



# The Bullsheet

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

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

## CONTEST TIME—AGAIN

DXPEDITION TO MONSERRAT—2012

Bob Hardie W5UQ/VP2MUQ, will be presenting the March program on DXpedition to Montserrat July 2012 with Bill Priakos, W5SJ.

**DON' T FORGET,  
ITS OLD CODGERS NITE  
SEE PAGE FOR DETAILS**



## Editor's Note by Tom N5EA

The March 14th, 2013 TDXS Program will be given by Bob Hardie. See image above.

Bob will present his DX-Pedition to Montserrat, VP2M with Bill Priakos, W5SJ

And, be sure to bring extra bottles of Geritol in case we need to pass it out to the "Old Codgers" in attendance.

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## The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

### The Prez Sez

Yesterday I was checking the DX Cluster and noticed a posting for EP3SMH in Tehran. I checked him out on QRZ.COM and read his bio. At the end he says that “due to rising postage costs, for reply QSL you must send 9 green stamps + 1 IRC (registered mail is better)”. Wow, that must be some QSL card!

Richard King K5NA, TDXS Member #1, announced recently on the Reflector that he is thinking of driving over here from Austin to attend the “old codger” night at the March TDXS meeting. I hope that he can make it, as I’m sure that lots of TDXSers would love to see him again. For my part, I’d like member #166 to meet member #1, since we both have our calls on the Presidential “Jawbone”.

Don’t forget that the Greater Houston Hamfest is coming up on March 23 at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg. As of today (3/10) it appears that there are still a few tables available indoors, in case that you have any treasures (or junk) to sell, and there is always plenty of tailgating area. I see that Ron Litt K5HM is giving a talk on his N0D “End of the World”

operation. Also, if you missed the program at TDXS a few years ago by Jeff Hoke from CenterPoint Energy, you won’t want to miss his talk at the Hamfest. I can attest that he is effective in addressing noise problems, as he fixed an S9+ noise problem that I had.

The March TDXS meeting will feature our VP of Programs, Bob Hardie W5UQ, who will recount his 2012 DXpedition adventure to Montserrat as VP2MUQ. As usual, we will gather at Pappas BBQ for a pre-meeting bull session. I know that we are all looking forward to this one, so I hope to see you there!

73 es gud dx,

Doug WB5TKI

**I have worked with Jeff Hoke several times and he is very dedicated to solving QRM problems.– Ed**



# TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5UO

**Date:** February 14 2013  
7:00-9:00pm

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

**Attendance:**  
TDXS Members: Paul (W5PF), Cal (WF5W), Doug (WB5TKI), Mike (K5UO), Bob (WB5IUU), Arthur (N5KTN), Steve (W9DX), Tom (KD5TIO), Bill (WS5H),  
Visitors: Norma (KE5NDN)

## TDXS Business

**President [Doug WB5TKI]:** Nothing to discuss, moved on to the meeting program.

Presentations: Program by Tom (“Road Kill”) KD5TIO and his venture to Florida aboard his sailboat “Solitare” and his involvement in NASA’s hovercraft test.

Tom and a NASA-colleague sailed from Galveston Bay to Ft Myers Florida. Then via a river eastward from Ft Myers, across Lake Okachobee to Stuart, Florida on the Atlantic side. This took them several weeks but they made it to their NASA hovercraft test site about 4-5 hours before work started at the site.

Why test a hovercraft? As I was to understand, many landings and especially landings on the moon are very dangerous and unpredictable.

The moon can have many feet of dust on the surface and as the hovercraft is deployed no one can see the landing because of this dust. Tom talked like his normal sleep routine was 20-30 minutes while sailing.

Interesting for us as amateur radio operators is his story about using Winlink 2000 (WL2K) to stay in touch with his wife and various friends along the way. He also discussed several key communication and safety ‘tools’ he had with him on the Solitaire. Pretty neat was the Automatic Identification System (AIS) he used to “ see “ all of the traffic on all of the gulf as he travelled along. This would also work in reverse as agencies like the US Coast Guard also have this tool and can locate vessels in trouble easier. It is designed primarily for 100 ton plus vessels, but is used by all traffic in the gulf.

