



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net October 2016

**TDXS Monthly Meeting
October 13, 7pm at the
Tracy Gee Center.**

**TDXS Monthly pre-meeting
Dinner October 13, 5:30pm
at Pappa's BBQ.**



Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

Band conditions continue to be in the dumps, but there have been some decent openings and several Dxpeditions that have allowed us to work a few (and new ones for the deserving—including new band countries!) See Orville's report on page 4. I have managed to work a few new ones and am approaching 2400 for the DXCC Challenge Award, and am in hot pursuit of the 2500 milestone. Most of my new ones have been on 80 meters, now that I have the new vertical up, and with the end of the summer doldrums, and the winter DX/Contest season approaching, the band noise will go down and hopefully the new ones will start rolling in at an ever faster pace.

Speaking of contesting, TDXS has a very rich history of major contest operations. In the past years, many (but

not all) of our better contesters have moved out of town. However, we still have some old ones and some new up and coming ones. Some have new stations as well. I would like to see more of the seasoned and newer contesters get more involved in team contesting again, and would like for all of you to credit TDXS as your club. I know some have been crediting other Texas clubs and joining their teams, but please consider coming back into the fold and showing the contest community that TDXS is still a viable contesting club. What do you say? *I would also ask that one of our members step up and be our coach by organizing teams, making calls and sending emails to remind our teammates, and get it goin' again! I would do it but I am stretched thin*

with my job and other issues, including this newsletter. C'mon, someone step up, would you please?

Please excuse the fact that I have once again mentioned RM 11708 / Docket 16-239 NPRM in this issue. You may think I am beating this to death, but as I am sending this out on Monday, October 10th, the deadline is TOMORROW October 11th. If you have not sent your comments to BOTH RM 11708 and Docket 16-239, please do it by tomorrow. This is a most important issue to CW and narrow band digital operators like RTTY, PSK, WSJT, JT65, etc.

73, Allen N5XZ

Inside this issue:

The Prez Sez by Bob Hardie W5UQ	2
TDXS June 2016 Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI	3
DX Chairman's Report by Orville Burg K5VWV	4
Contest Chairman's Report by Glenn Anderson WB5TUF	5
Annual OC Meeting Announcement by Orville Burg K5VWV	6
RM 11708 / Docket 16-239 NPRM Dead- line is Oct. 11, 2016	7
TDXS Board Members	9
TDXS Birthdays	9

The Prez Sez

by Bob, W5UQ

Prez Sez October 2016

Hi Ya'll,

It's October already and we are electing officers this month. Thursday night, October 13th is the date.

So, if all goes well, we will elect a new president and I will be able to devote my full time to my business. Even though I retired a few years back, life decided I wasn't through with "business". I had wanted, when I was younger, to begin and build a successful company from scratch. WOW, that wish finally came true, but when I least expected it. Enough of that for now.

In order to help others understand some of the officer and committee (BOD) positions, for my last three months Prez Sez articles, I have plans to explain some of their duties and/or responsibilities.

This article will be explaining "some of the responsibilities" of the VP of Programming. By the way, I held that position for three years. That was before being elected president three years ago.

Basically this VP has the responsibility of arranging programs for the months that we are at Tracy Gee for TDXS meetings. When I was in this position, we basically had every month at Tracy Gee. Well that is, except January, for our yearly banquet and then June, being our Field Day month.

Basically having a program every month has changed due to our "Dinner Out Meetings". We decided that all "ODD months" were devoted to Dinner Out Meetings. Let me explain. January is TDXS Banquet month and is counted as a "Dinner Out Month". So we elected to have all "ODD months" become Dinner Out Months. That makes March, May, July, September and November "Dinner Out Months".....or 6 months we're meeting at a "dinner location".

They are NOT at Tracy Gee. The Tracy Gee meetings are always during the even months, like February, April, June, Au-

gust, October and December. And since June is NOT a meeting month as attending Field Day constitutes attending a meeting (as long as you report your activity to the Secretary), then there are only 5 months that are needing programs.

We've been fortunate enough to have John Firey present a "Vintage Ham Radio" program every December. That may not continue for long, even though John can probably provide new and different programs for a couple of years yet. He has promised that he will do this December 2016 and I feel pretty good about him being able to provide a new Vintage HR program for 2017, if we so desire.

