



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net February 2022

The next TDXS meeting will be held Thursday, February 17th at 7pm via Zoom.

Program: Setting up N1MM+ for serious contesting

by Allen Brier N5XZ (and others)

Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

WOW! What a difference a few weeks makes! The sun is really starting to wake up with SFI as high as 130 recently! The bands have come alive, up to and including my favorite band, 10 meters. I absolutely love it! As we speak, (that is, as I type) 10 meters is full of activity and contesters are migrating back there again. I cannot wait for the numbers to get even higher!

And just in time, Robert Polinski KD5YVQ was over at my house yesterday and we worked on getting the new cables installed in my tower until 11:30 pm. And man are they beautiful cables, nice and shiny (quite a contrast to the worn and dirty old tower), slick and they even each have a certificate of testing and individual serial numbers...who ever heard of wire rope cables having serial numbers? Well, we got them in, with a few hiccups and raised the tower to full height last night, and just in time for high winds today, but I know the tower is fine...it has withstood 70MPH gusts in the past fully extended.

In the upcoming meeting, I am going to share my particular setup for N1MM+ and some of the steps I take to prepare and to document a contest. I plan for it to be an interactive forum and look forward to comments as we go along and input from other N1MM+ users to see what they do differently. This will not be a fully scripted presentation. I am always up to learning more about N1MM+ so I am hoping everyone will get something out of the "presentation" including ME. *[But I don't know about the whole "RENOWNED CONTESTER" thing from Doug...]*

As I keep saying, I am looking for guest articles from you guys or any other source to make this rag a bit more interesting. And please welcome our new members, WT4DX, KB5ZR & N5QXP...anyone of you ever served as a DX/contesting club president?? 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 an email at n5xz@arrl.net

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

We are still looking for someone to step of to be TDXS president...how about you?



TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: January 20, 2021

Location: ZOOM Virtual Meeting

The December TDXS Meeting was held, as usual, via ZOOM Video conferencing. There were 17 participants.

Agenda:

New TDXS Members in December

#239 – Tem Hager Jr. WT4DX – The Woodlands

#240 – Ted Smith KB5ZR – Trinity, Texas

#241 – Frank Aguilar N5QXP – Spring, Texas

Recombining Secretary & Treasurer Board positions (as pre-2014)

Monthly meeting programs going forward

Tracy Gee - February, April, August, October, December

Other months – Social Activity, Field Day

Winter Field Day Jan. 29-30

www.winterfieldday.com

1 p.m. Saturday to 1 p.m. Sunday

KARS club @ Cullen Park in Katy – Social Event – please sign up

Check their website for details - <https://www.katyars.com/>

Program –

Win-Test contest software presented by renowned contester & legendary CW op Dave McCarty K5GN. He covered the basic operation, the wealth of windows available to give pertinent information, and how he used the software for SO2R contesting.

A complete meeting recording is available from the TDXS.net website under News > YouTube Channel.

Submitted February 12, 2022

Doug Seyler W9LCQ

TDXS Secretary/Treasurer



DX Chairman's Report by Jim Blanca KE8G

DX Report February 2022 by Jim Blanca – KE8G

We are through the month of January and old Sol has sure begun to get active. Some great sunspot numbers and solar flux indices have really turned up DXing and made the bands a lot more active. I sure hope the trend continues!!

Senegal: 6W7/F6hmj will be active on 40-10 meters until February 22nd. This will be a holiday type operation using a dipole antenna on CW and SSB. QSL via F6MHJ.

Sint Maarten: PJ7/VA3QSL will be active on 40-6 meters using CW, SSB and digital modes until February 6th. QSL via LoTW and VA3QSL.

Montserrat: VP2MDF by W2APF will be active on 80-10 meters until February 18th. QSL via W2APF.

Guadeloupe: TO6S by F6BCW, F1MNO, F1TCV, F5LRL, and VE7KW will be active on HF using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 until February 1st. QSL via the REF bureau (expect long delay) or see web for other QSL information, or F6KJS direct.

Mauritius: 3B8HH by HB9DNG will be active on 80-6 meters using CW, RTTY, PSK and some SSB until January 27th. Look to QRZ.com for QSL information.

Aruba: P4/DL4MM will be on HF; focus on low bands & WARC bands, using CW, SSB & FT8 until February 1st. Will also be QRV for CQ 160 contest using P40AA. QSL via DL4MM.

Surinam: PZ5KV by DL6KVA will be active on HF using CW only until February 10th. QSL via ClubLog OQRS.

