



The Bullsheet

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

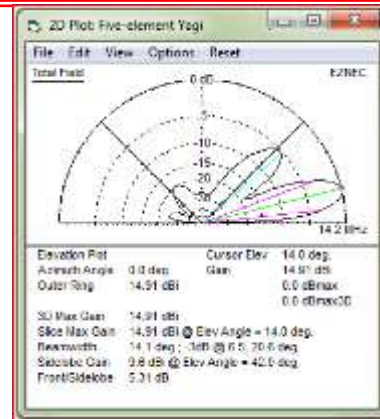
The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net April 2018

TDXS Pre-meeting Dinner: Thursday 5:30PM Apr 12

**Pappa's BBQ
9797 Westheimer RD
Houston TX 77042**

TDXS Monthly Meeting: Thursday 7PM Apr 12 **Presentation by W5RH, "Antenna Modeling with EZNEC"**

**Tracy Gee Community Center
3599 Westcenter DR Houston TX 77042**



Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

Welcome to Spring! Things are warming up out there, the days are longer and later, and propagation is again changing. Still a lot of low band stuff, but I feel the high bands are starting to wake up some with the additional sunlight stimulation. If you missed the Greater Houston Hamfest, you missed another great one! It was scaled down a bit from last year, but there were still many in attendance. Apparently an N5 won the grand prize, but apparently it wasn't N5XZ ☹.

Now, we must set out sites for 2018 joint TDXS / BVARC / KARS / Echo ARRL Field Day in June. Yeah, you might think it is early for that, but it really is not. Our goal is to get into the top ten

again (something we failed to do last year). To do that we will need more help and more operators. Not only CW but also SSB and digital. Preliminary discussions have not begun yet, but I understand that the first Field Day coordination meeting will be held on Saturday, May 5th. (See the BVARC webpage at www.bvarc.org). Time and location to be announced. I have once again agreed to line up operators and rigs, but we need an overall Field Day Chairman to represent TDXS. **Which one of YOU will be that chairman?** (Actually, I wonder sometimes if anyone reads my column... if you do, please let me know!). We will once again have great antennas and supports, and this year we will be operating at a new loca-

tions, from Duhaschek Park Community Center. Never heard of it? Neither have I. <https://www.sugarlandtx.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Duhacsek-Park-Community-Center-45>

But I understand it is a very nice facility, with separate rooms for each mode and open land in all directions. That way we can separate the antennas more to reduce the already low interstation interference.

I have not been on very much...too busy working. But I did manage to do the 0300Z CWT on 3/29 remotely using Pat's W5FMH station. I have to say it is going to take some practice to be efficient on remote. If you do the CWT, listen for me next Wednesday night!

73 Allen 'XZ

Inside this issue:

- The Prez Sez** by Robie AJ4F **2**
- TDXS Meeting Minutes** by Doug WB5TKI **3**
- DX Chairman's Report** by Orville Burg K5VWW **4**
- Contest Chairman's Report** by Jim Burrough N5DTT **5**
- Where in the World is...** By Ron Litt K5HM **7**
- Antenna Modelling with EZNEC** by Rick Hiller W5RH **8**
- TDXS Board Members** **9**
- TDXS Birthdays** **9**

I am looking for more autobiographies of TDXS members to add to upcoming Bullsheets. If you would like to have your illustrious ham radio history published for all to see, please send them to me via email.



The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

At the Greater Houston Hamfest I had conversation with Roy AD5Q about the importance of good programs in improving attendance at club meetings. Roy felt that a good program makes a real difference in attendance. I agree and want to elaborate on what I think makes a good program. I hope this inspires several prospective presenters and that we will see some new faces in the coming months. I feel the most important aspect is that the topic be one the attendees can relate too. The “Show Me Your Keys” program did that very well because most of us got our start in ham radio with CW. We have all experienced the process developing our skills and have some pride in what we have accomplished. The second most important aspect is the attendees should be able to participate. Many of us remember how boring it was to attend lectures in college where the professor droned on and on! Being able to ask questions or share experiences with the presenter is one way while making part of the presentation is another. Team presentations can be a lot of fun. The third aspect is providing the attendees with a “take away”. This can be some knowledge they did not have previously, some pleasant memories of past friendships or activities or and Idea that requires further development. Given these thoughts here are a few ideas for future programs.

QSL Card Show & Tell – bring your very first DX QSL, the rarest, or the most unusual QSL cards to show and discuss. Perhaps cards from TDXS Dxpeditons, or from famous hams around the world. There is almost always a good story that relates to these cards!

