



# 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 2018

## **TDXS Monthly Meeting: Thursday Oct 11 at 7:00PM Program "Vacation-style DXing from Belize - licensing, equipment and operating" by Doug WB5TKI**

**Tracy Gee Center  
3599 Westcenter Drive  
Houston TX 77042**

### **Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ**

There's a few things to talk about this month. Let me see if I can get to them (gotta remember them first, right?)

First, a big CONGRATULATIONS to Nizar Mullani, K0NM for his CQ Magazine article on learning CW at age 70. I didn't know this, but Nizar mentioned last week that he is now published in CQ, QST and 73 Magazines! I guess soon Nizar will be the J.K. Rowling of ham radio, and will become a multi-billionaire, buy a island somewhere and turn that island into a new DXCC country. But will he remember us, the little people? Only time will tell! Great job, Nizar (who has been doing a lot of good contesting lately with his always improving CW skills. Keep up the good work, Nizar...hang in there and you'll be doing 40 WPM before you know it!

A lot of TDXSers operated in the Texas QSO Party last weekend as well as the CQ RTTY Contest. It was another one of those multi-

contest weekends (aren't they all?). I have to say since I started this job down in Freeport that I am missing most contests. And I really miss them! Just too much to do on the weekends when I get home, but I will try to participate in some soon. Congrats to all those who have found the time to do so and submit their scores crediting TDXS. We need a lot more that! Please continue to do so and make me proud!

Please read the article about Ted Rappaport N9NB who has won yet another award! Incredible guy! I have worked him in a number of contests in the past, he is a great CW operator as well.

Some sad news from K5WMG:

Tragedy strikes. I was just informed about a tower accident from a close friend. Skip Morris K5FC was putting up a new tower at his new retirement home in Cookville, TN. Skip had hired a young man to help with the raising

of the tower. The young man was at the 80 ft level when one of the guy wires broke and the tower fell. The man was killed. Skip was on the ground and watch as all this happened. Skip is retired from FedEx where he was a radio engineer for decades. Skip always used the highest quality parts and always insured that what he was doing was the best. Safety was always his number one concern. At this time it has not been determined what caused the guy cable to break.

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This young man was only 30, was the sole provider for the family, and left behind a wife and 5 children. There is a GoFundMe set up here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/waddellfamily>

Please find it in your heart to help the family.

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

October 2018

The 2018 Texas QSO Party and the CQWW RTTY contests are now history. I worked several TDXS members in the TQP and only a few in the CQWW RTTY contest. Looking at 3830scores.com this afternoon (10/2) I see only 5 TQP submissions and 6 for the CQWW RTTY. It has only been a few days since these contests ended and I hope we had more participation than these numbers indicate. We need to develop a method to measure participation that can be applied over the entire year to determine how we are doing. Anyone have ideas on how to accomplish this? Over the next ten weeks we have 6 major contests and 4 of those are ARRL sponsored ones (Sweepstakes CW/SSB, 10 meter and 160 meter) with club competition. Let's see if we can make a good showing! The other 2 are the CQWW SSB and CW contests in late October and November respectively. Many consider these the best of all contests.

Last month I wrote about my experimentation with the Raspberry PI 3 and WSJT-X. I was successful in getting the little computer to run WSJT-X with full control of my K3. The point of this activity was to teach myself a bit about the Linux operating system and get started coding with Python (a very popular programming language). My adventure with Python is moving ahead slowly. I have discovered that there are free online tutorials to help me learn this language. The free part gets you hooked and leads you into a full-blown online class! The online class has a fee, but still seems attractive to someone wanting to become a programmer. This shows what a powerful tool the internet is for education. We have several members who would benefit from increased Windows knowledge. Would someone please investigate how this could be accomplished via the internet?

We've got a good program lined up for our October meeting but still need someone to take the leadership role of the Ole' Codgers dinner in November. This is a fun event at usually a bit more upscale restaurant. The business portion of this meeting is the election of officers for 2019. We also need someone to make a presentation in December. We've offered numerous ideas on topics or you can use your own. Contact me and I'll help you get started.

