



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net January 2022

The next TDXS meeting will be held Thursday, January 20th at 7pm via Zoom.

Renowned contester Dave McCarty K5GN has agreed to showing us how he used his contesting software of choice – Win-Test. Hopefully other contesters will follow him with demos of their own favorite contesting software.

Revised Agenda:

- New TDXS Members
- Combining Secretary & Treasurer Board positions
- Monthly meeting programs going forward
- Winter Field Day Jan. 29-30
- Program - Win-Test contest software by Dave McCarty K5GN

Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

Things are actually looking up at the N5XZ contest station! A sizeable insurance check came through and money is starting to flow here. I have made a few purchases of equipment, Robert Polinski KD5YVQ is coming in the next day or two to remove the bad cables from the tower and hopefully within a few weeks the SteppIR will be back to its former glory. I pulled my Alpha 78 out of the closet, reinstalled the transformer and found that it still puts out 1500+ watts, so no more QRP for me! (Note: 0-499 watts=QRP; 500-1499 watts=Low Power; 1500 watts = Normal Power.) I am into "MAP" which means MAXIMUM AVAILABLE POWER.

Speaking of QRP, I also operated just under 9 hours of the NAQP last weekend and had a blast! It's been too long! Even with the SteppIR at 25 feet and no 80/160, I made a few contacts and found that I can still copy CW. Thanks also to the locals who I made QSOs with (and remember "Friends Spot Friends").

I am looking forward to the meeting on Thursday, I want to see and understand more about Win-Test (I have used it a few times at contest stations). Even though N1MM+ is the most popular contesting software for individuals, Win-Test seems to be Numero Uno for the big multi-multi's. I'm sure there are good reasons for that. Being mostly experienced with N1MM, (which I am not switching from) I probably didn't know how to use any of the advantageous features of Win-Test...I am sure Dave will be able to fill us in.

As always, I am looking for guest articles from you guys or any other source to make this rag a bit more interesting. Please send me some good articles, pictures. Contest summaries, interesting stories and even a few good lies...

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 ????????

We are still looking for someone to step of to be TDXS president...how about you?



TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: December 16, 2021

Location: ZOOM Virtual Meeting

The December TDXS Meeting was held, as usual, via ZOOM Video conferencing. There were 8 participants. They were: Doug W9LCQ, Scott K5DD, Orville K5VWW, Larry KB5WW, Jimmy NA5D, Kim K5TU, Gerald K9GEM, and Dale KG5U.

Program: An overview of a Bullsheet article that Kim Carr K5TU and I (W9LCQ) are preparing, entitled “Build Your Own High Accuracy NTP Time Server with a Raspberry PI and GPS Receiver”. The presentation outlines the hardware and software utilized to implement a microsecond accuracy time server for use in timing-sensitive applications, such as FT8.

A complete meeting recording is available from the TDXS.net website under News > YouTube Channel.

Submitted January 7, 2022

Doug Seyler W9LCQ

TDXS Secretary/Treasurer



DX Chairman's Report by Jim Blanca KE8G

DX Report January 2022 by Jim Blanca – KE8G

How about those sunspots!!! This last week or so of December has been fantastic with the SFI and SSN! It's been a while since we have seen these numbers. I hope January of 2022 continues with this type of activity!

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy 2022!

Maldives: 8Q7TR by OE1TRI will be active on 80-10 meters; low power (20 watts) until January 3rd using SSB & FT8. QSL via OE1TRI.

St. Martin: FS/F8ANN will be active on 40-6 meters on CW with 100 watts and vertical antennas until January 20th. QSL information is not available at this time.

Sint Maarten: PJ7/VA3QSL will be active on 40-6 meters using CW, SSB and digital modes until February 6th. QSL via LoTW and VA3QSL.

Montserrat: VP2MDF by W2APF will be active on 80-10 meters until February 18th. QSL via W2APF.

Guadeloupe: TO6S by F6BCW, F1MNQ, F1TCV, F5LRL, and VE7KW will be active on HF using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 until February 1st. QSL via the REF bureau (expect long delay) or see web for other QSL information, or F6KJS direct.

