



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 2020

TDXS Monthly Meeting via Zoom: Thursday December 17th, 7PM CST

Program:

"Power Line Noise and what CenterPoint Can Do to Help" -

Jeff Hoke

CenterPoint Energy

Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

The end of 2020 is almost here. This has been a very, very, very strange year, with Covid 19 and all. Meetings are cancelled, those who work (this is still some of us) are mostly working from home, etc. The bright spot (no pun intended) is that spots, (i.e. Sunspots) are UP! Flux levels over 100 have been reported and DX is flowing in! If you operated the 10 meter contest, you know what I mean! I had company so Friday night was mostly hosed for me, but many reported non-stop action. Saturday was pretty darn good for me, but then Sunday was hohum. Moral of the story (according to Dave K5GN: Never leave a hot band when it is 10 meters! You never know what the next day will bring... (I am paraphrasing here).

I for one am looking forward to better times on

the bands, more DX and more exciting contests. There have been many predictions about Cycle 25, and some have even predicted that this will be "The Big One...again". Well, keep your hopes up, bury more QSL cards under your new towers and buckle up. It's gonna be good no matter what!

I am especially happy that I finally have my SteppIR back up in the air. This time with some additional hardware on it... (1) I have replaced the standard DIR2 with a loop element so that I should (we'll see) have the benefit of 2 elements on 30 and 40 meters. Plus I added a fixed 6 meter reflector as the standard reflector is too far back to be efficient for 6 meters. After fine tuning, we will see how it plays. Anyway, the bands are open again. BIG, BIG thanks to the

crew who helped me put it up! You know who you are. *THANKS!*

The TDXS Zoom Meeting will feature Jeff Hoke from CenterPoint Energy. As most of you know, Jeff has been most helpful for many year in finding and fixing electrical noise that has plagued radio reception and has done a wonderful job of it. Jeff is planning to retire early next year and is already training a replacement. Please reach out to Jeff and thank him for his years of help to the ham radio community. It would have been a lot different without him!

Oh and by the way, **Happy Holidays** to all my ham radio friends, brothers and sisters out there. Good DX!

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

December 2020

This is my final Prez Sez column as I will be returning to the role of a regular TDXS member in 2021. I want to thank the other officers, both elected and appointed for their efforts! They exhibit the “right stuff” to keep the TDXS running.

The TDXS needs active participation from more of the members to be self-sustaining. At this point we need volunteers for President, Vice President of Programs and DX Chairman. Please consider taking on one of these roles and adding your spin to the TDXS. Each of these roles takes a time commitment, however it is modest and the current as well as former officers will support you.

We have three ongoing activities which require your help, sponsoring the Texas QSO Party, publishing the Bullsheet and Tech Topics. Keith NM5G heads up the TQP effort, AI N5XZ is the Bullsheet Editor and Kim K5TU heads up the Tech Topics activity. Here are some ways you can help.

We’ve discussed how to increase participation in the TQP and one idea is to have more mobile stations. HF mobile/portable operation is somewhat of an art. We need those with knowledge in these areas to share it with other members. This will increase the mobile/portable activity. You could make a presentation at a regular meeting, write an article for the Bullsheet, or we can have a special meeting to cover the topic. This meeting could be via ZOOM or a physical demonstration at an open-air location on a Saturday.

Other TDXS members want to hear what you are doing, so a short article for the Bullsheet is appropriate. Are you experimenting with a new antenna, learning to operate a new rig, solved an interesting problem or learning a new program? These are all excellent topics for an article.

The Tech Topics program is designed to help resolve technical issues and increase a deeper understanding to antennas/electronics. Please send Kim a question, description of a problem you are having or a topic about which you would like to have a deeper understanding. The responses will be shared during our regular meetings.

An organization exists to support its members and can’t function without their participation. The future of the TDXS rests in the hands of its members!

