



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net August 2019

TDXS Regular Meeting: Thursday 7:00PM August 15
Program by W5MJ: Madison discusses N1MM+ contest software

Tracy Gee Community Center
3599 Westcenter DR
Houston TX 77042



Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

It seems it's getting hotter and hotter out there! Be careful and drink lots of water if you're out there working. I had a small crew come over to my QTH a few weeks ago to take my big 4 element SteppIR beam down. We started promptly at 8am and got it down in about 2 -1/2 hours, but it got hot and humid in a hurry. Mark WB5ANN did a great job up top and the ground crew was Leonard WD5CAY and Gayle WB5DOT. Thanks guys! I treated everyone to breakfast at The Old 300 Diner in Richmond, TX. The verdict: three bad EHU's. I will be sending all four back to SteppIR for evalua-

tion and have them repaired or buy new ones as required. Well, I had a pretty good run of 13 years out of that SteppIR and it worked GREAT! So I am looking forward to getting it repaired and back up in the air (perhaps when things cool down a bit!) The Texas QSO Party (TxQP) is coming up in September and TDXS is now the sponsor of this contest. I urge as many TDXSers to get active in this contest. We also want to grow it some...what do our members think about making it a 48 hour contest instead of just daylight hours? Would that generate more fixed and out of

state interest? I would be interested to know your opinions on this. ARRL elections for West Gulf Director and Vice-Director are coming up later in the year. The two teams I am aware of are Alan Brown K5AB/ Madison Jones W5MJ and John Stratton N5AUS/Lee Cooper W5LHC. I look forward to presenting platforms from both groups. Please vote based on their qualifications when the time comes.

73 for now,

Allen N5XZ

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FLASH!

All TDXS members are invited to the BVARC Annual Ice Cream Social Thursday night August 8th 7:30pm at the Sugarland Recreation Center, 234 Matladge Way, Sugarland, TX 77478!!

It's right across the street from the Post Office. They will also be giving out awards for the top CW and SSB Field Day operators.

The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

We are less than a month away from the Texas QSO Party. TDXS is now the sponsor of this event and we want to make it one of the best! The key is participation and the key to participation is communication. Please bring up the TQP at all the ham radio activities in which you participate i.e. on the air nets, club meetings, hamfests, and informal ham gatherings and encourage others to participate. I would like to see all TDXS members participate as well. We have members in various Texas counties, other states and many excellent operators. Please make a commitment to get on the air and make some Qs! Texas QSO Party - Dates 2nd Saturday & Sunday in September 14-15, 2019. Rules can be found here: http://txqp.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=113

Both N1MM Logger + and N3JFP support the TQP. You can find Information on setting up the TQP using N1MM Logger + here:

<https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/manual-supported/contests-setup/#setup-qso-parties-cw-and-ssb>

The N3FJP logging program for the Texas QSO Party can download here:

<http://www.n3fjp.com/stateqsoparty.html>

The TDXS August program will be about using N1MM Logger + and will be presented by Madison Jones, W5MJ & Dale Martin KG5U. Our members have a wide range of knowledge regarding the setup and operation of the program from first timers to true masters! If you are a first-time user or don't routinely use the program, I strongly recommend you review the N1MM Getting Started documentation prior to the meeting. This ensure you benefit the most from Madison & Dale's presentation. You can find the Getting Started Guide here:

<https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/getting-started/>

While reviewing Jim N5DTT's contest reports our level of participation is increasing, just what the doctor ordered! Propagation on the higher bands is very poor these days, so focusing on the lower bands is important, and since propagation is much the same for everyone activity levels are high. If you are currently not using 40 or 80 meters, keep in mind that a short/loaded ground mounted vertical can be very effective on these bands. On key is to optimize the radial system. From my experience a large number of short radials is superior to a smaller number of long ones. The ARRL Antenna book addresses this issue very well!

