



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 2017

Monthly Meeting February 9, 7pm at

the [Tracy Gee](#) Center

Program: Rick Hiller W5RH describes "Antenna Things I Learned Last Summer"

Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

Sorry this newsletter is so late this month. I have had other things taking up my time. Anyhow, that's my excuse, and I'm sticking to it. I'm not going to be able to do a full article, either. However, I urge you to read Doug's column with regard to HR555. I agree with Doug that it is a bad bill. I don't know what has gotten into the ARRL lately, but they have been doing such a bad job with such bills and recommendations to

the FCC, that many hams I know are threatening to cancel their ARRL memberships. I might consider it as well if I didn't have a Life Membership. Between RM 11708 and this, I just don't know what's gotten into their heads, other than I think they think the future of ham radio is weak signal digital only, like PSK31/64, WSPR, JT65, etc. and they are abandoning the rest of us old timers who like DXing and Contesting. It

won't be long until they discontinue over the air contests altogether! I just have to shake my head at times. There seems to be no representation of the common ham, either. What happens in Newington is all behind closed doors, with no consideration for the rest of us. It's a shame I and others think this because they also do a lot of good for amateur radio. I just don't know...

73 Allen N5XZ

Inside this issue:

The Prez Sez by Robie Elms, AJ4F	2
TDXS December 2016 Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI	4
DX Chairman's Report by Orville Burg K5VWW	5
Contest Report by Glenn Anderson WB5TUF	6
TDXS BoD Meeting Report by Doug Seyler WB5TKI	7
Where in the World is... by Ron Litt K5HM	8
TDXS Board Members	9
TDXS Birthdays	9

The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

February 2017

The annual banquet was a real success this year! We had over 30 attendees, the food was great and everyone had a good time. I particularly enjoy these dinner meetings because we get a chance to interact with each other in a very relaxed way. For example, I hand delivered the QSL card for my first maritime mobile contact of 2017 and Ebla Hardie was the recipient (HP/KG5HIE/MM). We worked while she was aboard the Carnival Breeze in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Board of Directors meeting (1/28/17) was well attended and I feel we got a lot accomplished. BOD meetings are open to all members. We will have a summary of the discussion at our February meeting (Thursday February 9th). We plan to put a full year calendar of all TDXS events on our website. This calendar will be updated regularly to keep everyone informed of upcoming activities.

The Greater Houston Hamfest will be March 24th & 25th. We want to have an increase TDXS presence this year. This is the same weekend as the CQ WPX SSB contest and a remote contest station is being planned (by Curt Fletcher WG5H and others). This activity will be a joint activity with BVARC and I would like to see good support from TDXS members. This will be good time to get some younger hams interested in contesting and the remote ham radio technology should be a draw for the younger set.

I look forward to this time of the year largely because of the contest opportunities it provides for me. The upcoming ARRL DX contests provide me with an opportunity to increase my country totals. It is a bit easier for me because the DX is focused on US stations. No doubt others have their favorite contests but the ARRL CW & SSB DX contests are two of my favorites.

Good antennas are key to success in contesting and DXing and as many of you are aware HR-555, The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017, passed the House of Representatives in January without amendment. Should this bill pass the Senate and become law it has significant implications for many hams across the country. Here is an excerpt of the bill:

(a) AMENDMENT OF FCC RULES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall amend section 97.15 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, by adding a new paragraph that prohibits the application to amateur stations of any private land use restriction, including a restrictive covenant, that—

(1) on its face or as applied, precludes communications in an amateur radio service;

(2) fails to permit a licensee in an amateur radio service to install and maintain an effective outdoor antenna on property under the exclusive use or control of the licensee; or

(3) does not constitute the minimum practicable restriction on such communications to accomplish the lawful purposes of a com-

munity association seeking to enforce such restriction.

(b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In amending its rules as required by subsection (a), the Commission shall—

(1) require any licensee in an amateur radio service to notify and obtain prior approval from a community association concerning installation of an outdoor antenna;

(2) permit a community association to prohibit installation of any antenna or antenna support structure by a licensee in an amateur radio service on common property not under the exclusive use or control of the licensee; and

(3) subject to the standards specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a), permit a community association to establish reasonable written rules concerning height, location, size, and aesthetic impact of, and installation requirements for, outdoor antennas and support structures for the purpose of conducting communications in the amateur radio services.



The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

SEC. 4. AFFIRMATION OF LIMITED PREEMPTION OF STATE AND LOCAL LAND USE REGULATION.

organizations decisions in a positive way with respect to ham radio.

73,

The Federal Communications Commission may not change section 97.15(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, which shall remain applicable to State and local land use regulation of amateur service communications.