Robie – AJ4F



TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: November 19, 2020

Location: ZOOM Virtual Meeting

Attendance: Robie AJ4F (Pres.), Doug W9LCQ (Sec.), Larry KB5WWW (Treas), Gerald K9GEM (VP Membership), Jim N5DTT, Orville K5VWW, Allen N5XZ, Scott K5DD, Keith NM5, Rick K5GZR, David KE5ZZO, Mike N5MT, Ed W5GZX, Chuck W5PR, Dave K5GN, Skiddy K5NZ, Bill W5SG, Dale K1KSE, Dale KG5U, Don K5LZ, Earl N8SS, Ron K5LLL, Ron NN5DX

The November TDXS Meeting was held, as usual, via ZOOM Video conferencing. The agenda was:

Officers Report –

Still need nominees for President and VP Programs

Newest member is Dale Weaver K1KSE #231

Texas DX Society 50th Anniversary Operating Event Wrap-up

QSL cards have finally arrived and are being sent out

About 8500 QSOs, ~100 countries, all states.

Announced Upcoming Contests

TDXS 2021 Meeting Plans were presented

Tech Topic – Rick K5GZR gave a very interesting presentation entitled SDR Receivers/Satellites. He uses a Funcube Pro SDR dongle along with the SDR Console software.

A full recording of the meeting is at [TDXS Monthly Meeting November 19, 2020 - YouTube](#). The Tech Topic is at about 10:00.

Submitted December 13, 2020

Doug Seyler W9LCQ (ex - WB5TKI)

TDXS Secretary



DX Chairman's Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

The TDXS website, WWW.TDXS.NET, reports lots of activity on the front page:

The SUN HAS SPOTS again. The Solar Flux reached a 116 level on November 29th and has leveled at a SFI of 80's recently.

Malawi, 7Q7RU, continues to be active all bands by 2 UA stations as they tested positive for Covid-19 and were not allowed to leave Malawi.

Alex/5B4ALX on Cyprus operates as C4XMAS during December. QSL via IZ4AMS.

Minami Torishima – JG8NQJ/JD1 will operate spare time until Mid-January, 2021. HF on CW, with 50w.

Ogasawara – JD1BMH operated by JG7PSJ on Chichijima I (IOTA AS-031); 40-10m; CW SSB RTTY

Nouakchott, Mauritania - 5T700 is operational by DL7BO on 40-10m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; 100w; vertical, delta loop

Our Friend Tony, 3D2AG/p will be operational from Rotuma, IOTA OC-060; 160-6m, incl 60m; CW SSB RTTY FT8. Approximate dates, December 15th until January 15th.

Iraq – YI1WS will be operated by IU5HWS on HF until January 20th.

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.

December

- 4 ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- 13 ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- 18 Russian 160 Meter Contest
- 26 Stew Perry Top Band Challenge
- 31 Straight Key Night

January

- 2 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 16 ARRL January VHF Contest
- 23 UK/EI DX Contest - CW
- 29 CQ 160 Meter Contest - CW
- 30 Winter Field Day

TDXS members participated in a number of contests in November. Here is their score information as reported in the 3830scores.com website.

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW 2020 Nov 7

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GN(@W5KU)		244	68	2:48	33,184	TDXS
K5HEM		151	67	13:42	20,234	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club	
KE8G		762	83		126,492	TDXS	
KG5U		352	74	8.1	52,096	TDXS	
N5XZ		315	73	4:55	45,990	TDXS	
AJ4F		250	73	5	36,500	TDXS	
K5TU		30	24	0.6	1,440	TDXS	
N5DTT			10	9	2	180	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

OK/OM DX Contest, CW 2020 Nov 14

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KE8G		80	67		16,080	TDXS

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB 2020 Nov 21

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
K5NZ		419	75	7:38	62,850	TDXS
K5GN(@W5KU)		258	62	1:48	31,992	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club	
KD5FBA		161	66	16	21,252	TDXS	
N5DTT			93	54	8.5	10,044	TDXS
AJ4F		17	15	0.5	510	TDXS	

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 2020 Nov 28

M/2 HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W5NN		864	118	320	23:06	1,015,722	TDXS

SO(A)AB HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N5XZ		519	93	228	17	433,029	TDXS
K5HEM		204	64	118	24:43	94,094	TDXS
W9LCQ		225	54	93		90,993	TDXS

SOAB HP



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 2020 Nov 28 (cont.)

