



The Bullsheet

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

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

TDXS Dinner Meeting:
Wednesday 6:30PM May 9
Pappa's BBQ
9797 Westheimer RD
Houston TX 77042



Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

Welcome to Summer (almost)! It's really starting to warm up out there. I should know...in my new job, I do a lot of walking and climbing (yeah, believe it or not) with a heavy climbing harness. It's been getting up to the upper 80's here (yeah, I know that's nothing yet...can't wait!)

Last month, I mentioned the joint 2018 TDXS / BVARC / KARS / Echo ARRL Field Day in June. I know I may sound like a broken record, but we really need some good old fashioned help from top TDXS contesters Not only CW but also SSB and digital. We had our first Field Day meeting last Sat-

urday and Jim N5DTT was in attendance representing TDXS. Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday May 19th. Our new location is Duhaschek Park Community Center in Sugar Land. <https://www.sugarlandtx.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Duhacsek-Park-Community-Center-45> . Please try to be there and join in the operating and fun. I will be posting an online sign-up sheet in a few weeks.

Please read out guest articles this month from Ron Litt K5HM and Ted Rappaport N9NB. A lot of good information there.

I haven't been very active from lately, but

soon hope to get more into the remote ham radio activities. After some tweaks by KJ5Y, I was able to do a bit better in the Wednesday night CWT contest (over 100 QSO's this time). Again, I hope to see many TDXS members at Field Day!!

73 Allen 'XZ

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Please...if you read this and are a member of TDXS, we want to know more about you! PLEASE send me a biography of your ham life, equipment, accomplishments, regrets, wants, needs, etc.

The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

May 2018

Our April meeting was a great success. First, Rick W5RH did a great job explaining antenna modeling using EZNEC to a group with a very wide range of exposure to the topic. Rick was clear, concise and provided enough detail to get you started with EZNEC. One of the real benefits of this software is that it helps you understand how antennas interact with the environment around them. For example, you can “see” how an antenna's impedance and pattern change with height above the ground. This approach is much easier to understand than looking at numbers in a table or a graph. Since the presentation there has been an ongoing discussion about vertical antennas, how their radiation pattern varies with length and several of us have traded models that we have developed. This stuff has a really works as well. I used EZNEC to help design my 160 m inverted L last fall. Using this antenna, I added 15 new countries to my total on that band. If you missed the meeting, all is not lost. Keith NM5G made a video of the program and it has been posted on you tube. You will find a link to the presentation on the TDXS webpage. I had been asked several times to do something to make TDXS programs available to our members who live too far away to attend meetings. Please provide feedback on how well this worked. I want to thank Rick W5RH, Keith NM5G and Scott K5DD for their making this program and video possible.

The April Board of Directors meeting was a good one. We switched it to lunch meeting which appears to be a better fit for everyone's schedule. We discussed Field Day and Doug WB5TKI volunteered to be our Field Day Chairman. Thanks a million Doug! We need to support him to make Field Day a success, so please assist as needed. Jim N5DTT will stand in for Doug at the first official planning meeting on May 5. Another topic discussed was making an earnest effort to find an alternate to our 2nd Thursday meeting day. The issue is conflicts with other activities and changing the day should improve TDXS meeting attendance. We have met at the Tracy Gee Center for many years, however when we request another meeting day we have no guarantee of getting it. The center allocates meeting days/times once a year and gives a preference to current holders of dates/times. We will look for an alternate location, just in case! We need feedback on possible alternate locations. Harris County has numerous community centers, like the Tracy Gee Center, and another one of those may be a possibility. Here is the link to the Harris County website: <http://www.harriscountytexas.gov/>. Look at the various community centers and let us know which ones would be acceptable from your point of view.

The next three meetings – May a Dinner meeting at Pappas, June – Field Day at Duhascek Park Community Center in Sugarland, and another dinner meeting in July at a location to be determined. We need a volunteer to organize the July meeting. Last month I listed several potential presentation topics for our meetings. I encourage those of you who have organized a meeting to select one of those or pick a topic of your own and make it happen. This is your organization and it will not be successful if you do not participate.

Soon Sporadic E season will be upon us. I am seeing a few openings each week and am looking forward to good season on 6 meters. Activity is what we need. If you have the capability spend a few hours of your operation time each week. You will have a lot of fun! If you have questions about getting on 6 meters or operating digital modes such as FT8 I'll do my best to help you out.

