



The Bullsheet

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

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

TDXS ZOOM On-Line Meeting:

TDXS Monthly Meeting via Zoom: Thursday May 21, 7PM
Program "TX7T DXpedition" by Madison W5MJ
Check the TDXS Reflector for an announcement.

Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

Most of us are still quarantining and/or working from home these days. For me, I have been just as efficient work wise since we use Microsoft Teams for collaboration. I have also been able to get on the air a whole lot more, but DXing is still limited for me since the SteppIR is down and this is not the season for 80 and 160 meters, but still I am keeping busy.

FIELD DAY:

We held a Zoom meeting to discuss Field Day on May 9th to discuss our options for this year. Here is the open Dropbox link to the meeting recording:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/aldbgwrwcdp070u/FD%202020%20Discussion%20050920.mp4?dl=0>

You can read the ARRL article I placed later in this rag to get their position on it. Likely the ARRL is not

going to change much in the way of rules, but they are supposed to list club affiliation after each member result and with that a club aggregate score can be totaled, although at this time the ARRL says they will not do that. We floated several options during the meeting such as

1. Setting up one or more stations at the FD site to operate remotely. (Scheduling using real-time Google Sheets)
2. Setting up one or more member stations to operate remotely using club call. (Scheduling using real-time Google Sheets)
3. All stations operating separately with their own calls to combine as an aggregate club score

We have scheduled another meeting to be held Saturday, May 23rd at 10am also via Zoom. If you wish to attend, use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4104955630?pwd=MW14SldNUEV1SWWhKOXlObkFpYks4dz09> (You will have to copy and paste it to your browser.)

In this meeting, we have to make a decision on using the manlifts provided by Bill Cordell W5VOM. We will still hold additional FD meetings after this as well. If you have any specific ideas, send them to me.

We are also looking for input to make adjustments in the Texas QSO Party to increase participation.

As mentioned in last month's BS, 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of TDXS. The BOD is discussing how we can commemorate this and how you can participate. I was thinking of making TDXS member special multipliers or bonus points in the TQP. Please let me know what you think or if you have other ideas. See you on May 23rd.
73, Allen N5XZ

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We are now holding my Thursday "EX-ZED SPRED" lunches on Zoom and it is every week! If you would like to be invited, send me at note at n5xz@arrl.net

The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

May 2020

Our April meeting held using ZOOM was a great success. We had the largest attendance in memory (mine at least) with lots of participation. We also successfully held our Q2 Board of Directors meeting using ZOOM. For the foreseeable future all our meetings will be held using ZOOM. As with the April meeting I will send invitations via e-mail to those who wish to attend. I will send these invitations on the day before the meeting. I have developed a list, based on those who attended the April meeting as a basis for sending invitations. I'll be sending out an e-mail identifying those individuals asking others to let me know if they would like to be added. I will also delete you from the list if you request to be deleted. Because conditions change rapidly, please check our website often and look for e-mails on our reflector to get the latest information.

Kim K5TU has volunteered to lead a technical session as part of our regular meetings. The concept is to provide approximately 15 minutes during each meeting to review and answer questions which have been previously submitted to Kim. This method will allow Kim (and others that have volunteered to assist) time to adequately research the question and provide an appropriate answer. Please form your question properly so that it is clear what you are asking and submit your questions well in advance.

The CQ WPX CW contest is scheduled for May 30-31. This contest typically has a tremendous number of participants and we want to encourage as many members to participate as possible. If you are "on the fence" about participation and have questions about setup, operating practices, log submission, etc. Please let me know via e-mail (ruler55@gmail.com). If there is sufficient interest, I'll set up a ZOOM meeting to help get you prepared to participate effectively.

The WSJT-X development team have just released a new beta test version with some very nice improvements to this program. WSJT-X 2.2.0 rc1 is available from the WSJTX website. I've already started to use this version and the most obvious improvement is the tremendous increase in decoding speed. There is also a new Users Guide for this version to help you understand the new features and use them properly.

Sporadic E season has started on 10 and 6 Meters. You will find activity most every day and we've already had propagation into South America and Europe. Most activity is focused on FT8 (28074 and 50313 KHz) but there is also activity on CW and SSB. Don't be left out!

Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: April 16, 2020

Location: ZOOM Virtual Conference

Attendance: AD5WB, AJ4F, K0NM, K5DD, K5GZR, K5HEM, K5TU, K5IZO, KG5U, K5VWW, K5WAF, K5WRN, K9GEM, KB4KBS, KB5WWW, KC5TT, KE5ELV, KM5VI, KN5A, N4AL, N5DTT, N5ET, N5LZ, N5MT, N5XZ, NA5D, NE5B, NN5DX, W3RZ, W5AU, W5MJ, W5PF, W5PR, W5SG, W5VOM, WB5TKI, WB5TUF, WG5H

The April business meeting was held online via ZOOM video conferencing software, due to the COVID-19 meeting shutdown. We had a great turnout; 38 attendees representing not only the Houston area, but other parts of Texas and several other states. Items discussed were:

- Roll call of attendees and welcome to visitors
- Brief officer reports
- Follow up on results of the 2019 Texas QSO Party, and discussion of changes to the format and contest times.
- Kicked around ideas for Field Day in light of Social Distancing. Options included limited operating team, remotely operated stations, and individual home operation on emergency power.
- 2020 is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Texas DX Society, and we discussed ways to commemorate the occasion. Ideas included special retrospective articles in the Bullsheet, reprinting vintage Bullsheet articles, a special event operation, and trying to get an article into QST.
- It was agreed that the ZOOM platform worked well and should be used again next month. It was suggested that Madison W5MJ give his promised presentation in the 2019 DXpedition to the Marquesas Islands TX7T. TDXS was a sponsor of this DXpedition.

President Robbie AJ4F solicited feedback on the meeting be submitted via email so that we can improve the process.

73,

Submitted May 8, 2020

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary

DX Chairman's Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

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

- XR0YHM Easter Is. Aug 27 to Sep 7
- 8Q7QR Maldives Sep 4 to 8
- RI1ANM Antarctica until early 2021
- T6AA Afghanistan until Summer 2021

Six Meters has been quite active with propagation all across the US and both E-skip and Trans equatorial openings to Central and South America. Operation is predominately FT8 on 50.313 with rare CW and SSB.

Due to travel restrictions attributable to the Corona Virus, all currently planned DXpeditions have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

Several special event calls are being used to bring awareness to the COVID-19 situation.

- Kenya - 5Z4STAYHOME
- West Malaysia - 9M4STAYHOME, 9M4COVID, and 9M4DUDUKRUMAH
- Singapore - 9V1STAYHOME
- Spain - AM40LAR
- England - GB2CCW (Tribute to Care Workers)
- Thailand - E2STAYHOME
- India - AT2THC, AU2COV and VU2STAY
- Jamaica - 6Y6STAYHOME
- Hungary - HAØHOME and HAØSTAY
- Austria - OE1STAYHOME and 4U2STAYHOME (UN)
- Greece - SZ3STAYHOME
- Finland - OH1STAYHOME and OH2STAYHOME.

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 with a summary of major contests coming up in the next two months.

May

- 2 10-10 International Spring Contest – CW
7th Call Area QSO Party
Indiana, Delaware and New England QSO Party
- 9 Arkansas QSO Party
- 16 His Majesty King of Spain Contest – CW
- 30 CQWW WPX Contest – CW

June

- 6 10-10 International Open Season PSK Contest
VK Shires Contest
IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW
Kentucky QSO Party
- 13 ARRL VHF Contest
Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB
- 20 ARRL Kids Day
Stew Perry Topband Challenge
All Asian DX Contest, CW
West Virginia QSO Party
- 27 ARRL Field Day
His Majesty, King of Spain Contest, SSB
- 29 10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party

TDXS Members participated in some contests since the April Report. Their scores, as reported on the 3830scores.com website, are provided below:

FT8 DX Contest 2020 Apr 11

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
WB5TUF		x	164	31	24		9,020	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest 2020 April 11

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KØNM		x	108	17	1:41	5,882	TDXS

CQMM DX Contest 2020 Apr 18

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
KØNM		x	250	15	39	6	44,658	TDXS
W3RZ			201	366	26	14:00	9,516	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
NM5G			42	1	0	3	414	TDXS

When I first got interested in contesting, I came upon the contesting software that had been created by Scott, N3FJP. It fit the bill for what I was looking for: intuitive and inexpensive. After a few contests using his software, I decided to get his whole suite of programs. He offered credit for the individual programs I had already bought so my additional expenditure was quite reasonable. I have been a user of his programs now for about 18 years. The one problem I have had is that Scott does not cover every contest that I want to participate in. Most notable is the RSGB IOTA Contest in late July and the recent Delaware QSO Party. Delaware is no great loss because it seems that are not as many contesting Hams there. At least that was my experience last weekend and in previous years. But I really like the RSGB IOTA Contest.

