



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net March 2015

March 12, Thursday 7:30 PM: TDXS & BVARC Joint Meeting Night

March 12, Thursday 7:30 PM: **TDXS & BVARC Joint Meeting Night** at the Eldridge Park Community Center, 2511 Eldridge Rd, Sugarland, TX 77478. Program by Nizar Mullani, K0NM on Remote Ham Radio. Don't miss this informative program! Visitors welcome. Pre-meeting dinner get-together location to be advised



Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

February was another great month for DXing and Contesting. The bands are still holding up fairly well. Not as good as last year, perhaps, but with 10 meters still working well and even some 6 meter openings, who can really complain (besides, who's gonna listen and what good would it do?)

The upcoming meeting is a joint meeting between TDXS and BVARC, to be held in Sugar Land (see above).

Don't miss it! Nizar has done some great things with remote operation and it promises to be very interesting.

Nizar will be teaming up with Pat KJ5Y and Matt K5NGU to put on a presentation at the 2015 Greater Houston Hamfest later this month also, so don't miss that either!

January and February have also been a couple of sad months as we have lost three long time members of the

club, Jim NN50, Arthur N5KTN and Frosty K5LBU. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

With that in mind, we are actively pursuing ways in increase membership. If you know of any one who has an active interest in DXing and/or Contesting, please ask them if they would like to become members of TDXS.

And if so, please nominate them! We need new blood, new ideas, new faces to keep our club strong and vibrant!

We also need more members to operate in contesting teams. That is something we want to promote this year.

We also want ALL members of TDXS who operate in contests to credit their scores to the club. And please report your scores to

www.3830scores.com as well as submitting to the contest organizer.

When you receive this, the

E30FB DXpedition in Eritrea is in full swing. Boy, I tell you, what a mess! I think the poor behavior of hams is getting worse every DXpedition! Today, I was calling him on 15CW, and an IZ station kept calling on his frequency.... for hours. I sent the guy an email asking him what as going through his head. According to the email I got back, it was not him, as he was operating at a multi-multi in the ARRL DX SSB contest. It was crazy, as every few minutes, someone else would sent UP UP UP, not knowing he was obviously there to stay! Finally he stopped and after about 3 hours of calling, I worked the E30. Well, that's what you have to do to work the DX. That's why they call True Blue DXers "The Deserving" (See page 9). DX is!

For now,
73, Allen N5XZ

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The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

March 2015 Prez Sez.

The Texas DX Society has a good Board of Directors. We had a meeting Saturday, March 7th, of the BOD. It was a very good and productive meeting. I am very proud of the way our board members work together to make decisions. Frankly, I believe it is because all of the members have a great love for our unique ham radio group. It is not like the typical ham radio clubs. I also see this board showing great respect for those that formed such a special group by trying to maintain that uniqueness as much as possible. Remember however, that the times are causing significant changes that are greatly affecting that uniqueness.

As for our meeting, there were many subjects discussed. All board members always give their reports for the chair that they hold. And that typically generates discussions. All in all I would say that TDXS is alive and well within our board of directors.

This is a good time to mention that as members of TDXS, if you have any concerns or want to know what is going on within our group, please talk to your board of directors. Tell them of your concerns. That way we will be able to address member's concerns. Several subjects are usually discussed before each BOD meeting. And then they are introduced at the BOD meetings to be addressed.

A current list of your Board of Directors is posted on the TDXS.net website (also TDXS.org). You can also find that list at the end of every monthly Bull Sheet. If you are reading this then you are reading the Bull Sheet. Go to the last page and find the list of BOD.

Next, to take a more active part in TDXS, talk to them and learn what they do. Then if you would like, in October make it known that you want to run for some office or chair. We need more volunteering for the BOD positions.

Back to our meeting last Saturday. One subject was that two people have applied for membership into TDXS. We handled them, as they are addressed to be handled, in the TDXS Constitution and the process is well on its way now. Members of TDXS will soon be getting an email asking for your vote.