Robie – AJ4F

The language in section (b) Additional Requirements, puts much of the authority to establish what types of antennas hams will be allowed to install in the hands of home owner’s associations (and other similar bodies). Many of us feel that the impact of this bill could be very negative toward ham radio as we know it today. We are attempting to have John Stratton attend our April meeting to discuss this bill, potential implications, and actions that could be taken by concerned hams. In the interim, it is important that we all become educated about the bill and communicate our concerns to our elected representatives. From my perspective if you are involved in a process you have some possibility of affecting the outcome, however if you have none. I feel that if you live in an area/subdivision, etc. under the jurisdiction of a home owner’s association (or other similar body) you should consider getting involved in the organization. Most likely, you will be the only individual in the organization with actual knowledge of ham radio may be able to impact the



TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS January 2017 Meeting Minutes

Annual Banquet

Date: January 21, 2017

Location: Churrasca Brazilian Steakhouse, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Orville K5VWW, Mike K5UO, Bob W5UQ, Paul W5PF, Ed W5GCX, Keith NM5G, Robie AJ4F, Gerald K5GEM, Lance WD5X, Mike N5MT, Scott K5DD, Bob N5ET, Dale KG4U, Allen N5XZ, Pat, KJ5Y, Chuck W5PR.

Guests: Lynn Seyler (XYL of Doug WB5TKI), Janice Muller (XYL of Gerald K9GEM), Elva Hardie KG5HIE (XYL of Pres. Bob), Verna Patout (XYL of Scott K5DD), Beth Dutson (XYL of Keith NM5G), Ruth Dietz (XYL of Chuck W5PR), Georgina Frantz (XYL of Paul W5PF), Xenia Gerber (XYL of Ed W5GCX) Debbie Rumfield N5DSR (XYL of Lance WD5X), Terresa Kiblis (guest of Bob N5ET).

January brought our Annual Banquet, which was held this year at Churrasca Brazilian Steakhouse. The food once again was outstanding and the conversation was lively. The recipient of the travelling DX Hog trophy, also known as the Yagi-On-A-Roll award, was Robie Elms AJ4F. Also outgoing President Bob presented incoming President Robie with the ancient and official symbol of office, the fabled jawbone of an Ass. All in all it was a great evening!

73,

Submitted February
Doug Seyler WB5TKI
TDXS Secretary

4, 2017



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

Conditions are apparently getting better, at least on the low bands, this past month. There have been QSO's reported with **ZC4ZM**, **TL8TT**, **TU5MH** and **PJ2ND** on the TDXS Reflector, plus **Chuck**, **W5PR** worked 31 countries while operating low power in the 160 contest.

Operation of **ZC4ZM** and **ZC4A**, **The Sovereign Base Area of Cyprus**, will cease operations on February 8th. Bob, **5B4AGN**, and Steve, **G3VMW**, are the operators and are mainly on CW. They are transmitting from a site on a beach, outside the bases' barbed wire perimeter but within the Sovereign Base Area.

African activity continues from The **Central African Republic**, **TL8TT**, by the Italian DX Team on all bands. They will be active until February 14th. To date they have logged over 32,999 QSO's. They have 7 operators putting on 3 stations active 24/7 on all modes, 160M-6M

Next month, be on the lookout for **5U7R** from **Niger**. They will have 11 operators manning a minimum of 4 stations 24/7 from March 9th through March 20th.

Also operating from Africa will be **DF2WO** while in Kigali, **Rwanda** from February 3rd through March 11th. He will be using the call **9X2AW**.

If you missed the TU5MH operation from the Ivory Coast, don't fret as **TU7C** will be operating from the Ivory Coast, from March 9th through March 19th. Operation will be on CW, RTTY and SSB. They have a website: <https://tu2017dx.wordpress.com>.

As reported last month, Michael, DF8AN will be active from Robinson Crusoe Island, Juan Fernandez Islands as **CE0Z/DF8AN** between February 21st and 24th, 2017. QRV on HF bands CW and Digital.

There is a significant planned Dxpediton from February 13th, 2017 through February 26th, 2017 by a large group of 10 DL operators manning 3 stations 24/7 on all bands from **Macau** as **XX9D**. All modes and focusing on NA QSO's. See <http://xx9d.mydx.de> for information.

The newly formed EI DX Group will activate **9N7EI** from **Nepal**. Operation will be from March 8th until March 20th, with up to 5 stations operating 24/7. See www.9n7ei.com.

5JØNA will be activated on San Andres and Providencia by LW9EOC during the CQ WW WPX SSB contest March 27th and 28th.

Good DXing,
Orville, K5VWW

Contest Report—by Glenn Anderson WB5TUF

Nothing received from Glenn.