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club	
K5TU			1034	104	225	21	962,983	TDXS	
KØNM		x		338	79	136	14	191,350	TDXS
NM5G			301	66	114	23:40	148,860	TDXS	
K5GQ			93	33	53	8	21,120	TDXS	

SOAB Classic HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TU			1034	104	225	21	962,983	TDXS
NM5G			301	66	114	23:40	148,860	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
KE8G			700	42	146	17	384,460	TDXS
AJ4F			157	57	89		56,356	TDXS

SOSB15 LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club	
N5DTT				59	13	25	9	6,004	TDXS

With the new year fast approaching (thank goodness!!), it might be time to talk about refocusing on one of the purposes of the Texas DX Society as stated in Article Two of our Constitution. The Article states “The primary objective of the Society is to stimulate and pursue amateur radio DX and contest activities”. Contesting provides a rather perfect mechanism for the initial collection of the “easy” DX for the new operator just beginning their pursuit of DXCC. In contests like the recent CQWW DX Contests, most of the major countries with many active operators provide relatively easy access to a lot of DX entities. This should make the recruitment of operators for the major contests and their club competitions rather easy. The problem comes when TDXS members have gotten all the easy countries. Interest in contests, especially Phone Contests, seems to drop off.

Part of the problem has to do with the reduced numbers of contest operators going to the rarer entities due to Covid-19. Travel has become a major issue. Therefore, the ability to catch a rare country is reduced and the interest in the DX contest falls off. Afterall, contacting the same old people in the same old places does not do much for increasing your DXCC totals. The same can be said for DXpeditions. With travel restricted and band conditions sometimes quite marginal, there is not a lot of rare DX out there.



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

So here is my proposal. There has been great participation by members in the CW portions of the available contests. I want to encourage those who have the antenna capabilities for both CW and SSB participation to consider more active participation in SSB contests with Club Competitions. Both CQ and ARRL contests have Club Competition components. ARRL Club Competitions require that club members wanting their scores to count for the club need put Texas DX Society in your Cabrillo file submission as your club affiliation and be on the club's Eligibility List. As Contest Chairman, I take care of the Eligibility List. Our list stays up to date. For CQ contests, all you must do is put Texas DX Society in your Cabrillo file when it is submitted and have your location within 250 miles of the Club center point EL29hs.

Even though the contests coming up in January are not DX contests, I want to let you know that we will be organizing teams for the North American QSO Parties. The NAQP-CW is January 9, the NAQP-SSB is January 16 and the NAQP-RTTY is February 27. We often field multiple teams for the CW contest but have trouble filling up a team of 5 for the SSB and RTTY contests. Look for my calls for the NAQP teams beginning the week before each contest.

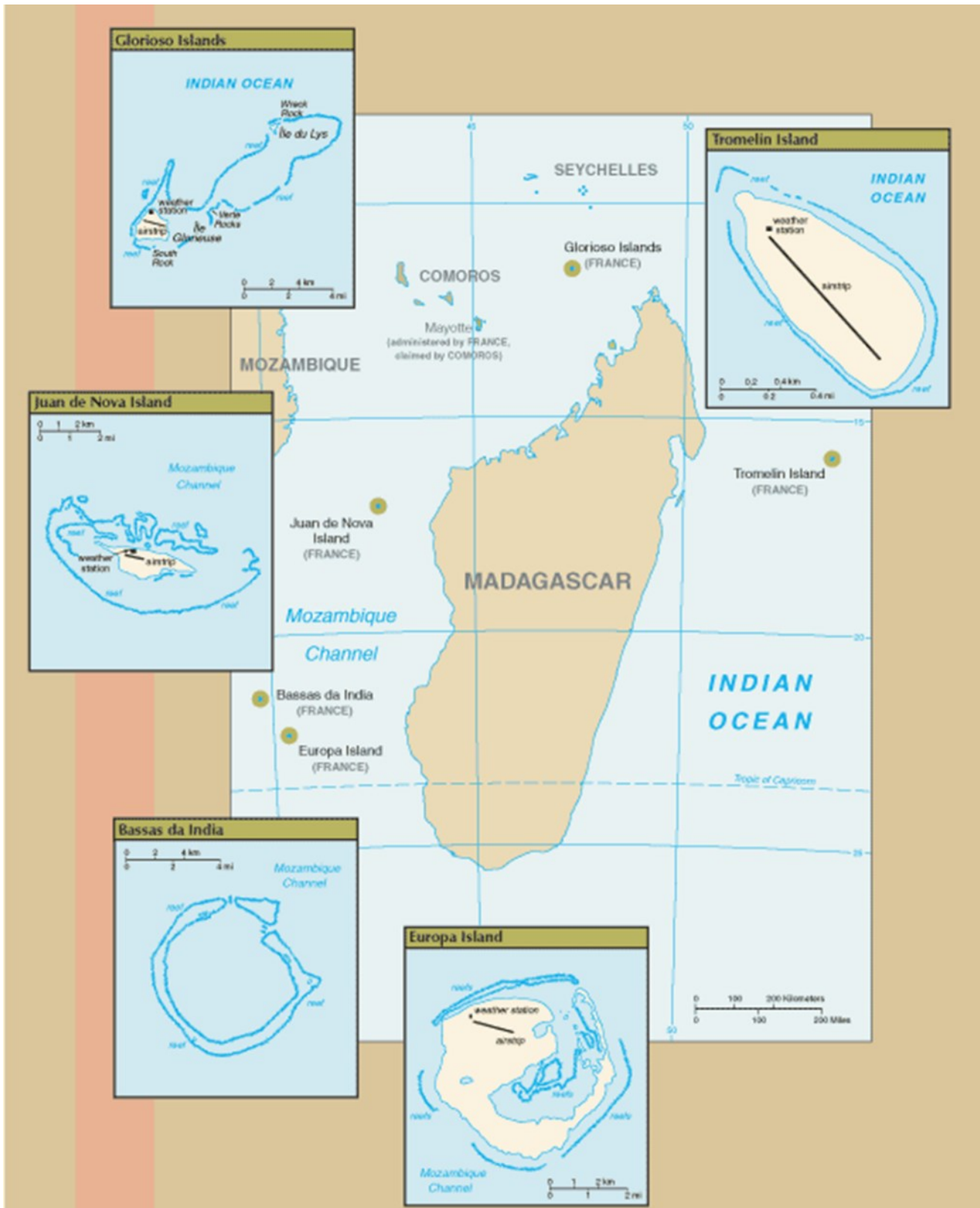
Stay well and stay safe.

