



# The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net May 2013

## FIELD DAY IS COMING

### FIELD DAY—JUNE 22 & 23

The BVARC/TDXS field day event is next month with multiple stations and antennas.

See page 6 for details.

### Editor's Note by Tom N5EA

Field day should be great this year with the expanded set up with BVARC. Lance Rumfield, WD5X will present the May meeting covering proposed new operating frequencies and Ham Cruise 2013.

M0URX and G1VDP offer their guidance

on using OQRS QSLs. See page 7  
And a personal article about the Houston Food Bank and how you can lend a helping hand.  
See page 8

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## The Prez Sez by Doug WB5TKI

### The Prez Sez

Ahh, Springtime in Houston! The temperature is 70 degrees, humidity is 47%, the sky is perfectly clear and the hummingbirds are in mortal combat around my feeders.

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Barbara Cooke WB5NVH, the wife of "Cookie" Cooke K5EWJ after a long illness. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. The club has made a donation in her memory to her favorite charity, the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club Rescue USA.

Field Day this year will be held in conjunction with the BVARC club at the fire training facility in Richmond. Bill Stone WS5H has graciously volunteered to chair the TDXS portion of this event and is actively soliciting operators. I'm sure looking forward to this joint operation, especially since they have AIR CONDITIONING! Dave Topp WB5BXX will be there with his motor home and always effective log periodical antenna, and there should be plenty of help for setup and takedown. TDXS is making a donation to BVARC toward the food and refreshments. Please plan to attend this event during the weekend of June 22-23.

I've received some email re-

cently concerning TDXS that is very thought provoking. One member pointed out that BVARC and TDXS meet on the same night each month, which means that anyone who is a member of both clubs has to choose which one to attend. I've only been a member of TDXS since 2006, so I don't know the history of this curious situation. However, I do know that it likely reduces our meeting attendance, especially since some of our members are also on the BVARC Board. Could we perhaps consider moving our meetings to another Thursday in the month? I know that the clubs are about the same age, but someone needs to give here. We probably can't do much about this year, but we could going forward. Also, the question was raised as to why an Associate member pays full dues but cannot vote. I'd like to hear the rationale for this myself. I also heard the suggestion that we have a lot more purely social dinner meetings. That sounds like a good idea to me. We seem to like to eat and talk. Anyway, please continue to send me your thoughts and suggestions on keeping TDXS interesting, relevant and alive.

The May TDXS meeting will feature Lance Rumfield, WD5X in a double barreled presentation. First, he will address the proposed 137-138 kHz amateur frequency allocation.

Then he will recap Ham Cruise 2013. My wife and I are studying the brochure for the 2014 cruise with great interest, so this will prove to be very timely. As usual, we will gather at Pappas BBQ for a pre-meeting bull session. I hope to see you there!

73 es gud dx,

Doug WB5TKI

## TDXS Meeting Notes by Mike K5U0

Report:

Minutes for TDXS Meeting for April 2013

Meeting was a JOINT meeting with BVARC and was at their location.

Meeting began at about 7PM on April 11, 2013 with Kirk Kendrick (KK2Z) officiating. He ran the BVARC business meeting which mainly consisted of Field Day planning for 2014 and some discussion on 2013 FD.

Then Bob Hardie, VP of Programming for TDXS, officiated over the TDXS meeting since Doug Seyler was not present. Also not present was Mike Bragassa and Bob Mennell, officers of TDXS.

Bob mentioned that "next year" we needed to have the joint meeting at the TDXS meeting facility.

Bob also recognized N5AUS, John Stratton, Vice Director of Gulf Division for ARRL as being present. And that John is to speak at the end of the meeting on a matter of importance.

The TDXS meeting was short. Kirk took over and said that after a short break, there would be the "raffle drawing".

After break, the winning ticket was drawn for \$60 and was won by K5LKB. That meant that the remaining \$123 would be split by BVARC and TDXS. (Actually TDXS got \$63)

Next, the night's program was introduced by Kirk Kendrick.

Program was by Ron Litt, K5HM and was entitled "DX Software & \$\$\$"

Present at meeting for TDXS was: W5UQ, N5KTN, W5PR, K5HM, K5LBU, N8SS, WS5H, N5MT, K5VWW, K5DD, N5XZ and W5UG.

