



# 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 2013

## September Program: "A Visit to Friedrichshafen Germany Hamfest June 2013"

Bob, W5UQ will present a nice program on the big German hamfest in Friedrichshafen

Here is Bob's bio:

Retired TV and Radio RF Engineer in broadcasting of over 50 years. Licensed May 1954 as WN5EUQ. Held W5EUQ for 53 years then got W5UQ vanity call. Now.. I work in my workshop that I build when we moved here 4 years ago. That keeps me very busy repairing ham gear and having FUN with electronics and test equipment. Love repairing Collins gear and test gear. When I do get on the air, which isn't often, I love CW. Chase DXpeditions mostly. Been doing some RTTY and if I have to..... SSB. HI. 160M through 2 meters mainly. DXCC is around 290 now. Been thinking about doing EME on 2m and 6m. My wife and I really enjoy going to hamfests all over the USA and now to Germany for a big one. Attend regularly HamCom Dallas/Plano, Orlando HamCation, Dayton HamVention, Huntsville Alabama added this year and we will be trying to go to Friedrichshafen when we can. Of course we attend BVARC,

Belton, Austin and try to attend San Antonio, Texas City, Orange, etc..... We have four kids, seven grand kids and now a great-grand baby boy. That makes me a GREAAAAT grandpa. HI. One of my grandsons spent a year in Afghanistan in Army Intelligence. Lastly, I have been on several DXpeditions. (See list of calls below) Like Botswana A25UQ and others in the Caribbean. The next DXpedition is Swaziland, 3DAOET which is the last part of November 2013 and before Thanksgiving. See: SwaziDX.ORG for details.



## Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ (more on page 2)

Well, as everyone knows, band conditions have been less (actually MUCH less) than optimum. I haven't been on the air much lately, working way to many hours to play much radio. In the last Contest University, W3LPL gave a discussion about the possibility of a double peak. Watch: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioXTt\\_i44\\_4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioXTt_i44_4) Well, that remains to be

seen, NASA is saying that the sun's magnetic field is going to reverse polarity soon, which usually indicates the peak of the solar cycle.

The sad news this month is that Tom Christian VP6TC (ex VR6TC) passed away at the age of 77. Tom was the first Pitcairn Island station contact for most of us. I have included an article

from The Telegraph (hope they don't sue me!) with some info on him and the island that might be a bit of a surprise for many of you.

73 and enjoy Bob's Friedrichshafen program.

Allen 'XZ

## Inside this issue:

<b>The Prez Sez</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>August TDXS Meeting Notes</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Tom Christian VP6TC (SK)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Joint BVARC / TDXS FD QSO Breakdown</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>DX Report by Bill WS5H</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Birthdays</b>	<b>10</b>

# The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

## The Prez Sez

My favorite time of the year is upon us. Yes, college football season has arrived and there's a hint of Fall in the air (it's only 89 degrees today!). This does, however, put a serious dent in my weekend ham radio activity. Oh, the choices one must sometimes make between passions.

By the time that you read this, Madison Jones, W5MJ will be starting his Hamcation in Palau. He will be operating as T88TV from Sept. 10-16, operating all HF bands, CW only, so please give a listen for him.

As I've previously mentioned, there has been considerable interest expressed in varying our meeting venue. The Tracy Gee meeting room will need to be renewed this month. As a result, at the next meeting I will be proposing for vote of the members the following meeting schedule:

- January – Annual Banquet meeting
- February – Tracy Gee
- March – Dinner Meeting
- April – Tracy Gee
- May – Dinner Meeting
- June – Field Day
- July – Dinner Meeting
- August – Tracy Gee
- September – Dinner Meeting
- October – Tracy Gee
- November – Dinner Meeting
- December – Tracy Gee

This schedule gives the flexibility have a program at dinner, or to have a purely social meeting. It also gives the flexibility to change the meeting to another Thursday, or another day of the week for those meetings, as well as hold joint meetings with other clubs such as BVARC. If you have an opinion on this change please come to the meeting so that your vote can be counted.

We are coming into that hotly contested time period of time.

