



# The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net December 2013

## December Program: John Firey W5ZG

### Classic and Historic Radios plus Early Telegraph Keys and Bugs

John Firey, W5ZG, well known for his collection of vintage amateur radio equipment, will present our TDXS December program. John has kept us "asking for more" after his last three presentations. John has become our December presenter it seems.

W5ZG will present an update of several classic and historic radios recently added to the collection, including radios from British "Lancaster" heavy bombers of WW2, A pre-war Collins transmitter, and some rare Heathkits produced only in England.

Part two will be a presentation of early telegraph keys and "bugs" including a bug that sends dots AND dashes automatically!



### Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

Another great month for DXing (and a little contesting to boot) in the books. Here's an example of some of the great DX and DXpeditions on the air during November:

- TX5RV—Austral Is.
- 5J0R—San Andreas Is.
- K9W—Wake Is.**
- XR0YY—Easter Is.
- 5A1AL—Libya
- T33A—Banaba Is.
- XR0ZR: Juan Fernandez**
- FW5JJ—Wallis Is.
- 5W7X—W. Samoa Is.
- JD1YBT—Ogasawara

- TJ3AY—Cameroon
- W8A /K8A—W. Samoa
- T33KV/FL/PT—Banaba
- XZ1J—Myanmar**
- Z81X—South Sudan
- 3DA0ET—Swaziland
- TU5AX—Ivory Coast
- XT26DJ—Burkina-Faso
- S21ZBB—Bangladesh
- Z61DX—Kosovo
- VU7AG—Lakshadweep**
- 5V7TH—Togo
- 5W8A—W. Samoa
- 3D2R—Rotuma Is.
- 9X0ZM - Rwanda
- 6O0LA—Somalia**
- ZS8C—Marion Is.**
- Not to mention the great

conditions during the CQ WW contests.

Next month: new year, new officers, should be interesting.

Please see the reprint of "Houston Radio History: The Pre-Broadcast Era" starting on page 6. I think you'll find it very interesting.

Next month I'll reveal the answer to the K5DX repeater ID question (does anybody remember?).

73, Allen N5XZ

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# The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

## The Prez Sez

Well, here it is, my 36<sup>th</sup> and last Prez Sez. In January I'll hand the TDXS scepter of power (The Jawbone) off to the new President, Bob Hardie W5UQ. I've enjoyed the past 3 years as TDXS President thanks to the great support by the elected officers, Bob Mennill WB5IUU (VP Membership), Bob Hardie W5UQ (VP Programs) and Mike Bragassa K5UO (Secretary/Treasurer), as well as the appointed chairmen (some of whom have served in their positions for many years): Willis "Cookie" Cooke K5EWJ (Contest), Bill Stone WS5H (DX/Field Day), Glenn Anderson WB5TUF (Repeater), Tom Ashworth N5EA and Allen Brier (N5XZ (Communications), Steve Smothers W9DX (Webmaster) and Scott Patout K5DD (Outgoing QSL Manager). Without all of these folks contributing their time and energy, TDXS would cease to exist.

The [TDXS Annual Banquet](#) will be held on Saturday, January 11 at the [Rio Ranch Steakhouse](#) at 9999 Westheimer in Houston. This is a new venue for us and should provide a quieter and less crowded setting than in the past few years. Because this restaurant requires a substantial deposit, we ask that you prepay for the dinner. If you missed the recent

emails about payment options, please contact [Mike K5UO](#) for details.

In what has become an annual tradition John Firey W5ZG will once again be the featured speaker at the December TDXS meeting. As always, he will take us back in time with a presentation on more classic and historic radios and accessories in his extensive collection. You won't want to miss this one! I'll look for you at Pappas BBQ before the meeting. As usual, we will gather at Pappas BBQ for the pre-meeting bull session. I hope to see you there.