The rest were members of BVARC and there were a couple of visitors. See sign up sheet.

Attendance was close to 50 people.

Regarding programs:

Ron Litt's program was very good. It was informative and humorous. Lots of info on LOGGING software available for purchasing and for free.

Ron also mentioned that they used some of this software for the last contest they recently worked. That during the contest they used Twitter and had lots of requests to QSY to XXXX Freq. Many of the requests were wanting IOTA and they were operating from an island. (Note: I didn't write down the name of the island)

The logging program, that he covered most, was N1MM's Contesting Program.

Ron talked for one hour from 7:30PM to 8:30PM, using the overhead projector with slides.

Next John Stratton had said he would talk about 30 minutes. However, the information was so interesting and informative, that it lasted for one and one half hours. Actually until 10PM when the building was closing our area for the night.

He talked about how the ARRL was organized. How that in 2014 it would be the one hundredth anniversary of the ARRL. That a bus may be rented to take Texans to Connecticut next year for the celebration. However, there will be celebrations at HamCation in Plano in June 2014, as well.

Also how the GOLD in the US isn't at Fort Knox anymore. That it is now in WDC, controlled by the FCC. The FCC is the keepers and regulators of the "FREQUENCY SPECTRUM SPACE, used in the USA. Every one is FIGHTING HARD to own some of that space since it IS as good as gold now.

Then he talked about the Texas legislation and how bills were presented to it and it's working to get through to become a Bill, then possibly a Law. Also how lobbying began and how important lobbying was to ham radio. About how he and David (Dr David Woolweaver, K5RAV, Director of West Gulf Division) were working hard at the Texas Legislature for the benefit of ham radio. Specifically about HR2524.

The two of them have gotten the TX Legislature "people" to know them now. They worked hard to be recognized and have managed to be known by ALL of them now. That is quite a feat in itself.

They now have good feelings about the HR bill being passed. This will be a BIG win over the HOA's and POA's of Texas. It will allow hams to put up flag poles, for stealth antennas, and as I understand it, has paved the way for towers and antennas. They expect that if this all does workout, that by next year, we may have towers in housing communities, such as for ham radio, being legal in Texas.

John is the Director of a new organization called Texas Ham PAC. It is the organization that we need to support as it is "FOR HAM RADIO". To learn more about it and support it, you can access it's website and get lots of information at: <http://www.texashampac.com/>

All Texas hams need to support the efforts of this group. Donations are needed to keep it going smoothly.

One other note. John mentioned that recently he and David had sent out emails to many of us asking for us to fax a letter to and/or call the Texas Legislator relative to a recent bill most all hams would oppose. The response was so great that it took the telephone system at the capitol down. The members of the TX Legislature asked John and David to have the hams "stop calling and faxing". That they "have gotten the message and would take appropriate action now against the bill".

It WORKED. So we can be proud of all the hams that called and faxed. Next time, let's all join in when they need support.

Notes transcribed by Bob Hardie from notes taken by Bill Stone, WS5H and Bob Hardie, W5UQ.

## DX REPORT by Ron K5HM

Be the DX  
Ron Litt, K5HM

We've all read about the exotic DXpeditions to tropical desert islands. And we all worked our share of Clipperton (TX5K), Socorro (7O6T), Niue (ZK2V) and countless others.

How great would it have been to say you were there; to be on the receiving end of the pile up? But how many of us have the time and the resources to spend two weeks in these exotic places? How many of us have the stamina to travel half way round the world by plane and days on a small boat bobbing on the ocean? Then to land on a foreboding, rocky beach or scale a cliff just to get to the spot?

No thanks, my idea of roughing it is the Holiday Inn. Still, you can be on the other side of the pileup with relative ease these days. And, having the degree of exotic discomfort and outdoor adventure that is pretty much your own personal choice.

If all you have is a short weekend or even just a day, the answer is close at hand. The Texas coast has two island groups that are listed with the RSGB IOTA (Islands on the Air) roster. NA-143 covers Galveston, Pelican Is., North and South Deer Islands. Both Galveston and Pelican Island are vehicle accessible.

