



The Bullsheet

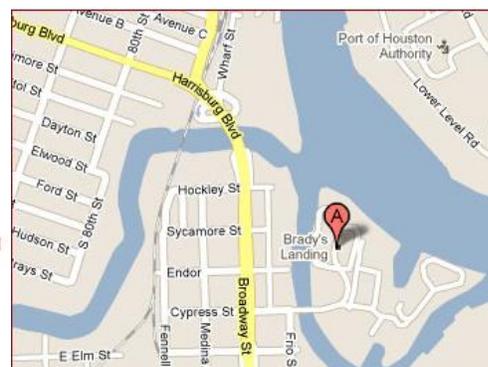
The Official News Bulletin of
The Texas DX Society
An ARRL Affiliated Club

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

Jan 24, 2015 Saturday 6PM: Annual TDXS Banquet

Jan 24, 2015 Saturday 6PM: Annual TDXS Banquet at Brady's Landing, 8505 Cypress St, Houston, TX 77012. Make your reservations now and send your check to K5UO. While you're at it, 2015 dues are payable.

(See Bob W5UQ's "Prez Sez" article on page 2 for more details.)



Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and got many, many radio toys to use. The bands continue hold their own, and there is always plenty of DX to work. Lately, it's been a bit cold and wet, and my 18HT vertical antenna hole remains empty at this moment. I've had to delay the project a bit, due to personal reasons, but fear not, it will be filled with concrete and QSL cards (and possibly an old license plate) soon! I haven't decided exactly what QSL cards I plan to put in the hole (in accordance with the Old and Sacred Tradition, but I did get a duplicate P5 card from Bruce, KK5DO and I think that's and excellent start. As soon as I get to that point, I will put together the magic combination of rare and other DX cards to pay homage to the DX and propagation gods and to enhance the new verticals' radiation pattern. As you might remember, in the crank-up tower hole, I started with the obligatory JT card, added an nice mixture of JA's, DL's, and cards from each continent, plus a few DXpedition cards, included one from Martti Laine

OH2BH. (True story: I worked Martti a year or so after I poured the base when he was in CT3 land or somewhere and told him that I put one of his cards in the base. He got a big kick out of it and asked be to send him a piece of leftover hardened concrete, which of course I did. Not sure what he did with it, though.)



Anyway, during the month of December, I was able to put the following DX in my log:
CE0Z/CE5WQO, ZD8JR, 5K0A, E51RAT, HC2WAT/8, 8Q7DV, KCREF/KC4, V63DX, TY2AB, VP8KF, BA7IO, 3D2KM, 4X4DZ, TF3DC, KC4USV, RI1ANT, ZD7VC, 4X0WFF, JD1BOI, A61SM, BY1CQ, BX4AG, EX2F, 1A0C, 9J2HN, JD1BON, T88KO, etc. Nothing too spectacular, but good stuff never-the-less.
Don't forget about the TDXS banquet coming up soon, hope to see everyone there.

We have a few changes in our TDXS officers, including the addition of Orville Burg K5VWW as our new DX Chairman. [This is a corrected version of this newsletter regarding VP of Membership. It is Bob Mennell, WB5IUU. My apologies to Bob...] Please see the list on the last page for all the details.

It's not too soon to be thinking about future ham radio happenings, such as the 2015 Greater Houston Hamfest in March and Field Day in June. The hamfest has been extended two more hours, so there will be more programs, more vendors (even an Elecraft table) and better prizes. And speaking of Field Day, last year, along with BVARC and ECHO we kicked butt, won our class (8A) and almost made top ten in the country. Hopefully, we will get the same major players and operators (and maybe more) and make the top ten this year!

For now, 73 and again, Happy Holidays!

Allen N5XZ

Inside this issue:

The Prez Sez	2
by Bob W5UQ	
Contest Report	3
by Willis "Cookie" Cook	
K5EWJ	
TDXS Meeting Schedule for 2015	3
by Bob W5UQ	
DX Report	4
by Orville Burg K5VWW	
2015 Greater Houston Hamfest	5
Flyer	
TDXS Donation to the Wounded Warrior Project in memory of Jim NN5O (SK)	6
TDXS Board Members	7
TDXS Birthdays	7



The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

Prez Sez,

Well, it looks like it is time for us to put on our coats and toughen up for a "long winter's nap".... NOT. Nope, it is time for us all to enjoy the Houston winter during January as much as we can.... because it is better here than in Oklahoma or Kansas or Minnesota or Montana.... or Alaska. Or.....

