



# 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 2018

**TDXS PRE-MEETING DINNER: THURSDAY 5:30PM AUGUST 9  
PAPPAS BAR-B-Q 9797 WESTHEIMER RD HOUSTON TX 77042**

**TDXS MONTHLY MEETING: THURSDAY 7PM AUGUST 9  
PROGRAM BY KEITH NM5G - ASTRONAUT HAM RADIO TRAINING  
TRACY GEE COMMUNITY CENTER 3599 WESTCENTER DR HOUSTON  
TX 77042**

## Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

This newsletter is getting out a bit late, and I apologize for that. Too many other things getting in the way of Ham Radio around here and it just isn't right! Please read Rick Hiller's Field Day Report on page 8. A lot of good numbers, I think we have a chance to get back in the Top 10! I only see a few scores higher than ours, but of course there will be some more...the QRP stations get a very high multiplier (in my opinion

too high). In any case, we are looking good, even though we didn't do quite as well as last year. Richard King, K5NA has an interesting story about Sammy Neal, N5AF who unfortunately passed way in July. Sammy was way up there in the number of VEC sessions he participated in. No telling how many new hams we have with Sammy's help. NAQP was a hoot and we had a lot of good scores come

out of TDXS. I am glad to see more TDXS contest participation, and I hope that some of our other members who credit their scores to other clubs will come back into the fold, so to speak. We could really use them. What 'ya say, guys???

See you next month!

73 Allen 'XZ

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*Please...if you read this and are a member of TDXS, we want to know more about you! PLEASE send me a biography of your ham life, equipment, accomplishments, regrets, wants, needs, etc. Pictures also, please!*

## The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

August 2018

One of TDXS goals is to increase participation in contests and we have seen a nice increase so far this year. One of the key aspects of participation is planning. Operating full bore in a contest requires getting your station (your own or a remote) setup, rigs, software and antennas. It takes a bit of time and effort to get things right and usually ends up taking more time than you expect. The other aspect is the personal one. You and your partner(s) if a multi operator effort, must have the time available for the preparation and operation. This involves coordinating a multitude of activities and can't be left to the last minute. There are birthdays, anniversaries, golf tournaments, vacations and a myriad of other things. This means you must start months or even years in advance if you are planning to operate in an exotic location. I put together this table to showing the dates of most of the big contests between now and the end of 2018. Now is the time to decide which ones you want to operate and make the necessary plans to ensure you will be successful. Remember for Club Competitions Jim N5DTT needs time to prepare and submit teams, so be sure and include notifying him in your plans.

Contest	Sponsor	Start	End
CQ Worldwide DX RTTY	CQ	9/29/2018	9/30/2018
Texas QSO Party	Northwest Amateur Ra-	9/29/2018	9/30/2018
CQ Worldwide DX SSB	CQ	10/27/2018	10/28/2018
ARRL Sweepstakes CW	ARRL	11/3/2018	11/5/2018
ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	ARRL	11/17/2018	11/19/2018
CQ Worldwide DX CW	CQ	11/24/2018	11/25/2018
ARRL 160 Meter	ARRL	11/30/2018	12/02/2018
ARRL 10 Meter	ARRL	12/08/2018	12/09/2018
Stew Perry Topband	Boring Amateur Radio	12/29/2018	12/30/2018

One thing that makes long term planning a bit easier is that most big contests occur on the same relative dates year after year. For example, ARRL Field Day occurs on the last full weekend of June each year. Look at the table above and you'll recognize the patterns. With this knowledge it is much easier to make decisions that will leave you free for your favorite contest.

Many of us are increasing the level of automation in our stations. This is not a new trend, but it is becoming more complex and the software that powers it is changing faster than ever. Everything can be operating well and overnight you get a Windows update and you are in trouble. My observation is that many hams are falling behind in understanding their computer operating system and how it functions. I certainly am, and I have trouble catching up because the documentation of the changes is poor. Do we have anyone who could put together a presentation on Windows 10 and help raise our level of understanding? We can also do the same with various other software such as logging programs, etc. I will make a presentation on the DX Labs Suite. Any takers on Windows 10 or another program?

