



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net February 2020

TDXS pre-meeting Dinner: Thursday 5:30PM Feb 13
Pappas Bar-B-Q
9797 Westheimer RD
Houston TX 77042

TDXS Regular Monthly Meeting:
Thursday 7:00PM Feb 13.
Program "Chokes and Baluns for an Effective Antenna
by Kim K5TU"
Tracy Gee Community Center
3599 Westcenter DR
Houston TX 77042



Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

Ahhh, it feels good to have an amplifier again! Thanks to K5DD, I am borrowing his Expert 1.3K-FA and it is performing well. I like not having to wait for the amp to warm up, and the 6 meter capability is enticing...once 6 meters comes back again. So thanks, Scott!!

The TDXS Awards Banquet and Old Codgers Meeting in January was a hoot! Good food and company, and your editor what blown away to win the coveted "Yagi on a Roll" award, also know as the "DX Hog" award (which is a complement to me! The award is now been renamed as the "TDXSer of the Year" award, but I like the old names better, which I guess is why I qualify as an "Old Codger" still. My

wife doesn't like the name much, but I think it's cool. Part of the reason for the award (in my case) is our recent scores is Field Day and I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that it is only 4 months away and to start thinking about it! We have had some really good training for phone ops, courtesy of Dave K5GN and look forward to more of our expert TDXS contest ops showing up in June to once again cement us into the Top Ten. So be thinking about it and if you have any good ideas to up our score, let us know! Planning for FD usually starts after the Greater Houston Hamfest, which is also coming up soon! Please go to houstonhamfest.org and buy your tickets early, get a table if you have things and junk to

sell and come out to enjoy the day!

New DX is still rolling in with recent, current and future DXpeditions going on. As mentioned in previous Editors' Notes, new digital modes, i.e. FT8 and FT4 have really enabled many of us to work new countries and band/countries.

Contest activity within TDXS also seems to be on the uptick and don't forget this weekend is the ARRL International DX CW Contest, and I'll be probably spending some time on the low bands searching for new countries and zones (still at 196/200 for 5BWAZ!) Good luck!!

73, Allen N5XZ

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The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

February 2020

Our 2020 programs will be oriented toward: *Improving the DXing and Contesting effectiveness of stations on small lots or with antenna restrictions.*

The February program will be presented by Kim – K5TU and the topic will be transmitting chokes for feedlines. This is an important topic for several reasons. First, currents flowing on the outside of your coax radiate and this radiation can distort your antennas pattern. The result is you might not be getting what you paid for out of your antenna. Secondly, these currents are the major source of RF in the shack. You often see this as unusual SWR readings or changes in SWR, mysterious problems with your computer sound card while operating digital modes, your logging program crashing at the most inopportune time, complaints from your XYL that you are messing up the TV slight tingles or shocks while operating SSB. All of these interfere with your objective of adding totals to your countries worked list or QSOs/multipliers in your favorite contest. The most common method of resolving these problems is to treat the symptoms and add ferrite cores all over the place. While this method is often successful, you are treating the symptoms rather than addressing the root cause. Kim will provide information on the cause and how to address it.

In coming months well have presentations on other topics to help you as well. Please let me know about problems or issues that you have and need help resolving. Without feedback, we'll make decisions on what to present and your issue or question might not get addressed. We also need individuals to prepare and make these presentations. At least one of the programs will be on operating practices. I've heard several times that the easiest way to improve your contest score was to increase TIC. What's TIC – time in chair. *[Also known as BIC—BUTT in chair! - Ed]* Simply spend more time operating. Effective but overly simplistic as there are many more variables involved. You can't work DX if the band is not open or there are few stations operating in the entity you are looking for. How do you know when the band will be open? How do you know if there are any DX stations operating and what frequency they are on? Organizing your day to allow you to operate at the optimal time is a great way to improve your scores/countries worked. These techniques are just as valuable for the guy with a superstation as for the guy with modest station with lots of constraints. I know many of you are very knowledgeable and technically savvy. We need you to step forward and share what you know for the benefit of everyone. Teams of presenters are very effective and are welcome.

We did not get volunteers to fill all officer positions for 2020. The Vice President of Programs remains unfilled. This position would normally be responsible for the topics I'm writing about in this article. I'll gladly accept some assistance, even if you don't want to be an officer. You will make a significant contribution to the TDXS and I'll be bet you learn something as well.

Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS January 2020 Meeting Minutes

Annual Banquet & Old Codgers Night

Date: January 18, 2020

Location: Harris County Smokehouse, Katy, TX

Attendance:

Richard - K5NA & Susan K5DU

This year we decided to combine the Annual Banquet with the Old Codgers Dinner. We had a nice turnout of 22 people, including 7 XYLs and 2 non-ham guests. This was our first time at the Harris County Smokehouse, and it won't be the last. The meeting room was perfect in size and functionality. The room was closed off from the general restaurant, so the background sound level was low. After a delicious meal from their extensive menu, we settled in for awards and door prizes. The recipient of this year's TDXSer award was Allen Brier N5XZ for his many years of service to the club as Bullsheet editor, as well as his recently achieving DXCC on 160 meters. That brings him up to 9 Band DXCC, 160 m through 10 m. Well done, Allen!

