



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net March 2016

**Next Monthly Dinner Meeting is
Wednesday March 9th, 6:30PM
Cantina Laredo, 11129 Westheimer RD,
Houston TX 77042 (713) 952-3287**



Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

Sorry the Bullsheet is a bit late this month. I have been very busy with other things and finally got to my computer to do this late on Sunday. Hopefully, it will be acceptable to everyone.

It's March and you know what that means...HAMFEST! Whatever you do, do not miss the 2016 Greater Houston Hamfest held again at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg. This year, it is a two day event on the 18th and the 19th. On Friday, there will be presentations and workshops, then on Saturday, the same plus tailgating, commer-

cial and flea market, VEC testing, etc. Please try to make it. BTW, the grand prize is a Kenwood TS0590SG! Not too shabby. Be sure to go to www.houstonhamfest.org to get all the details.

February was a good month for DXing, as the band seems to be holding up pretty good. I entered a few contests part time so nothing to brag about. I am hoping to get back into more contesting soon, but as things go, there is a lot more going on. I did manage to put the following into the 'XZ log: VP8SGI, 5B4AHL, 3B8HC, E51JD, 7P8C, A31MM, V55DX, LU1ZI, 4W/DJ2EH,

ZD7FT, 3D2PW, VP8DXU, A35T, 3XY1T, FR5DX, DP1POL, 3V8SS, 7Z1JA, 6W1SR, D4C, V51YJ, 9K2NO, 5V7TH, T6SM, ZA/IW2JQF, ZD7BG, TZ4AM, 3D2AG, 9G5GH, ET7L, and C92JR. I also worked a lot of EU, JA's and VK/ZL's on ten meters during the 10-10 contest in early February. It was quite a pleasant surprise!
That's it for me this month. Hope to see every one at the Hamfest!

Thanks and 73,
73, Allen N5XZ

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The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

Prez Sez for March 2016.

It's March and spring is basically here in my opinion. Maybe we will have another cold blast but from what I have learned about the Houston area weather, it should be short lived. So it is time for me to put up antennas.

My 160m OCF Windom has been up in the trees for over 6 years now and it's time to replace it. The tree limbs have grown around the antenna wire as evidenced by SWR changes. I already have the new one cut to length, waiting for the arrival of coax. The matching balun is made.

I've picked a different location for it. Even though the old one seemed to do good on 160m through 30m as well as on 17m and 12m when needed, I feel the new location will be better as no tree limbs will be touching the antenna wire. We have so many trees that finding a clear space was not easy. And I didn't want it to be right over my house to radiate RF into it. However, that IS the only place that I can find so, over the house it goes. I'm still looking and thinking though.

And then I bought Steve, W9DX's beam. It will cover 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m and 10m so I shouldn't have to use my OCF on 17m and/or 12m any-

more. I also have a 40m rotating dipole to put up too. Anyone say, "antenna party"?

Getting it all organized is going to be a challenge with what little time I seem to have now days. And even more challenging will be the time to put them in the air. Of course, I have to remove the old beam. It is a KLM34XA and as a matter of fact, I bought it from Steve too. Hmmmm.... So when you leave Steve, whom will I buy antennas from? (I hope I used "whom" correctly for once.)

Another "wrench in the works" could be that I may need to get a bigger tower. I haven't researched the wind load of the new antenna yet. And my old rotor has been working fine but I do have a bigger one waiting, I just have to finish "refurbishing" it. Another project.

So with the tower research and rotor refurbishing, can I hear someone saying, "maybe this fall Bob". Darn, and I really wanted to get it done before the hot weather sets in. Oh well, "the best laid plans of mice and men"..... except I really don't have a "best plan" yet.

As you can see, the project has taken a back seat to a lot of other "more important things

to get done" and just may not get done this spring. I know, what could be more important?

Have a good spring and CU next month.

Oh yes, come be with Wednesday night, March 9th, at 6:30pm at [Cantina Laredo, 11129 Westheimer RD, Houston TX 77042, \(713\)952-3287](#) for our **March TDXS Dinner Meeting.**

73,
Bob Hardie W5UQ
President TDXS 2016



TDXS December 2015 Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS February 2016 Meeting Minutes

Date: February 11, 2016

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Your Secretary failed to pick up the signup sheet at the end of the meeting. If I can reconstruct it we will update the Bullsheet archive copy on the website.

