



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net January 2018

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET—JANUARY 20, 2018 6PM

SALTGRASS STEAKHOUSE
8943 KATY FREEWAY
HOUSTON, TX, 77024

**Map can be found on the
TDXS webpage.**



Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

At this moment I am on hold with the USPS, wondering where my Priority Mail Package is with my DXCC cards sent to Bob, N5ET for checking! They were mailed ONE WEEK AGO and is :

Status

In-Transit, Delayed

January 8, 2018 at 12:13 pm
IN TRANSIT TO DESTINATION
On its way to SPRING, TX 77380

Our wonderful mail service at work. This is the last time I will use them for anything important. I am wondering if I am going to have to request these QSL cards again from the DX contacts! Sheesh! Well enough of my ranting.

I hope y'all had a great holiday season (Hanukkah, Christmas, New Years) and you got plenty of great gifts, gear and goodies.

As you know, band conditions continue to be far from great, but there is still DX out there to be worked. The 6O6O Dxpediton is currently working and most of us are waiting for Bouvet to come up later this month. In the mean time, I have started

playing with FT8, and have worked a few new ones on 160 with that mode. Not real exciting, but it does work and it automated enough that you can run it in the background while doing other tasks (like working on the Bullsheet!) During December of 2017, the following stations were worked from the N5XZ Superstation: HC8LUT, ZD7DL, ZA1WW, HK0RMR, CN8VO, 5R8UI, JD1BMH. Yeah, I know, not much, but since putting up the 160 meter inverted-L, I have increased my numbers from 6 (!) to 52 worked, so not too bad, I guess.

A lot of you guys are still rebuilding from the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. We all hope that if you are not already back on the air, that you will be soon.

The annual TDXS awards banquet is (re) scheduled for January 20th at Saltgrass on I-10. I look forward to seeing everyone for a few laughs, lies and libations.

There has been a lot of talk lately about how the ARRL management has been conducting its internal business. There has been a range of troubling policy and govern-

ance actions taken by the League's leadership over the past two years, as well as actions proposed to be formalized at the Board meeting on January 19, 2018 in Newington. Please see the write up from N3JT and others at CW-OPS on page 10. Of particular concern is ARRL's new Code of Conduct for board members and the notion that Board Members and Directors are prohibited from discussing opposition to board votes, his discussions in board meetings and the issues discussed. *(note, these are XZ's opinions and not necessarily that of the TDXS BOD!)*

Finally, if you look the last page "TDXS Board Members" you will see three open positions. We need members to step up to do their part! **C'mon, do you really think we are going to hold on to our current positions forever?** There are plenty of members out there who have not volunteered as of yet. It's not that hard! ALL these positions need member participation: PROGRAMS, AND FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN! [ed-updated]
73, Allen N5XZ

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I am looking for more autobiographies of TDXS members to add to upcoming Bullsheets. If you would like to have your illustrious ham radio history please send them to me via email.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

January 2018

2017 was a good year for the TDXS. Things that went well:

Membership is up (54 Active members total)

Increased Contest participation

Nicaragua DXpedition & CQ WPX Phone contest activity by 4 TDXS members

More Sharing/helping one another technically and with recovery from Hurricane Harvey. Many of our members participated in activities to help our community recover. This activity will go on for a long time, as it will take years for hard hit individuals and the community at large to recover.

What did not go so well:

Several members suffered significant damage from Hurricane Harvey and the resulting flooding.

We are losing a longtime member – Mike N5MT relocating to Louisiana, due to the flooding

Still don't have enough volunteers/candidates to fill our officer positions

I feel our most urgent need is to find a Field Day Chairman. This activity is very significant to our organization and an effective FD Chairman is critical to success. If you want your efforts to make a difference, this is the position you want!

