



The Bullsheet

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

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

**TDXS DINNER-MEETING:
WEDNESDAY 6:30PM SEP 12
RUDI LECHNER'S GERMAN RESTAURANT
2503 S. GESSNER RD.
HOUSTON TX 77063**



Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

Late newsletters seem to be the thing with me these days. Oh well, sorry about that...at least I got it out again! Boy has it been raining a lot lately! Way too much. And the Mossy's are thick as thieves and are biting! I hope the DX is biting you most of you these days...I have not been on the air much, and I don't hear much good about the propagation lately. I was lamenting that this is maybe my fourth solar

minima in my ham career...I have been a ham now for 48 years! I know some of you have been hamming longer than that, but it seems like only yesterday that the bands were hot and we were making Q after Q on 10 meters! Remember?? Well, hopefully the next cycle will be better than the last. Very sorry to report the loss of Dave Topp W5BXX ☹. I kinda miss his RV during Field Day. Too many leaving

these days...

Don't miss dinner tomorrow night at Rudy Lechner's (unfortunately I will). Rudy's is a great place to eat, been there many times.

Not much else to report from Freeport/Lake Jackson. Lots of mossy's!

73,

See you next month!

73 Allen 'XZ

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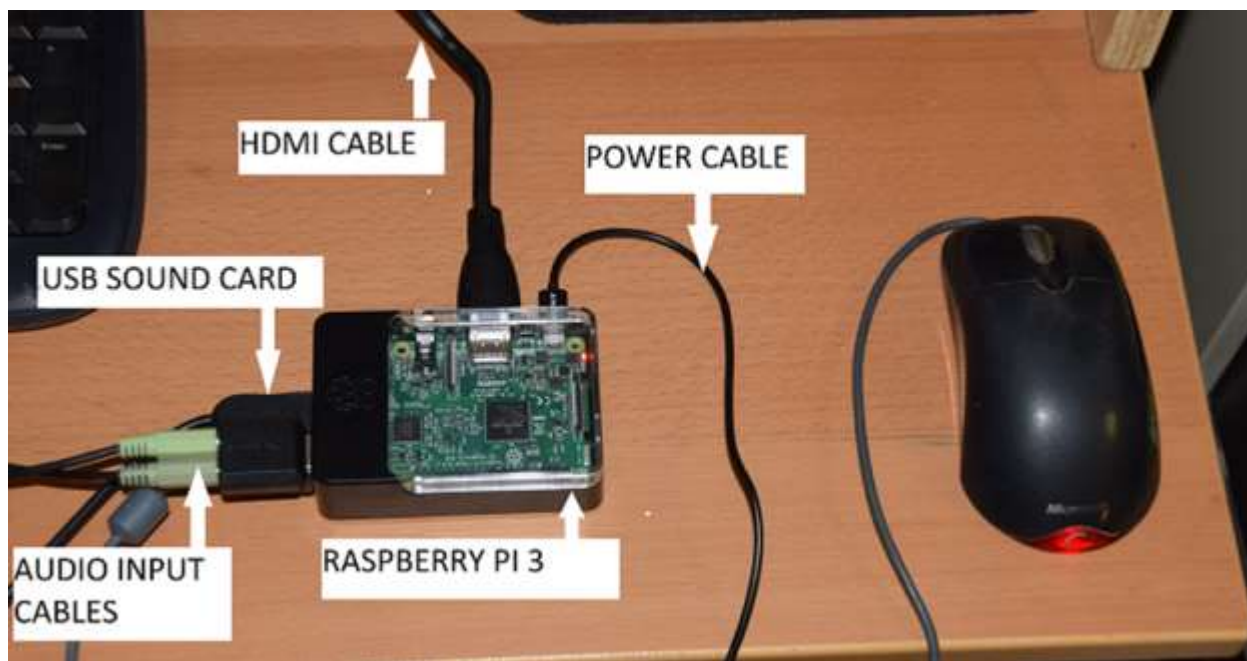
Please...if you read this and are a member of TDXS, we want to know more about you! PLEASE send me a biography of your ham life, equipment, accomplishments, regrets, wants, needs, etc. Pictures also, please!

