



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 2010

A Smorgasbord of Radio History

Sept 9th, Thursday 7PM: TDXS Meeting Night at the Tracy Gee Center.

Program by John Firey W5ZG covering a number of fascinating topics: Collins radios early '30's thru the S/line, restored trans-Australian telegraph relay stations, the German enigma machines, & high end European made re-

ceivers.

Pre-meeting dinner get-together starts around 5:30PM at Pappa's BBQ on S. Gessner (just south of Westheimer). Visitors welcome, so come on down!



Editor's Note de Doug WB5TKI

Did you see the results of the 2010 ARRL DX Phone contest? On page 80 of the September issue of QST it shows YN2EA as 9th in the Multi-OP Single Transmitter category with 2,465,280 confirmed points. Checking the on-line Log Checking Report shows that we only lost 61 out of 3534 claimed QSOs due to incorrect calls

or exchanges. Looking at the incorrect calls, it is usually something like GZ instead of GD, or W5 instead of K5 or NA1 rather than NE1. Regarding exchanges, we had one station worked on 4 bands, all with the wrong exchange (MD instead of DC) so that was probably correct copy on our part. Overall I think that the YN2EA team

(of which I was a member) did TDXS proud. Don't forget the 21 Again net on 21290 on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Central time. This past Wednesday there was a check-in from Tasmania, VK7XX. With 15 m. starting to come back you never know who will be on.

Inside this issue:

The Prez Sez	2
From the Bullsheet Archives	3
Contest Chairman's Report	4-5
Programs, Dxpeditons and Stuff	6
TDXSer at the 2010 Boy Scout Jamboree	7
A Visit to the Harris County OEM	8-9
Birthdays	10

The Prez Sez de Paul W5PF

Texas QSO Party/TDXS 40th Anniversary QSO Party

The annual Texas QSO Party is coming up on September 25th and 26th. This year we are holding the TDXS 40th Anniversary QSO Party in conjunction with TQP. The idea is to get as many TDXS members as possible to participate in the TQP and to work as many other members as they can. Steve W9DX has put a lot of work into getting this together. He has made a page on our web site which has all the rules as well as a form to use to submit your log. The web page is <http://www.tdxs.net/qp/tdxs40qp.html>. TDXS has had a long involvement with TQP including the Great Armadillo Run. I encourage all TDXS members, active, inactive, located in Texas or not to participate in the TDXS 40th Anniversary QSO Party.

The contest season has begun with some kind of contest just about every weekend. Sometimes there are multiple contests on the same weekend. Now is the time to plan your

contest/DXpedition trip. Remember that the club has the Topp Dxpediton and Contest Fund to help out with expenses for such trips. If you have a trip in mind contact our Dxpediton chairman Cal WF5W or any club officer for details on how to apply for funds. At the moment the only trips I am aware of are to Nicaragua for CQWW DX CW in November and another group going to the same station for WPX Phone in March.

The solar flux numbers are finally moving upward. Conditions on the bands above 20 Meters should be improving with the coming of Fall. Jim NN5O is running the 21 Again Net each week at 7:00PM Central Daylight Time (0000Z Thursday) on 21.290 MHz. Look for Jim and the net and also check out 15 meters for some interesting openings.

After last month's meeting at Transtar and the dinner at Tia Maria's we are back to our normal routine. The pre meeting dinner will be at Pappas' BBQ at Gessner and Westheimer starting around 5:30. The meeting will be at Tracey

Gee Center at 7:00PM. The program is by John Firey W5ZG and will cover various topics including early Collins equipment, the German Enigma machines and others. Full details are on our web site www.tdxs.net.

I'll see you all on Thursday,

Paul W5PF

From the Bullsheet Archives by Steve W9DX

Ten years ago this month September 2000: The September meeting was held in the Wine Room of the Blue Agave Restaurant on West Gray. A membership ballot was going out for Bruce Meier N1LN. DX Chairman Buzz Jehle N5UR gave a recap of the current DXpeditions including A52FH, ZD9ZM, VK6BM, Cuban IOTA's and 4W East Timor. Our very own Dennis Motschenbacher K7BV had obtained his UN license for East Timor and was expected to be QRV by October 8-16. Frosty K5LBU wrote a fascinating article on his return to Africa with daughters and sons-in-law in July and their adventures operating from ZS6 in South Africa, and Swaziland 3DA0. Plans were already forming for the next trip back to ZS, 3DA0 and possibly C9.

