



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 2016

Annual "Old Codgers" Dinner Meeting

Thursday, November 10th

And will be held at

Churrasca Brazilian Steakhouse
7801 Westheimer RD, Houston, TX 77063

6:30 pm

Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

Things have been very busy for me at work during the past month. I am typing this editor's note on Tuesday night just before and during the 10-10 net (and not to mention it's election night...finally!). All I know is that it's gonna be a completely different day tomorrow from today!

Band conditions are still stinko but contacts are being made. I missed the CW Sweepstakes last weekend because I had to go out of town to attend a wedding in Fort Worth. Lotsa fun, no DX, though. DX worked during the month of October at N5XZ include: VK9NZ, S9BT, MD/DL1RTL, T31T, MD/DL4SVA, T2J, H40GC, P29LL, FK8DD, VP6AH, S9YY, 5Z4FV, 3D3GG, V6Z, PY0F/PV8IG, FR4NT, TL0A, 3DA0NJ, 9G5AM, S0NY, ZL7G, V6Z, CN2AA,

6W1RY, D3AM, and ZL7G.

BTW, I am closing in on 2400 for the DXCC Challenge Award, mostly due to the new 80 meter vertical now installed on the property. I have so far 23 radials under it, and probably will add a few more this coming weekend, weather permitting.

Last issue I asked for someone to step to be our TDXS "Contest Cheerleader" and got exactly zippo. I was hoping someone would volunteer to be it. I would really like to see TDXS be better represented in both DX and domestic contests, etc. ARRL, CQ, NCJ and other organization promote also promote team competition. We still have a lot of great contesters in this area, and TDXS has a long and rich history of turning in great scores. C'mon somebody, belly up to the bar! You know I would if

only I had the time.

We have voted for some new officers and as of next year, they will take over from the old ones. See Doug's report on page 3. BTW, welcome to the new officers and welcome to the new members.

By the time most of you read this, the election will be over. Well, It's been more than interesting. As I said before, tomorrow is going to be a completely different day than today.

73, Allen N5XZ

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The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

Prez sez for Nov 2016

Good day to all,

This is my next to last Prez Sez article. Robie Elms, AJ4F, will be your new president for 2017 and it will be his monthly responsibility to write this article.

I do have to offer my apologies for my articles as not being "what I wanted them to be". When Allan I am a person that takes the responsibility seriously. And being president of TDXS is more than just a "spot" for me. The first year I tried to be a real president. The second year was the worst year for me due owning a new company that was not in my plans. So my time has been very, very limited.

The running of the new business, since it blossomed a lot more than was expected, has taken up most of my time. We have been working basically seven days a week.

I am very sympathetic and understanding as to why most hams are concerned and upset when they spend so much for a new "play toy" and it seems to be not working like they expected. I do have to say most of the problems typically wind up being "cockpit problems".

HI.

We all know that hams are a "different breed". A few can be the equivalent of a "relentless mother in law". Thank goodness that most hams are really very nice and considerate. And I love talking with them. Well, enough of that. J

When I can, I want to get back to operating on the air more and building antennas. A project I have in mind is a 64 foot vertical that I use for 160m through 30m...maybe... at least 160m and 80/75m..... well some of 75m..... Maybe. HI.

The DX conditions are changing so fast. Anyway, I see you guys on the TDXS reflector going after DX. Sometimes I slide over and "bag one" and say to myself, "that was fun". And sometimes I have to say, "Bob, now you don't have time to play". When that little voice inside of me starts "muttering", I want to squash it like a pesky gnat. But the other voice, and I'm not sure if it's my mom's or dad's voice.....or a combination of both... plus some of my school teachers blended as well. However, it is enough to make me NOT get on the air. Darn... I sure hope you guys don't have that problem because.... bottom line, "it sucks".

December is my last month to be your president and write this article. Thank you for reading this and allowing me to ventilate. I apologize for that. Someday I hope retire again and be a "normal ham".....

hmmmmmmmmmm.... So what constitutes a "normal ham"?

