



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net October 2017

**Monthly Regular Meeting, Thursday
October 12 at 7 pm Tracy Gee
Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston,
TX 77042**

Pre-meeting Dinner, Thursday Oct 12 at 5:30pm CDT.
Pappa's Bar-B-Q
9797 Westheimer RD
Houston TX 77042



Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

It's been a slow radio month here at the N5XZ superstation (well, I wish it was anyway!) Hurricane Harvey has really taken the punch out of a lot of things and members. Some still have not recovered and are not even back at home. Let's keep all of them in our prayers for a speedy recover of their homes and stations. Next was Irma which hit Florida, Maria which hit Puerto Rico, Nate which hit Louisiana and Mississippi and now Ophelia which is forming out there! Ham radio teams have been sent to Puerto Rico to help provide communications. Well, glad we could be of some ser-

vice. Please read the news release on page 8 about the FCC allowing higher symbol rates temporarily. We'll see about that, too. Last Saturday a team of us helped Mike N5MT take down his antennas which have been up for 35 years. Also, I haven't been to his house since the '80's and boy has the street changed! Current schedule for tower removal is October 21 or 22 with a 120' crane to pick it up whole or in sections. We are sure gonna miss Mike after he relocates to Louisiana. Another casualty of Harvey. There is some talk of Kosovo being added

to the DXCC list. Well if that happens you should once again expect huge pileups. Will Maarti once again be first in line to activate Kosovo? Time will tell. So far, no word on a topic for the meeting coming up on Thursday. Maybe I'll bring along some drone video of Mike's antennas being removed (sorry, the quality isn't very good, I am still learning how to use the darn thing...and I only crashed it once!) Not much more to report, I plan to see some of you Thursday. It might be the last time to see N5MT for a while. 73, Allen N5XZ

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*I am looking for autobiographies of TDXS members to add to every upcoming Bullsheet. If you would like to have your illustrious ham radio history plastered in this rag for all to see, **please** send them to me via email. (I can't wait to see my inbox fill up!)*



The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

October 2017

The TDXS needs your help! One of the pieces of business at our September meeting was nomination of President, Vice President – Meetings, Vice President – Membership, Secretary & Treasurer for 2018. There were no nominations! Several current officers volunteered to continue in their current roles for 2018, however we still have an opening for Vice President – Meetings. We have seven appointed officers and a number of those current appointees will also volunteer to remain in their current roles in 2018. There is one exception, Mike Davidson - N5MT, who was significantly impacted by Hurricane Harvey has decided to relocate to Louisiana. Mike has served as our Field Day Chairman for several years and we must find a replacement of him. From one point of view, we should be set for next year, if we can find someone to organize our meetings and another to organize our Field Day effort. However, from another point of view the TDXS is not in good shape at all. We are held together by the few individuals who do not want the TDXS to die. We changed our constitution to make it easier to become a part of the organization and our membership has grown. Several of our new members live outside the Houston area which makes it difficult fill leadership roles. We simply do not have enough participation to be

viable organization. I challenge those of you who have been relatively inactive to step up and take one of these roles for 2018. We need your ideas and energy to keep our organization alive. This is your opportunity to make things happen! The floor will be open for nominations (volunteers included) at our October meeting with elections at our November meeting.

Hurricane Harvey significantly impacted nine TDXS members and many other hams in south Texas and Louisiana. The recovery process is in full swing now. Please take the time to assist others when you can. It will take several years for the area to fully recover and with the extent of damage incurred there will be some drastic changes in our area. As I already mentioned Mike Davidson – N5MT has elected to move out of the area permanently. I am sure others will move as well. These changes will impact the ham radio base in the area and will impact all local clubs and other organizations and perhaps provide an opportunity to enhance our membership.

On the radio front, five TDXS members posted Texas QSO Party scores on 3839scores.com. Give the impact of hurricane Harvey I feel this was pretty good. If you participated please submit an entry and post your score. The CQWW DX SSB contest October 28 & 29th. This is one of the big contests of the year. Make plans to participate. Here is a link to the ARRL

Contest Corral with information on these contests and others during October: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/October-2017-Corral.pdf>

Locally, I have started a text based DX Spotting scheme called DX Opportunity. The intent of this system is to keep hams in the Houston area aware of what other local hams are hearing and working. It helped a great deal during Sporadic E openings on 6 meters earlier this summer as well as some nice HF DX on CW, SSB and FT8. Anytime someone posts to the group all members will get a text message on their cell phone. The system uses the free cell phone app GroupMe (Android and iPhone versions are available). The group of users is small and if you are interested in giving it a try send me an e-mail with your cell phone number and I'll add you to the group. It appears to work best if you download the app to your cell phone.