Another problem recently has been the State QSO Contests. Over the last month, there have been several State QSO parties on the same weekend. With N3FJP, I have had to toggle between programs as I have worked the various ops from different states. Two I can handle but when Nebraska, Missouri, Louisiana, and Mississippi all partied on the same weekend, I just about went nuts. I got through it, but it was not fun.

For the most part, N1MM has the same issue with multiple State QSO Parties. Each state party is individual. This past weekend (May 2-3), I was lucky that N1MM had a modification on its State QSO Party list that allowed you to do the 7th Area QP, the New England QP, the Indiana QP, and the Delaware QP all on a single log. Now, that was nice. I would not need to switch anything to do all the contests.

I have used N1MM in recent Field Days with the combined clubs' operation and have used it in the RSGB IOTA for several years. So, it was an easy decision to use it on May 2. I did not take advantage of N1MM's full capabilities but rather stayed with basic operation with just the Data Entry and Recent



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Contacts Log open. I am pretty old school and always operate Unassisted. What really surprised me though is the additional things N1MM did that made my life easier. Early in the AZ portion of the 7th Area QP, a station gave me a XXXX/YYYY County. I had no idea what he was doing but entered it just as reported. To my great surprise, I saw he was reporting from a County Line and, upon hitting Enter, both QSOs appeared in my log. Not a lot of work to get credit for two QSOs. In N3FJP I would have had to hit the Recall button on the taskbar and then enter the new county. So, with N1MM, there are steps and time saved.

Another thing I found was that as I scanned the band and passed the frequency of a previous contact, the contact's call would appear, indicating we had already worked. Here was another time saver. In the State QSO parties, I do a lot of S&P, especially on CW. I figure it is best for operators in the state to call CQ and just let me look for them.

All in all, I was quite pleased with my new experience with N1MM. Now, I could just figure out who creates these multi-state logs, I would be a "happy camper" on these State QSO party weekends where multiple states are doing a QSO Party.

Stay safe and eat well while you are protecting yourself from the VIRUS. See you next month or in a contest.

Jim, N5DTT



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

I'm betting that by September, most of the Corona Virus will be in our rear-view mirror, and that name will once again call up the image of a pretty popular 807 type beverage that is a beer. If you were born after the age of tube radios, you can check out the comparison to the right.



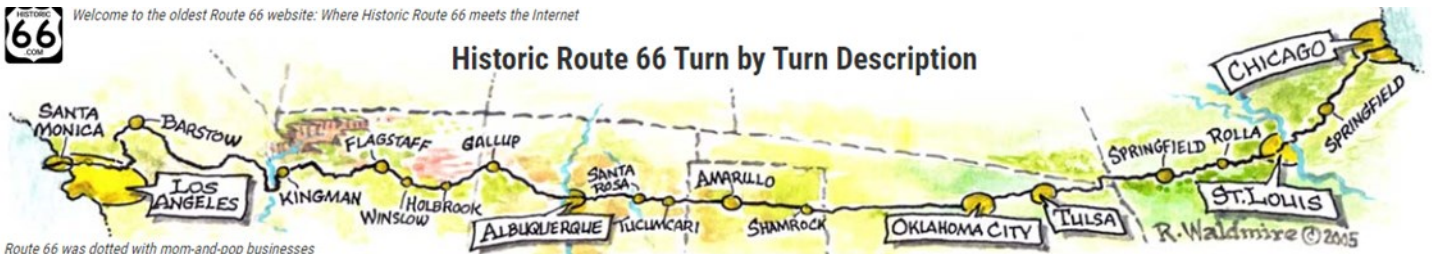
The timing couldn't be better. Just in time for this year's Route 66 On the Air event; scheduled for Sept 12 – 20. It means that designated stations with special call signs (W6A through W6U) will be operating along Historic Route 66 during the nine-day long event.

If you don't get the significance of this commemorative event, you are not a student of history or were born too late to remember the days before the Interstate highway system.



Welcome to the oldest Route 66 website: Where Historic Route 66 meets the Internet

Historic Route 66 Turn by Turn Description



Route 66 was dotted with mom-and-pop businesses

The road begins in Chicago and runs to Santa Monica, California. It is not the oldest or the longest of the transcontinental highways, but it was the first all-weather highway to link the Midwest and Los Angeles.

