



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 2025

Hello fellow TDXSers!

The February TDXS Monthly meeting will be held on February 20 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Keith NM5G will discuss his current tower project.

We hope to see you then.

The ZOOM link information is available on the TDXS reflector.

Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

Another TDXS member passed away last month: Leslie Bartosh AD5WB. Please see some information on him starting on page 7. I knew Leslie mostly from talking on Robie's DX Opportunity Slacker channel. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts.

I would like to thank Carl K9LA, Tuna K2TNO and Robie AJ4F for their articles this month adding of course to regular input from Doug W9LCQ and Jim N5DTT. It really helps and makes the BS more interesting for all.

Slow progress on the antenna here. I replaced the suspected SteppIR control cable, terminated one end, now need to do the other end. I found that some of the colors of the wires were washed out due to exposure to the sun from the clear cover of my JB, so now need to sort out which wire is which, but as soon as I have better weather, that shouldn't take long. Also waiting for the better weather to replace the rotator.

As I write the ARRL DX CW is happening, wish I was there! All reports I see are that the bands are hopping! GL in the contest!!

See you on the bands soon!

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

Texas DX Society January 2025 Meeting Minutes

Date: January 25, 2025

Location: Jason’s Deli, 15275 Southwest Fwy, Sugar Land, TX

The January TDXS Meeting was held in person, at the Jason’s Deli in Sugar Land. There were 13 participants: Doug W9LCQ, Orville K5VWW, Dale KG5U, Robie AJ4F, Scott K5DD, Kim K5TU, Jim N5DTT, Ed W5GCX, Glenn WB5TUF, Laurent W0MM, Rick K5GZR, Nizar K0NM, and Paul WW5PA. This was primarily a social luncheon, with good food and lively conversation. We did, however, discuss 2 issues.

Agenda:

Texas QSO Party migration to Texas DX Society from current Administrators

Current TQP managers desire to transition the TQP administration to the Texas DX Society.

We have formed a small team to assess whether TDXS has the desire and expertise to take over the TQP.

Transfer of Trustee for the K5DX Club Station

Unanimously approved the transfer of the K5DX Club Station Trustee from Robie Elms AJ4F to Glenn Anderson WB5TUF.

Submitted February 5, 2025

Doug Seyler W9LCQ

TDXS Secretary/Treasurer



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

February

- 1 10-10 Winter Contest – SSB
- European Union DX Contest
- Vermont QSO Party
- Minnesota QSO Party
- British Columbia QSO Party
- 8 CQ WPX RTTY Contest
- 15 ARRL International DX Contest – CW
- 21 CQ 160-meter Contest – SSB
- 22 REF Contest – SSB
- South Carolina QSO Party
- North American QSO Party – RTTY
- North American Collegiate Championship (sub-contest to NAQP-RTTY)
- 23 North Carolina QSO Party

March

- 1 ARRL International DX Contest, SSB
- 8 Stew Perry Top Band Challenge
- Oklahoma QSO Party
- Idaho QSO Party
- 9 North America Sprint, RTTY
- Wisconsin QSO Party
- 15 Russian DX Contest
- 22 Africa All-mode International DX Contest
- 29 CQ Worldwide WPX Contest



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

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

North American QSO Party, CW 2025 January 11

Single Op LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
K5GN(@W5KU)		1441	291	10:00	419,331	TDXS
K5IZO		104	68	5.3	7,072	TDXS2
K5GQ		107	63	1:47	6,741	TDXS
V4/K5TU		91	55	2.5	5,005	TDXS
N5DTT		51	32	3	1,632	TDXS2
AJ4F		45	24	0.6	1,080	TDXS

North American QSO Party, SSB 2025 January 18

Single Op HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
K5TIA		44	23	3	1,012	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
N5DTT		41	31	3	1,271	TDXS

Single Op Assisted LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
NU5A(K5GN)		SO2R 285	93	2:40	26,505	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

ARRL January VHF Contest 2025 Jan 18

Single Op-All Modes HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR		61	30		1,830	TDXS
K5TIA		10	7	2	70	TDXS

Single Op-All Modes LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F		43	24		1,032	TDXS
WB5TUF		24	20		480	TDXS
N5EKO		22	13		286	TDXS
N5DTT		9	7	2.5	63	TDXS

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2025 Jan 24

Single Op HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TIA		182	44	14	6	27,202	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F		227	44	6	6.75	27,550	TDXS

Single Op Assisted HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GN(@W5K		612	55	30	11	156,145	TDXS

It was another busy month for contests. I hope everyone enjoyed them..

