



# The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net February 2015

## Feb 12, Thursday 7PM: **TDXS Meeting Night** at the **Tracy Gee Center** : **John Stratton N5AUS**

Feb 12, Thursday 7PM: **TDXS Meeting Night** at the **Tracy Gee Center**, 3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston, TX 77042. Program by John Stratton N5AUS, ARRL West Gulf Vice Director will talk about current League activities, programs and developments. Don't miss it! Pre-meeting dinner gathering usually meets about 5:30PM at Pappa's BBQ on S. Gessner (just south of Westheimer). Visitors are always welcome.



### Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

I am just now recovering from having the flu...seems it has been going around a lot this winter. My wife is still in bed, but much better than she was earlier in the week. I have also been off the air do to an antenna issue since the 26th. But thanks to help from Nizar K0NM and Orville K5VWW, we found the problem to simply be a shorted LMR-600 connector...some of the braid had migrated to the center conductor. Nizar found it with his nifty RigExpert Antenna Analyzer. Whew!...I thought it might be the SteppIR, but it is still working perfectly. After Nizar and Orville left, I worked K1N on five different band/modes in about an hour. (Thanks also to Orville for letting me work K1N from his station the day before!)

Normally I would be getting ready for the 10-10 Winter Contest, but my wife needs

more attention and quiet, so I will be only part time this year. Don't let that stop the rest of you from giving Mike N5MT and the rest of the 10-10 gang contacts, though. They can always use them!

Between the poor operators at EP6T and the great operators at K1N, there has been a lot of good DXing lately. Last month, I managed to snag the following good stuff: S01WS, DS5USH, YB1AR, 1A0C, JD1BMH, TX5W, VP8LP, T88HS, XROYJ, FR5EC, FW5JJ, EP6T, TR8JCV, T32RL, JW9JKA, FK8DD/M and JY9FC.

Don't miss the meeting this month with John Stratton, N5AUS. I want to know how the bill in the Texas house is progressing, to allow for better antennas for hams living in HOA's. I believe that HOA's with their restrictive covenants are the worst thing to ever happen to ham radio.

While I know that the ham radio population is the highest in history, more and more of these hams are operating either from their vehicles or with very compromised antennas at home. Not a good recipe for DXing and certainly a killer for contesting. Ask John what you can do to further the cause. That probably means giving some donations to his PAC. As you might or might not know, John's PAC (the only one of its kind in the US to the best of my knowledge) has been successful in allowing us to run generators at home in times of crisis and also allowing the installation of flag poles, which can be used as antennas if installed correctly. So as you can see, John has been fairly successful in Austin.

For now,  
73, Allen N5XZ

### *Inside this issue:*

<b>The Prez Sez</b> <b>by Bob W5UQ</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Contest Report</b> <b>by Willis "Cookie" Cook</b> <b>K5EWJ</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DX Report</b> <b>by Orville Burg K5VWW</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2015 Greater Houston Hamfest</b> <b>Flyer</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TDXS Board Members</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>TDXS Birthdays</b>	<b>6</b>

## The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

TDXS Prez sez for February 2015:

January 24<sup>th</sup> was our Annual TDXS Banquet. This year we had it at Brady's Landing in the Turning Point room. The setting was beautiful and we even saw some large ships navigating the channel.

We had fairly good attendance and it appears everyone enjoyed the occasion. This year we had plenty of room to visit before dinner. Also, one of the items on the program was to present awards.

Our waiter and waitress were trying very hard to provide good service. I do have to say that there were a couple of mistakes in serving. So, I have discussed those problems with the manager and told them that if they expect us to return, they needed to solve those problems. I was assured they would do so. Otherwise, I felt the dinner overall was successful.

Regarding the awards. We presented Orville Burg, K5VWV with the "Yagi on a roll" for DXer of the year. Of course we did. He's been burning up the bands.

We also awarded Orville our TDXS Certificate "For DX Excellence in achieving 8 Band DXCC". It should be noted that getting this certificate from the ARRL is quite an achievement for a DXer.

Then we had an award for David Topp, W5BXX, "For years of support of a core mission of TDXS through the TOPP DX Fund", however, Dave couldn't make the banquet this year. So, it will be awarded at a later TDXS meeting and we say, "Thank you very much Dave".

Next we had an award for Mike Bragassa, K5UO, "For years of unselfish devotion and support of TDXS". Mike was under the weather and sent his regrets that he could not be present. Thank you Mike for loyal support of TDXS and we will award the certificate to you at one of the TDXS meetings soon.

We were also asked to present two BVARC awards to TDXSer's that were not at the BVARC Banquet Dinner the week

before. However, only one of them was at our Banquet Dinner, and that was Glenn

One award was to Mike Davidson, N5MT and the other one was to Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF.