I would like to emphasize that you have three ways to vote. The three ways to vote are: Yes, No and abstain. If you really know you don't want to approve someone and have what you feel are good reasons, then vote no. If you feel the applicant is a good candidate for TDXS membership, then vote yes. However, if you do not know them, have no idea about them or do not have information to make a good decision, then please abstain. That makes more sense than voting no because you don't know them, etc. One of these three votes should be sent back to the TDXS Secretary, Doug Seyler.

On that same note, as to getting to know the applicants. Personally I strongly feel that it is the member's responsibility to notice visitors and possible new members. To make it a point to talk with them and find out what you may need to know about them in order to cast your vote.

When new people show up, or even someone that may have visited other times and is coming back again, remember that we see one person where they see a bunch of people that they may or may not know. And for them to remember who all that they have talked to is not really practical. Especially with the meetings a month apart, if not more.

Again, we see one person and we know if we talked to them or not. So it is our responsibility to make sure we learn about them, not theirs.

We NEED more members or our club will gradually disappear. None of us want that to happen. All of us need to think about this and try to encourage as many as we can to visit our meetings. Especially the pre-meeting dinners at Papa's BBQ.

And the actual Dinner Meetings, that occur most every ODD month. That makes

it easier to remember. The dinner meetings are not the norm or at Tracy Gee. So they are odd. Hence, dinner meetings are the odd months.

Again, let's take ownership of our "unique ham radio group" and bring as many candidates for members into it that we can. And those attending the meetings every so often, that are not full members, try to make four meetings a year.

Speaking of that, the 2014 attendance records have been lost. And our current secretary, Doug Seyler has done all he can with the records that were passed on to him, to reconstruct the monthly attendance. The importance of this is so that members can be verified as having attended at least four in "any year's time". By the way, that year is rolling and can be May to April, or September to August or January to December.

Doug sent a copy of the 2014 attendance to the TDXS Forum group. Please find that list and check your attendance. Then contact Doug at djseyler@comcast.net and let him know of your attendance in 2014. If it is correct or needs to be updated.

He can supply you with that list of your attendance for 2014 if you need it. Next, to help you remember the months you did attend, it is suggested that you go to the Bull Sheets for each month of 2014 and see what the program was and if we had a dinner meeting or was at Tracy Gee. That might tickle your memory some and help you remember easier.

Thank you for reading the Bull Sheet this month. Remember that the March 12th meeting is the annual joint meeting with BVARC and it is at their new facility. Please go to either TDXS.org or the BVARC website to get more information on the meeting and where many will be meeting for the pre-meeting dinner.

Have a good month.
Bob Hardie W5UQ
President of TDXS 2015



Contest Report by Willis "Cookie" Cookie K5EWJ

From the Contest Chair-

man: February is one of the better contest months for the most part, but I could not do much except work on antennas. I have been installing Hy-Gain 680 vertical, but with all the bad weather of winter it is slow going. Trying to get all 9 bands all tuned at one time is a challenge.

A few members have been doing well on the contest circuit and have submitted scores on the reflector. If you put a contest report on the TDXS reflector, I will try to pick it up and report it.

A new contester reported this month that we have not seen in a while. Kim, K5TU reported that he used 50W and his attic dipole to knock 'em dead in the North American RTTY QSO Party. Kim managed to integrate N1MM and MMTTY. He made 93 Qs for a score of 4,650.

N5EA, Tom Ashworth made a nice effort in the ARRL CW DX contest with 421 Qs in 231 band Countries for 291,753. Allen Brier, N5XZ did even better with 933 Qs in 360 band Countries for 1,007,640 Score. His K3/P3 combination and 4 element SteppIR at 75 feet did a fine job for Allen and his ETO Alpha 78 amplifier helped him to do well in SO Unlimited HP.