Awards, certificates and plaques – bring your best and you get the chance to brag a little. Anyone have a Clean Sweep Mug from the Sweepstakes? How about your certificate for winning a contest with the lowest score! Certificates/plaques for operating achievements – DXCC, VUCC, Triple Play, NPOTA, IOTA, SOTA, etc.

Logging software demonstration. There are several very good logging software packages that are very helpful for the DXer. The DXLabs Suite is a good one. It facilitates all aspects of DXing from identifying needed country/band/mode combinations, LOTW uploads, QSLing, and award submissions. Logic 9 is another one and there are many more. Perhaps we could demonstrate two or more at once and do some comparison/contrast.

If you are concerned about the “technicalities” of putting a program together I’ll assist you. We have access to a computer, software and a projector. Remember, a computer presentation is not necessary! Now we need a volunteer for any of these topics or one of your own!

We are still in need of a Field Day Chairman. I’ll be sending information on the dates and times for coordination meetings with BVARC as they are passed to me.

Our next Board of Directors meeting is lunch meeting on Saturday April 21 @ 11:00 AM. We meet at Luby's 100 Westminster Plaza 12121 Westheimer Road Houston, TX 77077. Everyone is welcome.

73, Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: March 7, 2018

Location: Happy Lamp Chinese Restaurant, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Scott K5DD, Doug WB5TKI, Robie AJ5F, Jerry K9GEM, Orville K5VWW, Chuck W5PR

Guests: Verna Patout (XYL of Scott K5DD)

March found us at the Happy Lamp Chinese Restaurant in Houston. The turnout was small, but we had a nice meal and conversation in a quiet restaurant where we could all join in a single conversation. The food was excellent! The highlights from the business meeting were:

- Robie reported that there was a bunch of favorable feedback on our Show Me Your Keys Night meeting in February. There is evidently a lot of interest in this type of program and suggestions are welcome for future meeting topics.
- Robie also reported that there is a lot of interest in again joining BVARC and other clubs in the upcoming Field Day in June. Since Mike N5MT has now moved to Louisiana we need someone to step up and act as the TDXS liaison to the joint Field Day. As Robie recently reported, the first BVARC Field Day planning meeting will be held on Thursday, May 5.

I hope to see you at the next meeting, at which Rick Hiller W5RH will elucidate the secrets of the powerful EZNEC antenna modeling program. You don't want to miss this one!

73,

Submitted March 31, 2018
Doug Seyler WB5TKI
TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

Kosovo has been quite active with operators from many countries participating in the ceremonies celebrating the activation of the Z6 prefix.

As an example, HB9TSW will be operating as **Z68BG** until April 19th on 80M-17M. There will also be an operation by several OK operators using the call **Z66D** from April 15th through April 22nd. They will be on all bands, all modes, including FT8.

Agalega & St. Brandon will be activated by 8 French operators from April 5th through April 17th. 160M through 6M will be active with 7 stations covering CW, SSB and RTTY. The call used will be **3B7A**.

Malawi is currently active as **7Q7EI** by a group of 14 Irish operators and will be active on all bands until April 3rd. In addition to they are operating **FT8 in DXpedition 'FOX' mode, Version 1.9 rc3**. They work 4 KHz below the standard FT8 recommendations on each band, such as 1.836 kHz and 21.070 MHz. Also they are operating all other modes and bands.

Those not using the new updated version, WSJT-X v1.9.0-rc-3, are causing QRM and stopping QSO's from taking place by others using the new mode. Anyone wishing to work 7Q7EI will need to download **WSJT-X v1.9.0-rc-3** and use the help file here to set it up: http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/FT8_DXpedition_Mode.pdf.

The new software DXpedition Mode is not compatible with the old FT8, and will not allow 7Q7EI or other future DXpeditions to work stations using the old software.

I anticipate that a lot of future DXpeditions will be using this new mode as several stations can be worked simultaneously by the DXpedition on a single frequency which will substantially increase the throughput of QSOs.

Bhutan, A52, will be active from April 29th thru May 5th by 5 JA operators on all bands and modes.

D4IA will be active from **Cape Verde** from April 1st thru 9th on HF bands, mostly CW. Operator is **CT1IUA**.

For those chasing **Grid Squares**, there is a Wave Glider, an autonomous robot, travelling across the Pacific at 2 knots/hour. It has a radio package operating on FT8 using the call KH6JF. It travelled from Hawaii to offshore California listening for humpback whales, and is on the way back to Hawaii. They have additional projects which will go to Johnston Atoll and Wake Islands. For further info see:

<http://www.jrfarc.org/hf-voyager> and <http://hfvportal.jrfarc.org>.

