



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 2018

**TDXS Dinner-Meeting:
Wednesday 6:30PM CST
Mar 7
Happy Lamp Chinese
Restaurant
9619 Hillcroft Street
Houston TX 77096**



Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

I have been incredibly busy lately and the Bullsheet deadline crept up on me like others, so I am not fully prepared! I hadn't thought much about a topic to write about.

Band conditions still not great, but there have been a number of nice Dxpeditons going on lately and a fair amount of TDXS contesting, as evidenced by the articles from Orville, Jim, Ron and Mike. I hope you like Mike's article. It is geared towards 10-X, but still there is A LOT if good information in there for everyone. Not much prop on ten lately but you never know! (I worked XR0YD on 10 earlier today, so don't rule it out!). Also, 4B4B and something else (I couldn't find it) was spotted on 10 and 12 today. I

hear there has even been some 6 meter prop lately!

Speaking of Mike N5MT, he has purchased a house in Louisiana and will be there from now on. He did come back to town to play in the ARRL DX SSB a bit, though. We hope to hear him on the bands, and he will probably be using KJ5Y's remote from time to time.

Good DX from my station in February is (was) as follows: Z60A, C8X, SV9CVY, C81G, Z68M, P29VXG, 5B4AGN, 9J2BO, TF3W, Z61DX, 3D2EU, 7X5FG; a lot of which (and more) was on 160 meters (I have been concentrating on the top band a lot!)

I hope to make the TDXS dinner on Thursday night, but I have

been quite busy lately and not sure I will be there. If not, I hope y'all have lots of fun and good food.

There is a new bill in front of Congress...

H.R.4986—FCC Reauthorization Act of 2018. This bill is to reauthorize funding for the FCC, but also contains language very similar to the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017. Please review it at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4986/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22ama-teur+radio+parity+act+of+2017%22%5D%7D&r=3#toc-H8E4756C977B042B5926BDAD067F668CC>

73 Allen 'XZ

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I am looking for more autobiographies of TDXS members to add to upcoming Bullsheets. If you would like to have your illustrious ham radio history published for all to see, please send them to me via email.



The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

I've been wondering what it would take to increase attendance at our monthly meetings. Recently we have had some very good programs such as Glenn's, WB5TUF, show and tell on his homebrew amplifier and antenna trap design activities and "Show Us Your Keys" where everyone got the chance to present his favorite key and tell the story behind it. As good as these programs were we still had only modest attendance. Attendance at our dinner meetings is better, but we still only have 20 or less most of the time. Our March meeting will be at the Happy Lamp Chinese Restaurant (9619 Hillcroft St.) and our April meeting will be at the Tracy Gee Center and the topic will be on using EZNEC for antenna modeling. Dates and times of all our meetings for 2018 are shown on the TDXS Meeting Calendar. You can find this on the upper left side of the TDXS webpage <http://tdxs.net/>. We need your feedback on this issue. Please feel free to offer desirable meeting topics and locations for the dinner meetings.

At our January Board Meeting this issue of conflicts with the 2nd Thursday of the month meeting schedule was discussed. The feeling is that if we change the meeting to avoid the conflict with regular BVARC club meetings attendance would improve. Personally, I feel the 3rd Thursday would be a better choice. We must keep in mind that there will likely be some conflict no matter what night is selected. We need your feedback on this issue. If we make a change there is no guarantee we would have access to the Tracy Gee Center on the new day, so we would need to develop an alternate location.

I was recently contacted by Mike Hardwick N5VCX, President of BVARC, to inquire about TDXS's interest in a joint Field Day effort this year. I assured Mike that we were very interested! Mike informed me that since BVARC is putting on the Greater Houston Hamfest, field day organizational meetings will not start till after the March 17th and that he will make sure I am informed of all the planned discussions. Scott Medbury will be one to BVARC Field Day coordinators. Between now and March 17th we need to identify a TDXS lead for Field Day. We will discuss this more at our March 7th dinner meeting.

Contesting activity by our members is increasing. I see a lot more traffic on the reflector regarding forming teams, preparation for contests and posting of results. This is really a great sign. We are becoming more energized and contesting is slowly becoming a higher priority for each of us. We have a lot of participants who are not hardened testers and they are getting assistance and encouragement from those that are. That's what it takes to grow the activity and I encourage each of you to keep it up!!