But as Andy Dufraim challenged in *Shawshank Redemption*, if you are willing to go a little farther down the

coast, there is NA-092. This island group includes Matagorda Island, Mustang Island, North and South Padre Islands. Except for Matagorda, all these are accessible by road. Matagorda has special challenges because it is only accessible by boat.

These islands are great because they are flat, with few, if any obstructions. The noise floor is close to nil. You are close, very close in some cases to salt water with all the good ground plane effects this brings.

Just recently I journeyed to Mustang Island with Matt, K5NGU to participate in the Texas State Parks on the Air event. We were there for two days. We roughed it. Slept in our cars, spent most of the two sunny days in a 25 MPH breeze. Ate all the foods that are bad for you; Subway sandwiches, chips, Fritos, pork rinds, jerky and soft drinks.

Mustang has all of the qualities of most far away desert islands. It has fine beach sand, which gets into everything; radios, food, computers, vehicles. You name it. There was plenty of sea wind off the water, sunshine and exotic birdlife. Mostly pelicans and seagulls. Well, mostly seagulls.

We drove down in two cars. We rented an RV slot, maybe 50 yards from the water. Cost \$20 for the weekend. It was equipped with AC power, water, picnic shelter and parking.

We threw up a G5RV as a sloper,

that worked great on 40 meters and used Matt's IC 7000 and a vertical for the high bands. I used my IC-718 on 40meters and I worked everything I could hear. The biggest noise came from the surf crashing on the beach.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLqFdxolo3A&feature=youtu.be>

Not surprisingly, the NA-092 in our CQ's were a big draw for folks outside of Texas. We even made some PSK31 contacts on 40 and 20 meters. On 20 and 15 we were easy contacts for Europe in the morning and Japan in the late afternoon.

Try typing on your laptop in a PSK QSO with the wind blowing sand on your keyboard. We finally had to throw up a windscreen around the picnic shelter to control the sand.

Like every big time DXpedition these days, we even had a website. [www.mustangislandontheair.com](http://www.mustangislandontheair.com)

With the website and using Twitter we were able to give real time notices about what bands and frequencies we were on. We provided a real time slide show with photos as we operated.

So, if you want the thrill of being the DX, without the time and expense, a trip to Mustang or one of the other islands is just the ticket. Just throw your gear in the car and off you go.

Get out there and BE the DX.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## DX REPORT contd by Ron K5HM

### MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND EVENT 2013

01 June 2013 0000Z to 02 June  
2359Z

In keeping with the spirit of Be  
The DX, here is the next best  
chance to do just that..

If you want to get into the spirit  
of adventure again or just help  
out in this worthy and patriotic  
event. Drop an e-mail to me at  
[mswe@bvarcmswe.org](mailto:m swe@bvarcmswe.org) and let  
me know your time availability.

Ron, K5HM

This annual event, commemo-  
rates the heroic ships and crews  
that sailed in them. Sponsored  
by the Battleship New Jersey  
Amateur Radio Station ([http://  
www.nj2bb.org/museum/](http://www.nj2bb.org/museum/)), this  
will be BVARC's 6<sup>th</sup> year of par-  
ticipation. Members and friends  
of TDXS are invited to partici-  
pate with us in BEING DX at  
Seawolf Park on Pelican Island  
(NA-143). The operation sched-  
ule is very ambitious this year,  
we are planning to operate four  
stations, two aboard ship and  
two in the park, for the full  
time period, so operators are  
needed for most slots. Our mu-  
seum ship call sign, KK5W is  
highly sought after because we  
give credit for two museum  
ships with each contact (USS  
Cavalla and USS Stewart).  
Check out the website at  
[www.bvarcmswe.org](http://www.bvarcmswe.org).

We will be operating on satel-  
lites as well as two VHF nets  
and HF. A balloon launch is  
planned for Saturday.

We'll be setting up on Friday af-  
ternoon May 31<sup>st</sup> in the park and  
official operations will begin at 7  
PM Friday (0000 UTC).

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## THOUGHTS ON FIELD DAY by Bill WS5H

### TDXS FIELD DAY 2013

Field Day is a Go at the Fort Bend County Fire Field on 260 Clay St. also known as the Richmond Fire Training Grounds in Richmond Texas very near Highway 90 and Brazos River. Talk in repeater 146.940 negative offset 167.9 tone.