That leaves 4 Tracy Gee programs needed for the year. Surely the VP of Programming can come up with 4 programs. Especially with all of our "sage members" that have so many ideas and connections for programs.

Now to address the other responsibility of the VP of Programming. Basically coming up with Dinner Out locations for the "Odd Months". Other than helping with the January banquet details, etc. the VP has only 5 months left to find a location for the Dinner Out TDXS night.

Since most of us seem to be able to get to Los Tios Restaurant on Westheimer, and from what I've seen we all seem to have a good time, there is no reason why we can't use that as a location for 2 or 3 of the 5 nights out. Of course, if the VP and members want to have a meeting at some other restaurant, that is on the agenda too.

Most seem to enjoy the Chinese Buffet on Westheimer near Hwy 6, as I sure do, so that could take up 2 of the nights. Therefore, coming up with a new place or two shouldn't be a real problem for the VP of Programming.... "Right?"

And.... Bottom line... Papa's BBQ could be a fall back as well. Like in an emergency. Think about it... 6:30PM for dinner instead of 5:30pm. Papa's could certainly work in an emergency.

This all makes the job of VP of Program-

ming much easier. When I did it, I had to come up with 10 programs and help some with the banquet in January. Plus not having a meeting in June due to FD, made it 10 meetings. Cal White, bless him, was VP of Programming for 3 years just before I was elected to that position.

Well, now I've had these years as president, that makes 6 years of service. I'm sure many of you have put in more than that. HOWEVER, we still need some NEW members, and maybe they have been members for many years, that haven't served yet. If you one of them and you have been benefiting from the "work of your fellow hams to bring you this benefit"... well, maybe it is time you stepped up and put your name in the hat for one of our officer or committee positions. Let your conscience be your guide. J

Okay....you may say I sound like a preacher. RIGHT ON!!..... Cause I am a preacher's brat/son and I came by it honestly. Bottom line, think....just think about it a little. We NEED YOU. Step up and pay your dues. What I find is sad that many of you have stopped coming to TDXS meetings. And many have not served in an officer or BOD position. Many have and my HAT IS OFF TO YOU. I THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH. I'm sure all that have benefited from your contributions to your group thank you too.

Please consider this. I challenge you to start coming to the meetings again. And then I challenge you to volunteer. We all have benefited from a lot of "other ham's volunteering and work" for years. J

To our "newbies" that just joined. Please get involved. Learn about the different Officer and Board of Director positions and "GO FOR IT".

Have a great FALL SEASON.... Thanks for reading my article. It won't be long before you have a new president to be writing these "Prez Sez" articles. CU at meetings and on the air.

73,

Bob Hardie W5UQ Prez for 2014, 2015 and 2015... & VP of Programming 2011, 2012 & 2013.

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS September 2016 Meeting Minutes

Date: September 7, 2016

Location: Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, Houston, TX

Attendance:

Members: Doug WB5TKI, Bob W5UQ, Mike K5UO, Gerald K9GEM, Allen N5XZ, Mike N5MT, Keith NM5G, Orville K5VWW, Robie AJ4F, Jim N5DTT, Ed W5GCX.

Guests: Lynn Seyler (XYL of Doug WB5TKI), Janice Muller (XYL of Gerald K9GEM), Elva Hardie (XYL of Pres. Bob), Xenia Gerber (XYL of Ed W5GCX).

For September we returned to an old favorite, Los Tios Mexican Restaurant on Westheimer in Houston. We had a good turnout, good food and lively conversation, as always. Bob reminded the members that nominations for the elected officers should be sent to the Club Secretary by the next meeting on October 13. At that meeting the nominations will be announced, and any additional nominations will be taken from the floor. Unopposed candidates will then be elected by acclamation of those members present. Any contested positions will be selected by email ballot distributed by the Secretary and the winner(s) announced at the November meeting.

73,

Submitted October 7, 2016

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

It is sad news that **Bill Moore, NC1L**, became a silent key on October 6th. Prior to an unfortunate automobile accident in 2014, Bill was the ARRL DXCC manager.

Band conditions have certainly improved as we begin the fall/winter DX season as evidenced by a lot of activity this past month and activity from some scarce entities has appeared.

The team of **JA2FJP**, Ken, and **JF2MBF**, Nob are still on their trip across the pacific and are currently operating as **T2J** from Tuvalu where they will be until October 10th when they will head to Fiji to operate as **3D2GG** until October 13th.

