



# The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net December 2019

**TDXS Regular Monthly Meeting: Thursday 7:00PM Dec 19.  
Program by K5DD: Show-and-tell, 48.5 inch UHD TV  
Computer Display.**

**Tracy Gee Community Center.  
3599 Westcenter Dr.  
Houston TX 77042**

## Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

WOW! Is it December already?!? Where did the year go? It's been another crazy year, albeit way too short it seems. Lot's of good DX has been on, even in the extremely poor band conditions. I was reading the other day that we have had the 2nd most spotless days in history. Per [www.spaceweather.com](http://www.spaceweather.com):

### SUNSPOTS BREAK A SPACE AGE RECORD:

Solar Minimum is becoming very deep indeed. Over the weekend, the sun set a Space Age record for spotlessness. So far in 2019, the sun has been without sunspots for more than 270 days, including the last 33 days in a row. Since the Space Age began, no other year has had this many blank suns.

The previous record-holder was the year 2008, when the sun was blank for 268 days. That was during the epic Solar Minimum of 2008-2009, formerly the deepest of the Space Age. Now 2019 has moved into first place. Solar Minimum is a normal part of the 11-year sunspot cycle. The past two (2008-2009 and 2018-2019) have been long and deep, making them "century-class" Minima. To find a year with more

blank suns, you have to go back to 1913, which had 311 spotless days.

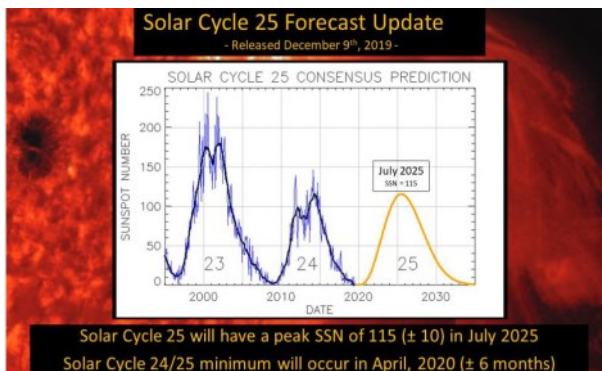
Last week, the NOAA/NASA Solar Cycle Prediction Panel issued a new forecast. Based on a variety of predictive techniques, they believe that the current Solar Minimum will reach its deepest point in April 2020 (+/- 6 months) followed by a new Solar Maximum in July 2025. This means that low sunspot counts and weak solar activity could continue for some time to come.

Well, I suppose we will have to spend more time on 80 and 160 and more time with FT4/FT8. While I initially resisted it, I have to admit that the FT modes have allowed me to reach DXCC on

160 and achieve 9BDXCC with 2600 for DXCC Challenge. I otherwise could not have done it with the compromise antenna I have for Topband and the noise I experience even in my neighborhood. Another personal milestone I have recently reached is >180,000 lifetime QSOs. I am now looking ahead to 200K. I am happy to be back on the air after being in an apartment for 1-1/2 years! Now I need to rebuild by SteppIR and get my Alpha 78 working properly again. Still problems with it. The TDXS meeting is this coming Thursday. I would like to go to see that big monitor but it is my anniversary, so likely I will be a no show. 73, Allen N5XZ

## Inside this issue:

<b>The Prez Sez by Robie AJ4F</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug WB5TKI</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>DX Chairman's Report by Orville Burg K5VWW</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Contest Chairman's Report by Jim Burrough N5DTT</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Two Nights Before Christmas By Ron Litt K5HAM</i>	<b>9</b>
<b>TX7T Marquesas Is. DXpedition Notes by Tim Beaumont M0URX</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>10-X DX News by Mike Davidson N5MT</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Don Busick K5AAD TDXS #76 SK</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>TDXS Dues by Larry Daze KB5WWW</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>W9DX Steve Smothers Back on the Air!</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>TDXS Board Members</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>TDXS Birthdays</b>	<b>19</b>



## The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

I would like to wish everyone a joyous and fun filled holiday season and a prosperous new year! I hope you can share good times with friends, family and help someone not so fortunate as well!

Our December meeting is scheduled for Thursday 12/19/19 at the Tracy Gee Center. The main business item for this meeting is election of officers for 2020 which was postponed from the November meeting. We still need a candidate (volunteer) for president. I often write about membership and participation and I do this because I feel that the TDXS is at a critical point in its life. We have many members, but only a few are active in club events. However, we lack enough participation to continue as an organization for much longer. I have been TDXS member since 2015 and an officer each year except the first. Many other officers have held positions for significantly longer periods of time. I am unable to commit the time required of an officer in 2020 and several other officers would like to “take a break” as well. The TDXS needs others to step up and share the responsibility for keeping our organization going.

Another important item we’ll be discussing is the location of our combined Ole Codgers Dinner & Banquet in tentatively scheduled for Saturday 1/18/20. We also need nominations for the 2019 TDXSer of the year. I would emphasize that it is not a lifetime achievement award, but rather an annual contribution recognition. Here are some of the activities to considered:

### 1. DXing

- a. DXCC awards achieved
- b. Honor Roll status
- c. CQ awards achieved
- d. VUCC awards achieved
- e. DXpedition participation including support such as being a pilot, or QSL manager.

### 2. Contesting

- a. Contests participation including placement
- b. Texas QSO Party participation
- c. Field Day participation – including support activities

### 3. Support of the TDXS

- a. Offices held
  - b. Programs presented
  - c. Dinner locations scouted/selected/organized
  - d. BullSheet articles written
  - e. Membership activities
  - f. Members recruited
  - g. Fund raising
- .....