Glenn – WB5TUF was the presenter at our December meeting. Glenn showed and discussed several of his current experiments and building projects. His work on high power solid state amplifiers was very interesting and helps us stay abreast of the state of the art. He also discussed the design of traps for multiband antennas. This information made it easier to understand how commercial multiband antennas operate and how the designers determine element lengths. Glenn, you did a first-class job! We need more interesting, educational, informative presentations. Do we have any volunteers willing to share their work?

The TDXS has a goal of becoming active and ultimately competitive in the ARRL Club Competition category for ARRL sponsored contests. Having a minimum of 10 entries allows the TDXS to be classified as a Medium club, which expands geographic area in which TDXS members can be located and participate [*ed: I think this is a DUMB rule!*]. In 2017 we did not meet this minimum for any contest. Please dedicate some time to operate in the upcoming ARRL contests this winter. RTTY Round Up, January VHF Sweepstakes, ARRL CW/Phone DX contests are our next opportunities.

(continued)

The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

Amateur Radio Parity Act S.1534/H.R.555 – I checked the status of this bill and it remains in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. The future of this bill rests with the committee. I request that you contact our Senators – Ted Cruz (committee member) & John Cornyn and express your position on this bill.

The first TDXS Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for January 27. We need your input to develop goals and objectives for 2018. Please provide your input to any current officer or TDXS board member. My most immediate concern is how to increase participation in our activities – officers, meetings, programs, and contests.

73,

Robie – AJ4F



TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS December 2017 Meeting Minutes

Date: December 14, 2017

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Scott K5DD, Doug WB5TKI, Keith NM5G, Robie AJ5F, Jerry K9GEM, Orville K5VWW, Mike N5MT, Jim N5DTT, Marty W5MF, Glenn WB5TUF

Guests: Chris WB5ITT

The December meeting was held at the Tracy Gee Community Center in Houston. The highlights from the business meeting were:

Orville reminded the membership that dues are payable now through January 31.

The annual TDXS Banquet will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 17 at the Saltgrass Steakhouse on I-10 in Houston.

Name badges for new members will be handled by Jerry K9GEM based on a list provided by the club Secretary.

Keith NM5G showed off the new TDXS jacket design and will shortly be distributing the ordering details to the membership.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be on Saturday, January 27.

The program was presented by Glenn WB5TUF, and it was a real smorgasbord. First. He presented a program that introduced and explained the new FT8 digital communications mode. This new mode was introduced by Joe Taylor K1JT as a weak signal mode that provided quicker QSOs while maintaining the ability to decode signals that are deep in the noise.

Next he showed components of a solid state KW amplifier that he is building based on a design by W6PQL. Glenn had some very resourceful sources for some components, such as the power supply.

Finally, he showed some very interesting antenna trap designs using coax and pvc tubing.

All in all, it was a very entertaining and informative presentation.

73,

Submitted Jan. 3, 2018

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

Have I mentioned that Bouvet Island, 3YØZ, will be active the end of this month? Ironically, this morning, January 3rd, the temperature in Houston was colder than on Bouvet. I don't believe this will be true in August.

On January 13th, the crew is scheduled to depart King George Island in the South Shetlands heading to Bouvet. The boat route from King George Island to Bouvet may not be direct path due to sea ice. This may affect the arrival date. The earliest arrival date at Bouvet will be January 23rd.

There will be 2 rigs on each band in addition to antennas. 160M will utilize a 90' top loaded vertical for transmitting. 80M and 160M operation should be quite favorable during sunrise and sunset this time of year to North America.

Activity will cease on March 14th.

Several good DX locations are planned to be active in the short future. Some stations to look for will be:

6O6O from Somalia will be active from January 3rd until January 16th by LA7GIA and KO8SCA on 160M-10M.

A52PD from Bhutan will be active until January 14th by N2IEN. 80-10M, mainly CW + digital modes.

XT2AW from Burkina Faso will be active from January 8th until January 23rd by DF2WO on HF. All Modes + digital.