Yes, I'm talking about nomination for TDXS President, VP Programs, VP Membership and Secretary/Treasurer. As per the club Constitution, the written nomination period opens with the September meeting and closes at the October meeting. Please send your nominations to Secretary/Treasurer Mike K5UO. Verbal nominations can be made at the October meeting.

The September TDXS meeting will feature our own VP Programs, Bob Hardie, W5UQ with a look at the Friedrichshafen Germany Hamfest held this past June 2013. Bob promises not only a fascinating look at one of the largest Ham-fests, but also a bit of a travelogue of that part of the world, so it may be of interest to the wives as well. As usual, we will gather at Pappas BBQ for a pre-meeting bull session. I hope to see you there!

# Editor's Note (continued) by Allen N5XZ

I have had some comments (complaints?) recently from regular contributors to the BullSheet that I haven't told them when the due date is for their articles. So to eliminate any further confusion regarding due dates for submissions to the BullSheet, effective immediately, the due date shall be Friday midnight before the following Thursday meeting. This will allow contributors time to do their article and it will allow me time to do a proper job over the weekend and into the next week if necessary and then perhaps I can also get the BS out sooner.

Many of us (myself included) work demanding jobs and lately I have been working 50—60 hours per week. That coupled with other personal activities, chores, and actually getting on the radio limits the amount of time I actually have to do this. Since I volunteered to do the BS, I want to do the best job I can. I will need timely submissions of articles to accomplish that.

Thanks for the bandwidth and understanding. Allen N5XZ

## TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5UO

### TDXS MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 8 August 2013

**Location:** Tracey Gee Centre  
7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Attendance:** K5UO, WB5TKI,  
W5UQ, WB5IUU,  
N5MT, WD5X

Visitors: N5AUS

#### TDXS Business:

##### **President [Doug, WB5TKI]:**

Proposed that starting in 2014, the meetings will alternate between a conventional meeting style and a dinner style. Presentations can be made at dinner meetings. A quorum of attendees was present and agreed.

- **Membership [Bob, WB5IUU]:** Bob discussed several potentially interested individuals that have been invited to attend.

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

**Program Chairman [Bob, W5UQ]:** Presented his program plans for the near future. John Firey, W5ZG, is scheduled for December with another excellent program in his ever-expanded interests; particularly legacy radios.

“Emergency Radio” by KE5ZDZ is planned.

Bob and his wife were able to attend the very large international annual hamfest at Friedrichshafen, Germany and combine that with a European tour. He is working up this program for presentation in

the next month or two.

**Program:** This month’s program is a ‘two-parter’ in that two different individuals will make presentations; starting with:

1. John Stratton, N5AUS, (Austin, TX). As Vice-Director, West Gulf Division of the ARRL:

John had been put to task by the USA committee for the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) to sponsor a tent or tents from West-Gulf / Oklahoma-Texas radio clubs. Based upon sponsorship so far, our support would be between \$150-200. President Doug proposed this to the membership and it was agreed. A quorum was present. A placard will be placed showing club logo’s on a single team operating tent.

On another note, John solicited support for the re-election of himself as Vice-Director and also Director David Woolweaver, K5RAV.

John discussed some very timely issues such as LoTW and Newington headquarters computer problems. (Interesting!)

In addition, he discussed the unresolved status of possible life-membership in the ARRL. There are several different proposals on the table.

2. Lance Rumfield, WD5X gave an excellent presentation of ‘doppler-direction-finding’ and his first challenge of a locating a very mysterious bandit broadcast station. A group from the Tomball area who were seasoned fox-hunters challenged Lance, as a new fox-hunter to locate this fixed target.

You have seen this police cars

with the 4 small, 20” or so antenna’s on the car roof or trunk deck? Those are “Lojack” stolen car recovery tools. Lance has the same antenna setup in his interest as a fox hunter.

The electronics associated with these antenna’s, as I understand it, make it appear that the antenna’s rotate showing the direction of your target. The electronics in the car digitally switch between antenna 1,2,3 and 4 giving the direction of the target. It was an interesting subject and well presented by Lance, WD5X.