## The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

### 4. Assisting others

- a. Elmering/Mentoring activities
- b. Antenna party participation

### 5. Public Activities

- a. ARRL activity participation
- b. Public Service event participation/organization
- c. Hamfest activities

This list is not all inclusive and the weighting of each activity may change from year to year. For example, public service activity participation may be more heavily weighted during a year when the area had a disaster such as Hurricane Harvey or if a member achieved a significant goal or participated in an activity in a major way. My personal view is that the TDXSer of the year should be recognized by the membership as having a significant influence/impact on the TDXS.

Please e-mail your nominations along with a brief description to support your choice to any TDXS officer before 12/31/19.

Robie – AJ4F



# TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

## TDXS November 2019 Meeting Minutes

**Date:** November 21, 2019

**Location:** Lasagna House Italian Restaurant, Houston, TX

**Attendance: Members:** Doug WB5TKI, Orville K5VWW, Larry KB5WWW, Scott K5DD, Jim N5DTT, Jerry K9GEM

**Guest:** Janice (XYL of K9GEM), Verna (XYL of K5DD)

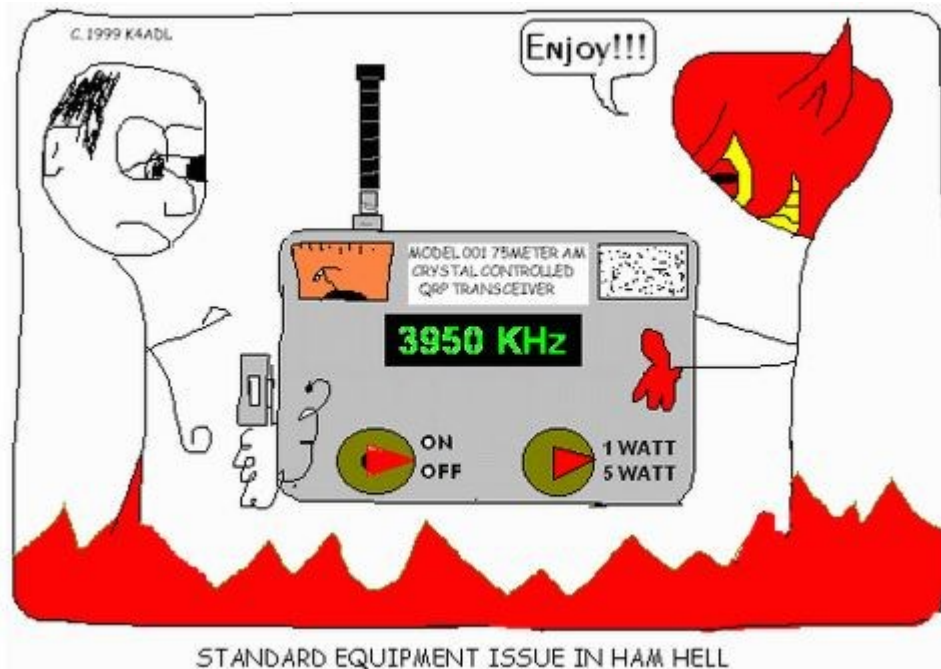
August was a dinner meeting, held at the Lasagna House Italian Restaurant in W. Houston. The food was, as always, outstanding, as was the comradery. The outstanding item for discussion was the election of officers. Candidates for V.P. Membership, Secretary and Treasurer have been submitted, but no nominees for President and V.P. Programs have been submitted. Accordingly, the election was continued until the December meeting. Let the arm-twisting begin.

73,

Submitted December 8, 2019

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



## DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

The TDXS website, [WWW.TDXS.NET](http://WWW.TDXS.NET), reports the following activity:

**C56PIS** The Gambia until Dec 13  
**7Q7W** Malawi until about Dec 18  
**6O1OO** Somalia Dec 4-19  
**XT2AW** Burkina Faso Dec 2-20  
**HSØZME** Thailand until Dec 31  
**XZ2D** Myanmar until Apr 17, 2020  
**9J2MYT** Zambia until May 2020  
**T6AA** Afghanistan until Summer 2021

### Further Information:

Starting **December 1<sup>st</sup>**, **C56BR** will be operational from **The Gambia** by **ON4BR**. This activity will last through December 14<sup>th</sup> and will have HF activity including CW, SSB, and FT8.

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>** thru **9<sup>th</sup>** will have **V6K** in **Micronesia** activity by **JA1XGI**. Focus will be on 160M and 80M CW, QRV for ARRL 160m CW Contest

**XT2AW** from **Burkina Faso** will have activity on **160M, 80M and 60M** by **DF2WO** From **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** thru **December 20<sup>th</sup>** on CW, SSB, RTTY, & FT8.

### Additional **significant** operations and dates are:

**Tony, 3D2AG**, will be active from **Rotuma I.** as **3D2AG/P** from **December 17<sup>th</sup>** thru **Mid-January**., Not only will he be active on **160M** and **80M**, but **6M** as well.

**ZC4UW** from **Cyprus UK Sovereign Base Area** will be on **January 2<sup>nd</sup>** thru **7<sup>th</sup>**., with 4 stations by 8 operators on 160M-10M on CW and SSB!