Allen tells us: Another great contest! Call me Mr. Part Time Contester...I was only able to put in 12 hours or so, but I feel I did alright. Band conditions were great, had some great runs, only problem was pesky line noise! Well, some problems never stay away for long! (Sigh).

Well, I had two goals for this contest: 1. Work 100 countries on at least one

band (did it on two bands) and 2. Make a million points.

Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF tried a new band for him, 160 meters in the CQ WW 160 Meter CW Contest. In the SO, Assisted, LP class Glenn made 125 Qs in 48 States/ Provinces and 9 countries. I feel another WAS and DXCC are started. Glenn writes: "This was my first time ever on 160. Had a lot of fun. My station: Elecraft K3/100 Writelog and an 40/80/160 meter trap inverted vee at 50 feet. One more thing off the ham radio bucket list!" Sorry Glenn, 160 meters is not a one time kind of thing. It is like potato chips, once you have tried it, it is something on your list for a long while.

In the CQ WW WPX RTTY contest, Allen N5XZ made 1384 QSO's with 664 prefixes for a total score of 2,347,240. According to Allen, it is his highest score ever in a contest

In the same contest, Glenn WB5TUF made 787 QSO's with 511 prefixes for a score of 1,056,748

In the North American QSO Party, RTTY Glenn, Allen and NK5G (operating as K5DX remotely) teamed up to make 241,098 points for TDXS with following breakdown (QSO's/Mults/Score):

WB5TUF: 611 / 176 / 107,536

N5XZ: 558 / 139 / 92,852

K5DX (NK5G): 354 / 115 / 40,710

There was some talk at the BOD meet-

ing Saturday of trying to get some contesting teams together to make some major assaults on various contests. If there is any serious effort by anyone, let me know what is going on and I will try to help. I don't know how many serious contest stations there are in the area, but I know of several that can do modestly well. We certainly need to spice up our operating to generate some interest in the club. We have not had any new members in two years. If you have any great ideas your Board of Directors would love to hear them.



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

This past month has been very active with the K1N, Navassa operation, totaling over 140,000 QSO's, with 4,245 of those being new DXCC contacts, and 81,798 were with North American stations.

PW0F, Fernando de Noronha, by OH2BH, Martti, and OH2MM, Ville, totaled 11,389 QSO's while ZD8D, Ascension Island, by 3 German ops totaled 9,754 QSO's. Guantanamo Bay, KG4, is still active with 4 operators which have worked over 26,500 QSO's to date.

This month looks to be active with a DXpedition to Eritrea, E3, by Zorro, JH1AIT, and a 9 member team. Their scheduled dates of operation will be March 6th through 17th. Further information on the 9QØHQ operation mentioned last month and scheduled for March 10th through 25th, may be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/mj927ha>

There will be an operation from the Andaman Islands, VU4, which will be active from March 6th through 18th. This will be in conjunction with the Indian National Institute of Amateur Radio HamTech. Information is at: <http://tinyurl.com/nsn48t3>

Future exciting DXpeditions planned for the Southern Ocean for late 2015/early 2016 are:

Operation from Bouvet, 3YØF, from December 22nd through January 15th.

Operation from South Georgia and South Sandwich in January and February, 2016. Further information may be found at:

<http://www.intrepid-dx.com/vp8>

Some of the band activity reported in the Houston area in the past few weeks was:

5Z4/DF3FS – Kenya – 10M CW

FP/KV1J and FP/W2IRT – St. Pierre et Miquelon – 10M SSB, 30M CW

3GØGC – San Fernandez – 6M CW (Heard by K5RK and others.)

3GØGC – San Fernandez – Many bands, all modes

K1N – Navassa Isl. – Many bands, all modes.

ZD8D – Ascension Isl. - Many bands, all modes.

