



The Bullsheet

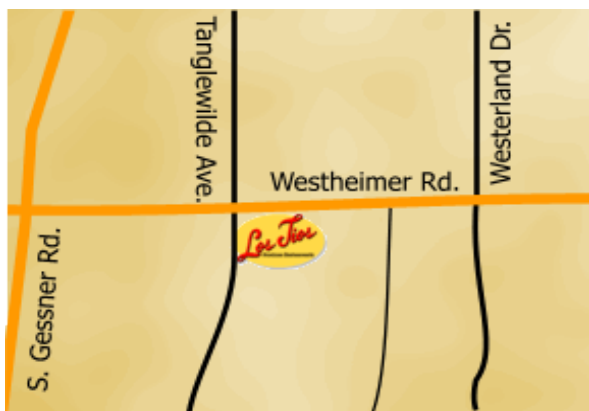
The Official News Bulletin of The Texas DX Society
An ARRL Affiliated Club

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net November 2008

Food and Fables

This month's meeting will be a dinner meeting to be held at Los Tios

Store. We will gather about 6:30 PM Thursday November 13th.



Map of the Los Tios Location

Mexican Restaurant. The restaurant is located at 9527 Westheimer Road behind the Firestone

There will be separate checks and you can order what you like from the menu.



Things are Happening at NR5M

While we are socializing and eating there will be ample opportunity to visit and tell your favorite Ike stories or even talk about your recent

radio activities. There will be a brief business meeting and a few announcements. Come join us there. As always guests are welcome.

TDXS Welcomes Two New Members

The TDXS Membership recently voted on two proposals for membership. Both proposals were approved. Please welcome new members

K5DD Scott Patout and NI5DX Buzz Loeschman.

This month's dinner meeting and next

month's Christmas Party will give everyone a chance to say hello to Scott and Buzz.

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The Prez Sez de Steve W9DX

If you missed last month's meeting, you missed your chance to vote for our new 2009 officers. We didn't have any officer positions with more than one volunteer or nominee, so full members in attendance unanimously approved our new officers for 2009 as follows: President, Paul Frantz W5PF; VP Programs Cal White WF5W; VP Membership, Bob Mennell WB5IUU; Secretary/Treasurer, Bill Frink K5WAF. Doug Seyler WB5TKI has volunteered to be Bullsheet editor. K5WAF, WB5IUU and NM5G will team up to coordinate our 2009 Field Day efforts. We are planning to test and assemble all FD equipment next April or May as a weekend club meeting event. Thanks guys for stepping up and continuing to serve our organization!

The club DXpedition to Mozambique or Swaziland for late March 2009 is firming up for 15 days in country with 3 days in Kruger National Park and 12 days in Mozambique (C9) or Swaziland (3DA0). The TDXS group will have 3 or 4 stations on the air, including participation in the CQ WPX Phone contest. Team members include: WF5W, NM5G, K5WAF, and KG5U. There's room for more but sign up early before airfares and rates increase. This will be the trip of a lifetime that you'll talk about for years! "You're gonna have fun! Guaranteed!" says Cal. If interested, contact Frosty K5LBU and Cal WF5W.

Buzz N5UR advises that the club's QSL forwarding service is temporarily suspended while Buzz completes repairs on his house after Hurricane Ike. Buzz says that rates to ship cards to the various bureaus have increased dramatically. His last batch of outgoing cards weighed over 30 pounds! The TDXS QSL forwarding service was originally designed to pay the cost of forwarding members' cards to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau or directly to the foreign QSL bureaus. This has always been a great benefit to members, especially our contest and DXpedition stations. Lately however, we've been forwarding more and more non-member cards where TDXS members act as the QSL Manager for various non-member stations. We have already spent almost \$200 forwarding cards this year, and Buzz still has another 15 pounds of cards to sort and mail. This expense is now eating up more than half our annual dues income. Regretfully, we can no longer foot the bill for forwarding of cards that members handle for non-member stations as QSL Managers. Buzz will forward all cards received already, but in the future only full and associate TDXS members' cards will be accepted (including club DXpedition cards). Since Buzz is planning to move out of the Houston area sometime next year we will need for someone to take over this duty. If you have the time and love to sort cards, please step forward!