**E44RU** from **Palestine** will be on **January 6<sup>th</sup>** thru **12<sup>th</sup>**., with 4 Russian operators on 160M-10M on CW, SSB, and FT8 (F/H).

Please continue to monitor the main page of the TDXS Web Site, [www.TDXS.net](http://www.TDXS.net), for updates to activity on the bands.

Good DX,  
Orville, K5VWW



# Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. As usual, we will start off with a summary of contests coming up in December and January.

## December

- 6 ARRL 160-Meter Contest
- 14 ARRL 10-Meter Contest
- 22 ARRL Rookie Round-up, CW

## January

- 4 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 11 North American QSO Party, CW
- 18 North American QSO Party, SSB  
North American Collegiate Championship, SSB (Within NAQP, SSB)  
ARRL January VHF Contest
- 24 CQ 160 Meter Contest, CW
- 25 Winter Field Day

### CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB      October 26-7

#### SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GN(@W5KU) x			1821	124	354	42	1,650,534	TDXS
KB5WWW			200	54	121	11	92,750	TDXS

#### SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F			51	28	38		8,646	TDXS

#### SOAB Classic LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT			182	52	108	24	75,840	TDXS

#### SOSB10 HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			263	13	37		31,550	TDXS



# Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

## ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW

November 2-3

### Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TU			512	80	6.8	81,920	TDXS
KØNM	x	x	100	50	3	10,000	TDXS

### Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F			120	53		12,720	TDXS

## ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB

November 16-17

No reported TDXS participants

## CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW

November 23-24

### SO(A)AB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TU			828	105	341	23.5	1,040,072	TDXS

### SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GN(@W5KU)	x		2779	152	469	46	4,343,895	TDXS
KØNM	x	x	564	73	168	18	329,929	TDXS
KJ5Y(KJØD)		x	337	63	116	8	157,341	TDXS
WB5TKI			253	51	127		122,286	TDXS

### SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K10J			243	55	122	14:45	111,687	TDXS

### SOAB Classic LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
KG5U			194	51	101	7.5	76,608	TDXS

### SOSB10 LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT			10	4	8	2.5	336	TDXS



## Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

The November-December issue of the *National Contest Journal* published the rules for the 2020 North American QSO Parties. There were no changes in the rules from previous years. The NAQP CW contests will be held on January 11 and August 1. The NAQP SSB Contests will be on January 18 and August 16. Finally, the NAQP RTTY Contests will be February 29 and July 18.

TDXS has a history of supporting these contests and has fielded one or more teams to compete. I will be organizing the TDXS NAQP CW Teams right after New Years Day, so be on the lookout for my recruitment message on the TDXS Reflector.

November was a very active month as far as radio contesting is concerned. As you can see from the data I extracted from the 3830scores.com website, there was great TDXS participation in the November contests. There were some VERY impressive scores.

We have added a couple of new members and at least one member has returned to active contesting. This necessitates an almost constant review of the Texas DX Society ARRL Contest Eligibility List. This list only applies to ARRL Contests with Club Competitions. With two ARRL Contests with Club Competitions coming up soon (ARRL 160 Meter and ARRL 10 Meter), I wanted to be sure we had an up-to-date list on file. I maintain a spreadsheet that I can edit or update and then submit easily to the ARRL Contest Branch. With the recent creation of Contests Landing Page, the process of keeping everything accurate has become much easier.

If you are an active tester, you will probably find the information in the Contests Landing Page interesting. To see it, log into the ARRL Web Site (ARRL.org) and then click on "On the Air" on the Upper Taskbar. When the next page displays, click on "Contests" on the Grey Side Taskbar. The next page that displays has the new **ARRL Contests Landing Page** Header displayed, right at the top. Click on "Go Here" and the numerous tools available will display.

The "Contests Home" page lists about three months of upcoming or recent past contests and a brief introduction to the portal. By clicking on "Calendar", at the top of the page, you get a summary of the dates for ARRL Contests for the next five years. That should help with your long-term planning!

Clicking on "Log Submission" gives you a page for quick and efficient submission of a log for any ARRL contest. Once the logs are submitted, the "Logs Received" selection allows for efficient selection of all ARRL contests to check that your log was successfully received.

The "Certificates" block on the taskbar allows you to bring up the proof of your great success as a tester. In this section you can insert your call and bring up your Certificate for any ARRL contest. My list goes back to 2003. You can print out any ARRL Certificate you have been awarded. There is now no excuse for blank space on any wall of your Hamshack or Radio Room! You also can download .JPG images of your Certificates, in case you are into collages or very graphic-oriented Eyeball QSO cards.

As I maintain the Eligibility List, I make a lot of use of the "Clubs" section of the taskbar. I can easily upload a new list, view a previous TDXS list or the lists posted by other clubs, get a list of all ARRL Contest Clubs and get access to the Grid Distance Calculator. I make an entry of distance from the club center point for every Eligible Club Member, but, since we go by ARRL Section instead of distance, this entry is moot. It is still interesting to see how far away, or close, some us live from the Club center point.

The last two sections of the taskbar are Public Logs and LCR's. We'll talk about those next month. 73

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## Two Nights Before Christmas...by Ron Litt K5HM

Two nights before Christmas and up at the shop,  
Santa was checking his sleigh for the big hop.

His APRS was already on line,  
So, the gang down at NORAD could track him 5 – 9.

The new HF rig was tuned up on 20.  
He knew that 100 watts would be plenty.

“I’ll be on VOX for this flight”, he said in his head.  
I have to be able to look straight ahead.”