I have to say that I enjoyed being president of TDXS. I love TDXS and all of its members. We are a "unique group" and I love that. And forgive me for saying this, but some are more unique than others. J

Have a good November. Eat lots of Turkey. I do, every day. HI.

CU at Dinner Out meeting Thursday, November 10th. See TDXS.NET website for location. Come visit us.

Bob Hardie W5UQ
President TDXS 2016 and 2014 and 2015..... J

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: October 13, 2016

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Scott K5DD, Mike K5UO, Lance WD5X, Mike N5MT, Doug WB5TKI, Curt WG5H, Keith NM5G, Dale KG5U, Allen N5XZ, Orville K5VWW, Ron K5HM, Jim N5DTT, Gerald K9GEM

Guests: Charles Battig K4TX, Rose-Marie Battig KB4RM, John Chauvin K5IZO

The October meeting was held at the Tracy Gee Community Center in Houston. The highlights from the business meeting were:

- The elected officers slate for 2017 was announced. They were:
 - President – Robie Elms AJ4F
 - VP Membership – Keith Dutson NM5G
 - VP Meetings – Co-VPS Gerald Muller K9GEM and Lance Rumfield WD5X
 - Treasurer – Orville Berg K5VWW
 - Secretary – Doug Seyler WB5TKI
 - Since there were no other nominations, this slate will be elected by acclamation at the November meeting

The topic of club-provided name tags for new members was discussed with general agreement that it should be revived. The cost will be within the Board’s discretionary limits of \$250 per occurrence and \$1000 annually.

The program was presented by John Stratton N5AUS, ARRL Vice Director for the West Gulf Division. He presented an update on topics of concern to hams, including the NTS lawsuit against ARRL, the ARRL RM-11708/FCC Docket 16-239 NPRM proposal before the FCC to modify permissible signal widths for digital HF communications, and House Bill HR-1301, which would amend station antenna structure regulations.

The NTS lawsuit arose from disagreements stemming from NTS contacts with FEMA without ARRL involvement.

RM-11708 has the potential to wreak havoc in the CW/RTTY/Data sub-band portions of the HF bands if wide-band signals are also allowed there.

House Bill HR-1301 is also called the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2016. It aims to prohibit community associations, such as HOAs, from banning outdoor antenna for radio communications. However, the wording has two serious flaws. First, it is vague on just what sort of antenna constitutes an “effective outdoor antenna”. It could be argued that a wire dipole is an effective antenna, thus precluding anything more elaborate. Secondly, it requires the amateur to obtain community association approval under rules establish be the association for antennas and support structures, which could be very restrictive indeed.

We have 3 new members of TDXS:

- # 195 is Charles Battig K4TY from Houston.
 - # 196 is Rose-Marie Battig KB4RM (XYL)
- # 197 is Harold “Marty” Fitzgerald W5MF from Spring
Welcome to the club!

The next meeting will be the annual Old Codgers dinner get-together, held this year Churrasca Brazilian Steakhouse on Westheimer in Houston. It will be on Thursday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Orville K5VWW@tdxs.net.

73,
Submitted November 5, 2016
Doug Seyler WB5TKI
TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

Band conditions have not improved greatly as last months fall/winter DX season activity has shown marginal improvement. As this is being written the sun has gone to sleep and the Solar-Terrestrial data currently has the A index=5, and the K index=Ø!

The "6G" team from the UK operating on Campbell Island as **ZM7G** has certainly been active on all bands from 160M to 10M and have placed an emphasis on 160M and 80M. They have made over 750 qso's on 160 alone. These guys are a bunch of great operators that hear very well. They will be active until November 10th.

The operation of **XU7MDC** operating from Sihanoukville, Cambodia is certainly drawing a lot of interest. This is being operated by 24 operators of the Mediterraneo DX Club and have 6 countries represented. They plan on having as many as 5 stations on the air simultaneously. They will be active from November 4th to 13th.

November 26th and 27th are the dates for the CQ World Wide DX Contest and activity on the bands will be high. Some of the known DX stations planning on operating are: DL1A, EI0R, M2G, G2JL/SV5, GU4CHY, GM3X, OZ8SW, PJ4A, PZ5V, SM2EKM, TM6X, VK6VZ, V26K, VE5SDH, VP3VI, VU2PTT, VK2IA, XWØYO, 9M4LI, VK9NF, E51RR, and A52NH.

