



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 2020



TDXS Dinner-Meeting:
Thursday 6:30PM March 19
Rudi Lechner's German Restaurant
2503 S. Gessner Road
Houston TX 77063



Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

The Greater Houston Hamfest is over and it appeared to be well attended, and had some great speakers such as Forrest Mims and John Stratton, as well as others. Once again, I was sold totally defective prize tickets, and to think they were non-refundable! What a total jip! I did manage to take a few pics at the GHH, so turn to page 10 to see those. Maybe you'll see someone you recognize.

Field Day! It's time to start thinking about Field Day 2020! It is only a few months away now. The location for Field Day 2020 has changed. It will no be at Ducecheck Park in Sugar Land, instead, tentatively it is planned to be back at the Fort Bend County Fire Field (Fire Training Facility) in

Richmond, TX. We held Field Day there before with very good results. This year, Field Day will be held on the 4th full weekend of June, June 27—28. While this facility is not quite as nice in some ways as the park in Sugar Land, it at least has an air conditioner that will freeze you out!! It is time to start thinking about (1) antenna placement, (2) rig allocations [K3/K3S], (3) operating slots, (4) set-up and tear-down, (5) FOOD, (6) Strategy. Please plan to attend. I will again be providing the on-line, virtual sign-up sheet as well as my K3 and time. Hope to see many of you out there. Last FD, we were somewhat lacking for SSB operators. Dave, K5GN hosted several during a contest last year which provided needed, critical

training. Thank you, Dave. I hope we get more quality SSB ops this year. We will, of course, be operating CW and RTTY / FT8 / FT4 to maximize our score. Most likely, we will be operating 10A again, but nothing has been decided yet. Let's do our best to score well into the Top Ten again as we did last year!

Don't forget, the RTTY NA Sprint is Saturday night, 15 March from 0000 to 0400 UTC. Check with Jim N5DTT if you want to join a team.

Also, the Stew Perry Topband Challenge for those who work 160 meters or need new countries on Topband.

73, Allen N5XZ

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I would like to mention again that I organize a bi-monthly lunch called the EX-ZED SPRED in and around west Houston, centering around the Park Ten area. If you would like to be included on my invite list, drop me note. We never go to the same restaurant twice. (Next lunch will be at a nice but inexpensive all you can eat buffet!)

The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

March 2020

I attended the Greater Houston Hamfest (3/7) and helped man the Texas QSO Party display at the TDXS table. Traffic was good and we engaged several hams about participation in the TQP as well as contesting in general. During these conversations it became clear that many newer hams have basic questions about how to build and erect antennas. Many also lacked a basic understanding about standing wave ratio and antenna performance. This provides an opportunity for the TDXS to develop programs that could attract the general ham population to our club.

Last month I said we want to focus our 2020 programs on: *Improving the DXing and Contesting effectiveness of stations on small lots or with antenna restrictions*. In February, Kim – K5TU's presentation on feed line chokes gave us a tool that can potentially reduce received noise and eliminate RFI in the shack which will help improve station performance. This presentation addressed the technical side of performance improvement. I would like to see our April meeting topic focus on the human factors side of performance. In my opinion the operator is the biggest single factor in DX and contest performance. I base my opinion the fact that stations with all manner of antennas, locations, power, and modes have achieved DXCC Honor Roll status, Worked All Continents, and numerous other DX awards. A quick review of 3830 Scores records shows fantastic scores for all types of stations. Another facet that you see is a wide variation of performance within each station type. This raises questions in my mind about why the difference between the best performance and the average performance is so great. Without an extensive comparison the answer appears to be the operator! We have many skilled DXers and Contesters in our organization. I'd like to hear from them the factors they attribute to good performance. What attributes distinguish a good operator from an average one? What actions should I take to improve my operating proficiency? Do we have a volunteer to lead this effort? Bob – N5ET was the ARRL Card Checker at the TDXS table yesterday. Thanks for your efforts Bob! Bob commented to me that the TDXS was 50 years old this year. I had obviously overlooked this! The club was founded in 1970. We need to do something to recognize this achievement. We need some type of activity in which as many TDXS members as possible can participate. One idea is to have a field day type outing at which we operate using the K5DX call sign. Perhaps given the occasion, we could request to use K5DX at Field Day. In any case we need input on what to do as we can't pass up the opportunity to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the TDXS.

Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS February 2020 Meeting Minutes

Date: February 13, 2020

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Orville K5VWW, Larry KB5WWW, Robie AJ4F, Scott K5DD, Ed W5GCX, Rick K5GZR, Kim K5TU, Allen N5XZ

The February business meeting was held at the Tracy Gee Community Center, on Westcenter Drive, in W. Houston. Items discussed were:

- Discussed BVARC request for TDXS club activity note for inclusion in the BVARC Beacon. Doug will design a template for this submission.
- Larry KB5WWW reported that the club's tax return has been filed
- Discussion of the short and long term plans or club sponsorship of the Texas QSO Party. We decided to have a table at the annual Greater Houston Hamfest to promote the event.
- Rudi Lechner's German Restaurant was chosen for the March 19 dinner meeting
- There was a discussion of a possible joint meeting with BVARC

Last year TDXS sponsored the TX7T DXpedition to the Marquesas Islands and Madison Jones W5MJ, a participant, has promised to make a presentation on this event.

Kim K5TU presented a talk on "Chokes and Baluns for an Effective Antenna". Kim explained all about differential vs common mode current, the various types of chokes and baluns, and their practical construction and use. He referred extensively to the various articles by Jim Brown K9YC, such as "[A Ham's Guide to RFI, Ferrites, Baluns, and Audio Interfacing](#)" and "[A New Choke Cookbook for the 160-10M Bands](#)". As a visual aid, Robie AJ4F displayed a variety of chokes and baluns that he has built. It was a fascinating presentation which promoted lively discussion.

73,

Submitted March 8, 2020

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



DX Chairman's Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

The TDXS website, WWW.TDXS.NET, reports the following activity:

- 6O100 Somalia until Feb 5
- FR/F8EN Reunion Is. until Mar 19
- XZ2D Myanmar until Apr 17, 2020
- 9J2MYT Zambia until May 2020
- T6AA Afghanistan until Summer 2021

Further Information on Activity:

The VP8PJ, South Orkneys, was a smashing success with near 70,000 QSOs in their log. Good Job!

EXØQR, Kyrgyzstan [spots](#), 3/6 to 3/17. By 3 Ops from Issyk Kul Lake; 160-10m; CW SSB + digital

UN6LN, Kazakhstan, Active on CW. Several bands.

9J2LA, Zambia, [spots](#), 3/4 to 3/15. By 10 Ops; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8

TO7DL, Reunion I., [spots](#), 3/4 to 3/16. By DL7DF and team; 160-10m, incl 60m; CW SSB + digital

9X2AW, Rwanda, [spots](#), 3/4 to 3/22. By DF2WO from Kigali; HF, incl 160m; FT8 SSB CW; 100w; hex beam

6O100, Somalia, [spots](#), 2/25 to 3/25. By EP3CQ from Mogadishu; 160-6m; SSB CW FT8; 100w; vertical;

S79EM, Seychelles, [spots](#), 3/9 to 3/29. By G7EQM; 20m; SSB FT8

Please continue to monitor the main page of the TDXS Web Site, www.TDXS.net, for updates to activity on the bands.

Good DX,
Orville, K5VWW



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. As usual, we will start off with a summary of contests coming up in the next two months.

March

- 1 North Carolina QSO Party
- 7 ARRL International DX Contest, SSB
- 14 RSGB Commonwealth Contest
South America 10 Meter Contest
Oklahoma QSO Party
Idaho QSO Party
- 15 North American Sprint, RTTY
Wisconsin QSO Party
- 21 Virginia QSO Party
- 28 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

April

- 4 Missouri, Nebraska, Mississippi and Louisiana QSO Parties
Florida Parks on the Air
- 11 OK/OM DX Contest, SSB
New Mexico, Georgia and North Dakota QSO Parties
- 17 Holy Land DX Contest
- 18 Texas Parks on the Air
Michigan and Ontario QSO Parties
- 19 ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB
- 25 10-10 International Spring Digital Contest
Florida QSO Party



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

TDXS Members participated in a number of contests since the February Report. Their scores, as reported on the 3830scores.com website, are provided below:

Mexico RTTY International Contest 2020 Feb 1

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			123	21		5,880	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KG5U			38	12	2	1,068	TDXS

ARRL DX Contest, CW 2020 Feb 15

SO Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TU			1014	317	22.4	958,608	TDXS

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GN(@W5KU)		x	3336	419	45.5	4,114,161	TDXS
N9MM			950	283	17:53	806,550	TDXS
KØNM	x	x	734	196	20	431,592	TDXS
WB5TKI			215	115		74,175	TDXS

SOAB LP

W5GCX			200	111		66,267	TDXS
K5DD			178	116	11:41	61,944	TDXS
K1OJ			176	111	8	58,608	TDXS
K5GQ			164	107	10:20	52,644	TDXS
AJ4F			43	32		4,128	TDXS
NM5G			24	20	4	1,440	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 2020 Feb 21

Multi-Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GN(@W5KU)			337	50	19	5:30	63,480	TDXS

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			61	27	6		5,082	TDXS

North America QSO Party, RTTY 2020 Feb 29

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
W5PR			506	115	10	58,190	TDXS
KG5LRP			364	82	10	29,848	TDXS
KG5U			302	83	6.2	25,066	TDXS

The really big contest in February was the ARRL International DX Contest. There was outstanding participation by TDXS members with a couple of very impressive scores. The IDX Contest for SSB comes up March 7-8. A lot of us will be busy Saturday with the Greater Houston Hamfest but there will still be plenty of time over the weekend to get on the air and maybe pick up some new countries. There will still be a few DXpeditions out there during the contest, so if you don't pick them up for your log during the week, you might have a chance during the contest.

