by my house and ask if I was one of those "radio hams". It turns out that he is liquidating the estate of an uncle who was a ham. This neighbor didn't know any hams and had no real idea of where to turn to sell ham gear from the estate. This uncle had a Kenwood TS-711, TS-811 and TS-440 setup. And just a few weeks ago I had a coworker stop by who had seen my license plate. He is not a ham but he too had estate gear that had belonged to his father. In his case it is Heathkit transceivers, amps and accessories. It occurs to me that this may be an all too common problem when non-hams are faced with pricing and finding markets for their relative's gear. That might make a good topic for a Bullsheet article by one of you, giving pointers for pricing and selling gear for the non-ham.

The annual Wings Over Houston Airshow is coming up on October 27-28 and they are in need of additional volunteer communicators. They need at least 65-70 communicators on the ramp each day, and are well short of that number now in early September. I've done this before and it was fun and rewarding. In my case I was posted at the VIP viewing section, and handled traffic for everything from rowdy spectators to lost children. All that you need is a handheld, although an extended antenna, headset and programming instructions come in handy. Please consider helping out. You'll provide a needed service to the community and experience a great airshow.

The September 13th meeting will feature Vlad Bykov, UA4WHX, who will share his experiences and discoveries of one man, low profile, low cost and QSO-efficient DXpeditions. Vlad's QRZ.com page lists 36 different callsigns, so I'm sure that this will be a special evening. I hope to see you at the pre-meeting get together and at the meeting that follows .

73 es gud dx.



TDXS Meeting Notes by **Mike K5UO**

Date: August 09, 2012

Membership (Bob, WB5IUU): Pre- Submitted to record August 10,
sent and nothing reported. 2012

Location: Tracey Gee Center

Repeater Chairman (Glenn, Mike Bragassa, K5UO
WB5TUF) Not present. Secy/Treas

Attendance: K5UO, WB5IUU,
K5DD, N5KTN, W5ASP,W9DX,
WD5X, N5MT, N4AL, K5EWJ,
W5UQ, N8SS, WB5TKI

Visitor: Irina, WA4WHX

Program Chairman (Bob, W5UQ)
Short review of upcoming pro-
grams. Discussed with Irina having
her husband give a program on his
world travels and dxpeditions.

TDXS Business: President Doug ,
WB5TKI:

1. Announced that club officer nominations for 2013 are due at next months meeting. Doug and Mike, K5UO (secy/treas) announced that they will not seek re-election. Time for some new blood to step up. None of these positions are time consuming, so "not having time" is not an excuse.
2. Introduction of guest Irina Bykova, WA4WHX. Irina is in Houston attending school. Her husband, Valdimir, UA4WHX is well known world-traveler/DXer who will give next month's program.

Program: Marc Abramson of ABR Industries gave a very informative presentation on coax for the radio amateur. He categorized coax by frequency and use; for best selection, performance and economics. He had some good visual aids showing different types of coax, nomenclature and hands-on samples passed around the room. He even had some pictures of the manufacturing process. Looks quite complicated, especially the braid process.

ABR Industries is a local Houston company and sells via www.abrind.com.

A very worthy presentation!



Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie, K5EWJ

August was a dead month for reporting contests by the members. But, the fall contest season is upon us and I am hoping to see members achieve some fantastic scores. If you cannot manage a fantastic score, make some contacts, turn in your log (hopefully for TDXS) and increase the log count for us in the contest. As TDXS Contest Chairman I would like to see a high log count with some high scores. Both are important. The contest sponsors are working to cut down on cheating, so many logs aid their checking and they want all they can get. Review the rules closely on the contests that you plan to enter because there are some changes this year to try to make the contests more fair.

The Texas QSO party is coming up on September 29 & 30. This is a fun contest which does not challenge your stamina as much as the 48 hour two day contests. It runs from 1400Z Sept 29 to 0200Z Sept 30. (That is 0900 CDST to 2100 CDST Saturday) and from 1400Z to 2000Z on Sept 30 (0900 to 1500 CDST). The battleship Texas and the carrier Lexington in Corpus Christi are committed to operate the contest this year. I will try to organize some activity at the Cavalla and Stewart, but there has been a

change in curator which may affect what we can do. There is some effort to get the Elissa active, but it may be in dry dock by then.