Mauritius: 3B8HH by HB9DNG will be active on 80-6 meters using CW, RTTY, PSK and some SSB until January 27th. Look to QRZ.com for QSL information.

Aruba: P4/DL4MM will be on HF; focus on low bands & WARC bands, using CW, SSB & FT8 until February 1st. Will also be QRV for CQ 160 contest using P40AA. QSL via DL4MM.



DX Chairman's Report by Jim Blanca KE8G

(NOAA)

27-day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2021-12-20

#	UTC	Radio Flux	Planetary	Largest
#	Date	10.7 cm	A Index	Kp Index
2021	Dec 20	115	12	4
2021	Dec 21	115	16	4
2021	Dec 22	114	12	4
2021	Dec 23	111	8	3
2021	Dec 24	110	5	2
2021	Dec 25	108	5	2
2021	Dec 26	102	5	2
2021	Dec 27	95	10	3
2021	Dec 28	90	15	4
2021	Dec 29	88	10	3
2021	Dec 30	87	8	3
2021	Dec 31	85	8	3
2022	Jan 01	83	5	2
2022	Jan 02	81	5	2
2022	Jan 03	80	5	2
2022	Jan 04	81	5	2
2022	Jan 05	82	5	2
2022	Jan 06	82	5	2
2022	Jan 07	83	5	2
2022	Jan 08	86	5	2
2022	Jan 09	90	5	2
2022	Jan 10	92	5	2
2022	Jan 11	95	10	3
2022	Jan 12	95	10	3
2022	Jan 13	96	5	2
2022	Jan 14	96	5	2
2022	Jan 15	96	8	3

If anyone should happen to hear of some upcoming DX or DXpeditions, please contact me, ke8g.jim@gmail.com.

I will be happy to include the information in this report.

73 de Jim – KE8G



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

As usual, we will start with a summary of major contests coming up in the next two months.

January

- 8 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 15 North American QSO Party, CW
ARRL January VHF Contest
- 22 North American QSO Party, SSB
NA Collegiate Championship, SSB
- 29 REF Contest, CW
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW
Winter Field Day

February

- 5 10-10 Winter Contest – SSB
European Union DX Contest
Vermont QSO Party
Minnesota QSO Party
British Columbia QSO Party
- 12 CQ WPX RTTY Contest
- 19 ARRL International DX Contest – CW
Russian PSK WW Contest
- 25 CQ 160-meter Contest – SSB
- 26 REF Contest – SSB
FTn DX Contest
South Carolina QSO Party
North American QSO Party – RTTY
North American Collegiate Championship (sub-contest to NAQP-RTTY)
- 27 North Carolina QSO Party



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

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

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2021 Dec 3

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W5KUx		528	82	15	14	107,961	TDXS
K5TIA		275	75	9	12	43,852	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F		267	57	5	10:48	33,852	TDXS

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 2021 Dec 11

SO CW HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5KUx		547	45	18	126,904	TDXS
K5TIA		179	44	15	31,504	TDXS
NN7ZZ(N5LZ)		134	37	5	19,832	TDXS
K7OM		103	38	3:45	15,656	TDXS

SO CW LP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F		44	23	2:40	4,048	TDXS

SO CW Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AF5J		95	30	9:23	11,400	TDXS

SO Mixed HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5GCX		16	54	2	324	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 2021 Dec 11 (cont.)

SO Mixed LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT			53	28	7	5,320	TDXS

SO SSB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WD5CAY			25	11	15.25	594	TDXS

SO SSB Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			717	66		96,078	TDXS

RAC Winter Contest 2021 Dec 18

M/S HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
AF5J			134	0	29	0	9:33	27,086

SO Mixed LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
W5GCX			37	2	9	16	3	23,040

It is with great hope that band conditions will continue to improve so that 2022 will be a great year for TDXS contesting. It is also my hope that we will continue to increase member involvement in the ARRL Club Competition contests. Our scores in these competitions have improved gradually over the last few years, a trend that is most welcome.