It was designated US Route 66 in 1926, spanning more than 2400 miles and three time zones. In song and fable, it had other names. Officially designated the *Will Rogers Highway* by the State of Oklahoma and *America's Main Street*. It was also called the *Mother Road* (named that by author John Steinbeck in his book, "The Grapes of Wrath"). The book tells the story of a family of displaced dustbowl immigrants headed to California in search of employment in the 1930's.



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

The mystique of Route 66 was imbedded in books and films like:

- The Grapes of Wrath
- Easy Rider
- Thelma and Louise
- Bagdad Café
- Cars
- Paris, Texas
- Little Miss sunshine



Route 66 (TV Series)

For more than sixty years the road served America in motion across the land with many unique features. During WW II it was the principal artery for the movement of war supplies. With the opening of the Interstate Highway System, most of the route was replaced. U.S. Route 66 was decommissioned in 1985. Although it was removed from the U.S. Highway system, most of the original route is still drivable. Many of the towns along the original route have become tourist attractions.

If you are lucky enough to be on the Mother Road during that time, you might get an eyeball QSO with one of the stations along the highway. Or maybe stop and visit some of the annual events held at that time like:

- The New Mexico State Fair in Albuquerque, Sept 10-20
- Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City, Sept 17-20
- Tri-State Fair and Rodeo in Amarillo, Sept 18-26
- The Train: Steam Sundays in Williams, AZ, Sept 19
- World Music Festival in Chicago, Sept 11-27



For more details check out <https://www.historic66.com/events/>

Route 66 on the Air 20th Anniversary



QSO with	Date dd-mm-yyyy	UTC	MHz	RST	Mode

Each year the Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club sponsors the Route 66 On the Air special event. For nine days in September, twenty-one stations with unique 1 X 1 call signs will be located along the original Route 66 calling CQ. This year is the 21st anniversary of the event. You can request a certificate if you contact at least one of the participating stations, though many hams try to contact all stations. Try and collect all 21 QSL cards this year. It is worth the effort. Get more information from their website at http://w6jbt.org/?page_id=15

Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron, K5HM



Field Day 2020 — A Time to Adapt

[Reprinted from ARRL.org 03/27/2020]

Many individuals and groups organizing events for [Field Day](#) 2020 have been contacting ARRL for guidance on how to adapt their planned activities in this unprecedented time of social distancing and uncertainty.

“Due to the unique situation presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club, and/or group to try something new,” ARRL Contest Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, said. “Field Day isn’t about doing things the same way year after year. Use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with the current circumstances.”

Social distancing and state and local requirements very likely will impact just how — and even whether — you are able to participate in Field Day this year. ARRL continues monitoring the coronavirus situation, paying close attention to information and guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)). If social distancing means that Class A with a 30-member team set up in a city park won’t work this year, then it’s time for a Plan B. Part of the Field Day concept has always been adapting your operation to the situation at hand. At its heart, Field Day is an emergency communication demonstration. Field Day rules are flexible enough to allow individuals and groups to adjust their participation and strategies in a way that still addresses their needs while being fun. Some possibilities:

[Encourage club](#) members to operate from their home stations on emergency power (Class E).

- Use the club’s repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event.
- Family members interested in operating Field Day and unable to participate as part of a larger group may want to consider setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna.

One big impact this year will be a decline in public visibility and any interaction with the visitors. Prudence may dictate dispensing with the ham radio PR table to attract passersby, should you set up in a more public location. It’s okay not to score all the bonus points you may have attempted in the past. Local and served agency officials may be unwilling to visit, which is understandable under the circumstances. Do be sure to reach out to them as part of your preparations and remind them that you look forward to continuing your working relationship with them in the future.

The impact will differ from place to place, so ARRL recommends that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day stay in regular contact with local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities.

Demonstrating an understanding of the health crisis we all face and your willingness to adapt will show that you and your club or group are good working partners with local or served agencies.

“With any emergency preparedness exercise, it’s not about adapting the situation to your operation, it’s about adapting your operation to the situation that presents itself,” Bourque said. “Try something different. Learn something new about how you prepare. It may be a challenge, and you may have to ask yourself if you’re up to the challenge. We hope to hear you on the air over the June 27 – 28 weekend.” — *Thanks to Paul Bourque, N1SFE, and Dan Henderson, N1ND*



Texas DX Society Board members

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VP Programs	Open	
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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.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 May:

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

John Guida - K5XA
 Mike Mauldin - K5NU
 Mitch Whitney - AD5W
 Kenny Manchester - NZ5I
 Gregg Erlenbusch - W5IDX
 Joey Clements - W5BAK
 Gerald Muller - K9GEM
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