I managed to work the robot in CL51, CL72 and CL62 grid squares.

Good DX,
Orville, K5VWW



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. This has been a very active month for contesting. We are not yet into our flood-recovered house and I have been unable to get over to Fayette County to set-up a Field Day type operation under my tower there, so I was a bystander for the contests. But many TDXS members did participate and many had quite impressive scores. Bottom line, it seems like everyone had a good time and felt that they had achieved their goals. I guess the next big activity is Field Day. Then the IARU World Championships and WRTC competition come along two weeks later.

I hope conditions for IARU and WRTC are good enough for many of us to provide contacts for the contestant teams. I am still trying to arrange an operation from the Norfolk area in the UK. I think a basic 100-watt station and a 20 and 40 Meter dipole could do the job across the North Sea. My daughter’s mother-in-law has a cottage on a hill overlooking a lot of wetland and the North Sea coastline, so the only question now is whether she already has it rented out for that week-end. We’ll see. If not. I’ll check on flights and make the rest of the arrangements. With the WRTC competitors and the rest of Europe within a thousand miles, it could be a real adventure.

My thanks to everyone who worked the ARRL International DX – SSB contest. TDXS, at last, had enough logs sent in to make us a Medium Club in the competition which allowed us to claim all South Texas (STX) as our club competition area. At least two members with Contest Stations outside the normal 175- mile circle were thus able to post great scores from their stations. Wonderful teamwork!

The TDXS scores for this month’s contests are below:

CQ 160 Meter Contest - SSB

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
WB5TUF			22	12	2		826	TDXS

Single Op Assisted LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F			68	32	3		5,600	TDXS

NAQP-RTTY Contest

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
W5PF			438	114	9	49,932	TDXS
WB5TUF			378	106	6	40,068	TDXS
AJ4F			51	25		1,275	TDXS

ARRL International DX - Phone

SO Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5XZ			276	153	5:38	126,684	TDXS
W5DPT			6	2	:45	12	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

ARRL International DX - Phone

SOAB HP

KG5LRP	261	155		119,970	TDXS
N5DD	200	111		66,600	TDXS
WG5H	176	98		51,744	TDXS
KØNM	158	109	9:39	51,666	TDXS
WB5TKI	155	291		45,105	TDXS
W5PF	101	56	5	16,968	TDXS

SOAB LP

WB5TUF	160	160		76,800	TDXS
--------	-----	-----	--	--------	------

CQ WW WPX - SSB

SO(A)AB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
KJ5Y(KM4SII)		x	2064	647	33.5	2,279,381	TDXS
KG5LRP			712	336		396,144	TDXS

SO(A)AB Rookie HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
KJ5Y(KM4SII)		x	2064	647	33.5	2,279,381	TDXS

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
WB5TKI			281	175		119,350	TDXS
N5DD			256	176		112,816	TDXS

SOSB10 HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
KZ5MM(W5PR)			342	184		144,624	TDXS

Until we meet again.

Jim, N5DTT



Where in the World Is...Ducie Island (VP6D) by Ron Litt K5HM

Ducie Atoll (VP6D)

CQ 32 ITU 63

IOTA OC-182

After the failed Bouvet DX-pedition, with its terrible weather and the mounds of elephant seal dung, do you want to try a tropical place? Ducie stands at No. 21 on the Club Log DXCC Most Wanted List.

Ducie is in the Eastern Pacific, about 300 miles west of famed Pitcairn island. Like Bouvet it is south of the equator, so seasons are reversed, and like Bouvet, it is uninhabited and desolate, but the climate is warmer. The comparison ends there. It is not really an island, but an atoll with a central lagoon with a coral reef and several small islets. Only 1.5 square miles in area, the atoll's maximum elevation is about twelve feet.



The few trees there grow to about fourteen feet at the most, so bring your sunscreen and a big floppy hat. Up for a swim? Forget it. While the lagoon is deep, it is noted for its poisonous fish and extremely dangerous sharks. Think Jaws.

The atoll was discovered by a Spanish expedition in January 1606. Then rediscovered and named Ducie Island on March 16, 1791 by Captain Edward Edwards, of HMS Pandora, who had been dispatched from Britain a year earlier to arrest

the Bounty mutineers. If he had maintained course, he would eventually have run smack into Pitcairn and found the them. Instead, HMS Pandora turned northwards from Ducie and missed Pitcairn altogether.