The NAQP Contests are a great opportunity for introducing new members to contesting and improving operating skills that require only a minimal commitment of time. Let's see if we can increase our participation in these short contests and move ourselves up some more in the published rankings.

Leave a little time at the end of the month for the Winter Field Day. The KARS group has organized an operation at Cullen Park. It should be a great opportunity for some facetime with each other as well as some field operation.

Jim, N5DTT



Where in the World—By Ron Litt K5HM

It was April in New York City. I was on my way home from the regular weekly breakfast with the Queens County Bagel, Bowling and Spark Club.

These were the halcyon days of kid-dom on the cusp of adulthood. I had my General Class ticket now for about two years. Got my acceptance letter from college and it was six months before anybody would hear of Sputnik. Life was good.

As I walked home from the bus stop, I was thinking about getting on the air today and rolling up a few new states for my WAS. I needed South Dakota and my old buddy Ralph from the QCBB&SC said there were only three active hams in the whole state. I could see that South Dakota was going to be a real challenge.

I climbed the front steps two at a time, walked through the front door and headed directly for my basement ham shack. I am halfway down the hall when I hear my old man say, “Where are you going?”

Any kid who has reached the age of five, immediately recognizes the peril in that question. It’s not a question really, it more a combination of Red Alert, General Quarters and Take Cover simultaneously.

I turned around to see the old man advancing toward me. He was upset. I tried to think of anything I did or failed to do in the last twenty-four hours. I aced my Physics quiz, took out the trash last night, and didn’t leave any wet towels in the bathroom, check, check, check.

He was about two feet away when he stopped, thrust a letter in front of me and said, “What’s this?” His hand was shaking so much, I couldn’t read the envelope at first, but it looked very important. Eventually, the oscillation decayed enough for me to see better. It was one of those business window envelopes with no stamp. The top right-hand corner of the envelope contained the words, *U.S. Government Official Business!*

The old man was really wound up; like a pressure cooker ready to explode. He’d lived his life avoiding entanglements with authority. He was 4-F for the draft in WWII, voted at least once in every election and was an associate member of the Police Benevolent Association. Any unexpected things that had to do with “Official Business” made him very nervous.

Desperately, I tried to think of something that would get him in such a lather. I had gotten my draft card six weeks ago. Maybe this was the dreaded, “Greetings from Uncle Sam” letter. Then I noticed the return address, *Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC.*

I stopped breathing. The FCC! This was worse than getting drafted. Looking through the window of the envelope I could see the paper inside. A pink ticket!

The envelope was torn open. At the top of the page, I could see the words, *Notice of Violation!* He’d already read it and assumed the worst; a life sentence for me at Leavenworth. I was doomed!



Where in the World—By Ron Litt K5HM

Flight was the only response I had. I grabbed the letter and ran for the basement. I read and re-read the notice several times. Cold sweat was dripping off me.

The letter said that my signal had been observed operating at a frequency out of the band at such and such time and date. It demanded I explain what happened. That I take immediate steps to prevent this from happening in the future and that I report those steps to the FCC within 30 days. No wonder the old man was upset. Single handedly, I had brought the wrath of the entire federal government down on our home.

I pulled out my log and started flipping pages; hoping this was a mistake. Some other guy with a similar call sign, maybe. The time in the letter was around 2 AM. Was the FCC really awake that late?

I ran my thumb down the logbook pages slowly, hoping against hope. Yikes! There it was. At the alleged hour, I had been on the air. What could I do? “The old man was right, you’re going to Leavenworth”, said the voice in my head.

That night I’d logged several calls to DX stations who were calling CQ on the other side of the 20-meter band edge. The last entry in the log that night was a guy in VK-land that I had finally managed to work. I was so excited I almost woke the old man out of a sound sleep to tell him. I must have strayed too close to the band edge!

Maybe I’ll just throw myself on the mercy of the court. *“Your honor, I’m just a kid. I didn’t know I was committing a crime.” “I fell in with a bad crowd; they dared me to do it!”*

In a panic, I called my old buddy Ralph on the land line. Ralph was a charter member of the QCBB&SC. He knew everything about ham radio. He had been a ham so long that he said Marconi was his Elmer.