73 es gud dx,  
Doug WB5TKI



# TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5UO

## TDXS Meeting Minutes

Program: Peyton Barns  
M.D. KE5ZDZ

**Date:** November 14, 2013

**Location:** Tracy Gee Center,  
3599 Westcenter  
Drive, Houston, TX  
77042

**Attendance:** TDXS Members:  
WB5TKI, K5UO,  
WB5IUU, W9DX,  
K5DD, K5VWW,  
WD5X, W5BXX,  
N5MT  
Visitors: KE5ZDZ

Peyton gave an excellent program regarding emergency ham radio station setups based upon his own need and experience.

It seems that Hurricane Ike visited his residential neighborhood and left the neighborhood in shambles and the residents without electricity, no telephones and numerous very large tree's down across the streets and unable to travel.

This motivated Peyton to obtain his amateur radio license. From that he has put together two radio setups to choose from. This was the subject of his program.

• **President [Doug, WB5TKI]:**  
Announced new officers for 2014:

President: Bob Hardie W5UQ

Vice-president/Membership:  
Steve Smothers, W9DX

Vice-president/Programs:  
Lance Rumfield, WD5X

Secretary:  
Arthur Alvarez, N5KTN

Treasurer:  
Mike Bragassa, K5UO

• **Membership [Bob, WB5IUU]**  
**Nothing to report**

• **Repeater Chairman [Glen, WB5TUF] Not present.**

Both setups are in drinks coolers laid flat on their sides. He has the radio, batteries, wire antenna's and related ropes all packed into these coolers. The coolers are arranged such to be able to operate from the coolers laid on their sides.

Additionally, Peyton is an active member of ARES and CERT-qualified.

A very useful presentation and well presented. For a fairly new ham radio operator, Peyton has come a long way and was very knowledgeable of the hobby and his subject matter.



## DX Report by Bill WS5H

The holiday season is upon us and I just wish to have had more time to work all the good DX especially on the high bands during this peak of the solar cycle. Seems I should apologize and be ashamed to say that I could not do a proper DXpedition search for this article. Maybe a Musing or two from our membership will have been submitted and hit this Bullsheet issue. I did manage to fire up the radio some and of the limited time of operating worked a few in the CQWW CW contest. I also worked a few new ones prior and after the contest. I was very impressed with Frosty's 3DA0ET Swaziland DXpedition Team 10 meter contact. Even with the team setting up antennas our TDXS 3DA0ET team member Bob and I also made email contact and managed to congratulate each other on our recent Prez elect positions, His with TDXS and mine with BVARC. The contact showed up on the Internet log in a very timely manor even with the intermittent internet connection and even more joy when the contact made a hit in my LoTW shortly after. No wait 6 months if you did not donate for the QSL card. Can not say for sure but the LoTW contact may have made a hit before Frosty's plane touched down back in to Houston. Think I will hand a humble donation off to Frosty for the next upcoming DXpeditions.

This next tip is for some of the less seasoned newer DXers that might be reading our Bullsheet. Yes it's more about contesting than DX but what the heck it's the holidays. Notice of non-liability. This is only my wild idea that worked and you may experience mix results. This worked for me in 2010 and 2011 for an ARRL 10 Meter contest First Place, single operator, mixed mode, high power, South Texas Section wall hanger. Well as the cert says single operator =NON assisted. Bite your arm our whatever you have to do to keep your eyes and ears off the Internet DX spotter and or DX announcements on our Repeater. It will take much will power but proof is in the pudding. It can be done! Next mix the mode. You may only be good at SSB or prefer CW. Newer SSB Hams; whatever it takes make at least 1 CW contact. You seasoned 50 WPM CW operators only need to make at least 1 SSB contact just so you can remember what corner of the bottom drawer the microphone was placed and long forgotten. Run High power category. Even if it is not legal limit around 200 watts output will do fine. More power is even better. Now you ask me why do all this? Most operators are using the spotters for more points and DX. Not so many just working search and pounce from one end of the band to the other non assisted or just taking pot luck on who answers on your set

up call frequency and not jumping on that rare one seen on the cluster in between calling CQ. Mix the mode as many more SSB ops than Mix mode in the contest. The same theory works for High power. Not as many operators have amps with the station in the contest. Well maybe in a few years everyone will be legal limit but for now they don't. Bottom line is my shack is not a Big Gun so I did not expect to get #1 World, Continent, Country, or State. A section of Texas was for me an achievable realistic goal while having fun on 10 meters. STX is larger than some states or countries.

