



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net November 2024

Hello fellow TDXSers!

The next TDXS meeting will be a Saturday lunch. Scheduled for November 30th. We haven't decided on a venue yet. So TDXS members please send your suggestions and we'll pick one of them and announce it on the reflector.

Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

Wow! Conditions have really been great on 6 meters! I have worked a number of new countries, and several other TDXS members have as well. When the flux heads above 250 for several days, the 'magic band' perks right up. I'm still chasing DXCC there (currently 95/91 at the time of this writing). Almost there...shouldn't be long now...

Well, at N5XZ there was some good DX worked in October, including (but not limited to): 3D2-R, PY0-F, A2, W5PR (haha, just checking to see if you're paying attention!), C2, 7Q, ZD7, 3B8, YJ, OD, etc. Now I know these are not all necessarily real rare, but still some nice catches. And I worked all of these without a turnable beam (fixed at about 45°)! It's very convenient that the SteppIR has normal, 180° and bi-directional modes. What happened to my rotor project? Funny you should ask. Long story but the bottom line is that the rebuild jammed, the \$20 T2X had a bad pot, and the Green Heron controller I was using for testing didn't display direction (or even read the pot) so that added considerably to my fault troubleshooting. I took the [new] pot out of my rebuild and replaced the [bad] pot in the \$20 unit and everything is now working on the bench. Thanks to W5GCX for a short piece of rotor cable I used for testing on the bench. **Update: Mark WB5ANN and Doug W9LCQ came over today on short notice and the rotator is successfully installed! Thanks guys!!** . I'll write up a short story on my misadventures for the next BS.

Oh, and a big thanks to Rick K5TIA and Ed W5GCX for their articles this month. Really appreciated!

73/161, Allen N5XZ

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STILL LOOKING for more input from TDXS members...how about sending me something I can put in the BS?? Anything at all, stories, bios, pics, etc. Nobody wants to just hear me drone on and on and on about stuff!
[How about it TDXSers??](#)

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler W9LCQ

Date: October 17, 2024

Location: ZOOM Virtual Meeting

The October TDXS meeting was held over ZOOM. There were 13 participants: Doug W9LCQ, Bill K2TNO, Robie AJ4F, Jim N5DTT, Chris KG5BBF, Kim K5TU, Allen N5XZ, Dave K5GN, Rick W5RH, Matt KM5VI, Chuck W5PR, Dale KG5U, Orville K5VWW.

We had 2 programs for this meeting:

First Robie AJ4F told us “Everything you need to know about Peak Envelope Power”. He talked about its relationship to Average Power, duty cycle and transmitter and amplifier ratings.

Then Dave K5GN presented “More Multipliers, Please – Strategies for increasing your DX contest multiplier count”. He focused his talk on the unassisted single operator in DX contests with a little pistol station and part time operation. He showed us how to analyze the contest rules to determine how much time to spend on S&P vs running.

Both talks were very interesting and generated a lot of discussion.

The video from this meeting is available on the TDXS YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/rxLRUUN5XQQ>. The second program begins at about 44 minutes in.

Submitted November 13, 2024

Doug Seyler W9LCQ

TDXS Secretary/Treasurer



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

November

- 2 ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
- 9 WAE DX Contest RTTY
10-10 International Fall Digital Contest
JIDX Phone Contest
OK/OM DX Contests, CW
- 16 ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB
- 23 CQ WW DX Contest, CW

December

- 6 ARRL 160-Meter Contest
- 7 FT Roundup
- 14 ARRL 10-Meter Contest
- 22 ARRL Rookie Roundup
- 28 RAC Winter Contest
- 30 YOTA Contest

TDXS members participated in several contests in October. Here is their score information as it was found in the 3830scores.com website:

California QSO Party: 1600Z, Oct 5 to 2200Z, Oct 6

SO HP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
NM5G		89	0	34	3.5	9,078	TDXS

SO LP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT		62	62	45	12	13,950	TDXS
K5TU		74	0	33	2.0	7,326	TDXS

