



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 2021

The next TDXS May Meeting will be held via Zoom on
Thursday May 20 at 7PM CST
Program "The End-Fed Half-Wave Antenna" by AJ4F
Keep an eye on the Reflector for Zoom link

Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

Band conditions are steadily improving as Cycle 25 progresses. There have been numerous opening on bands that were completely dead last year. For example, I have seen a lot of 20 meter CW activity and have been regularly working Russians from 10pm to after midnight. It is fun working the gray line again, and working stations starting in eastern Asia, over the pole and then across Europe, just like to old days! 15, 12 and 10 meters have provided some DX as well. 6 meters has also been alive, with some locals occasionally working EU, JA and VK/SL. I am really looking forward to Cycle 25...it's been again a long, slow minimum with limited DX opportunities. DX contesting is also a lot more fun with the increase in numbers.

If you haven't noticed, the TDXS website has been completely redone and I want to do a shout out to Scott K5DD our webmaster. He has done a great job updating and modernizing the website and it looks just great! Check it out!

Next month is Field Day and, as there are no plans for a multi-club mega-Field Day of days past, many are going to do individual or small group activities, or operate at home again like last year, since the ARRL has once again amended to rules regarding 1D to 1D QSOs. <http://>

www.arrl.org/news/arrl-to-extend-field-day-rule-waivers-from-2020-add-class-d-and-e-power-limit. I will be operating at home again this year, so I'll be looking for you!

I would like to welcome a new member to the club, Rich Roder KB5EDR. Rich was first licensed in 1989, lives in Lufkin, TX and has been assigned TDXS member # 237. Please welcome Rich to the club!

For those of you who are from Texas A&M or who have worked W5AC, there are a couple of great articles you might be interested in: http://www.thebatt.com/life-arts/w5ac-continues-a-m-s-amateur-radio-tradition/article_975af076-9da8-11eb-af61-5b4b558e0651.html and http://www.thebatt.com/life-arts/a-campus-club-s-historic-stunt/article_5fc8b832-9da8-11eb-abe7-6b43119c1290.html

Late breaking news! Please welcome Jim Blanca, KE8G as our new DX Chairman. He has agreed to take on the job with no sign-on bonus or salary increase! THANK YOU, JIM!

73, Allen N5XZ

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We are now holding my Thursday "EX-ZED SPRED" lunches on Zoom and it is every week! If you would like to be invited, send me at note at n5xz@arrl.net

The Prez Sez by ????????



TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: April 17, 2021

Location: Cullen Park West, Houston, TX

The April TDXS Meeting was an Eyeball QSO opportunity. A small group from TDXS, KARS and BVARC (~12) gathered at Pavilion C in Cullen Park West. This is north of I-10 and East of Barker-Cypress. In attendance were:

TDXS – Doug W9LCQ, Orville K5VWW, Scott K5DD, Jim N5DTT, Glenn WB5TUF and Wes N5WW

BVARC – Dan KS5V

KARS – Jimmy NA5D, Tom AE5TG, Jack NZ5TX + a couple more whose name I forgot.

Photos from the event were included in last month's Bullsheet. The location is ideal from the standpoint of shelter, plenty of tables, AC power, and proximity to open and wooded areas for antennas. It is also right next to a restroom building. The morning began chilly and breezy, with a bit of mist, but it soon warmed up and dried out.

We had several rigs on hand. Jim brought an IC-706 and a ham stick using a unique "vice grip" mount. He was using AC power from the pavilion. Doug and Orville each brought a KX3, and used Doug's Hardrock 50 amp and Bioenno 15 amp LiFePo battery. They used a Buddipole vertical. And QSOs were made. Perhaps more importantly, there was lots of conversation among the participants. As we ended the event at 1 p.m. there was general agreement that it was a lot of fun and should definitely do it again.

More on this to come shortly as COVID restrictions are relaxed.

73,

Submitted May 15, 2021

Doug Seyler W9LCQ

TDXS Secretary



DX Chairman's Report by Jim Blanca KE8G

DX Report by Jim Blanca – KE8G

3A, MONACO (Update). Operators Ennio/IW1RBI (Team Leader), Alessandro/IZ1AZA, Gianluca/IU1KBL and Andrea/IU1JXW will be active as 3A/IW1RBI from Monaco between May 27-30th. Activity will be on 30-6 meters using CW, SSB and FT8 (F/H). QSL via the address on QRZ.com or LoTW.

3Y0J BOUVET ISLAND DXPEDITION NEWS. Ken, LA7GIA, 3Y0J Co-Leader, reported on the 3Y0J Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3y0jbouvet2023>) that the German DX Foundation (GDXF) confirms their record breaking donation of 8000 Euro/10,000 USDs to the 3Y0J DXpedition!! He states, "This is the largest donation ever and we're very honored with the trust they have shown in our Bouvet project. Let the journey begin!"

