



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net March 2017

This month's Dinner meeting will be on a special day and will feature Holger ZL3IO/DL7IO

**Wednesday March 15, 6:30pm
Silver Palace Chinese Restaurant.
4005-H Bellaire BLVD, Houston TX 77025**



Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

Geez, it's already March and I don't know where the time has gone this year! Does anyone know? One thing I know for sure is that this month is the Greater Houston Hamfest! It will be held Friday March 24th and Saturday March 25th at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg, TX. Just SW of Houston. Go to www.houstonhamfest.org for all the information. K3LR will be there giving presentations and it should be a great show. Yeah, I know it is on a big contest weekend (that is out of my control!) Those who are not participating in the contest please be there! Also, please remember that in June, there is the

joint TDXS/BVARC/Echo Field Day! I am in charge of recruiting operators this year for all modes. I am especially looking for "contest elmers" to show the less experienced operators how to "do it"! Whether on CW, SSB, or RTTY, I know that TDXS has a lot of great operators available to rack up the points and to give pointers to contest beginners. Please consider helping out and maybe we will spread some more "contest fever" around. As a result of Field Day, we have at least one more local who has caught the "bug": Jeff KG5LRP. He has been quite active in all modes as of late. Also, this year we will have more, new antennas and the man-lifts

for supports. Not sure of the location yet, but it will be in Richmond, TX.

HR555: Do not forget to call Ted Cruz's office to express your opinion (NO!) wrt HR555. Perhaps we can kill it before it even has a Senate reference number. His Washington DC number is (202) 224-5922 & his Houston number is (713) 718-3057.

Hope you were able to work Madison W5MJ at TX5T. The team was quite workable much of the time. There were also DXpeditions to VP6 and XX9 going on, so there definitely was some good DX to be worked this month.

73, Allen N5XZ

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The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

March 2017

The Greater Houston Hamfest will be March 24th & 25th. We want to have an increased TDXS presence this year. This is the same weekend as the CQ WPX SSB contest and a remote contest station is being planned (by Curt Fletcher WG5H and others). This activity will be a joint activity with BVARC and I would like to see good support from TDXS members. Please plan on attending and making some time available to support this activity. We have had a lot of discussion about HR-555, The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017. Currently this bill resides in the U.S. Senate Committee On Commerce, Science and Transportation. Texas Senator Ted Cruz is a member of the committee and I recommend you contact his office and make your feelings about the bill known. You can contact his office in several ways:

This link provides a way to comment on pending legislation (as well as other issues) via the web:

<https://www.cruz.senate.gov/?p=form&id=16>

Via his local Southeast Texas office

808 Travis Street
Suite 1420
Houston, TX 77002 (713) 718-3057

Via a phone call to his Washington DC office - (202) 224-5922

As a group, we focus on contesting and DXing activities and as individuals we tend to be achievers and competitive. There are numerous other operating activities which are fun and

fulfill our competitive desires. A good example is ARRL's National Parks on the Air competition which held last year. TDXS member Larry Burke - K5RK alone finished at the top of the leader board with a score of 460. I finished a bit further down tied for 2222nd with a host of others. Where did you finish? Here is a link to the results: <https://npota.arrl.org/index.php>. You log in with your LOTW credentials.

Tim Curtiss, KC5DCT contacted me about the upcoming Texas State Parks on the Air activity. The Lake Area Amateur Radio Club (K5LRK) is organizing this activity which will take place on April 8 – 9 2017. The rules and list of Texas State Parks designators can be found <http://tspota.org/> He is asking if there is any interest in our group to participate in this event this year. Questions can be directed to at KC5DCT@ARRL.net. We have several State Parks close by. Galveston Island State Park would be a good choice. Any interest?

The Museum Ships Weekend Event is scheduled for June 3-4. This not a real contest, but it is fun to see how many of the museum ships you can work. Leslie Bartosh - AD5WB and possibly a few other TDXS members will be participating. There are several museum ships locally – The USS Stewart (destroyer escort) and the USS Cavalla (submarine) in Galveston and the USS Texas (Battleship) in Houston. This activity is sponsored by the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station. Here is a link to their website <http://www.nj2bb.org/museum/>

Lee Cooper - W5LHC, ARRL South Texas Section Manager, and I discussed these types of operating events and he suggested two that might be fun. The first - Texas Breweries on the Air and the second - Trinity Site (site of the first atomic bomb test) Open House. The open house occurs twice a year and in 2017 the dates are April 1st and October 7th. Here is a link to the Trinity Site webpage <http://www.wsmr.army.mil/PAO/Trinity/Pages/Home.aspx>. Either of these would take a dedicated effort to get organized and could be a lot of fun. Neither of these activities has an owner. If you are interested in learning more or taking on one of these contact Lee (w5lhc@arrl.net).