Submitted to record  
Mike Bragassa, K5UO  
Secy/Treas

## Tom Christian VP6TC (ex-VR6TC)

### Tom Christian

Tom Christian, who has died aged 77, was a great-great-grandson of the Bounty mutineer Fletcher Christian and a leading citizen of Pitcairn, a tiny British island dependency in the Pacific with a current population of fewer than 50 people.

Christian, one of the few Pitcairners of his generation to be educated abroad, became an internationally known ham radio operator, and as chief radio officer of the island maintained the islanders' link with the rest of the world for many decades. Among other things, he imported the first electric fridges, battery lights and motorcycles to Pitcairn; served on the island's governing council; and developed a sideline as an entrepreneur, selling such things as postcards, mail-order filmstrips, and carvings.

Thomas Coleman Christian was born on November 1 1935. His father, Frederick Christian, was a popular preacher in the Seventh Day Adventist Church (to which the islanders converted from Anglicanism in the 19th century) and served as the island's chief magistrate in the 1940s.

The majority of the islanders are descendants of the nine British sailors who in 1789, under the charismatic leadership of their Master Mate Fletcher Christian, rose in mutiny aboard HMS Bounty against the ship's captain William Bligh. In January 1790 the mutineers and a group of 19 Tahitian friends and lovers settled on the remote and uninhabited island of Pitcairn, where they felt safe from retribution. Tom Christian was a direct descendant of Fletcher Christian and his Tahitian wife Mauatua, who also went by the nickname of "Mainmast".

Sealed off for generations from the rest of the world, Pitcairn became a closed, backward, inbred society with its own social codes and dialect

— a hybrid of Tahitian and 18th-century English.

In the Second World War, however, the outside world came calling in the form of New Zealand servicemen who established Radio Station ZBP for use in naval communications, at a place called Taro Ground. Tom Christian became so fascinated by their activities that in 1952, at the age of 17, he left Pitcairn to train as a radio telegraph operator at Wellington, New Zealand, travelling on the RMS Rangitoto.

"I was up before daylight," he recalled. "I went on deck and saw Wellington and these lights running. It seems dumb, but I didn't know that those running lights were cars."

He returned to Pitcairn in 1955 and began work at Radio Station ZBP, training an assistant to stand in for him when he was absent or indisposed — a wise precaution as it turned out: in 1959 he developed acute appendicitis and had to be shipped off the island for emergency surgery in New Zealand. With his abdomen packed in ice and in severe pain, he barely survived the voyage to a hospital in Auckland.

Apart from a year spent as a radio officer with the New Zealand Union Steam Ship Company and seven months working in California for a Seventh Day Adventist radio station, he remained Pitcairn's chief radio officer until 2000, presiding over the upgrading and expansion of the station. In 1966 he married a fellow islander, Betty Christian, with whom he had four daughters.

Apart from his "official" duties at the Radio Station, Christian spent a lot of time repairing burnt-out generators, radios, and other appliances, repairing buildings and doing many other odd jobs. He was active in the island's church, serving as head elder for several years, and also served on the

Island Council as the Governor's appointed member, where he was known for his willingness to challenge popular opinion.

Sociologists and documentary-makers who visited the island over the years tended to present it as an innocent island idyll where crime was rare and everyone was on first-name terms. But the reality was rather different. From the very beginning Pitcairn was beset by problems. Within a few years of its settlement, nearly all the original mutineers, Christian included, had been killed, victims of feuding and sporadic massacres triggered by alcoholism and sexual jealousy. The late 20th century, meanwhile, saw a near catastrophic decline in the island's population from a pre-Second World War high of 233 to between 46 and 48.

Christian had mixed feelings about his decision to remain on the island. "The advantage," he told an interviewer in 1989, "is freedom. You don't have to worry about locking doors. You are not tied to a 40-hour week. I can go down to the valley with my knife and cut bananas or go fishing whenever I want." But, he admitted, "I never thought I would live here as long as I have. You know, I like that world out there in many ways."

His principles were put to the test in 2004 when seven of the island's men (precisely half its 14 full-time male residents) were charged on 55 counts of rape, indecent assault and gross indecency against Pitcairn girls ranging in age from five to 15. After extensive trials six of the men were convicted, including Steve Christian, the island's mayor at the time.