Twenty years ago this month September 1990: The TDXS monthly meeting was held at Hewlett Packard on Harwin Drive, with a special program by HP on antenna measurements and their specialized equipment. Sharp K5DX (SK) was gathering member's QSL cards and DXpedition cards for the TDXS hospitality suite display at the Houston Convention '90. TDXS President Kenny Grabenstein KE5IV (now W5AAC) was asking for new officer nominations, and asking for volunteers to help with the Convention. DX Chairman Bob Walworth AK5B (now

N5ET) gave a recap of the latest ZA rumors, IOTA activities, K5LZO's (SK) maritime mobile adventures in the Red Sea, the upcoming VP8 South Sandwich & South Georgia DXpedition, and Frosty K5LBU & XYL Jeanne's latest report from Zambia. Bob also reported the passing of DX Hall of Fame member Gus Browning W4BPD in August. Dale Martin KG5U was signing up TDXS members for our team entries in the upcoming North American Sprint contests. Ken KE5IV (now W5AAC) reported that our packet cluster and node were up and running, and comments on the apparent lack of concern from the League about possible conflicts between packet clusters and SAREX or AMSAT activities.

Thirty years ago this month September 1980: The September meeting and "eatfest" was held at the Marriott Brookhollow. TDXS was making final preparations for the Houston Convention '80 to be held October 3-4. Bob Sorace WD5CHY (SK) was coordinating the TDXS hospitality suite activities, with Orville Burg K5VWW heading up the forums, and Dennis Motschenbacher KA5CHW (now K7BV) was handling the emcee duties. Lee Norman W5DOZ (SK) and "Sharp" K5DX (SK) were busy gathering cards for the hospitality suite DXCC QSL card display. Al Loeckle

K5BZU (now K5FK) was handling the club raffle tickets. Tom Taormina K5RC was stepping down as Bullsheet editor to handle his new duties as NCJ editor. The K5LZO (SK) multi-op crew made the top 10 in the June VHF QSO Party, and set a new West Gulf Division record for the event. Tom K5RC, and Dennis KA5CHW (now K7BV) had interesting insights on how to keep the hourly rate up during ARRL Sweepstakes contests. They showed how the top ten scores changed bands up to 6 times/hour, with Dennis dubbing this "the bounce". Excellent tips worth reading again. See: http://www.tdxs.net/bs80/Sep80_2.pdf. TDXS welcomed new members: Keith Huge KA5F, Tom Ashworth N5EA, and Al Vacek N5ATC (now KN5A). "Butch" Barber K5GB (SK) assumed the duties of club Treasurer after Richard King's (K5NA) move to W2-land.

Contest Chairman's Report by Cookie Cooke, K5EWJ

The long hot Houston summer is nearing the end and it is time to think about the fall contest season. Every weekend has something of interest. A continuous stream of state QSO parties will help build your county list and afford a lot of fun. Of course the featured state contest is our own Texas QSO party that this year doubles as our TDXS 40th anniversary party. I am anticipating that TDXS will have our usual good showing with a special

effort to contact TDXS members from our present members and our friends who have left the area for greener pastures. The CQ World Wide RTTY, SSB and CW contests are always favorites and we should have a few sun spots to make them more fun than in recent years. There is also a good selection of Ten-Ten, FISTS and SKCC contests. There will also be numerous specialty band contests and DX sponsored contests of all sorts. There are

contests offered for every interest, but far too many for participation in all of them, so make your choices, ready your station, mark your calendar and get ready for some fall contest fun!

Allen Brier, N5XZ/KL5DX represented TDXS as well as the Alaskan Contest Club with several entries this month while operating the ACC club station, KL7AA in the Russian District Award Contest, 25Qs in 25 Districts; the North American

Contests coming up:

Sept 10-12	FISTS Get Your Feet Wet
Sept 11-12	WAE DX Contest SSB
Sept 12	SKCC Weekend Sprint
Sept 25-26	CQ World Wide DX Contest, RTTY
Sept 25-26	Texas QSO Party and TDXS Anniversary Party
Oct 2-3	California QSO Party
Oct 9-10	Oceania DX Contest, CW
Oct 9-10	Arizona QSO Party
Oct 9-10	Pennsylvania QSO Party
Oct 9	Fists Fall Sprint
Oct 10	SKCC Weekend Sprint
Oct 10	10-10 International, 10-10 day Sprint
Oct 16-17	New York QSO Party
Oct 17-18	Illinois QSO Party
Oct 23-24	Stew Perry Topband Challenge
Oct 30-31	CQ World Wide DX Contest, SSB
Oct 30-31	10-10 International Fall Contest, Digital
Nov 6-8	ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW
Nov 20-22	ARRL November Sweepstakes, SSB
Nov 27-28	CQ World Wide DX Contest, CW

Contest Chairman's Report (cont.) by Cookie Cooke, K5EWJ

QSO Party, SSB, 361 Qs and 66 mults for 23,826 score; the NAQP, CW for 623 Qs, 92 mults, 57,319 score; and the WAE DX Contest, CW for 262 Qs, 72 mults, 37,728 score.