73,

Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS September 2017 Meeting Minutes

Date: September 13, 2017

Location: Cantina Laredo, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Scott K5DD, Doug WB5TKI, Robie AJ5F, Ed W5GCX, Jerry K9GEM, Orville K5VWW, Curt WG5H, N5MT, W5RH, N5XZ, K5VWW, W5PR,

Guests: Lynn Seyler, Xenia Gerber, Toy Aulman, Janice Mullen.

The September dinner meeting was held at Cantina Laredo on Westheimer in Houston.

The short business meeting involved:

-New TDXS Name Badges were delivered to new members and those older members who wanted the new format badges

-As a result of the flooding, Mike Davidson N5MT is moving to Louisiana.

-Robie, Orville and I agreed to run again for club office. Jerry declined.

Food was good and conversation lively.

73,

Submitted Oct. 1, 2017

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

A text message chat has been formed by Robie to keep the DX traffic off the TDXS reflector. The name is "DX Opportunity" and it uses the text messaging of the GroupMe APP, and it is available for both iPhone and Android systems. Immediate posting on smart phones and tablets of current DX activity allows "get-in get-out" response. Contact Robie if assistance is needed in setting up your participation.

There has been quite a bit of activity using the FT-8 data mode with lots of uncommon DX often present from all continents.

An expedition to **Bhutan, A5A**, is currently active by JH1AJT, VR2KF, and E21EIC. They will be active until October 8th, and have active on several bands this week. They will be on CW, SSB and RTTY.

4W6RR from **East Timor** will be active through October 10th from the Dili. Activity will be predominately on 40M and 20M, with an emphasis on FT-8. Operation will be by ZL1BQD.

XT2AW, Burkina Faso, will be activated by DF2WO on CW and SSB until October 30th.

Sao Tome & Principe will be activated by 2 operations, **S9YY** until October 10th by 5 German operators on all bands followed by **S9CQ** from October 12th until October 21st, by EC5AC on SSB and RTTY.

Franz Josef Land is currently being activated by several Russian operators using **RI1F** from Victoriya Island, a new IOTA (EU-190). Activity will be through October 11th.

Several other operations are planned and/or scheduled as shown below with tentative dates and modes:

Entity	Call	Dates	Mode(s)
Laos	XW4XR	October 10 th -October 24 th	FT8, CW
St. Helena	ZD7VDE	October 7 th -October 21 st	SSB, RTTY, FT8
St. Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	October 15 th -November 7 th	SSB
Palestine	E44WE	October 18 th -October 29 th	SSB
Cocos Keeling	VK9CZ	October 22 nd -November 6 th	SSB, CW
Cyprus (SBA)	ZC4MK	October 22 nd -October 31 st	
<u>Mellish Reef</u>	VK9MA	November 3 rd -November 16 th	All
Burundi	9U4M	November 6 th -November 17 th	All
Guinea Bissau	J5T	November 13 th -November 25 th	All
<u>St. Barthelemy</u>	TO2SP	November 16 th -November 30 th	All

Good DX,
Orville, K5VWW

Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. My life changed at 6:20 AM on August 27. Braes Bayou overflowed and my neighborhood was inundated. My house soon had 22" of water in it. Fortunately, I moved almost all of my Ham gear up high enough to prevent damage. I lost three power supplies, a mobile tuner, one pair of headphones and a TNC but the rest of the gear was saved. My major problem is that I have no place to operate. I had a fall about a week after the flood date and broke my right knee cap. I'll be hobbling around in a leg brace for another month. No Texas QSO Party for me this year.

I will try to continue with the responsibilities of Contest Chairman but, I must be honest, my heart is broken for loosing use of the house I have lived in for 44 years. I lost a hamshack that took years to put together. I can no longer participate in the contesting I love. My heart is not in it because I now have other major concerns and priorities.

I found no TDXS activity in the ARRL September VHF Contest. Here are the results I have gathered from the Solar Eclipse QSO Party.

Call: [W5FMH](#)
Operator(s): [MMØLID](#)
Station: KJ5Y

Class: **SOAB HP**
QTH: Chenango Ranch, TX
Operating Time (hrs): 3
Location: USA

Summary: [Compare Scores](#)

Band	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Grids
160:	0	0	0	0
80:	0	0	0	0
40:	31	0	0	27
20:	145	0	0	93
15:	23	0	0	17
10:	1	0	0	1
6:	0	0	0	0
Total:	200	0	0	138

Total Score 55,200

Club: Texas DX Society



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

There was some TDXS participation in the Texas QSO Party.