Speaking of officers, we have at least one nominee/volunteer for each of the elected positions for 2019. Many of these individuals have served for 2-4 years consecutively. It is time for some "new blood"! The same is true for the appointed positions. These individuals make the commitment needed to keep the TDXS going and we need more individuals to step forward! I have talked to presidents of several amateur radio clubs around the area and the story is the same. Each club has a few core members who keep it going and a relatively large number of "bystanders" who participate in what the others organize. For me, this is a bewildering situation. There are so many opportunities to have a positive impact on the organization and its members but so few who are willing to take up the challenge.

How many of you have tried version 2.0 of WSJT-X? This release is still in beta testing but release candidate 2 is available for Windows as well as Linux. It has many new features and improvements. The most exciting of which is the improved contesting features. Not only can it handle rovers in VHF contests I can be used in the RTTY Round Up scheduled for January. That will add an interesting twist to one of my favorite contests. I've been using the DXpedition mode to work the 9X0Y station in Rwanda. I've seen the call signs of many of our members working him as well. This is a great tool to work DX on the low bands where noise and static crashes make CW difficult. You can add to your country totals even though the high bands are not open.

Robie – AJ4F

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## TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: September 12, 2018

Location: Hickory Hollow Restaurant, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Larry KB5WWW, Don N5DD, Keith NM5G, Jim N5DTT, Orville K5VWW, Kim K5TU, Bob N5ET, Jerry K9GEM, Paul W5PF, Rick W5RH, Scott K5DD, Chuck W5PR, Robie AJ4F, Ed W5GCX, Pat KJ5Y

Guests: Lynn Seyler (XYL of WB5TKI), Beth Dutson (XYL of NM5G), Janice Muller (XYL of K9GEM), Georgina Frantz (XYL of W5PF), Verna Patout (XYL of K5DD), Ruth Dietz (XYL of W5PR), Xenia Gerber (XYL of W5GCX, Pat Burrough (XYL of N5DTT)

July was a dinner month, so we congregated at Rudi Lechner's German Restaurant in Houston. The turnout was great, as were the conversation and the German buffet. We had 24 people show up, including 8 spouses.

Robie announced the opening of nominations for 2019 elected officers. The nominations will be announced at the next meeting and nominations from the floor taken.

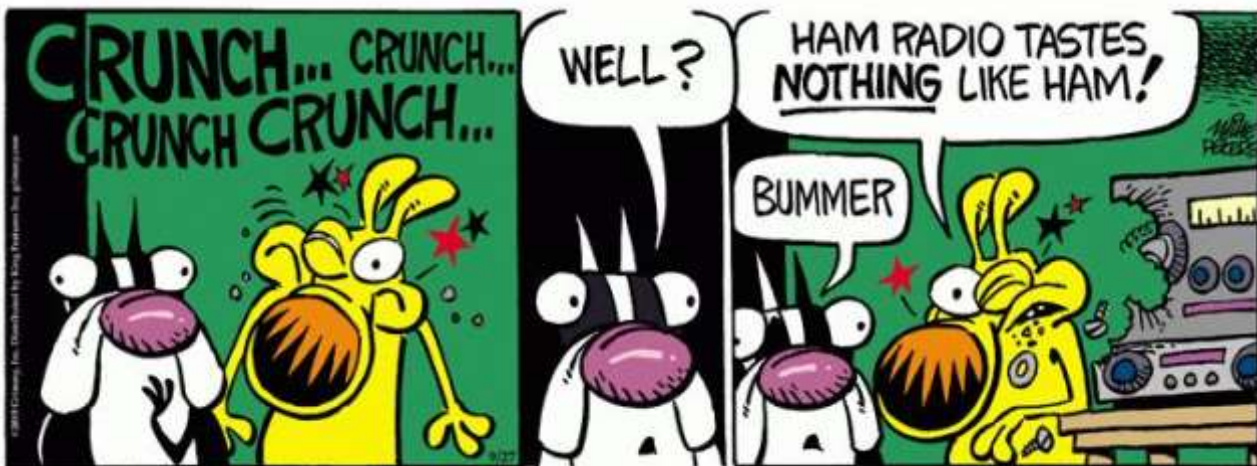
The next meeting will be a regular one at the Tracy Gee Community Center. The program will be a jim-dandy ( since I am the presenter) so please endeavor to attend.

