



# The Bullsheet

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

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

## BANQUET TIME

### *TDXS BANQUET SET FOR 6:30PM AT THE SALT GRASS TRAIL ON THE KATY FREEWAY*

This is the same place as last year. Doug Seyler WB5TKI has e-mailed out the menu selections for the banquet. Details and maps can be found at [www.tdxs.net/Banquet13.html](http://www.tdxs.net/Banquet13.html). We need a head count by January 23rd, so if you plan to attend please e-mail Doug.

### *IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT*

Mike, K5UO, says that now I can remind you officially as, by our constitution, January is the official time for the payment of members dues. Payment can be made via check to my address (see below), via PayPal to [tdxstreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:tdxstreasurer@gmail.com) (\*) or at the banquet January 26. Besides active members, we have numerous inactive and associate members that support the club via annual dues. We appreciate that support! Thank you!

## Editor's Note by Tom N5EA

Well, here is my first attempt at replacing Jim N4AL as editor of this esteemed periodical. TDXS is also looking to fill another important position, that of V.P. – Programs. Call Prez Doug to volunteer. You won't regret the contributions you make to keep TDXS vibrant. See you in the pileups and at the meetings! A bit about me. I started in contesting in 1965 with what was a

big station. 2 element 40 @ 70' and TH? Just below. I left for some time due to family duties and didn't return to contesting until I helped build NA5L from which I won the ARRL plaque for top score on 40M. (N5JJ beat me the next year) Since then I have operated at NR5M, K5XI, and the "lumber yard" with W5ASP and others.

I was also on the Honor Roll. Health issues forced me to abandon contesting from 1998 on. I still love CW contesting and operate from home with a Yaesu FT1000MP-MKV, a R8 vertical, and N1MM.

And, Ron K5HM gives us the final information on N0D. See page 4

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# The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

Happy 2013! Here's hoping that the propagation gods smile on us this year.

Did you get a chance to participate in SKN on New Years? Straight Key Night is one of my not miss events because it is the only time during the year that I pull out my WWII vintage J-38 key....the one that I used as a novice in 1964.

Our officer and chairmen picture has pretty much gelled. They are: President – me (again)

VP Membership – Bob Mennell WB5IUU (again, thanks!)

VP Programs – Open (although Bob Hardie W5UQ has been doing a fine job in the interim)

Secretary/Treasurer – Mike Bra-gassa K5UO (again, thanks!)

Contest Chairman – Willis “Cookie” Cooke (again, at my request. Thanks!)

Field Day Chairman – Open (Dave Topp W5BXX is stepping down but will still provide his motor home)

DXpedition Chairman – Bill Stone WS5H (hooray, someone new will give it a try. Thanks Bill)

Repeater Chairman – Glenn Ander-son WB5TUF (for many years now and doing a fine job)

Communications Chairman – Tom Ashworth N5EA (another new vol-unteer. Thanks Tom!)

Webmaster – Steve Smothers W9DX (for many years doing a great job, thanks!)

Outgoing QSL Manager – Scott Patout K5DD (keep up the good work Scott)

FYI, we are planning another joint meeting with BVARC in April in Sugar Land. Watch the Bullsheet and the website for details.

The January meeting will be the annual TDXS Banquet. It will be held on Saturday, January 26 at the Saltgrass Steak House on the Katy Freeway. The votes are in and the final custom menu has been select-ed. There should be a link shortly on the TDXS website with details.

I'm gathering door prizes, and have already received donations from The Daily DX, DX Publishing, and N3FJP logging software. I Hope to have more by banquet time.

As I begin my third year in this of-fice, I want to thank the members for showing their confidence in me (or is it their relief that they don't have to do it?). In some ways I think that the club is in need of a new meeting formula. Perhaps more social only dinner meetings, field trips, you name it. We wel-come your ideas.