The trial was punctuated by legal challenges from residents, backed by many of the island's women, who denied Britain's judicial authority on the grounds that the original mutineers had effectively renounced their British citizenship by burning the Bounty in 1790, and who complained that



## Tom Christian VP6TC (ex-VR6TC) (continued)

they had never been officially informed that legislation, such as the Sexual Offences Act 1956, was applicable to them. The court heard evidence from a British social worker who had visited the island in 2000 that Pitcairn was a society in which sex permeated everything: childhood sex games and abuse were commonplace, as were pregnancies and abortions among young, unmarried girls.

The case left Pitcairn's inhabitants, almost all of whom are interrelated, bitterly divided, with many accusing the authorities of riding roughshod over hallowed Polynesian tradition.

Colleen McCullough, the Australian author of *The Thorn Birds* and wife of a well-known Pitcairn descendant, harshly criticized the British for prosecuting what even the Foreign Office conceded was a "cultural trait". "It's Polynesian to break your girls in at 12," she maintained.

So it took some courage for Tom Christian and his wife Betty, as community elders, to support the whole judicial process. While Tom was one of the few island men who police believed had not been involved in any abuse, his wife stood up in court to testify that the islanders had always considered themselves British and

were perfectly well aware of what was legal and what was not. But as Tom Christian admitted: "It's a big mess. We want it to go away."

Tom Christian was appointed MBE in 1983.

He is survived by his wife and daughters, Jacqueline, Raelene, Sherileen and Darlene.

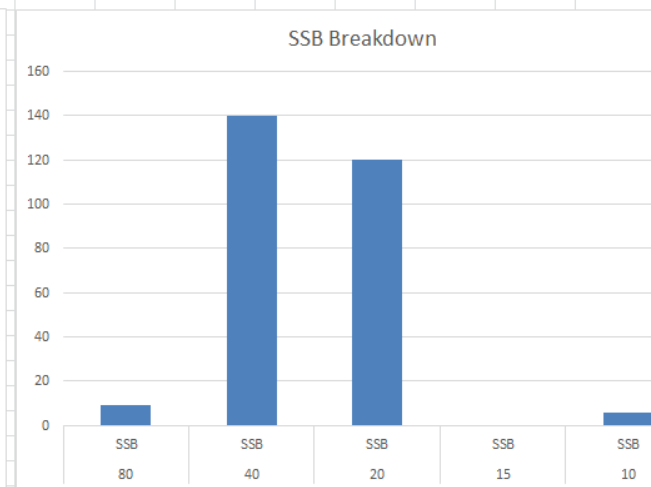
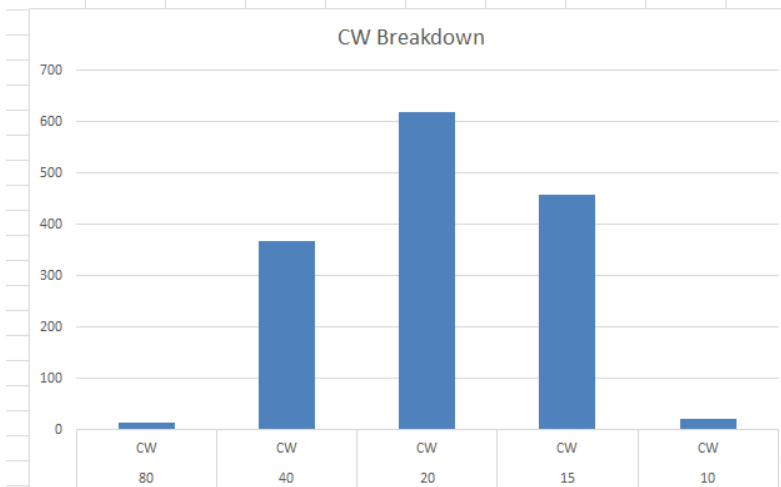
**Tom Christian VP6TC (ex VR6TC), born November 1 1935, died July 7 2013**