After arriving at their NASA test location, Tom and his co-workers began the hovercraft test project (“Morpheas”). Unfortunately the hovercraft exploded upon take-off. This was unfortunate but is all part of the process to success.

Tom talked about life with NASA as a small unit today. A lot gets done with just a few people!

Tom’s return voyage was a lot faster as compared to the initial voyage. Once he got back the gulf at Ft Myers he made great time full-time with sails across the gulf until he

was fairly close to home. Then it was slow.

He had some great film pictures of the fast pace the Solitaire was making.

A very fine presentation by our Tom, KD5TIO.

Submitted to record February 15, 2013

Mike Bragassa, K5UO  
Secy/Treas



## DX REPORT by Mike N5MT

The Spring contest season has brought a change of propagation that has helped us have a good winter season from Texas this year. However, the weekend DX contests have produced fewer contacts as compared to previous years. The predicted second peak of this Cycle 24 has failed to appear and a lower solar flux will result in fewer DX contacts in your electronic log in 2013.

My favorite contest has been the ARRL Ten Meter weekend in December. Last year, I made more CW contacts than SSB and I had 26 fewer countries than in 2011, so my score was lower. The solar flux did get high enough for us to hear Europe so that helped put a few countries in the log but the opening was for only a few hours. The lack of a good stateside skip meant fewer multipliers in the contest, so the total score was definitely lower than in 2011.

I like using the ARRL LoTW QSL service as it saves you a lot of postage. You must have a computer logging program that allows you to upload your log to the LoTW server and the software will begin matching your QSO's quickly. The setup of LoTW is a bit tricky so read up on the process a few times and get your certificate from the ARRL to begin uploading. The LoTW process is hard to understand because of the security procedures that are required for you to follow to be sure it's your data going into the LoTW server.

A DXpedition to **Cambodia** took place from December 5-17<sup>th</sup> using call sign XU1A. Kazu VR2KF/JH1OGX was the person I was chasing as he was a 10-10 member and there has never been a member worked from XU. New country activity from the Republic of South Sudan on CW by Ken **K4ZW/Z81Z** took place on January 9<sup>th</sup> as reported by a friend. I need a contact with Ken on ten meters for a

new one.

Just a reminder. All contacts with Turkmenistan EZ prefix, have been on hold since August 2006. The ARRL DXCC are not accepting cards for this country until a change happens with their country status. I have been looking for Alex EZ8BD on ten for years but nothing yet. The old prefix was UH8.

Remember the price of Airmail postage has gone up in January. Letters to all international destinations are \$1.10 per ounce. US Postcards are 33 cents and letters are 46 cents for one oz.

Upcoming DXpeditions:

Feb 28 - March 10<sup>th</sup> TX5T Clipperton Island. Just point you antenna to the west and listen for a split frequency to be announced. Maybe by the second week they might be using simplex freq.

Website: <http://ky6r.com/> .

March 10-18<sup>th</sup> : 9M4SLL Spratly Islands. Southwest of Japan in the China Sea, this location is harder to work so try 15 or 20 first. Ten will be harder even if they spend hours on ten.

March 8-25<sup>th</sup> : H44G Solomon Islands. Aim to the west again. Expect less propagation on ten.

March 12-23<sup>rd</sup> : H40T Temotu Islands. After the recent disaster on the island, hope for the best here.

March 12-21<sup>st</sup> : ZL7LC Chatham Island. Jim ZL1LC is going to Chatham Island. He will only be using a IC-7200 with a Buddipole vertical sending PSK31.

March 13-23<sup>rd</sup> : T2GM Tuvalu. Four Scottish operators will be operating from a hotel on the island using K3

rigs, vertical antennas and amps. Website: <http://www.T2GM.org> .