SO(A) HP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TIA		230	0	51	8	35,190	TDXS
AF5J		105	0	44	5:09	13,860	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Oceania DX Contest, Phone 2024 Oct 5

SOAB HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5GCX		52	43		5,934	TDXS

Pennsylvania QSO Party 2024 Oct 12

SOCW HP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AF5J		65	0	29	7:45	3,770	TDXS
K5TIA		46	0	24	4	2,184	TDXS

South Dakota QSO Party 2024 Oct 12

SO FixedCW HP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AF5J		7	0	4	:30	156	TDXS
K5TIA		1	0	1	1	102	TDXS

Arizona QSO Party 2024 Oct 12

SOCW HP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AF5J		44	0	28	0	2:56	2,564	TDXS
K5TIA		12	0	10	0	4	24	TDXS

Nevada QSO Party 2024 Oct 12

SOCW HP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AF5J		9	0	0	7	:38	189	TDXS
K5TIA		6	0	0	4	1	72	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB 2024 Oct 12

SOAB HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5GCX		103	67		8,107	TDXS

JARTS WW RTTY Contest 2024 Oct 19

Single Op LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KG5U		166	97	8.5	38,994	TDXS

New York QSO Party 2024 Oct 19

SOCW HP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AF5J		100	0	0	36	5:48	7,200	TDXS
K5TIA		100	0	0	34	9	6,800	TDXS

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 2024 Oct 26

SO(A)AB HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
WT4DX		311	54	153	8:09	177,399	TDXS

SO(A)SB15 HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
KM5VI		1381	38	131	29	584,909	TDXS

SOAB HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GN(@W5KU)		4147	154	430	46	6,379,616	TDXS
W5GCX		880	103	327	23.5	1,079,300	TDXS
K5TU		163	27	82	3.6	50,903	TDXS
N5EKO		53	26	45		9,656	TDXS
KT3X		40	21	38		6,490	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 2024 Oct 26 (cont.)

SOAB Classic HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TU		163	27	82	3.6	50,903	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F		457	70	176	15:23	311,682	TDXS
N5DTT		124	26	63	12	30,438	TDXS

SOSB10 HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5FK		327	27	86		105,768	TDXS

I hope everyone enjoyed the contests this month. .

Jim, N5DTT



USACA Award Status by Rick K5TIA

Reprinted from the MARAC ROADRUNNER NEWSLETTER November 2024 courtesy of Terry Long W4SIG and MARAC County Hunters

USACA AWARD STATUS !!!

By Kerry W4SIG

Well folks, it's here! After almost a year of hard work by your Board and other volunteers, **MARAC has adopted the USACA award that used to be hosted by CQ Magazine.**

This is a huge topic and the number one focus of the MARAC Board over the past year. As has been discussed extensively for 11 months, a void has been created with the demise of CQ Magazine. There currently is no organization sponsoring the USACA award. Brian, NX0X, the last USACA Award Custodian for CQ, has graciously continued to process any WBOW USACA Awards and offers to do so until he runs out of certificates for those who want to apply. No applications will be accepted for the lower endorsement levels.

This award is critical to bringing interest and new hams into county hunting. It is obvious to the MARAC Board that this void must be filled. After many months of planning and organizing, the Board feels now is the time for the move. We have communicated closely with both Brian, NX0X, and Don, K3IMC, our awards software creator. We have created our own updated MARAC version of the USACA Certificate, have cleared the process with Don, have written MARAC's version of the USACA Rules, and feel we are ready to officially proceed with adopting this award.

A special note of commendation should be mentioned to the entire MARAC Board for hundreds of hours planning for this move. Of special note is Ron, KF7ZN, Bill, K0DEQ, and Dave, KE3VV for creating the proposed official USACA rules. These have been reviewed by the Awards Committee with input being considered.

Thanks go to Paige, W0FLZ, for having the foresight to save a copy of the CQ Magazine award rules before they disappeared off the internet so that we could use them to craft our own version of the rules.

Also of special note is the creation of a county spreadsheet that was created by Barry, K2MF, to enable new county chasers to track and submit with their applications.