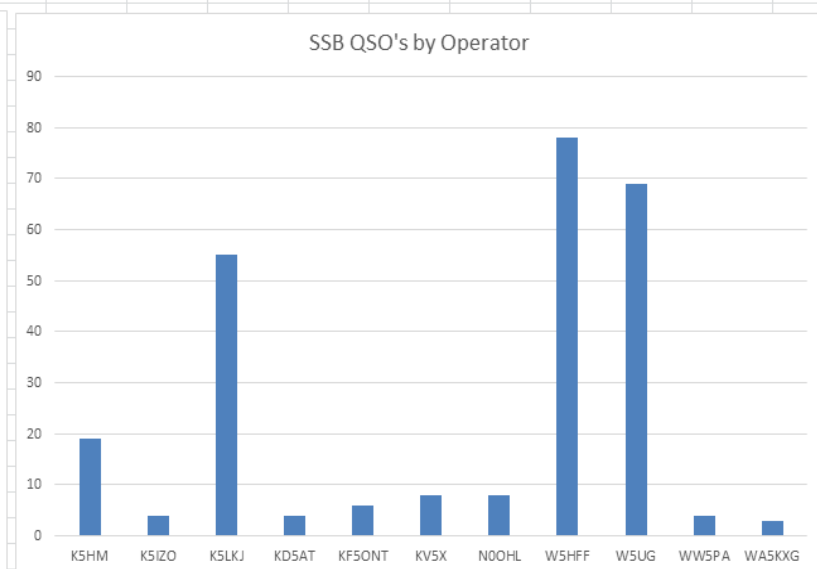
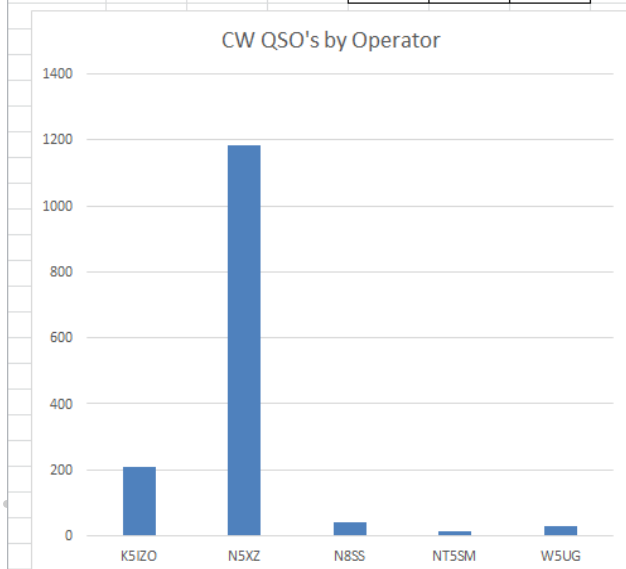
# Joint BVARC / TDXS Field Day Results

I just received the following information from Matt Tatro, K5NGU which shows the breakdown of QSOs during the joint BVARC / TDXS Field Day. For a detailed article on the event, read the BVARC newsletter at <http://www.bvarc.org/newsletter/201307.pdf>.

Band	Mode	QSO	Band	Mode	QSO	Band	Mode	QSO	Totals points not including bonus and GOTA:
80	CW	13	80	SSB	9	80	DIG	0	CW 1475 x 2 = 2950 SSB 275 x 1 = 275 DIG 358 x 2 = 716
40	CW	366	40	SSB	140	40	DIG	62	
20	CW	618	20	SSB	120	20	DIG	250	
15	CW	458	15	SSB	0	15	DIG	46	
10	CW	20	10	SSB	6	10	DIG	0	