73,
Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: July 17, 2019

Location: Rudi Lechner's German Restaurant, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Jerry K9GEM, Orville K5VWW, Larry KB5WWW, Robie AJ4F, Scott K5DD, Dale KG5U, Kim K5TU

Guest: Lynn (XYL of WB5TKI), Janice (XYL of K9GEM), Verna (XYL of K5DD)

For the July dinner meeting we returned to Rudi Lechner's Restaurant for their German buffet. The group met in the Wine Room, which was quiet and cozy. During the dinner Pres. Robie announced that the submitted Field Day score for the combined BVARC/TDXS/KARS/Echo club effort was 16,826 with 4,125 Qs. This was an outstanding result of a lot of planning and building on the lessons from last year. Last year's score was 13,154 point with 3,003 Qs.

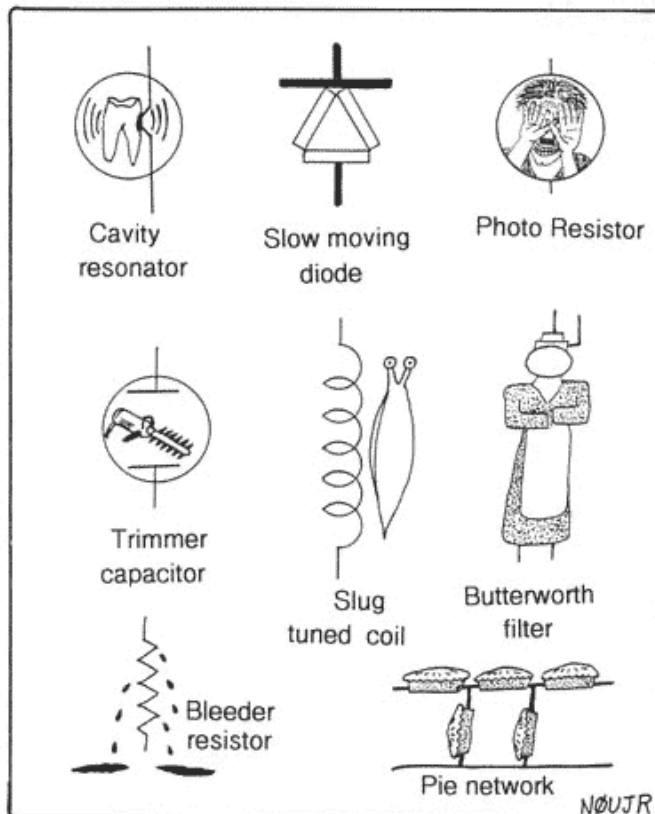
73,

Submitted August 5, 2019

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary

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Little known standard electronic symbols.



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

The summer doldrums are upon us. Not a lot of activity but those that are on are drawing large pileups.

St. Paul Island – CY9C will be active until **August 7th** on **all bands 160M-6M**. Activity thus far appears to be FT8, and below 17M. TDXS members have worked then on 80M but they have not been heard on 160M yet.

Look for **Aland Island** by **OHØUDG** starting August 3, and ending August 17th. Operation will be by several DL operators on 80M-6M.

August 10th through 18th will have activity on **St Pierre & Miquelon** using the call **TO5M** by 4 ops on 16-M-6M all modes.

OJØO will be active from **Market Reef** from **August 17th** until **July 24th**. HF operation during International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend.

Several stations will be active during August.

H44MI – Solomon Islands – FT8.

9U3TMM - Burundi – Predominately 60M FT8 & SSB.

8Q7GB – Maldives – 80M-15M CW, SSB, FT8

Please continue to monitor the main page of the TDXS Web Site, www.TDXS.net, for updates to activity on the bands.

Good DX,
Orville, K5VWW



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. As usual, we will start with the upcoming major HF and VHF contests coming up in August:

- 3 10-10 International Summer Contest – SSB
 - North America QSO Party, CW
 - ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest
- 17 North America QSO Party, SSB
- 18 ARRL Rookie Round-up, RTTY
- 24 W/VE Islands QSO Party
 - 50 MHz Fall Sprint
- 31 Worldwide Digi DX Contest (First Annual)

There are also a few state QSO Parties scheduled:

- 10 Maryland
- 24 Hawaii, Ohio and Kansas

As you will see near the bottom of this report, in the recap of the reported 3830scores for July contest activity, July was a great month for TDXS participation. I was particularly impressed with the number of members who were involved with the IARU Contest. Coming just two weeks after Field Day, there are two ways participation can go. Either you are burned out with the work you did at Field Day and have no desire to do another Summer contest or you are stimulated by your time at Field Day to the point that you cannot wait for another contest. I fall into the latter group and do IARU every year no matter how limited my participation has to be.