President Bob was out of town, so Secretary Doug conducted the meeting. There was little business to discuss, so we proceeded into the program.

The program was Remote Control Station Operation by Pat Cameron KJ5Y. Pat has made his home station available to other hams through the website Remote-Hams.com. This is a community of hams worldwide who make their stations available for remote operation. One needs only to sign up to the website, and then request access to individual stations from the control operators. There is a client that needs to be downloaded, RCFORB.EXE, that provides the visual interface for the remote rig, as well as access to station controls based on permission levels. For example rotor privileges and amplifier privileges are controlled by the control station. This service is free, and it provides an opportunity for severely deed-restricted hams to get some operating time. Check out Pat's QRZ.com page for more details.

73,

Submitted March 4, 2016

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

Last month's activities were highlighted by the operation of **A35T** from Tonga by several TDXS members including W5MJ, Madison, and W5PF, Paul. They made almost 25,000 qso's although hampered by a cyclone giving them fits with antenna erection. Chuck Dietz, W5PR, made an 80M contact in spite of conditions.

The operation from Guinea, **3XY1T**, provided a lot of new contacts on all bands and filled a lot of band slots for this scarce entity. Logs have been posted to LoTW.

Currently active African operations include an operation as **ET7L** from Ethiopia. They are scheduled to be operational through April 12th. **C92CC** is active from Mozambique through March 7th.

A scarce entity is being provided by operations from Mayotte. **FH/IK5ZUI** will be active through March 10th followed by **FH/F2DX** and **FH/F6BEE** from March 18th through March 24th and **FH/F4FET** from March 24th through April 21st...

Operations from the Pacific include a large group operating from Eastern Kiribati using several different **T32** calls. They will be active until March 16th. **TX7EU** is active from Nuku Hiva in the Marquesas until March 15th.

Upcoming operations include the big Dxpedition to Heard Island using the call **VKØEK**. They are currently scheduled to depart Cape Town, South Africa on March 10th with operations to commence March 20th. They will be active through April 10th.

A link to follow the progress of the Braveheart to Heard is: <https://share.delorme.com/vk0ek> and the main web site is: [www. http://vk0ek.org](http://vk0ek.org).

Another VK operation will be **VK9CK** which will be an operation from Cocos Keeling Islands in the Indian Ocean about 750 miles WSW of Jakarta, Indonesia. It is scheduled for March 15th through March 26th. The team will be 4 Norwegian operators and all modes will active. They will be on 160 CW.

Due to a logistical problem LA7GIA will not be operating from Equatorial Guinea as **3C7GIA** until March 10th. He will be active on all bands 40M-10M and possibly 80M.

Several other operations are planned for March from Grenada, **J34G** by G3PJT; St. Kitts as **V4/KB1EHE**; Dominica, **J79XF** by G3TXF; Madeira, **CT9/DL3KWF** and **CT9/DL3KWR**; Maldives, **8Q7NC** by F6BGC and several other short operations.\

Please be aware that there will be several operations by stations participating in the RSGB Commonwealth (BERU) CW contest. This contest is only for British Commonwealth stations and Territories, and definitely excludes U.S. stations.

See <http://tinyurl.com/BERU2016>. The contest will be held on March 12th and 13th.

73,

Orville

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Contest Chairman's Report—by Glenn Anderson WB5TUF

Hello again! It's been a busy month for me outside of radio. My company is in the middle of re-organizing and so far my name is still on the new org chart. I am anxiously awaiting the release of the new Tom Clancy game "The Division". My son is getting ready for another DCI summer marching season with The Cavaliers in Rosemont, IL. I really enjoy being a Drum Corp parent!

There were several contests last month. Here are some of the scores from our members:

ARRL DX SSB

W5PR SO10 866 q's 257,202 pts

K9GEM SO10 900pts

WB5TKI SOAB 95 q's 18,535 pts

NAQP RTTY

Michael KT5MR SOLP 320 q's 38,400 pts Not a member, but a good prospect.

N5XZ SOHP 92 q's 2,576 pts

ARRL DX CW

W5PR SO80 87 q's 12,267 pts

N5XZ SOHP 658 q's 501,921 pts

K5TU SOLP 315 q's 170,100 pts

CQ WPX RTTY

WB5TUF SOLP 1029 q's 1,319,535 pts

KT5MR 343 q's 131,036 pts

AJ4F 187 q's 31,178 pts

Jan VHF

K5LLL 206 q's 41,195 pts

10-10 Winter QSO Party

N5XZ SOHP 482 q's 699 pts

That's all for this month. I hope to see y'all at the Greater Houston Hamfest on the 19th.