The BVARC award Mike and Glenn earned is the BVARC Appreciation Award. In this instance, this award may be given to BVARC members or Non BVARC members in appreciation for service work per combined club efforts to promote Amateur radio and HF activity in the Tri Club Field Day.

Mike and Glenn did a magnificent job at the Tri Club FD, which is held by BVARC, TDXS and The Houston Echo Society.

Cookie, K5EWJ, was the person who I asked to perform the presentations of the BVARC awards to Mike Davidson and Glenn Anderson. Unfortunately Glenn wasn't at our banquet, so he will get his at a later meeting.

Anyway, Cookie also was given an award by BVARC, however he received his award at the BVARC Banquet last week.

Cookie was awarded the BVARC Club Member Special service recognition award for his long term service work for BVARC Museum Ships Weekend Event. His long term commitment to Museum ship radio room restorations via the CHARS group in conjunction with BVARC and His Superb Chairmanship of the 2014 MSWE.

I want to thank Lance Rumfield, WD5X, for his help in arranging the banquet and for obtaining the prizes again this year. Of course, I need to thank his XYL Debbie, N5DSR for finding the ladies prizes and helping Lance with the other prizes. The prizes last year were their doing too. Love the flashlights... I can't seem to have enough of them. J

And thanks to Doug Seyler for making the Award Certificates. Thanks to Cookie for presenting the BVARC awards. Thanks to Mike Bragassa for helping arrange the banquet. And then he even couldn't make it being under the weather. Get

well Mike.

And a final greaaaaat BIG thanks to all of you for supporting TDXS and "just plain having fun at the banquet". Now, onward and upward to yet another year with TDXS. Come to the meetings and support our wonderful club.

Tracy Gee Thursday night February 12<sup>th</sup> and Papas BBQ for dinner. I will be in Florida at HamCation so regretfully I won't make it to hear John Stratton's updating us with ARRL and FCC valuable info.

See you in March. It could be a Joint Meeting with BVARC. If not March, then the Joint Meeting will be in April. Watch our TDXS.net website for info on it.

Bob Hardie

Prez Sez for February 2015

## Contest Report by Willis "Cookie" Cookie K5EWJ

### From the Contest Chair-

**man:** This has not been a great month for me. My antennas are still just so-so and I did not get a chance to contest. The weather has been stinky here on the Gulf Coast. I got my antenna parts in just as the winter rains hit and I have been trying to get it dry under my tower for months now. Just as a dry spell hit, the Flu knocked me down and I am just getting up now. I needed both Tromelin and Iran for DXCC, but missed them both. I did make the BVARC Banquet and enjoyed it even though I am not big on Italian Food. I was fortunate enough to win a book published by the ARRL about the Ardaino Programmable Controller by Glen Popiel, KW5GP, which has been on my want list for a while. I was delighted.

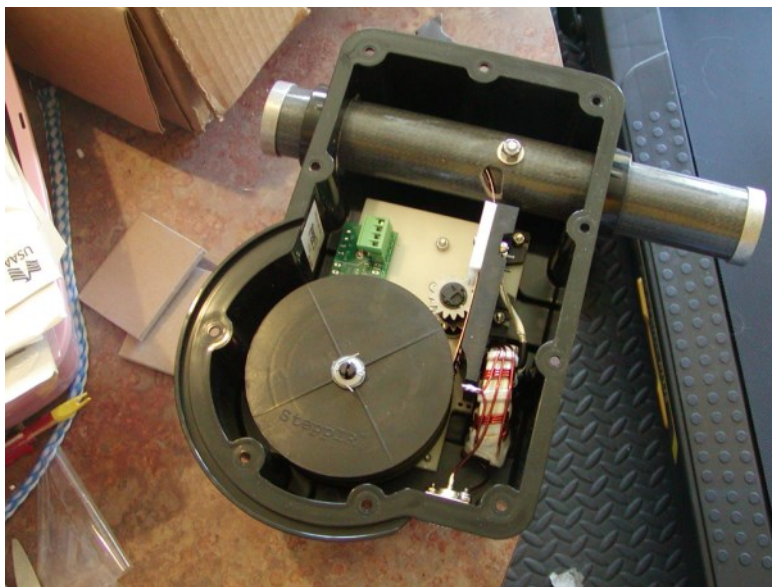
I am only into the book by three chapters now and it looks very promising. The book is written for typical amateurs, so starts pretty basic and has a list of quite a few interesting looking projects. Since I have a good supply of CDE rotators and parts, as well as controllers that may be where I start, but I have several more days of reading and thinking. I spent quite a few years as a Controls Engineer,

so it will be interesting to see what I can come up with. The book has sources for quite a number of sensors, inputs, outputs and projects to get started with, so I am excited.

The only major contest that was featured during January was the CQWW 160 CW Contest. It was unfortunately scheduled the same weekend as our annual banquet. Glen Anderson skipped the Banquet to work 125 Qs in 48 States/Provinces and 9 countries despite using low power and an NVIS antenna. This was a "feet wet" experience for Glenn, so we

need to show him how to build a long distance antenna and use higher power to really get him excited. I am sure Glenn already knows how, but he needs to see how much more he can work with an L and a KW.

The Banquet had a very nice venue and Leslie Bartosh and I shared a table with Chuck Dietz and Ruth, and Mike Davidson and Marge. We had a very nice time and enjoyed a pleasant conversation. We had lots of door prizes, enough that everyone got something. I think Leslie will make a fine addition to TDXS as soon as he attends two more functions and completes the paper work.



I brought three awards from the BVARC Banquet award presentation. One was to me for training of BVARC members in DXing throughout the year and two were for TDXS members who did not attend the BVARC Banquet. One was for Glenn Anderson who also did not attend our Banquet. Glen provides repeater services through the year for both TDXS and BVARC. While the 146.34/94 repeater was being upgraded Glen provided our repeaters for BVARC use and also provided BVARC services for Field Day. Glenn is very deserving and does a great job for TDXS with our repeaters. I wish we could

get more repeater usage from members, but most of us are retired and do not spend a lot of time in our vehicles. The other was for Mike Davidson for being TDXS and Echo Society Chairman for our joint Field Day with BVARC. Mike accepted the award from BVARC and indicated a willingness to repeat the feat for 2015.

I am still trying to get my SteppIR back to working properly. The retraction motor coil was destroyed by the lightning hit. Several attempts to replace it with another motor have left me with a driven element that will not move from 40 meters. I ordered another Electronic Housing Unit and received it just before Christmas, but

the intervening 6 weeks have not allowed me to install it. The rain has flooded my pasture twice and when the flood goes down I have been sick or it has been bad weather. SteppIR have redesigned the EHU including a new cover that is black, the drive pawl is more robust and is fastened by a bolt rather than a drive pin. The motor connection has been reworked and rerouted. The PVC extension has been redesigned and there are some new reducing cones. It uses a bit longer PVC pipe which carries the driven element beyond the

first extension in the support. I hope that I can get it installed and give you a report next month.

Better Contesting and I hope everyone that can gets well. My Grandmother used to tell me that growing old is not for sissies, but it sure beats the alternative. It held her almost 103 years before she decided to try the alternative. 73 to Silent Key Jim Carmody, NN5O. We pray for you to get well Frosty, K5LBU and all the best to the others that are sick, Bill, Mike and Arthur, get well soon if you can.

## DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

I guess the biggest news is the completion of the EP6T operation from Kish Island, Iran by the Belgian Rockall Team. **They made a total of 68,098 QSO's. Some of the Houston area members were fortunate to have good propagation** and K5UO worked them on 160M, 80M and 4 other bands. N5XZ worked them on 5 bands on 3 modes, CW, Phone and RTTY, while K5RK worked them on 6 Bands on 3 modes.

The operation from Navassa Island, K1N, is very active at this time. Navassa is the #1 most needed DX entity for 2015. They are planning on being on the air from February 2<sup>nd</sup> for 2 weeks. Their game plan was to have at least one station on 20 meters, 24 hours/day. 160M and 12M will be CW only and 10M was be SSB only. They have been active on 10M CW for a short period when they first came on the band and on Thursday. Other bands are to vary in mode, alternating CW & SSB. At least one station will always be on RTTY, and they will operate RTTY on no more than three bands. 30M appears to be the preferred RTTY band for their activity with some 20M. Thus far, as of February 4<sup>th</sup>, **they have over 22,000 Qso's in the logs and 80% of those are North American stations.**

D44EE will be active from Cape Verde by OZ1BII from February 19<sup>th</sup> through February 24<sup>th</sup>, 160M to 10M CW only.

There will be an operation from 9Q, The Democratic Republic of the Congo by the Italian DX Team from March 10<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>. The call will be 9QØHQ. They will be active on all bands 160M-6M.