USACA Award Status by Rick K5TIA

Thanks go out to Christopher Lott of Christopher Lott Studios for creating a beautiful certificate which has editable fields that can be used by Phil, the MARAC Awards Secretary, when processing these awards.

It is critical that ALL MARAC members help spread the word. We have no national publication, like CQ Magazine, for advertising. The Board plans to issue notices to contest groups, create an advertisement flier that can be sent via email to every LC-1 recipient, and to write an article for QST Magazine, with the hopes that they will agree to publish it, along with the history of our 50+ year old ham radio club.

The award rules are very similar to those of CQ Magazine with the exception that **NO WRITTEN CONFIRMATIONS (Like QSL cards, MRCs, etc) will be required.** . While we were reluctant to break from this long-standing tradition, we realize that this one requirement has become the top roadblock for many hams to chase this award. Times when a QSL card in the mail was a given conclusion are long gone. It has gotten to a point where getting written confirmations was harder than working the county. No other MARAC award requires written confirmation, so this will also align the award with all the rest of our awards. A copy of the new MARAC USACA certificate and a complete set of the new rules will be added to the website and will be attached at the bottom of this issue. Applications for all award levels will be accepted starting November 1, 2024.

NOTE:

If you have been working hard for years to get all the counties worked AND confirmed, you can still apply to Brian, **NX0X**, for the CQ Certificate as long as he still has blank ones available for use. Note he is only accepting applications for the 3077 All County award level.



A Fence-mounted 12-Meter Delta Loop Antenna—by Ed W5GCX

In the city (Houston) I have the 3-element 3-band 'mini-quad' antenna that was used for YN2EJ(G) operation a few years back when K5LBU (sk) and I operated in Nicaragua for CQWW contests. That covers 20, 15 and 10 meters. Yes, TGMCOM in Ontario, Canada did sell a five-band version, but I never took that leap.

I also have a full-wave home brew vertical for 17 meters that was written up in RSGB **Radcom** magazine. With good propagation conditions, I have no antenna for 12 meters. Yes, I had been loading up my trap 160, 75, 40-meter dipole but that doesn't work very well as it's a non-resonant wire.

I found an old article in QST for low delta loop antenna (see reference below). This article describes the antenna and provides pictures and radiation information for feeding at different locations on the loop. I had previously put up a 40-meter delta loop at my Round Top station but this requires a 12 meter support for the center. Of course, to do this would require three support ropes and this would cover the whole back yard in Houston.

I thought that maybe I could mount this antenna on my wooden fence with one support for the top of the triangle. During my clean-up of the garage and junk pile, I discovered that I had left over from an unfinished project, some 1/2-inch diameter eight-foot bamboo poles. I thought that if I could connect two of them together with pipe clamps, I could make a support and get the top of the antenna up twelve to fourteen feet. I also needed to consider how to secure the pole to the wooden fence posts. A trip to Lowes and I found some copper clamps and small wood screws.

I also needed to secure the two ends of the horizontal section of the antenna to the fence. An online search at Tractor Supply and I located some electric fence wire insulators with 'wood' screws coming out the end.

I had left over porcelain egg insulators, dacron rope and a pulley with loop on top from past antenna projects. These are used to support the top of the antenna.

The article stated that the antenna impedance could be 2000-400 ohms. Of course mounting it close to the fence I would not know until its installed. In any case, I would need to bring the impedance down closer to 50 ohm. The radio's tuner would do the rest, if needed.

I had RG-11/U 75 ohm coax in the junk pile also from previous antenna projects. Belden data said that the velocity factor is 66 percent so, I calculated that the resonance for 24.950 MHz. would be about 6 feet. I cut a longer piece and put a connector on one end and got out the antenna analyzer and took a measurement leaving the other end open. I started trimming an inch at time and once I got close to 6'-1/4" the minimum



A Fence-mounted 12-Meter Delta Loop Antenna—by Ed W5GCX

impedance was at between 24.850 to 24.950 Mhz. So stop right there and put the other connector on the open end. My matching stub was complete !