The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

September 2018

In August I discussed the importance of planning for improving contesting performance and now it is time to make your plans to operate in the Texas QSO Party! This contest is coming up September 29 & 30. Our goal is to increase the TDXS presence significantly compared to last year. I would like to see each TDXS member commit to operating at least 5 hours during the contest! Such an effort would yield a tremendous improvement and help prepare you for more intensive efforts like the CQ World Wide SSB contest which is less than 60 days away. Now is the time to set make the commitment and be prepared to participate.

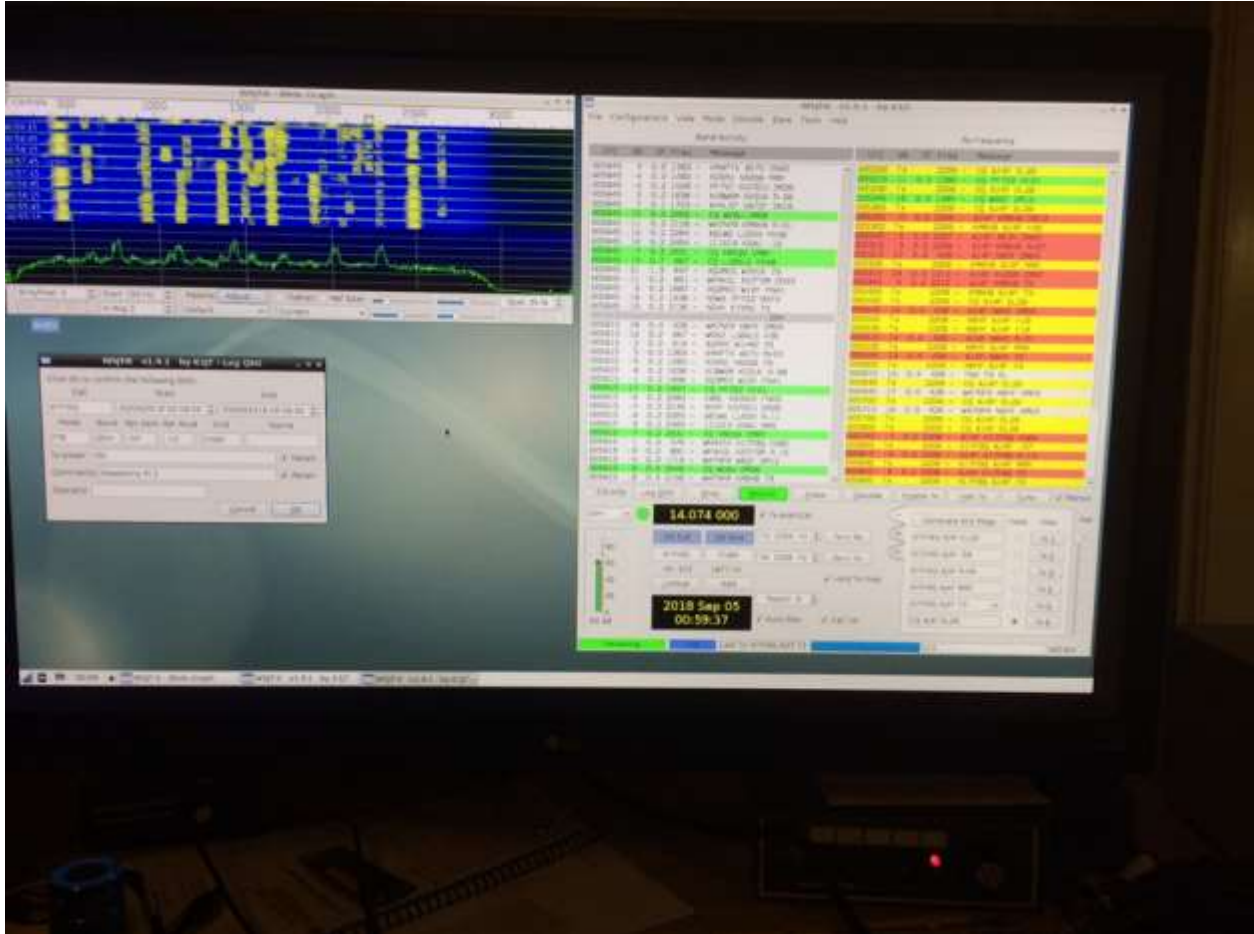
I have been experimenting with a Raspberry PI 3 Model B computer to determine how useful it could be for Amateur Radio. The Raspberry PI 3 is a fully functional computer with video output, wired and wireless LAN capability that is approximately the size of a computer mouse. This computer uses a micro SD card for memory and runs Raspbian, a version of the Linux operating system. It is powered with a 5 Volt 2 Amp supply. An old keyboard, a mouse, a HDMI cable and a cheap USB sound card dongle are all the extras you need. In the photo below the 2 green connectors are the audio in/out cables connecting to my K3, they are plugged into the USB sound card dongle. The keyboard and mouse USB connectors plug into the computer below the sound card. The connector on the top of the PI 3 is the HDMI cable to my monitor. Several ham radio applications have been written for Linux. For this experiment my PI 3 is running WSJT-X 1.9.1.