Next came the door prizes. Several members dug deep into their junque boxes and found some unique and rare prizes. Among the jewels were low pass filters, an MFJ phone patch, a picket DMM, a 1980s-vintage Kenwood 440m handheld (complete with defunct battery), and a vintage Telex headset with boom mike. Orville donated a half-dozen pieces out of his glass collection, including a cup and saucer and several decorative wine glasses. Those were a big hit with the ladies.

All in all it was a very enjoyable evening!

73,

Submitted February 6, 2020

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



Pic of your editor receiving his prize from WB5TKI!



DX Chairman's Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

The TDXS website, WWW.TDXS.NET, reports the following activity:

6O1OO Somalia until Feb 5
C5XW Gambia until Feb 7
TI9A Cocos Is. Feb 1-12
E44CC Palestine Feb 5-17
FR/F8EN Reunion Is. until Mar 19
XZ2D Myanmar until Apr 17, 2020
9J2MYT Zambia until May 2020
T6AA Afghanistan until Summer 2021

Further Information on Activity:

6O1OO, Somalia will be active until **February 5th** by **EP3CQ**. All bands and modes.

TI9, Cocos Island, will be active **January 20th-February 9th** by **XE1B** and **HK5OKY**. 160-6M SSB 2 stations, 700W.

TI9A, Cocos Island, will be active **February 1st-12th** by **TI2JV** and **3 UA Ops**, All bands and modes.

E44CC, Palestine, will be activated by **F4AJQ** and team from **February 5th-17th**. All bands and modes.

Additional operations and dates forthcoming are:

HU1DL, El Salvador, will be active **January 30th-February 13th** by **10 German** operators, Bands will be 160M-6M and all modes.

VP8PJ, South Orkneys, will be active **February 20th-March 5th** by **13 Multinational** operators, All bands and modes.

8Q7HK, Maldives, will be activated by **JG1SXP** from **February 19th-24th**. 80M-15M bands and all modes.

TU5PCT, Ivory Coast, will be activated by **OK1BOA** and others from **February 24th-29th**. All bands and all modes.

Please continue to monitor the main page of the TDXS Web Site, 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 the next two months.

February

- 1 Vermont QSO Party
 - 10-10 Winter Contest, SSB
 - Mexico RTTY International Contest
- 8 CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
- 10-14 ARRL School Club Roundup
- 15 ARRL International DX Contest, CW
- 21 CQ 160 Meter Contest, SSB
- 29 North American QSO Party, RTTY
 - North American Collegiate Championship, RTTY (Within NAQP, RTTY)

March

- 1 North Carolina QSO Party
- 7 ARRL International DX Contest, SSB
- 14 RSGB Commonwealth Contest
 - South America 10 Meter Contest
 - Oklahoma QSO Party
 - Idaho QSO Party
- 15 North American Sprint, RTTY
 - Wisconsin QSO Party
- 21 Louisiana QSO Party
 - Virginia QSO Party
- 28 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

TDXS Members participated in a number of contests since the January Report. Their scores, as reported on the 3830scores.com website, are provided below:

Stew Perry Topband Challenge Dec 28

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
N5XZ			300	7:49	1,368	TDXS
K5GQ			131	5:30	429	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

RAC Winter Contest 2019 Dec 28

SO CW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
KØNM	x	x	405	0	21	0	7:33	36,120

SO CW LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K1OJ			208	0	19	0		22,306	
KG5U			163	0	17	0	5	13,872	

ARRL RTTY Roundup 2020 Jan 4

SO Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	RTTY Qs	Dig Qs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score
W5PR	x		0	635	52	44		60,960

SO Unlimited LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	RTTY Qs	Dig Qs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score
KG5U			225	244	49	20	16.45	32,361

North American QSO Party, SSB 2020 January 18

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
W5PR			143	49		7,007	TDXS
NE5B			86	54	7	4,644	TDXS
N5DTT			57	37	6	2,109	TDXS
KØNM		x	31	29	1	899	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

ARRL January VHF Contest 2020 Jan 18

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR	x		95	45		4,275	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WB5TUF		x	25	15		375	TDXS

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2020 Jan 24

Single Op Assisted HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score
N5XZ			414	51	34	9:31	100,045

Winter Field Day 2020 Jan 25

1H LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT			16	9	0	4	6	164	TDXS

1O LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5OJ(K1OJ)			252	120	0	7	24	8,736	TDXS

Not much room left for a long report. I noticed on the ARRL Website that they are starting a new yearlong contesting program with its State QSO Party Challenge. I have not digested it all yet, but it looks like it is going to be fun. One thing for sure, it is certainly going to increase State QSO Party participation. It will utilize the 3830scores.com website for accumulation of Challenge scores. That should get a lot more people using that website.