Happy holidays and for me it is a MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

73 Bill WS5H



## Contest Report by Cookie K5EWJ

From the Contest Chairman

The fall contest season is well underway. Probably the most popular DX contests are the CQ World Wide DX contests and members made a good showing in these contests this fall. I love the CQWW contests, but I did not get to participate this year. December has the ARRL 160 meter contest and 10 meter contest which are also popular contests and I hope that we will have a good showing this year. The 160 contest is Dec 7-8 and the 10 meter contest is Dec 14-15. I have a conflict for the ten meter contest in that I have a Flyball Dog Race in New Caney that week end. Maybe I will get my ducks in a row for the ten meter contest.

I have been trying to get back to normal activity after several years of primary care taking. I have a lot to do to get my station back together and get some of my strength back, so I have been busy, but have not had time for much radio work. I have resumed an old hobby of archery to try to get somewhat back in shape. I have bought a couple of recurve bows and have been shooting quite a bit. An archery league on Thursday night has made even another place I should be on meeting night. All my dogs grew old and died during the

last few years, but I have adopted a Blue Border Collie named Abby to keep me company. I am still trying to put my house and garage back in order so that I can participate some during the winter and spring contest seasons. I need to fold my tower or climb it to realign my beam with my antenna rotor. The fall storms are tough on it.

I bought an Expert 1K Amplifier, but I still need to get the ALC hooked up on my TS480SAT and my K3 as well as do some mods to bring my K3 up to date. I bought a P3 at Ham Com and I need to build it and put it into service.

Some members have been representing us well during the last couple of months. Doug Seyler, WB5TKI entered the CQWW SSB as SOAB LP by making 68 QSOs in 28 Zones and 33 countries. His money band was 10 meters with 50 Qs in 17 Zones and 21 countries. Final score was 11,590. Ron Litt, K5HM made 119 Qs in 40 Zones and 81 Countries for 39,567 score. Ron's money band was 15 with 72 Qs in 18 Zones and 47 Countries. He also logged 6 new DXCC Countries. Michael Smith, N5TGL has moved to the UK and also holds M0HMF. He entered the CQWW from England SOAB HP with 350

watts. Michael made 184 Qs in 31 Zones and 67 Countries. His money band was 10 with 184 Qs in 13 Zones and 67 Countries for 38,808 points. Jim Carmody entered from Ireland as EI8KB entered as SO 10 meters LP and made 756 Qs in 24 Zones and 69 Countries for 170,748 points. Scott Straw, KB4KBS joined fellow Atlanta area amateurs in a Multi-Single Effort at the W4QO station and the help of K4LjG and WK4U for 848 Qs, 104 Zones, 332 Countries. Money band was 10 meters with 388 Qs, 28 Zones and 104 Countries and millionaire score 1,036,808. Chuck Dietz, W5PR also made a millionaire score of 1,084,914 as SOSB 10 Meters with 2351 Qs, 37 Zones and 125 Countries. Good show Chuck!

Glen Anderson, WB5TUF represented us well for the WAE DX RTTY with 447 Qs, 479 QTCs and 202 Mults for 406,514. QTCs are lists of 10 contacts exchanged with another station.

Allen Brier, N5XZ entered the CQWW CW as SOAB Assisted HP. Allen made 370 Qs in 49 Zones and 147 Countries for 207,368 points. Allen had to work Saturday, so was not able to give the contest his usual effort. His money band was 15 with 145 Qs in 10 Zones and 40 Countries.