Jim, N5DTT



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

Scattered Islands (FT) Part 1



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



The French Scattered Islands (Iles Eparses) are groups of small rocks in the Indian Ocean. They are literally scattered around the island of Madagascar; some in the Mozambique Channel and some East of that island. Most of them are just rocks. They are administered by the French TAAF (Terres Australes et Antarctiques Francaises). Translated, that is French Southern and Antarctic Lands. Some of these lands are uninhabited, others have temporary occupants for a few months of the year. The climate of these islands ranges from tropical to Sub-Antarctic. In Part 1, we will look at the tropical islands

All these islands are considered French territory and where inhabited the currency is the Euro. In the Indian Ocean, France is significantly involved. It exercises sovereignty over these small island entities and consequently claims a vast economic exclusive zone.

Tromelin Island (FT#T), IOTA AF-031 Northeast of Madagascar. The island was discovered by France in 1720s. It was recorded by the French navigator Jean Marie Briand. He named it "*Île des Sables*" ('Isle of **Sand**'). The island was later named for Jacques Marie Boudin de Tromelin, a captain of the French navy. He arrived at the island in November 1776 and rescued eight stranded slaves who had been on the island for 15 years. The whole island has an area of 200 acres, about the size of a small Texas ranch. It is poorly developed due to a lack of fresh water. Except for two or three months in summer, this flat island is swept day and night by heavy winds that are sustained in winter. In addition to France, the island of Mauritius also claims sovereignty.



Just north of Madagascar are the **Glorioso Islands (FT#G), IOTA AF-011**. A French possession since 1802, it consists of two tropical coral islands (*Ile Glorieuse* and *Ile du Lys*) and three rock islets. A military garrison operates a weather and radio station garrisoned by troops of the French Foreign Legion on *Ile Glorieuse*. The terrain is flat, varying in height from sea level to 39 feet. *Île de Lys* is a nesting ground for [migratory seabirds](#), and [turtles](#) lay eggs on the beaches.. The Gloriosos are also claimed by Madagascar, The Seychelles and the Comoros. The Glorieuse were named in 1880 by Hippolyte Caltaux, who established a coconut plantation. In

1895, the Glorioso Islands became a part of the colony of Mayotte (another island in the Mozambique channel but not part of the scattered islands). The islands are today nature reserves.