73,

Submitted October 3, 2018  
Doug Seyler WB5TKI  
TDXS Secretary

HAM FUNNIES

Mother Goose & Grimm



## DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

October appears to be a continuation of mostly dead lower bands with most activity found on FT8. Sunspot numbers continue to be ZERO!

The hottest DXpedition currently on the air is the duo of **9XØT** and **9XØY** from **Rwanda**. They are scheduled to be active until 9 October on all bands with 3 operating positions.

**9XØT** is operating on CW predominately on the lower bands with some SSB, and **9XØY** is operating FT8, both in the Fox/Hound and Standard modes.

As I write this on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, **9XØT** has 28,664 qso's made and **9XØY** has 5,387 qso's on FT8.

The most anticipated DXpedition of the month will be **VP6D** on **Ducie Island** from October 20<sup>th</sup> through November 3<sup>rd</sup>. This DXpedition will have 15 operators activating 7 operating positions on 160M-10M on CW, SSB and Digital modes including FT8.

Some planned DX Operations planned prior to the October 20<sup>th</sup> **Ducie Island**, **VP6D**, operation are:

Niue	October 6 <sup>th</sup> - October 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>E6Y</b> by <b>4 ZL ops.</b> 160M-10M, CW & SSB
Norfolk I.	October 9 <sup>th</sup> - October 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>VK9N</b> by <b>4 ops.</b> 40M-6M, SSB & FT8
Chad	October 9 <sup>th</sup> - October 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>TT8KO</b> by <b>LA7GIA</b> 160M-1M, mostly CW
Svalbard	October 10 <sup>th</sup> - October 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>JW7XK, JW9DL, JW6VM</b> by <b>3 LA ops.</b> CW, SSB, Digital
St. Kitts & Nevis	October 10 <sup>th</sup> - November 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>V47JA</b> by <b>W5JON.</b> 160M-6M, SSB, FT8
Christmas I.	October 16 <sup>th</sup> - October 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>E6Y</b> by <b>5 G ops.</b> 160M-10M, Major FT8 effort
Ivory Coast	October 26 <sup>th</sup> - No- vember 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>TU5MH</b> by <b>DF3FS.</b> CW & SSB
Zimbabwe	October 26 <sup>th</sup> - No- vember 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Z23MD</b> by <b>8 EU ops.</b> HF CW, SSB & RTTY

Good DX,  
Orville, K5VWW



## Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. The month of September has been a rather quiet one, as far as contesting is concerned. About the only activity was the ARRL September VHF Contest. There were only 3 TDXS members filing scores with the 3830scores.com website. The report appears at the end of this article.

In months like this, when we are waiting for the beginning of the Fall contest season, we can probably take advantage of the numerous State QSO parties that seem to aggregate this time of year. We all know about the Texas QSO Party. It is a great time to show off our State and provide a great opportunity for non-Texans to get to know a lot more about us. After all, there are more than 447,000 licensed amateur radio operators in the state. Not unexpectedly, many are clustered in and around the larger metropolitan areas but there are still others who may be the only licensee in a county. There are a few Texas counties that currently have no Hams in the FCC Database.

State QSO parties, especially those occurring in September and early October, give us a great opportunity to fine tune our stations in anticipation of the Fall season. In addition to the Texas QSO Party the last week-end in September, the California QSO Party follows on October 6 and 7. I look at these contests as golden opportunities to test my gear and myself. These contests could also help greatly to increase my Grid Chase numbers. A lot of grid squares will be represented and available those two week-ends that are not regularly on the air.

The last week of September, I finally got a ham shack up at my place in Fayette County. It is just a portable 10 by 8 foot building but will keep me and my equipment dry and cool (also warm on the few days a contest and a cold front coincide). The first challenge will be to get the coax entry point designed and installed. Then I have to define how I want to route the electric wiring for optimum usefulness. Finally, I will place the desk for the operating position and a table for the coffeemaker and the microwave. Somewhere in the remaining space will be a cot and a small refrigerator. It seems like a lot to do, but I have plenty of time and can take it one step at a time. In the meantime, there are temporary workarounds that will allow operation in TxQP and CaQP. Ultimately, I'll install the capability to use the station remotely. I'll have HF 20-10 on the 60-foot tower, dipoles for 40 and 80 and VHF 6 and 2M on a second 40-foot tower. All that should help me improve my contest scores.