Robie – AJ4F

# TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: July 11, 2018

Location: Hickory Hollow Restaurant, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Larry KB5WWW, Don N5DD, Keith NM5G, Jim N5DTT

Guests: Lynn Seyler (XYL of WB5TKI), Beth Dutson (XYL of NM5G)

July was a dinner month, so we congregated at the Hickory Hollow Restaurant. It is on Fallbrook near the Sam Houston Race Park. The food was good (I sure like their Chicken Fried Steak) and the conversation was lively. We also welcomed Larry Daze as the newest member of TDXS. If the name is familiar, he is the brother on Don Daze N5DD, who is TDXS member #147.

73,

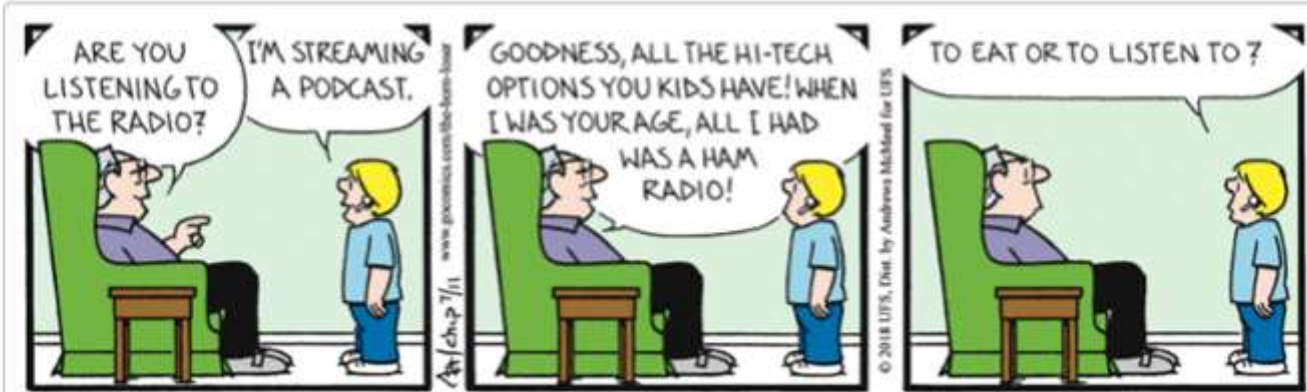
Submitted July 31, 2018

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



The Born Loser



## DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

August looks to be very quiet on lower bands but 6 Meters has still been providing some activity to both Europe and Asia on FT8.

An operation is planned from the **Austral Islands** as **TX5T** by **Madison Jones, W5MJ**, and **Bob Feldtman, W5RF** from August 13<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>. They will be on all modes including 6 M plus the first ever operation on FT8 from Raivave.

Their web site is <http://www.australs2018.com> should you have further questions.

Special callsigns will be used by stations from Malaysia from August 1<sup>st</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>. The calls prefixes will be **9M61M+** celebrating the 61<sup>st</sup> year of independence.

Additional DX Operations planned for the month of August:

China (Tibet)	August 6 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BØ</b> on 40 and 20M, FT8 DX Mode
Galapagos Is	August 7 <sup>h</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>HC1HC/8</b> , WARC bands + 6M; CW, FT8
Tonga	August 6 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>A35RR</b> by ZL1BQD, mostly FT8
South Cooks	July 31 <sup>th</sup> -Aug 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>E51BUO</b> by G4BUO – CW only.

Good DX,  
Orville, K5VWW



# Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again.

According to the 2017 ARRL 10-Meter Contest Results report in the July QST, TDXS is moving up the ranks in the ARRL Affiliated Club Competitions. We scored eighth place in the Medium Club category, just behind the Central Texas DX and Contest Club and well ahead of the DFW Contest Group. This is a great improvement over our performance in previous Affiliated Club Competitions. Much of the credit for this great score was due to the efforts of N5XZ who had a final score of 64,056 which was #3 in the Single Operator, Unlimited, Mixed Mode, High Power category.

I maintain the TDXS Club Eligibility List which I submit via the ARRL-provided web uploading service to the Contest Branch Manager. As each new member comes on board, their Call and Maidenhead Grid location is added to the list. The Eligibility List must contain the club name, club ARRL section (or location of the center of the club's eligibility circle), and a list of member call signs and locations. Locations are specified as six-character grid locators (e.g. EL29gq). Distances are calculated from center-to-center of the six-character grid locators.

If you maintain a contest station location that is different than your home QTH, please advise me. If the location is within the confines of the ARRL STX Section, your score will help us in the Affiliated Club Competitions.

