



The Bullsheet

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

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

Monthly Regular Meeting, Thursday April 13 at 7:00 pm Tracy Gee Center 3599 Westcenter Drive Houston TX 77042

Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

Band conditions continue to be in the dumps, with some occasional good DX here and there. Some excellent DXpeditions have been helping out some. Here, I am continuously working on my DXCC Challenge award, trying to work new ones on 80. Currently at 2430 with 5 paper QSLs bringing it up to 2435. I am looking forward to hitting 2500 and getting the new medallion. I am gratified to hear of a number of local hams putting up new towers and antennas. Pat, KJ5Y has put up a 100 foot tower near Alvin and it soon will have a new GXP beam on it with Remote Hams access. Bill, W5VOM put up a new DB42 on a 100 ft

commercial tower, although I've yet to hear him on the air. . Others include N5DTT, etc.

Here at the N5XZ Superstation, DX worked in March include: VP6EU, EA9CD, 5U5R, J5UAP, 5J0NA, TU7C, TZ5XR, ZD8RH, 9G5X, 3V8SS, E51DWC, S01WS, S21ZEE, OK1XZ/P (cool call, right?). There was more good DX than that, but I missed some.

In case you're interested, the Greater Houston Hamfest was again a great success, even though attendance was down from last year. Approx. 1020 attended. The K3s was won by a non-ham (Sugarland) who is planning to get his ticket and didn't even know what

a K3s is!! The 7300 went to a over the road trucker from Virginia. Geez! And I bought over \$100 worth of tickets! Well, the money goes to a good club.

Field Day is coming up in June. Once again, TDXS will join with BVARC and Houston Echo Society and operate from the Pecan Grove Volunteer Fire Department station on Pitts Road in Richmond, TX. I am looking for volunteers to man the operation positions (CW, SSB, RTTY). Also, we will have several new antennas this year (including new tribanders and a new "Shorty Forty". Once again, W5VOM will provide manlifts for antenna supports and more! So please plan to join us and

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volunteer for one or more operating slots! We want to try to get back into the top ten again this year!

73 Allen N5XZ

The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

April 2017

The position of Contest Chairman is vacant and the TDXS needs a volunteer to fill this position. This position (along with the other elected and volunteer positions) are critical to keeping the organization going. Every individual that participates in these positions influences the organization with his/her own unique talents and perspectives. Please contact me if you are interested.

The Greater Houston Hamfest was a great success from my perspective. I saw and interacted with a great many hams including a number of TDXS members. The effort by Curt WG5H and Pat KJ5Y to set up the remote contest station and work the CQ WPX SSB contest went very well. Several of our members took time to operate and explain the remote setup and contesting to visitors. This was my first opportunity to operate a remote station which used the Remote Rig system. Sitting in front of Curt's remote was just like using my own station at home. In fact, it was a great deal easier due to the superior antenna and higher power! Several of the visitors were enthusiastic and wanted to know how to join TDXS. I feel that our goal of

increasing the TDXS presence was accomplished. With so many activities happening almost simultaneously, you must budget your time and one presentation I caught was by Bill Crowell - N4HPG - Off Grid Solar for Amateur Radio. Bill answered a lot of questions I had but did not know who to ask!

During Holger Hannemann's - ZL3IO presentation at our March meeting he explained his approach to antenna system design for contesting at the ZM4T contest station. He explained how his station could open and close the bands due to its capabilities. I must attest that the setup is effective as I worked ZM4T during the CQ WPX Contest under some very poor band conditions. In fact, ZM4T was the only Oceania station I heard during the contest.

The YN DXpedition lead by Keith NM5G was very successful. The operation consisted of TDXS members YN2MG – NM5G Keith, YN2KW – KD5KW Ken, YN2WL – K5WL Bill and YN2MF – W5MF Marty. I worked everyone at least once however, YN2KW was used as the call for CQ WPX SSB contest and made 2120 QSOs and a claimed score of 3,113,250 points (per 3830 scores)! Great work guys! I am sure Keith and company

will give us a full briefing at a future TDXS meeting.

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 and he informed me that BVARC has chosen the Pecan Grove Volunteer Fire Station as the field day site for this year. That is the same location as last year.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017 (HR-555) Update – The bill remains 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.

The next TDXS Board Meeting is scheduled for Saturday April 22. Location and proposed agenda will be discussed at our April 13th meeting. Board Meetings are open to all TDXS members.

73,

Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS March 2017 Meeting Minutes

Dinner Meeting

Date: March 15, 2017

Location: Silver Palace Chinese Restaurant, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Orville K5VWW, Bob W5UQ, Elva KG5HIE, Ed W5GCX, Robie AJ4F, Gerald K5GEM, Mike N5MT, Scott K5DD, Pat KJ5Y, Jim N5DTT, Rose-Marie KB4RM, Charles K4TY.

Guests: Lynn Seyler (XYL of Doug WB5TKI), Janice Muller (XYL of Gerald K9GEM), , Xenia Gerber (XYL of Ed W5GCX), Chris Boone WB5ITT, Holger Hannemann ZL3IO/DL7IO.

March was a dinner meeting month and we gathered at the Silver Palace Chinese Restaurant on Bellaire for a night of comradery and a special guest speaker. The buffet was extensive and tasty. After brief discussions of HR555 and the upcoming Houston Hamfest remote contest operation, the floor was turned over to Holger Hannemann ZL3IO/DL7IO for the evening. Holger grew up in the former East Germany, where he held the call Y31IO and then Y58IO. After unification he received the call DL7IO. He now lives in New Zealand. Holger's presentation was fascinating, covering operations from the various parts of New Zealand, difficulties in reaching portions of the world, such as the US, and government restrictions on antenna tower heights due to the extremely high winds that New Zealand experiences. Holger's home is in the eastern coast of the northern island, with excellent views to the major ham population areas. His antennas are on a high hill at 1000 feet above sea level. Further details are on his QRZ.com page. If you weren't there, you missed a good one.