The “grand daddy” of the fun activities is ARRL's Field Day (June 24-25). We plan to participate in with other clubs (BVARC, ECHO, and NARS) as we did last year. Mike Davidson – N5MT is the Field Day Chairman. It is time to reserve this weekend in your schedule to ensure you can participate. *[BTW, we are looking for operators for FD again this year, especially SSB and “contest elmer” operators. Please contact your editor N5XZ if you are interested.—N5XZ]*

73,

Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS February 2017 Meeting Minutes

Date: February 9, 2017

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Scott K5DD, Doug WB5TKI, Curt WG5H, Keith NM5G, Gerald K9GEM, Robie AJ5F, Lance WD5X, Dave K5GN

Guests: Rick Hiller W5RH, Travis Burgess K5HTB

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

- President Robie discussed the current state of HR555, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, and urged the membership to write their representatives in opposition to it.
- Discussion of possible operating events for the club, including operating from the Trinity site in New Mexico and participating in a Texas Breweries on the air event.

Keith NM5G reported on the ham license classes being held at Hooks Airport, with over 100 new hams in the past year.

The program was presented by Rick Hiller W5RH. His topic was “Antenna Things I Learned Last Summer”. Rick had entered into an intense study of all things antenna, from wire type to rf connectors to antenna matching systems and yagi element spacing. He discussed the pros and cons of contemporary beams, as well as old antennas such as the Moxon. He referenced a stack of books that had guided him through his journey. All in all, it was a fascinating look at all aspects of antennas!

New members for February were:

- #201 Rick Hiller W5RH, Houston, TX
- #202 William Fahle K5WL, Oak Point, TX
- #203 Rick Garcia K5TIA, Houston, TX
- #204 Louis House W5DPT, Deer Park, TX

Welcome to all of our new members!

73,

Submitted March 1, 2017

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

Activity has certainly increased with all the contests this past month. Lots of activity from not so common entities plus a few DXpeditions has put some entries in the logs.

Operation of **VP6EU, Pitcairn Island**, will cease operations on March 5th. The operators of the two stations, DJ9HX, DK2AMM, DL6JGN and PA3EWP, have made over 29,500 QSO's in the past 2 weeks and have filled a lot of band-mode slots.

Madison, W5MJ, and **Robert, W5RF**, have teamed with **Neil, VA7DX** and **Keith, VE7KW** to activate **TX5T, Austral Islands**. They have over 20,000 QSO's in their log and we have been fortunate to have had propagation on all bands 160-10M to the Houston area.

The TDXS is helping sponsor 2 DXpeditions this month:

TDXS members **Keith NM5G/YN2MG**, **Ken KD2KW/YN2KW**, **Bill K5WL/YN2WL** and **Marty W5MF/YN2MF** who will be heading to Nicaragua from March 18th thru 28th, 2017. They will include activating **YN2KW** during the CQ WPX Phone contest March 25th and 26th. This will be a multi-op, single transmitter on all bands, low power effort. During other than in the contest, the team will be operating with their own call signs on Phone, CW, RTTY, and other digital modes. They will have equipment to make some satellite contacts as time and weather permit.

TDXS was approached by **Yuris, YL2GM**, the team leader of the TDXS sponsored 2016 Iranian Dxpediton, **EP2A**, requesting our assistance in helping fund a Dxpediton to **Kuakata, Bangladesh**. This request was approved by the Board of Directors. This activation will occur between March 15th and March 27th. There will be 2 calls used during different time periods due to licensing regulations. The calls will be **S21GM** and **S21KW**. Further information may be found on their web site: <http://tinyurl.com/S21-Bangladesh>

Previously notified in last month's Bullsheet, the activation by the newly formed EI DX Group of **9N7EI** from **Nepal** will be from March 8th until March 20th, with up to 5 stations operating 24/7. See www.9n7ei.com.

5JØNA will be activated on San Andres and Providencia by LW9EOC during the CQ WW WPX SSB contest March 27th and 28th.