73 es gud dx,  
Doug WB5TKI



## TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5UO

Date: December 14, 2012

Location: Tracey Gee Center

Attendance: K5UO, WB5IUU, W9DX, K5VWW, W5ZG, W5UQ, N5EA, WB5TKI, K5DD, N5ET, N5MT,

Visitors: Matt Flukinger, KM5VI, Gene Dorcas, W5DOR

TDXS Business: President Doug Seyler, WB5TKI:

Introduced guest Gene Dorcas, W5DOR and long-time inactive member Tom Ashworth, N5EA. Tom has volunteered to be the editor/compiler/publisher/etc of the monthly TDXS Bullsheet newsletter. Please contact Tom at tom4951(at)comcast.net for any newsletter articles you may want to have included. We welcome both of these fellows!

Again solicited a volunteer for a Program Chairman for 2013. Your help is needed...now.. and will be much appreciated. The alternative will be a dinner-meeting concept at a variety of restaurants....besides Pappas Bar-B-Que. Some members present expressed approval of this arrangement and that this has been done in the past. It serves as a more casual get-together and visit type of

meeting.

Again discussed of a location for the January banquet. Doug has tentatively reserved Salt Grass Restaurant. He had 'a talk/counseled' with the management regarding last years mess-up as was assured of better performance. Doug is still open for suggestions.

There are several other locations under consideration. The problem or limiting factor is that most if not all restaurants require a certain minimum attendees guaranteed in order to reserve a room. Otherwise they place your group out with the other restaurant customers; which is not to our liking.

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

Repeater Chairman (Glenn, WB5TUF) not present.

Program Chairman (Bob, W5UQ) Present. presented member John Firey, W5ZG, our resident "Collins-Expert".

John gave a very professional and thorough presentation on Collins radio's of the past. He showed many, many fine images of the various Collins radio's as used, primarily by the US Government mili-

tary or embassies around the world.

Of particular interest was his detailed knowledge of the history of various radios and their internal workings and features. He has refurbished so many of these radio's that he should know them that well.

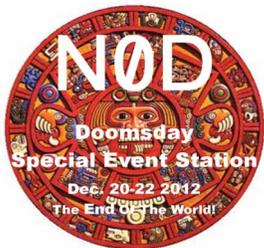
John showed some really rough looking radios that he has refurbished. Probably some of these came from the tropics and humidity got to them. After John got finished with the radio you would never guess it looked that bad.

He mentioned that there are 'fakes' out there. They are real Collins radio's but are lower status and featured radios made to look like the better featured radios; but do not qualify for the price-status of the 'real-McCoys'. Make's me hesitant to even consider a Collins purchase unless I could consult with John Firey!

Of added interest John Firey, while based in London showed images of an English WWII bomber and the radio's used in them. He said the radios were rather crude and antiquated in technology; but the war-effort did not allow time for research and improvement of this type of equipment. "Getter' going...now".

An outstanding presentation!

Submitted to record December 13, 2012

**N0D** by Ron K5HM

### N0D – Doomsday Finale Ron, K5HM

It was 0001 UTC on December 22<sup>nd</sup> as we carefully cracked the seal on the secret underground bunker. A couple of us peered out cautiously to see if there was any movement. So far, so good; no red dawn, no volcanic ash. Although everything looked normal. Though it sounded like propagation was still working we were not fully convinced.

Our newest operator Waldo, was a nice kid, long face, big ears laughed like a mule. He confessed that he'd left his cell phone in his car outside. If the big EMP didn't happen, maybe we are all right after all. Waldo, crept outside and darted to his car, bending low to avoid possible sniper fire. Waldo had a big imagination. He picked up his cell phone and ran back to the bunker. It was time for dinner, so Waldo speed dialed the local pizza joint. The pizza guy on the other end said, "Doomsday? What's that? You want large or jumbo?" We made it.

Like the pizza, Doomsday operations were a lot of fun. Judging from the comments of our Doomsday opera-

tors and the stations they worked, they had a blast.

In total, N0D made 2,799 contacts. We worked every state and 54 countries. At one point or another we were on every band from 2 meters to 160 and satellite. Satellite operations accounted for 142 of these. Based on the feedback from our operators, it was instant pile up every time N0D worked a band.