8P, BARBADOS. Charles, 8P6ET, will be active as 8P1W during the CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 29-30th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via KU9C direct.

FM/TO3, MARTINIQUE (Reminder). Marius, ON4RU/OQ3R, will be active as FM/OQ3R from Laurent's (FM5BH) QTH on Martinique (NA-107) between May 23rd and June 5th. Activity will be holiday style on 160-10 meters using CW only. He will also be active as TO3F during the CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 29-30th) as Single-Op entry. QSL both callsigns via ON4RU direct.

OL57, CZECH REPUBLIC (Special Event/Contest). Olda, OK1YM, will be active with the special callsign OL57ZW during CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 29-30th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. The special callsign OL57ZW is dedicated in memory and honoring Zdeno, OK2ZW (ex.OK2PZW), who unexpectedly became a Silent Key (SK) on January 4th, 2021, at the age of only 57 years. Olsa will be send all QSL cards automatically via the Bureau.

SV9, CRETE. Peter, DD1GG, is now active as SV9/DD1GG from Crete (EU-015) until May 24th. Activity will be holiday style on 40-10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

TY, BENIN (Update). Ian, ZS6JSI, who has been active recently as ZS6JSI/TY from Parakou about 400km north from capital city, is now signing TY5AB. He has been there since late January and is expected to be there until June. Activity is limited to his free time. Watch for him on 80/40/20 meters using SSB and FT8. Equipment is an ICOM IC-718 transceiver with 100 watts into a ZS6BKW directional antenna pointed towards Europe and Africa and a Trap dipole directional towards the Americas. QSL via EC6DX or LoTW.

PROPAGATION FORECAST/REPORT (May 17-23rd).....

May/17th BN May/20th LN May/22nd LN
May 18th LN May/21st LN May/23rd LN May/19th AN

SOLAR REFERENCE KEYS/INDEXES AND GEOMAGNETIC REFERENCE

NORMALITY	GEOMAG	K Values	Alpha
AN - Above Normal	Quiet	K=0-1	0-7
HN - High Normal	Unsettled	K=2	8-15
LN - Low Normal	Active	K=3	16-29
BN - Below Normal	Minor Storm	K=4	30-49
DIS - Disturbed	Major Storm	K=5	50-99
VRY DIS - Very Disturbed	Severe Storm	K=6-9	100-400

This month's DX and propagation report is credited to **Tedd Mirgliotta – KB8NW/OPDX/BARF80**



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. As usual, we will start with a summary of major contests coming up in the next two months.

May

- 1 10-10 International Spring CW Contest
 - ARI International DX Contest
 - 7th Call Area QSO Party (7 states)
 - Indiana QSO Party
 - Delaware QSO Party
 - New England QSO Party (5 states)
- 8 Day of YLs Contest
 - CQ-M International DX Contest
 - Arkansas QSO Party
- 15 His Majesty King of Spain Contest
- 21 Hamvention QSO Party
- 28 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW

June

- 5 10-10 International Open Season PSK Contest
 - VK Shires Contest
 - Kentucky QSO Party
- 12 SMIRK Contest
 - ARRL VHF/UHF Contest
- 19 All-Asian DX Contest, CW
 - Ukrainian DX Classic, RTTY
 - Stew Perry Top Band Challenge
 - WV QSO Party
- 26 His Majesty King of Spain Contest, SSB
 - ARRL Field Day



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

TDXS members participated in a number of contests in April. Here is their score information as reported in the 3830scores.com website.

Louisiana QSO Party 2021 Apr 3

Fixed CW/Dig HP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW-Dig Qs	Ph Qs	CW-Dig Mults	Ph Mults	Score
K5TIA		5	0	4	0	80

Fixed SSB LP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW-Dig Qs	Ph Qs	CW-Dig Mults	Ph Mults	Score
N5DTT		0	2	0	2	8

Mississippi QSO Party 2021 Apr 3

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	RTTY Qs	FTn Qs	Mults	Score
K5TIA		27	0	0	0	20	1,080

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	RTTY Qs	FTn Qs	Mults	Score
N5DTT		0	8	0	0	7	56

Georgia QSO Party 2021 Apr 10

Single OpCW HP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
K5TIA		74	0	36	0	12	5,292

Single OpMixed LP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
N5DTT		4	9	4	7	1	187

Nebraska QSO Party 2021 Apr 10

Fixed HP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	FT8 Qs	Mults	Op Time	
K5TIA		16	0	0	0	13	10	416

Fixed LP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	FT8 Qs	Mults	Op Time	
N5DTT		1	4	0	0	2	1	12



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

New Mexico QSO Party 2021 Apr 10

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TIA		17 0	0	11 8		374		TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT		0	5	0 4	2	20		TDXS