Propagation by Mike Davidson N5MT

Propagation: Over the past year, average propagation was about the same as during the first peak of the cycle in November 2011 when the monthly average flux reached 153.5. The maximum flux was 193.5 in February 2014 and 181.4 in November 2014. The highest this year 2015, was a 172 on January 29th. The solar flux has been higher than expected due to more solar flares occurring on the sun surface over the past two years! I expect the solar flux to range from 120-160 this next quarter, which is down from the past three months. Since we have been hearing Europe this winter on a regular basis, this has helped increase our contest scores above last year! With the change of season in March, the Europeans will fade and our spring propagation will change as the earth begins to move and more sunshine hits North America.

On March 1st the solar flux was 127, the A index was 28 and K index x2.

In the next four months, look for the best conditions: March 7-10th, April 3-5th, May 1-4th and June 23-26th. Conditions for the 2015 Field Day look great for a flux of 140-150 for the June 27-28th contest which will be about the same as last year. Over the next three months, for USA stations, expect a 10-15% chance of DX in the mornings to Europe or Africa and the same chance into Asia, South America or the Pacific in the late afternoon. The western USA probably will not hear Europe until next fall. To see what DX paths are open, listen for the beacons from 28.175-28.300 (especially 28.200).

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS February 2015 Meeting Minutes

Secretary's comments: *I decided to take a Citizens Police Academy class at the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office to learn more about county law enforcement. Unfortunately, it meets on Thursday evenings from February 12 – April 23. Accordingly, I missed the February meeting and will miss the March and April meetings as well. Steve Smothers W9DX has graciously stepped in to help in my absence. These are his meeting notes. **Thanks Steve!***

Date: February 12, 2015

Location: Tracy Gee Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: TDXS Members: W9DX, K5VWW, W5PF, NM5G, N5DD, K5HM, K5DD, K5EWJ, WD5X, WB5TUF

Ham Visitors: Robie Elms – AJ4F, Mike Craft – KF5TIM, John Stratton – N5AUS (presenter), George Cortez – NE2I, Theresa Williams – KE5MUX

- Lance Rumfield, WD5X - Vice President - Programs, presided:

Ron K5HM announced details of the upcoming Greater Houston Hamfest on March 28th at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, in Rosenberg, Texas. The 2016 venue will be closer to central Houston.

The TDXS March meeting will be a joint meeting with BVARC at the Eldridge Park Community Center, in Sugarland, Texas. The program speaker will be Nizar Mullani K0NM speaking on Remote Ham Radio. Pre-meeting dinner arrangements are yet to be announced.

A moment of silence was observed as we remembered K5LBU and N5KTN in our thoughts and prayers.

Our guest speaker, John Stratton N5AUS, ARRL West Gulf Division, Vice Director was introduced. John gave us an update of all the legislative efforts being made by the League on behalf of members in Texas and Washington D.C. He also detailed the current battle over proposed DXCC rule changes regarding RHR (Remote Ham Radio).

DXCC: The League has NOT finalized its position with regard to RHR and DXCC credits. The 30 member board is discussing the main issues:

1. Is "Pay-to-Play" ethical? (Users of remote stations asked to pay up to \$0.49/minute).
2. Current use of remote stations require all to be land based.
3. Rules do not adequately cover ethics, which are currently up to the users.
4. ARRL has NOT endorsed RHR for DXCC purposes
5. Topic will receive more discussion at the July board of directors meeting.
6. DXCC VHF/UHF rules now allow self-spotting (including cellphones).

The League is currently losing money administering the DXCC program and LoTW. It cost the League about a million dollars to implement LoTW, and they are currently losing \$235,000/year to

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

keep it running. The programming code is currently being re-written by 3 programmers (adding more cost) and should be complete within the next 2 years. How long can the loses be justified if costs keep increasing and DXCC becoming ever increasingly easier to obtain? Should the League membership as a whole subsidize these costs, or should DXCC participants be asked to cover this expense? Each time the League has increased the price of annual dues, they have lost significant membership, and general dues income has declined. The price of dues has NOT kept up with inflation since the last increase in 2001 (to \$39/year). Any possible dues increase will need detailed explanations, and justification before members will accept the cost. The vast majority of members reject the idea of a dues increase. Expect significantly higher DXCC fees.