TDXS has accepted the invite to have a Joint BVARC / TDXS or is it TDXS / BVARC Field Day 2013. The Plan in the final preparations is BVARC for the 1st time will setup an 8 or 9 Alpha FD stations setup call used KK5W. The facility has a large new AC building with space for multiple operator radio stations and much space on site for antennas. It is confirmed our Club Call K5DX will host a very active GOTA station that will be very well overseen with many to get on the air thus it will be a true Dual Club FD effort. Matt Tatro K5NGU is BVARC FD Chairman / Bill Stone WS5H TDXS Chairman and Scott NT5SM will oversee the GOTA station along with our TDXS members if they so desire. This GOTA station has been in past FD's a very 1st class operation and has used many club calls respectfully to include the old W5DPA HARC Houston Amateur Radio Club call sign.

Our past Field Day Chairman Dave Topp will bring out his RV that for many years was our TDXS FD platform for antenna tower and operator stations. I will bring a good 5500-watt generator on site for the RV. It will be where we can feel at home. Hang our TDXS sign. Have the member sign in sheet for meeting credit. Show our stuff and DX / Contest skills in the RV. An option to run the coax from the antenna / RV tower to the cold AC building to

an indoor station in the heat of the day and option to work out of the RV in the cooler evening.

With so many operator radio stations there will be many operator slots available in a very comfortable setting. To add to the fun and have a bit of a contest in the contest. Big AL N5XZ would like to have help to get many 2 point CW contacts in the log and TDXS club knows how to help with that. I will head up the 10-meter operations of two stations. Last time I did this 10 meter SSB contacts came in #2 just under the 20 meter money band for SSB contacts and the sun spots were not even near peak. If / when 10 meters goes dead a very long wire would be fun at night at the station on 160.

TDXS will make a donation to BVARC for the dual club effort. Available on site is cold water, soda, snacks, and a GREAT BBQ DINNER hosted by BVARC to be served around 6pm Saturday. Individual member donations of cash or consumables to the FD cause will be accepted.

I need a list of our members who would like to attend FD and perhaps what time, do you want to operate and if so what band and mode so I can plug you into a radio. IF YOU DONT SIGN UP COME ANYWAY.

If you're looking to put on or help with a 100-bonus point FD project let me know and I will set it up. Note some of the bonus point contact positions are filled by BVARC however Co-Captains from TDXS are invited and encouraged. We need SSB and CW / Digital cap-

tains for the 10-meter operations and a few of us watchful eyes to help the watchful eyes overseeing the K5DX GOTA station. We need a TDXS CO-XO and crew to work with Dave in the RV to maintain its self support and operations status. Any help you want to do or not do is available. Many members in BVARC attend so most of what needs done is covered but feel free to help and lend a hand with the FD site setup operations.

Bob WB5IUU now has created a list of those who want a TDXS logo 2013 FD shirt. The cut off date for shirt sales is the first week of June so lets get those Field Day 2013 TDXS shirt orders in to Bob. I wish to see many TDXS members and TDXS logo at FD. Look for updates on FD on our Email Reflector, The Bull Sheet, and at our next meeting at Tracy G in May for continuous detail information.

73 Bill WS5H

2013 TDXS FD chairman email [dragntow@wt.net](mailto:dragntow@wt.net)

**OQRS QSLING** by Tim MOURX

## Wise up to OQRS

**Tim Beaumont**  
**<m0urx@btopenworld.com>** May 05 08:45AM  
 +0100

Hi from Tim M0URX,  
 I recently received a box of 5,700 QSL cards from the RSGB Bureau for DXpeditions over the last 18 months. Closer examination of the incoming Bureau cards show that almost HALF of these cards the QSOs were already requested using OQRS in the days AFTER the DXpedition.

Let me make it quite clear! (Sounding like a politician) If you request a Bureau QSL through OQRS....  
 DO NOT under any circumstances then send a QSL through the Bureau. If the person wants your QSL he will request one also! DXpeditions DO NOT need incoming Bureau cards.

If this was to carry on then i can see many DXpeditions turning off the OQRS for Bureau.