### ARRL September VHF Contest

#### Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			45	25		1,125	TDXS

#### Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F			12	8		96	TDXS
N5DTT			2	1	1	2	TDXS

That's about it for this month. I hope everyone has a good time with the QSO Parties.

Jim, N5DTT





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

Mongolia (JT-JV)

CQ Zone 23 ITU Zone 32, 33

The thundering Mongol Horde rolled out of the Great Asian desert in the 13th and 14th centuries. Lots of Hollywood royalty played the great Khan on the screen. Led by John Wayne as Temujin, later Genghis Khan; then Orson Wells, Omar Sharif, Jack Parlane Stephen Boyd, or even Murvyn Vye, playing second banana to Richard Widmark as a sad sack Mongolian tribal chief in Destination Gobi; caught up in the backwater of WW II.



The Mongols rode in search of plunder and grazing for their animals. The Mongol horse is purported to be largely unchanged since the time of Genghis Khan. Nomads living in the traditional Mongol fashion still hold more than 3 million animals, which outnumber the country's human population. Despite their small size, they are horses, not ponies. In Mongolia, horses live outdoors all year, dealing with temperatures from 86 °F in summer down to -40 °F in winter, and they graze and search for food on their own. Some animals are slaughtered for meat. Other than that, they serve as riding and transport animals; they are used both for the daily work of the nomads and in horse racing.

The mare's milk is fermented into the national drink, Airag. Airag contains about 2% alcohol. The taste is slightly sour and requires getting used to it. The exact taste depends on the characteristics of the local pastures and the exact method of production. The beverage is a rich source of vitamins and minerals for the nomads. Hospitality mandates the host present a bowl of airag to every visitor. To reject the offer right away would be gravely impolite.

At their greatest, Mongols controlled the largest contiguous land empire in history, stretching from Korea in the East, China and Russia in the south and most of Eastern Europe in the West. Some historians regard the destruction under the Mongol Empire as some of the deadliest conflicts in human history. The Mongols were fierce warriors who scourged the landscape wherever they went of cattle and horses. They murdered their captives or forced them into their army.



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

The Empire developed through a series of conquests and invasions, fueled by the need for grazing land to support Mongol cavalry and cattle. Definitely not vegetarians, their diet consisted of the animals they ate and the horses they rode.

The Empire was founded by Genghis Khan who initially forged a confederation of key Mongol tribes. Large areas of Central Asia and northeastern Iran were seriously depopulated, as every city or town that resisted the Mongols was subject to destruction.

During conquest, every soldier was required to execute a certain number of persons, with the number varying according to circumstances. The Mongol invasions induced population displacement on a scale never seen before in central Asia as well as eastern Europe. Word that the Mongol hordes were approaching would spread terror and panic.

After 100 years or so, the empire began to fracture because of infighting between descendants of Mongol rulers and the Mongols never regained the sweep and wealth of their former empire.



Fast forward to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1911 Mongolia was established as an independent nation. In Central Asia. What was Inner Mongolia, became a prisoner province of China, large parts of which contain the Great Wall of China.

Present day Mongolia is still one of the largest landlocked countries in the world, approximately 604,000 sq. miles. After it declared its independence in 1911, it became closely aligned with Russia and later the Soviet Union. After the Japanese invasion of neighboring Manchuria in 1931 and during the Soviet-Japanese Border War of 1939, the Soviet Union successfully defended Mongolia against Japanese expansionism. Mongolia fought during the Soviet–Japanese War in August 1945 to liberate Southern Mongolia from Japan and China.

At the 1945 Yalta Conference, one of the Soviet conditions for its participation, was that after the war Outer Mongolia would retain its independence. The referendum took place on October 20, 1945, with (according to official numbers) 100% of the electorate voting for independence.