John was asked about the very limited ability for ARRL DXCC field card checkers to check 160m cards if they themselves did not have DXCC on 160m. The League recognizes this handicap, and is discussing 2 proposals to broaden the card checker base. He would not elaborate on the details of those proposals, but said that the Board would be discussing this at the July Board Meeting.

Restrictive Covenants & HOA's:

They are working on Texas HB939 which bans HOA's from prohibiting stand-by generators. Home Owner's Associations often ban stand-by generators over noise issues. Most HOA's are not interested in improving anything. They just want NO CHANGE. John detailed the many bills in Austin that they have been successful in defeating or amending that would have negatively impacted amateur radio. The Texas House and Senate have once again re-introduced bills to ban texting while driving, and amateur radio is now specifically excluded.

John explained the importance of calling legislators to express your views and concerns. The last thing they want is for the switchboards to be shut-down and the entire capital phone network to be paralyzed by so many callers. It does get their attention, and they are more willing to work with us, and allow concessions. It is better to approach the challenges incrementally rather than try to change too many major things at once.

Although the Amateur Radio Parity Act (Federal House Resolution 4969) was not considered by the full House in 2014 the effort continues to re-introduce this bill, gain more sponsors, and seek passage.

One major concern in Texas is the efforts by the Texas Ag Pilots Association (crop dusters) to require ALL towers over 50 feet in height to be in compliance with painting and lighting requirements. This includes installation of large orange marker balls at the top of the tower and at specified intervals on the guy wires (never mind the wind load and weight problems). Part of this problem is caused by the rapid deployment and erection of wind turbine towers that can reach heights of 200 ft with only 12 hours construction time. Twelve states have already enacted legislation requiring compliance in agricultural areas. The Texas Ag Pilots Association wants ALL towers, including amateur radio towers, to be in compliance regardless of location (urban or rural).

Glenn Anderson WB5TUF donated a Baofeng UV-92 dual band handie-talkie as a door prize, and it was won by visitor Mike Craft KF5TIM (guest of Don N5DD). Thanks Glenn!

The meeting was adjourned by Lance WD5X at 8:45PM.

Submitted March 6, 2015

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



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

Where is the World is . . .

South Georgia (VP8G), IOTA AN-007

South Sandwich (VP8S) Islands, IOTA AN-009

CQ Zone 13



Wow, do I really want to visit here? South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands are a British overseas territory in the southern Atlantic Ocean. It is a remote and inhospitable collection of islands, consisting of South Georgia and a chain of smaller islands known as the South Sandwich Islands. There is no native population; the present inhabitants are the British Government Officer, Deputy Postmaster, scientists, and support staff from the British Antarctic Survey who maintain scientific bases, as well as museum staff at nearby Grytviken. Can you imagine being the Deputy Postmaster in this place? You must have really messed up to get here. Maybe he approved printing a stamp that showed the Queen's bad side?

Captain James Cook made the first landing and claimed the territory for Great Britain. He named it in honor of King George III. Throughout the 19th century, South Georgia was a sealers' and whalers' base until whaling ended in the 1960s.

Captain Cook discovered the southern eight islands of the Sandwich Islands Group in 1775. The islands were tentatively named "Sandwich Land" by Cook in honor of John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich, First Lord of the Admiralty. A little sucking up there, since Cook was a mere Captain in the Royal Navy. The word "South" was later added to distinguish them from the "Sandwich Islands", now known as the Hawaiian Islands.



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

The United Kingdom claimed sovereignty over South Georgia in 1775 and the South Sandwich Islands in 1908.. Argentina claimed South Georgia in 1927 and claimed the South Sandwich Islands in 1938. The Argentine claim over South Georgia contributed to the 1982 Falklands War, during which Argentine forces briefly occupied the island.