In each of these columns I write, I ask for feedback and usually I get very little. I am going to try a new technique to increase feedback. Our Board meetings are open to all members and the scheduled dates/times are on the TDXS Meeting Calendar so make plans join us for breakfast and participate in the meeting.

73,

Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: February 8, 2018

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Scott K5DD, Doug WB5TKI, Robie AJ5F, Jerry K9GEM, Orville K5VWW, Mike N5MT, Allen N5XZ, Rick K5GZR, Rick W5RH, Louis W5DPT

Guests: John Chauvin K5IZO

The February meeting was held at the Tracy Gee Community Center in Houston. The highlights from the business meeting were:

Field Day will again be with the combined TDXS/BVARC/KARS/ECHO clubs, but at a new site. It will be held at the Duhacsek Park Community Center in Sugar Land. Field Day planning will begin in earnest after the Houston Hamfest, and we need a TDXS representative for this event.

Orville volunteered to secure a dinner meeting site for March. It will be held at the Happy Lantern Chinese Restaurant on Hillcroft in Houston. Check the TDXS website for details.

This was Show Me Your Keys Night, and most of the attendees brought one or more keys. There was a wide range of keys shown, from the simple J-38 straight keys to Vibroplex bugs and various paddle keys. Some of the most exotic were brought by John K5IZO. He has a collection of over 100 keys, and the ones that he brought were real war surplus oddities. Allen N5XZ brought a tiny key that was actually a Christmas tree ornament. What a fascinating variety of morse code devices!

73,

Submitted March 5, 2018

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

The bands are fluctuating quite a bit, open one day and then dead as the proverbial mackerel the next. The good side is that there is some DX to be worked. Robie and others have been pursuing the elusive DXCC on 160M. They have picked up quite a few good ones such as PUØFDN from Fernando de Noronha, V47T, V31YN, KP2M, P49Y, VP8EME, SV1FJA, and VP5K.

There are a few DXpeditions active and headed to the hinterlands including:

3CØ, Annobon Island, and 3C3W, Bioko Island which counts as The Republic of Equatorial Guinea will be active from February 28, 2018 thru March 27th. This will be a repeat of the operation by Yuris, YL2GM and others.

9MØW will be active from 1S, Spratley Islands from March 6th thru 13th. Eighteen operators will put 160M-6M all modes on the air.

9N7CR is active from Nepal on 20M SSB around 1200-1400 UTC. He will be active until March 1st.

Kosovo has been all over the bands with Z61A passing out the new country. Also Z68M will be active until March 6th on all modes including FT8.

G4IRN has been active from Andaman & Nicobar using the call VU4G. Look for him from 10:00-14:00 UTC on 18.076 and 10.125 MHz.

3D3EU is active from Rotuma by DL Ops on all bands until March 16th.

4B4B will be active from Revilla Gigedo from March 1st to March 31th, all bands 160M-6M by XE1B. SSB ONLY. First activation since 2011.

Z2LA will be active from Zimbabwe from March 2nd thru March 11th. SSB/CW

TN5R from the Congo by big team. March 9th thru March 19th.

XX9B will be active from Macao with 3 stations 24 hours from March 9th thru March 17th.

3B7A will be from St. Brandon & Agalega from April 5th thru April 17th. Seven Stations, all bands and modes. It has been 10 years since last activation.

Good DX,
Orville, K5VWW



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. There still seems to be a lot of confusion regarding individual entry into contests and assignment of your score to TDXS. Only the National Contest Journal contests (NAQP RTTY, CW, SSB and North America Sprint RTTY, CW) require pre-registration of the teams. In every other contest, all you need to do to give club credit to TDXS is to put Texas DX Society into the Club Line of your Cabrillo file and send to the contest sponsor.