Doomsday awareness was cultivated by our website, [www.nowzeroday.com](http://www.nowzeroday.com). Amateurs from around the world became members of the Official Doomsday Network, by registering on the web site. Registered members received a certificate along with their official Doomsday ID number. The web site became so popular that the demand for Doomsday Certificates outstripped our ability to produce them in time for the event. All who registered on the web site will receive a certificate. We regret that we couldn't get them all out prior to Doomsday.

N0D kicked off activities on December 15<sup>th</sup> with the launch of the Doomsday Balloon. BLT-32. To the End of the World. Trackers on the balloon were signing N0D. We didn't quite make it that far but BLT-32 reached an altitude of 104,000 feet before the balloon burst. The package landed somewhere north of Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Satellite, HF and VHF activity commenced shortly thereafter and continued through 2359 UTC, Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

As the rarest of rare DX, volunteer N0D operators reported heavy pileups as soon as they got on the air. On Wednesday night, December 19<sup>th</sup>, with the help of John, K5LKJ, Bill WS5h and Robert, KK5TC, the BVARC Ragchew Net used N0D as the net control call sign, allowing check ins to log a contact with N0D.

Along with N0D operators, members of the Doomsday Network around the world, network got on the air themselves. Calling CQ Doomsday, using their own call sign and their Official Doomsday number, Most reported having multiple contacts and having to manage pileups of their own!

Some on the air comments evidenced their own Doomsday humor in the spirit of the event. Some of the most interesting comments were from stations that posted spots on the DX clusters:

- Avoid Doomsday, leaving planet now
- Use Forever Stamps for QSL
- Ready for Doomsday- Maxed all my credit cards

Got my ARES GO kit ready

My thanks to all those who helped put N0D on the air.

Allen, N5AFV  
 Andy, W5ACM  
 Bill, WS5H (TDXS)  
 John, K5IZO  
 John, K5LKJ  
 Matt, K5NGU  
 Frosty, K5LBU (TDXS)  
 Nizar, K0NM  
 Rick, W5RH

## Texas DX Society Boardmembers

<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>
<b>VP Programs</b>	<b>Bob Hardie, W5UQ (interim)</b>	<b>w5uq at att.net</b>
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	<b>Mike Bragassa, K5UO</b>	<b>bragassa at consolidated.net</b>
<b>Contest Chairman</b>	<b>Willis "Cookie" Cooke, K5EWJ</b>	<b>wrcooke at yahoo.com</b>
<b>Field Day Chairmen</b>	<b>need volunteer</b>	
<b>Repeater Chairman</b>	<b>Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF</b>	<b>wb5tuf at earthlink.net</b>
<b>DXpedition Chairman</b>	<b>Bill Stone, WS5H</b>	<b>dragntow at wt.net</b>
<b>Outgoing QSL Manager</b>	<b>Scott Patout,, K5DD</b>	<b>k5dd at arrl.net</b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Steve Smothers, W9DX</b>	<b>cougar70 at earthlink.net</b>
<b>Bullsheel Editor</b>	<b>Tom Ashworth, N5EA</b>	<b>tom4951 at comcast.net</b>
<b>DXCC QSL Card Checker</b>	<b>Bob Walworth, N5ET</b>	<b>rwalworth at charter.net</b>
<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.tdxx.net> email address: [k5dx at 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 [dxc.tdxx.net](http://dxc.tdxx.net)

Or IP address 75.148.198.113

## **TDXS says "HAPPY BIRTHDAY"** to these members with birthdays in January

Barbara Coleman - WB5RUS

Lon Cottingham - K5JV

John Stevens - K5JS

Dale Martin - KG5U

Al Vasek - KN5A

Dennis Motschenbacher - K7BV

Bill Bradford - K5GA

John Duncan - WA5ZVE

Mike Hance - K5NZ

Allen Brier - N5XZ

Ben Worrell - NE5B

Ken Eckel Jr. - AB5A

Earl Morse - K8SS (ex-N5TU)

Doug Seyler – WB5TKI

Mike Young W5RRX

Sid Leach K5XI

Buzz Loeschman NI5DX

Please notify the editor if I have missed anyone.