More to follow on the State QSO Party Challenge next month. For now, look at the upcoming State QSO parties I listed at the top of the report. Plan to make some contacts.

See you next month or in a contest.

Jim, N5DTT



Where in the World is? ... Ron Litt, K5HM

Never has one country had so many names! The **Democratic Republic of the Congo** also known as **DR Congo**, the **DRC**, **DROC**, **Congo-Kinshasa**, or simply the **Congo** and before that it was the **Belgian Congo** and still earlier it was the **Congo Free State**. Can you say that all in one breath?

Where is it? In Central Africa. Right next to the Republic of the Congo. It is a country located in Central Africa. It was formerly called Zaire (1971–1997). It is, by area, the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa. With a population of over 84 million, the DRC is the most populous officially Francophone country, the fourth-most-populous country in Africa. The Eastern DR Congo has been the scene of ongoing military conflict since 2015. So not a good place for a DXpedition or a vacation.



In the 1870s, an exploration of the Congo Basin was carried out, first led by Henry Morton Stanley (as in Stanley meets Dr. Livingstone, I presume) under the sponsorship of King Leopold II of Belgium. Leopold formally acquired rights to the Congo territory and made the land his private property, naming it the Congo Free State. It's good to be king, right?

During the Free State, his colonial military unit, forced the local population to produce rubber. Millions of the Congo people died because of disease and exploitation. In 1908, Belgium, formally annexed the Free State, which became known as the Belgian Congo.

The Belgian Congo achieved independence on June 30, 1960, with more name changes and an ongoing cast of notoriously corrupt people like Patrice Lumumba, Joseph Kasavubu, Moïse Tshombé, Joseph-Désiré Mobutu, who later renamed himself Mobutu Sese Seko, officially came into power through a coup d'état. In 1971, he renamed the country Zaire. The country was run as a dictatorial one-party state.

After two civil wars, led to the deaths of 5.4 million people, the two wars devastated the country. President Laurent-Désiré Kabila was assassinated by one of his bodyguards in January 2001 and was succeeded eight days later as President by his son Joseph.



Where in the World is? ... Ron Litt, K5HM



What makes this country such a prize to fight over? The DRC is extremely rich in natural resources but has political instability, a lack of infrastructure, issues with corruption and centuries of both commercial exploitation with little development. Congo's largest export is raw minerals, with China accepting over 50% of DRC's exports in 201 In 2016,

DR Congo's level of human development was ranked 176th out of 187 countries by the Human Development Index, So, no McDonald's by the roadside.

As of 2018, around 600,000 Congolese have fled to neighboring countries from conflicts in the center and east of the DRC. Two million children risk starvation, and the fighting has displaced 4.5 million people.

As a result of its equatorial location, the DRC experiences high precipitation and has the highest frequency of thunderstorms in the world. The annual rainfall can total upwards of 80 in in some places, and the area sustains the Congo Rainforest, the second-largest rain forest in the world after the Amazon. This massive expanse of lush jungle covers most of the vast, low-lying central basin of the river, which slopes toward the Atlantic Ocean in the west

There is a very sizable Christian population, the largest proportion of which is Roman Catholic. Other Christians include Protestants and followers of the local sect of the Church of Jesus Christ on Earth. Their prophet, Simon Kimbangu, was reputed to heal the sick and raise the dead. Thousands came to hear his preaching. He was called Ngunza, the word for "prophet" in the Baptist translation of the Bible. Although Kimbangu's preaching had no overtly political content, Belgian authorities, alarmed by the disturbances that he provoked, arrested him and his immediate followers in September 1921. He was condemned to death, but his sentence was commuted; he spent the rest of his life in prison.



More than 200 languages are spoken in Congo. There are four "national" languages: Swahili, Tshiluba, Lingala, and Kongo. French is the official language and the language of instruction, business, administration, and international communications. The national languages are used in regional commerce and on the radio.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is number 173 on the Club Log Most Wanted list. Have fun in the Jungle. There are 76 listings in QRZ.com for the 9Q prefix but many are for foreigners. Currently Italian Ham

Paolo Pristipino, 9Q1C is on the air from Kinshasa, the capital.

Reporting from the Dark Side, Ron, K5HM



Texas DX Society Board members

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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.tdxs.net> email address: k5dx@tdxs.net

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

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

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

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

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

Dave Blaschke - W5UN
 James Clark - N5RO
 Bob Cooney - K1TU
 Mike Bragassa - K5UO
 James Parnell - W5JAW
 Don Butler - N5LZ
 Ronald Amox - K5EJO
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