So, sideband it is for the big night tomorrow.  
I hope the CW guys won’t be too full of sorrow.

The two-meter rig was already encoded,  
With every repeater that could be uploaded.

They’ll know when Santa’s near; they won’t be surprised,  
And make sure the kids have all closed their eyes.

He stopped for a moment then gave a big start,  
When he suddenly realized he was missing a part.

“Of course!”, he shouted. “its my laptop PC!  
I won’t get far without it on my knee.”

“Its got my log and my list and my flight plan too,  
Though I always have Rudolph to guide me through.”

He pulled out his wallet once more to check,  
That his FCC license was there for the trek.

“Well, it looks like I’m ready”, they heard him declare,  
“I’ll be single op unassisted for the entire affair.”

“I better get some rest now before the big night,  
So, I can be ready for the long flight.”

And they heard him exclaim as he walked off to bed,  
“CQ, CQ, CQ . . . QRZed?”

Merry Christmas Y'all  
73, Ron, K5HM



# TX7T Marquesas Island DXpedition Notes by Tim Beaumont M0URX

(Thanks to Larry KB5WWW and K5VWW)

Here's something I wrote up about our recent TX7T Marquesas DXpedition. There are statistics to view on the M0URX OQRS site, but they're a little hidden. Follow this link, choose TX7T, then search for QSOs for your callsign (even if you didn't work us). When the results come up, you'll see a Show Statistics button.

<https://www.m0urx.com/oqrs/logsearch.php>

A team of eight operators were active from Hiva Oa (OC-027) in the Marquesas Islands, November 6-19, 2019. The team made 31,000 QSOs to 136 DXCC countries.

The CanAm DX Group is a loosely organized team of individuals that has made a number of DXpeditions over the last 15 years. The group has never made a tents-and-generators DXpedition. The emphasis has instead been on relatively rare countries that are accessible by air.

The TX7T group included Robert Brandon K5PI, team leader; Madison Jones, W5MJ, who has been the team leader in past years; Keith Witney VE7KW; Neil King VA7DX; Bob Feldtman W5RF; Bill Priakos W5SJ; Bob Allphin K4UEE; and Didier Cadot F6BCW. This was Didier's first DXpedition with the group, although he worked with VE7KW on the TM100VIMY operation.

The Marquesas Islands are a group of 15 islands 1370 km northeast of Tahiti. The Marquesas Islands are a separate DXCC entity but part of French Polynesia, which is an overseas collectivity of France. The population of the Marquesas Islands is approximately 9300,

At the time of the DXpedition the Marquesas Islands were #59 on the ClubLog Worldwide Most Wanted List, and #28 for Europe.

The first challenge for any DXpedition is finding lodging and a place to operate. The team spent a considerable amount of time looking for a beach location on the north side one of the four islands served by Air Tahiti. In 2014, TX7G had operated from a beach location on the north side of Nuku Hiva, but this family pension had closed. Available lodging was finally found on the south side of Hiva Oa, near the town of Atuona. This was not a beach location and was on the south side of the island. It was on the side of a hill. It had a clear view several kilometers down a valley to the north. About 1.5 km to the northeast, a hill rose about 50 meters above the TX7T site. Much of the path to the northwest was unfortunately blocked by a hill behind the operating location.

This terrain was not ideal, but F6BCW had operated as TX5EG with some success from this location in 2017. He said it was a quiet location, and he could offer advice on exactly where antennas might be located. Didier was able to negotiate an agreement to use some additional land above the pension for antennas. With this information, VE7KW developed an antenna plan that met the requirements of a three-station operation.

One Hexbeam was used primarily for 12 and 20 meters and placed directly behind the pension.

A second, larger hexbeam for 10, 17, and 40 was placed on top of the hill above the pension.

A homebrew moxon for 15 and 30 was placed to the south of the pension.

A two-element vertical array for 40 (design by W4RNL) was deployed just below the pension. This antenna could be switched from NE to SW (LP EU) and proved to be the most effective antenna for 40.

A two-element wire beam for 80M was placed from the top of the hill down to a point just above the pension. This antenna is described in the June 2018 issue of QST.

A 160M inverted L was installed on an 18m fiberglass pole with two elevated radials. This was just above the pension.

Three Elecraft K3 radios were used, with a KX3 as backup. Three Expert 1.3 and 1.5 amplifiers were used, with a Juma PA1000 as backup. A list of 238 accessories, cables, tools, etc. was developed and responsibility for these items was assigned to the team members. This included 650 meters of coax – all of which was used!

Equipment donations were received from Expert Linears, DX Engineering, Radiosport headsets, Messi and Paoloni, Gigaparts, and Quicksilver Radio.

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## **TX7T Marquesas Island DXpedition Notes by Tim Beaumont M0URX**

The team had hoped to ship some equipment in advance, but it was too complex to ship items from four locations in the US/Canada for consolidation by an agent in Los Angeles for shipping to Tahiti. Almost all equipment was carried as passenger luggage.

The team met in Tahiti over four days and operated with limited antennas from Mahina. The team logged approximately 1500 QSOs and operated one night on 80M and one night on 160M. QSL via the operator's home call.

The team discovered that the VP6R team was in Tahiti for one night on their way home, and we arranged to have dinner with them. It was fun, and we got lots of good information about their experiences.

F6BCW left for the Marquesas on November 3, and the rest of the team flew to Hiva Oa on November 6.