Way to burn up the airways Allen!!

Glen Anderson, WB5TUF and Scott Patout, K5DD represented us well in the RTTY contests this month with Glen scoring 197 Qs, 417 points, 104 mults, 43,368 score in the SCC RTTY. Scott scored 90 Qs, 194 points, 60 mults, 90,194 in the SCC RTTY and 50 Qs, 350 points, 10 mults, 8,050 score in the SARTG RTTY.

Mike Davidson, N5MT scored 240 Qs and 408 points to take 3rd in the World during the 10-10 International Summer Phone Contest. He also worked the Methodist Hospital ARC club station, NM5H to the same score for the top club score in the contest. He led the Space Houston on Ten chapter to another first place chapter score of 1804 with two of the 13 logs. Bill Stone, WS5H, a BVARC member also had a good showing with 322 points each for his station and the BVARC club station, KK5W and two more logs for the count. KE5APJ, Dave

helped with the KK5W contacts. Other SHOT logs were submitted by N3UNK, K5EWJ, AF5T, KE5APJ, WX5I, K5NDB, KE5HDF and N5DTT. (I missed somebody, who?, sorry!)

Work on the USS Stewart and USS Cavalla has gone a bit slow this month, partly from the heat and partly from me being busy with my XYL, Barbara, WB5NVH being in the hospital but we did get a few things done. We are still working on the port long wire antenna of the Stewart. The rust worms turned an insulator loose and broke a solder connection on the antenna feed tubing. We made some progress on the repair, but it is not complete. I took a lot of pictures to note the state of repair of the main transmitter on the Stewart and to study the antenna feeders and configuration for the receive antennas. Maybe the fall season will be more productive. I did obtain the club license and vanity call for the park. The call is N5BPS, similar to the Navy call for the Cavalla, NBPS. I also obtained SKCC and 10-10 International numbers for the park club call sign. Framed copies of the station license are posted in both

ships and a framed copy of the 10-10 certificate is ready to post the next time I go out.

I decided to buy a Kenwood TS-480SAT for my mobile. The TS-440S that I have been using is sort of big and the faceplate is reflective and difficult to read in the sun light. Using Cal's TS-480HX for three Field Day's have me convinced that the receiver is good enough to enjoy, even after much use of the excellent receivers in the K3, and I like the utility of the removable face plate. I am not trying to decide how to mount the face plate for best advantage and how to wire a boom mike/headset. I think I will enjoy the built in tuner that is lacking in my TS-440S. Some of my friends? On the Elecraft reflector assure me that I will hate the receiver, but I don't think so. Since the K3 is a bit bigger than the 440 and does not have an approved mount, I am cool to the idea of a K3 in the mobile. Besides, the \$1,000 Kenwood is not quite as expensive as a tricked out K3.

Programs, Dxpeditions and Stuff de Cal WF5W

Nothing to report on Dxpeditions, the Sea Pumpkin or the QRP, BUT did a lot of heavy sweaty work (in the sun of course) on a new HEX Beam.

It took donkeys days to get it up and running. First tried the Walmart fishing poles, but they just are too flimsy. Had to go the limit for real fiberglass at about 3 times the cost. BUT works great. Worked Moscow first time on 5 watts on 20....(with the beam at just 23 feet). If anybody is interested, between Paul W5PF and I we have spent the time and know the ropes now. So, get crack-

ing. It weighs in at about 18 pounds with the new heavy poles, Ours in on 20/17/15/ and 10 m.

Guess it's the sign of the dog days of August, NOTHING exciting on the radio here. QRN and QRM on the low bands and not much interest in the others at the moment. Been busy doing honey does.....

c u at the meeting..

Cal WF5W



TDXSers at the 2010 Boy Scout Jamboree de Kirk Kridner KV5Q

Two TDXS members were part of the 42 ham crew at the K2BSA Amateur Radio Station at the 2010 Boy Scout National Jamboree held on July 26 – August 4, 2010, at Fort AP Hill in Virginia. Pictured are (L) Kirk Kridner, KV5Q, from Flower Mound, TX (TDXS #97) and (R) George Wagner, K5KG of Sarasota, FL (TDXS #43). George was one of the operators in the Demo Station giving tours to the Scouts and letting them talk on the air while Kirk was part of the licensing group teaching Technician classes & working as a VE during

the exam sessions.