According to Bill Moore NC1L, December 31, 2008 is the deadline for submitting endorsements for inclusion in the 2008 DXCC Honor Roll List and the 2008 DXCC Annual List. If you have anything to send in, be sure it's postmarked by December 31st. I usually update our DXCC webpage totals once a year, and will do so again early next year unless you have significant changes to report. To keep everyone on the same basis, I only show what ARRL has in their online lookup pages. No sooner than you send your cards in there may be 4 new DXCC entities after December 15th as the Netherlands Antilles is broken up. According to OPDX "It was reported on the SEDXC Mailing Reflector by Mike, K4PI: "Netherlands Antilles to net new DXCC Entities for 2008 -- Over the past year much discussion has been made about the possibility of new DXCC entities happening once the break-up/disbanding of the Netherlands Antilles takes effect on December 15th, 2008. This past week, the President of European DX Foundation (EUDXF), Hans, PB2T, who visited ARRL HQ in July and had a discussion about the DXCC status of Netherlands Antilles, feels that after December 15th, 2008, it looks like four new entities will be added to the DXCC list in the future (Curacao, Sint Maarten, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Bonaire)."

During the past few weeks, I've been receiving a lot of QSL cards for K5DX lately, and none were for valid contacts. I couldn't imagine that

The Prez Sez (continued)

many stations busted a callsign. Then I check the DX cluster and found quite a few European spots for K5DX. On closer inspection, all were for phone contacts during the period when TO5DX was operating from St. Barts in October. Apparently "TO" sounds a lot like "Kilo". It's amazing how many stations jump into a pile-up and don't have any idea who they are working, or rely on busted cluster spots.

I have no idea how I got top billing in the current NCJ issue's Dayton 2008 Photo Gallery. Looks like I went through the Dayton wringer again and still had another day to go! Ugh!

The fall contest season is in full swing, and several familiar club voices were heard operating CQWW Phone from NR5M's station in Hempstead. Be sure to check out George's antenna farm pix on our homepage and elsewhere in this issue.

Special recognition this month goes out to Cookie K5EWJ who now has a nice piece of wallpaper from the ARRL for 1st Place South Texas, 5th Place U.S./Canada with his CW only, Single Operator, Low Power entry in the 2007 ARRL 10 meter contest!

Nice job Cookie! The ARRL has now posted the rules for the 2008 ARRL 10m Contest, and a link can be



A stack at NR5M

found on our homepage calendar. Ron Marosco K5LLL also took 1st Place SO-HP in the South Texas Section in the 2007 ARRL September VHF QSO Party, and took 9th Place in U.S./Canada which is quite an achievement this far south!

If you haven't visited the ARRL website lately, check out the 2008 Field Day scores at:

<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/results/2008/FD/>.

TDXS did very well taking 3rd place with 6630 points in the 2A category in South Texas and 4th in STX for all categories. There's no reason we can't take 1st place next year if we have all our antennas working and avoid any down time. We are planning to have a weekend club meeting next spring to test everything and make sure it's working before taking it to FD.

Mike N5AU has informed me that the 1st quarter 2009 DXpedition to Desecheo is a definite go after receiving approval from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. 15 team members are going on this trip to activate the 7th most needed DXCC entity. See www.kp5.us. This will be an expensive endeavor with costs estimated at \$70,000.00 not counting team members travel ex-

penses before and after the DXpedition. Almost half has been raised from team members. Although our own DXpedition funds are for use by members' DXpeditions, we should pass the hat and make a contribution in our club's name. TDXS had its own team on Desecheo in March 1985 so we know what it takes.