Off the southwest coast of Madagascar lies **Europa (FT#E), IOTA AF-009**, only 11 Sq. miles in area. It is a low-lying tropical atoll in the Mozambique Channel, about a third of the way from southern Madagascar to southern Mozambique. The island had never been inhabited until 1820 when a French family moved to it. The island officially became a possession of France in 1897. The



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

island has a weather station and is visited by scientists. While the island has probably been sighted by navigators since at least the 16th century, it takes its name from the British ship *Europa*, which visited it in December 1774. Ruins and graves on Europa island attest to several attempts at settlement from the 1860s to the 1920s. The island is a nature reserve. While there are no harbors, the island has an airstrip. Madagascar also claims sovereignty over Europa.



Basses di India (FT#E) IOTA AF-034 is an uninhabited, roughly circular atoll about halfway between Mozambique and Madagascar northwest of Europa Island. The atoll consists of ten barren rocky islets, with no vegetation, totaling 49 acres in area. The reef, whose coastline measures 21.9 mi, is completely covered by the sea from three hours before high tide to three hours afterward. The region is also subject to cyclones, making the atoll a

long-time maritime hazard and the site of numerous shipwrecks. The Basses da India was first recorded by Portuguese explorers in the early sixteenth century. When the Portuguese ship that discovered the atoll by running aground on it in 1506.

Juan de Nova (FT#J) IOTA AF-012 is a [nature reserve](#) surrounded by reefs which enclose an area of roughly 15 sq mi. Forests cover about half the island. [Sea turtles](#) nest on the beaches around the island. **Juan de Nova**, a Spanish admiral in



the service of Portugal, came across the island in 1501. The island had never been inhabited when it became a possession of France in 1897. **Guano** deposits were exploited from the start of the 20th century until 1970. The island was abandoned during **World War II**, and was visited by German submariners. Installations, including a hangar, rail lines, houses and a jetty are in ruins. The island lies on the sea route between South Africa and the northern tip of Madagascar. It is affected by strong currents and has become the site of numerous wrecks. Most visible are the remains of the **SS Tottenham** which ran onto the southern reef in 1911. The island was the destination of a DXpedition in March 2016 with the Callsign FT4JA. Nearby Madagascar claims sovereignty over the island since 1972.

Rank on Club Log Most Wanted DXCC List

<u>DX Entity</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Juan de Nova	40
Europa	40
Gloriosos	11
Tromelin	28

Basses di India was removed from the DXCC List in the 1950's because the atoll is mostly underwater, except at low tide.

Reporting from the Dark Side,

Ron Litt, K5HM



Annual Texas DX Society Dues—by Larry Daze KB5WWW



The annual Texas DX Society dues for 2021 will be due soon.

The yearly dues for 2021 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.

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 mailed to:

TDXS Treasurer
9941 Briarwild Ln
Houston, TX 77080

73,

Larry Daze, KB5WWW
TDXS Treasurer



Ham Radio Bio Roger Krautkremer K0YY, Rambling With Roger

Howdy from Lufkin, Texas. I was first licensed in 1957 as KN0PYM in Minnesota. I've held the following calls K0PYM, W6SOT, K0PYM/KL7, DA2KR, W6SOT/LX, W6SOT/3A, W6SOT/MM2, ZL3/K0YY, Z2/K0YY, K0YY/7, K0YY/5, and my current call K0YY.

I've enjoyed the opportunity to operate from DX and portable locations. I've also been able to operate aeronautical mobile, maritime mobile, RV mobile, and fixed and portable from a number of US and overseas locations.

We enjoyed RVing and mobile Ham radio over much of the Central and Western US in our 35-foot Allegro Bay motorhome.

I have operated fixed Ham radio stations at the following US locations: Mankato, MN, Fairbanks, Alaska, Sacramento, CA, Sault Ste Marie, MI, Aurora, CO, Evergreen, CO, Fort Collins, CO, Pleasanton, CA, Coronado, CA, McMinnville, OR, Uvalde, TX and Lufkin, TX.