The system functions well. With this setup I worked over 50 stations in a few hours on Sunday afternoon including 9G5AR an new one or me on 20 meters. This system is not as powerful as a full-blown PC, but it gets the job done.

The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

In the photo below, I've just worked KI7FQB on 20 meters.



You need to spend a several hours to learn Linux well enough to get this setup running, and having a coach makes it easier. Many thanks to my son Ryan for his help. My next step is to get the PI 3 fully controlling my K3. I plan on experimenting with several other applications which have Linux versions, FLDIGI for RTTY, PSK & CW and CQRLog which is a general logging program. More feedback as the story unfolds.

The Raspberry PI 3 experiment is an inexpensive way to increase your computer knowledge. The total cost of the setup I describe above is approximately \$ 50! The software is free and there are online training programs for both software and hardware. There is even training on a Python, a program that allows you to write applications for the Raspberry PI as well as other computers. All this training is also free! Now that our radios are software based, station accessories are digital and station automation is one of the keys to improving performance we must develop our computer & software skills.

Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: August 9, 2018

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Larry KB5WW, Don N5DD, Keith NM5G, Jerry K9GEM, Scott K5DD

The August regular meeting had a rather light turnout, in part because the BVARC club was holding their annual Ice Cream Social on the same night. There was a brief business meeting before the program. Items discussed were:

- September dinner meeting will be at the Rudi Lechner German Restaurant on Gessner in Houston. This has been a popular choice in the past so attendance should be good.
- The search for an alternative meeting place continues.
- Nomination for elected club officers opens with the September meeting and closes with the October meeting.
- A program is needed for the October meeting. Doug WB5TKI offered to display the portable rig and setup that he plans to take to Belize in late October, and discuss licensing and operations in Belize.
- The annual Old Codgers Dinner will be held on November. A dinner location is needed, as well as someone the spearhead the event.

TDXS has had a fair turnout this year for team entries in contests. We hope that this continues and grows.

The program was presented by Keith NM5G. He discussed the training ham license training program that he presented to NASA Astronauts at the Johnson Space Center. These were astronauts involved in the ARISS program on the International Space Station. The training was presented through the NARS club.

Because of the extensive prior training that the astronauts had received in electronics, the course focused primarily on the FCC Rules and Regulations. The coursework consisted of two 2-hour sessions and used the QRZ.com practice exams. As one would expect from these bright, highly trained people, they all passed their license tests the first time. This was a very informative look inside of the astronaut training at JSC.

We hope to see you in September at Rudi's.

73,

Submitted Sept. 2, 2018

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary

DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

September appears to be a continuation of very quiet lower bands with most activity on FT8.

The operation is from the **Austral Islands** as **TX5T** by **Madison Jones, W5MJ**, and **Bob Feldtman, W5RF** last month appears to have been a success in spite of the weather delays. They had 17,719 total qsos on 160M through 10M. Several of the TDXS gang managed to get in the log as one of the 568 Top Band qsos.

Thanks for the effort Madison and Bob.

This forthcoming weekend is the All Asia DX Contest and will be the source of most DX on the bands.

Some planned DX Operations planned for All Asia DX are:

Guam	August 30 th - September 3 rd	AH2X by OH2BH . Operating from KH2L
Guam	August 30 th - September 3 rd	AH2J by JR1VAY . Also in Russian RTTY Contest
Palau	August 31 th - September 3 rd	T88PB by JAØJHQ

More upcoming activities for the month are:

Another **XX9D** DXpedition to **Macao** will have 15 operators, mostly from Germany. This will be on 1.8 through 50 MHz on CW, SSB, FT8 and RTTY. Emphasis will be on low band activity to North America. The scheduled dates are from September 11th through 26th. For further info: <http://xx9d.mydx.de>

A5A from **Bhutan** will be active from September 4th through 14th. JN1RVS will be assisting Zorro, JH1AJT, in a mainly FT8 DXpedition mode operation on the following frequencies: 7056, 10131, 14090, 18095, 21091, 24911 and 28091 KHz.