Remember, there is an advantage to being in the Medium Club category. However, this requires a minimum of 11 logs be filed by club participants. This has been a bit of a problem in the past but now seems to be resolved. I'll provide some encouragement when the next competition is at hand.

There has been some contest activity this month. The big contest in July was the IARU HF World Championship. TDXS participation was as follows in the data extracted from information submitted to the 3830scores.com website.

### IARU HF World Championship

#### M/S H

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Zones	HQ	Mults	Score	Club
W5FMH		x	522	304	30	24	12	118,584	TDXS

#### SOAB(A)CW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Zones	HQ	Mults	Score	Club
N5XZ			500	0	54	42		134,976	TDXS

#### SOABCW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Zones	HQ	Mults	Score	Club
KØNM	x	x	1243	0	66	47		455,729	TDXS
K5TU			697	0	59	69		276,864	TDXS
WB5TKI			119	0	31	34		21,255	TDXS

(Continued)



# Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

## SOABCW LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Zones	HQ Mults	Score	Club
AJ4F			161	0	26	24	19,450	TDXS

## SOABMixed LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Zones	HQ Mults	Score	Club
N5DTT			84	17	20	12	7,200	TDXS

## SOABSSB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Zones	HQ Mults	Score	Club
KG5LRP			0	331	36	36	62,856	TDXS

We also had some TDXS participation in the CQ WW VHF Contest. These log statistics were uploaded to the 3830scores.com website.

## CQ Word Wide VHF Contest

### SOSB/6 HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			656	221		144,755	TDXS

### SOSB/6 LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F			168	108		18,144	TDXS
N5DTT			24	18		432	TDXS

In August, we have a couple of NCJ-sponsored North America QSO Party contests that have team competition. Because these contests are not ARRL contests, these team competitions do not require being on the TDXS Club Eligibility List. Instead, teams of up to 5 operators are pre-registered under a team name. In the NAQP CW contest we already have two teams that will be registered a few days before the contest on August 4. We are still forming teams for the NAQP SSB contest. Let me know by e-mail if you want to be on a TDXS team for this 12 hour low-power contest on August 18.

Until next month.

Jim, N5DTT



## **TDXS/BVARC/KARS/ECHO Field Day Numbers and Score Submission by Rick W5RH**

Our Field Day score was just submitted yesterday, July 24.....right on time. I had volunteered to do the submission a few weeks before the Field Day event and it was a very interesting exercise for a couple of reasons. 1) it was great to see that all of the hard work performed by everyone was quite beneficial; and 2) the submission process highlighted what actually needs to take place over that 24 hour period. Not only set-up, operation and teardown, but it showed the benefit of doing the bonus tasks such as GOTA, satellite contacts, visitors logs, under 18 on the air and, of course, the marketing aspects of news releases, invites to the media, local EmComm folks and elected officials.

So, where do we stand? As a joint effort (10A STX) of BVARC, ECHO, KARS and TDXS, our score was not too shabby. Here are the numbers:

Total number of visitors and active participants: 97

Number of 18 yr. and younger visitors: 11

Cases of water consumed: 15

Cases of soda consumed: 12

Total number of antenna masts/towers: 4

Total number of antennas: 12

Number of Yagi-Uda's used: 7

Number of Yagi-Uda elements: 20

Feet of coaxial feedline used: 2,700

Gallons of Generator Gasoline Used: 17

Number of K3's On Air: 10

Number of N1MM Op's: 38

CW QSO's: 2266

Phone QSO's: 445

Digital QSO's: 291

GOTA Q's: 22

Satellite QSO's: 1

Band with most Q's: 20 (CW had 927)

Bonus Points: 1990

Final Score: 13,154

Final score is determined by the ARRL judges, but 13,154 is close. Check out <http://3830scores.com/> for our 10A LP score and many other station's scores for comparison. Stay tuned for the December 2018 QST for the national results and our nationwide standing.

73.....Rick W5RH

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## Where in the World Is...by Ron Litt K5HM

Approaching from a distance the island, barely 26 feet above sea level resembled the back of some fabled sea monster of 15th century sea tales. Covered with low lying scrub vegetation, Baker Island is less than a mile wide and slightly more than a mile long. Its population of seabirds makes their presence known on anything that offers a perch

Its terrain is sandy. Along with its neighbor only 42 miles NNW, Howland Island they form the Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge. Not exactly your favorite bird watching spot, the islands lie almost halfway between Hawaii and Australia. Barely north of the Equator and east of the International Dateline, by this odd quirk of geography, they are last pieces of U.S. territory that experience the new day.