The lodging at Pension Kanahau was modest but very comfortable. Tania was a great host and an outstanding cook. The Marquesas Islands is the fruit and vegetable garden for much of French Polynesia, and we enjoyed a nice variety. Raw fish is a staple in all of French Polynesia, and the entire team enjoyed it.

The pileups were very good, but most signals were not very strong. We made a special effort to work Europe stations, and they were especially weak. We found CW and FT8 to be the best modes given the conditions, although we used SSB when conditions were best.

We had no radio or amplifier failures and almost no interference between stations. We continued to work on the antennas, however, throughout the DXpedition. We deployed a pennant receive antenna and later a short beverage. We raised the large hexbeam several feet, which was difficult with the wind on top of the hill. We modified the 160 from an inverted L to a tee-top. We briefly used a 17M vertical dipole. We deployed a two-element delta loop array for 20M. All this was a challenge in the hot sun, on the steep hillside, and with only two team members under age 70.

We met our goal of 30,000 QSOs and are happy that 13% of our QSOs were to Europe. Thanks to everyone for QRX during the limited EU openings.

CW was very productive, with more than 51% of the QSOs.

FT8 and FT4 were also important, with 35% of the QSOs. FT8 DXpedition (Fox-Hound) mode worked well at times, but we struggled with the same software issues as VP6R. It seemed that many stations did not have a correct FT8 WSJT-X Hound configuration, so we sometimes used FT4. We also made some QSOs in standard FT8, but that mode is very slow for a DXpedition. We would encourage all FT8 operators to use RS232 to connect the computer to the radio, and enable Split (Rig or Fake It). More information about WSJT-X DXpedition mode in several languages is here. <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjtx.html>

After the TX7T operation, FO/F6BCW remained on Hiva Oa for a week. QSL via F6BCW.

FO/K5PI operated from Fakarava (French Polynesia, OC-066) for about a week while enjoying some scuba diving. QSL via K5PI.

QSL via the M0URX OQRS service. <http://www.m0urx.com/oqrs/logsearch.php>

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## 10-X DX News—By Mike Davidson N5MT #24949

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. This past quarter started the winter contest season for the USA. Propagation has shifted to East/West paths but skip into Europe/Asia will be hard to find for at least another year for many of us in the USA. US East coast stations may hear Europe a few times in December and January 2020 but signals will be weak. Please get active in the ARRL Ten Meter contest this year, it starts on December 14. The Ten Meter contest is one of the most popular contest this winter. I will operate the contest for the 41st time, so good luck in finding a few new 10-10 members or a new DX country.

As you will see in the future DX plans below, I can see a lack of interest in going on a DXpedition in the coming months. Many DX groups are waiting for better propagation conditions to increase the number of QSOs that would be put into their logs. As travel expenses are getting higher and the DX population is getting older, some DX ops are starting to make shorter trips and staying closer to home.

My new multi-band vertical antenna at my station is mostly tuned for the FT8 operating frequencies, so I try to make FT8 contacts with DX stations on several bands when I can hear them. I am finding some DX on Ten and a few 10-10 members do know how to send their 10-10 info using the TX5 feature in the FT8 software. So do ask!

I am uploading my logbook contacts to the ARRL LoTW database on a regular basis. Especially now that the winter contest season is here, you need to post your logs to LoTW and send in your score for log checking of any contest that you are participating in. Even if you only have a few dozen contacts, send them in by email. Contest are now wanting logs within a short submit period, so upload to LoTW after posting your contest log.

The 10-10 Day Sprint QSO Party on October 10th was a challenge for my new vertical antenna. The solar flux was a low 69 for the QSO Party and I managed to make 7 contacts on Saturday and none on Sunday. Propagation favored the stations on the US east coast and Germany where first place went to Henry DL8YBM #36109, who had 322 contacts.

I check into our local Pelican 10-10 weekly net every Saturday mornings at 10:10 local time on SSB 28.450 MHZ. I turn on my HF amplifier to help the local members hear my low vertical since some members are more than ten miles from me in Baton Rouge, LA. I tuned the new vertical for low SWR on the different FT8 frequencies to get as much power off the antenna since I wanted to make digital contacts a priority from my new QTH.

There were no reports of higher Solar Flux at the SILSO website that tracks the Sun. Website: [www.Sidc.Be/SILSO/](http://www.Sidc.Be/SILSO/). SILSO is forecasting more spotless days during the Cycle 24-25 transition with the solar minimum happening in May 2020. Cycle 25 is expected to be similar to the present cycle, which peaked in April 2014. Remember, SILSO tracks Sunspots which is not Solar Flux, so do not confuse them.

Please do not forget that the second weekend in December is the ARRL Ten Meter contest. Good Luck.

Countries Award: There were no Countries Awards submitted this quarter. A DXCC Most Wanted list can be found at: <https://Secure.Clublog.org/mostwanted.php>.

I am posting this to the 10-10 website on December 1st.

General 10-10 DX reported in the past quarter:

4U United Nations. The checkout of the ham radio station at the UN Headquarters in New York continues. The HF radio has been repaired and returned to the UN, and is now working well. Hopefully 4U1UN #55555, will be on the air soon. Due to UN security changes, the old radio room was on a floor that is now off limits. The new radio room is close to the ground floor.

5N Nigeria. Rene DL2JRM #69623, was using call 5N7Q from Abuja, Nigeria until November 25th. He and a friend were on SSB, CW and Digi modes. LoTW.