DUØDM will operate from Corregidor Island, Philippines, on January 13th-January 14th by a crew of 10 operators on 40M-20M15M and 10M, CW, SSB + Digital.

E31A will be active from Eritrea from January 14th-January 23rd by a group of 5 multi-nationals 160M-10M CW, SSB and RTTY.

ZC4A, Cyprus Sovereign Base Area, will be activated by 5B4AGM and others from January 24th through January 31st. 2 or 3 stations will be simultaneously active.

D68I will be active from Comoros from January 28th-February 10th by a group of 3 Italians on 80M-10M, CW, SSB and Digital.

Good DX,
Orville, K5VWW



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. It was a great month for TDXS participation in contests. We are beginning to rekindle the flame that made TDXS a past contesting powerhouse. As more stations can get back to full capacity after the trauma of Hurricane Harvey, I am sure the growth we have seen over the past few months will just be the beginning of a great comeback.

CQ WW CW

M/S HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
KJ5Y		x	816	98	259	40	753,270	TDXS

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TU			1170	111	292	27.3	1,310,959	TDXS
KØYY			130	43	101	17:10	49,842	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F			179	57	110		71,810	TDXS

SOAB(A) HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
KØNM		x	228	57	164	10.5	133,484	TDXS
N5XZ			133	36	92	2:20	45,056	TDXS
W5DPT			50	18	29	08:05	2,350	TDXS

SOABClassic LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
WB5TUF			512	91	270		507,205	TDXS

SOSB/40 LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GQ			77	14	40	12	11,610	TDXS

ARRL 160 Meter Contest

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
KJ5Y		x	117	46	3	2	11,178	TDXS

(continued)

Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
WB5TUF			211	60	8		30,124	TDXS
KI5LR			53	26	3	8.5	3,024	TDXS

SO Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N5XZ			450	88	13	7:19	82,632	TDXS

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

SO CW Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5DPT			9	5	2.5	180	TDXS
W6DPT(W5DPT)			8	5	2.5	160	TDXS

SO Mixed LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KI5LR			30	18	8.5	1,908	TDXS
AJ4F			15	4		216	TDXS

SO Mixed Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5XZ			292	71	11	70,432	TDXS
KØNM x			38	12	3:13	1,800	TDXS

SO SSB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K9GEM			6	2	1.6	24	TDXS

SO SSB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			73	24		3,504	TDXS

That's all for this month. I'm enjoying the holidays in London visiting my daughter and her family. I wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

Jim, N5DTT

TDXS Biography: Jim Burrough, N5DTT

Jim Burrough, N5DTT

Biography

I guess my interest in Amateur Radio began back as a Boy Scout and reader of its journal, Boy's Life. Due to moving around schools and the issues that created, I really did not act on my interest until I was married, a father and well established in my profession. I had purchased a scanner so I could keep track of the Bellaire Police and Fire Departments. That required that I purchase crystals for those frequencies. I saw the crystal for 146.88 MHz so bought it too. Once I started hearing the activity on the WR5AAA repeater, I was hooked. I started to explore how to get a license.

During my licensing quest, I got in touch with the folks at the Houston Amateur Radio Club and found out they offered classes for a Novice license. The first night of classes, I met two of the most interesting people I have ever known. The first was Mick Lang, WB5RSS. He taught the Novice class. He worked mostly on teaching code. He covered some of the aspects of good amateur practice but left the rest of Novice Theory to another teacher. Mick was a CW guy through and through. The other person I met was Franz Laugermann, now K3FL. I have worked with him now as one of his VEs for 16 years.

After a couple of months of classes every Friday night I passed Mick's Novice Code test and then, a few weeks later, the Novice Theory exam. Back then you had to wait a long time for your Novice Ticket to get to you. I was not going to waste this time so began reading and studying for my Technician License. I had to study the General Theory material and pass that written exam at the downtown FCC office. The Wednesday after the Novice License arrived on Monday, I took the exam. With all the study during my 3-month wait, I was more than ready so passed the Tech exam without a problem. I was now KA5LSY/HU. My first Amateur contact was on 2 meters with Mick. He became a very good friend and my Elmer. Much of what I know now about good Amateur practice, I learned from him.