The Prez Sez (concluded)

Despite losing his new house on Crystal Beach during Hurricane Ike, Chuck Dietz W5PR says "The TDXS

2008 Christmas Party is definitely a go!"

This will take place on Thursday December 11th at Chuck's office near downtown Houston. We will provide details in next month's Bullsheet. This is a great party, so plan to attend! We are still looking for a location for our January banquet, so if you have any ideas speak up now!

Keep Linda Walworth KE5TF in your thoughts and prayers as she continues her treatments. We all look forward to seeing Linda again soon at a TDXS gathering! (contd. Next page)

Wayne Rogers W5KDJ continues to post bargains on the club mail

reflector as he prepares to move to a new QTH. I'm glad I didn't get

those gel cell batteries after finding out they were 80 lbs each!

Our November 13th meeting will be a

dinner meeting with no formal program and lots of time for socializing after a few brief announcements. In spite of our earlier plans at the Spaghetti Warehouse, they informed us that they will be closed for renovations on November 13th, so we had to move our dinner meeting to the always popular Los Tios Mexican Restaurant at 9527 Westheimer. The meeting will start at 6:30 PM in the back room. Order whatever you like from the menu, and separate checks will make settling up easier for everyone. See you there!

Steve - W9DX



Low band array at NR5M

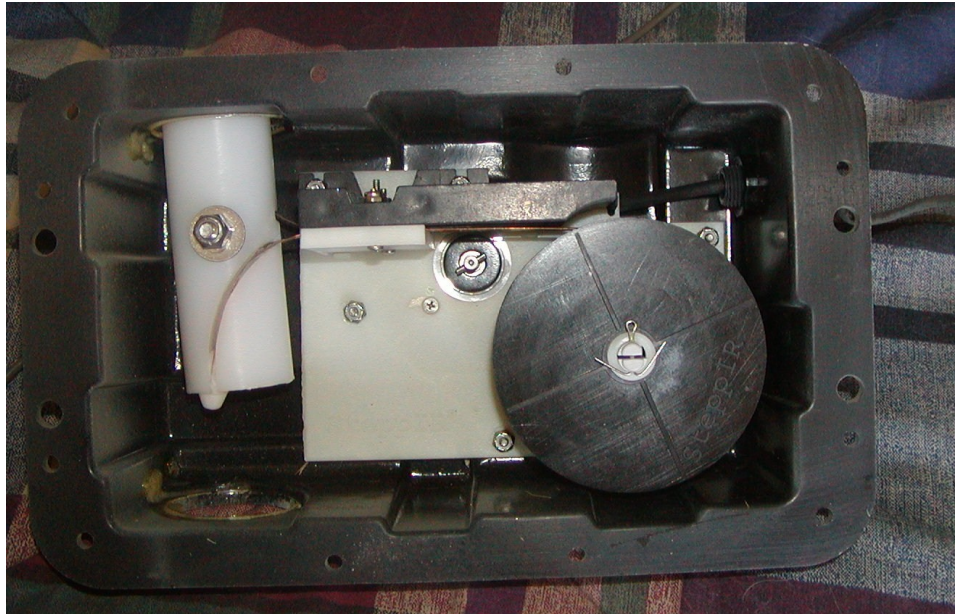
From the TDXS Archives:

Ten years ago this month, President Bob Walworth N5ET was talking about all the juicy DX on 10 meters and that our packet cluster was running full blast, just like a contest. Contest Chairman Joe W5ASP reported that TDXS placed 6th in the 1997 ARRL 10m Contest club standings. Chuck Dietz KZ5MM (now W5PR) suggested the club "get its act together and make a serious run at the gavel" (1st Place). W5ASP suggested that even if half of the active members made an effort, we could do it. DX Chairman Buzz N5UR reported on 3 major DXpeditions for the month to Eritrea, Burma and Pratas Island. Mike K5NU gave a product review of the Kachina 505 DSP. Bill Eckenrode W5SG was apparently cleaning shack and had loads of goodies for sale.