73,

Submitted April 6, 2017
Doug Seyler WB5TKI
TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

We lost 2 old friends this month with Midway, KH4, and Kure, KH7K, Islands having been deleted from the DXCC Entities list. These islands even have aircraft runways..

Lots of air time from a few African activations has put some entries in the logs. **5U5R** from Niger, **9G5X** from Ghana, and **3B8/G3TXF** from Mauritius all provided needed band/slots this past month.

The 2 TDXS sponsored DXpeditions this month performed quite nicely:

TDXS members **Keith NM5G/YN2MG**, **Ken KD2KW/YN2KW**, **Bill K5WL/YN2WL** and **Marty W5MF/YN2MF** activated **YN2KW** during the CQ WPX Phone contest March 25th and 26th. They managed over 2,100 contest QSO's, plus lots of activity before and after the contest using their individual calls. They had a lot of activity on 160M and on RTTY to diminish the need for that band and mode.

The DXpedition to **Bangladesh** using the calls **S21ZED** and **S21ZEE** did very well. Even though our propagation window was limited, lots of QSO's were made by TDXS members. The total number of QSO's for the 2 weeks of operation was 51,892....

Early in 2018 will be the proposed time frame for 2 significant DXpeditions. The major operation to activate **Bouvet Island, 3YØZ**, is in progress and TDXS has been asked to help sponsor this activity. The projected cost of the DXpedition is \$750,000. A proposal by the Board of Directors will be submitted to the membership for approval of financial support. Bouvet is ranked as the second most needed entity on the DXCC list preceded only by North Korea. A 20 member team will be active on all bands having propagation for 14 to 16 days, weather permitting.

A second DXpedition is in the planning stage for an activation of **McQuarrie Island, VKØK** by 5 Australian operators.

Additional activities expected this month are:

Dates of Operation	DXCC Entity	Call	Notes
4/6 to 4/18	Seychelles	S79Z	6 ops - all bands
4/7 to 4/15	Guinea Bissau	J5B, J5W	2 ops - 40M-6M
4/12 to 4/18	Mauritania	5T3MM	5TØJL
4/15 to 4/22	Isle of Man	GT4BRS	160M and 60M
4/22 to 4/26	Aland Island	OFØKA	OH3KAV
4/25 to 5/6	Botswana	A25UK	5 stns - all bands

Good DXing,
Orville, K5VWW



Contest Chairman Report—by Robie Elms AJ4F

Contest Chairman Report

TDXS members recent major contest activity submitted to 3830 Scores Contest Summary. I am sure there was more participation that was not reported to the summary website.

TDXS Contest Activity

ARRL DX Contest - SSB		
Call	Category	Score
W5PR	SOSB HP 10	26,496
WB5TKI	SO Unlimited HP	28,836

CQ 160 Meter Contest SSB		
Call	Category	Score
W5PR	SO HP	205,160
AJ4F	SO LP	7,410

CQ WPX Contest SSB		
Call	Category	Score
YN2KW	M/S HP	3,113,250
KG5LRP	SOAB LP	37,278
AJ4F	SOAB LP	25,578
KZ5MM(W5PR)	SOSB 10 HP	92,302

For upcoming contests I use ARRL Contest Calendar most often. I like it because it is organized by month and contains information about the contest in a very condensed format. I usually find all the information required to set up my log by looking at this page. Please review this document and see what you think!

73,

Robie – AJ4F



Where is the world is...Bouvet (3Y) - By Ron Litt K5HM

Where in the World is . . .

Bouvet Island (3Y)

CQ 38 ITU 67

IOTA AN-002

An uninhabited sub Antarctic island in the South Atlantic, it is a dependency of Norway. It lies at the southern end of the South Atlantic, cold, isolated and SSW of the tip of South Africa. Seldom visited by man, it is the most remote island in the world and currently No.2 on the DXCC Most Wanted List.



Bouvet lies at 54 degrees South latitude. It's the product of a volcanic eruption that last occurred in 4,000 B.C. Bouvet is 97% ice covered, and with surrounding rocks and small islands, has an area of 19 square miles, with 18.4 miles of coastline. Its location, ice, rock cliffs, high seas, harsh climate and surrounding pack ice and icebergs isolate it from human presence. Jean-Baptiste Charles Bouvet de Lozier was the first to sight the island in 1739. The first documented landing was by the Norvegia expedition in 1927, which named the island Bouvetoya, and claimed it for Norway.

Bouvet became a Nature Reserve in 1971. The harsh climate and ice-bound terrain limits vegetation to fungi and moss in the snow free areas. Several weather stations have been placed on the island, and several Norwegian expeditions have visited the island in the last 50 years. The island has hosted several previous DXpeditions, the most recent in 2008. A new DX-pedition is planned for early 2018. Listen for 3Y0Z on the bands.



Pat Sonnier—TDXS Member #19 (1973) SK

I am sorry to inform the club that TDXS Member #19 Pat Sonnier passed away recently. Obviously, he was an early member of TDXS and we'll miss his signal on the air during contests.



Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
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Field Day Chairmen	Mike Davidson, N5MT	n5mt at aol.com
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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 April

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

John Cashen - W5UG
 Bob Burns - W5SJS
 Bob Bradshaw - N5RF
 Orville Burg - K5VWW
 Sam Neal - N5AF
 Wayne Bailey - NX7K
 OJ Quarles - K1OJ
 Frank Moore - KE4GY
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