8Q Maldives. This rare DX spot was visited by Roly ZL1BQD #19039 on November 11th and he will leave on December 30th. He is using a reissued callsign 8Q7XR on all bands SSB, CW and FT8. Roly will be on FT8 a lot. So far in November, Roly has not been on Ten Meters. Note: Maldives is off the coast of India in the Indian Ocean which is about half way around the world from the USA. It has been nineteen years since a 10-10 member was on the Maldives and gave out a 10-10 number!

9H Malta. Rene DL2JRM #69623, was in Malta using call 9H3YY from October 18- 21st but no reports of him on Ten. Look for him to be back in EA9 in September.

D6 Comoros Islands. Antonio IZ8CCW #70101 and friends, were on the island from October 20th to November 1st on CW, SSB and Digi with callsign D68CCC.

EA8 Canary Islands. Andrea IK1PMR/HB9FKK #62272 arrived on the island about November 21st and will stay several weeks. QSL to his Swiss callsign.

FO/M Marquesas Island. Eight ops were on from November 6-20th from Marquesas using call TX7T. The only 10-10 member is Bob K4UEE #75256. Website: <http://www.Marquesas2019.com>.



## 10-X DX News—By Mike Davidson N5MT #24949

FP St. Pierre & Miquelon Islands. Eric KV1J #31247, was back for his 13th trip to Miquelon operating as FP/KV1J from September 24th to October 8th. Mostly SSB, RTTY, FT8 and CW. LoTW. Website at: [www.kv1j.com/FP/Sep19.html](http://www.kv1j.com/FP/Sep19.html).

HC Ecuador. Uwe DL8UD #70315, was not able to return to Ecuador to operate call HC5M in October.

HK0/S San Andres & Prov. Nine operators were on the island from October 15-29th using a special call 5K0K. SSB, CW, FT8 and RTTY all bands. The only 10-10 member was Rob HK3CW #70309. LoTW.

HS Thailand. Ken K4ZW #18573, was in Thailand during November using call HS0ZLD. He returned home the last week of November. No info on Ten activity.

J6 St. Lucia. Jay AA4FL #8436, Bruce KM2L #3627 and friends, were in St. Lucia the last weekend of October for the CQWW SSB contest. The special contest call was J68MD since most of the ops are in the medical field. Before the contest, they used J6/home calls. LoTW.

JT Mongolia. Four Russian ops were at a national park using call JT7A from September 5-8th. The only 10-10 member was Serge UA0SE #25998. This is a rare DX location for 10-10 but not a new one on Ten as a Russian 10-10 member has operated from Mongolia in past years.

P4 Aruba. John W2GD #14109 was back again using call P40W in October for the CQWW DX SSB contest and November 23rd for the CW contest. John should be back in mid February for the ARRL DX CW contest as well. LoTW.

PJ7 St. Maarten. Philip N2HX #25435, was in the CQ WW SSB contest at the end of October using call PJ7PL. He came back home about November 2nd.

V3 Belize. James NT5V #40882, was in Belize from October 5-12th using call V31JW. He uploaded his logs to LoTW when he returned to the US. No bureau cards.

Scott K5PW #52535, was using callsign V31CQ during the last weekend of November for the CQWW CW contest.

V4 St. Kitts. Gaylord N4SF #00568, was on the island in October as V4/N4SF and using contest call V49V.

Gary G0FWX #49106 was on St. Kitts from November 6- 12th using call V47FWX. LoTW.

V6 Micronesia. AL K7AR #2736, operated from Pohnpei from November 18-26th using call V63AR. He was in the CQ WW CW contest during that weekend.

Shoji JA7HMZ #30900, was not able to operate from Pohnpei from November 22-27th using call V6A again.

VP2V British Virgin Islands. Bill N5AQ #72637 and friend Jeff VP2VEM were on the Br. Virgin Islands from October 4-13th with Bill using call VP2V/N5AQ. They operated on CW, SSB and Digi using 400 watts. LoTW.

VP6 Pitcairn Island. A DXpedition to Pitcairn started on October 18th and ended on November 1st with more than 80,000 QSO's in the logs. There were five 10-10 members: Hal W8HC #12502, Pat K0PC #37931, George N4GRN #73941, Mike K9NW #29804 and Mike W0VTT #14404. A medical problem for Ralph K0IR #2609, kept him home. Website: <https://PitcairnDX.com>. Note some history: The famous Tom Christian VP6TC #73104, died in July 2013. Miralda VP6MW #50434 is back on the island but she does not have a Ten meter antenna presently. But you can find Miralda on 15 Meters and work her using FT8.

VP9 Bermuda. Les N1SV #71546, was not able to get back to Bermuda for the CQWW DX SSB contest in October. Upcoming DX & New 10-10 Activity:

3D2/R Rotuma Island. Tony 3D2AG #72719, was planning returning to Rotuma from November 28th to January 2020. The vessel he was taking has already sailed and he will be delayed until later in December. He did not give out any info if he will operate Ten. He will use FT8 and LoTW. Paper logs for all other contacts on CW, SSB and RTTY.

CY0 Sable Island. Dan W4DKS #5395, Bob K4UEE #75256 and Will AA4NC #15774, will be on Sable Island in October 2020. No callsign has yet been issued. LoTW.

FP St. Pierre & Miquelon Islands. Eric KV1J #31247, will be returning to Miquelon from June 30th to July 12, 2020. He will use call FP/KV1J mostly on SSB and Digi. LoTW.