I was hoping to be in Fayette County for IARU World Championship Contest, but some family obligations limited my time on the air and my location. But with my limited time, there was still a chance to get on and try to improve my CW skills. While there were not a lot of DX stations coming in, at least with a good 40-meter dipole and my available time I was able to have a bit of fun and not break my 16-year IARU participation streak.

It seems a bit early, but I need to remind everyone that the Texas QSO Party is coming up the second weekend of September. That is September 14 and 15. TDXS is now the sponsor of this contest and it would be great if we had a huge participation of the members. You may not want to or be able to be a rover, covering numerous counties over the two days of the contest, but just operating from home or your rural contesting station would provide another county for contacts. I will be in Fayette County both days. I am usually one of only two stations operating from there. Another TDXS member, W5GCX, operates from the other side of the county at his contest station near Round Top. Mark your calendar and hold the dates open. It should be a lot of fun.



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Here is the members' July contest activity as reported to the 3830scores.com website.

RAC Canada Day Contest – July 1

SOAB/CW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
KØNM	x	x	231	0	20	0	3.5	26,080

SOAB/CW LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
KG5U			118	0	19	0	4.43	13,452
N5DTT			5	0	5	0	0.5	300

IARU HF World Championship – July 13

SOABCW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Zones	HQ Mults	Op Time	Score
KØNM	x	x	713	0	57	39	14	221,856
K5TU			99	0	25	41	4.0	17,490

SOABCW LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Zones	HQ Mults	Op Time	Score	
KG5U	x		514	0	53	40	7:09	138,012	TDXS
AJ4F			115	0	25	15		11,960	TDXS
W3RZ			106	0	16	3	14	5,024	TDXS
N5DTT			44	0	12	3	4.5	1,800	TDXS

SOABMixed HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Zones	HQ Mults	Op Time	Score
K5GN(@W5KU)		x	2087	509	113	115	24	1,900,380



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

CQ Worldwide VHF Contest – July 20

SOSB/6 HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			564	194		109,416	TDXS

SOSB/6 LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WB5TUF			126	82		10,332	TDXS
AJ4F			98	82		7,056	TDXS

North America QSO Party, RTTY – July 20

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
KG5U	x		238	100	10	23,800	TDXS
WB5TUF			218	105	6	22,890	TDXS
KD2KW			169	73	5	12,337	TDXS
AJ4F			77	46		3,542	TDXS
W3RZ			18	13		234	TDXS

Final comments:

The August TDXS meeting on August 15 looks like it will be a very interesting one. Madison Jones, W5MJ, will present a program on N1MM Contesting software. It is clear to me that N1MM is becoming the standard for contesting software. I'm really looking forward to hearing a lot more about it so that I can get more capable in its use.

Well, enough for this month. Until next month or the next contest.....

Jim, N5DTT



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

In the beginning, the site was without form and void, but we could see it had potential. It wasn't much reality. Just a little 50-acre greenspace donated to the City of Sugar Land, Texas by Walter and Virginia Duhacsek. The property included the Duhacsek homestead; a midcentury single-story residence though empty of furniture, could be used for group activities.



After three years of negotiations with the city, we got permission to use the park for our field day activities in 2018. Last year was a trial run for 2019.

At 0000 UTC Friday the transformation began. Four Houston area clubs came together for Field Day 2019. Dubbed the Quad Club Mega-Field Day it included amateurs from the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC), Texas DX Society (TDXS), Katy Amateur Radio Society (KARS) and Houston Echo Society.

Planning began almost a year ago after our first use of the Duhacsek QTH. We learned a lot from that experience. This year we wanted to go big! After all, everything is bigger in Texas, so 10 Alpha it was. BVARC President, Mike Hardwick, N5VCX assembled a stellar planning team including Bill Cordell, W5VOM and Jimmy Vance, W5ZTX.