I got involved with West Houston RACES and met many great Hams with an interest in Public Service. I volunteered to work radio communications for the Houston Marathon and have been a part of that group since 1982. My work with West Houston RACES led me to an interest in Emergency Management. There was not a lot of formal training available back then. FEMA was just getting going and it took a long time for them to see the need for education to support their function.

I took my 13 wpm code test at the Houston FCC office in April of 1985 and qualified for my General License. I got active along with Mick and others in a weekly 10-meter net. My father-in-law, also a Ham (W9LHW), and I set up a weekly scheduled contact on 40 meters. When on vacation each Summer at his QTH in Wisconsin, I operated day and night using his fine station. He was a font of practical information on wire and vertical antennas as he had been licensed since the late 1930's and had been a Marine Communications Specialist in World War Two. He was also in the radio and television repair business so had tremendous resources available for just about any project either of us could dream up.

After many years of work as a Medical Technologist at Houston Methodist Hospital and my contributing to some real breakthroughs in the fields of hepatitis, intraoperative blood salvage and medical informatics, I got bored with the clinical laboratory. My only child was out of college and I needed a challenge. I started thinking about Emergency Management again.

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TDXS Biography: Jim Burrough, N5DTT

I had been very active in developing a Laboratory Safety program at the hospital. The Safety Manual I created with a co-worker, Jennifer Hawes (now Texas DEM District 16A Coordinator) was the template for the hospital's Safety Manual. It seemed natural for me to pursue a formal education in Emergency Management. There were, in 1999, only two graduate schools in the world offering the program I needed. I selected the program at Leicester University in England. My daughter was in graduate school at Oxford University at the time and my trips to Leicester for my course work would provide some opportunities to visit her. Just before my classes began in March 1999, I studied for and passed the Amateur Advanced license. I knew the next two years would be intense and I would have little time for amateur radio.

I finished my Master's degree in January of 2001. In June we had the Allison Flood and, utilizing my new skills, I worked with hospital administration on the recovery processes while still staying active in the laboratory. On September 11, the world and my hospital job changed abruptly. I went to work full time doing Emergency Management. That role, along with Hospital Safety, was what I did for the next 12 years. Gratifying and frustrating at the same time. I retired from it all in February 2013.

When I finished graduate school I got my Extra license and bought myself a good HF radio. To escape my work life frustrations, I got interested in contesting. I have resigned myself to be a Little Pistol since the resources I need to be a Big Gun are quite out of reach. However, I have a place in Fayette County and am working slowly to make my operation there more competitive. Right now, I have a 60-foot freestanding Universal Tower with a Mosely Tribander on top. I am erecting a 40-meter elevated vertical and a second 40-foot Universal tower that will support a 15-meter monobander fixed on Europe. The two towers will provide support for a 40/80 meter dipole between them and the hope is to be able to add a 160 meter Inverted-L antenna to the 60-foot tower.

I find contesting to be greatly relaxing as well as a constant challenge. Like many things in life, you get out what you put in. In contesting, hard work and skill pays off. You can see the results in your score. That is why I accepted the Contest Chairman job with TDXS. There is no better place than contesting to test yourself and your station equipment. There is no better way than contesting to get the DXCC and WAS awards. There is no better way to introduce a new General or Extra to the wonderful world of HF operating where he or she can make dozens or hundreds of contacts in a short period of time. And I have not even mentioned the friends I have made all over the world through my contesting activities. I'll never be a Big Gun but I'm going to have a heck of a good time with my radios and my antennas doing every U. S. and International Contest I can.



myARRLvoice.org

Voice Your Views in a Letter to Your ARRL Director



**Trust in ARRL leadership is eroding.
We need your help to protect the future of ARRL.**

For more than 100 years, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has been the organization we've trusted to serve its membership openly and advocate for amateur radio in the United States. Over the past two years, that has changed...