Good DXing,
Orville, K5VWW

Also, this was picked up off of the TDXS reflector {Ed}

The Daily DX™, <http://www.dailydx.com>, this morning announced the following Dxpedition:

Zorro, JH1AJT, will be active from Myanmar (XZ) with Champ, E21EIC; Franz, DJ9ZB; and **Madison, W5MJ**; from 15th to 22nd November 2016.
Call sign to be announced.



Contest Chairman's Report—by Glenn Anderson WB5TUF

It has been a busy month for me. I haven't had much time for radio. My job has kept me busy with the end of baseball and planning for some kind of big football game in February. The only contesting that I managed was the JARTS RTTY on the weekend on the 15th. I was able to get 692 Q's for a score of 304,668. That's currently good enough for second place in the SOLP class.

I will try to be active in the Worked All Europe DX RTTY next week. It is one of my favorites of the season. I really like exchanging the QTC traffic. There are only three more RTTY contests left in the year.

TARA RTTY Melee on 12/3

Ten Meter RTTY on 12/3

OK DX RTTY on 12/17

The next big RTTY show is the ARRL RTTY Roundup on 1/7/2017.

That's all for this month.

Please remember to post any of your contest activity to www.3830scores.com and be sure to select Texas DX Society as your club.

Thanks and 73,
Glenn WB5TUF
wb5tuf@arrl.net



Annual OC Dinner Meeting Announcement by Orville K5VWW
UPDATE—UPDATE—UPDATE

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 **Churrasca Brazilian Steakhouse**
7801 Westheimer RD, Houston, TX 77063

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:



Learning Morse Code Without Trying

It's not exactly beating something into someone's head. More like tapping it into the side.

Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology have developed a system that teaches people Morse code within four hours using a series of vibrations felt near the ear. Participants wearing Google Glass learned it without paying attention to the signals — they played games while feeling the taps and hearing the corresponding letters. After those few hours, they were 94 percent accurate keying a sentence that included every letter of the alphabet and 98 percent accurate writing codes for every letter.



Type: brown
brow|

short tap *tap* *tap* → · - - → w

This is the latest chapter of passive haptic learning (PHL) studies at Georgia Tech. The same method — using vibrations while participants aren't paying attention — [has taught people braille](#), [how to play the piano](#) and [improved hand sensation for those with partial spinal cord injury](#).

The PHL projects are all led by Georgia Tech Professor Thad Starner and his Ph.D. student Caitlyn Seim. The team decided to use Glass for this study because it has both a built-in speaker and tapper (Glass's bone-conduction transducer).

In the study, participants played a game while feeling vibration taps between their temple and ear. The taps represented the dots and dashes of Morse code and passively “taught” users through their tactile senses — even while they were distracted by the game.

The taps were created when researchers sent a very low-frequency signal to Glass's speaker system. At less than 15 Hz, the signal was below hearing range but, because it was played very slowly, the sound was felt as a vibration.

Half of the participants in the study felt the vibration taps and heads a voice prompt for each corresponding letter. The other half — the control group — felt no taps to help them learn.

Participants were tested throughout the study on their knowledge of Morse code and their ability to type it. After less than four hours of feeling every letter, everyone was challenged to type the alphabet in Morse code in a final test.

The control group was accurate only half the time. Those who felt the passive cues were nearly perfect.

The research was recently presented in Germany at the 20th International Symposium on Wearable Computers.

“Does this new study mean that people will rush out to learn Morse code? Probably not,” said Starner. “It shows that PHL lowers the barrier to learn text-entry methods — something we need for smartwatches and any text-entry that doesn't require you to look at your device or keyboard.”

Learning Morse Code Without Trying

Previous research on PHL used custom hardware to provide the tactile stimuli, but here researchers use an existing wearable device.

“This research also shows that other common devices with an actuator could be used for passive haptic learning,” he says. “Your smartwatch, Bluetooth headset, fitness tracker or phone.”