Jim, N5DTT



Remembering Dennis Motschenbacher K7BV By Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

My wife Vicky AE9YL and I were saddened to hear about Dennis K7BV becoming a Silent Key. We had visited with Dennis and his wife Lieksa at their home in Connecticut when he worked for the ARRL.

Dennis was the NCJ Editor when I took over writing one of the columns in NCJ. Dennis was great to work with and offered much advice that was helpful when I took over as NCJ Editor in 2002.

Vicky and I always stopped by to see Dennis and Lieksa at hamfests and conventions when he was with Yaesu.

Dennis was a good friend and I am better off having known him.



Former NCJ Editors K7BV, K9LA and K0TO at the Pacific Northwest DX Convention in Spokane in 2009



Leslie Bartosh AD5WB TDXS #188—SK

LEAGUE CITY, TX — Leslie Bartosh, beloved husband, father and friend, chef and educator, amateur ham radio operator, photographer and fishing enthusiast, passed away January 30, 2025, surrounded by family and loved ones.

He was preceded in death by his parents Marie and Allen Bartosh and nephew Michael Bartosh. He is survived by his wife Sandra Bartosh, daughter Eleanor Bartosh, beloved cat Blu, brother Michael Bartosh and family, and stepmother Doris Bartosh.

Leslie was born in Victoria, Texas, in 1954. As a child, he was a boy scout who loved to play baseball and fish, and his lifelong love of food began around 10 years old when he first started cooking. In early adulthood, he became an avid surfer and lover of the ocean while living in Hawaii. Later on, he lived in both Austin and Galveston, Texas, where he met his wife Sandra and later started a family. In 1996, he graduated Summa Cum Laude from Johnson & Wales University with an Associate of Applied Science in Culinary Arts.

Leslie was a lover of food, and loved taking care of people through food. He often said getting to play with food was his favorite job in the world, and enjoyed experimenting with many different types of foods and cuisines. Whether he was making “house made” bacon or sausage, turning fresh garden peppers into dried herb mixes, mining his extensive cookbook collection for new ideas, or making his favorite dishes for family dinner, he approached it all with curiosity, passion and creativity.



Leslie Bartosh AD5WB TDXS #188—SK

He was also a long time educator, mentor, and teacher who touched the lives of the many who went through his Culinary Arts classes and programs at Galveston Community College, Alvin Community College, and most recently Rice University among others. He loved sharing his knowledge of food and technique, while learning from others in turn.

His expertise and passion were recognized most recently in 2020 with his induction into the prestigious American Academy of Chefs, an honors society for the American Culinary Federation — a recognition that truly humbled him. Leslie was also a member of the Texas Chefs Association and a Conseiller Culinaire Provincial Honoraire with the Chaine Des Rotisseurs.

Outside of the kitchen, Leslie loved to “play radio”. He was known on the ham radio airwaves as AD5WB where he made contact with over 300 countries around the world. He particularly enjoyed the Museum Ships On The Air weekend, where he could broadcast from the 1877 Tall Ship Elissa at the Gal-

Leslie always said that, when he died, he wanted to have a party and for people to celebrate his life rather than being sad. Please join us in celebrating his life by cooking your favorite dish or going to your favorite restaurant with your loved ones tonight. As Dad would say, “Bon appetit, y’all!”

Our family sends a special thank you to everyone who has supported Leslie and our family with the utmost kindness and compassion throughout this time. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

“It’s been a good run.”