Antennas Going Up!

Outside temperatures soared into the 90's. Hydration was the key for the set-up crew to stay safe. Although, there was a lot of discussion about claiming a multiplier for temperature.

With 50 acres of open pasture, the antenna field was ideal. Antenna crew chief Bill Cordell, W5VOM donated the man lifts and supervised all the antennas installations. We planned for parallel CW and SSB operations. To make that happen we had two arrays, a Tri-bander for 10,15, and 20 meters stacked above a 40-meter beam for both modes. They were each mounted on Man-Lifts at 65 and 50 feet, so they could be raised and lowered easily. We had a 3 Element beam for 6 meters and additional Dipoles for 20, 40 and 80 meters. Two Beverage antennas were deployed as part of an experiment. Based on the comments received; they will be back next year.

Space Allocation

The house has three bedrooms, two full baths, a large living room, dining area and a fully equipped kitchen. The largest bedroom was dedicated as a dormitory for operators to take a quick nap between shifts. The other two bedrooms were allocated to CW/Digital and SSB operations. The CW room was slightly larger and included two

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

stations for RTTY and FT8. The living room was set up as a lounge area for operators coming in or going off shift, for visitor orientation and for dining.

Keeping the rooms cool was a challenge. As we learned in 2018, 10 transceivers, power supplies, computers and operators generate a lot of heat. Shack Chief, Vance set up two portable air conditioners, one provided by W5VOM, the other by N5XZ. They supplemented the house AC. He added temporary panels of Styrofoam to cover the windows. That offered some additional insulation and prevented outside glare from washing out computer screens.



Standard Operating Strategy

Preparation, preparation, preparation! We wanted all transceivers to operate identically to simplify training and minimize surprises. All the operating positions were the same. For our standard rig we went with the Elecraft K3/K3s. They were all loaded with the same firmware version, The K3 also has different settings for electret or dynamic microphones, we chose Yamaha CM500 headsets for all positions. For operators that might be a little icky about sharing headsets, we provided disinfectant wipes and disposable headphone covers.



Network Chief, Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF provided all the computers and network technology that allowed us to run the logging software with real-time score accumulation. Glenn handled all the computer set up too. He also made sure that all the transceivers were running the same firmware to ensure that all radios would perform identically.

The computer workstations were all loaded with the same version of Windows 7 and the latest update of N1MM Logger Plus networked together. Most importantly, this made operator familiarization standard.



As a group, it was decided to operate as if it were a contest. Potential operators from all four clubs were invited to training sessions held at BVARC and Katy ARS. The focus was to familiarize potential operators with the Elecraft K3 and contest operating techniques.

To get the maximum score, we had a Bonus Chairman, WB5TKI, Doug. He did a stellar job rounding up as many bonus points as possible. For the GO-TA station, we had the use of the Fort Bend County Regional Communications unit, it was the highlight of Saturday operations. There was a press release, educational information table and even me, your author as Safety Officer.



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

A total of 179 hams from the four clubs made up the team covering set up, tear down and the contest operating period.



Iron Chef Field Day.

Food is always a big part of Field Day. Keeping the team running at top efficiency, our own Iron Chefs, Kelli KG5QJE, Daphne K5VQY and Anita, prepared meals for the teams of set up people and operators beginning with supper on Friday. Operators on shift could choose to have their meal delivered to their operating position or to the lounge area.

There were Breakfast Tacos in the morning. Plenty of coffee, water and lemonade during the day. Texas BBQ at night kept the team charged up.



Aaannnd, They're Off!

At 1800 UTC, the contest began. Yes, officially it is not a contest but just a demonstration of emergency communications capability. Why do they keep score then? If it looks like a duck, talks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's probably a duck. Operators signed up for one-hour slots in advance of Field Day with an

online spreadsheet. The sign-up sheet was developed and hosted by Allen Brier, N5XZ. The sheet was transferred to hard copy just before the start of Field Day. It stayed at the Contest QTH. If a participant wanted an extra shift or did not get a chance to sign up online, they could do so right there.