“In our Braille and piano PHL studies, people felt vibrations on their fingers, then used their fingers for the task,” said Seim. “This study was different and surprising. People were tapped on their heads, but the skill they learned was using their finger.”

Seim’s next study will go a step further, investigating whether PHL can teach people how to type on the trusted QWERTY keyboard. That would mean several letters assigned to the same finger, rather than using only one finger like Morse code.

The work is supported in part by the National Science Foundation (Grant Number 1217473). Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the sponsors.



Morse Code 1

The findings demonstrate silent, eyes-free text entry on a mobile device without a keyboard (participants touched on Glass’s touchpad to enter Morse code during quizzes). Many mobile or wearable devices cannot accommodate a full keyboard, so it is a challenge to enable text entry on these devices. This research demonstrates a successful system and a rapid, low-effort way to learn it.

This article can be found at:

<http://www.news.gatech.edu/2016/10/27/learning-morse-code-without-trying>



Main Trading Company—Moving to Houston?

Greetings!

As many in the Texas area know, Houston Amateur Radio Supply is no more. My thinking is that in a city with that many hams, there needs to be a store. A full line store with all brands and models in stock and ready to sell. At least that is what I think. We have been receiving a few emails and phone calls from folks wanting us to look into it. Folks have been asking us for years now to put a store in that area.

Well, We have been looking into it. It seems there is a little interest there but we want to hear from the hams of the area. Would you like to see us put a store in there? I was there last week. If we were to move forward with this, it would be very soon but we don't want to do anything until we hear from the hams in the area. This would be a huge move for us. It would be a major undertaking. Our plan is for a second location. I would have to spend a lot of time there. It will mean lots of hard work, long hours and dedication on our part to bring you a first class store in Houston. It will be a major sacrifice y'all on us and our families. It is three hundred miles away. We do have a plan. We are really looking at putting out this kind of investment in the Ham community there but we want to make sure the locals are on board before we proceed any further. We have sent out a few emails to a few of our customers and friends in the area asking what they thought. It seems there will be no way to make everyone happy as far as a location. Houston is huge. There are more hams in Houston than there are people in the city of Paris Texas. I know that this may seem a little unprofessional but we always try and keep our customers abreast of what is going on here. We want you to know us and who we are. We are mom and pop and that is who we will be there in Houston as well. Will MTC, our company, thrive there as it does here in the small town of Paris Texas? So what do you think? Do you live in the Houston Texas Area? Do you want a ham radio store there? Would you support the store if we had it there? This is a major decision for our families here. Please take a few minutes to complete a very short survey and send us your very honest comments. We want to do this but we want to hear from you first. We cant do it without your support.

<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=00187UIT6Ps4cdN9gkXnKo78iLd6WQgmhYqSzChJmPsCxQ6VdJsacxKAQAtfUKO4TH_UNdDGdlv6n9wnXXubs09THPPHV7EniCJsLzYYFro1A8MUtiTbVf8SaoYFvjt5glf0Ptvjnao3e5X-u6Zqf15Qc_YE7nNBx7tJvGMTZbdV3k2IKWTwGtofVYpg1mwEeUv&c=FDKP4iVI1VlqMgKp1qfar5R9ffLqoVK65cbqBOIFzgVD1mnMMPDlnQ==&ch=lmhj_zkKR0M6xdFkuYZizFzp-VTSaG7gh_pGYqtKu3FhrKvttbOe2g==> Click Here for the survey

Thank You
Richard Lenoir-Owner
Main Trading Company



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
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Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net
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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 November

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Keith Huge - KA5F
 Joe Staples - W5ASP
 Charles Brues - N5AM
 Robert McWhorter - K5PFE
 Chuck Dietz - W5PR
 John Davis - KN5T
 Bill Eckenrode - W5SG
 Bob Chmielewski - N5PJI
 Bruce Meier - N1LN
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 Chuck Hornburg - K5IX

Don Mayhall - N5DM
 Don Daze - N5DD
 Matt Thomas - WX5S
 Willis "Cookie" Cooke - K5EWJ