The operation as **T31T**, Kanton Island in the Phoenix group of Central Kirabati, is certainly drawing a lot of interest. This is being operated by the Members of the Rebel DX Group from Poland consisting of **3D9DX**, **SP3DOI** and **SP3VC**. They plan on operating for 6 weeks while performing humanitarian activities for the island inhabitants.

H44GC was active until this week from Honiara, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands when they moved to Temotu Province where they will be using the call **H40GC**. The two operators on this trip are Stan, **LZ1GC** and Emil, **DL8JJ**.

S9YY from Sao Tome Island will be active between October 8th and October 23rd.

9J2BO, Brian, from Lusaka, Zambia has been active on 12M and 10M almost daily.

VK9NZ was operating from Norfolk Island and will leave tomorrow. A strong effort was made for 160M and 80M. 213 QSO's have been made to date on 160M. Simultaneously, **VK9LX** has been operating from Lord Howe and will depart October 6th.

VP6AH, Pitcairn Island is still active by Uli/ DL2AH on Pitcairn Island from Sept. 3rd until November 25th. There will be another group activating **VP6EU** from Pitcairn from February 16th to March 5th, 2017.

There was an alarming issuance of a notice of planned closure of the Australian Antarctic Research Station located on Macquarie Island. This would have been almost certainly a death knoll for any future operation from the VKØ site. There was a reversal of the decision as shown in the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/MacQuarie-QRT>.

Good DXing,
Orville, K5VWW



Contest Chairman's Report—by Glenn Anderson WB5TUF

No report.



Annual OC Dinner Meeting Announcement by Orville K5VWW

PSE QSP

Please QSP to all your OC Buddies that the Annual OC Dinner meeting will be held on

Thursday, November 10th

And will be held at Los Tios Mexican Restaurant
9527 Westheimer RD, Houston, TX 77063
(same place as last year)

Please do not refer to your XYL as an OC or we may have to move the venue to your hospital cafeteria.

Any contact by you to any of our club members in hiding would be greatly appreciated in order that we might have the largest turnout possible for our propitious gathering.
Please do not hesitate to invite any prospective members so we might meet them as well.

How many of the OC remember:



RM 11708 / Docket 16-239 NPRM Deadline is October 11, 2016!

I know I included an article last month on this subject, but I feel this is such an important issue, I feel I must do so again. AND TOMORROW IS THE DEADLINE! Please forward this to all the hams you know and all the reflectors you are subscribed to. Many of you may have already submitted comments to RM 11708 or Docket 16-239...it is important that you send comments to BOTH and to the ARRL.

*If **RM 11708 / Docket 16-239 NPRM** is enacted later this year, digital transmission of unlimited bandwidth will be allowed on any segment of any band below 29.7 MHz. Digital voice transmissions using 12.5 kHz wide C4FM (4 level FSK modulation) will probably be allowed to operate in the current CW/RTTY sub-bands, as will Pactor 4, Winlink, and all other data modes. WinLink, by the way, is popular with boaters, who use it as an encrypted HF-to-Internet gateway for email delivery.*

The deadline is fast approaching to file your comments to FCC RM 11708 and Docket 16-239 NPRM. The deadline is Tuesday October 11, 2016.

Following is a somewhat shortened explanation of the situation and 2 key points and is suitable to send as a comment to the FCC and to the ARRL:

1.

The 300 baud limit is an effective, albeit antiquated, method to limit bandwidth. It must only be removed if it is replaced with a 200 HZ bandwidth limit in the lowest 50 kHz or so of each HF/MF band, and a 400 HZ or 500 HZ bandwidth limit in the next 50 kHz or so of each band. No WARC frequencies should allow wider data, in keeping with IARU recommendations. There are several generally accepted standards for a regulation of bandwidth emission, as found in all 3 published IARU standards, and in the governmental rules of dozens of countries who have regulations that mimic the IARU standards in their region, including Japan. This regulated (not voluntary) narrowband emission approach is necessary to mitigate interference and to ensure the vast number of amateurs who use narrowband modes (e.g. CW, PSK31, RTTY, JT9, JT65) may continue their use and experimentation that is vital to the hobby. This addresses one key question asked by the FCC in the NPRM --whether or not the 300 baud limit should be removed. It should only be removed if it is replaced with a 200 Hz/ 500 Hz emission limit on each of the lower portions of each HF/ MF band. New, small "mid-band wide band data segments", having about 30-50 kHz total allocated bandwidth, should be provided having an emission bandwidth limit of 2.8 kHz (as suggested by ARRL). This approach is precisely called for in all 3 IARU regions and is implemented in many governmental regulations, including Japan.