The National Contest Journal has some very interesting articles in the current issue. If you are not subscribed, you are missing some good contest information. The fall contest season starts for us with the Texas QSO Party and there are many contests throughout the fall and winter, so get your rigs ready, take the XYL out on the town and prepare for an active season.

The Cavalla Historical ARS has been active on the USS Stewart. We are installing some new antennas on the Flying Bridge for added HF and UHF/VHF activity. The ship curator has had some antenna support brackets added by the Park Board welder for our use. A roll of RG-213 has been donated by Tidelands ARS to connect the HF antenna and to replace three old coax runs to connection points on the Flying Bridge. River Oaks Car Stereo has donated a Diamond X30 antenna for 2 meters and 70 centimeters. An HF Antenna (a Hy-gain 14AVQ) will be donated as soon as it comes in. Jerry Muller, KF5EYC donated a 50 ft length of 400 Flex

from ABR to feed the X30. Michael Monsour, AC0TX, is repairing and documenting the electrical distribution system and we installed a larger air conditioner donated by Jerry Muller and Joe Wileman of TARS. A new Curator has been hired by the Cavalla Historical Foundation for the ships, but we have not met her yet.

Upcoming Contests

Sept 15-16	QCWA Fall QSO Party; Scandinavian CW Activity Contest; Washington State Salmon Run
Sept 16	North American Sprint
Sept 29-30	CQWW RTTY DX Contest Texas QSO Party
Oct 6-7	California QSO Party
Oct 27-28	CQ WW DX SSB Contest
Nov 24-25	CQ WW DX CW Contest

Member Spotlight by Paul W5PF

Member : Ron Litt K5HM

Ron K5HM is a recent newcomer to TDXS. He has been a member for about a year and a half and was sponsored by another recent new member Bill Stone WS5H. Ron found out about TDXS shortly after his return to Houston from Plano in 2011 and he was invited to participate in Field Day 2011 by Dave W5BXX. Ron is also a member of BVARC as are several TDXS members.

Ron first became interested in ham radio as a teenager in New York City where he lived not far from the future site of Shea Stadium. A neighbor of one of his friends demonstrated ham radio to their junior high school class and he was bitten by the bug. Ron got his novice license in 1954 at age 13 and his general about 6 months later. He can still remember how nervous he was taking the 13 wpm CW test at the Manhattan FCC office.

About 1970 he dropped out of ham radio for the usual reasons, family, job, etc. In 1978 he came to Houston working for a contractor at NASA and had a career in the aerospace industry in Texas. He says he always wanted to be a cowboy

so he became involved with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in 1980 and is still a volunteer.



In 2009 while in Plano pursuing his second career in the mortgage industry he became interested in ham radio again and went all the way getting his Amateur Extra Class callsign AE5NO. He has since turned it in for his current call. Ron's main interests are contesting and chasing DX. He got his DXCC in about a year after being relicensed and is now working on the Diamond DXCC and also chasing islands in the IOTA program. He is "definitely in the stealth mode" because of the restrictions where he lives. Ron is using a multiband dipole strung between

two trees for 40 through 10 meters, but it doesn't cover the WARC bands. He has recently acquired a Gap Titan which he has hidden in the trees. He uses an IC-7000 and

an IC-718 and splits his operating time about evenly between PSK31 and SSB.

Currently Ron is working on a special event station to celebrate Mayan doomsday on Dec. 21, 2012. The call will be N0D or Now Zero Days. He says he will QSL all contacts after the event, provided that we are still here. If you haven't met Ron yet, come to the meeting, say hello, and ask how you can participate at N0D.

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
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CQ WAZ Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net

How to reach us

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxs.net> email address: k5dx@tdxs.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 September.

Bill Denton - W5SB

Dave Evans - K5SOR

Galen Graff - KB5FU

Tom Taormina - K5RC

Jay Temple - W5JQ

Lance Rumfield - WD5X

Steve Nace - KN5H

Bob King, Jr. - NM5L

Dave Sarkozi - WB5N

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.