North Dakota QSO Party 2021 Apr 10

Fixed HP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TIA		7 0	0	6 8		42		TDXS

Fixed LP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT		0	13	0 12	1	156		TDXS

Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest 2021 Apr 10

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5XZ		102	12	1:11	4,392	TDXS

Michigan QSO Party 2021 Apr 17

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
K5TIA		38 0	21	0	10		1,596

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
N5DTT		0	4	0	3	1	12



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Ontario QSO Party 2021 Apr 17

SO CW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TIA			56	0	45	10	9,000	TDXS

SO Mixed LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club	
W5GCX			17	6	14		1,148	TDXS	
N5DTT				3	4	7	2	252	TDXS

Florida QSO Party 2021 Apr 24

SOABCW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
K5TIA			169	0	51	0	10	17,238

SOABCW LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
K5GQ			77	0	33	0	3:25	10,164

SOABMixed LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score	
N5DTT				14	31	10	19	6	1,711

The results are out for the January CW and SSB NAQPs. TDXS had a team in each of these events. In the CW event, Dave, K5GN, scored in the Top Ten in the Single Operator Breakdowns. Dave's score and the scores of his teammates, K5TU, N5XZ, K0NM and KG5U, put Team TDXS in 9th place out of 136 participating teams. Well done! We also fielded the TDXS2 Team which scored in the 92nd position in the standings. In the SSB event Team TDXS (N5DTT, W9LCQ, NM5G, K5IZO and AJ4F) scored in 74th place in the standings out of 105 teams in the competition.

I would like to see even more TDXS member participation in the August NAQP contests. We can usually field two, sometimes three, teams in the CW contest, but we often have trouble even putting together a team of 5 for the SSB contest. Look at your calendar for August. Mark the dates (CW, August 7: SSB, August 21) and plan to sign-up for the contests. It is only 10 hours out of your afternoon and evening. The NAQPs are a great introduction to contesting to new contesters. The NAQPs are a great warm-up for the Fall Contesting Season.

Jim, N5DTT



Where in the World is... Ron Litt, K5HM

Nothing received this month.



Jim Blanca KE8G Introduction

Hi All,

Let me introduce myself to you. My name is Jim Blanca, KE8G, and I have volunteered to be the new DX Chairperson for the Texas DX Society. I hope to be able to fill the shoes of Orville and offer some tantalizing DX tidbits; especially with old Sol beginning to wake up and make our lives interesting. I have 8BDXCC (CW) and am currently at 317 countries worked. I am excited to hear of the possibility of 2 DXpeditions for Bouvet Island, as that will be a new one for me, and I am sure a lot of others.

I was first licensed in 1979 as a Novice with the call sign of KA8ETK and began my DXing career approximately a year later. My very first CW contact was with a "GD" station, but I had no idea what that meant, other than I was a nervous wreck working him! I dabbled with SSB for about 6 months and decided it was not my cup of tea, and have been a CW only guy ever since. I received my General class ticket in late 1979 and carried on for about 10 years. Then life took a turn for me and radio took a back seat. In early 2009, the radio bug hit again and I bought all new equipment; radios, antennas, and all the goodies that go along with the hobby. Some of you know me personally, as I have been involved with the joint Field Day for the past 5 or 6 years. I normally try to help as much as I can with set up and then operating CW, but my Sundays are reserved for Church and family, so I am not around for tear down.

I know this is a club that in the past has had members go on DXpeditions. With Covid, DXpeditions have come to pretty much a standstill, but if you are planning something... PLEASE let me know, so I can report it, and "The Bullsheet" gets publication credit for it.

Enough said about me. If you have any information, questions, comments, etc., my email is ke8g.jim@gmail.com

73 de Jim – KE8G



Desecheo Island Rhesus Removal Report (and TDXS DXpedition)

Hello and 73 from Bill Schrader, K2TNO [ex-TDXS during my Houston days].

For reasons having nothing to do with ham radio, today I was reading about the offshore island of Desecheo, located off the western end of Puerto Rico.

Many of you will not have known about the TDXS activation of the island as a separate DXCC country. Someone figured out that Desecheo was under a separate administrative US entity [I think it was Fish and Wildlife Service]. Anyway, they checked the DXCC rules with an "electron microscope" [not really]--- and determined that this assignment of the island meant that it was NOT just Puerto Rico, it was separate. AND: there had never been a DXpedition there-- ever!

Soooo, in 1985 a bunch of TDXS members figured out how to get authorization, plus all the logistics... and eventually the crew listed below went to the island. If you look on GOOGLE EARTH, you will see that the island has no harbor, no easy beach, and constant Caribbean Sea trade winds, making the surf present all the time. I wasn't along, but I recall a few anecdotes from that event --- first, how to get the gas for the generators ashore--- I understand that some bozo figured out that 55 gal gasoline drums float in salt water-- so the drums went over the side and were towed to the shore. Second, one op [callsign withheld to protect the modest] announced that there had to be a camping porta-potty.

