



The Bullsheet

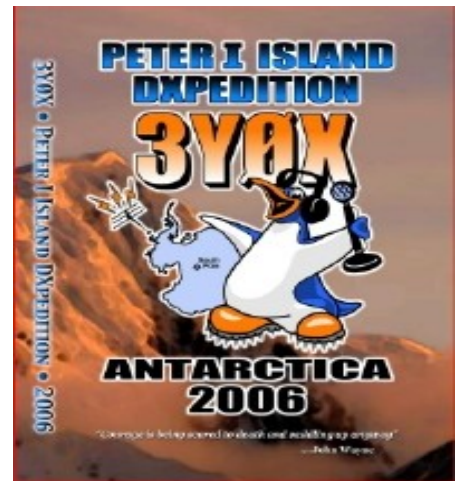
The Official News Bulletin of
The Texas DX Society
An ARRL Affiliated Club

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net February 2011

Program: The 2006 3Y0X DXpedition

Thursday, February 10, 7:00 PM
TDXS Meeting Night: Tracy
Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter
Dr, Houston. Pre-meeting dinner
get-together starts around
5:30/6PM at Pappas BBQ on S.
Gessner & Westheimer.

Program from Bob W5UQ will
show a video by Bob Allphin
on his 2006 trip to Peter I Island
in Antarctica. This is an inside
look at a big time DXpedition.
Don't miss it!



Editor's Note de Jim N4AL

This is my second attempt at a Bullsheet. This software has strange gremlins that are a little hard to figure out. Things have a way of disappearing or appearing from nowhere. Don't you just LOVE Microsoft?

This month we have some real treats. Cal WF5W has agreed to continue writing his column, even though he is no longer an officer in the club. In his new column, you can read this month about his attempt to find a suitable small antenna that travels well for DXpeditions.

From out in Nevada, long time TDXSer Tom K5RC submitted an interesting piece about how things were then and now. I hope you Old Timer TDXSers enjoy his article enough that you feel motivated to send along a contribution of your own in some future month. Tell us about that big contest you won, or the significant DXpedition you were on.

Steve W9DX took some great photos at the 2011 TDXS banquet in January. Many are on the TDXS web site, but a few of the highlights are reprinted here for those

who haven't seen them. Thanks, Steve, for being such a super webmaster.

Thanks to all the contributors to this month's Bullsheet. Input from members are what makes the club go, so please contribute something of your own next month. I especially appreciate your getting it to me early, since I'm still learning how to do this job.

Please remember to update Steve W9DX with any changes to your DXCC status, so he can update the web page.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|----------|
| The Prez Sez | 2 |
| 2011 Banquet Photos | 3 |
| Postings from the Shack of WF5W | 4 |
| Once a Rowdie ... Always a Rowdie | 5 |
| Boardmembers | 6 |
| February Birthdays | 6 |



The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

The January Banquet was well attended. We had 34, including guest John Firey W5ZG, who made 2 presentations to the club last year on Collins equipment. We pretty much filled the banquet room. The food was great, as was the camaraderie. The Door Prize, a one year subscription to the Daily DX, was won by Arthur N5KTN. Wayne W5KDJ got the "Yagi on a Roll" award for his trip to Iraq as part of the historic YI9PSE DXpedition. Paul W5PF received a special "Sandbagger of the Year" award from his fellow members of the November CQWWDX contest team in Nicaragua, H7V. It seems that, before the contest, Paul was feigning a lack of speed in CW contesting. As it turned out, he produced some really prodigious QSO rates. If you haven't seen the Banquet pictures, they can be found at www.tdxs.net/Banquet11.html.

As I write this I'm listening to VP8ORK on 40m. WOW, the pileup is tremendous! As I've checked them on a number of bands, I've been saddened to hear all of the intentional QRM. Tuning, sending zero-

beat, even RTTY on frequency. And apparently LISTENING UP means nothing to too many hams. It may be that too many hams don't know how to put their rigs in Split mode.

Field Day is a little over 4 months away, so we need to decide whether we will mount our own effort or join another club's operation. Keith NM5G has invited us to join the NARS Field Day operation. In order to do our own, I need someone to step forward as Field Day Chairman. Field Day is a demonstration of emergency preparedness, as well as an outreach to the non-ham community. We can be as gung-ho or as laid back as the members choose, but planning needs to start now. Please consider these options and we will discuss the topic at the next meeting.

The February meeting will feature a video of the 2006 3Y0X DXpedition to Peter I. It should be awesome! See you at the meeting!