Zimbabwe: By DL7BO using Z22O and DJ6TF using Z21A will be active on 160-10 meters until February 20th. They will be using digital (FT4 & FT8), CW and SSB. QSL via LoTW.

Ivory Coast: TU6PCT by OK1BOA, OK1FCJ, OK6DJ will be active on 80-10 meters until February 13th. They will be using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8. QSL via ClubLog OQRS.

Senegal: 6W/ON4AVT will be active on 80-10 meters until February 28th using SSB + digital. He will be using an end fed wire. QSL via ClubLog OQRS.

Maldives: 8Q7AH by LU4DXU from IOTA AS-013 will be active until February 15th on HF using Digital and SSB only. QSL via LU4DXU.

St. Kitts & Nevis: V4/KG9N will be active from IOTA NA-104 until March 1st. on HF. QSL via LoTW and KG9N.

Ogasawara: JE1XUZ/JD will be active until February 15th on HF, using FT8, CW, and SSB. This will be a low power operation (50 watts). QSL via LoTW or JE1XUZ either direct or bureau.

Maldives: 8Q7WM (OK2WM) and 8Q7WX (OK2WX) will be active from IOTA AS-013 until March 8th on 160-40 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via individual's home call sign.



DX Chairman's Report by Jim Blanca KE8G (NOAA)

27-day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2022-01-24

#

UTC Radio Flux Planetary Largest

Date 10.7 cm A Index Kp Index

2022 Jan 24 90 12 4

2022 Jan 25 90 8 3

2022 Jan 26 88 12 4

2022 Jan 27 87 8 3

2022 Jan 28 92 5 2

2022 Jan 29 94 12 4

2022 Jan 30 96 10 3

2022 Jan 31 96 5 2

2022 Feb 01 98 5 2

2022 Feb 02 100 5 2

2022 Feb 03 105 5 2

2022 Feb 04 105 15 5

2022 Feb 05 108 10 3

2022 Feb 06 108 5 2

2022 Feb 07 108 5 2

2022 Feb 08 110 5 2

2022 Feb 09 110 5 2

2022 Feb 10 108 12 4

2022 Feb 11 106 15 5

2022 Feb 12 105 12 4

2022 Feb 13 103 5 2

2022 Feb 14 101 5 2

2022 Feb 15 100 5 2

2022 Feb 16 95 5 2

2022 Feb 17 92 5 2

2022 Feb 18 92 5 2

2022 Feb 19 90 5 2

If anyone should happen to hear of some upcoming DX or DXpeditions, please contact me, ke8g.jim@gmail.com.
I will be happy to include the information in this report.



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

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

February

- 5 10-10 Winter Contest – SSB
 - European Union DX Contest
 - Vermont QSO Party
 - Minnesota QSO Party
 - British Columbia QSO Party
- 12 CQ WPX RTTY Contest
- 19 ARRL International DX Contest – CW
 - Russian PSK WW Contest
- 25 CQ 160-meter Contest – SSB
- 26 REF Contest – SSB
 - FTn DX Contest
 - South Carolina QSO Party
 - North American QSO Party – RTTY
 - North American Collegiate Championship (sub-contest to NAQP-RTTY)
- 27 North Carolina QSO Party

March

- 5 ARRL International DX, SSB
- 12 South America 10 Meter Contest
 - Tesla Memorial Contest CW
 - Oklahoma, Idaho and Wisconsin QSO Parties
 - North America Sprint, RTTY
- 19 Russian DX Contest
 - Virginia QSO Party
- 26 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

TDXS members participated in several contests in January. Here is their score information as reported in the 3830scores.com website.

ARRL RTTY Roundup 2022 Jan 8

SO(A) Dig LP

Call	SO2R Remote	RTTY Qs	Dig Qs	State/Prov	Countries	Score	Club
N5DTT		0	146	38	2	5,840	TDXS

SO(A) Mixed LP

Call	SO2R Remote	RTTY Qs	Dig Qs	State/Prov	Countries	Score	Club
AJ4F		264	3	48	11	15,753	

TDXS

ARRL January VHF Contest 2022 Jan 15

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PRx		294	125		36,750	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WB5TUF		239	106		25,334	TDXS
N5EKO	x	128	68	20	8,704	TDXS
N5DTT		21	14	2	294	TDXS

North American QSO Party – CW

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
K5GN(@W5KU)	x	1503	269	10:00	404,307	TDXS
K5TU		1076	214	10	230,264	TDXS
N5XZ		703	179	8:50	125,837	TDXS2
K5GQ		555	150	10:22	83,250	TDXS2
KØNM		505	139	10	70,195	TDXS
NM5G		279	127	6:15	35,433	TDXS
N5DTT		22	17	2	374	TDXS2
AF5J		275	118	9:57	32,450	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

North American QSO Party – SSB

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
K5GN(@W5KU)		256	89	2:30	22,784	TDXS
K5TIA		116	73	10	8,468	TDXS
N5DTT		121	63	5.1	7,623	TDXS

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2022 Jan 28

Single Op HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TIA		280	57	10	14	37,563	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F		117	38	5	3:03	11,567	TDXS
K5GQ		121	34	5	4:2	10,686	TDXS

Single Op Assisted HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AF5J		13	7	2	1:07	333	TDXS

Winter Field Day 2022 Jan 29

1H LP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AF5J		100	0	0	4	8:05	1,600	TDXS

Jim, N5DTT



Where in the World—By Ron Litt K5HM

The Great Harvey Wells Caper

Part 2

By Ron Litt, K5HM

If you think you missed Part 1, you are probably right. Fageddabout it! Just enjoy the story.

I stared at her for a long time. A pristine beauty with big black eyes and creamy white face. She looked back at me from the magazine. A salty trail of perspiration formed on my upper lip. Six months earlier, I discovered her buried in the back pages of QST. Each month as a new issue arrived, I grabbed it, turned quickly to the ad to be sure she was still there; the Harvey Wells Band Master Z-Match Antenna Coupler. I had to have it.

For the last two years I had one single band antenna for 20 meters. It was great, but I was getting close to my WAS and I needed practically all the New England states. Connecticut and New Jersey were almost impossible from New York City without a 40 or 80 meter antenna. I was desperate.



As a 17-year-old kid with no car and no money, I had next to no social life. You might convince a chick to ride the subway to night court in Lower Manhattan and watch the evening folk routinely scooped up by the cops. Or take the Staten Island Ferry for a nickel moonlight cruise across the harbor. After that, your options for a second date were badly limited without personal mobility.

My life was like a fully charged electrolytic capacitor; ham radio was my only way to bleed off the stored energy. The informal Saturday Night Nerd net was regularly attended by hams at high school who couldn't get a date. I was a regular member. We lasted until one or two in the morning talking about antennas and Q-multipliers and Collins gear we could never afford. It was my only relief from the teen age hormones running amok.

In those days the \$70 price for the coupler was beyond astronomical. It cost more than a senior prom date! Day after day, I sunk deeper into depression. The kind only pubescent teenagers know when they are rejected by the head of the cheerleading squad. Little did I suspect salvation was at hand. The very next Saturday, fate struck a blow right out of left field, KAPOW!



Where in the World—By Ron Litt K5HM

I had gone to Saturday breakfast with the Queens County Bagel, Bowling and Spark Club (QCBB&SC). For about the twentieth time, I bent my old buddy Ralph’s ear about the Harvey Wells Coupler. Ralph, the greatest Elmer of all time, listened patiently while preparing his bagel. I whined on for five full minutes. He was quiet but nodded appropriately and grunted in assent when I paused for a breath.

Precision was Ralph’s key to fame as a ham. He could lay down 25 turns on a coil form without a gap or an overlap; as if it had come from a machine. So too, Ralph had a system for preparing a bagel with cream cheese and lox (smoked salmon, for you non-yankees). Like a brain surgeon with a scalpel, he spread the cream cheese evenly, carefully leaving no space uncovered; trimming any excess cheese that drooped over the edges. Then he layered the lox on top, using a fork to mash down the smoked fish so it was buried into the cream cheese.

Finally, he looked me straight in the eye and said, “Listen kid.” Everybody was a kid to Ralph. “Whyncha go home and work the South Dakota QSO Party? There’s only two hams in the whole state. You might get lucky.”

Lucky? I hadn’t gotten that lucky, since I got to second base with Wanda Louise Schwartzberg on the ferry ride last month, but I needed South Dakota for WAS. This might be the day. I threw down a couple bucks for my share of the bill and took off for the bus stop.

I had bounded up the front steps and into the house when the old man hit me with the letter. The mail had arrived early this day and clutched in his trembling hand was the dreaded pink ticket. “You better take care of this”, he said. The old man didn’t get the enormity of transgression that a pink ticket represented. But he knew that anything that came in an envelope with no stamps and “Official Business” printed on it was trouble. As far as he was concerned, I was as good as being carted off to Leavenworth.

Without uttering a word, I snatched the letter from his hand, turned and fled down the basement stairs. I had to figure out what to do. I sat for a long time; thinking. The U.S. phone band ended at 14200 KC. Most of the good DX was always just below that. We worked split back then, running full carrier double sideband AM, pushing as close to the band edge as we dared, calling for that DX station we needed on the other side.

Late at night, my stubby little fingers would be numb as I gripped the band spread knob and tuned my receiver into the low end of 20 meters. Across the electronic wall at 14200 KC between the U.S. phone and CW bands. You could hear them calling CQ; siren’s voices from places like Australia, Tahiti, Japan and Pitcairn. It was a drug. The call signs and those strange accented voices from exotic places drew me in. I had to make



Where in the World—By Ron Litt K5HM

the contact.

From 14205 and down the QRM was like shock and awe in the Iraq war. Screaming heterodynes beating against one another. Guys over-modulating their rigs and the infamous Kalifornia Kilowatts tuning up. Kaah-Chunk! Hello Test . . .Hello TEST...HEELLLO Test...1,2,3,4...4,3,2,1! Okay, okay, I know you can count already. Night after winter’s night I spent in my chilly basement shack looking for that rare one on 20 meters. The only warmth came from the glow of the parallel 6146’s in the final and the 807 modulator tubes.

Finally, I snapped out of my reverie and mustered the courage to call my old buddy Ralph on the land line. I laid it all out about the pink ticket. In one breath, I unloaded on Ralph non-stop. There was silence for an eternity. “Listen kid”, he began; his voice had a way of piercing through the QRM in my head. “You just need an accurate marker for the band edge. A crystal calibrator. You can pick one up at Harrison Radio for about ten bucks.”

“Hey Ralph”, I said. “What about the letter I have to write? What should I say?” Ralph started in again, “Just tell them the truth kid, you’ll be fine. See you later kid.” And then there was a click. That’s it? Tell them the truth? Somewhere from the dark reptilian part of my desperate brain, the thread of a diabolical plan began to form. A way to solve my FCC problem and snag the Z-Match in the bargain.



Anyone who has ever gotten a pink ticket will tell you it is a serious matter. In my kid mind it was like getting called to Mr. Murphy’s office. Mr. Murphy was the Vice Principal at Millard Fillmore High School. Like the FCC, he knew everything. He was the most feared man at school. It was rumored that he had some medieval torture mechanism in his office. A relic from the Spanish Inquisition that would make the toughest kid confess. Just like the FCC, when you went to see the Vice Principal, you had to confess your transgression, explain why and then describe how it was never, ever going to hap-

pen again.

I spent the rest of the day composing the response to the FCC notice. I pulled out my No.2 Dixon Ticonderoga, the same pencil I use in my logbook. The same pencil that was an accomplice to my crime. Its penance would be to help me contrive this document of contrition. . I began writing and correcting phrases; adding more verbiage where it was needed.



Where in the World—By Ron Litt K5HM

I skipped lunch and supper. Skipping meals did not sit well with Mom who believed that food was the solution to every problem. I was hungry but I didn't want to stem the creative juices while they were flowing. Mostly, I wanted to avoid the old man until I was ready.

It was a work of classic prose worthy of the Pulitzer Prize. In the first part, I acknowledged my crime; pled guilty and promised not to do it again. I said, I'm sorry three times in the first paragraph. In the second part, I described what I was going to do. Purchasing a crystal calibrator, using it to mark the band edge and NEVER operate any closer than three kc from the marker. Then I really poured it on. I swore to check my receiver monthly against WWV, recalibrate my VFO and receiver every 90 days. I even promised to buy a crystal for 14.203 in the event my VFO became unstable.

Then, in the midst of my epistle of contrition, I slipped in a tiny little paragraph about adding an antenna impedance matcher, like the Harvey Wells Band Master Z-Match Coupler. I went on for a couple of sentences about how it would eliminate spurious emissions and reduce any TVI.

There it was! My secret was out. I was betting on the TVI thing because the old man hated most of the neighbors and he didn't want any of them complaining to the cops, let alone the FCC! I finished the letter with a recap of the whole incident and how it would never happen again . . . ever. Finally, it was ready for typing.

As a southpaw, my handwriting was beyond bad. I was the only kid in Mrs. Shapiro's fourth grade class to flunk Penmanship. When you got to be thirteen, most guys I knew got a fancy fountain pen for their birthday. Instead, the old man wisely decided on a typewriter for me. Carefully, I typed each word on the Smith-Corona. To avoid any erasures or mistakes; I redid whole pages until it was perfect and pristine. I wanted to make a good impression on the FCC about the sincerity of my penance. Finally I signed it and typed the envelope too.

By the time I was done, it was after eight in the evening. I could hear the TV in the living room. The old man was watching Sid Caesar; his favorite show. He was laughing; a good sign. At least for the moment he wasn't thinking about the FCC or Leavenworth. I slipped out of the basement, up the stairs to my bedroom without notice and turned out the light. I'd decided to wait till Sunday morning to launch my plan. By now, I was drained.

Saturday night, I hardly slept. The adrenalin was redlining my blood pressure. I pictured the neighbors standing outside my house as the squadron of FCC men swooped down.

Where in the World—By Ron Litt K5HM

They'd all be wearing the official FCC uniform; black pants, long sleeved white shirts, rolled up to the elbows; black neckties; pocket protectors full of pencils and those little slide rules. No nonsense and grim faced, they summarily clapped me in handcuffs and collected me to pay for my crime. Or so the nightmare went; repeated each time I nodded off, with different endings. None of them good.

Now it was Sunday morning. Time for the final act.

I came down to breakfast with the letter in my hand. The old man was eating an onion roll with smoked whitefish; his favorite. He had a copy of the *Sunday New York Times* on the table. Even though he was a blood sworn Democrat he read the *Times*, a Republican bastion from cover to cover each Sunday. Mom was cooking eggs and my kid sister was nowhere in sight.

Nervously, I proffered the letter with the pink ticket on top. The old man looked up from the *Times*. He was reading the financial section and mumbling about the Republicans. He took the letter and started reading.

I'd worked up my simple letter into a literary masterpiece. I mentioned the purchase of additional equipment a couple times in the letter to include the crystal calibrator. In addition to the letter itself, I added a diagram of the shack, descriptions of my equipment, including the Z-Match and my ARRL membership certificate.

I tried to maintain an air of calm detachment but inside I was shaking like a nervous cat as the old man looked it over. As usual, he got right to the heart of the matter. "How much is this all going to cost?"

The old man was a depression era high school dropout. He was really committed to seeing his kids get the education he had to forgo but he would never let on. He would never understand the ins and outs of Pi networks or Heising modulation. He inherently believed that there were only four acceptable career paths for young male children; Medicine, Dentistry, Accounting or Engineering. As long as my interests fit into one of those niches, he was willing to grudgingly help it along.



Where in the World—By Ron Litt K5HM

I mumbled something about eighty dollars. “What? How Much? Eighty?”, he raised his voice raised to the fight or flight level. I am sweating through my eyeballs. “You better make sure this fixes it!” Then in one single motion, he reached into his wallet and dropped four brand new twenty dollar bills on the kitchen table.

I grabbed the money and the letter and dashed from the kitchen. Took the basement stairs two at a time and called Ralph on the phone. Once again, I unloaded on him about the letter, the crystal calibrator and the Z-Match. Through the signature wheeze of his breath, I could swear he was smiling on the other end of the phone. He was of course, the greatest Elmer of all time, so he probably knew how it was going to come out.

“I know kid. That’s great.”, he said. He knew? How could he know? I took the cash out of my pocket and stared at the four crisp, sequentially numbered bills. I wondered for a second if Ralph and the old man had worked it out in advance.

Ralph’s raspy voice broke into my thoughts, “Make sure you mail the letter, kid. I’ll meet you down at Harrison Radio Tuesday afternoon.” “And go work that W0 from South Dakota on 14235.” Click went the phone in my ear.



TDXW Dues for 2022 due soon—by Larry Daze KB5WWW



The annual Texas DX Society dues for 2022 are due.

The yearly dues is \$25.00 for local members and \$12.50 for members in excess of 75 miles from grid square EL29hs.

Payment is best made with PayPal.

The PayPal account is: treasurer@tdxs.net

Please select the “payment to friends and family” option in order to avoid payment transfer fees.

73,

Larry Daze, KB5WWW
TDXS Treasurer



Texas DX Society Board members

President	OPEN!	
VP Membership	Gerald Muller	gmuller885@aol.com
VP Programs	OPEN!	
Secretary	Doug Seyler, W9LCQ	djseyler at comcast.net
Treasurer	Doug Seyler, W9LCQ	djseyler at comcast.net
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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 February:

**Please notify the Editor if I have missed any-
one or of any updates:**

[Dave Blaschke - W5UN](#)

James Clark - N5RO

Bob Cooney - K1TU

James Parnell - W5JAW

Don Butler - N5LZ

Ronald Amox - K5EJO

Jim Boockholdt - N4AL

Bob Perring - N5RP

Fred Pevoto - K5FP

Marty Kirkland - WA5TMN

Mike Crownover - AD5A