Guys.... WISE UP to how OQRS should work. It is here to help you and the DXpedition. But right OQRS is causing a massive burden on Bureaus around the world both on wasted time and money

processing tens of thousands of Bureau cards that SHOULD NOT be in the Bureau system.

Once you have made an OQRS request.. again Let me make this quite clear....

Mark your log as QSL SENT so that you do not forget and then send another card by mistake. Even put in the Remarks column of your log that it was requested on OQRS Bureau or Direct.

I am really not sure how to get the message through but this is extremely important for the future success of OQRS.

Thank you for your attention,  
 Tim Beaumont M0URX

**CHRIS COLCLOUGH**  
**<chrisg1vdp@btinternet.com>**  
 May 05 09:03AM +0100

Hello all,

Can I just add another point on this. I was at Tim's almost all day yesterday helping him sort through the cards, and the number of - as we named them - "serial QSLers" was astounding. What we meant by this is the number of people who send one card per QSO for a DXpedition or call sign. It is far better to send one card with a number of

QSO's on it even if you cover your information on the reverse of your card. Most of them were printed so are done form logging software which does allow for this. But then again just request OQRS and note in the comments field of the logging programme the date sent and requested. Far better for the planet and the bureaus.

And with the length of time the bureau takes it will be far quicker - especially as Tim sends direct to most of the world bureaus rather than returning via the RSGB bureau (which, IMHO, offers a poor service compared to the old bureau when it was in house so to speak) so your card should come through far quicker.

Many thanks.

Chris Colclough  
 G1VDP

## Hunger is Real by Tom N5EA

**I know this is not radio related but, this is a great way to help others**

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

For the past 11 years, I have been volunteering at the Houston Food Bank and I want to take this opportunity to let everyone know about the Food Bank and the continuing need for volunteers.

The Food Bank's new 308,000 sq. ft. facility makes it the largest and most modern food bank in the nation. It can hold 1,000 volunteers at one time.

Currently, the HFB processes 67 million pounds of food a year and feeds 137,000 people a week. 94% are not homeless and 47% are children.

Two of the volunteer intensive programs are Back Pack Buddy, and CSFP (Senior boxes).

The Back Pack Buddy program provides breakfast, lunch, dinner and a snack to children who receive food at school every week day, but have none for the weekend. Often, the children have to share their back pack with oth-

er siblings, or even the whole family.

The monthly goal of **40,000** doesn't even fill the demand in Harris County much less the other 17 counties in their area of responsibility.

This area is one of the most food insecure areas in the nation and the worst in Texas.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) provides food to seniors living on a fixed income and need help at the end of the month.

Each box contains about 30 pounds of food designed to last for up to 5 days. Included is milk, cereal, two juices, canned fruit and vegetables, dry beans, canned meat, and pasta.

HFB is currently building **7,800** a month and again, it does not meet the demand.

**70% of all food processing programs are done by volunteers ONLY.** Since there are only 8 Food Bank personnel in this department, without volunteers nothing happens.

HFB has 3 shifts 8-12, 1-5, & 6-9 on Monday, and Wednesday thru Friday. Tuesday has 8-12 and 6-9 while Saturday has 8-12 and 1-4. Volunteers are welcome every shift.

You can go to [HoustonFoodBank.org](http://HoustonFoodBank.org) to get more information or register to volunteer.

Please consider volunteering. It is an experience to remember.

**HUNGER IS REAL**



## 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
Contest Chairman	Willis "Cookie" Cooke, K5EWJ	wrcooke at yahoo.com
Field Day Chairmen	(volunteers needed)	
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net
DXpedition Chairman	Bill Stone, WS5H	dragntow at wt.net
Outgoing QSL Manager	Scott Patout,, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Webmaster	Steve Smothers, W9DX	cougar70 at earthlink.net
Bullsheel Editor	Tom Ashworth, N5EA	tom4951 at comcast.net
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.tdxs.net> email address: [k5dx@tdxs.net](mailto: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 May

Birthdays May 2013

Joey Clements – W5BAK

Leon Pringle, Jr. - W5NA

John Guida - K5XA

Henry Schneider - W5HNS

Jan Carman - K5MA

Mike Mauldin - K5NU

Mitch Whitney - AD5W

Kenny Manchester - NZ5I

Gregg Erlenbusch - W5IDX