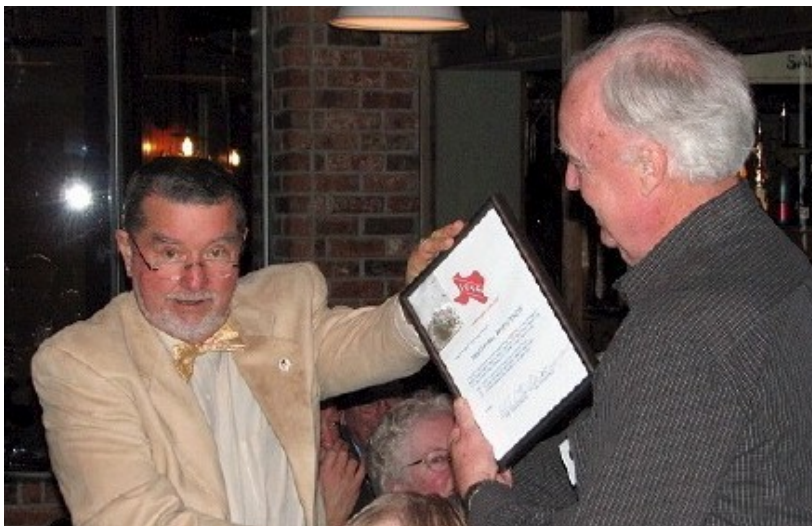
73 es GUD DX, Doug WB5TKI

2011 Banquet Photos by Steve W9DX



Incoming Pres Doug WB5TKI accepts the “Jawbone of an Ass” from outgoing Pres Paul W5PF. Is the purpose of that red cord to allow him to wear the Jawbone at meetings as a sign of authority?

Wayne W5KDJ beams after being awarded the “Yagi on a Roll” for his DXpedition to Iraq as a member of the YI9PSE team. Wayne has won this award before for his DXpedition exploits. That’s a new roll... did someone eat the old one?



Paul W5PF receives the “Sandbagger of the Year” award from outgoing DXpedition chair Cal WF5W for understating his CW abilities on their 2010 trip to YN. Once upon a time, modesty was considered a virtue.

Postings from the Shack of WF5W by Cal WF5W

It seems strange not to be writing about DX locations and worrying about what we will do for the a program for our next meeting. But our new Bull Sheet Editor has asked me to continue to contribute something.

This coming March, K5WAF, W5PF, W5IUU and I, will journey to **Barbados** for a **DXpedition**, this one accompanied by our XYLs. Since we are going to take antennas, radios, and other necessary gear, we had to consider the limitations now placed by the airlines and find a way to downsize whatever we bring. At the last Ham Com in Dallas (yes, this trip was planned a long time ago). Mike K5UO, Paul W5PF and I saw K5BOB, of Amarillo, selling his kit for a hex beam. He calls it the "Bobber Hex." It looked do-able and the price was right, (and we had heard so many comments from dx guys that hex beams work well) so I ordered a kit.

(For those of you who don't know about the hex beam, it is basically a two element yagi with bent elements made of wire. Two elements on each band are all tied into one 50 ohm coax feedline. When properly tuned the swr is almost 1:1 on each band.)

Little did we know how difficult it was going to be..

Bob suggested that we could use poles intended for crappie fishing as the spreaders. That was easy, a trip to the local Walmart yielded 5 poles at about 8 bucks each. **Well, not really easy**, we spent a couple of days trying to make them bend each one the same, but to no avail. At times W5PF, K5UO, W5MJ spent time with me trying to make this thing look like it would work, **however, we failed.....**

A very generous Walmart manager took the used, scratched, and bent poles back and gave me the money back! So - Then we had to go for the real thing,

\$160 bucks worth of real fiber glass poles made especially for this application.

Paul, W5PF by this time was interested (and had helped do the work so far) and **bought in for half** of the troubles.... We began again, spending the better part of two afternoons but finally got the thing together and made it work on my little trailer/tower. When we adjusted the lines exactly per Bob's instructions, it worked like a champ.

We made several qrp contacts with it almost immediately. Now came the harder part, getting it apart and placed in a 6" X



6" X 50" tube (overall 62" is what the airline allows). We did it but the wires were really tangled.

So.... A couple of months later we took it out of the case, spent an hour trying to unsort the wires and then put it back up in the air, worked just like before... So THEN we put it back in the tube, wire band by wire band, wrapped around the center pole, each on its own.