# Houston Radio History -

## The story of Houston broadcasters and broadcasting of years gone by

### The Pre-Broadcast Era

Prior to 1913 wireless enthusiasts were not required to have a government license to operate but due to increasing interference with navigation communications by wireless operators, the Bureau of Navigation of the Department of Commerce started regulating wireless activities in December, 1913, creating seven categories of Land Station licenses. The most important of these for the future of broadcasting was a group of 3 known collectively as Special Land Stations. This group included Experimental stations, Technical and Training stations, and Special Amateur stations. General amateur licenses were required to operate on 200 meters and there were many of them. Special Amateur stations were allowed to get off the congested 200 meter frequency; they functioned as relay stations and many operated as broadcasting stations would later, airing music and even offering regular program schedules instead of just point-to-point communications.

Much of the early development that led to broadcasting was done by the Special Land Station operators and many of the earliest broadcasters came out of the ranks of those licensees. That was true around the country and in Houston.

There were no Special Amateur licensees in Houston prior to World War I and only seven in all of Texas but after the resumption of civilian use of wireless after the war, beginning in August of 1919, several individuals in Houston and the surrounding area were issued Special Amateur licenses.

Clifford W. Vick of 1918 Smith St. had **5ZO** and Ingraham S. Roberts III had **5ZT**, both issued in January of 1920. Hallet S. Worthington had **5ZV** and James L. Autrey, Jr., of # 5 Courtlandt Place had **5ZX**, both issued in March, 1920. B.J. Still had **5ZC** (later changed to **5ZE**), issued in September, 1920. Alfred P. Daniel of 2504 Bagby had **5ZX**, issued in December, 1921, the month the government created the Broadcast class of license. Francis M. Austin had **5ZAA** and Donald Harper Graham of Juliff, Texas, **5ZW**, issued in March, 1921. Arthur H. Holt of Kountze, Texas, had **5ZAJ**, issued July, 1921.

In addition, Rice Institute had **5YI**, a technical and training license, issued in June, 1920, and the Tel-Electric Co., wholesaler for the Radio Corporation of America, had experimental license **5XS**, issued in August, 1921. There were no Special Amateur licenses issued to anyone in Galveston.

James L. Autrey, Jr., also had General Amateur License **5ED** and served as President of the Houston Radio Club. Autrey was just a teen in 1916 when he had alerted his neighbors on the very exclusive Courtlandt Place of the outbreak of World War I by firing his pistol into the air in the early morning hours of April 6, when he heard the news on his wireless. He had told the neighbors in advance he would use that signal so they knew what it meant and came out of their homes in their nightclothes, many of them in tears. Autrey died within a few years and was not around for the development of broadcasting. Courtlandt Place is now a privately owned, gated street and the Autrey home is one of several on the National Register of Historic Places. On the other side of the gates, Courtlandt Place becomes Lovett Boulevard, a street that has been the home to several Houston radio stations over the years, including **KILT-AM** and **FM**, **KTRH-AM** and **KLOL-FM**, and **KPFT-FM**.



Alfred P. Daniel had a general amateur license (**5AO**) and served as President of the Houston Radio Club several times as well as serving as President of the Houston Saxophone Club. Hand-me-down stories credit Daniel as the first person to broadcast voice over the airwaves in Houston and the first radio program broadcast but there is no contemporary documentation of these feats and there are competing claims.

The Hurlburt-Still Electric Co., of which B. J. Still was a founding partner, had **5DL**, located at the business at 1101 Capitol.

Clifford W. Vick was in charge of a big wireless exhibit at the Houston Fair and Exposition in November, 1921, sponsored by Uradia, a Houston company that manufactured batteries for cars, radios and homes, using the slogan 'Liquid Electricity.' That exhibit demonstrated not only receiving but also sending capabilities. It was described as the most powerful radio outfit in the state at the time and picked up signals from Germany and the Catalina Islands and seems to have operated like a broadcasting station for the benefit of fair-goers. Mayor Oscar Holcombe sent out invitations to the Presidents of the US and Mexico and 1500 Southern mayors to attend the Fair. Those were sent by Morse code to powerful relay stations in Roswell, NM, and Little Rock, AR. But interest was so high, Stowers Furniture and the W.C. Munn Co., a large department store of the era, put in radiotelephone receivers in their downtown stores so their customers could experience the phenomenon. Another device demonstrated was the 'magnobox' or 'magnovox' loudspeaker - it was spelled both ways in the stories.

Other members of the Houston Radio Club also had an exhibit at the fair, demonstrating home-made radio receivers and transmitters. In addition to Alfred P. Daniel and Vick, those participating included Finlay Carter, a student at Rice, Hallett Worthington, E.F. Hard and Henry Schleeter. The set-up was powered by a home made battery which developed 150 volts which Daniel had first had the idea for while attending the air service's wireless school at the University of Texas during the War. A demonstration had been given the previous week and had been received at A&M and by several ships at sea.



The Houston Radio Club claimed 60 members and was growing at every meeting. There were several honorary members from other parts of the country including F. Clifford Estey of Salem, Massachusetts, R.H.G. Mathews of Chicago, Ellery W. Stone of San Francisco and A. E. Basse of Sunnyvale, California. Mathews founded the Chicago Radio Laboratory in 1918 and developed the trademark Z-Nith from the call letters of his amateur station, 9ZN. Major Edwin Armstrong licensed Chicago Radio to manufacture equipment using his patents and Z-Nith became Zenith in 1923. Mathews was also Radio Inspector for the 9th District, based in Chicago; Daniel and others may have met him while attending the big convention of the American Radio Relay League in Chicago in September of 1921.

Stone had been involved with wireless since before 1910 in the Bay Area. He worked with Dr. Lee deForest at the time he developed the vacuum tube. A company he was associated with became International Telephone and Telegraph and he rose to the position of vice president. He served in both World Wars as a communications expert and rose to the rank of Rear Admiral. He was also Radio Inspector for the 6th District, based in San Francisco.

There were also four female members of the Houston Radio Club. Mrs. Eleanor Regan took her radio equipment with her wherever she traveled and was in New Jersey for the Carpentier-Dempsey fight, the 'Battle of the Century,' July 2, 1921, and had radioed the results back to an audience here in Houston according to the Post article, but I have not been able to confirm this claim. The fight drew immense media attention; here is an [article](#) detailing the event.

Another local operator was teen-aged Howard Hughes, Jr., of 3921 Yoakum Blvd., who reportedly had a whole room of his house full of wireless equipment; he operated general amateur station 5CY with 500 watts, communicating with wireless operators all over the world. This is now Hughes House on the campus of the University of St. Thomas.

Of the eight broadcast licenses awarded to Houston in 1922, five of the owners came out of the above group of Special Amateur licensees. They were the pioneers of broadcasting in Houston.

The Hurlburt-Still Electric Co. was to receive the first license for a Houston broadcast station in March of 1922; Daniel, Vick, and Rice Institute also were early licensees of the new class of wireless radiotelephony known as Broadcast as was Ingraham S. Roberts' QRV Radio Company which included Houston Police Bertillion specialist George Lacey as a partner.

The Houston Press headlined on April 6, 1922, on page 1 that 'Houston is Wild Over Wireless.' 'Receiving sets (are) being gobbled up as fast as they're made; many (are) making their own.' The only two merchants in town carrying receivers, the Tel-Electric Co. and Hurlburt-Still, were sold out and manufacturers were weeks or months behind in deliveries. The Westinghouse factory was said to be receiving 1,000,000 orders for sets a month. The story listed a sample program for WJZ, Newark, NJ, for that evening and said that many in Houston were receiving the 'high class eastern wireless programs every night. There are powerful broadcasting stations now operating every night at Dallas, Atlanta, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Newark, Springfield, Schenectady and other cities.'