March 26 - April 9<sup>th</sup> : T33A Banaba Island. Arnie N6HC , Cliff KD6XH and Jay AA4FL, will be using call sign T33A on Banaba Island from the South Pacific.

April 4-18<sup>th</sup> : 5W0M Samoa Islands. Website: <http://5w0m.hkman.de> .

April 15-20<sup>th</sup> : V6 Micronesia. Sho JA7HMZ and a friend, will be on Pohnpei Island. LoTW.

April 29 - May 6<sup>th</sup> : 3V/TS8TI Tunisia. Antonello IK2DUW and friends will be on Djerba Island using special prefix/call TS8TI in late April.

May 3-13<sup>th</sup> : FO/KZ3AB French Polynesia. Al KZ3AB will be in Tahiti in May. He will op from his hotel and ship so be careful of his location as ship contacts do not count for DXCC.

73 DX IS  
Mike N5MT

**"OLD CODGER" NIGHT** by Orville K5VWW

The idea to get some of the "Old Codgers" to come to one of our meetings so we could all renew friendships was hatched one evening. An email was sent to a few of the first members and others suggested we expand the gathering as much as possible to members prior to 1990, and included some suggestions of those they hadn't seen in years. Emails and phone calls were made as the group expanded. Possibly erroneous contact information might have reduced the responses to the emails, but we have an impressive list of OC's planning to attend. For those so inclined, we will meet at Papas BBQ at Gessner and Westheimer at 5:30 +/- for an evening repast and bull session prior to going to the Tracy Gee center for our 7:00 meeting.

**EXPECTED TO ATTEND**

CALL	TDXS #	YES 3/14
K5NA	1	X
N5WW	2	X
WA5UHT	3	?
N5AF	6	X
K5AAD	16	X
K5TU	22	X
AA5Y	29	X
K5GN	34	?
K5VWW	66	X
W5SG	72	?
KN5A	79	X
N5EA	82	X
W5ASP	87	X
KG5U	91	X
N5ET	95	X
W5PR	103	X
NR5M	104	?
W9DX	107	X
N5XZ	117	?

**MUSINGS** by Bill W5SH

At time of this write up the TX5K Clipperton Dxpediton is on the way home. Most members have worked this DX before and have a clean sweep for this DXCC. I worked them on ten SSB in the ARRL DX contest. I had to ask his power and was given K. MY antenna situation is poor as in the mist of some tower and antenna work. My active antennas for now are two 10 meter V-quads and a BTV-6 ground mount worm burner (no ground radials) vertical under the 60-ft oak tree. To add something interesting to my DX chase I used the one 10 meter Maco V-quad up 34 ft with 100 watts and a Ten Tec tuner. The results confirmed by TX5K DXA log show with the exception of 17 Meter CW a near sweep of CW, SSB 10 - 17 meters on the V-quad. Got um on 12 and 17 SSB on first call out. Lucky me. I about fell out of the chair when I heard WS5H 59. I will have to say it was not all my great DX skills as they had good receive in the transmitters.

Topp Dx /Contest Fund: No applications have been submitted for screening and review.

Developing or maintaining Dxpediton historical files: No copy of archived files received by me as per time of this article submission.

Alerting the membership of Dx operations on the air or Dxpeditons participation opportunities: Mike N5MT has grabbed the BULL by the horns and has sent a DX review for our SHEET. Next month look for a review from Al N5XZ and in May, Ron K5HM. Still in need for member submittal for June.

73 Bill WS5H



## 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</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>(volunteers needed)</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>
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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 March

Birthdays March 2012

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Al Bayer - WB5CFI   | John Godwin - K5IUA     |
| David Bean - W5ZQR  | Buzz Jehle - N5UR       |
| Bob Walworth - N5ET | Ken Grabenstein - KZ5KG |
| Ed Seeger - K5EBS   | Ed Sikorski - AA8PA     |
| Bill Frink - K5WAF  | John Bonica - K5EC      |
|                     | Dave McCarty – K5GN     |