Please remember to post any of your contest activity to www.3830scores.com and be sure to select Texas DX Society as your club.

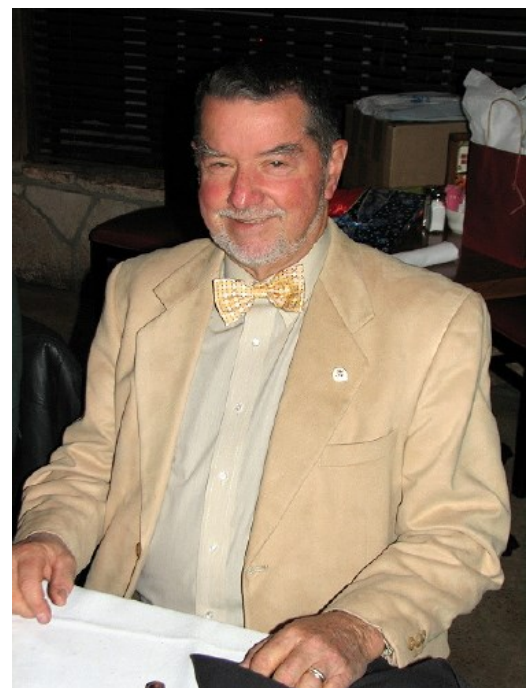
Thanks and 73,
Glenn WB5TUF
wb5tuf@arrl.net



In Memory of—Cal White WF5W



In Memory of—Cal White WF5W



10 Meter DX News by Mike Davidson N5MT

Mike Davidson N5MT

The 2016 Spring season will soon end the old Winter here in Texas. I hope some of you made an effort to work the ARRL Ten Meter contest last December. I did find several new stations during that weekend but the number of contacts/countries was far less than the previous year. The solar flux did not make it up to the 115 level that was predicted by NOAA. You were lucky if you heard/worked any Asian station from Texas! Band conditions were below average all year with fewer countries/entities spotted on the packet clusters.

Now we need to finish off the Winter DX season by sending in your computer logs to the LoTW system at ARRL. I just sent ten logs to LoTW and they matched up about a dozen band countries that I needed. Plus many hams now only use LoTW for their main QSL procedure to cut down on postage expense and time to process QSL cards. It's now time to look forward to a change of season, so expand your ham radio horizons and work more DX and use the LoTW system.

One of the less known techniques that you can use with your ten meter antenna is to make contacts on 12 Meters. There a good number of DX stations on that band that come down in frequency when they give up on Ten. My four element yagi beam works fine on 12 and I have 140 countries in my log from using my old beam antenna on the 24 MHZ frequency. Yes, there is some SWR, but the tuner in the radio helps with the mismatch. So I still get out a bunch of power with the gain from the yagi four elements helping and you can work a new DX contact for another band country just like on 28 MHZ.

Use the DXSummit cluster to watch what is happening on the various bands at: www.DXSummit.FI. When you type in this web site name, you will get displayed several bands for stations operating on the ham bands. You can set a filter to just watch 10 and 12 by clicking on a tab and saving the filter. You can watch just CW spots vs SSB or RTTY. You can also send spots that you hear into the cluster from an area on the right side of the page where you can enter the station's info. It does not have to be DX, you can spot a net freq or a friend calling CQ. It's a spotting cluster for info sharing especially for contests and other events that may not be DX.

There were three rare DX countries operating this past quarter. In January, K5P from Palmyra Atoll started out with a weak signal on 15 their first day. It took them several days before they were heard in Texas on Ten and worked. Another DXpedition going to the South Shetlands, started about a week later with a better signal as the North/South propagation was better for the USA this time of the year into the south Atlantic. The VP8 group moved over to South Georgia after operating about two weeks on South Shetlands after high winds damaged some equipment.

Upcoming DX Activity 2016:

9A Croatia. Paul **N4PN/9A4PN** will be in Croatia from March 1st to 8th with friends.

A9 Bahrain. Max **KE5JA/A93JA** who lives in Bahrain and Texas, will be active during the SSB DX contest on March 5-6th. I heard him in the CW contest last week.