Single Op HP

Call	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Time	Score	Club
KI5LR	63	455	0	117	15	128,583	TDXS
AD5WB0	453	0	123	18	112,438		TDXS
KØYY	165	153	0	114	8	91,314	TDXS
KØNM	57	24	0	40	3	8,640	TDXS

SO CW LP

Call	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Time	Score	Club
AJ4F	279	0	0	99	8.5	82,863	TDXS

There was also some TDXS activity in the CQ WW DX RTTY Contest.

Classic SOAB LP

Call	QSOs	State/Prov	DX	Zones	Op Time	Score	Club
WB5TUF	680	124	180	85		540,321	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	QSOs	State/Prov	DX	Zones	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F	80	30	26	18	3	9,472	TDXS

That's it for the report. I hope to get the kneecap healed and get back to being able to see everyone over a meal or at a meeting.

73,

Jim, N5DTT



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

Nothing this month. Ron was another member who was greatly impacted by Hurricane Harvey. He and Linda are currently in an apartment while the house is rebuilt.



FCC Grants Temporary Waiver to Permit Higher Symbol Rate Data Transmissions

From ARRL Newsletter:

The FCC has granted an ARRL request to waive current Amateur Radio rules to permit data transmissions at a higher symbol rate than currently permitted, in order to facilitate hurricane relief communications between the continental US and Puerto Rico. The temporary waiver is limited to Amateur Radio operators in Puerto Rico using PACTOR 3 and PACTOR 4 emissions, and to those radio amateurs in the continental US who are directly involved with HF hurricane relief communications involving Puerto Rico or the US Virgin Islands, the Commission said.

"We conclude that granting the requested waiver is in the public interest," the FCC said in its October 5 Order. "Hurricane Maria caused massive destruction in Puerto Rico, and communication services continue to be disrupted. Thus, to accommodate Amateur Radio operators assisting in the recovery efforts, we grant the ARRL's waiver request for the period of 60 days from the date of this Order."

ARRL explained in its waiver petition that it's shipping five PACTOR radio modems to Puerto Rico for use in connection with Hurricane Maria disaster relief communications. The League asked the FCC to temporarily allow PACTOR 3 and PACTOR 4 transmissions that exceed the current symbol rate limitations under § 97.307(f) of the Amateur Service rules.

Under the current rules, "specified digital codes" in Part 97 may be used with a symbol rate that does not exceed 300 baud for frequencies below 28 MHz, with the exception of 60 meters, and 1200 baud in the 10 meter band. The baud rate limits were adopted in 1980, when the FCC amended Part 97 to specify ASCII as a permissible digital code.

We must do all we can to ensure this "temporary" order is only temporary- 60 days----and let's hope it does some actual good for those suffering in the Caribbean.

Let us all beware of those at the league who have data ambitions that aim to push for FCC rules that would allow wideband encrypted modems like Pactor 3 and 4 to overtake today's narrowband modes.

Please spread the word.

And.....Beware.

73 ted N9NB

Listen to the entire video-- see what happens to the pactor signal, especially about 2 or 3 minutes into the video!

Five transmitters surely will not cause the sky to fall.

But 50 or 500 or 5000 stations could do immense damage across many ham bands since each signal is at 2.4 kHz or 5 kHz channel bandwidth. Imagine our cw and narrowband spectrum sounding like this (especially 2 minutes into the video)

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=zzrjQsq4FpE>



Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
VP Membership	Keith Dutson, NM5G	kdutson at sbcglobal.net
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Treasurer	Orville Burg, K5VWW	Orville at rubyglass.com
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Field Day Chairmen	Mike Davidson, N5MT	n5mt at aol.com
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net
DX Chairman	Orville Burg, K5VWW	Orville at rubyglass.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.tdxs.net> email address: k5dx@tdxs.net

On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz (100 Hz) On 70cm: 447.00/442.00 MHz (103.5 Hz)

DX Cluster—On Packet: Connect to **K5DX** on 145.71 MHz or telnet via IP address 75.148.198.113

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TexasDXSociety/> (new)

TDXS says "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to these members with birthdays in October:

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Jim Whitmire KD4M
 Wes Whiddon N5WW
 Ron Marosko, Sr. K5LLL
 Bill Schrader, K2TNO
 Jeff McClain, K5MV
 George DeMontrond, III, NR5M
 Kim Carr, K5TU
 Laurent Thomin, W0MM
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