The highlight of Saturday's operations was a visit from our elected official, Fort Bend County Sheriff Troy

Nehls. The Sheriff literally dropped in on the front lawn of our Field Day HQ! In his nearly one-hour visit, the Sheriff toured the operating positions and asked many questions about Amateur Radio and what we could do with our equipment in an emergency.



Band conditions were as good as could be expected, considering where we are in the solar cycle. But there was plenty of activity. It is a good thing there are no multipliers for state or section in Field Day as there are in other contests. We just had to make QSO's.



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



Visitors

We had plenty. And they had plenty of questions. BVARC President, N5VCX, Mike took on the duty of guiding visitors through our site and answering the myriad of questions and pointed them to the GOTA station. We also conducted tours of our Field Day antenna farm, pointing out the purpose of each antennas and the safety markers.

The Final Score

The results of our efforts paid off. Preparations and planning resulted in our biggest score ever. Operating in class 10A turned some heads. I know I had stations asking for repeats on my class. In 10A we were literally in a class by ourselves. We made 4125 contacts. **Our final submitted score is 16,826 points.**

KE7NSB

Finally, I want to dedicate this year's Field Day effort to Jo Keener, KE7NSB (SK). Jo was a long-time member of BVARC and enjoyed Motorola VHF gear. Jo also was an expert on many types of firearms, He was net control of the local Gun Net and had an active reloading business. He passed away earlier this year.



Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron Litt, K5HM



2019 Q3 BOD Meeting Notes—by Robie AJ4F

Attendees

Gerald – K9GEM

Jim – N5DTT

Orville – K5VWW

Larry – KB5WWW

Al – N5XZ

Robie -AJ4F

Field Day

- Generally, FD went well
- Need to participate in the “after action review” – expect this to be scheduled in a month or so
- For next year – need to encourage more “top ops” to participate, need acoustic separation between phone operator positions, need a tool kit for cable repairs, need noise policeman to keep chatter in check

Texas QSO Party

- Encourage participation at meetings, on nets, etc.
- Encourage TDXS participation – want all members to make some QSOs
- Larry & Jim will contact Chuck NO5W and learn about TQP log processing.
- Need to plan an “after action review” after the TQP to develop plans for 2020 and beyond.
- Consider making the TQP a 48-hour contest. This could possibly encourage more participation.
- Need to consider actions to make the TQP sustainable in the future.

SteppIR Vertical repair - Al N5XZ has the vertical. BVARC and TDXS to share (50/50) expense to repair. Al proposed to return the controller to SteppIR for repair. This appears to be the best approach.

Increasing Meeting attendance

- Send a reminder e-mail one week prior to the meeting. Possibly send individual e-mails as well
 - Update Facebook page
 - Phone calls to individuals when appropriate
 - Good programs – we have a list of good topics (not actually consolidate, but could be), but no pre-parers/presenters
 - Need to contact Pat KJ5Y Program VP and encourage him to become active in meeting planning
-

2019 Q3 BOD Meeting Notes—by Robie AJ4F

- Ole' Codgers Dinner /Awards Banquet – all attendees asked to think about possible combination of these activities, pros, cons, and prepare for a discussion + decision at a future meeting. We need to begin considering a location for the Ole' Codgers dinner currently scheduled for November (actual date to be determined).
- TDXS Roster – roster needs an update. Robie to send new data collected to Larry. This needs to become an “official” activity. Perhaps in early 2020.



Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
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Secretary	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	djseyler at comcast.net
Treasurer	Larry Daze KB5WWW	dxon20@gmail.com
Contest Chairman	Jim Burrough, N5DTT	jandpburrough at sbcglobal.net
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Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at arrl.net
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Outgoing QSL Manager	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Webmaster	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
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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 August:

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone or of any updates:

Evie Lane - W5XYL
 Frank Wyatt - KC5M
 Richard King - K5NA
 George Wagner - K5KG
 Bill Wibker - WI5P
 Kirk Kridner - KV5Q
 Randy Thompson - K5ZD
 Brent Levitt - NT5D
 Eric Silverthorn - NM5M
 Trey Garlough - N5KO