EXØPL will be operating from **KYRGYZSTAN** by 12 Polish ops from September 1st through September 10th.

WHØRU by **JG7PSJ** from **Saipan** will be active September 12th through 18th, 40M-10M.

Good DX,
Orville, K5VWW



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. August was a hot month and there were only a few major contests. TDXS fielded two teams for the NAQP-CW contest and one team for the NAQP-SSB contest. The Team and individual scores are detailed below.

North America QSO Party – CW

TDXS

K5GN(@W5KU)	214,616
N5XZ	155,480
K5TU	118,426
WG5H	11,523
Team Total:	500,045

TDXS2

N5DTT	3,784
K5IZO	1,508
Team Total:	5,292

North America QSO Party – SSB

TDXS

WG5H	23,433
NI5DX	13,000
N5DTT	10,296
WB5TKI	8,062
K5IZO	1,512
Team Total:	56,303

K0NM also participated but was not registered for the Team Competition. He generated a score of 1,512.

My participation in these contests was sort of divided, at least as far as operating location. I had local obligations during the day of the NAQP-CW so did that one from home. For the NAQP-SSB I operated from my Fayette County location. Since I still do not have a ham shack there so I operated from a good sized tent near the base of the tower. This contest was not only a test of the tower and tri-band beam but also a test of operator fortitude and dedication. Tents catch a lot of sunlight and radiate a lot of infrared energy. During the daylight portion of the contest I had a tarpaulin with a reflective Milar™ backing positioned to block the direct sunlight. It did OK but the rest of the tent radiated IR and created a pretty uncomfortable operating position. I had a fan blowing on me and a huge ice-cold drink



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

available. I did alright with the heat, but I resolved that I would have an air-conditioned operating position there before the Texas QSO Party.

Everything worked well, and my score reflected the improved antenna system. Once I get something built or bought that will allow operating under more tolerable conditions, I am sure the new contesting QTH will help me improve my contest scores. It will also really help me as far as DXpeditions are concerned. A barefoot station with a vertical antenna is seldom heard and has trouble hearing.

Enough about my experiences. Have you heard that ARRL has upgraded their capabilities in the Contest Branch? They have created the new ARRL Contests Portal (contests.arrl.org). While it is still early in its development, I am quite impressed with what is there. The new portal will make uploading logs a lot easier and will speed up seeing that a log has been received. There is a tab for viewing and printing certificates. I entered my call and found 47 certificates, one for every ARRL contest I have participated in since 2003. I had no idea I had done so well in some of these contests.

One feature in the portal that I will really use is the **Clubs** tab. This will really help me in my role as Contest Chairman for TDXS. The portal will allow me to easily upload updated eligibility lists to the Contest Branch. It will also make it easier to view our current eligibility list and the Affiliated Clubs List. Also included is a Grid Distance Calculator which will make it a lot easier for me to keep our eligibility list accurate as we add new members or have current members change QTH or establish a Contest Station Location that is different from their home QTH.

All in all, I am excited that this new portal is available and look forward to using it a lot as it matures.

The next ARRL Affiliated Club competition is the September VHF Contest on September 8-10. Unlike NAQP, we do not have to form teams before the contest. Just participate but be sure to designate **Texas DX Society** as your Club in your Cabrillo log. Every current member of TDXS is on our list so there will be no problem with your score counting toward the TDXS Affiliated Club Score.

Until next month or when I see you next,

73

Jim, N5DTT



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

Market Reef (OJ0)
CQ Zone 15 ITU Zone 18
IOTA EU-053



It is cold and uninhabited. Barely 6 degrees of latitude below the Arctic Circle. It's not an island really, basically consisting of about 8 acres of rocks. Located in the narrow part of the Baltic Sea between Sweden and Finland, the island guards the strait to the Gulf of Bothnia. In the summer, the Baltic Sea washes over it and in winter drift ice pushes against it. Nothing grows here. The Market Reef lighthouse is located low to the sea,

where waves can wash over the entire DXCC entity. At high tides, it can only be safely approached by helicopter or zodiac boat.