Ike Hits Santa Fe de Cookie K5EWJ

Shortly after midnight on September 13 the eye of Hurricane Ike crossed my QTH about 15 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. I estimate that the sustained winds were 110 mph or more from the east for about an hour before the eye and then from the west a couple of hours later after the eye. My 3 element SteppIR with the 30/40 feature was atop my 65 ft tower at about 67 feet above the ground and about 25 feet above the tree tops. The trees were on the north, south and east sides with none on the west.

When the wind stopped and I could inspect the next day only the return tubes of the 30/40 feature remained attached to the boom. One of the driven element tubes was dangling from one of the return arc end pieces. (see attached photo). All the other tubes were found to the east of the tower which should indicate that the beam survived the forward



Reflector motor with missing drive sprocket

about 18" of one of the reflector tape protruding from the motor unit from the ground. Each of the tubes had the remains of the attachment fiber-

glass attach piece that fits around the Teflon rod and fractured where holes for the attachment bolt and the entry ports for the tape had been cut. The drive sprockets and their plastic shaft for the reflector element was missing and has not been found at this time. The upper housing for the motor was torn where the element tubes had broken away. The driven stepper motor had been replaced last December because of a broken sprocket shaft and it has the black shaft. The reflector and director still had the original gray plastic shafts. The beryllium-copper tapes all appear to be reusable. The stepper motors and the balun have no visible damage and should be reusable.



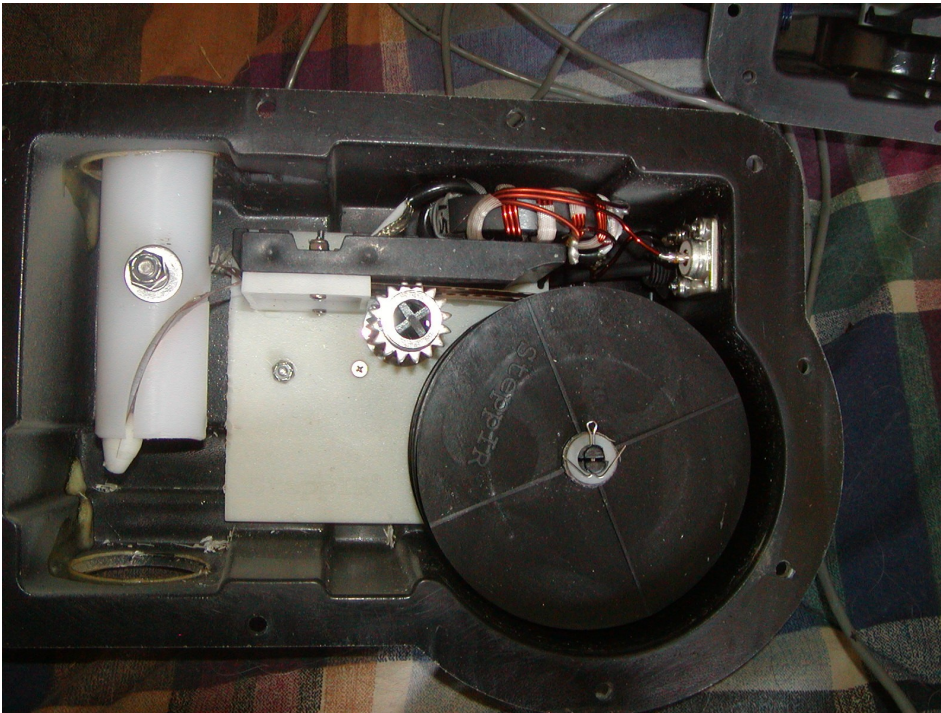
wall of the storm and failed during the passage of the back half. I had retracted the tapes before the storm in hope that they would not be damaged if a tube failed. I could see

glass tube still around the tube.