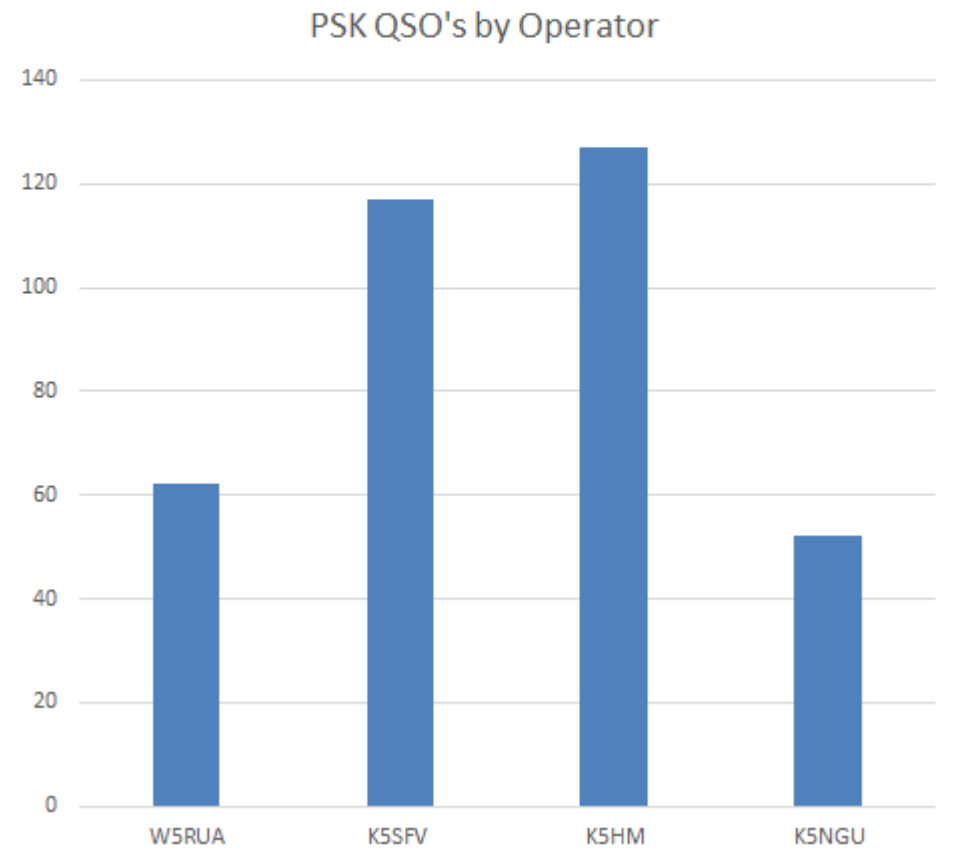


Operator	QSO	Mode	Operator	QSO	Mode
K5IZO	207	CW	K5HM	19	SSB
N5XZ	1183	CW	K5IZO	4	SSB
N8SS	40	CW	K5LKJ	55	SSB
NT5SM	13	CW	KD5AT	4	SSB
W5UG	28	CW	KF5ONT	6	SSB
			KV5X	8	SSB
			N0OHL	8	SSB
			W5HFF	78	SSB
			W5UG	69	SSB
			WW5PA	4	SSB
			WA5KXG	3	SSB



# Joint BVARC / TDXS Field Day Results

Operator	QSO	Mode					
W5RUA	62	PSK					
K5SFV	117	PSK					
K5HM	127	PSK					
K5NGU	52	PSK					



## DX Report by Bill W5SH

To the date of article submission no one submitted an article in the DX slot for September. I am still looking for a volunteer from in or now outside of membership to do a one time, one month DX article for October. It is my hope that this DX slot in the Bull Sheet would be more than the usual recopy of DXpeditions posted on the internet or in DX newsletters or magazines. Please send me an email [dragntow@wt.net](mailto:dragntow@wt.net) to help out with an interesting article for our DX slot in the Bull Sheet. The BIG GUN Yagi Antenna, super tall tower, legal limit power and the new super RX transceivers are a very big plus in the DX chase but not always the requirement. Many readers would like for you to share knowledge of the secrets like your long path, short path, skew path, back scatter, working split tricks and other info that get that new one in the log. The DX chase is more than just watching the Spots on a DX cluster. Tell us how you make the first spot. As the volley list is so thin this was just a suggestion and any article submitted would be good for our readers of the BullSheet.