Although Captain Edwards discovered the atoll in 1791, Ducie was not considered a British possession. In 1867 Ducie was claimed by the United States under the Guano Islands Act, which established that an uninhabited territory with guano deposits could be claimed as a US possession, so long as it was unclaimed by any other country.

Despite claims on several other territories, based on various documents such as the Guano Islands Act, neither the United States nor the United Kingdom recognized the sovereignty claimed by each other. Neither of the two considered that the mere discovery of an island was sufficient to claim sovereignty over it. Ultimately, the United States did not assert sovereignty over most of its claimed territories and Ducie remains under the British flag today.

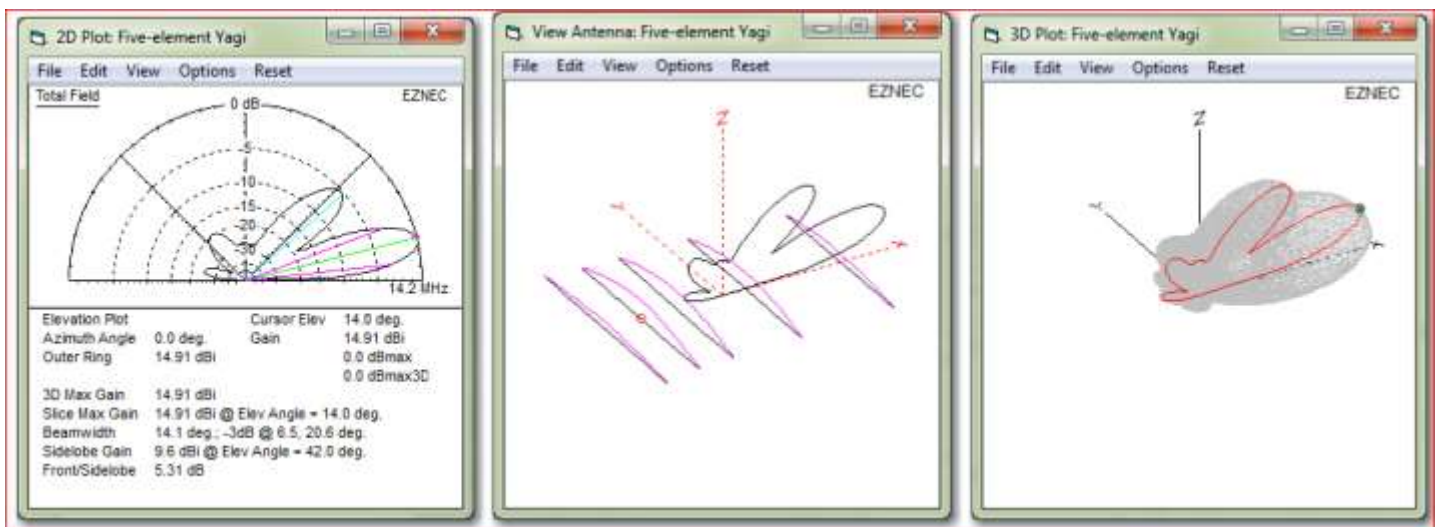
The Perseverance DX Group will land on Ducie sometime in the Fall this year. The group is a veteran of successful DX trips to Chesterfield Reef (TX3X) and Mellish Reef (VK9MT). A team of 14 operators will be on the island for up to 14 days. Seven operating positions are planned for 160-10 meters, SSB/CW/Digital, including FT8. Work VP6D for an ATNO.

Antenna Modeling with EZNEC by Rick Hiller W5RH

Antenna Modeling with EZNEC

Rick, W5RH, will present a program on antenna modeling centered around the use of EZNEC.

Starting at the beginning with the “whats, hows and whys” and then showing the calculation and results functionality of the EZNEC 5 package. Topics to be covered include the NEC engine, defining an antenna structure, setting up the calculation parameters, reviewing the output data and graphics, options and tools for specific antenna types. Also, a look at the available manuals, books and online sources of information, so that you can learn more, post-presentation.



Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
VP Membership	Keith Dutson, NM5G	kdutson at sbcglobal.net
VP Programs	Open	
Secretary	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	djseyler at comcast.net
Treasurer	Orville Burg, K5VWW	Orville at rubyglass.com
Contest Chairman	Jim Burrough, N5DTT	jandpburrough at sbcglobal.net
Field Day Chairmen	Open	
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
Bullsheat 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.tdxx.net> email address: k5dx@tdxx.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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TexasDXSociety/> (new)

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
 Steve Flannigan—W5HPQ