Thanks to the generous donations and loaned equipment from the various equipment manufacturers, K2BSA had ten stations operating on various bands and modes. The equipment included several ICOM IC-7600's, Yaesu FT-950D's & Kenwood TS-2000's, a TenTec Jupiter, and several other rigs. During the 10 days of operation at the Jamboree, more than 6,000 Boy Scouts & their leaders toured the K2BSA demonstration station, & 316 license exams were administered by the VEs with 147 passing

element 2 (Technician), 33 passing element 3 (General), and 8 passing element 4 (Extra). Additionally, 210 Scouts earned the Radio Merit Badge at the K2BSA Merit Badge Midway exhibit.

The highlight of the week was when six Scouts had the opportunity to talk with the astronauts on the International Space Station during a scheduled QSO with the ISS.

73,

Kirk KV5Q
TDXS #97



A Visit to the Harris County OEM Facility de Doug WB5TKI

Our August TDXS meeting was held at the Houston TranStar facility in northwest Houston. This is also the location of the Harris County Office of Emergency Management, or as it is now known, the Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. Mark Annas and Carol Manoussos gave us a verbal tour of the operations room of Houston TranStar. It was designed and built by the same company that built the NASA Mission Control facility. In addition to TranStar, the room contains liaisons to TEXDOT, the Houston Police and Metro. On the second floor is the HCOHSEM Emergency Operations Center. From here County Judge Ed Emmett directs emergency response and disaster relief operations. There is also an adjacent radio room where ARES volunteers can provide liaison through ham radio.

WOW, how the technology has changed! It was a very informative meeting.

Thanks to Bob WB5IUU for the pictures.



The TranStar operations room



Mark Annas talking with Jim NN50

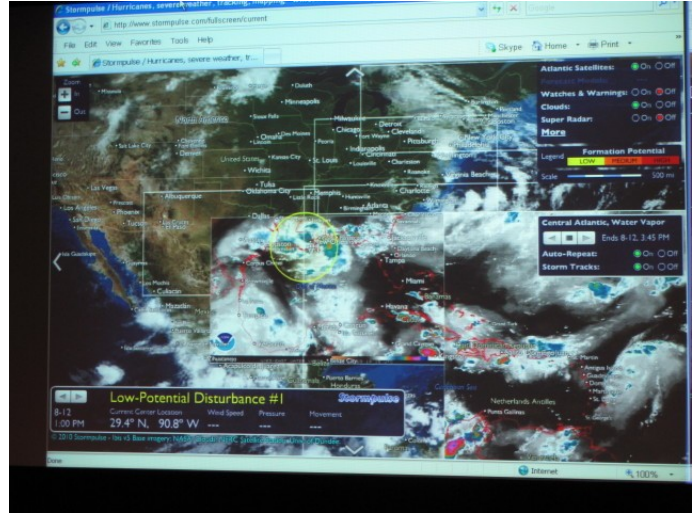


The HCOHSEM Emergency Operations Center

A Visit to the Harris County OEM Facility (cont.) de Doug WB5TKI



In the EOC



Lots of weather info in the EOC



Carol Manousos in the ham shack



The HCOHSEM Emergency Operations Center



In the HCOHSEM Emergency Operations Center ham shack



Texas DX Society Boardmembers

President	Paul Frantz, W5PF	w5pf at cebridge.net	
VP Membership	Bob Mennell, WB5IUU	bmennell at consolidated.net	
VP Programs	Cal White, WF5W	cwhite314 at sbcglobal.net	
Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Frink, K5WAF	WAFrink at msn.com	
Contest Chairman	Willis "Cookie" Cooke K5EWJ	wrcooke at yahoo.com	
Field Day Chairman	Mike Bragassa, K5UO	bragassa at consolidated.net	
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net	832-595-2855
DXpedition Chairman	Cal White, WF5W	cwhite314 at sbcglobal.net	
Outgoing QSL Manager	Scott Patout, K5DD	K5DD at arrl.net	
Webmaster	Steve Smothers, W9DX	cougar70 at earthlink.net	
Bullsheel Editor	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	dseyler at dseyler.com	
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 September

Bill Denton - W5SB

Dave Evans - K5SOR

Galen Graff - KB5FU

Tom Taormina - K5RC

Jay Temple - W5JQ

Lance Rumfield - WD5KCX

Steve Nace - KN5H

Bob King, Jr. - NM5L

Dave Sarkozi - WB5N

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.