So, what has this to do with ham radio. Well, I'll tell you oh baited breath one. Absolutely nothing. Unless you lock these memories away in your mind and recall them when you are out there on Field Day and it is over 100°F. When you are deep in your sweat, not to mention fire ants, and wondering why you are even here.... at that particular time of your life. That is the best time to try to remember the January weather in Houston.

Anyway, ya'll be sure to remember to come to the TDXS Annual Banquet on January 24th at 6:00pm, about. A lot of you haven't said you were going. We need at least 30 people.

Please RSVP to Mike Bragassa and send him your payment for the dinner.

Here is the official announcement:

[TDXS Annual Banquet at Brady's Landing on the Houston ship channel:](#)

The date is Saturday, January 24th, 2015. Put it on your calendar now so you won't forget.

The night will begin with **social hour at 6PM in "The Turning Point Room"**. There is a bar near the room to purchase drinks.

Dinner will begin at 7PM and each guest will order their dinner upon arrival (before 7pm).

The menu is as follows:
From Brady's Garden Salads, one Fresh Garden Salad per person.

Entrees:
Chicken Jack Daniels (alcohol is burned off) or Gulf Snapper Pontchartrain-D or Rib Eye Steak.

The Chicken and Snapper appear to be served with Rice Pilaf and the Steak is served with Garlic Whipped Potatoes.

However they also list this.

Accompaniments:
Brady's Rice Pilaf
Buttered Garlic Whipped Potatoes
Chef's Fresh Vegetables

Also Fresh Baked Rolls and Butter Coffee and Tea Service

Plus, the dessert is Cheese Cake with Strawberries

Any other drinks are to be purchased individually.

The cost per person, which includes gratuity and taxes, is \$39.

(Note: Of the cost per person, the "included gratuity" is only \$6 each, plus the taxes. So you may leave more "tip" if you wish.)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: PLEASE RSVP and PAY IN ADVANCE.(\$39 each) And no later than January 16th, 2015. Thank you all for coming.

We need at least 30 people to make reserving the room possible.

RSVP to: Mike Bragassa at bragassa@consolidated.net with your payment to him. Mike will post "how to pay" later.

(Please carbon or CC me on the RSVP emails.... W5UQ@att.NET so that I can keep up with the people count too.)

The importance of the RSVP:
We have to pay for 30 people one full week in advance. . So we NEED to have at least 30 people show up.

Also important is that we need to tell Brady's the "exact person count" one week in advance.

See you at the banquet and then at the February meeting. It will be at Tracy Gee that month. See our website.

Thanks and a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL,
Bob Hardie
TDXS Prez for 2015



Contest Report by Willis "Cookie" Cookie K5EWJ

After a year as DX Chairman or perhaps DXpedition Chairman I find myself once again signing as TDXS Contest Chairman. The past two days have been a whirlwind of board members asking what are the duties of the DX Chairman and the Contest Chairman. After quite a few years as Contest Chairman and a year as DX Chairman or DXpedition Chairman, I find I did not even know my title. Whatever it is, my copy of word underlines the sentence in green to tell me it is improper grammar. Well grammar and spelling have never been my long suits and I studied engineering because I felt myself strong at mathematics and I need my word processor to spell. I found that even though I like mathematics, my bosses thought that I should spend my time reading and writing and not I find myself writing for a newsletter. Orville has volunteered to take my old job as DX Chairman or DXpedition Chairman, I am not sure which, but good luck Orville. What would the members like to have from us? What words of wisdom would you like to see in the Bullsheet each month?

Someone is calling anyone who is operating RTTY on the frequency that He thinks is reserved for JT65 a lid on one of the reflectors. Since I think this term was originated by a commercial operator in days of yore as an amateur operator who cannot afford a commercially made telegraph key so he had to make his key from a tin can lid. Since neither RTTY nor JT65 requires a telegraph key nor knowledge of telegraphy, I don't understand the connection, but anyone who thinks that he is assigned a frequency for his preferred mode, must be thinking of a frequency in the 27 Mega Hertz band. I do not think this person is one of our members, but I do think making a key from a tin can lid might improve this ham's attitude. I happen to have a telegraph key made from a Green Bean can Lid if he would like instructions.