“Aloha”



My Remote Ham Radio Experiment—By Robie AJ4F

During late 2022 I was involved in several discussions about the difficulty of working DX from stations with constraints imposed by the typical suburban ham QTH i.e. modest antennas, low power, high receive noise levels and RFI generated when running high power. Several hams have reached the conclusion that nothing can be done to change the situation. One option was to use a commercial remote station, however none of the individuals I talked with had ever tried this approach. I decided to experiment with Remote Ham Radio.

What is Remote Ham Radio? RHR is a company that has 29 ham radio stations located in several countries. Most of the stations are in the Eastern United States. The stations are equipped for working DX. Many have towers with stacked beam antennas, high power amplifiers and receiving antennas for the low bands. The stations are designed to allow access via the internet and can be used for CW, SSB, RTTY, and almost all the digital modes i.e. FT8, FT4, etc. All these stations use FLEX radios. You can access them using only a web browser and operate any mode. When you operate on phone, your computer's microphone is used. When operating CW, you use your computer's keyboard to send macros very similar to what you do with N1MM+. You can also send CW by typing on the keyboard. Your computer's speaker/headphones provide audio from the station's receiver. RHR has a "built in" system for operating FT8/FT4. It is very similar to WSJT-X user interface. You have full control of the station's antennas and power levels. You have a log and all your QSOs are stored there including appropriate station location data i.e. State, County, CQ Zone, Grid, etc. These QSOs can be uploaded to LoTW directly or exported in an ADIF compliant file for importing into your master log.

What I described above is the simplest way to use RHR. More sophisticated methods are possible. You can download an RHR application to your computer and use it, stand alone, which is essentially the same as using the web browser. However, the RHR app allows interface to the full suite of FLEX radio control software and its associated features.

To use RHR you purchase a subscription and then pay for operating time (listening/transmitting). The operating time cost varies by station. You will be required to upload a copy of your license to obtain a subscription.

I purchased a one-year subscription and began operating to learn how to use the system. RHR provides videos to describe how to use various features. I found these videos to be useful. It took a few hours of operating to become proficient with CW, SSB and FT8.



My Remote Ham Radio Experiment—By Robie AJ4F

I experienced the FLEX Radio interface for the first time which added to my “learning curve”. I chose to use RHR only to chase relatively rare DX and spent a large portion of my on the air time listening. I was amazed at how well RHR works. I made approximately 70 QSOs, almost all with rare DX focusing on 6 and 160 m. A typical session went something like this. I’d check the DX Cluster to see what DX stations were on the air and then check DX Maps to see to which section of the country had the best propagation. I would then log on to the most appropriate RHR station and begin operating. Operating with good antennas and high power is truly a pleasure!

If you chase awards (DXCC, WAZ, VUCC, etc.) you need to understand their location requirements when using remote stations. For example, DXCC and WAZ require that all contacts be made from locations within the same entity (country). Contacts made using a remote station located in Maine will count for DXCC and WAZ. However, they will not count for VUCC. VUCC requires that all contacts be made from locations less than 200 Km (approximately 125 miles) apart.

A RHR subscription currently costs \$99/year. Operating time varies from \$0.19 to \$1.25 per minute depending upon which station you use. Charges are billed monthly. You are reminded of the per minute cost each time you log on to a station. This may seem expensive but consider the cost of the station with a rotating tower, stacked yagis on various bands, high quality transceiver and a legal limit amplifier!

The one drawback that I encountered is access to RHR stations. This is on a first come first served basis. Several times my desired station was already in use and was unavailable for extended lengths of time. This was common when a rare DX station was on the air. However, I always managed to find an alternate station to use or a time to access my chosen station. The exception to this availability is on the west coast where far fewer stations are in service than on the east coast.

I believe using RHR is a very effective way to work DX. If you want to add to your country totals it is worthy of consideration.



TxQP— Chili Challenge by Tuna K2TNO

Scott Straw, KB4KBS contacted me last summer to challenge me in the TxQP. I suggested we open up to make it a competition for a box of Wick Fowler 2-Alarm Chili. It didn't raise any enthusiasm, let alone nobody wanted to compete.