TDXS Operates from KP5 - Desecheo Island, March 6-11,1985. Operators: K5LZO, KA5SBS, KC5M, KD5SP, KZ5M, N5DU, NP4C, NP4KA, NR5M, WP4ATF. 17,000 QSO's on 7 bands.

The island wasn't completely uninhabited-- when they got ashore they met two guys who were contracted by Fish & Wildlife to "remove" a colony of Rhesus monkeys that had been established on the island in 1966 to provide research animals for disease studies. By 1985, that sort of "colony" was not big with the public, PETA, or NIH. So, the two men were there to try to trap or otherwise destroy the colony of monkeys.

NOW FOR THE REASON FOR MY EMAIL: Getting rid of the monkeys was not easy, on a heavily-forested lush tropical island where the monkeys have been living and breeding for 20 years. Today, I came across an article in the scientific literature about the long-standing efforts to eradicate the Rhesus colony. It took until 2017!

Here is a summary of the efforts, that involved four separate expeditions to the island:

"A non-native introduced population of rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) was targeted for removal from Desecheo Island (117 ha), Puerto Rico. Macaques were introduced in 1966 and contributed to several plant and animal extirpations. Since their release, three eradication campaigns were unsuccessful at removing the population; a fourth campaign that addressed potential causes for previous failures was declared successful in 2017.

Key attributes that led to the success of this campaign included a robust partnership, adequate funding, and skilled field staff with a strong eradication ethic that followed a plan based on eradication theory.

Furthermore, the incorporation of modern technology including:

- strategic use of remote camera traps,
- monitoring of radio-collared Judas animals,
- night hunting with night vision and thermal rifle scopes, and
- the use of high-power semi-automatic firearms

(continued)



Desecheo Island Rhesus Removal Report (and TDXS DXpedition)

...made eradication feasible due to an increase in the probability of detection and likelihood of removal. Precision shooting and trapping were the primary methods used throughout the campaign. Long-term monitoring using camera traps and observed sign guided a management strategy that adapted over time in response to population density and structure.

Lessons learnt include:

1. Macaques quickly adjusted their behavior in response to human presence and removal methods,
2. Camera traps and thermal scopes provided high detection likelihood compared to other methods, and
3. The use of Judas animals and night hunting with thermal and night vision rifle-scopes facilitated removals.

The removal of macaques from Desecheo Island appears to be the first introduced non-hominid primate eradication from an island."

The summary is an excerpt from an article published in 2019. I have extracted that 7-page report from the original 752-page International Conference's report. -- Open it if you are interested! (Ed: Here is a link to the article: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eYZoOB6VwacoZtcMmfpNUhm_dkl7eFa/view?usp=sharing)

If not, get back on the air--- I hear there has been a recent flare that took the burnish off the launch of the next Solar Cycle.

73 es DX,

Bill Schrader,

no longer on the air... retired, living in Beaufort NC out on the Coast.

ED: From the TDXS website. Who are these funny looking people? If anyone has some pics from this or other TDXS DXpeditions, please forward them to me (even with a story), and I will publish them in the Bullsheet!

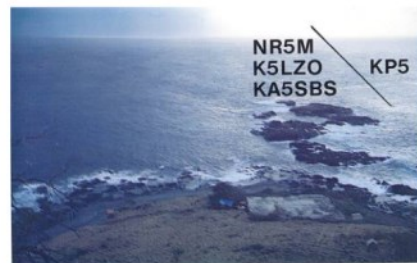
KP5 - Desecheo Island 1985

TDXS Operates from KP5 - Desecheo Island, March 6-11, 1985. Operators: K5LZO, KA5SBS, KC5M, KD5SP, KZ5M, N5DU, NP4C, NP4KA, NR5M, WP4ATF. 17,000 QSO's on 7 bands.



KP5 - Desecheo Island 1985 QSL card

Callsigns used: NR5M/KP5, K5LZO/KP5, and KA5SBS/KP5. We still have logs. If you need a card, contact W9DX.



Texas DX Society Board members

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Webmaster	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Bullsheets Editor	Allen Brier, N5XZ	n5xz at arrl.net

DXCC/WAZ/WAS QSL Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net
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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 or of any updates:

John Guida - K5XA
 Mike Mauldin - K5NU
 Mitch Whitney - AD5W
 Kenny Manchester - NZ5I
 Gregg Erlenbusch - W5IDX
 Joey Clements - W5BAK
 Gerald Muller – K9GEM
 Scott Patout – K5DD