The island is shared by both countries – and it is the smallest island thus divided between two nations. Market Reef was formally divided between the two sovereignties at the Treaty of Fredrikshamn in 1809 which defined the border between Sweden and Finland, then part of Imperial Russia.

The island was considered no-man's land but in 1885, the Grand Duchy of Finland built a lighthouse on the island. As a practical matter, they built it on the highest part of the Reef.

Unfortunately, that was the Swedish part. In 1985 the border was adjusted so that the lighthouse is now located in Finnish territory. The adjustment was carried out so that no net transfer of territory occurred, and ownership of the coastline was unchanged (see map). Creating one of the weirdest map anomalies in the world (see map).

In 1969 ARRL, the ARRL granted Market separate DXCC entity status. The Finnish telecommunications authority followed suit, giving Market its own unique call sign prefix – marking the birth of OJ0-land.

Market remains a kind of mecca for the international amateur radio community. In 2019 Market will celebrate its 50th anniversary as a DXCC entity. The Finnish Lighthouse Society has shown its support to the ham radio operators



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



whenever possible. Through their assistance a permanent Force-12 XR6 antenna was erected on the roof of the lighthouse. Many DXpeditions have visited Market reef in the last 49 years, Market remains one of the most sought-after contacts. Market Reef is number 171 on Club Log's Most Wanted list.

**Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron Litt. K5HM**

Ever thought about Q Signals? by Ron Litt K5HM

In today's amateur world, VHF/UHF repeater communications are commonplace but the use of Q signals in repeater communications is sadly diminished.

The use of "Q" signals is an amateur radio practice that goes back as early as 1915. When Morse code was the exclusive means of communicating, Q signals were a handy way of shortening common sentences into three letter groups.

Q signals have changed with time but are still widely used in voice communications as a kind of shorthand, especially on the HF bands. QSY originally meant, "Shall I change my spark frequency?" Now we use QSY instead.

In the world of repeaters, we don't QRM people; we "double". We don't use QSB or QSA. Instead we say you have full quieting or white noise or bacon frying (ugh!). We rarely are at a QTH where we can QRT or QRV. We are usually at home, work or some other place. We no longer QRX, QSY or QRZ. In the D-star world, we use R2D2 to describe when a signal loses intelligibility.

Q codes are an important aspect of amateur communications. I use them liberally when there are non-hams visiting. It helps to create curiosity about ham radio. Usually, something like, "What the heck did you say?"

QSO's on repeaters tend to have a lot more local and personal content. In order to revive the use of Q Signals on VHF/UHF, what we need is a set of Q codes more appropriate for this mode of communication.

Some Unique Q Signals for Repeater Use

- QWK Going to work. Are you going to work?
- QHO Are you headed for home? I'm headed for home.
- QTF Is traffic is bad? Traffic is terrible!
- QBQ Know a good BBQ place? I know a good BBQ place
- QCF I am going for coffee. Are you going for coffee?
- QGA I am stopping for gas. Are you stopping for gas?
- QHG Did you just pass gas? Phew!
- QBR I need a beer. Me too!
- QHD Going to Home Depot (Lowes, Ace Hardware, Radio Shack)?
- QLT Are you late? I am way late!
- QTO Are you on the way to breakfast? QSL.
- QNW No way! Way!
- QDT Done that. Been there (Interchangeable with QBT)
- QBT Been there. Done that (Another way to QDT).
- QDW That Doesn't Work. Yes it will.
- QWW That Won't Work! (QDW with emphasis).
- QHF Going to the hamfest? I am/am not going.
- QIX XYL is in the car. Don't mention what I bought at the hamfest. QSL?

Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron Litt. K5HM

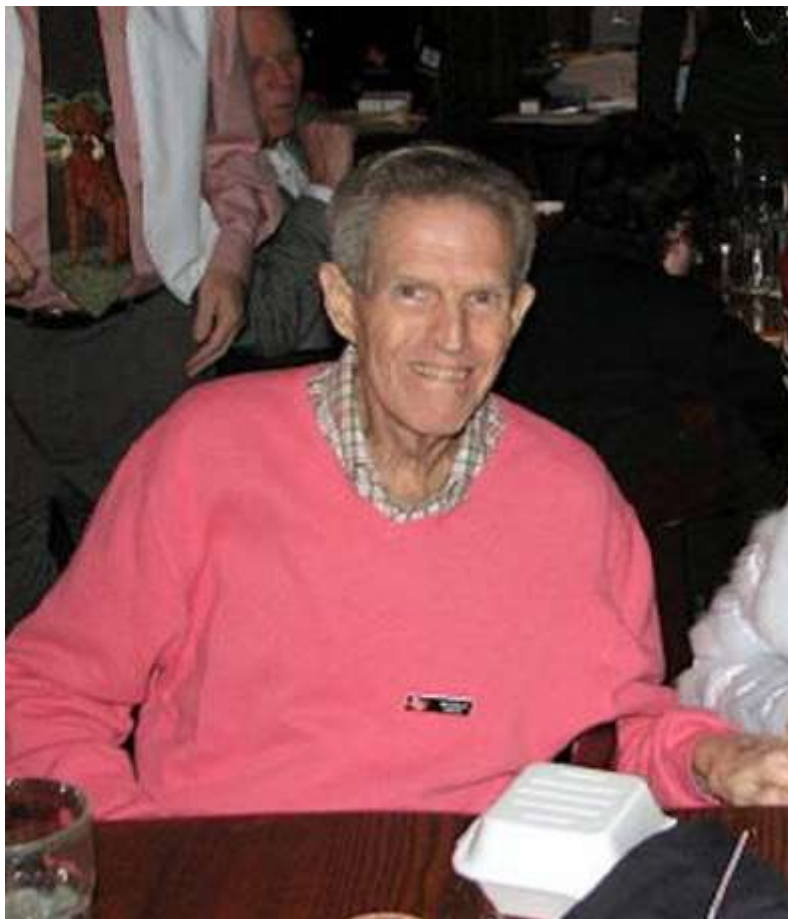
Dave Topp W5BXX TDXS#144 - SK June 29, 1939 - August 12, 2018

David "Dave" Shelby Topp, 79, of Sugar Land, TX passed away peacefully on August 12, 2018. He was born on June 29, 1939 in Longview, Texas to John Stephen Topp and Bessie Vallery Topp. Dave was a graduate of Longview High School, and a proud alumni of the [University of Texas](#) at Austin. Dave married his beloved wife Lynda in Sugar Land, TX on April 4, 1994. He was also a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity, and a member of the Sugar Land First United Methodist Church.

Dave is survived by his loving wife Lynda, his daughter Renea Dayton and son-in-law Duncan, his brother Stephen and wife Ray, and brother-in-law John Abernathy and wife Monique. He will also be remembered by his stepdaughter Alexis Sullivan and her husband Arthur, stepson John L. Sullivan II and his wife Kelli, stepson Kirk Sullivan and his wife Laura, and stepson Matthew Abernathy and his wife Bambi. GrandDave (or G-Dawg, as he was affectionately called) is also survived by his grandchildren Katy (David), Perri (Guillermo), Lindsey (Steven), Lyndi-Paige Pyle, Courtney, Rachel (Reece), Peyton, Tessa, Johnny (Kayla), James, Patrick, Summer (Tyler), Brady, Lexi, and great-grandchildren Dawson, Scarlett, and Barrett, along with his nieces Elizabeth and Allison, grandnieces Maggie and Caroline, and various cousins, extended family, and innumerable friends. Dave is preceded in death by his beloved parents and his stepdaughter Kelly McDaniel. Driller of oil wells, stoker of epic winter fires, and a diehard Longhorn, Dave will be dearly missed. Hook 'em! Family and friends are invited to a memorial service at Sugar Land First United Methodist Church, 431 Eldridge Rd., Sugar Land, TX 77478 on Thursday, August 16th at 12pm. There will be a reception following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider donating to one of Dave's favorite organizations: Providence Children's Home ([providencekenya.org](#)), SmileTrain ([smiletrain.org](#)), A Place for Peanut ([aplaceforpeanut.com](#)).

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TDXS Banquet 2008



Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.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

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

TDXS says "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to these members with birthdays in September:

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Bill Denton - W5SB
 Dave Evans - K5SOR
 Galen Graff - KB5FU
 Tom Taormina - K5RC
 Jay Temple - W5JQ
 Lance Rumfield - WD5X
 Steve Nace - KN5H
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