Why now?

There has been a range of troubling policy and governance actions taken by the League's leadership over the past two years, as well as actions proposed to be formalized at the Board meeting on January 19, 2018 in Newington. We are working hard to inform our fellow members across all segments of our community, and to encourage them to convey their feelings on these issues to the ARRL Board and management.

Examples of recent actions include the following (click on each item to see more detail):

- The Amateur Radio Parity Act was modified to favor HOA positions for undisclosed reasons.
- The new ARRL BoD Code of Conduct limits what you get to know.
- Your Director's voting power could be diminished.
- Your ARRL membership could be terminated for any reason.
- Vice Directors could have been eliminated from the ARRL.
- The ARRL Board's governance proposals have generated significant undisclosed legal fees.
- Your elected Director could be censured for describing the new ARRL Code of Conduct.
- Your candidate for Board of Directors could be disqualified without explanation.

Get full details at www.myarrlvoice.org

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myARRLvoice.org

The governance attitude of the proponents of these measures, including directors, officers and advisers (such as the League's General Counsel), should frighten every ARRL member. Put simply, they are trying to stifle debate, render representation meaningless, and turn the ARRL into a closed organization very unlike what we all have enjoyed throughout our ham radio lives. We can't let this happen.

Time is of the essence, the Board meets January 19th, when some of the pending proposals are scheduled to come up for a vote. You must act now to let the Board know how you feel about their actions.

John Crovelli, W2GD

G. Kip Edwards, W6SZN

Rusty Epps, W6OAT

Robert B. Famiglio, K3RF

Rich Gelber, K2WR

Fred Hopengarten, K1VR

Jim Idelson, K1IR

Jim Talens, N3JT

Rick Tavan, N6XI

Bob Wilson, N6TV

Marty Woll, N6VI

myARRLvoice is an independent grassroots group of amateur radio operators working on behalf of our fellow Members of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), monitoring the activity of its leadership and advocating change to optimize the organization's effectiveness in matters of policy and governance, and to foster ethical and competent stewardship.

myARRLvoice acts as a vehicle for ARRL Members to make their voices heard on matters of governance and policy, and to participate in the policy-setting process, holding our elected and appointed leaders accountable. We strive to make the activities of ARRL leadership more transparent by insisting on the creation and dissemination of records of the deliberations and actions of all ARRL Boards, Committees and the operational Executive Team.

myARRLvoice believes that good ARRL stewardship can only be achieved through a check and balance system that includes the watchful eye of the Membership.

Visit the web site at www.myarrlvoice.org

Also please see <http://www.wirelessgirl.net/AlarmingARRLchanges.html>

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Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
VP Membership	Keith Dutson, NM5G	kdutson at sbcglobal.net
VP Programs	Open	
Secretary	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	djseyler at comcast.net
Treasurer	Orville Burg, K5VWW	Orville at rubyglass.com
Contest Chairman	Jim Burrough, N5DTT	jandpburrough at sbcglobal.net
Field Day Chairmen	Open	
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net
DX Chairman	Orville Burg, K5VWW	Orville at rubyglass.com
Outgoing QSL Manager	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Webmaster	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Bullsheat Editor	Allen Brier, N5XZ	n5xz at arrl.net

DXCC QSL Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net
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

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

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

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Barbara Coleman - WB5RUS

Lon Cottingham - K5JV

John Stevens - K5JS

Dale Martin - KG5U

Al Vacek - KN5A

Dennis Motschenbacher - K7BV

Bill Bradford - K5GA

John Duncan - WA5ZVE

Mike Hance - K5NZ

Allen Brier - N5XZ (yes me!)

Ben Worrell - NE5B

Ken Eckel Jr. - AB5A

Earl Morse - K8SS (ex-N5TU)

Doug Seyler - WB5TKI