When I removed the boom from the tower and disassembled the stepper motor units I found that the fiber-

The Ham IV rotor suffered a broken drive ring (as always) and the bolts that hold the bell housing to the brake housing had all fallen out. I lost a couple of the ball bearings during the dis-assembly of the beam installation. The needed parts have been ordered from Hy-Gain but I forgot to order the new bearings and thought I could find the #12-24

Ike Hits Santa Fe (continued)



Driven element motor, note drive sprocket and balun

screws locally. I could not find anyone who stocked #12-24 screws, so I am waiting for a second delivery from Hy-Gain

SteppIR parts that I think that I need:

Fiberglass piece for each of the three motors.

Two top housings with gaskets

One 30/40 top housing with gaskets

Two drive sprocket assemblies with the black plastic.

Two rolls of the wide vinyl electrical tape

Two return bows for the 30/40 element

Four O rings for the 30/40 element

The tower is 65 feet of Rohn 25 with the tilt-over boom and winch that Rohn has now discontinued. It was guyed with 3/16" steel cable at the hinge and at the top with an anti-torque fixture. The tower did not sustain any detectable damage. Perhaps because the elements broke away, perhaps not.

I folded the tower when I replaced the driven element. It was necessary to remove one of the return bows to fold the tower because the return tube and the driven tube are on opposite sides of the boom. One of the return bow attachments was broken during the reassembly and I repaired it with duct tape covered with electrical tape. That was the connection which held the driven element tube.

I sent the following message to SteppIR and have been working with them to repair the antenna:

"I have enjoyed the SteppIR beam

very much. I recognize that it was subjected to greater than design stress, but seems very repairable. I will include some pictures, but they are high resolution, so I cannot attach all the pictures that I have to one email. If you need further information, either to help me repair my antenna or for engineering evaluation please request them and I will try to get you a good photo of what you need."

Other Antennas

I lowered my Chicken Wire Special before the storm. With slack in the wires the antenna got tangled in a tree and the halyard got caught on part of the tower, but it was fairly easy to get back up and is my only HF antenna at the present time.

My 80/40 inverted Vee was knocked down when a tree limb fell on the guy ropes for the 50 ft push pole. It broke the pole in half. I am waiting for the roofers to complete their repair before I put it back up. I am not sure that my repair to the push pole will work out, but the collapse and push part will not work, so getting it erected may take some creativity if it can be done at all.

My 160 meter Carolina Windom was supported by 40 ft of 2" PVC conduit. The top of the mast was guyed by the antenna in two directions. The 30 ft pole supporting one end bent in half and allowed the PVC to bend. I need to change the guys and reinstall the support poles. This is also waiting for the roofers to finish.

Willis 'Cookie' Cooke

K5EWJ

Texas DX Society Boardmembers

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---|--------------|
| President | Steve Smothers, W9DX | cougar70 at earthlink.net | |
| VP Membership | Paul Frantz, W5PF | w5pf at cebridge.net | |
| VP Programs | Cal White, WF5W | cwhite314 at sbcglobal.net | |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Bill Frink, K5WAF | | |
| Contest Chairman | Don Daze, N5DD | | |
| Field Day Chairman | Bill Frink, K5WAF | | |
| Repeater Chairman | Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF | wb5tuf at earthlink.net | 832-595-2855 |
| DXpedition Chairman | Cal White, WF5W | cwhite314 at sbcglobal.net | |
| Outgoing QSL Manager | Buzz Jehle, N5UR | | |
| Webmaster | Steve Smothers, W9DX | cougar70 at earthlink.net | |
| Bullsheet Editor | Paul Frantz, W5PF | w5pf at cebridge.net | 936-449-4873 |
| DXCC QSL 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

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 November

Bob King - K5IY

Charles Brues - N5AM

John Davis - KN5T

Bob Chmielewski - N5PJI

Ed Gerber - W5GCX

Don Daze - N5DD

Keith Huges - KA5F

Robert McWhorter - K5PFE

Bill Eckenrode - W5SG

Tom Ashworth - N5EA

Chuck Hornburg - K5IX

Joe Staples - W5ASP

Chuck Dietz - W5PR

Jim Carmody - NN5O

Bruce Meier - N1LN

Don Mayhall - N5DM

Matt Thomas - WX5S