HR Honduras. Gerard F2JD #63443, will be back in Honduras from December 12 to April 4th.

KL7 & VY Alaska & Yukon. The 5th Annual Worked All RST special event starts January 1, 2020 and runs thru February 28th using SSB, CW and Digi modes. The 10-10 members that I found that might be on the air are: Tim NL8F #32796 in Dutch Harbor, Ron KL7YK #76118 in Anchorage, and Bob VY1MB #71017 in Whitehorse, Yukon. There will be many ops on the air and on other bands besides Ten. Info: [www.grz.com/loopup/K7ICE](http://www.grz.com/loopup/K7ICE).

P4 Aruba. John W2GD #14109 will be back using call P40W in February for the ARRL DX CW contest. LoTW.

VP8 South Orkney Island. A nice big DXpedition will begin on February 20, 2020 for fourteen days to South Orkney Island. The call on the website is listed as VP8/VP8DXU. The only 10-10 member will be Gene K6GS #15119. Past activity from the island by a member was in February 2011, so visiting the island only happens about every ten years. Website: <https://SOrkney.com>.

# 10-X DX News—By Mike Davidson N5MT #24949

Miscellaneous Items & Notes:

Propagation forecast: <http://www.solen.info/solar/> , [www.SolarHam.net](http://www.SolarHam.net) 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 x66-x76 during the Winter for the USA. The Winter Solstice is when Fall ends on December 21st, the days are the shortest of the year and the Sun is 23.4 degrees below the equator.

Our solar cycle 24, is now going through the solar minimum phase, until we begin cycle 25, probably in 5-12 months. The natural cycle of the sun is 11 years and we are now ten-plus years into cycle 24. Cycle 25 could start as early as Spring 2020, then the sun would take 1 year of higher ionization before we get the better skip conditions.

The monthly maximum solar fluxes for 2019: Jan 76, Feb 72, March 81, April 81, May 79, June 70, July 68, Aug 69, Sept 74, Oct 71 and Nov 72.

The monthly minimum fluxes for 2019: Jan 68, Feb 70, March 68, April 67, May 68, June 66, July 66, August 66, Sept 67, Oct 64, and Nov 69.

On December 1st, the solar flux was x69, the A index was x36 and K index was x4. These solar numbers indicate the poorest propagation we have had in a while due to increasing A and K values. This indicates we are passing through a Cycle 24 bottom. The USAF solar flux forecast for December 1st to January 14th has a range from 66 to 68.

My Prediction: Over the next three months, the best conditions on Ten could be: December x6-10th, January 2020 x-xth, February x-xth, March x-xth. For the lower USA, expect a 15% chance of DX to Europe or Asia with a 15% chance of DX to South America and later in the day to the S. Pacific. Listen for the CW beacons from 28.175-28.300 to see if the band is open.

There were no new 10-10 DX member join from September to November 2019. Sept-Nov: none. This DX News edition is my number 118.

Thanks to the Daily DX by Bernie W3UR #25731 and the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletins. Info to: Mike Davidson, 26274 Whispering Pines Ave, Denham Springs LA 70726 USA Email: [N5MT@aol.com](mailto:N5MT@aol.com) .

DX IS! 73 Mike Davidson N5MT #24949  
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# Don Busick K5AAD TDXS # 76—SK

June 23, 1948—November 16, 2016

**Donald Paul Busick** was born in Houston on June 23, 1948. He earned a degree in Economics in 1977, and his Master of Science degree in Counseling Psychology in 2005.

Don is preceded in death by his devoted parents Mary and Max, his younger brother David and more recently his beloved daughter Valerie.

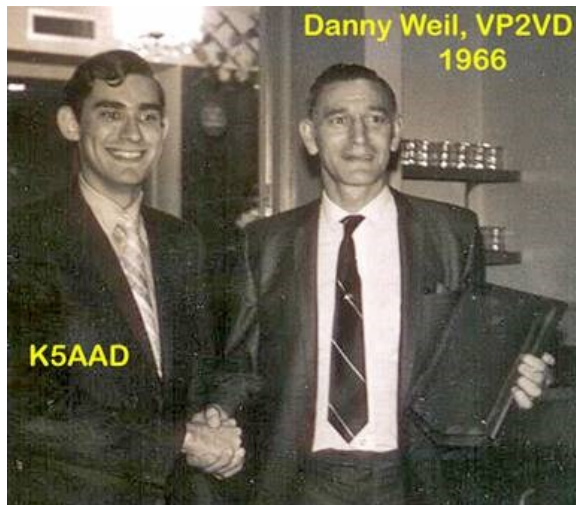
He leaves behind those of us who will struggle to live in a world without him. We include his wife Carole with whom he has shared his life for the past 48 years (though he often remarked that his wife says it seems longer), his daughter Angela whom he treasures, and his son-in-law Johnny whom Don loved like his own son. He leaves his devoted nephew Cody and his sweet second niece Megan, both of whom he was very close to. And finally, he leaves his life treasures, his three precious grandchildren: Byrd, Nathalie, and Gus.

Many of Don's friends identify him as a ham radio operator, K5AAD. Don began sending code before he entered the first grade. He never stopped loving this part of his life. At heart, though, Don was a family man. He and his wife were inseparable, except the times when only one could leave town while the other stayed home to care for their fur babies, Micky and Emmeline. Don was a sucker for homeless dogs, adopting many over the years, usually having three at a time. He took in Emmeline, Valerie's dog, and it was a mutual love affair.