Mongolia's total population as of January 2015 is estimated by at 3,000,000 people. About 59% of the total population is under age 30, 27% of whom are under 14. This relatively young and growing population has placed strains on Mongolia's economy. The horse culture is very much alive as about 30% of the population is nomadic, moving from place to place through the Great Gobi Desert or on the steppes.

The geography of Mongolia is varied, with the Gobi Desert to the south and with cold and mountainous regions to the north and west. Much of Mongolia consists of the Mongolian-Manchurian grassland steppe, with forested areas comprising 11% of the total areas. Most of the country is hot in the summer and extremely cold in the winter, with January averages dropping as low as  $-22^{\circ}\text{F}$ , a vast front of cold air comes in from Siberia in winter, causing very cold temperatures.

The Mongolian Amateur Radio Society represents hams in Mongolia; roughly 250 members. Mongolia is 220<sup>th</sup> on the Club Log DXCC Most Wanted List.

Reporting from the Dark Side, Ron Litt, K5HM

## Some Antenna Thoughts by Nizar Mullani K0NM

I learnt a lot by having access two identical rigs with only difference being antennas and antenna heights. This gave me a true appreciation of how antennas and their height can influence who you work.

This is probably common knowledge to Jeff and the big boys of contesting. So, I may be reinventing the knowledge. But, here is my take away after comparing the two antennas on the same band with the same power levels. I only compared 20 and 40 meters since 10 and 15 were 'dead'.

Antenna 1. Curt 10-15-20 three elements tribander at 130 feet. 40 has a 2 element shortened Yagi at 120 feet.

Antenna 2. Nizar has a 4 band 10-15-20-40 two elements antenna at 55 feet. 2.5 elements on 10 and 15 meters and full size 2 element Moxons on 20 and a coil loaded shortened elements on 40 meter Moxon. I would put the gain of the two antennas to be very similar. The main difference is the height.

The 130 feet antennas definitely opened the bands early. During the early openings, I also noticed that the stations close by, like 300 miles away, were heard much better with the low angle of radiation from the tall antennas. This was true even after the opening sessions.

Once the bands opened and I could hear the stations 1000 miles away, the Moxon at 55 feet worked as well as or even better than the tall antennas. The tall antennas worked better for the two coasts of NA, and, the shorter antennas worked better for the middle of NA, especially when the bands went 'long'.

As for DX stations, like in EU and JA, once the band opened, the two antennas worked different at different times of the day. This may be caused by the antenna lobes at high and low angles and the skip zones changing. After the bands had opened, the low antenna did very well to EU. It seemed to stay open with good reports without major changes. Again, this is clearly due to the main lobes created by ground reflections and skip zones.

The other aspect of the radiation patterns is that, from south Texas, the broad radiation pattern of the Moxon seem to cover a larger area of the USA better than the classic Yagi's. (I had a 3 elements Yagi at 55 feet before the Moxon. It seemed to require changing the rotor direction more than the Moxon.)

Receiving was difficult to evaluate. There was a lot of static crashes due to storms. Also, when running full power, the other stations can hear you well, but their signal is down 10 dB or more if they are running 100 Watts. So, lots of stations were at noise levels of the storms and difficult to hear. Pileups definitely make it harder to pick out the weak signals under those conditions with lots of QSB.

Bottom line, if you are in Texas area and want to work USA stations, a broad antenna like a Moxon at about 75 feet would cover almost all the states on 20 and 40 meters. For long paths and DX stations with the higher beams and narrow radiation patterns can cover large areas of EU and JA areas with better signal. But, if the bands are open, both heights work well.

Given this first hand learning experience, I now understand why most people with residential towers opt for about 75 feet height. It seems to be a good compromise under limiting conditions. This was also my first major comparison of a Moxon and a Yagi. I liked the broader angle of radiation from the Moxon when working NA stations. I did not have to rotate the beam that much.

Nizar K0NM.

Sent from my iPhone

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## **Radio Club of America Awards Armstrong Medal to Wireless Communications Researcher and Educator Theodore Rappaport N9NB**

My friend Ted N9NB has been recognized yet again for his incredible achievements:

<https://tinyurl.com/yd9g3wzw>

Ted was diagnosed with AML (Advanced Myeloid Leukemia) the same day my son Scott was diagnosed with a 7cm frontal lobe aggressive Glioblastoma Brain Tumor in March 2015.