ARRL has posted a new version of its "Contesting Guidelines" which should be good reading for those who would like to improve their contesting habits. I will refer you to ARRL.ORG/On the Air for edification. If you would like to be an

avid contesteer, I recommend that you subscribe to the ARRL Contest Update. There is a lot of good information and the update is issued twice a month. The lead time on the once per month Bullsheet is just not timely enough to depend on for your contesting schedule. By the time I look at the Contest Update and the monthly magazines then put a schedule in this monthly publication you may miss some of your favorite contests. There seem to be contests sponsored by the ARRL and others so often that you need to watch your favorite sources.

This month's column is a bit short, but since I just found out my job for the year and I need to get to draining my swamp so I can get to contesting and DXing, I will sign off. I continue to try to harden my station for the coming contest and DX season. See most of you at the TDXS 2015 Banquet in a few weeks. Please get your reservations in soon. I don't think we quite have a quorum yet.

TDXS Meeting Schedule for 2015

The dates are finalized for Tracy Gee meetings at 7pm.

And they are all on the Second Thursday of that month :

- Feb 12th,
- April 13th
- No meeting in June
- August 13th
- October 8th
- December 10th.

Then the DINNER MEETINGS will be (random days):

- January 24th, 2015 a Saturday (Annual Banquet)
- March, actual day and date TBD
- May, actual day and date TBD
- July, actual day and date TBD
- September, actual day and date TBD
- November, actual day and date TBD

A good rule of thumb is:

The Dinner meetings are always in the ODD MONTHS being the ODD meetings.

The Tracy Gee meetings are the EVEN months, being "standard or even".

Thanks,
 Bob Hardie
 TDXS President 2014 and 2015



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

The DX Chairman's Report

How have the bands been in the past couple of weeks? In a nutshell, we have had pretty good propagation from Texas area. Conditions have allowed contacts with all continents.

Some of the locals have logged qso's with some of the following:

JD1BOI was active from

Ogasawara on RTTY on several bands. There will be a large group of JA operators on the island in May on all bands and modes.

T8CW was active from Palau on 12M RTTY.

5W1SA was worked on 10M RTTY. 4S7RM from Sri Lanka was worked on 20M on JT65.

D44TWO is currently active from Gabon on 10M CW and other bands.

7Q7BP from Malawi was active on 10M CW working both EU and US stations.

1AØC made a big presence from SMOM on all bands. The east coast had a pipeline to that area which made breaking the pileups a requisite.

9H1SP on Malta was worked on 20M RTTY as well.

VK6IR was worked on 6M CW and the south pacific has been active in evenings.

EY8MM from Tajikistan was worked on 15M SSB.

JW9JKA has been very active from Svalbard (Bear Island) on 20M SSB.

There are two big DXpeditions coming up very soon, EP6T will be operating from Kish Island, Iran, and K1N from Navassa.

The EP6T operation is quite well organized and 3 videos have been posted on YouTube showing their preparations. The scheduled dates for the operation are January 16th through January 26th. Some of their equipment includes 5 High power stations (mostly K3s & KPA500s), more than 6km of radials, new RX systems, filters, combiners, verticals, phased arrays, a 4 SQ and 5 beams. Emphasis is going to be placed on low band operation. One of our friends, Wim,

ON6DX, of TY1TT fame is one of the group of Belgians which will be on the island. He is quite aware of the propagation times, etc., from W5 land. He will be looking for us. He personally will be operating the RTTY station most of his time. For further information, please visit <http://www.rockall.be>, their web site.

Just after the Iranian Dxpediton will be the Navassa Island Dxpediton.

The dates of operation are not firm due to transportation and weather uncertainties. It has been 22 years since the last Navassa operation and will be at least 10 years before a return to the island is allowed. All transportation will be via helicopter so the logistics are daunting.