The climate is classified as polar, and the weather is highly variable and harsh. Typical daily maximum temperatures in South Georgia at sea level are around 32 °F in winter and 46 °F in summer. Precipitation in South Georgia, much of which falls as sleet or snow, is possible in any month.

The South Sandwich islands are uninhabited. And why not? From Jennifer Holland of National Geographic: “ Pack ice holds the islands in a vise grip most of the year.

You can hear the roar from crowded bird colonies and smell the reek of their guts and waste coating rock and ice. Exploding waves beat surfing penguins bloody against the cliffs and block ships from shore.”

What a great place to operate from but don't take my word for it. Check out the video from VP8SSI in 1992.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5B2oo9-Sjw>

A new DXpedition from the Intrepid DX Group is organizing for an Antarctic summer visit to this desolate place late in 2015 or early January-February.2016. I'll be listening on 20. .

Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron, K5HM



DX Maybe

Last week one of the Local QRPers was up the hill to try some questions on us. This one was upset not because of countries worked, or of countries missed, but of deeper things. "When will I be considered a True Blue DXer? I've been licensed for almost a dozen years now, and I've worked a lot of DX. And still, I don't feel I get the respect of the Big Guns. Those guys who've been around for two or three cycles . . . and one is even on his fourth cycle. They don't pay much attention to my ideas or even listen to some suggestions I have. How long will it be before I become a Big Gun DXer?"

This was not the first time we'd heard this question, and it probably wouldn't be the last. We tried the usual answer: "You don't measure a DXer's prowess in years", we said, looking him straight in the eye. "Your measure of DX stature is a measure of your understanding of the Mysteries of the Ages and being able to grasp the meaning of the Eternal Enigmas of DXing. And most of all, accepting that DX IS!"

"I've heard all that a dozen times!" he spouted, looking back at us and glaring with his beady little eyes. "That's how you always answer my questions. With this philosophical stuff that no one understands. Never mind Eternal Enigmas or that sort of double talk. Why can't you give me some concrete answers to a simple question? When will I be considered a True Blue DXer?"

We thought about this for a moment. How does one explain such things to one who is not ready to understand? We took a deep breath and gave it a shot. "To become a True Blue DXer, you have to believe. You have to believe that DXers are smarter, taller, better looking and generally a cut above the average amateur. You have to believe that the Mysteries of the Ages and the Eternal Enigmas of DXing are what they appear, and not question them. Once you are a believer, you will become one of the Deserving, and only the Deserving are True Blue DXers. Surely you can understand this. Just be a believer!"

The QRPer didn't understand. He stared at us for a moment and then asked with a puzzled look on his face: "Believe what? I don't even know what any of those things are. How can I believe something when I don't even know what it is? What is an Eternal Enigma? I need examples!"

It was clear that the QRPer wasn't going to accept our explanation, so we decided to give him the details he wanted. "Do you know what long path is? And do you know what short path is?" we asked. "Of course I do!" the QRPer retorted. "That's one of the first things you learn when you get a directional antenna." We looked him squarely in the eye and said, "Remember when Romeo activated Burma? Back in 1991? Did you work him long path or short path?" The QRPer looked at us with a confused face and then answered, "How should I know? That was ten years ago. What difference does it make? I have two XYORR QSLs, and the DXCC desk counted them. So what difference does it make if I worked him long path or short path?"

We looked at him with a satisfied smile. "The Big Guns you say do not give you much credibility; they worked him too. We all did. We worked him beaming 270 degrees. And we believed he was there. So did the DXCC desk. The difference is we remembered the beam heading. But we didn't question it because we were believers."

"How could he be in Burma if you worked him beaming 270?" the QRPer asked? We just smiled and replied, "Because he was. We are believers. The unusual path was one of the Eternal Enigmas of DXing."