That had not deterred me. He'd already paid off with not ONE but TWO boxes of the chili mix. I decided to enshrine one of the boxes in a suitable presentation case. I noodled about whether to pick a category or not, and finally opted to bestow in on the all-mode-highest scorer. Months have gone by, and yet Jim Hall, AD4EB/m. is clearly going to be the winner ---eventually---. So, I have gone ahead and contacted Jim today to tell him and his XYL/driver Melody that I'm bestowing it on them.

Here is the photo..

I hope TDXS can find some members willing to take over admin of TxQP; the guys need a break after so many years!

Next year! -ed...

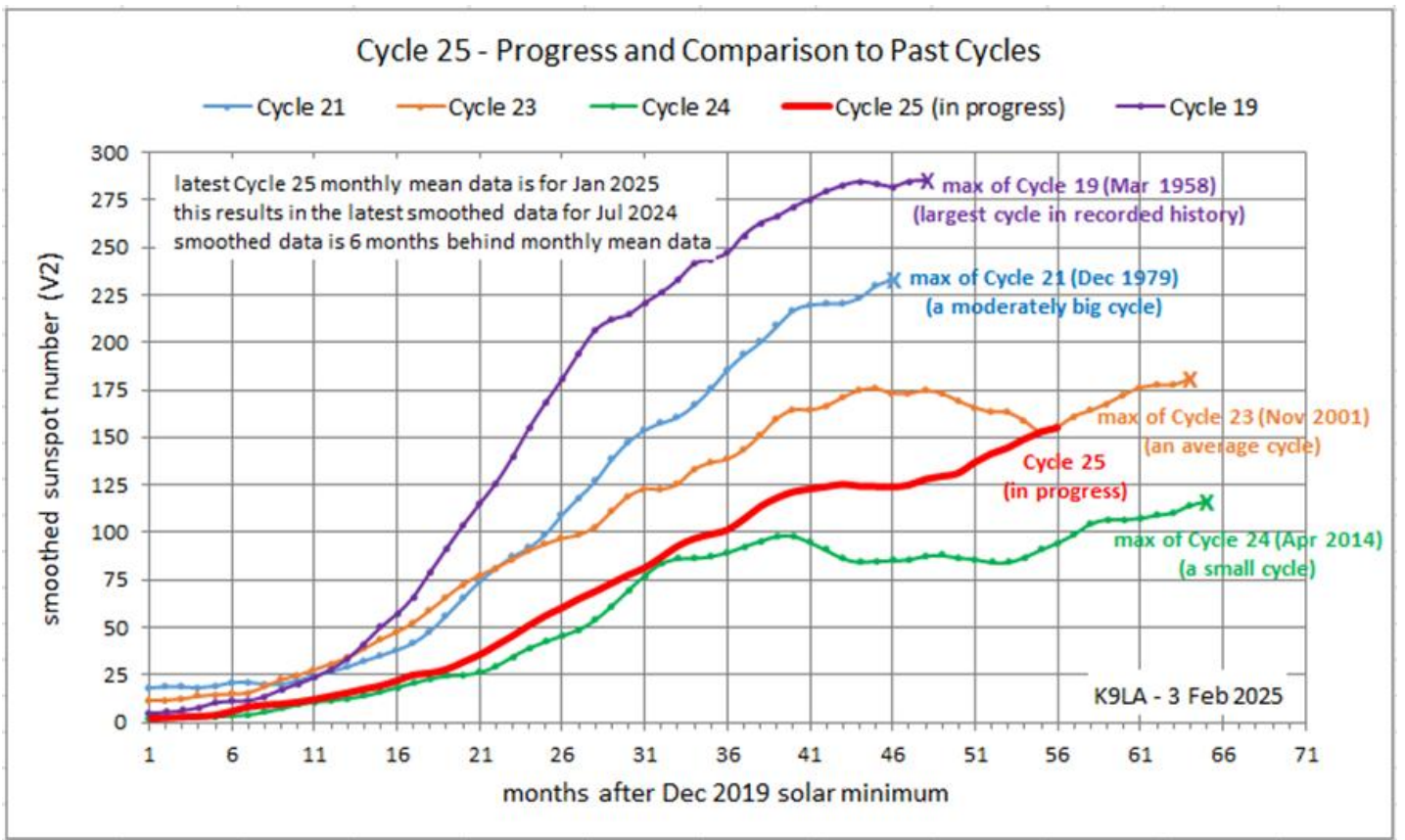


An Update on Solar Cycle 25—by Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

Solar minimum between Cycle 24 and Cycle 25 was December 2019, when the smoothed sunspot number reached its lowest value. We are now almost five and a half years past solar minimum, and the higher HF bands (15-meters, 12-meters and 10-meters) are providing many worldwide opportunities, even with modest power (100 Watts) and modest antennas (dipoles, verticals and small beams). 6-meters is also providing some propagation via the F₂ region.