.....

RM 11708 / Docket 16-239 NPRM Deadline is October 11, 2016!

2.

As a licensed amateur operator, I believe a fundamental tenant of the amateur radio hobby is that ham radio transmissions should be open and public so that other amateurs may intercept them easily, without requiring proprietary technology not open to hobbyists. Today's Winlink and Pactor 2 and 3 modems (and Pactor 4 which is requested by many commenters) have a proprietary, non-published compression algorithm owned by SCS, a German company. Other hams and even the FCC cannot intercept the traffic of these transmissions in ARQ mode in real world fading channels. This is already a problem that threatens national security and makes it impossible to police today's small number of ACDS stations. The problem shall become drastically worse with much greater data payloads if either the FCC or ARRL proposal is implemented. Before allowing wider band data or changing the rules on baud rate, the FCC should first solve the issue of disallowing proprietary compression today, before it allows faster data traffic such as Pactor 4 (which is 1800 baud). The FCC should clarify if it wishes for ham radio traffic to be open, using readily decipherable public communication methods. By requiring a CW ID, a listen before talk protocol for ACDS stations, and by learning about the many violations that currently occur from out of band ACDS stations, lack of sys op monitoring, improper interpretation of control operation (which is allowing remote users to "take over" as control operator when illegally moving 2.2 kHz wide Pactor 3 transmissions out of the ACDS bands), the FCC should first clarify the part 97 rules regarding Internet or email usage, and how all traffic can be made public, before allowing any expansion of data baud rate or bandwidth.

The current violations with the small number of Winlink/Pactor stations first must be cleaned up, and public/open compression and coding should be insisted upon in a rewrite of FCC rules to ensure that all hams can buy or build gear that allows full reception of all data transmissions. All messages and any internet browsing must be publicly available in real time and archived on public websites (should the FCC even deem internet browsing and email are appropriate uses of the hobby – this should be considered carefully by the Commission) . With clear rules and open transmissions befitting of the amateur radio hobby, wider band data could be allowed to flourish in new "mid band wideband data HF/MF segments" that start at about 100 kHz above the lowest edge of each non-WARC band, and end below the phone/image band. A 2.8 kHz BW limit should be imposed on this new mid band data segment, in following with the IARU standards and Japan.

Please go to aa4xx.com for FCC filing instructions that include BOTH docket 16-239 (NPRM) and RM 11708. PLEASE FILE IMMEDIATELY IF YOU ARE A CW, RTTY, PSK OR OTHER NARROW SIGNAL DIGITAL MODE OPERATOR!

PLEASE ALSO CONTACT YOUR ARRL OFFICIALS TO ADVISE THEM OF YOUR DISSENT! TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!

If you want a more technical explanation, please contact Ted Rappaport at tedrapaport@verizon.net.



Texas DX Society Board members

President	Bob Hardie, W5UQ	w5uq at att.net
VP Membership	Keith Dutson, NM5G	kdutson at sbcglobal.net
VP Programs	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
Secretary	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	djseyler at comcast.net
Treasurer	Mike Bragassa, K5UO	bragassa at consolidated.net
Contest Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net
Field Day Chairmen	Mike Davidson, N5MT	n5mt at aol.com
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net
DX Chairman	Orville Burg, K5VWW	Orville at rubyglass.com
Outgoing QSL Manager	Scott Patout,, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Webmaster	Scott Patout,, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Bullsheel Editor	Allen Brier, N5XZ	n5xz at arrl.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

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 October

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Jim Whitmire KD4M
 Wes Whiddon N5WW
 Ron Marosko, Sr. K5LLL
 Bill Schrader, K2TNO
 Jeff McClain, K5MV
 George DeMontrond, III, NR5M
 Kim Carr, K5TU
 Laurent Thomin, W0MM
 Bob Mennell, WB5IUU
 Tom Campbell, KD5TIO
 Bob Hardie, W5UQ