The QRPer scratched his head and looked at us with even more confusion than before. "Look" he said, "all I asked was when will I become a True Blue DXer and you are telling me I have to remember and believe a beam heading that was ten years ago, and that it was 90 degrees off of where it should have been. What does that have to do with gaining the respect of the Big Guns?"

It was obvious we'd missed our pitch, so we tried a different angle. "If you called directional CQ DX for a rare one, something that you really needed, say a P5, and you got an answer, would you believe it was the real thing. Let's say you called for a half an hour and finally a P5AAA responded with a '5NN QSL VIA BOX 2653 PYONGYANG' when you let off the keyer. Would you believe you had nailed a real P5?"

(continued)

.....

"Of course not! No True Blue DXer calls CQ anyhow. And if I did, I sure wouldn't send off for a card to some Slim like that! What has this got to do with my question?"

We continued on. "But suppose that you did send for the card, and you really did get one back. And assume even further that you sent it in to the ARRL and they counted it. Would you then believe you had worked a P5?"

The QRPer looked at us for a moment, deep in thought. "Well, if all that happened, I guess I would believe it. If the league said it was a good one, then who would I be to question it. But that never would happen, would it?" He thought for a moment longer and then said, "But maybe it could happen", he said slowly, answering his own question. "So what you are telling me is that as long as I believe the DX is real, then I will become a True Blue DXer and the Big Guns will respect me. That the true meaning of DX IS! is believing everything I work on the bands is legitimate?"

We decided this was a lost cause, so we simply said, "Something like that, although not quite so simplistic. Maybe you need to work on it for a little longer."

The QRPer started down the hill and then turned and said, "No, I don't think I do. I am starting to understand. All I needed was a couple of examples. I was making the assumption that DX IS! only when there is ironclad proof. The answer is quite simple when I think about it. Simply put, it can be expressed mathematically as $DX \text{ MAYBE!} + \text{BELIEVING} = DX \text{ IS!}$ And once you understand DX IS!, you are a True Blue DXer!" His face brightened, and he picked up the pace toward the village.

We watched him go and slowly shook our head. Enlightenment comes to some quicker than others, and even Albert never figured it all out. This particular QRPer had potential, but today he was beaming into solid rock! Son of a Gun! What he didn't understand was the enlightenment would come only when he would stop worrying about whether or not other DXers appreciated his sterling qualities.

DX IS! Believe this without the MAYBE and you will become one of the Deserving. When that day comes, you'll know it. All the Deserving remember their day of DX enlightenment. And only the Deserving will work the DX. Even if it is a single P5AAA QSO from Pyongyang. Listen to the advice of Lord Baden-Powell and be prepared, for North Korea is coming. The question is when!



Cambridge Consultants ready Digital Radio



Does not need analogue

Boffins working for Cambridge Consultants have successfully completed trials of the world's first fully digital radio transmitter.

Basically it is a radio built purely from computing power and not a mixture of analogue and digital components. This means that it can use the spectrum intelligently

If it takes off it could really change things a bit like the first single-chip Bluetooth radio, which led to the spinout of the global short-range wireless and audiovisual giant CSR.

Codenamed Pizzicato the technology will unlock the potential of the IoT because it opens the door to a new dynamic way in which the predicted 100 billion IoT devices can operate together in a crowded radio spectrum. And it will enable the creation of 5G systems, with multiple radios and antennas.

The Pizzicato digital radio transmitter consists of an integrated circuit outputting a single stream of bits, and an antenna – with no conventional radio parts or digital-to-analogue converter. Patented algorithms perform the necessary ultra-fast computations in real time, making it possible for standard digital technology to generate high-frequency radio signals directly.

A Pizzicato-like digital radio can follow Moore's Law to smaller size and lower power consumption.

It can be programmed to generate almost any combination of signals at any carrier frequencies, nimbly adapting its behavior in a way that is impossible in conventional radios. It is early days for this technology but we believe radio design has reached a turning point

<http://www.fudzilla.com/news/37201-cambridge-consultants-ready-digital-radio>

In Memory of...