There will be significant DX activity this month during the contests. Watch the TDXS reflector for postings as well as Telnet listings.

Good DXing,
Orville, K5VWW

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Contest Report—by Glenn Anderson WB5TUF

Hello again. I haven't had any time for the last few weeks to devote to contesting. I've only managed to work VP6EU and TX5T a few times for new band/modes.

Here are some results from our member's activities:

CQ 160 SSB:

AJ4F Robie; 77 Q's 39 mults for a score of 7,410

CWops Mini-CWT Test:

N5XZ Allen 46 Q's 46 mults for a score of 2,114

ARRL DX CW:

KG5U Dale 153 Q's 96 mults for a score of 44,064

KG5N Dave 221 Q's 124 mults for a score of 81,840

W7DXX w/KJ5Y remote OP 876 Q's 283 mults for a score of 736,083

AJ4F Robie 205 Q's 130 mults for a score of 79,950

MMOLID Scott on KJ5Y remote 838 Q's 112 mults for a score of 281,568

W5PR Chuck 141 Q's 106 mults for a score of 44,838

WB5TKI Doug 192 Q's 136 mults for a score of 78,336

K5TU Kim 533 Q's 216 mults for a score of 345,384

KONM Nizar 321 Q's 150 mults for a score of 144,450

CQ WPX RTTY:

AJ4F Robie 281 Q's 163 mults for a score of 59,984

KG5LRP Jeff 230 Q's 132 mults for a score of 40,524

KB4KBS Scott 144 Q's 104 mults for a score of 32,656

10-10 Winter SSB:

N5XZ Allen 263 Q's for a score of 373

KONM Nizar 139 Q's for a score of 201

NA CW Sprint:

KONM Nizar 113 Q's 38 mults for a score of 4,294

73, Glenn

TDXS BOD Biography: Gerald (Jerry) Muller K9GEM

Born in Milwaukee Wisconsin 1943.

Moved to San Mateo Calif when 8.

Father was a Senior Field Engineer For Bechtel Construction Company and moved all over the US and Canada.

Graduated from Santa Maria HS

Graduated from Allen Hancock Jr College with a major in Electronics

I joined the Navy (NRED-11) in Santa Maria California in 1961.

Graduated from Maire Island Data Systems school in A & C school in 1966.

Married Janice Elizabeth Daniel on November 23, 1968 in Norfolk VA.

Have two children, Daniel Allen and Benjamin Andrew. (DAM & BAM)

Moved from East Coast to West Cost three times for different duty stations.

Retired from Navy May 1989 as a Combat Systems Specialist Chief (E-7) DSC. 28 yrs

Worked for Local small Computer companies till hired by Compaq which was then purchased by Hewlett Packard.

Retired from HP May 2007.

I am a volunteer with the Houston Red Cross Chapter as the Chapter Warehouse Supervisor and as Radio Operator.

Received My Technician Ham License on February 11, 2010

Received my General Ham License on June 03, 2011

I am a life member of the following HAM clubs, Houston ECHO Society and the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, I am a member of TDXS and RACES. I am a participant in Pasadena Emergency Communication Group at the EOC

I am a ARES member, South Texas District 14 Northeast #525

Call sign upgraded to K9GEM from KF5EYC January 2015



Where is the world is...The Dry Tortugas (K4T) - By Ron Litt K5HM

Proving that you do not have to go halfway around the world, a 2012 DXpedition to the Dry Tortugas, is a case in point.

I'll bet you thought the next stop after Jimmy Buffet's Key West locale was Cuba? You'd be wrong Dick Tracy!

The small group of islands lying in the Gulf of Mexico at the end of the Florida Keys, the Dry Tortugas are jointly claimed by both the U.S. and the Conch Republic.



The Republic was formally created in 1982 by the "secession" of the Florida Keys in protest to U.S. Border Patrol roadblocks that were hindering tourist traffic. The **Conch Republic** is a micro nation declared as a tongue-in-cheek secession of the city of Key West, Florida, from the United States on April 23, 1982. It has been maintained as a tourism booster for the city since. Since then, the term "Conch Republic" has been expanded to refer to "all of the Florida Keys, or, that geographic apportionment of land that falls within the legally defined boundaries of Monroe County, Florida, northward to 'Sheeter's Last Chance Saloon' in Florida City, Dade County, Florida, with Key West as the nation's capital and all territories north of Key West being referred to as 'The Northern Territories. "'

After losing a brief court battle with the Border Patrol, the mayor of Key West declared the secession of Key West and including the Dry Tortugas. The Conch Republic honors the amateur radio licenses and call signs of US hams and gladly accepts U.S. currency.