After an eternity of rings, he answered. Without giving him a chance to say hello, I unloaded on Ralph in one single breath. When I finally finished, Ralph calmed me down and assured me that I was not going to Leavenworth. “Yeah kid (everyone was a kid to Ralph), I got my first pink ticket in ’36”, he said softly, as if someone were listening.

What a relief! My old buddy Ralph, the greatest Elmer of all time had gotten at least a couple pink tickets and he was still walking around a free man. There was a ray of hope for me!

I could swear he was grinning on the other side of the phone. The voice in my head said, “Yeah, they’ll probably confiscate all your radio gear instead.”



Where in the World—By Ron Litt K5HM

It was only two years earlier that I went to the FCC offices in Manhattan to take my General exam under the watchful eye of Lurch, the examiner. I still remember the big bullpen where the FCC guys worked. They were all dressed alike too; white shirts rolled up to the elbow, black ties and black pants. It was the official FCC uniform. I didn't know what would be worse; just quietly going off to Leavenworth or having a squad of FCC men in black show up at my house in front of all the neighbors!

"Listen kid", he began; his voice had a way of piercing through the QRM in my head. "You just need an accurate marker for the band edge. A crystal calibrator. You can pick one up at Harrison Radio for about ten bucks." I could hear Ralph take a deep breath. He'd been a chain smoker for twenty years, so his inhale had a signature wheeze, just like a good CW operator's fist.

Then he continued, "The dial markings on your VFO ain't worth the plastic they're printed on kid. So, when you are chasing DX, don't get any closer than three kc to the band edge marker, no matter what."

"Hey Ralph", I said "What about the letter I have to write? What should I say?" Ralph started in again, "Listen kid, just tell them the truth, you'll be fine. See you later kid." And then there was a click.

I sat for a long time; thinking. The U.S. phone band ended at 14200 KC. Most of the good DX was always just below that. We worked split back then, running full carrier double sideband AM, pushing as close to the band edge as we dared, calling for that rare station we needed.

I wasn't willing to give up a whole three kc of band, if I didn't need to do it. Maybe I could just turn down the mike gain. Just listening to twenty meters some nights it was easy to see how everybody pushed the limit. Still, I was willing to do or say anything get back in the old man's good graces and the FCC off my back! Finally, the beginnings of a diabolical plan began to form in my head. If I played my cards right, I would solve my FCC problem and then some.

To be continued

**Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron Litt, K5HM**



TDXW Dues for 2022 due soon—by Larry Daze KB5WWW



The annual Texas DX Society dues for 2022 are due.

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

Payment is best made with PayPal.

The PayPal account is: treasurer@tdxs.net

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

73,

Larry Daze, KB5WWW
TDXS Treasurer



Texas DX Society Board members

President	OPEN!	
VP Membership	Gerald Muller	gmuller885@aol.com
VP Programs	OPEN!	
Secretary	Doug Seyler, W9LCQ	djseyler at comcast.net
Treasurer (OPEN SOON)	Larry Daze KB5WWW	dxon20@gmail.com
Contest Chairman	Jim Burrough, N5DTT	jandpburrough at sbcglobal.net
Field Day Chairman	OPEN!	
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DX Chairman	Jim Blanca, KE8G	ke8g.jim@gmail.com
Outgoing QSL Manager	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Webmaster	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Bullsheets 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 January:

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

Barbara Coleman - WB5RUS

Lon Cottingham - K5JV

John Stevens - K5JS

Dale Martin - KG5U

Al Vacek - KN5A

Dennis Motschenbacher - K7BV

Bill Bradford - K5GA

John Duncan - WA5ZVE

Mike Hance - K5NZ

Allen Brier - N5XZ

Ben Worrell - NE5B

Ken Eckel Jr. - AB5A

Earl Morse - K8SS (ex-N5TU)

Doug Seyler - W9LCQ