73,

Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS April 2018 Meeting Minutes

Date: April 12, 2018

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Scott K5DD, Doug WB5TKI, Robie AJ5F, Jerry K9GEM, Orville K5VWW, Rick W5RH, Louis Roy AD5Q, Larry KB5WWW, Rod W5IE Chauvin K5IZO

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

- Discussion on the topic of changing the meeting night in order to avoid conflict with other clubs who meet on the same night.
- Doug WB5TKI agreed to be the TDXS Coordinator to the joint BVARC/TDXS/ECHO/KARS Field Day effort in June.
- Scott K5DD is revising the format of the TDXS website with new technology and will be soliciting feedback.

The May dinner meeting will be at Pappas BBQ restaurant at Westheimer and S. Gessner.

The program for the evening was presented by Rick Hiller W5RH on the topic of the EZNEC Antenna Modelling software. Rick began by giving a history of the underlying NEC engine that was developed in the 1970s. He also mentioned several other NEC-based modeling programs, as well as some references for antenna basics. For the live demo Rick used the free demo version of EZNEC 6.0. He explained the process of setting up the model, and how to run it and visualize the results. The program is very integrated between the setup spreadsheet and the various results displays.

EZNEC is available from the author at <https://www.eznec.com>. The free version is fully functional but limited in the complexity of the antenna designs, while there are several paid program levels which allow increasingly complex designs. A full video of the program is available at <https://youtu.be/837D5CZihwc>. It was a fascinating discussion and we left the meeting eager to get a copy and start modeling our own antennas!

73,

Submitted May 2, 2018
Doug Seyler WB5TKI
TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

The month of May, 2018 has presented a new set of calls on all bands. This is the 80th anniversary of the founding of FOC, The First Class CW Operators Club. There are over 70 stations active with The FOC suffix, and several special stations signing an 80FOC suffix in commemoration of the anniversary. Examples of these types of calls are 4Z80FOC, DM80FOC, GX80FOC, and 4U80FOC located at the World Food Program in Italy.

There is an operation by several YLs operating as A52YL from Bhutan.

There is to be 3 tests of FT8 DXpedition mode scheduled for Saturday, May 5th. The times and frequency of the stations are:

Date	UTC	Frequency	Fox	Callsign	Operator
May 5	1400	14.090 MHz	W1/KH7Z	N1DG	
May 5	1500	14.090	W7/KH7Z	AA7A	
May 5	1600	14.090	K1JT	K1JT	

You must be using the Beta Version of WSJT-X: WSJT-X v1.9.0-rc4. In addition, you must read, understand, and carefully follow the instructions posted here: http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/FT8_DXpedition_Mode.pdf

Installation packages for WSJT-X v1.9.0-rc4 on Windows, Linux, Macintosh, and Rasp-ian Jessie have been posted on the WSJT web site here: <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html>

There are going to be 2 separate operations from Mozambique. C8T by several Belgians until May 15th, and C98RRC by several Russians until May 9th.

Rodrigues Island will have 3B9RUN operated by several EA stations from May 11th through May 16th.

Good DX,
Orville, K5VWW



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. Unlike last month, when contesting activity was high, the past month was just the opposite. No major contests, so no member scores to report. The next major “contest” is Field Day on June 23 and 24. TDXS will again joining BVARC, ECHO and KARS for another major effort. This is a great opportunity to meet other amateurs with similar interests as well as use some state-of-the-art equipment. Preparations are coming along. There is a planning session on May 5. After that, there will be a lot more information available. I’ll include what I learn in next month’s report.

Within the last week, I was able to get a desk for my ham radio room/office. Once assembled and put in place the next step was installation a new power supply and moving the IC-746 out of storage. The full re-installation was completed and I am back on the air! Interestingly, the first activity of 20 meters I heard was a one-sided QSO with a subject of great interest to me. There was a new ham on the air in QSO with an old ham’s station I could not hear. The new ham was asking questions about contesting. It was clear from his questions that the older ham was one of the anti-contesting operators, the ones we all hear complaining about “their frequencies” not available due to the number of people contesting during a week-end. The ham I could hear was saying things like “What deference does it make if a new DX country is snagged during a contest rather than some other time?” Another question was “During these times of low sunspot activity, don’t contests provide greater opportunities for finding others to work?” I wish I could have heard the old ham’s side of the QSO but I am afraid to would have been too upset with his words.

You have to admit, sometimes we are our own worst enemies. On one hand we complain about the aging ham population and the possibility we may be dying out as a viable hobby. At the same time, we have operators bad-mouthing an amateur radio activity that provides new young hams with a mechanism to get dozens of new countries in a single week-end. That seems very counterproductive. Just think of the negative impressions that new ham came away with. Do you think he will get into contesting if he judges us all by the comments presented by that older ham? My hope is he took it all with a “grain of salt” and kept an open mind about his new hobby. I further hope he will find a Field Day operation to visit or, better, in which to actively participate. Let’s hope he gets in with a group like BVARC, ECHO, KARS and TDXS and sits down with some aggressive testers so he can see just how much fun this part of the hobby can be. Better yet, I hope he gets on the air himself and gets the full effect of just how good amateur radio can be.