Baker was discovered in the early 19th century by whaling ships that crossed the Pacific. The island is named for Capt. Michael Baker of the whaler Gideon Howland, who visited the island several times between 1832 and 1839; once to bury one of his crew. Captain Baker claimed the island for the United States in 1855, then he sold his interest to a group who later formed the American Guano Company.



One of the most peculiar pieces of legislation to come out of the Congress in 1856, the Guano Islands Act enabled citizens of the U.S. to take possession of unclaimed islands that contained guano deposits. At the time guano, particularly seabird guano was highly prized as a potent fertilizer and later as a feedstock in the manufacture of gunpowder. Hence bird doo-doo, for a brief period became a strategically important material.

So much so that when the American Guano Company sold its mining rights to a British firm in 1886, the UK government considered the U.S. to have abandoned their claim to the island and claimed it a British Territory. Although they never formally annexed it, the British and Americans exchanged notes and nasty phone calls until 1935 when the Americans decided to settle the matter by announcing their intentions to colonize the two islands.

The American Equatorial Islands Colonization Project did not last long. A total of 130 colonists, comprised of Hawaiian islanders and military personnel were delivered to both Howland and Baker islands aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Itasca, in 1935. They built a lighthouse and dwellings. Their efforts at agriculture were ineffective as the island had little rainfall and no natural springs. The dry climate and seabirds, eager for anything upon which to perch, did not give the trees or shrubs much of a chance. The remainder of the civilian population were evacuated in 1942 after Japanese air and naval attacks. During World War Baker was occupied by the U.S. military.

(continued)



## Where in the World Is...by Ron Litt K5HM

One of the greatest puzzles of the modern world took place near Baker in 1937. Famous aviatrix, Amelia Earhart was attempting to complete a round the world flight. Her plane disappeared somewhere near neighboring Howland Island as she was searching for the island's air strip to refuel. Her plane disappeared without a trace and today the mystery is still unsolved.

The 2018 Baker Island Dxpediton commemorates the 81st anniversary of Amelia Earhart's disappearance on July 2, 1937 near Baker & Howland islands -- as well as the commitment and sacrifices made by the Hui Panalā'au -- a group of brave young men from Hawaii who attempted the colonization of Baker and Howland from 1935-1942.

Operating under a permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, fourteen amateurs landed on Baker from June 26th to July 7th . During that time, the team racked up 68,981 contacts worldwide. Baker Island is ranked as the 5th most wanted DX location, according to Clublog's most Wanted List.

Environmental considerations required the team to utilize vertical antennas exclusively. They opted for SteppIR verticals and eight Elecraft K3s and Amplifiers. For software, the team relied on the win4k3suite and N1MM for logging.



Reporting from the Dark Side,  
Ron Litt, K5HM



## Sammy Neal N5AF TDXS#6—SK April 2, 1942 - July 11, 2018

Many of you already know of the sad passing of Sammy Neal N5AF.

The following is courtesy of Richard King K5NA

On my first day of college at Lamar Tech in Beaumont I saw an amazing sight.

A large man stepped out of a 1955 Chevrolet with the tallest mobile antenna I had ever seen. I said "hello". That was my introduction to Sammy Neal.

Hanging out with ham friends I had heard stories about Sammy and now I would find out that many were true.

Sammy proudly showed me his station in the Chevy. He had a pair of ARC5s, one a transmitter, the other a receiver both powered by dynamotors. The mobile antenna was his pride and joy. It was mounted in the center of the trunk lid and had a three foot extension to a large bug-catcher loading coil. Above the loading coil was a whip antenna that seemed to touch the sky.

Sammy was proud of the car and kept it neat and clean. The car had one blemish in the center of the front hood, a scratched area that looked as if it had been wire brushed. I asked Sammy what had happened to his hood. He answered, "When I stop at a stop sign or a traffic light the tip of the whip bends across the top of the car and takes another small chip of paint off the hood." We both nodded with a mutual understanding that this was something that you lived with in order to have the best mobile signal possible.

We became good friends and In the spring semester Sammy and I moved off campus along with Robert McWhorter (K5PFE). That was the start of a friendship that lasted for almost 60 years.



## Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
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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
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Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net
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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

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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](mailto: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 August:

**Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone**

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

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