I have made a concerted effort to let you know about upcoming State QSO Parties in case you want to participate in the **State QSO Party Challenge**. Here is what the ARRL has published.

“The State QSO Party Challenge is a competition comprised of other contests, namely state and provincial QSO parties. As explained on the StateQSOParty.com website, the annual cumulative score program is open to any radio amateur who participates in any approved state QSO parties (SQPs).

Participants just need to submit their QSO party scores to 3830scores.com to enter the challenge. Participants' cumulative scores will be calculated by totaling up the number of reported contacts and multiplying by the number of SQPs entered in the year to date. Periodic standings will be posted to 3830scores.com, the QSOParty Groups.io forum, and the StateQSOParty.com website.”

It looks like this could be a lot of fun as well as a perfect tool for new contesters to hone their skills.

See you next month, at the Greater Houston Hamfest or in a contest.

Jim, N5DTT



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

Uganda, Officially the Republic of Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa. It is geographically a beautiful nation with snow-capped mountains and immense Lake Victoria. Its abundant wildlife includes chimpanzees as well as rare birds. *Remote Bwindi Impenetrable National Park* is a renowned mountain gorilla sanctuary. *Murchison Falls National Park* in the northwest is known for its 141-foot-tall waterfall and wildlife such as hippos.



Uganda is a Sub-Saharan African country with one of the highest rates of poverty, the country remains among the poorest in the world. The number of Ugandans living below the poverty line is currently about one in five.

The most remembered character in Ugandan history is probably Idi Amin. He enlisted in the Kings African Rifles as a cook in the British Colonial Army. He rose to the rank of Major and was appointed Commander of the Army after Uganda's independence. He became aware that the nation's president was planning to arrest him for misappropriating army funds, so he promptly launched a military coup and declared himself President.



Amin was president from 1971 to 1979. His eight-year regime was one of the most brutal in recent history. Amin ruled directly, shunning the delegation of power. He was noted for his abrupt changes of mood, from buffoonery to shrewdness, from gentleness to tyranny. He was often extreme in his nationalism. He expelled all Asians from Uganda in 1972, an action that led to the breakdown of Uganda's economy, and he publicly insulted Great Britain and the United States as well as numerous world leaders. A Muslim, he reversed Uganda's amicable relations with Israel and befriended Libya and the Palestinians; in July 1976 he was personally involved in the hijacking of a French airliner to Entebbe. Amin came to be known as the "Butcher of Uganda" for his brutality, and it is believed that some 300,000 people were killed, and countless others tortured during his presidency. Naming himself President for Life, his full title was "**His Excellency, President for Life, Field Marshal Al Hadji Doctor Idi Amin Dada, VC, DSO, MC, Lord of All the Beasts of the Earth and Fishes of the Seas and Conqueror of the British Empire in Africa in General and Uganda in Particular**". He never received the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) or the Military Cross (MC). He conferred a [doctorate of law](#) on himself from Makerere University as well as the Victorious Cross (VC), a medal made to emulate the British [Victoria Cross](#)

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

The Ugandan Shilling is the national currency. A US dollar is worth about 2,700 Ugandan Shillings. Transparency International has rated Uganda's public sector as one of the most corrupt in the world. In 2016, Uganda ranked 151st worst out of 176 and had a score of 25 on a scale from 0 (perceived as most corrupt) to 100 (perceived as clean). According to the United States Department of State's 2012 Human Rights Report on Uganda, "The World Bank's most recent Worldwide Governance Indicators reflected corruption was a severe problem" and that "the country annually loses 768.9 billion shillings (\$286 million) to corruption."



According to QRZ, there are 78 callsigns licensed; with about 10% being licensed to foreign licensed holders. According to DX News, M0KRI is due to activate 5X1RI will be active in Uganda for two weekends in July – Mid August 2020.

Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron, K5HM



A few random photos taken at the Greater Houston Hamfest



Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
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VP Programs	Open	
Secretary	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	djseyler at comcast.net
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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

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 or of any updates:

J

Al Bayer – W5AEB
 David Bean - W5ZQR
 Bob Walworth - N5ET
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