I measured one third of the antenna length horizontally along the fence about 3 feet above the ground. Drilled two starting holes at each end and screwed in the two insulators.

Once I got the two poles secured as one pole and the pulley mounted to the top of one pole I got some assistance from Laurent, W0MM. We strung about 42 feet of wire through the top of the antenna and through the two insulators on the fence. We put the pole on the fence and secured it with the two clamps. Pulled up the top of the loop and connected the end to the center insulator. I temporarily connected the right diagonal side to the end of the center insulator and took a measurement with my antenna analyzer. Of course, the frequency was too low and the antenna was too long. After about four or five cuts of the wire, I got a dip at 24.950 MHz..... hooray!. I soldered the end to the center insulator. The analyzer indicated an impedance of about 140 ohms. I connected up the RG-11/U matching stub and it came down to around 40 ohms with an SWR of 1.3 or 1.4 to 1. I connected up my coax to the shack and it was still good.

Initial operation is that this low delta loop antenna works. Certainly not like a beam but better than nothing at all. See below for a picture of the loop mounted on the wooden fence. Note that the wire is enhanced as 'red' so you can see it.



A Fence-mounted 12-Meter Delta Loop Antenna—by Ed W5GCX



A Fence-mounted 12-Meter Delta Loop Antenna—by Ed W5GCX

Below is the material list with approximate costs.

Material List

- 42-feet of enameled copper (Cu) wire (Left over from my Gem Quad)- eBay, Mouser, etc.
- Center Insulator for dipole (or SO-239 connector)- for antenna feed point on end (probably from a hamfest, Belton, etc.)
- Ceramic egg Insulator for antenna top- from hamfest, etc.
- 40-feet of dacron rope- to pull up center of delta loop – HRO, etc.
- Small pulley- from hamfest, etc.
- 3 - Electric fence Insulators (Tractor Supply) – ends and horizontal support for the delta loop- \$3.99/ea.
- Center support (2 8 ft. bamboo poles, Michaels, many sources, check froogle.com)-(label shows \$0.99 each must be old)
- 2- Adjustable stainless steel hose clamps -(11/16-1-1/2" #16), Lowes- \$2.68 ea. (to clamp poles together)
- 3- 1/2" 1/2" Cu clamps with screws- to mount bamboo poles to fence-Lowes \$3.88
- Coax to shack (I had 50' RG-58/U from previous noise antenna used with Wimo Noise Eliminator -Dx Engr.)- Ace Elec. 42¢/ft.) - \$21
- ¼-Wave Matching Stub (6'-1/2" RG-11, Belden 9212 or 8261)- I had some of both in the junk box from previous antenna projects-(brings impedance down closer to 50 ohms)
- 2-PI-259 connectors for matching stub (from W5SWL.com, crimp type)
- You Kits FG-01 Antenna Analyzer (any one will do of course !)

References:

QST, October 1984, page 24.



Texas DX Society Board members

President	STILL OPEN!	
VP Membership	Gerald Muller	gmuller885@aol.com
VP Programs	STILL OPEN!	
Secretary	Doug Seyler, W9LCQ	djseyler at comcast.net
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Field Day Chairman	Allen Brier, N5XZ	n5xz at arrl.net
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at arrl.net
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DXCC/VUCC/WAS QSL Card Checker	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55@gmail.com
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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/>

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

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

Keith Huge - KA5F
 Tom Ashworth - N5EA
 Charles Brues - N5AM
 Robert McWhorter - K5PFE
 Chuck Dietz - W5PR
 John Davis - KN5T
 Bob Chmielewski - N5PJI
 Bruce Meier - N1LN
 Ed Gerber - W5GCX
 Don Mayhall - N5DM
 Don Daze - N5DD

Matt Thomas - WX5S
 Willis "Cookie" Cooke - K5EWJ
 Jim Burrough - N5DTT
 Leonard Cernuch - WD5CAY
 Jim Burroughs - N5DTT
 Mark Tyler - K5GQ
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