The accompanying figure shows Cycle 25's progress (the thick red curve) through January 2025. Four other solar cycles are on the plot to show where Cycle 25 stands: Cycle 24 (green curve – smallest in our lifetimes and fourth smallest in recorded history), Cycle 23 (orange curve – an average cycle based on the previous twenty four solar cycles), Cycle 21 (blue curve – a moderately big solar cycle) and Cycle 19 (purple curve – the largest in recorded history with legendary 10-meter propagation).

Cycle 25 has surpassed the maximum of Cycle 24, and may get up to the level of Cycle 23. In my opinion, it is unlikely to get much higher – but we shall see. We are at solar maximum now, and should expect to be at solar maximum hopefully through 2026. I encourage you to get on the higher HF bands and 6-meters to enjoy the openings.



Future Texas DX Society Programs—by Robie AJ4F

We have good programs lined up for our club.

1. NM5G Keith will discuss his current tower project - 2/20/25
2. K9LA Carl will present Solid State Power Amplifiers - 4/17/25

The attached list shows other program ideas and several under development. Please review and provide feedback. I'm especially interested in having someone pick one of these topics and developing a program.

Future Texas DX Society Programs				
Name	Call	Program	Date	Status
Rick	K5GZR	LoTW/TQSL Using Multiple Station Locations	2025	Need to determine if there is sufficient interest in this topic to warrant a presentation
Bill	K9HZ	SDTs (Software Defined Transceivers - How they work and what you can build easily and cheaply	2025	
Bill	K9HZ	Antenna Modeling for Verticals	2025	
		DX Cluster setup and QSO Filtering	2025	Need to determine if there is sufficient interest in this topic to warrant a presentation
Carl	K9LA	Solid State RF Power Amplifiers	2025-04-17	K9LA@arrl.net
		ARRL Management - How can we change it?	2025	
		Texas QSO Party - 2025 and Beyond	2025	2nd Quarter
Bill	K9HZ	J68HZ Youth on The Air	2025	
Patrick Wiles		Eliminating Power Line Noise	2025	N5XZ to coordinate
Dave	K5GN	Making the Most of Field Day	2025	
Robie	AJ4F	Future of the Texas DX Society	2025	2nd Quarter
		Gull Wing Vertical Antennas	2025	
		3D Printing - Obsolete Parts	2025	
		Simple Receiving Antennas	2025	
		ClubLog - What is it and how to use it!	2025	
		ADIF - What it is and how to use it!	2025	
		ARRL Online Publications - How to use them.	2025	
		Digital Mobile Radio	2025	
		Keith NM5G - Tower project	2025-02-20	
Mark	K5GQ	Vband - Virtual CW Band	2025	

Robie AJ4F



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
Treasurer	Keith Dutson, NM5G	keith1 at dutson.net
Contest Chairman	Jim Burrough, N5DTT	jandpburrough at sbcglobal.net
Field Day Chairman	Allen Brier, N5XZ	n5xz at arrl.net
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at arrl.net
DX Chairman	STILL OPEN!	
Outgoing QSL Manager	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
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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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 February:

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

Dave Blaschke - W5UN
 James Clark - N5RO
 Bob Cooney - K1TU
 James Parnell - W5JAW
 Don Butler - N5LZ
 Ronald Amox - K5EJO
 Jim Boockholdt - N4AL
 Bob Perring - N5RP
 Fred Pevoto - K5FP
 Marty Kirkland - WA5TMN
 Mike Crownover - AD5A

Brian Bayani – KT3X