In memory of our friend,
Charles Fredrick Frost ("Frosty") K5LBU
February 14, 1941 - February 14, 2015

Obituary:

Charles Fredrick Frost, 74, passed away Saturday, February 14, 2015 in Missouri City. He was born February 14, 1941 in Beeville to Harold L. and Margaret E. Wright Frost. Charles retired from teaching school. He was an avid Ham Radio Operator and owner of Expert Amps USA.

Survivors include his daughters, Elizabeth White and Rachael Larkins and husband Chris and 3 grandsons, Charles White, David Larkins and Michael Larkins. He was preceded in death by his parents and wife Margaret Jeanne Frost.

Tributes and words of condolence may be left for the family at www.davisgreenlawnfh.com.



In memory of our friend,
John "Arthur" Alvarez N5KTN
December 31, 1937 - January 29, 2015



2015 Greater Houston Hamfest



14th Annual **GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST** **Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club**



Hosting the
ARRL Texas State Convention

Expanded Hours!

Saturday, March 28, 2015 - 8 am – 3:30 pm

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4200 Highway 36, Rosenberg, Texas

<http://www.houstonhamfest.org> for detailed information.

On-line seller Table selection

Early Registration \$8. \$10 at the door.

- *Raffle -- valuable prizes to be won*
- *CW Pile Up Contest – How well can you copy code in a pileup?*
- *Equipment test station – spot check equipment before you buy*
- *Tailgate area - 7AM early seller/buyer access*
- *Special seller parking for easy unloading and table access*
- *Talk-in 146.94(-) PL 167.0*

Keynote Speaker: Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs. “Logbook of the World”

Featured Speaker: Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT, Nobel Laureate and originator of many programs for amateur digital modes, including WSPR and WSJT for both UHF/VHF and HF Communication.

Other Programs:

- Training seminars
- Information lectures
- APRS operation
- Satellite operation
- DXCC checking
- Hands-On Demos
- Special Event HF Station, KK5W

RAFFLE: Tickets \$1 each, 7 for \$5

GRAND PRIZE

FT-991 ALL-BAND, MULTIMODE PORTABLE TRANSCEIVER

All mode, all band MF/HF/VHF/UHF transceiver with C4FM (System Fusion) Digital capability



Provided by BVARC and Houston Amateur Radio Supply

2nd PRIZE

MFJ-225, 1.8 – 170 MHz Graphic Analyzer



Provided by BVARC and River Oaks Car Stereo

Other Prizes TBD – Check website for updated list

For detailed info, pre-registration and table selection, please go to: www.houstonhamfest.org
Door prizes drawn every 10-20 minutes.

Admissions: Pre-paid Tickets until March 14, 2015 - \$8; includes 2 raffle tickets and special VIP express entry.

At-Door: \$10 – Includes 1 raffle ticket. Scouts in uniform & Children under 14 Free! Tailgate \$5 per vehicle. No individual admission required to tailgate area.

Tables: All tables - \$15 (choose tables on-line in advance). Those with 5 or more tables receive 2 free admissions.

Electricity available to pre-registrants (\$5 total). On-site registration – electricity as available. Set-up available:

Friday 3-7 PM, Saturday 6-8 AM

Contact Michael Wrenn, K5WRN: SALES@houstonhamfest.org or cell: 440.973.6676

The GHH reserves the right to make changes to this information

Texas DX Society Board members

President	Bob Hardie, W5UQ	w5uq at att.net
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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.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

TDXS says "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to these members with birthdays in March

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Al Bayer - WB5CFI
 David Bean - W5ZQR
 Bob Walworth - N5ET
 Ed Seeger - K5EBS
 Bill Frink - K5WAF
 John Godwin - K5IUA
 Buzz Jehle - N5UR
 Ken Grabenstein - KZ5KG
 Ed Sikorski - AA8PA
 John Bonica - K5EC
 Dave McCarty - K5GN