Don was a man with many friends. The staff at his favorite Starbucks were tearful when told of his passing! He valued his friends, many from Westbury High as well as his days running the family business, Madison Electronics. He would proudly say he never interviewed for a job in his life. He had two: Running Madison Electronics and later working with his wife in their private practice as a Diagnostician, specializing in children.

Don was a special man. He was adored by his family who will somehow find the strength to make their way without him. And the world is made a poorer place for his absence.

*We feel his loss everywhere, yet the profound presence and impact of this remarkable soul will remain with us always.*



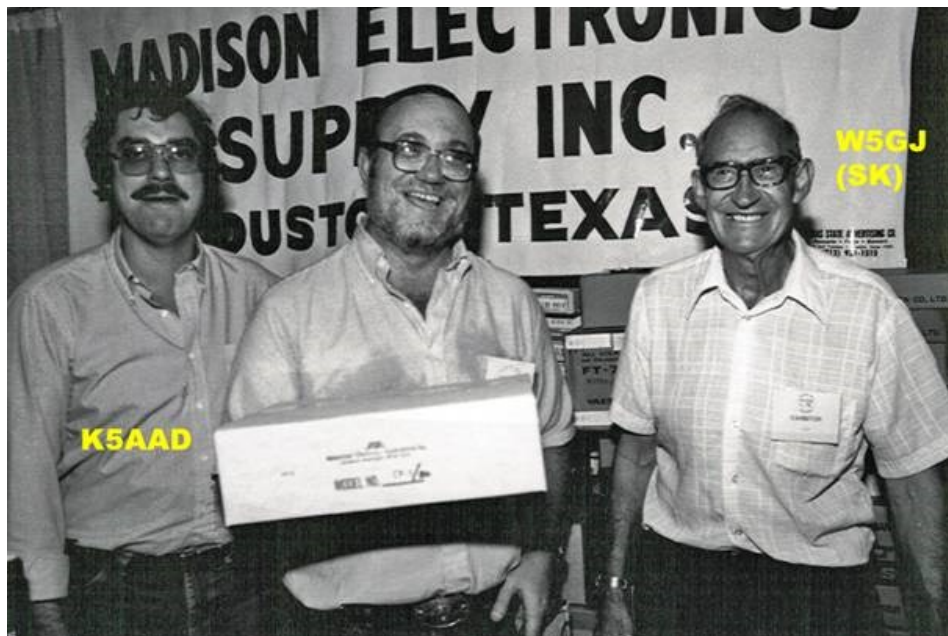
18 year old Don K5AAD presenting world famous DX'er Danny Weil – VP2VB with his induction plaque into the CQ DX Hall of Fame. Picture was taken at Captain John's Restaurant.



# Don Busick K5AAD TDXS # 76—SK



K5AAD with Grady Ferguson W5FU taken several years ago at the Zavalla ham shack during the dismantling of antennas.



K5AAD with father Max Busick - W5GJ taken at one of Houston Ham Conventions in the early 1980's

Photos courtesy of Tom Taormina, K5RC.

Enjoy, Steve Smothers – W9DX





## **TDXS DUES DUE SOON!**



The annual Texas DX Society dues for 2020 will be due soon.

The yearly dues for 2020 is \$25.00 for local members and \$12.50 for members in excess of 75 miles from grid square EL29hs.

Payment is preferred by PayPal.

The PayPal account is: [treasurer@tdxs.net](mailto:treasurer@tdxs.net).

Please select the “payment to friends and family” option in order to avoid payment transfer fees.

Payment by check made payable to “Texas DX Society” can be brought to a TDXS meeting or mailed to:

TDXS Treasurer  
9941 Briarwild Ln  
Houston, TX 77080

73,

Larry Daze, KB5WWW  
TDXS Treasurer

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## W9DX Back on the air!

I received an email from Steve today, including this photo of his new rotatable tower! He had the crane and tower crew out today to do the installation. More details as they arrive. Kim, K5TU



## Texas DX Society Board members

<b>President</b>	<b>Robie Elms, AJ4F</b>	<b>ruler55 at gmail.com</b>
<b>VP Membership</b>	<b>Gerald Muller</b>	<b>gmuller885@aol.com</b>
<b>VP Programs</b>	<b>Pat Cameron KJ5Y</b>	<b>kj5y@comcast.net</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Doug Seyler, WB5TKI</b>	<b>djseyler at comcast.net</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Larry Daze KB5WWW</b>	<b>dxon20@gmail.com</b>
<b>Contest Chairman</b>	<b>Jim Burrough, N5DTT</b>	<b>jandpburrough at sbcglobal.net</b>
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<b>Repeater Chairman</b>	<b>Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF</b>	<b>wb5tuf at arrl.net</b>
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<b>Outgoing QSL Manager</b>	<b>Scott Patout, K5DD</b>	<b>k5dd at arrl.net</b>
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<b>Bullsheets Editor</b>	<b>Allen Brier, N5XZ</b>	<b>n5xz at arrl.net</b>

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<b>DXCC QSL Card Checker</b>	<b>Bob Walworth, N5ET</b>	<b>rwalworth at charter.net</b>
<b>CQ WAZ Card Checker</b>	<b>Bob Walworth, N5ET</b>	<b>rwalworth at charter.net</b>

### How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxs.net> email address: [k5dx@tdxs.net](mailto: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 December:

**Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone or of any updates:**

Mike Young W5RRX  
Sid Leach K5XI