It gets a bit more complicated for ARRL Contests with Club Competitions. You still need to put the club name in your Cabrillo. But, we also need to comply with ARRL Contest Branch rules that require the club define who our participating members are and give their 6-character Maidenhead Grid Square location. These rules are a result of disputes among some of the bigger clubs regarding locations of some of their higher scoring members. They seem to take the Club Competitions a lot more seriously than most. In 2016, ARRL simply reiterated their rules already in place and resolved to provide a spreadsheet with all “legal” participants in each ARRL contest for review by anyone wishing to challenge a participant and their contribution to a club score. I take care of the maintenance of the list. Every TDXS member in good standing is on the list. New members are added as they come into the fold. If you change your QTH or add a new contesting location, please let me or another officer know, and we will be sure to update and resubmit the list.

This month’s TDXS Contest Participation as reported in 3830scores.com

CQ 160-Meter Contest CW

Single Op HP

Call	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
KØNM	222	40	5	6.5	22,320	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F	418	50	12		60,698	TDXS

Single Op Assisted HP

Call	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N5XZ	369	55	51	8:17	136,210	TDXS

10-10 International Winter SSB

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score
N5XZ			49	4:06	88
KØNM			18	4	35

CQWW WPX-RTTY

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DD		277	196		148,568		TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
WB5TUF		558	329	12	366,177		TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

ARRL DX Contest CW

M/S HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KJ5Y		x	969	2874	32	787,476	TDXS

SO Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5MF			224	152	5	102,144	TDXS
W5DPT(W6DPT)					101 57	5	17,271 TDXS

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WB5TKI			320	149		143,040	TDXS
K5TU			274	150	7.5	123,300	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F			61	43		7,869	TDXS
WG5H			54	28		4,536	TDXS

We may have had more than 10 participants in the ARRL DX CW contest. Not everyone uploaded information to the 3830scores website but a quick review of the ARRL "Logs Received" page looks like we achieved this long-sought goal.

Until next month, Jim, N5DTT



Where in the World Is...Comoros Islands (D6) by Ron Litt K5HM

Where in the world is . . .

The Comoros Islands (D6)

CQ 39 ITU 53

IOTA AF-007

The Comoros, officially the Union of the Comoros stands number 92 on the Club Log Most Wanted DXCC list. It is an island nation in the Indian Ocean located off the eastern coast of Africa between Mozambique and northwestern Madagascar. Other countries near the Comoros are Tanzania to the north-west and the Seychelles to the northeast. Grande Comore, the largest of the islands is home to the capitol, Moroni. The Union of the Comoros has three official languages, Comorian, Arabic and French. Take your pick.



Sunni Islam is the dominant religion, representing as much as 98% of the population. A minority, mostly immigrants from metropolitan France, are Roman Catholic.

At 640 square miles, Comoros is the third-smallest African nation by area. With a population that numbers less than a million, the island nation is also one of the least populous countries in the world. Almost half the population is under the age of 15.

The country consists of three major islands and numerous smaller islands, all volcanic in origin. Since the islands are just below the equator, the climate is quite tropical

The Comoros became part of the French colonial empire in the 19th century before becoming independent in 1975. If you are thinking this is a great place for a dx-pedition well, maybe not.

Since declaring independence, the country has experienced more than 20 coups d'état or attempted coups, with various heads of state assassinated.



Along with this constant political instability, the population of the Comoros lives with the worst income inequality of any nation. As of 2008 about half the population lived below the international poverty line of US\$1.25 a day. The photo above shows the ramshackle housing in the capitol, Moroni.

Where in the World Is...Comoros Islands (D6) by Ron Litt K5HM

However, there have been several successful DX-peditions to Comoros. The good news, no icy glaciers but not exactly luxury facilities. In 2016, a group of hams, well I will let them tell it in their own words. The translation is a little rough, but you will get the idea. *“Everywhere on the road is dust and smog, at first glance our “dream paradise” is far away. Finally, we drive on bulky road to our house, a € 4,000 quality accommodation is unacceptable. Electricity is not working, and it seems that 100% of the time we run on the power generator. We try Internet access. Does not work either, the water flows just cold. We are all a bit in shock, gradually passing through the house, founding various faults. In the bathroom are cracked pipes to the wash-basin, on the corridor lights are broken and the worst thing is our new “friends” in the kitchen – rats. We unpacks luggage and install TCVR. In the big living room, we prepare CW and RTTY workplace and in the kitchen with rats SSB*



workplace.”