If it works as we planned, it should go up in the air with a minimum of time involved. We are going to carry another tube with 30 feet of 3 foot aluminum poles for a mast and also to support our horse wire 40 thru 10 dipole.

The Bobber Hex is set up for 10,15,17,20 meters, all bands require no tuning or tuners. Total cost to make one: \$350.00 Plus hours and hours of manual labor.....

Should anyone want to build one, Paul and I are available for comment.....

[And you can check Bob's web site at www.k5bob.com . Ed]



The photos show what the Bobber Hex looks like in the air and is the travel container.

If you hear; 8 P8 C W: WF, PF, or IUU in March be sure to give us a call!!

New Subj: Adventures of the Sea Pumpkin:

Set for **Field Day 2011** near Red Fish Reef, with KD5TIO in his trusty vessel **Solitaire** with either W5PF or K5WAF and the **Sea Pumpkin** with me and ONE OF THESE other GUYS WHO CO-OWNS THE PUMPKIN.. We will have a Honda generator available, filters and two back stays as antennas. Don't know what the multiplier is for boats but will for sure see... We will either tie the boats together at the bow or somehow keep the back stays as far apart as possible. Will use the TS480 on the Pumpkin and a IC 706 on Tom's Solitaire.

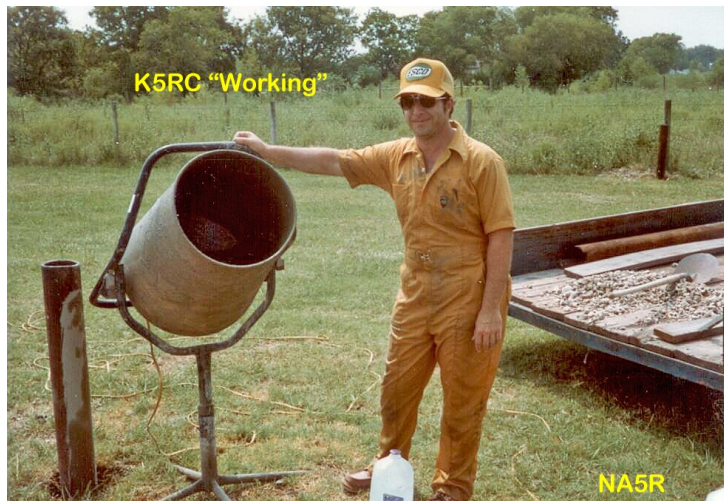
This we will do, with the caveat that the winds are fair, the sea is calm and Murphy doesn't get in our way.

Till next month... Cal White WF5W

Once a Rowdie ... Always a Rowdie by Tom K5RC

NA5R (Grady Ferguson, now W5FU) and I were among a subgroup of the TDXS affectionately known as the Rowdies.

I had built a multiop station off Dixie Farm Road with K5GA in the 1970's. NA5R asked me to help him build a world-class multi-op station and, in about 1980, we combined resources to build Radio Manvel. Hurricane Alicia (1983) took down 6 towers at K5RC and 5 towers at NA5R. We started rebuilding NA5R but business and family issues stopped that project and we lost touch.



In 2006, we hooked up again at the Great Armadillo Reunion and decided to build another mega-station that is now The Comstock Memorial Station. It is dedicated to the memory of SKs and former TDXSers N5JJ and K5LZO, to which we have now added I2UIY and K7AO. We are finally realizing a plan we hatched some 20+ years ago.

We have also redefined Rowdiness to a more sublime level of obsessive compulsive behavior. See the web site below.



Older TDXS members can tell many stories about Radio Manvel and the Rowdies. As with most Texas yarns, they are best spun in person.

Tom Taormina, K5RC
The Comstock Memorial Station, W7RN
Virginia City NV
<http://k5rc.cc>

Texas DX Society Boardmembers

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| President | Doug Seyler, WB5TKI | djseyler at comcast.net |
| VP Membership | Bob Mennell, WB5IUU | bmennell at consolidated.net |
| VP Programs | Bob Hardie, W5UQ | w5uq at att.net |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Mike Bragassa, K5UO | bragassa at consolidated.net |
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| Field Day Chairmen | open | |
| Repeater Chairman | Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF | wb5tuf at earthlink.net |
| DXpedition Chairman | open | |
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| Webmaster | Steve Smothers, W9DX | cougar70 at earthlink.net |
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| DXCC QSL Card Checker | Bob Walworth, N5ET | rwalworth at charter.net |
| 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 February.

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

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone.