



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 2014

TEXAS QSO PARTY!

August 14th, Thursday 7pm TDXS Meeting Night at the Tracey Gee Center

Keith Dutson, NM5G will put on a program on the Texas QSO Party which will be Sept. 27th and 28th. The program agenda:

1. 2013 Results
2. A look around the TQP web site
3. How to plan a mobile route
4. Short presentation of



2011 mobile trip
5. Q and A

I'm assuming dinner before will be at Pappa's BBQ at 9797 Westheimer near Westheimer and Gessner.



Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

As I write this, the numbers are 168, 10, 4 and I'm calling CQ Contest in the 10-10 QSO Party. The band conditions are L-O-U-S-Y so say the least. But I have been able to manage about 180 QSO's as of 11:00 am Saturday morning. Guess I'll keep trudging away. Thank N1MM for automatic CQing! Haha! I have a question for other contesters: What do YOU do while your contest logger is doing it's Auto-CQ thing?

BTW, I ended up with 735 QSOs and 1084 points and hopefully another win (#14). Not bad I think for the just plain lousy band conditions we had over the weekend. I did hear that the NAQP CW had great band conditions on 10, so go figger!

Cookie's article about his lightening strike drives home the importance of having an excellent lightening suppressing system. My system con-

sists of no less than 14 eight foot ground rods (9 at the tower), surge suppressors on each and every conductor coming into the house, all mounted on a copper Polyphaser single point ground (SPG) which was mounted into the wall when I had the house built. All ground rods are Cadwelded to 3/0 cable and buried. And that's only PART of the system! I did have what I believe was a direct hit once, with only very minor damage. (note the StepIR controller was connected at the time and suffered NO damage.)

Dave McCarty K5GN is filling in this month for W5ASP on the Contest Chatter column. BTW, Dave is probably the best CW operator in North America. He's won the CW competition at Dayton twice I believe and now at WRTC. When I grow up...!

Mike Davidson N5MT pro-

vided us a nice article on WRTC and N6TV provided some great pictures of TDXS members at WRTC.

I know I railed against the ARRL a few issues ago with the RM-11708 thing (which I still hope goes down in flames) but now there is some good legislation supported by ARRL. It is HR 4969 the "Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014". Please go to <http://www.arrl.org/hr-4969> to learn more about this but basically this is a bipartisan effort that would direct the FCC to extend the "reasonable accommodation" provisions for Amateur Radio antennas to include all types of land-use regulation, including deed restrictions and restrictive covenants. I don't know if it will go anywhere, but this one deserves our support. We need more hams ON THE AIR! LET'S DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!!!

For now, 73, Allen N5XZ

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The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

Prez Sez

Okay, who ever knows what month it is, please step forward.

Now, who knows what day it is, step forward one more step.

Okay.... now, the date?

All right. Looks like at least a couple of us still have their minds intact. J

Why am I doing this?

Hmmmm.... Good question. Let's find out.

Recently it was broadcast on some TV stations, and even some radio stations, that the older we get, the more we know. And the more we know, the harder it is to find information in our brains. And that when we were young, we could retrieve information much faster. And because of that, some youngsters tend to think that we aren't as smart.

Instead, the opposite may be true. What I am saying that we older guys "KNOW SOOOOOO MUCH" that the reason we may not be able to think as fast as you younger guys is mainly due to "our knowing so much".

Do any of you relate to what I have said? Betcha forgot at least one thing today already. J Anyway, that explanation is now my "excuse".... Uhhhh ... "reason" for forgetting things. Or, like not being able to re-

trieve something from my mind when I'm in conversation with someone.

So if that happens to you, and you are getting up there in years, then just remember, that the more you experience the longer it may take to retrieve the info. And that the more of us that are experiencing the same thing, that there is safety in numbers. And we at TDXS do have some company being in the same club. And we are reasonably large in numbers. Well, kinda large in numbers.

Now, to address those of you that still have minds that resemble young minds and think I'm full of well, something that we will leave unsaid, since this is being published and I need to be nice. Anyway, the bottom line is, if you don't agree with my story, then in order to prove me wrong, especially if you are below sixty, then you will need to wait a few years to really find out that what I am saying is true.

And..... by then, all of this will be forgotten. Right? My point exactly!!!

Memory is a strange thing. Even when we were young, there were times that we just couldn't remember something. And for some of us, that frustrated us. Imagine how frustrating it is now that we don't have young minds anymore and that is happening a lot more often. However, some

people can hide their frustration a lot more than others. But for me, it isn't unusual for me to blurt out what I'm thinking. Some people can handle that and some can't. We all are different. "To each his own!!!" Right?

So what has this got to do with ham radio and especially TDXS? I'm glad you asked. It is not that easy to explain, but I will try. Most, but not all TDXS members, are getting up in years. Right? And our whole ham community seems to be getting older. Right! Wonder how that happened! Riiiiiiight. So I feel that it is fair to say that a good many of us fit the bill for having our "brains full" and are a bit slower at times to retrieve vital or even non-vital information. Full of what may be for another discussion. But what I trying to say is that we just might not be able to find that "vital (or even not vital) information" in all that cluttered mess of data that is jam packed into our brains.

And since we are part of a large community of hams that seem to fit that bill, then maybe we should realize that there is safety in numbers and need to treat each a bit better. Overall, we do a good job of that. However, every once and a while someone gets bent out of shape and when that happens. Watch out. We go in for the kill. J

The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

Hams tend to get along together pretty darn good, in my book. Because most hams are nice people. Hams seem to be cut from a cloth that causes them to want to get along with each other naturally. Like, how can hams get on the air to talk to each other and not have a natural tendency to want to get along. However, if you believe that, then you have not listened on 75 SSB lately. Not only are there some that don't and won't and can't, but to be fair, there are times when even "we, ourselves" are a bit grouchy and snap back. Yep-pum, it really does happen. Not often thank goodness. J

Overall, I think we at TDXS are a bunch of really nice and considerate people. And if one day or one evening one of us is a bit snappy, then we all seem to look the other way and are glad that it is his or her turn to be in "that mood"..... and thank goodness it isn't me.

I kinda like our group of grouchy ole geezers. And to the "wanna bees" that are still young yet..... To the wanna bees that wanna be a part of our "elite group".... your day to be an "ole geezer" will come some day. In the meantime..... Eat your hearts out!!!! J

Ooooookay.....that's my "just for the fun of it, not to be taken too seriously" Prez Sez for August 2014.

Now.... I wonder what I will think of to write about in the September BS?
HmMMMMMMMMMMMM.....

Bob Hardie
W5UQ

Meeting Minutes of the Joint TDXS / Houston Echo Society Dinner

Meeting Minutes: Texas DX Society July 14 2014

No formal meeting was held as this was a dinner-style meeting. We were very fortunate to have several members from our joint Field Day effort clubs: BVARC and ECHO.

There were a total of 28 present at the dinner. 13 of which were TDXS members. A fine turn-out!

TDXS President Bob Hardie, W5UQ conducted a small bit of business. Mike Davidson, N5MT Joint Field Day Coordinator, was called upon to review the recent field day exercise:

1. Total score was 14874 in class

8A. It may be the leader in this class.

2. Bloodiest FD yet! . Numerous small injuries incurred.

3. Thanks to TDXS member WB5TUF and his excellent computer skills, as always. Glenn networked nine computers to the command center.

4. Triplexers were used on three stations allowing the use of fewer antenna's and labor involved in setup/teardown.

Attendees:

TDXS: Orville, K5VWW Steve, W9DX Mike, K5UO Bob WB5IUU Scott K5DD

Mike, N5MT Allen, N5XZ Bob, W5UQ Doug, WB5TKI Lance, WD5X

Bill, WS5H Cookie, K5EWJ NN5O, Jim

BVARC and ECHO attendees: Dave, AF5T Lee, ? Mike, KA5CVH John, NR0J

Bell, KE5HHH Rick, N5KJN Mark, KE5RMA Nizar, KONM Marty, AG5T

Norma, KE5NDN Richard, KE5ZPP Kent, W5TN

If I missed any, they did not sign-in...

Prepared by Mike, K5UO substitute Secretary for this meeting.

DX Report by Cookie K5EWJ

From the DX Chairman

This has not been a good DX month for me. Propagation has not been good this month and as far as I can determine no big DXpeditions have been afield. I have been concentrating on the Straight Key Century Club this month for the most part. On Thursday morning the thunder storms were starting to build and the bands were noisy. I anticipated the need for a couple of trips to Oklahoma the following week so I decided to make a quick trip to get my oil and filter changed while the DX Bands were inactive and things were slow for SKCC. While at the Quick Lube in Santa Fe a ferocious thunderstorm passed through the area and dropped a load of rain and provided plenty of audio and video to entertain me. When I returned home the 120 to the ham shack was off because the circuit breaker had tripped. The rain had stopped after dropping about 1.5 inches of rain, so I reset the breaker and found that my computer monitor was dark, I had no internet and my SteppIR and Rotor no longer worked. It seemed that my 58 years with no lightning damage to my ham equipment had ended. My last strike was about 1980 and all that it got was my Heathkit Weather Station, so I lucked out there.

I started to assess the damage and connected my lap top to my router. I found that my router was dead, so I took it out of the loop and tried my Xfinity Modem/Router alone. The Modem was dead and also the WiFi included in the Modem/Router. I called Xfinity and talked to their techie who recommended that I return the modem to their office and exchange it. When I arrived at the Xfinity store front I was looking at an abandoned store front so I looked up the address for the nearest Xfinity store front and entered it in my GPS. It looked a lot like where I was but the GPS told me a route to take which led me for a Wild Goose Chase through a nearby neighborhood and to a spot of the feeder road on the other side of the grass from the parking lot where I started. So I asked the GPS for the next closest office, which led me to an unmanned building in League City with two trucks and a Porta-Can. At least they were Xfinity Trucks. I found another parking lot and started over. This time it led me to a Store-Front manned facility near the HEB at FM646 and I45 that was only three miles from my house, but I had to drive about 20 miles to find it! A nice lady who seemed to know what she was doing exchanged my Modem/Router and told me that I really did not need the Belkin Router behind the Xfinity Modem/Router.

When I returned home, I found that my lap top now worked on the internet and I could now access my email. I could not look for the other things that were damaged. I still had no output from my HP Desk Top to my monitor and I could not tell if anything worked other than it appeared to boot up from the hard drive, so I have hope that my hard drive is OK and I will not have to retrieve my last backup. I connected my spare monitor and it had no picture either, so it appeared that something is amiss in the computer. I disconnected the computer and took it to EPO where they have lots of spare parts and hoped for the best. The tech there told me that I had been using the VGA output and that the DVI would be better. He tried both and we decided to install a VGA/HDMI/DVI card, but he did not have the right card in stock but thought one would come in on Monday.

I took a look at my rotor controller, a late model Hy-Gain analog controller and found that both fuses were blown and two lands on the brake control were burned. I replaced the fuses and jumpered the lands and reconnected the rotor.

(continued)

DX Report by Cookie K5EWJ

The main fuse blew immediately, so I still need to assess the cable integrity and the rotor that is up the tower. The brake pins on the plug show arc damage, so I have some further checking to do. I need to get the rotor down and look at its condition. I may need a new rotor and controller, but I am thinking about buying either the Hy-Gain Digital or the Green Heron controller. The Green Heron seems popular, but I like the look of the Hy-Gain and it is a small amount less.

My analog SteppIR controller needs to be replaced. Approximately ten of the main board components are physically damaged and there are three or four burned places on the board. Any one of the above would lead me to buying a new controller, but I have yet to assess the cable or the stepper motors. Lots of people have given up on the SteppIR antennas because they are lightning damage prone. *[NOT True: Most often controller damage is a result of shorted wiring—Ed]*

I don't yet have a plan for repair or replacement. The antenna has given me great service and worked well on 40 through 6, so I am inclined to repair it, but I don't have a plan as yet to check it out. I am thinking that a digital controller with the computer connection would certainly be an asset, but I have a spare regular controller and may use it for a while.

On Sunday morning I learned that a family death required that I travel to Oklahoma to make arrange-

ments. I made two trips, Sunday through Tuesday and another on Friday and Saturday.

On Wednesday, I picked up the computer from EPO and connected it. It still did not function because the keyboard and mouse did not appear to work. I bought a new keyboard from Walmart which seemed to work, but the mouse did not work. The Internet did not work and I could not configure the computer for Wi-Fi without a mouse. I decided to wait until I returned from Oklahoma.

My Power Supplies, K3 and SPE Expert 1K-FA appear to work normally except that my primary antenna is not working so I am not able to work WARC, 20, 10 or 6 very well.

When I returned from Oklahoma, I contacted EPO and talked with the Tech there. He seemed confused that more than one think was wrong after a strike, but I expected it. The Tech wanted me to bring the computer back and let him look at it.

We determined that the Mouse was bad, the RJ-45 Ethernet connection is bad and the adjacent USB port is bad. I bought a new mouse and connected to Internet by Wi-Fi.

Things worked Ok while I read about 10 or 15 of the waiting emails then the mouse failed again. This time the red LED on the mouse failed, so I went again to Walmart and purchased a new mouse. This time I bought a Logitech Mouse with a 6 foot USB cord which is long enough to replace the Easy Glide

that failed and had a 4 foot USB cord.

Things are coming together somewhat now. I have my computer and logger working now. I think I would be faster on Internet if I can get my Ethernet port working. I still need to check, probably repair my SteppIR and Rotor and my TS-480 that blew the negative fuse at Field Day still needs to be checked and maybe repaired. I have my Heathkit DX-60 and HR-10 station waiting for attention as well. We talk a lot about lightning and Bob gave informative presentations at both TDXS and BVARC on protection of RF equipment. In my case the surge came through the antenna control cables, the rotor control cables and the Internet connection. If I had damage to the RF components as well, I have not proceeded with my repairs far enough to find it, but it may be there as well. I have seen a lot of damage from lightning such as burned out down hole water pumps, flatware welded to the garbage disposal, holes blown in concrete and TV tuners that needed replaced. Every strike seems different and we need to exchange all the information we can about protection and recovery.

I hope that in a month or so I can be enjoying DXing again!

Contest Chatter by Dave K5GN

CONTEST CHATTER

Dave, K5GN, has put together an excellent article for this month's issue of the Bullsheet focusing on the biannual Sprints sponsored by the National Contest Journal. I urge you to read ... learn ... and even act on Dave's presentation. They don't get much better than this. Until next time ... "dit dit" ... Joe, W5ASP

A Reintroduction to the North American Sprint

One of the most unusual contests on the annual calendar is the North American Sprint. These four-hour competitions offer some of the most intense fun available to the contest operator. If you want a real challenge to your operating ability, this is it!

The Sprint runs on Saturday nights twice each year, in late winter (February-March) and in late summer (September-October). There is a CW version (the most popular), an SSB version, and an RTTY version. Only the 20, 40, and 80m bands are used.

The official rules may be found at <http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf>. The September edition is coming up, with CW the weekend after Labor Day. Note that the dates are Sunday, GMT, but Saturday evening, local time. The 0000Z start time is 7pm CDT in September.

What makes the Sprint unique is *Rule 11. Special QSY Rule*. This rule requires those who attract a QSO to relinquish the frequency after they make that QSO by moving at least one KHz before calling someone and at least 5 KHz before calling CQ or otherwise attracting a caller. This means that "runs" don't happen, and a premium is placed on searching and pouncing. It evens the geographic playing field somewhat in that a rare multiplier has little real advantage because he cannot generate a pileup. It also means that weaker stations that get through to

the CQing station get a free shot at a clear frequency when the Op they answered has to leave!

For stations with a single transmitter, the objective is to quickly find and work the next station to call (someone CQing or finishing a QSO) and have someone call you when you finish, or call CQ afterward for another quick QSO in succession. Stringing together such "couplets" of answering someone and getting an answer on the same frequency makes for good rate.

Stations with two transmitters can interweave QSOs on two bands, which can be used to raise the overall rate by transmitting on one band while receiving on another, as is done in SO2R in other contests, but with special care to follow the QSY rule. The "Fisher Method", named after Bill Fisher, W4AN (SK) who pioneered it, is to simulate running by completing QSOs only by CQing on alternate bands. This technique is not for beginners! Experienced operators move in and out of this mode as conditions permit.

The top scorers tend to have equal QSO counts on 20, 40, and 80, depending on conditions and season. This means that activity is concentrated on 20m at the start with a shift to 40m occurring after about one hour. Beginners will find the going easier on 20m at that point, as the band becomes less crowded and the participants are looking for fresh meat. Similarly, about half an hour before 0300, the shift from 40 to 80 begins and activity gets more spread out. There will be activity on 20m for most of the first two hours, on 80m for most of the last two hours, and on 40 throughout the four hour contest period.

Beginners should be aware that the activity on 20m at the start is usually quite intimidating, with high speeds and loud signals from across the nation. However, those who are operating SO2R make 40m a place of less intense activity but good

signals to call and work in the first half hour.

A great primer on operating in the CW Sprint, by the afore-mentioned W4AN, is available at <http://www.contesting.com/articles/198>. A Sprint Survival Guide written by N6TR is found at <http://www.kkn.net/n6tr/sprint.html>. These two are must-read articles to get a sense of how it works and to avoid rookie mistakes.

You can also practice ahead of time. The NCCC sponsors a series of Sprint-style competitions on weeknights which have helped many ops get the hang of Sprinting. See <http://www.ncccsprint.com/> for more detail. Our neighbor N3BB credits these practice sessions with getting him into the Top Ten in the CW Sprint.

The NA Sprint and NS Sprint are supported by many of the popular contest logging software available today. One of the best is N1MM. See http://wiki.contesting.com/index.php/N1MM_Logger_Sprint_Tips for hints on how to set up N1MM Logger for this contest, especially if you're ready to try SO2R. The .jzap link on this page is no longer valid; the content is on the n6tr link mentioned earlier.

For those wanting to try the RTTY Sprint, there is a lot of great help at this URL: http://rttycontesting.com/messages/buffers_nasprint.htm.

The Sprint provides a great measure of your operating expertise. Having a chance to try again in six months means you can really focus on your growth in skill. Try to make more QSOs in each 10-minute period that you are on. Averaging one QSO per minute is a very good rate, but even the best ops tend to have several-minute periods with no Q's!

It takes a few tries at this contest to get the hang of it. That's why the NCCC Sprints (NS) are a big help. Get on now and give the real thing a rip in September. GL!

73, Dave, K5GN

WRTC 2014 Comments by Mike Davidson N5MT

This year the WRTC 2014 has come back to the USA and was held in the Boston/Cape Cod area of Mass. There were 59 teams competing in the world championship this year with three of our TDXS members active as part of a team or judging. Station N1D was George DeMontrond NR5M and John Crovelli W2GD who finished in 45th place during the twenty four hour contest. The other two TDXS members were Dave McCarty K5GN who was the referee for station K1U operated by Ashraf KF5EYY and Hrane YT1AD who came in last place, and Bob Evans K5WA who was the referee at station W1M operated by Ranko 4O3A and Zoli HA1AG who came in fifteenth place.

The winners of WRTC were two young guys that outlasted all the older WRTC teams.

Station call K1A was manned by Daniel Craig N6MJ and Chris Hurlbut KL9A and they were judged to be in first place with 7.18 million points. These guys are 32 and 34 years old and should be great contesters for many years to come, hi. The second place station was W1L with 6.8 million points by Rastislav Hinko OM3BH and Josef Lang OM3GI from Slovakia. The third place station was W1P by Manfred Wolf DJ5MW and Stephan Von Balty DL1IAO from Germany.

Totals for the first place K1A station were 4,572 Q's with 436 Mults which was the most Mults of any station. They had 3827 CW Q's and 745 SSB Q's. They found 176 HQ stations and 260 DX band mults which was the most of any WRTC station. Their CW count was probably the biggest factor in their number one ranking score! Twenty meters was the best band with 1970 Q's in the 24 hr contest, followed by fifteen meters with 1109 Q's and then 1018 on forty meters. Just as a comparison: George NR5M/N1D station, they only had 3679 Q's total with 365 mults, 2064 Q's on CW and 1615 Q's on SSB. George's station came in forty-fifth out of the fifty nine WRTC stations.

There were seventy five K3 radios used by all 59 stations which had two operating positions each and each station had a tri-band beam with a 40/80 dipole. All stations used identical antennas and one hundred watt radios out in a large tent in the field. The most popular software for logging was WinTest used at 40 of the 59 stations and N1MM used at 15 stations.

The first place station K1A used two IC7800 radios with WinTest.

Before the WRTC on-the-air action took place, there was a CW skill competition held at

the convention hotel. It was a three minute test with 112 call signs present, there were 61 participants that heard about 38 calls of the 112 present. Well our TDXS member Dave McCarty K5GN took home the first place gold key as he copied 60 calls correctly. Second place went to another TDXS member Randy Thompson K5ZD who got 57 calls correct. Randy was one of the organizers of WRTC so he was a busy guy. In third place was Dan N6MJ with 56 calls correct and Dan was the first place winner of WRTC with his partner Chris KL9A who came in fifth in the CW competition by copying 54 calls. Bob K5WA and George NR5M did not participate in the CW test.

I operated for about sixteen hours of WRTC mostly in a search and pounce mode since I do not like to sit and call CQ on CW in this type of contest. I established a goal of working all 59 stations and wanted to do them all on CW which I achieved. There were 388 of us who worked all 59 WRTC stations during the twenty four hours and we submitted a scoring Cabrillo file so that the judging could take place immediately. You had six hours after the contest finished to get your log submitted to the scoring robot. There were 118 US call signs that worked all 59 WRTC stations.

(continued)

WRTC 2014 Comments by Mike Davidson N5MT

I used a simple spread sheet with all 59 call signs listed for the five bands possible with both modes listed on the sheet. Since my WriteLOG software would not keep track of what I was trying to work, I did it with the spread sheet manually. As the contest progressed, I was getting hungry for supper and I had four unworked WRTC stations. So I decided to take a break and wait for forty meters to open up and I would be able to hear them before too long after sunset which worked out fine. I had the remaining four in the log on forty meters and only found two on eighty meter CW so I gave up on eighty

quickly. The only station not worked on twenty was K1B which was the last station of the 59 that I worked. I did work a few contacts on fifteen meters during the day but twenty was the money band.

There were a few other TDXS members that worked all 59 stations. Richard King K5NA had all of them plus 201 band/modes. Randy K5ZD got all the stations in about fifteen hours. There was one station, not TDXS, that got all 59 stations in 3 hrs 12 min.

My station N5MT, took seventeen hours to work all 59

WRTC stations. I had 343 total contacts, 247 CW Q's and 96 SSB Q's and found 104 band/modes for my efforts. My total score was 121,390 points.

If you have more questions and want to see more details just go to the WRTC website at : WWW.WRTC2014.org and browse a lot. There are hundreds of pictures and all the individual scores plus pictures of each person who operated.

I had fun so thanks for reading.
73 Mike N5MT

N5XZ IARU Radiosport Score:

IARU HF World Championship				
Call: N5XZ				
Class: SO CW HP				
Operating Time (hrs): 20				
Band	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Zones	HQ Mults

160:				
80:				
40:	433	0	25	39
20:	915	0	39	41
15:	485	0	30	37
10:	35	0	10	6

Total:	1868	0	104	123
Total Score = 1,516,360				
Club: Texas DX Society				
On 3830scores.com:				
#17 Worldwide				
#6 USA				

HR 4969—the “Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014”

What is HR 4969?-

In June, 2014 with Congressman Adam Kinzinger (IL-16) as the sponsor and Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-2) as co-sponsor, HR 4969 - the "Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014" - was introduced into the 113th Congress. This bipartisan effort would direct the FCC to extend the "reasonable accommodation" provisions for Amateur Radio antennas to include all types of land-use regulation, including deed restrictions and restrictive covenants.

What will HR 4969 do?-

Most importantly, it will ensure that every ham in the US, regardless of the community they live in, will have the opportunity to practice their avocation from their own homes without breaking any rules or fear of reprisal.

If enacted, HR 4969 would direct the FCC to extend the reasonable accommodation protections to those amateurs who are living in deed-restricted communities. Known as "CC&Rs" (covenants, conditions and restrictions) are the prohibitions and limitations placed on properties by builders or home-owner associations (HOAs) which prevent licensed Amateurs from erecting even modest antennas.

HR 4969 would not give Amateurs "carte blanche" to do whatever they wished. It would require HOAs and other private land use regulations to extend reasonable accommodation to Amateurs wishing to erect antennas.

How can I help to get HR 4969 passed?-

The first step in this process is to garner support among members of the US House of Representatives. Each ARRL member needs to contact their member of the US House to state their support for HR 4969 and to ask their Representative to please sign on as a co-sponsor for the bill.

If you have an existing relationship with your Congressperson, try to arrange a meeting with them (usually at their district offices) to express your support for HR 4969.

Write your member of the US House Representatives and ask them to become a co

-sponsor for HR 4969. A sample letter can be found here

When addressing the letter to your Representative, make certain you have included their name and mailing address in the header. add your full name, callsign, and address to the bottom of the letter, and please make certain you have signed your letter. Letters that have not been signed have little benefit.

If you wish to write and sign your letter then send the signed copy to the ARRL as an attachment (PDF or scan) to an email, please send them to n1nd@arrl.org with the words "HR 4969 letter" in the SUBJECT field of the email.

Who is my Congressperson?

There is a link on the ARRL website to find out who your congressman is.

At this time we are asking that you only contact your representative in the US House of Representatives. This bill has not been introduced into the US Senate yet so we are not asking you to contact your Senators right now.

Where should I send my letter to my Congressperson?-

To expedite delivery of your letter once you have printed it out and signed it, you should mail your letter to:

ARRL
Attn: HR 4969 letter campaign
225 Main St
Newington, CT 06111

We are frequently asked why the ARRL asks that letters be mailed to ARRL for delivery instead of simply mailing them directly to the Congressional offices. The answer is two-fold. First, since the 9/11 attacks and subsequent security threats, all incoming mail to Congressional offices is first diverted to a holding area outside of Washington DC. Once at that facility it undergoes a series of scans to test for a variety of problems. Only after it passes the security tests is it forwarded on to Capitol Hill for delivery. The delay in delivery is generally in the 5-7 week range. By mailing the letters to the ARRL, we are able to have the letters hand-delivered to the various congressional offices in a timely manner.

The second reason is just as important. When our Washington team delivers letters to a Congressional office, it provides them an opportunity for at least a brief face-to-face meeting with some of the key staff members in each Congressional office they visit. Each in-person meeting is another opportunity for the ARRL's story to be told – and is another chance to answer questions that may arise.

Most Congressional offices do provide some type of on-line email or web-based form for submitting comments. These too have their place in helping ensure our message is conveyed personally. Just remember when contacting your Congressperson to be Professional, Authentic, and Personal!

What are the key Talking Points I should know when discussing HR 4969?-

Keep these key points in mind if writing a letter to or speaking with your Member of Congress one of the legislative assistants. They will help focus the discussion on HR 4969 and why it is important to you:

►The American Radio Relay League, Incorporated (ARRL) is the representative of Amateur Radio in the United States. There are more than 720,000 Amateur Radio operators licensed by the FCC. ARRL's membership of approximately 170,000 includes the most active and dedicated Amateur Radio operators.

►Radio Amateurs (hams) provide, on a volunteer basis, public service, emergency, and disaster relief communications using radio stations located in their residences. Their services cost taxpayers nothing. They are provided at no cost to any served agency or to any government entity. FEMA has stated that when Amateur Radio operators are needed in an emergency or disaster, they are really needed.

►Served agencies include the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of Defense. Disaster relief planning exercises and emergency communications certification courses guarantee trained operators throughout the United States.



HR 4969—the “Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014”

►Land use restrictions that prohibit the installation of outdoor antenna systems are the largest threat to Amateur Radio emergency and public service communications. They are escalating quickly and exponentially. An outdoor antenna is critical to the effectiveness of an Amateur Radio station. Typically, all Amateur Radio antennas are prohibited in residential areas by private land use regulations. In other instances, prior approval of the homeowners’ association is required for any outdoor antenna installation. However, there are no standards to determine whether or not approval will be granted by the homeowners’ association.

►Twenty-nine years ago, the FCC found that there was a “strong Federal interest” in supporting effective Amateur Radio communications. FCC also found and that zoning ordinances often unreasonably restricted Amateur Radio antennas in residential areas. The FCC, in a docket proceeding referred to as “PRB-1” created a three-part test for municipal regulations affecting Amateur Radio communications. State or local land use regulations: (A) cannot preclude Amateur Radio communications; (B) must make “reasonable accommodation” for Amateur Radio communications; and (C) must constitute the “minimum practicable restriction” in order to accomplish a legitimate municipal purpose.

►The FCC did not extend this policy to private land use regulations at the time. However, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ordered the FCC to enact regulations that preempted municipal and private land use regulation over small satellite dish antennas and television broadcast antennas in residences. The FCC found that: (a) it does have jurisdiction to preempt private land use regulations that conflict with Federal policy; and (b) that private land use regulations are entitled to less deference than municipal regulations. This is because the former are premised exclusively on aesthetics considerations.

►ARRL repeatedly requested that FCC revisit its decision and apply its policy equally to all types of land use regulations which unreasonably restrict or preclude volunteer, public service communications. FCC said that it would do so upon

receiving some guidance from Congress in this area.

►The FCC’s Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, in an Order released November 19, 1999, stated that the Commission “strongly encourage (s)” homeowner’s associations to apply the “no prohibition, reasonable accommodation, and least practicable regulation” three-part test to private land use regulation of Amateur radio antennas:

“Notwithstanding the clear policy statement that was set forth in PRB-1 excluding restrictive covenants in private contractual agreements as being outside the reach of our limited preemption ...we nevertheless strongly encourage associations of homeowners and private contracting parties to follow the principle of reasonable accommodation and to apply it to any and all instances of amateur service communications where they may be involved.” Order, DA 99-2569 at ¶ 6.

►Pursuant to the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, the FCC conducted a study on “the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio Service communications in emergencies and disaster relief.” It submitted to the House and Senate a Report on the findings of its study. The FCC docket proceeding created an impressive record demonstrating the severe and pervasive impact of private land use regulations on Amateur Radio emergency communications. The record in the docket proceeding justifies the even application of FCC’s balanced, limited preemption policy to all types of land use regulation of Amateur Radio antennas. The FCC said, in effect, that should Congress instruct FCC to do so, it would expeditiously extend the policy.

►Therefore, we seek cosponsors for H.R. 4969, a Bill that would provide for regulatory parity and uniformity in land use regulations as they pertain to Amateur Radio communications. It would do so by applying the existing FCC “reasonable accommodation” policy formally to all types of land use regulation. We would ask for your support of this Bill.

What additional co-sponsors have already signed on?-

As of August 4, 2014, the additional co-sponsors are:

- Co-sponsors
- Date Co-sponsored
- Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]* 6/25/2014
- Rep. Grimm, Michael G. [R-NY-11] 7/15/2014
- Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large] 7/15/2014
- Rep. Gibson, Christopher P. [R-NY-19] 7/23/2014
- Rep. McIntyre, Mike [D-NC-7] 7/23/2014
- Rep. Webster, Daniel [R-FL-10] 7/29/2014
- Rep. Israel, Steve [D-NY-3] 7/29/2014
- Rep. McCarthy, Carolyn [D-NY-4] 7/29/2014
- Rep. Terry, Lee [R-NE-2] 7/31/2014
- Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-1] 7/31/2014
- Rep. Wenstrup, Brad R. [R-OH-2] 7/31/2014
- Rep. Hanna, Richard L. [R-NY-22] 7/31/2014
- Rep. Griffith, H. Morgan [R-VA-9] 7/31/2014
- Rep. Lance, Leonard [R-NJ-7] 8/1/2014
- Rep. Collins, Chris [R-NY-27] 8/1/2014
- Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3] 8/1/2014
- Rep. Reed, Tom [R-NY-23] 8/1/2014



A few pix from N6TV's WRTC 2014 gallery of TDXS members' participation at WRTC 2014 (all pictures courtesy of N6TV)



Randy Thompson K5ZD (TDXS member #39) was one of the major organizers of WRTC 2014.



Bob Evans K5WA (TDXS member #46) and XYL Joyce at one of the WRTC dinners. Bob served as one of the WRTC referees.



Dave McCarty K5GN (TDXS member #34) and XYL Amy. Dave also served as a WRTC referee.



Dave K5GN is congratulated by Scott Robbins W4PA for winning the CW Pile-UP contest.



2014 BVARC-TDXS-ECHO Field Day – Summary



George DeMontrond NR5M (TDXS member #104) operated as one of the sponsored teams from WRTC site 6G with W2GD.

George NR5M (far right) making a presentation.



WRTC site 6G where NR5M and W2GD operated.



George NR5M getting a little help at dinner time! Contesting takes a lot of energy!



2014 BVARC-TDXS-ECHO Field Day – Summary



George Wagner K5KG (TDXS member #43) on left was spotted several times throughout the event.

TDXS was one of the West Gulf Division tent sponsors for WRTC.



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WRTC CW Pileup Competition top finishers: VE3DZ, KL9A, N4YDU, 9V1YC, OH6KZP, N6MJ, K5ZD, K5GN

Orville Burg K5VWW received the card below from 4W/HB9FLX for #331—and Honor Roll Status! Congrats Orville!



Bill Moore, NC1L, DXCC Manager Seriously Injured in Automobile Accident

The following news is from K5FUV, Bill Kenamer. Feel free to pass this on to your DX friends and clubs.

"DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, was seriously injured in an automobile accident about two weeks ago. His neck was broken, leaving him paralyzed from his upper body down, with limited movement of his arms. Recovery will be difficult and slow, and is not expected to be total. Bill would like to hear from his friends. He is currently in the Mount Sinai Rehab Hospital in Hartford, but cards and well wishes should be sent to 92 Reservoir Rd, Newington, CT 06111".

Friday K5FUV, Bill Kenamer, and I visited Bill at the rehab hospital. We spent a few minutes with NC1L, Bill, who was extremely glad to see us. I gave him one of the ARRL Centennial Convention coins and told him how successful the event was going. He was very happy to hear the news and the greetings from his friends. Bill's sister-in-law Gina was there in the hospital and asked us to tell Bill's friends that he would love to hear from them. So if possible let's all show Bill our love and concern for our dear friend by sending him our QSL with good wishes. I know Bill and the family would greatly appreciate your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Bill Moore
 92 Reservoir Road
 Newington, CT 06111
 73
 Bernie, W3UR/1
 Hartford, CT

Bobbie and I visited Bill today in the hospital. He's in a wheelchair now and enjoys company. If you are in the Hartford area, he's at Mt. Sinai Hospital, 490 Blue Hills Ave, Hartford.

He's in no position to receive or deal with phone calls or a computer so do shoot him a card at the above address, not to the hospital.

Pete, W1RM



Texas DX Society Board members

President	Bob Hardie, W5UQ	w5uq at att.net
VP Membership	Steve Smothers, W9DX	cougar70 at earthlink.net
VP Programs	Lance Rumfield, WD5X	ltrumfield at sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Arthur Alvarez, N5KTN	KingArthur at msn.com
Treasurer	Mike Bragassa, K5UO	bragassa at consolidated.net
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DXpedition Chairman	Willis "Cookie" Cooke, K5EWJ	wrcooke at yahoo.com
Outgoing QSL Manager	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

TDXS says "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to these members with birthdays in August

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Bill Stone WS5H

Jim Lane - N5DC

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