**DX chairman report:** ... Topp DX / Contest Fund: No applications have been submitted for screening and review.

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

PEEWEE CHEAP ANTENNAS that seem to work. By Bill Stone WS5H

My station antenna setups are of the below average in regards to height and gain. My LOTW are a modest \*171 total all and \*170 current for mixed and 10 meters shows \*165 all, \*164 current. (Only have the 150 stickers for DXCC) For the mixed this is 1/2 the known world confirmed LOTW. My log shows 239 mixed and 230 on 10 meters. As you can see I don't have \$\$ to burn for postage for conformation and the new ones that are not also LOTW from the bureau are slim. Lets look at a few of my store buy and home brew antennas that worked 2/3's the world with 1/2 confirmed. Keep in mind that the radios are of early 1990's and earlier. Icom 735, Icom 725, and old Icom 740 @ 300 to 400 watts from SB-200 with 1/2 flat tubes.

My QTH favorite for 10 M DX - Maco V-Quad 2 element 10 meter quad. Picture of its use at the TDXS / BVARC Field Day 2013. Most contacts at my QTH were from elevation of 21 - 23 ft on a push up pole and a small TV rotor. Only a 5 ft 10 inch boom and has Driver element with a reflector element. Just 3 months ago I mounted it on a small tower at 34 ft. This antenna from day 1 has opened up the RX on my radio for 10 meters as per the low angle radiation take off. It is a small footprint quad that is very cheap in price. I paid \$129 plus 12 bucks shipping back in I think early to mid 2006. Now they are \$159 and 20 bucks shipping. Our dollar is shrinking. The log shows the antenna performance and so does the two ARRL Ten Meter Contest first place single op, mix mode, high power, STX for 2010 and 2011. Also many wall hangers for 10-10 QSO party's to include the recent Summer QSO Party awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the world.... (Hard to beat

N5XZ AL and Mike N5MT)

My 10 though 40 meter made at home Carolina Windom @ only 18 ft is NOT a premier DX catcher at this height but have worked some EU and AF DX. This is a good state side NA antenna with the line isolator under the first 10 foot of coax that is attached to the 4 to 1 balun feed point. This will give a good say mushroom Omni pattern effect with lobes on the broadside as the 10 ft coax becomes part of the radiating antenna with some vertical polarization. It also tunes with the Ten - Tec tuner for 80 M operations and worked the WARC bands with tuner as N0D with many pileups in the log as a "Now Zero Days" Doomsday event operator. If you have some 14 gauge wire (41 ft and 25 ft for offset dipole), a 4 to 1 balun, home brew or store buy a line isolator, and coax give this home brew project consideration.

Next up is the Hustler BTV-6 vertical antenna. This was given to me in 2005 by an X ham who wanted it off his fire place chimney. I took it home cleaned and reset the traps for best SWR, stabbed it in the ground for test with no ground radials under a 60 ft oak tree. It worked so I left it alone. I took it down twice for use in the MSWE USS STEWART and CAVALLA event for a 3<sup>rd</sup> park station at Seawolf Park with good result for a worm burner. This antenna would be good for the Ham who must abide by or sneak around the H.O.A. restrictions. With out the ground radials it is a worm burner but have DX in the log with its use and is my 80-meter antenna for a local ragchew net on 3.910 Wed. night. Very cheap good working vertical for 10,15, 20, 30, 40 and 80 meters. Maybe I will get around to weave some ground radials under the grass for best results.

My latest project to include my wife Norma KE5NDN help in the design



# DX Report (continued) by Bill W5SH

was to mount a 20 meter rotating di-  
pole on the smaller 26 tower in the  
front yard. My H.O.A. restrictions  
here say no antenna can go past the  
very most front of the house. As my  
attached garage is recessed from the  
very front of my house  
and my front door / front  
bedroom is recessed also  
this became my best  
spots for my Texas Mini  
Twin Towers in the front  
yard for high band anten-  
nas. The two 60 plus ft.  
oak trees dominate the  
back yard. (Tree's are  
good for wire antennas)  
The configuration is an M  
dipole with the feed point  
in the bottom of the V in  
the M. Material used is a  
quad hub and four 5 ft  
fiberglass rods to make  
an X for the M bent fold  
dipole. This antenna even rotated will  
remain behind the very most front  
part of the house and maybe good for  
someone to use as an attic antenna.