The DX-pedition was successful, amassing over 46,000 QSO's so long as you are willing to ignore a few minor problems.

Reporting from the Dark Side, K5HM



TenX DX News by Mike Davidson N5MT #24949

The most important DX news that was made the past three months came from the ARRL and the DXCC program. A rule update was added, that would allow countries that meet new criteria, to get DXCC status. This action by the ARRL will now let contacts with Z6 Kosovo to count for a new country! This is the last of seven countries to come out of the breakup of Yugoslavia. The effective date of this new rule is January 21st and after, no retroactive contacts count! So you have to work Kosovo again if you had a QSO before January 21st.

A big group of ops have been using call Z60A but with poor propagation, we can hardly hear them on 20 and 15! The lower bands have been their most popular frequencies, since all of Europe wants them! Just in the first month of on the air, they had 70 thousand QSO's in their log, so give them a few months as the pileups have settled down to simplex status. The only 10-10 member that has been on Z60A was Jim K9JF #75959, who is a Hon. VP for the ARRL. My only contact was on 20 meter's CW. Good luck.

Anyone who needs a 10-10 Countries certificate or upgrade will have to wait until after I can set up my computer resources when I get moved and settled. All the 10-10 records for the Countries awards are saved on a computer running Windows XP. The current Windows 10 operating system does not like to run old DOS programs. There are backups of the 10-10 data in several places, so no data was lost in the Harvey flood at my house.

The solar flux has been back in the 66-99 range the past three months with no significant surge in the solar flux like we had five months ago. I expect poor conditions on Ten for the next two years as this cycle reaches its final days and this cycle ends. The flux will stay in the 70's and 80's for that period until Cycle 25 starts about the fall of 2019. Be sure to upload your logs at least each quarter to LoTW!

One of our DX members from New Zealand became a silent key on January 19th, and he was Brian Egan ZL1LE #23497. Brian and I had membership numbers that were close so we joined 10-10 just after the Winter QSO party in early 1979. Brian would often be my only contact from New Zealand during a 10-10 QSO party, as we would look for each other since we both had good beam antennas. Brian was an electrical engineer and retired faculty at the Auckland University when he died at the age of 95.

Dave Collingham K3LP #13394 was a well-known DXpedition organizer and long time 10-10 member. Dave has given many of us a new country over the years. Dave died on January 5th trying to rescue his dog Cooper on a frozen lake near his home in MD. A tribute to him is at this site: Paul N6PSE #68859, wrote a tribute to Dave, at:

<https://n6pse.wordpress.com/2018/01/09/tribute-to-david-collingham-k3lp/> and <http://Hamgallery.com/Tribute/K3LP/>.

Countries Award: There were no Basic Countries Awards submitted and no upgrades issued this quarter. A "DXCC Most Wanted" entities' list is available at:

<https://secure.clublog.org/mostwanted.php>.

I am posting this to the 10-10 website on March 1st.

General 10-10 DX reported in the past quarter:

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TenX DX News by Mike Davidson N5MT #24949

3B Rodrigues Island. Robert 3B9FR #61550, is now using the FT8 mode. QSL manager is M0OXO.

3Y0 Bouvet Island. The expected 2018 DXpedition of the year was cancelled due to engine trouble on the ship that took them to within one mile of the island. They could not land on the island for several days due to bad weather. Then they had engine trouble and the captain of the ship made the decision to return to a safe port. They only operated from the ship when seas were not stormy. Ship contacts do not count for DXCC. The trip still cost a lot for the 31 days at sea! Website: <http://www.bouvetdx.org>.

6W Senegal. Jacques F6HMJ #52711, did not make his planned trip to Senegal in December 2017 and operated as 6W7/F6HMJ like he did in 2016.

C6A Bahamas. Brian VE3BWP #1168, was operating from the island until January 25th on SSB, FT8 and PSK31.

Bob N4BP #3268 and friends, were on Great Abaco Island from February 6-20th. His call was C6AKQ.

CU8 Azores. Hermann HB9CRV/CU8FN #72110, was on Flores Island from January 22nd to February 16th.

HP Panama. Mike W1USN #51238 and Robert AA1M #17930, were in Panama from February 1-15th using CW, SSB and digital modes. Home calls for QSL or LoTW.

Will AA4NC #15774, was in Panama from January 10- 24th using low power with call HP1/AA4NC. LoTW.

HR Honduras. Gerard F2JD #63443, was back in Copan Ruinas, Honduras on February 15th until he leaves on May 10, 2018. Call sign was HR5/F2JD.

J6 St.Lucia. Bill K9HZ #2618, operated from his villa at Soufriere with call sign J68HZ from January until February 3rd. Bill used a K3 into a beam and wire antennas. LoTW.

J6 St.Lucia. Chuck KG9N/J6 #17038, was on St. Lucia from February 13-27th, on most HF bands.

KH0 Mariana Islands. Will AA4NC #15774 and Ron AA4VK #12423, were on from Saipan until February 28th.

KH2 Guam, Toshi JI3ERV #39995, used call AH2R on Guam for the ARRL DX CW contest February 17th.

P4 Aruba. Robert AA7V #18347 and friends operated P40E during the ARRL DX CW contest in February.

PJ4 Bonaire. John K4BAI #45389 and two friends, used PJ4/K4BAI calls while on the air February 10-24th.

PY Brazil. Milton PT7BI #18383, was on Paz Island with two friends using call PX5P from February 16-18th.

T8 Palau. Will AA4NC #15774 and Ron AA4VK #12423, were in Palau from February 12-20th. They then traveled to Saipan staying from February 21-26th. Then on to Guam from February 27th into March. Their final stop is Hawaii the first week of March, where they will be joined by Randy N0TG #12990.

TI Costa Rica. Lee N1DBT #41718 was on the west coast of Costa Rica during the month of February. No reports of any ham radio activities on Ten Meter from Lee.

V3 Belize. Paul VE3AXT/V31AX #76924, is now in Corozal, Belize until April 4th. He is using an IC-7000 into a G5RV antenna. He likes to use OQRS to QSL.

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TenX DX News by Mike Davidson N5MT #24949

Scott KK7JS #52535, was in Belize from February 8-12th with a friend Victor WB0TEV. Call used was V31CQ.

Art NN7A #39677, was in Belize from February 8-14th using call V31JZ.

V4 St. Kitts and Nevis. Bernie W3UR #25731 and his wife Becky N3OSH, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on the island of Saint Kitts. Bernie stayed at the V47JA station running CW and SSB on all bands and using his call sign V47UR. They arrived on January 29th and left on February 12, 2018. One of the computers he was using failed. He was not able to make any more FT8 or RTTY contacts, sorry. LoTW.

VP2 Anguilla. Jim WB2REM #48365 and Mark WY1G #56937, went to Anguilla from March 17-24th using call sign VP2EGO.

XW Laos. Ken K4ZW/XW4ZW #18573, was on the air from December 3-6th. There are no reports of Ten meter activity by Ken, so propagation favored the lower bands.

YN Nicaragua. Two members were in Nicaragua from February 26th to March 6th. Jim WB2REM #48365 and Mark WY1G #56937, used a special call sign H72DX, operating CW, SSB and FT8 while operating from Granada. Website: WWW.QRZ.com/db/H72DX .

ZF Cayman Islands. Tim N6WIN #53747, was on Grand Cayman during the ARRL DX CW contest in mid February with friends using call sign ZF1A. LoTW.

ZP Paraguay. Dale N3BNA #32100, was in Paraguay for a short time in January as ZP/N3BNA. He hoped to operate from Haiti on a mission trip but unknown as to the dates or time he had when not working with the mission.

Upcoming DX & New 10-10 Activity:

3B7 Saint Brandon Island. A DXpedition to the 27th most needed country will take place from April 5-17th. This will be the same team that operated from Juan de Nova in March 2016 when Flo F5CWU #71812 was the only 10-10 member of FT4JA. Flo likes SSB so good luck in finding 3B7A. Website:<http://www.SaintBrandonDX.com> .

3D2/R Rotuma Island. Tony 3D2AG #72719, plans to be back on Rotuma from February 23rd to March 16th. There will be four friends with him but none of them are 10-10 members so you will have to find Tony to swap 10-10 numbers! The call sign will be 3D2EU. Rotuma is 400 miles north of Fiji in the South Pacific. Website: <http://www.rotuma2018.de> .