Though someone at the Press must've talked to someone at Hurlburt-Still for the report, there was no mention of the

*The above images are taken from the archives of the Houston Press and Houston Post at the Houston Public Library. I am indebted to Thomas White's Early US Radio History for the explanations of the types of licenses issued and their importance in the creation of broadcasting. This brief summary is merely the tip of the iceberg with regard to this topic and will be expanded as research warrants. The earliest I have researched is the summer of 1921 but as a hint of what's to come, take a look at this 1912 [aerial depiction](#) of the downtown Houston skyline.*

*In the 700 block of Main, between Rusk and Capital, note the Texas Co. building, i.e., Texaco. That structure on top of the building is not an oil derrick, that's a wireless antenna. Wireless radiotelegraphy was well suited to the needs of the burgeoning petroleum industry with operations often in remote locations, far removed from established roads or telegraph or telephone lines.*

*Ed: The article above was copied from Bruce Williamsons' blog:*

# Houston Radio History

The story of Houston broadcasters and broadcasting of years gone by.

Found at <http://houstonradiohistory.blogspot.com/2007/04/pre-broadcast-era.html> .





## 2014 TDXS Annual Banquet

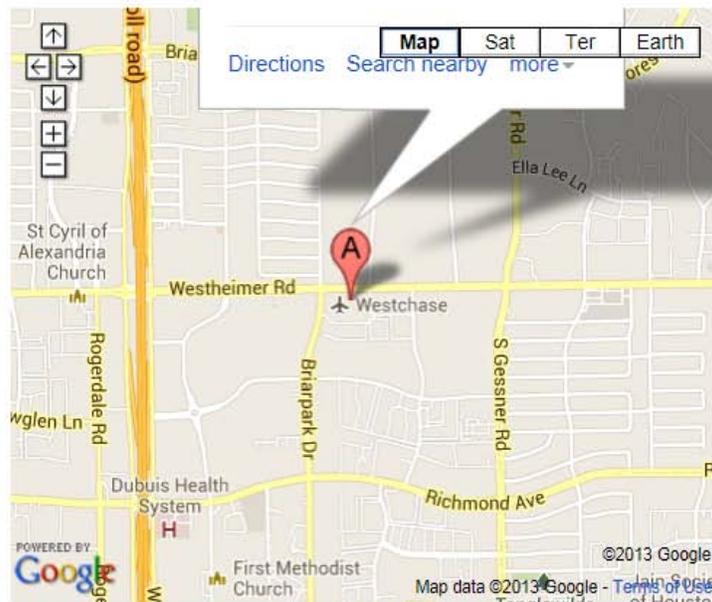


The 2014 TDXS Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday January 11th at 6:00 PM, in "The Lone Star Room" at the [Rio Ranch Steakhouse](#), 9999 Westheimer, Houston. Come join us for a fabulous evening of great food, awards, and great conversation! Start gathering between 6 and 6:30PM for social time and cash bar. Dinner will start at 7:00 PM and ceremonies commence at 8:00PM.

Price per person is \$40 payable in advance by check to TDXS,  
Mike Bragassa - K5UO, TDXS Treasurer  
15039 Runnymede Street, Conroe, TX 77384

You can also pay via PayPal to account [bragassa@consolidated.net](mailto:bragassa@consolidated.net)

When using PayPal, please select "Send Money"; then "I'm sending money to family and friends". This should eliminate any PayPal fees. If you don't want to do that, please add 3% to the payment transfer. If you have any problems with this procedure, please email me. This should work satisfactorily as we have done this before.



[View Larger Map](#)

## Texas DX Society Board members

<b>President</b>	<b>Doug Seyler, WB5TKI</b>	<b>djseyler at comcast.net</b>
<b>VP Membership</b>	<b>Bob Mennell, WB5IUU</b>	<b>bmennell at consolidated.net</b>
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<b>Field Day Chairmen</b>	<b>need volunteer</b>	
<b>Repeater Chairman</b>	<b>Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF</b>	<b>wb5tuf at earthlink.net</b>
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<b>CQ WAZ Card Checker</b>	<b>Bob Walworth, N5ET</b>	<b>rwalworth at charter.net</b>

### How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxs.net> email address: [k5dx@tdxs.net](mailto: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 December

Arthur Alvarez N5KTN

Mike Young W5RRX

Sid Leach K5XI

Buzz Loeschman NI5DX