At a test fixed mount 21 ft pointed NNE  
the antenna seems to have 2 lobes front to  
back broadside from the NNE center of  
bottom V in the M and also small lobes on  
the sides of the M configuration with a  
rather ballish style 3/4 Omni effect. Con-  
tacts from the HI. QSO party were many

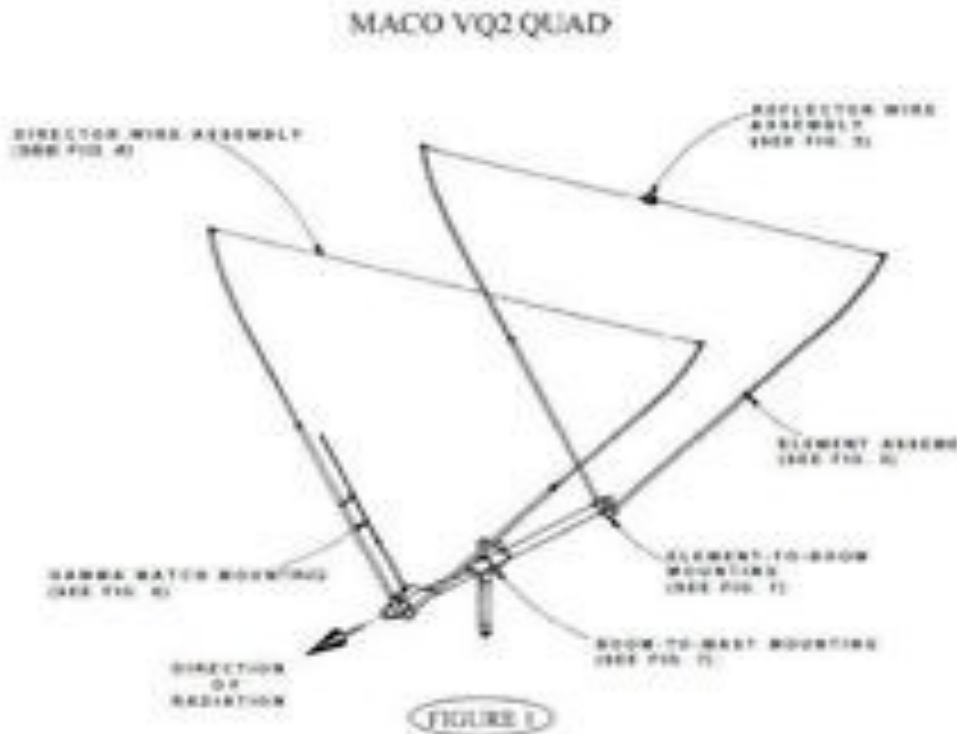
to get on the air. More tests will give a  
better understanding of this space saver  
antenna creation. I will say Norma looked  
good to me in Tee shirt, Shorts and boots  
with a climbing Harness mounting the  
Mighty Mite M dipole on the tower. It  
works good enough to now mount to the  
top of the small tower and use  
the rotor.



At my QTH we have 12 active  
antennas for UHF/VHF and HF  
on my small residential lot.  
Think the sub division here  
have grown use to my antenna  
madness. A final note - I have  
not worked Frosty's fun in  
Botswana on my antennas this  
year yet. My last contacts with  
Botswana were in Oct. 2010 on  
10, 12, and 15 meters. I did  
contact G0FWX on ten meters  
this week on 9-6-13. Hope to  
work Frosty on ten with the V-  
Quad soon.

and Have worked 15 of the 18 Route 66  
event stations two days into the week  
long event using the M dipole on 20 and  
Carolina Windom for 40 when I have time

73 enjoy the DX chase  
Bill W5SH



## Texas DX Society Board members

President	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	djseyler at comcast.net
VP Membership	Bob Mennell, WB5IUU	bmennell at consolidated.net
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Secretary/Treasurer	Mike Bragassa, K5UO	bragassa at consolidated.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](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 September

#### Birthdays September 2013

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  
Jim Whitmire KD4M

Wes Whiddon N5WW  
Ron Marosko, Sr. K5LLL  
Bill Schrader, K2TNO  
Jeff McClain, K5MV  
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