Florida's keys are low and irregular. Some keys have thin growths of mangroves and various other vegetation, while others have only small patches of grass or are devoid of plant life. In general, they rise abruptly from relatively deep water. They are continually changing in size and shape.



The Tortugas Atoll has had up to 11 islets during the past two centuries. Some of the smaller islands have disappeared and reappeared multiple times as a result of hurricanes. Today, they constitute the Dry Tortugas National Park. The park can be reached by ferry or seaplane from Key West. Limited camping is available.

The main feature of the islands is Garden Key, which houses Fort Jefferson. The fort started in 1846, was never completed. During the Civil War, it was used as a prison.

The first European to see the Dry Tortugas was Ponce de León in 1513. The preponderance of sea turtles caused him to refer to the areas as the "Tortugas" (turtles). They are called *Dry* owing to the absence of surface fresh water on the island.

In 2016 a team of six hams with proper documents took their equipment, food, and all supplies to operate on Dry Tortuga Island May 6-9, 2016. If you blinked you missed it.

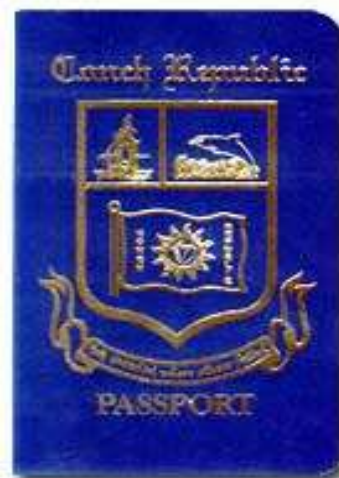


Where is the world is...The Dry Tortugas (K4T) - By Ron Litt K5HM

This DXpedition was something special for DX chasers. Since the Dry Tortugas are a National Park, special designation from the ARRL, National Parks on the Air and World Wide Flora & Fauna were added to the NA-049 and a rare grid square, EL84np as well.

According to Rick K4JTT, "Our purpose was to activate a lighthouse and IOTA for other hams to contact. We'll have fun, give other hams a chance to get credit for a new Islands on the Air (IOTA) credit, have fun, test out our skills in setting up portable stations, have fun, and challenge our operating skills. Oh, did I mention it is to have fun?" I guess they had fun.

Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron, K5HM



GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST



16th Annual

GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST



2017 ARRL Texas State Convention
Two Days of Activities

Admissions Friday is FREE, Saturday is \$10

Friday	March 24, 2017	Workshops & Kit Building	3 PM - 8:00 PM
Saturday	March 25, 2017	Sessions	8 AM - 3:00 PM
		Sales, Tailgate, Raffles	8 AM - 3:30 PM

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 Texas-36 Rosenberg, TX 77471

- www.HoustonHamfest.org -

Technical Programs

Speakers

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kit Building (see www.HoustonHamfest.org) • Soldering Workshop • CW Pile-Up Contest • Two Remote, internet enabled HF Stations • Two Balloon Launches with accompanying technical program • DSTAB, Digital Mobile, & IoT • Reverse Beacon Network, Solar Power • Tonga DXpedition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Duffy: COO, DX Engineering • Dr. David Woolweaver & Bob Inderbitzen: ARRL • Joe Eisenberg: CQ Magazine Kit Building • Dr. Edgar Sanchez-Sinencio, Tx A&M • Dr. Robert Feldtman • Bill Crowell, Hal Fuglaar, Jason Johnson, Andy MacAllister, Allen Mattis, Ken Miller, Bill Pellerin |
|--|---|

GRAND PRIZE

Texas Convention Prize

Committee Prize

Raffle 1st Prize

2nd Prize

3rd Prize

Elecraft K3s

Icom IC-7300

RigExpert AA-54



Raffle tickets can only be purchased on site.

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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 March

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

1 Bayer - W5AEB
 David Bean - W5ZQR
 Bob Walworth - N5ET
 Ed Seeger - K5EBS
 Bill Frink - K5WAF
 John Godwin - K5IUA
 Buzz Jehle - N5UR
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