Ted is in remission from targeted treatments he pursued.

Through his efforts and referral to Perthera, Inc., they did testing on my son's tumor and provided a detailed report on exactly how this tumor works, and shopping list of drugs in research/trial/approved to target and destroy the specific pathways of his tumor function.

Miraculously, my son's residual tumor has not regrown since 90% was removed March 18, 2015.

And he has a long list of options based on the testing by Perthera should his tumor come alive.

We are forever grateful to Ted for his own battle and guidance to us.

Skip W5GAI



The Radio Club of America (RCA) announced that Professor Theodore “Ted” Rappaport, founding director of NYU WIRELESS and a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the NYU Tandon School of Engineering, will receive the Armstrong Medal for demonstrated excellence and lasting contributions to radio arts and sciences.

Rappaport conducted seminal research, most recently in the millimeter wave (mmWave) radio spectrum. He advanced commercialization of this 5G technology that will bring broadband speeds to wireless communication – thereby potentially revolutionizing medicine, enabling autonomous vehicles, inexpensively connecting rural communities to the digital world, and more.

The RCA, the oldest worldwide organization of wireless communications professionals, also cited Rappaport for his lifelong contributions as an educator. In addition to his position as the David Lee/Ernst Weber Professor of Electrical Engineering at NYU Tandon, he is also on the faculty of the (continued)



## **Radio Club of America Awards Armstrong Medal to Wireless Communications Researcher and Educator Theodore Rappaport N9NB**

NYU Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences and the Radiology Department of the School of Medicine.

Rappaport joins a distinguished group of past recipients of the Armstrong Medal — all luminaries in the wireless industry — including Arthur Collins, Walter Cronkite, Harold Beverage, Morgan O’Brien, and Major Edward H. Armstrong himself, who laid the foundations for much of the modern radio, including circuitry and the FM radio system.

In 1991, Rappaport was named an RCA Fellow at the age of 30, making him one of the youngest in recent history.

In 2012, Rappaport launched NYU WIRELESS at NYU Tandon, the first U.S. academic center to merge wireless engineering research with computer science and medicine. Since its founding, NYU WIRELESS has remained at the frontier of next-generation mobile technology, with undergraduate, graduate, and faculty researchers transforming the wireless field through their research into mmWave technology, channel modeling, Massive MIMO, beyond-5G technologies, circuits, and Nano devices. The center pioneered mmWave frequencies for mobile communications and acted as an accelerant for the technology by bringing together leading businesses, institutes, and academic researchers at the annual Brooklyn 5G Summit.

Before Rappaport’s seminal paper “Millimeter Wave Mobile Communications for 5G Cellular: It Will Work!” many researchers disregarded the potential of the mmWave spectrum. It was Rappaport’s research that demonstrated to the world the viability of mmWave radio frequency bands, central to implementing 5G wireless technology.

In addition to the Armstrong Medal, Rappaport has received many prestigious honors throughout his career, including the Marconi Young Scientist Award (1990) and the Institution of Engineering and Technology Sir Monty Finniston Medal (2011). In addition to authoring and co-authoring more than 200 papers and 20 books in wireless communications, Rappaport holds more than 100 U.S. and international patents, founded two of the world’s largest academic wireless research centers prior to NYU WIRELESS, and founded and advised multiple wireless companies.

“Ted Rappaport has shown the world the future of wireless communications, not only through his work on mmWave technology but as a leader, researcher, and educator in the wireless field,” said Jelena Kovačević, dean of the NYU Tandon School of Engineering. “The RCA’s recognition of Ted, particularly with the Armstrong Medal, demonstrates how instrumental his work is on a global scale. His immense contributions have placed NYU Tandon on the map as a leader in wireless technology.”

Rappaport will receive the Armstrong Medal at the club’s November 17 Banquet and Awards Ceremony in New York City, where he will also serve as the keynote speaker.



## 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
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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](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 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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 Tom Campbell, KD5TIO

Bob Hardie, W5UQ