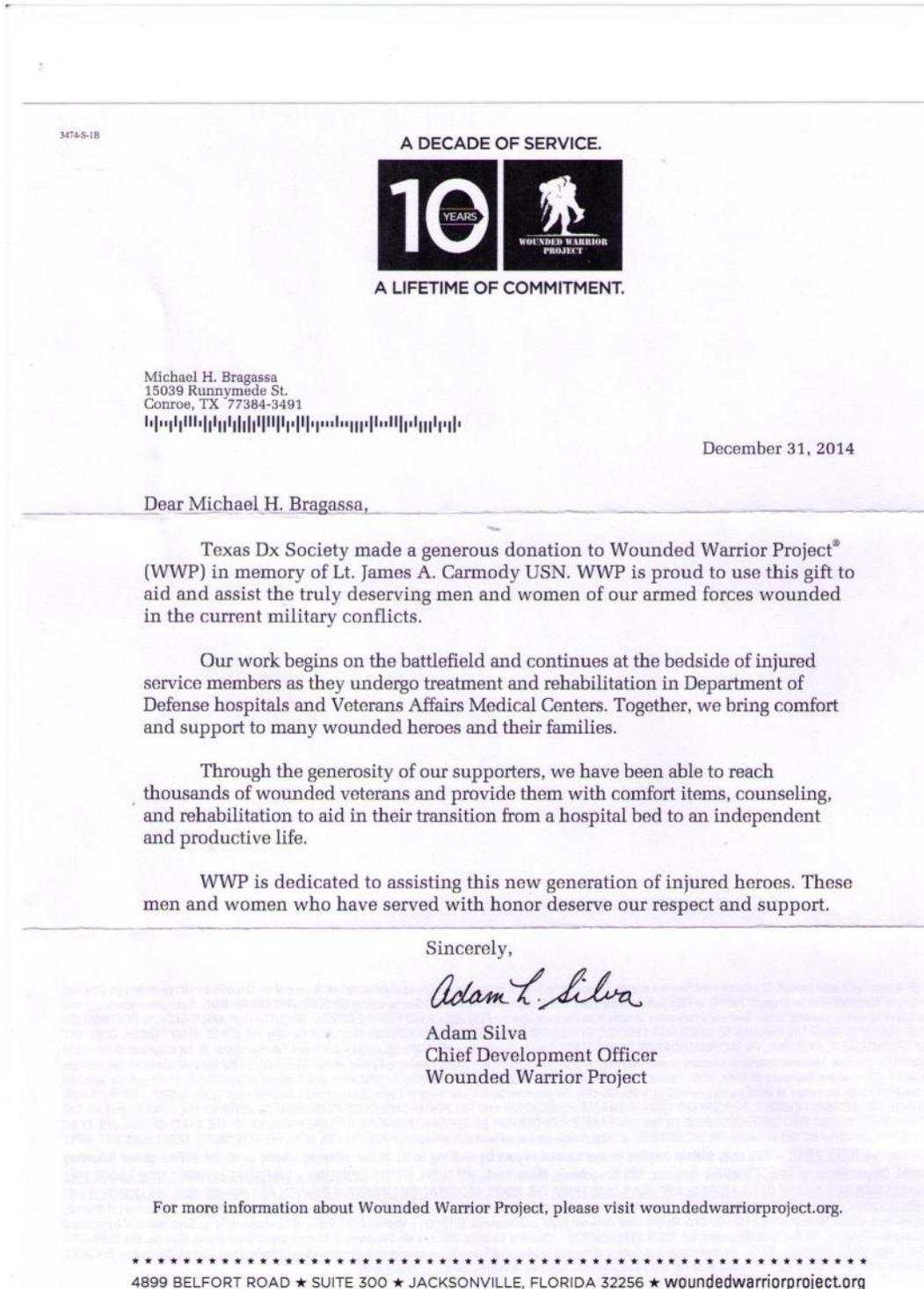
For further information, please visit their web site, www.navassadx.com.

See you in the pileups...



TDXS Donation to the Wounded Warrior Project for NN50 (SK)

Mike Bragassa has received confirmation of the club's donation to the Wounded Warrior Project donation in memory of (lt.) James Carmody NN50. Here is that acknowledgment.



2015 Greater Houston Hamfest



14th 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

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

2nd 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
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 or cell: 440.973.6676

The GHH reserves the right to make changes to this information

Texas DX Society Board members

President	Bob Hardie, W5UQ	w5uq at att.net
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Treasurer	Mike Bragassa, K5UO	bragassa at consolidated.net
Contest Chairman	Willis "Cookie" Cooke, K5EWJ	wrcooke at yahoo.com
Field Day Chairmen	Mike Davidson, N5MT	n5mt@aol.com
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net
DX Chairman	Orville Burg, K5VWW	Orville@rubyglass.com
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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.tdxx.net> email address: 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 January

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

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