I have operated fixed Ham stations at the following overseas locations: Bitburg, Germany, Mensdorf, Luxembourg, Monte Carlo, Monaco, Harare, Zimbabwe, and Geraldine South Island, New Zealand,

I retired from the US Air Force in 1983. I was Air Force MARS station AFA7BO in Germany. I was also stationed in Japan, California, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. I spent considerable temporary duty at Eielson AFB Fairbanks Alaska, I used to fly from Alaska over the pole to England or down to Japan and on to the Philippines. Two memorable events occurred while working in Alaska. I operated from the Eielson Air Force Base MARS station KL7FAF in Fairbanks after the earthquake of 1964 passing considerable Health & Welfare traffic when no phone service was available to the lower 48 states. I also ran a phone patch to my parents while flying at 40,000 feet from directly over the North Pole.

In the Air Force, I worked as an airborne special electronics operator/instructor, computer systems manager, and satellite systems manager.

After the Air Force, I worked for Martin-Marietta (now Lockheed-Martin) as a Senior Systems Engineer at the Air Force Satellite Control Facility in Sunnyvale, CA. After retiring from aerospace, I dispatched for the Evergreen, Colorado Fire/Rescue Department. A memorable event there was riding to work on a snow mobile after receiving 7 feet (yes feet) of snow in one "storm of the century".

I enjoy putting special event stations on the air including in the past K0Y from Elizabeth, CO, and K0YY/P from Bridge Island, US Island CO-12L from Steamboat Lake State Park in northern Colorado. I enjoyed participating in the Texas State Parks On The Air Program and look forward to putting on other Special Event stations. We put special event station K5F on the air this past year from the Texas Forestry Museum in Lufkin Texas. Our local DETARC Club placed 2nd in the nation in category 3AC in Field Day 2019. We won our Division and Section for FD.



Ham Radio Bio Roger Krautkremer K0YY, Rambling With Roger

I also enjoy chasing some awards. I have DXCC 286 mixed, 265 CW, 199 SSB, and 200 digital mode, 5 band DXCC, VUCC 50 MHz at 234 grids, WPX 1354 prefixes, and WAZ. I also have several first places in state QSO Parties.

My wife Marilyn KB0LJW and I lived aboard and cruised our Morgan 462 Ketch "SV Fantaseas" for 5 years up and down the west coast. I operated as W6SOT/MM2 while aboard. We really enjoyed the lifestyle and cruising friends we made among the cruising community. I gave several seminars on Maritime Mobile Ham Radio for Down Wind Marine and Pacific Marine Supply in San Diego.

I operate 80 meters through 440 MHz. I enjoy operating CW, SSB, FM, digital modes, DXing, and assisting with emergency communications. I am a member of the Deep East Texas Amateur Radio Club and Angelina County Texas RACES Group. I'm a past member of the Mile High DX Association, and currently a member of The ARRL, and the Texas DX Society. I am a past member of the Alpine Mountain Rescue Communications Team in Colorado and the Jefferson County Colorado Type 3 Incident Management Team Communications Unit.

I've held several past Club Officer positions: Past President-- Radio Amateur Mobile Society RAMS Sacramento, CA; Past Treasurer -- Livermore ARC, Livermore, CA; Past President & Secretary-- Castle Rock Repeater Group CRRG Denver, CO; Past President/Board Member- Deep East Texas ARC (DETARC), Lufkin, TX.

I authored and published two Ham radio books, the Cruisers Radio Guide (for cruising sailors). and the Mobile Communications Guide.

I just recently became interested in the Parks On The Air Program. It is great fun chasing Parks (being a Hunter), State Historic Sites, and State Wildlife Management Areas around the US and even overseas. I received my 300 Park QSOs Award recently. I have been activating Parks and Wildlife Managements Areas recently here in Texas and have activated 7 different Parks, some several times. Martin Creek Lake SP near Henderson, TX is one of my favorites.

See you on the air.

73 Roger K0YY, ex W6SOT & K0PYM



Ham Radio Bio Roger Krautkremer KOYY, Rambling With Roger



N5XZ SteppIR Installation Photos December 6, 2020



Many thanks to:
Mark, WB5ANN
Dan, KS5V
Doug, W9LCQ
David, KB5IBM
Adam KC3GQU
Chris, KG5BBF



More pics can be found at

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/gbEuCQeWygCwz9Dd8>

Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
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VP Programs	Open	
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Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at arrl.net
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Webmaster	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Bullsheel Editor	Allen Brier, N5XZ	n5xz at arrl.net

DXCC/WAZ/WAS QSL Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net
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How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxx.net> email address: 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 November:

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

Mike Young W5RRX
Sid Leach K5XI
Don Daze-KB5WWW