TDXS Board of Directors Meeting—by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Attendees: WB5TKI, WD5X, K5DD, WB5TUF, K5VWW, N5MT, K9GEM, AJ4F

Topics discussed:

- Meeting Schedule: Robie AJ4F passed out a draft meeting schedule for 2017 which included regular meetings and Board meetings. Scott K5DD will post this calendar on the club website.
- Liability Insurance: Orville K5VWW passed out a breakdown of the current club insurance limits and cost. He also recommended that we change the insurance carrier to Risk Solutions, who are the current ARRL recommended carrier. Cost will be the same. Approved.
- Orville K5VWW has received a request for support from the TOPP DXpedition/Contest Fund of the upcoming DXpedition to Nicaragua. Three of the four participants are active club members, which complies with Fund guidelines. Since the Fund is significantly depleted, the Board voted to support the DXpedition with up to 50% of the remaining funds, subject to a review of receipts upon completion of the DXpedition.
- Robie AJ4F presented a list of his goals for the club in 2017. They included:
 - Continue to grow the membership
 - Participate fully in Field Day, preferably in a combined effort with BVARC and other clubs
 - Encourage club participation in other Club operating events
 - Publicize TDXS by active participation at the Greater Houston Hamfest
- Gerry K9GEM updated the Board on the status of new nametag badges. There was discussion of estimated cost and whether the new badges should be provided to existing active members at cost or gratis. Gerry will obtain samples and firm costs for the next Board meeting, currently scheduled for April 22.
- Orville K5VWW brought up TDXS ClubLog affiliation. Currently, there are 35 hams that are listed in ClubLog as affiliated with TDXS. Of these, 14 are current on dues, 13 are not current, and 8 are not TDXS members. The Board voted to remove the 8 non-members from the TDXS list in ClubLog.

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary

Submitted 2/4/2017



Where is the world is...Mauritania 5T - By Ron Litt K5HM

Where in the World is . . .

Mauritania (5T)

CQ Zone 35

Mauritania . . . Mauritania . . . Mauritania . . . sounds like a make believe land, like Shangri-La or Atlantis or an exotic tropical isle. Doesn't it?



Instead, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania is a desert country (about 90% of its land is part of the Sahara) in West Africa, sandwiched between Western Sahara, Mali and Senegal In this land slavery flourishes, where about 10-20% if the population lives in slavery.



Slavery was officially abolished in 1981 although no laws exist to enforce it. The government maintains that all people are free.

The population of 3.57 million people is nearly all 100% Sunni Muslim. It is largely a tribal culture that changes governments by military coup. During the 19th century, the country was part of the French empire, which temporarily brought order to the land.

Its currency, the Ouguiya is as worthless as it is unpronounceable. The Ouguiya is worth about \$0.0028 USD.

Despite being rich in natural resources, Mauritania has a poor economy. A majority of the population depends on agriculture and livestock for a livelihood. Mauritania has extensive deposits of iron ore, which account for almost 50% of total exports. With the current rises in metal prices, gold and copper mining companies are opening mines in the interior. Oil was discovered in Mauritania in 2001 offshore.



The country's first deep water port opened in 1986. In recent years, drought and economic mismanagement have resulted in a buildup of foreign debt. Mauritania has been described as a "desperately poor desert nation, which straddles the Arab and African worlds and is Africa's newest, if small-scale, oil producer.

There have been a number of DXpeditions operating from Mauritania. 5T is number 136th on the Club Log Most Wanted List.

Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron Litt, K5HM



Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
VP Membership	Keith Dutson, NM5G	kdutson at sbcglobal.net
VP Programs	Gerald Muller K9GEM	gmuller885 at aol.com
	Lance Rumfield WD5X	ltrumfield at sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	djseyler at comcast.net
Treasurer	Orville Burg, K5VWW	Orville at rubyglass.com
Contest Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at arrl.net
Field Day Chairmen	Mike Davidson, N5MT	n5mt at aol.com
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net
DX Chairman	Orville Burg, K5VWW	Orville at rubyglass.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 QSL Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net
CQ WAZ Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net

How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxs.net> email address: k5dx@tdxs.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 February

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Dave Blaschke - W5UN
 James Clark - N5RO
 Bob Cooney - K1TU
 Mike Bragassa - K5UO
 James Parnell - W5JAW
 Charles Frost - K5LBU
 Bob Moorman - K5VMX
 Don Butler - N5LZ
 Marshall Dues - K5MMD
 Ronald Amox - K5EJO
 Jim Boockholdt - N4AL

Bob Perring - N5RP
 Fred Pevoto - K5FP
 Tom Shapiro - KD5SP
 Marty Kirkland - WA5TMN
 Mike Crownover - AD5A