There is hope. If you read the March/April National Contest Journal you saw two articles near the back of the magazine that concentrated on young hams in contesting. The first article was in the new Next-Gen Contesters column. In addition to the usual complement of World Radiosport Team Competition (WRTC) teams representing their countries, U. S. Sections or ITU regions, there will be three youth teams. One team is made up of a 23-year-old partnered with a 14-year-old. Another has a 23-year old and a 24-year old. The third consists of a 19-year-old and a 20-year old. All six of these people have superb credentials. Most participate in contests either individually or as guest operators at some of the major stations in Europe or South America. All have been mentored by older hams with outstanding records as testers. All have been participants in the Youth On The Air (YOTA) activities and all are highly skilled in CW. What they lack in experience they more than compensate with in enthusiasm and skill. All six of these young hams are active in sports or other competitive activities. They know about goalsetting and that hard work is required for great results. They are aggressive. I am looking forward to my participation in WRTC in July for no better reason than making contact with these young hams who are the future of our hobby.

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Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

The other NCJ article was about the North America Collegiate Championship. Like the IARU World HF Championship and its “contest within a contest”, the WRTC, the NACC is a contest within the North America QSO Party. Sponsored by the Society of Midwest Contesters, the contest has a goal of getting college-aged radio amateurs interested in contesting. The inaugural running of the contest was held this past January. Sixteen college teams signed-up, ten actually participated and seven submitted logs. Schools represented included Georgia Tech, Cal Tech, Case Western, NC State, and Milwaukee School of Engineering. Most did a multi-op, single radio operation at their school’s club station that allowed scheduling of operators for full coverage of the contest without taking too much time away from other activities – like studying. The NACC was a great success with some really aggressive competition among the seven schools submitting logs. Participation from university clubs may be a bit problematical in the next NAQP in mid-August since most schools will be between semesters, still on summer break. It will be interesting to see what happens. But the real emphasis here is on the idea of getting young hams interested in contesting.

If you are like me, you get a kick out of contest participation. I am a “Little Pistol” and will likely never be a “Big Gun”. But I want to constantly do better than the last contest. Being a VE, I never miss an opportunity to ask what a new ham has in mind, now that he or she has passed the General or Extra test. I try to introduce them to contesting by letting them know a little bit about it, including the next contests on the calendar. I give them a business card with my contact information and encourage them to call with questions. It is a little tough right now, with the propagation as bad as it is.

Until next month,

Jim, N5DTT



Where in the World Is...by Ron Litt K5HM

There's no "L" in Cabrillo?

Up in the sky, it's a bird, it's a plane! No, it's a Cabrillo!

If you are new to ham radio or new to contest participation, you are probably asking yourself that question.

Cabrillo refers to a standard format adopted by most contest sponsors as an electronic means of submitting a contest entry log. Most contests around the world now accept the Cabrillo format in lieu of a paper log. In fact, it is probably true to say that Cabrillo format logs are the de facto standard for radio sport competitions.

The Cabrillo format was developed by Trey Garlough, N5KO. Why the name Cabrillo? While most of us pronounce the "L" in the word, the inventor in a talk at the Dayton Hamvention some years ago pointed out that there are no "L" sounds in Cabrillo. He then proceeded to say that he was driving somewhere in southern California trying to decide on a name for the format when he spied a road sign with the word Cabrillo, and that was the decisive moment.



It is a basic text file featuring a header section and a body. The body is a simple one line per contact record. Most general logging programs and contest loggers can generate Cabrillo files, which can be sent via e-mail or uploaded to a website.

Even if you keep your log by hand, you can still submit a Cabrillo format log thanks to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, and the support of several other amateurs. A web-based applet supports most ARRL and CQ based contests as well as many others. The applet is located at <http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/> . To see a list of the supported contests, just click the link.

See you during the contest.

Reporting from the Dark Side

73,

Ron, K5HM

Technician class, Emcomm forums, and CW/RTTY/FT8 by Ted Rappaport N9NB

Dear All,

With the Dayton Hamvention only weeks away, we have to remain vigilant as narrowband HF spectrum is still under attack, and the FCC could open the floodgates of wideband encrypted data at any moment.

We must not let ARRL or FCC or EmComm officials think, for a moment, that CW or RTTY or Narrowband (FT8, WSPR-X) is dead, or that such modes aren't useful for the hobby or for EmComm. They need to be protected from wideband data.