FO/M Marquesas Islands. Tom **GM4FDM** and friends, will be on Marquesas from March 3rd to 15th on CW, SSB and RTTY. K3 radio, amps and hex-beam.

Website: www.Marquesas2016.de.

CY9 St Paul Island. In August 2016, a group of ops will fly to St Paul Island for ten days using call sign **CY9C**. Look for Randy **N0TG** and Will **AA4NC** who have been to the island before.

FJ Saint Barthelemy. Jay **FJ/W9AEB** will be on the island from June 17-29th. Bill **FJ/K2HVN** was not on St. Bart as expected last December.

FP St. Pierre & Miquelon. Eric **KV1J**, will return for his tenth time to the island on March 17-29th 2016 mostly SSB and Digi. LoTW.

FR/FT Juan de Nova. A DXpedition to the sixth most wanted country, will take place in the Indian Ocean on Juan de Nova Island, using call **FT4JA**. From March 29th to April 11, 2016, this well organized group will try to have 7 stations running at the same time. Look for Flo **F5CWU** who is a good SSB operator. Web site: <http://www.JuandeNovaDX.com>.

OZ Denmark. Rene **DL2JRM** will be on from Bornholm Island starting May 5th to 8th.

P4 Aruba. Mike **K9NW** and John **W6LD**, will operate as **P40L** from March 5-6th.

PJ4 Bonaire. David **NA2AA** and friend, will operate as **PJ4G** during the contest March 5-6th. Charles **PJ4/KG9N**, will operate from March 15- 22nd.

PY0F Fernando de Noronha. Will **AA4NC**, will be operating portable **PY0F/AA4NC** from October 17-27th 2016, especially in the CQ DX SSB contest.

PZ Suriname. Matt **K0BBC**, will be with **N0AT** in Suriname from March 2-7th using call **PZ5W**. The radio is a IC-7600 sending CW, SSB and PSK.

T32 East Kiribati. Lee **N8LJ/T32LJ** and Stan **AC8W/T32WW**, will be with a group operating from East Kiribati from March 1-16th. They expect to have four stations using CW, SSB & Digi. There are seven ops so find Lee or Stan. LoTW.

VP5 Turks and Caicos Is. Clint **W9AV**, will be in the SSB DX contest on March 26-27th with call **VQ5E**. The web site is: www.QRZ.com/db/vq5e.

YS El Salvador. Mario **YS1MAE** and friends, will operate the **WPX** SSB contest March 26-27th with call **HU1A**. During SSB DX contest look for **YS1YS**.

ZP Paraguay. Dale **N3BNA**, will be in Paraguay visiting friends and will operate contest station **ZP5DBC** during the SSB DX contest the first weekend in March. His call will be **ZP5/N3BNA** outside of contest.

10 Meter DX News by Mike Davidson N5MT

Miscellaneous Items & Notes:

Propagation forecast: <http://www.solen.info/solar/> and <http://ARRL.org/Propagation> .

More propagation: <http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>.

DX Calendar: <http://www.dxwatch.com/> .

DX: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4dJcK-WVRw>.

Propagation: I expect the solar flux to range from 80-115 the second quarter of 2016, which is a slight reduction from the past six months. The Spring equinox is on March 20th and propagation will change our HF signals as we lose Europe for 6-7 months.

On March 1st the solar flux was 91, the A index was 5 and K index 3. The high solar flux in January was 115 and on February 20th was 110. In the next four months, look for the best conditions: March 8-13th, March 29 to April 3rd, April 27-30th, May 24-28th, June 20-24th. For USA stations, expect no chance of DX to Europe or Asia with a 40% chance of DX to S. America and the S. Pacific, later in the day or just at sundown. Listen to the beacons from **28.175-28.300 (especially 28.200)** so you will know where the DX path is open to in real time.

DX IS! 73 Mike Davidson N5MT #24949
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Texas DX Society Board members

President	Bob Hardie, W5UQ	w5uq at att.net
VP Membership	Keith Dutson, NM5G	kdutson at sbcglobal.net
VP Programs	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
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CQ WAZ Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net

How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.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

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

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Al Bayer - WB5CFI
 David Bean - W5ZQR
 Bob Walworth - N5ET
 Ed Seeger - K5EBS
 Bill Frink - K5WAF
 John Godwin - K5IUA
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