7Q Malawi. Members of the EIDX group, who went to Nepal and operated 9N7EI in 2017, will activate 7Q7EI from Malawi from March 24th to April 3rd. You will need to find Declan EI9HQ #71019 who is the only 10-10 member of the thirteen ops. Expect all bands and modes. LoTW. Website: <http://www.7Q7EI.com> .

C9 Mozambique. A large group of ops using call C6T from May 2-15, 2018. The only 10-10 member is Francis ON6LY #73607, so be sure to find him to get his 10-10.

Website: <https://mozambique2018.wordpress.com> .

FP St. Pierre & Miquelon. Eric KV1J #31247, will be on his 12th trip to the island from July 3-17th. Watch for some FT8 this trip and on all bands. LoTW.

GW & G Wales and England. Ron WJ7R #76492, will be on a hike in the UK from July 4-22nd. He is taking a KX3 transceiver and will operate at night when not hiking.

TenX DX News by Mike Davidson N5MT #24949

HH Haiti. John W2GD #14109, will be in Haiti during the upcoming ARRL DX SSB using call HH2AA. LoTW.

KH1 Baker Island. A big DXpedition will start on June 26th until July 8th. You can find four members: Ned AA7A #11185, John K6MM #13853, Don N1DG #27629 and Arnie N6HC #29959. All bands, mode and digital. Website: <http://www.baker2018.net> . LoTW.

KH6 Hawaii. Will AA4NC #15774, Ron AA4VK #12423 and Randy N0TG #12990, will be in Hawaii as part of the KH6LC team for the ARRL DX Phone contest.

PJ2 Curacao. Andreas DK5ON #54260, will operate as PJ2/DK5ON on SSB, CW, FT8 and RTTY from March 14- 27th. LoTW, OQRS and Club Log.

VP6 Ducie. A two week DXpedition from October 20th to November 3rd, will use call VP6D. It has been ten years since the last DXpedition operated from Ducie Island east of Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific. Look for Arnie N6HC #29959 and Gene K5GS #15119 as the only 10-10 members of the large group of ops. Several 10-10 members have been to Ducie in the past, so this operation will not be a new country, as some of us have credit for Ducie.

Miscellaneous Items & Notes:

Propagation forecast: <http://www.solen.info/solar/> ,
www.SolarHam.net and <http://ARRL.org/Propagation> .

More propagation: <http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/> .

DX Calendar: <http://www.dxwatch.com/> .

DX: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4dJcK-WVRw>.

Propagation: I expect the solar flux to range from 66-90 during the Spring of 2018. The Spring Equinox is on March 21st, when HF propagation shifts to a more north/south path. I hope you have a Z6 Kosovo contact in your log, as the change of the season will affect the propagation path into Europe.

Our solar cycle #24, has been the weakest solar cycle in more than 100 years, with the peak in February 2014 at 170.3. Cycle #24, is currently slowly going through the solar minimum phase until we begin cycle #25, probably in 15-20 months. The natural cycle of the sun is 11 years and we are now nine years into cycle #24. I think cycle #25 will start by the end of 2019. Some US agencies predict that cycle #25 may be weaker than our current cycle #24!

The max solar flux for each month of 2017: Jan 87, 83, 91, 112, 82, 79, 95, 87, 133, 87, 76 and Dec 101.

The min flux for the same period 2017: Jan 71, 72, 70, 71, 69, 71, 68, 68, 71, 69, 66 and Dec 67.

On March 1st, the solar flux was 69, the A index was 6 and K index 1. There were very few solar flares this winter and the solar flux high for last winter was 21 points lower than the May 2016 high of 123.

My Prediction: Over the next four months, the best conditions: March 23-25th, April 19-23rd, May 15-17th and June 7-10th. For USA, expect a slight 5% chance of DX to Europe or Asia with a 25-30% chance of DX to S. America and the S. Pacific, later in the day. Listen to the beacons from 28.175-28.300 for path information.

DX IS! 73 Mike Davidson N5MT #24949 Copyright © 2018 by N5MT



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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 March:

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Al Bayer – W5AEB
 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