Some of the band activity in the Houston area in the past few weeks was:

T32RL – Eastern Kiribati – 10M CW, 20M CW  
5B/LA9BM – Cyprus – 10M CW  
7Q7BP – Malawi – 12M CW  
ZB2R – Gibraltar – 12M RTTY  
S61PW – Singapore – 12M CW  
J28NC – Djibouti – 15M RTTY  
6W7SK – Senegal – 12M CW, 15M RTTY  
C5YK – The Gambia – 15M RTTY, 10M CW, 12M CW, 15M CW  
VP8NO – Falkland Is. – 12M RTTY  
C91RF – Mozambique – 20M CW  
DP1POL – Antarctica – Neumayer Station III – 40M CW, 20M CW  
DP1POL/P – Antarctica – Kohnen Station, Ekström Ice Shelf - 20 CW  
V51WH – Namibia – 12M SSB  
XW4ZW – Laos – 160/80M at SR/SS  
XW8BM – Laos – Low Bands – Needs RX antennas.  
4X6TT – Israel – 40M SSB



# 2015 Greater Houston Hamfest



## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual **GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST** **Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club**



Hosting the  
**ARRL Texas State Convention**

### Expanded Hours!

**Saturday, March 28, 2015 - 8 am – 3:30 pm**  
Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4200 Highway 36, Rosenberg, Texas  
<http://www.houstonhamfest.org> for detailed information.

*On-line seller Table selection*  
*Early Registration \$8. \$10 at the door.*

- *Raffle -- valuable prizes to be won*
- *CW Pile Up Contest – How well can you copy code in a pileup?*
- *Equipment test station – spot check equipment before you buy*
- *Tailgate area - 7AM early seller/buyer access*
- *Special seller parking for easy unloading and table access*
- *Talk-in 146.94(-) PL 167.0*

**Keynote Speaker:** Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs. “Logbook of the World”

**Featured Speaker:** Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT, Nobel Laureate and originator of many programs for amateur digital modes, including WSPR and WSJT for both UHF/VHF and HF Communication.

**Other Programs:**

- Training seminars
- Information lectures
- APRS operation
- Satellite operation
- DXCC checking
- Hands-On Demos
- Special Event HF Station, KK5W

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### RAFFLE: Tickets \$1 each, 7 for \$5

#### GRAND PRIZE

#### **FT-991 ALL-BAND, MULTIMODE PORTABLE TRANSCEIVER**

All mode, all band MF/HF/VHF/UHF transceiver with C4FM (System Fusion) Digital capability



Provided by BVARC and Houston Amateur Radio Supply

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE

#### **MFJ-225, 1.8 – 170 MHz Graphic Analyzer**



Provided by BVARC and River Oaks Car Stereo

**Other Prizes TBD – Check website for updated list**

For detailed info, pre-registration and table selection, please go to: [www.houstonhamfest.org](http://www.houstonhamfest.org)  
Door prizes drawn every 10-20 minutes.

**Admissions:** Pre-paid Tickets until March 14, 2015 - \$8; includes 2 raffle tickets and special VIP express entry.  
**At-Door:** \$10 – Includes 1 raffle ticket. Scouts in uniform & Children under 14 Free! Tailgate \$5 per vehicle. No individual admission required to tailgate area.  
**Tables:** All tables - \$15 (choose tables on-line in advance). Those with 5 or more tables receive 2 free admissions. Electricity available to pre-registrants (\$5 total). On-site registration – electricity as available. Set-up available: Friday 3-7 PM, Saturday 6-8 AM

Contact Michael Wrenn, K5WRN: [SALES@houstonhamfest.org](mailto:SALES@houstonhamfest.org) or cell: 440.973.6676

The GHH reserves the right to make changes to this information

## Texas DX Society Board members

<b>President</b>	<b>Bob Hardie, W5UQ</b>	<b>w5uq at att.net</b>
<b>VP Membership</b>	<b>Bob Mennell, WB5IUU</b>	<b>bmennell@consolidated.net</b>
<b>VP Programs</b>	<b>Lance Rumfield, WD5X</b>	<b>ltrumfield at sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Doug Seyler, WB5TKI</b>	<b>dseyler@comcast.net</b>
<b>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>Mike Davidson, N5MT</b>	<b>n5mt@aol.com</b>
<b>Repeater Chairman</b>	<b>Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF</b>	<b>wb5tuf at earthlink.net</b>
<b>DX Chairman</b>	<b>Orville Burg, K5VWW</b>	<b>Orville@rubyglass.com</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>Bullsheat Editor</b>	<b>Allen Brier, N5XZ</b>	<b>n5xz at arrl.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@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 IP address 75.148.198.113

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

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Dave Blaschke - W5UN  
 James Clark - N5RO  
 Bob Cooney - K1TU  
 Mike Bragassa - K5UO  
 James Parnell - W5JAW  
 Charles Frost - K5LBU  
 Bob Moorman - K5VMX  
 Don Butler - N5LZ  
 Marshall Dues - K5MMD  
 Ronald Amox - K5EJO  
 Jim Boockholdt - N4AL

Bob Perring - N5RP  
 Fred Pevoto - K5FP  
 Tom Shapiro - KD5SP  
 Marty Kirkland - WA5TMN  
 Mike Crownover - AD5A