Please help spread the word to cw/rtty/qrp/dx/contest groups, remind them of these facts:

There are several sessions on various EMCOMM related sessions planned for Dayton, any of which could degenerate in a wide band vs narrow band, ahem, 'discussion'.

Saturday, May 19, 2018 9:15 – 10:30 Room 3
ARRL Public Service Communications Track #3: Panel Discussion

Saturday, May 19, 2018 11:45 – 100{sic} Room 5
National SATERN

Saturday, May 19, 2018 1:30 – 2:30 Room 3
ARRL Public Service Communications #4:
Stories from the 2017 Hurricanes

Saturday, May 19, 2018 2:00 – 3:15 Room 2
AREDN – Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network
AT THE CENTER OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Saturday, May 19, 2018 4:00 – 5:00 Room 4
FCC Disaster EmComm Public Workshop (FCC Officials!)

The ARRL and Winlink/data enthusiasts are sadly never on record as having a “big tent” attitude of protecting narrowband HF operator spectrum, given their 13 year history of data aggression at the FCC.

I think the Dayton 4pm Saturday venue is specifically with FCC official N3GQ, but anyone who wants to keep ham radio open and suitable for narrowband (CW/RTTY/FT8, etc.) should try and attend all EmComm workshops at Dayton – let's divide and conquer to protect narrowband operating spectrum and to participate in the dialogue with EmComm.

Please attend Dayton, and help get the word out to alert everyone in our hobby and FCC about these 3 simple facts:

(continued)



Technician class, Emcomm forums, and CW/RTTY/FT8 by Ted Rappaport N9NB

1. ARRL proposed RM-11306 in 2005, and now continues to push its aggressive data ambitions with RM-11708 in 2013, which is 2.8 kHz Wideband data over the *entire* CW/RTTY/Data HF segments, while ignoring mounting encryption and illegal use violations. New technician class license proposed by ARRL would give complete “all-band” data access;
2. FCC took ARRL’s RM-11708 proposal and created something much worse with its proposed rulemaking WT 16-239 in 2016 that hangs over the hobby’s head, and could fall at any moment;
3. Both ARRL and Winlink/EmComm advocates used the Fall 2017 Puerto Rico disaster and “Force of 50” to lobby the FCC for temporary use of Pactor 4, and publicly asked the FCC to urgently adopt WT 16-239. ARRL also pushed for it and seeks technician class privileges that, should they be successful with RM-11708/WT 16-239, would open the entire HF RTTY/Data/CW bands to wideband technician data.

Here is an easy-to-follow presentation to the FCC in the 16-239 proceedings, and recent, easy to understand articles about the facts. FCC and ARRL must protect narrowband and enforce openness in all data.

These facts are quite simple to understand, please stand firm at Dayton on these key points:

89% of filers vehemently object to FCC’s WT 16-239 which would allow unlimited bandwidth encrypted data throughout the entire CW/RTTY/data subbands of HF;

85% of filers after March 17, 2014 vehemently object to ARRL’s RM-11708 (after the ham community found out about the ARRL proposal and the organized ballot stuffing at FCC);

We need 200 Hz/500 HZ Bandwidth limits at the lower end of all HF bands, and need to clarify that encryption through ARQ compression, and wideband transmissions outside of the ACDS segments are illegal and need to be enforced/acknowledged by ARRL and FCC, even though it currently happens daily and is growing more rampant with modern Pactor and Winmoor! Please urge ARRL and FCC to acknowledge and enforce growing violations. Please help spread the word on CW Ops, your rtty/dx/QRP or contest club, and all around the CW/DX/RTTY contest communities.

For more information that is easy to absorb, as to why WT 16-239 of RM-11708 must not ever happen, and the mounting problems facing ham radio as ARRL seeks to have technician-class privileges expanded to include data in the entire HF cw/rtty/data subbands – potential internet CB with encryption, and no room for cw/rtty/dx/qrp/ft8. Key historic readings, easy to follow:

- <https://www.kb6nu.com/arrls-latest-push-wide-band-digital-arpa/>
- <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/10925839109476/FCCNPRM Docket 16-239 Final.pptx>
- <https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/is-wlaw-going-broke.87022/page-3>
- <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1011027600966/Comments%20of%20WA3VJB.pdf>
- http://wireless-girl.com/RM11708_exparte.html
- <http://wireless-girl.com/PSHSB17344.html>

See you in Dayton!



Texas DX Society Board members

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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 May:

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Leon Pringle, Jr. - W5NA
 John Guida - K5XA
 Jan Carman - K5MA
 Mike Mauldin - K5NU
 Mitch Whitney - AD5W
 Kenny Manchester - NZ5I
 Gregg Erlenbusch - W5IDX
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