



# The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net June 2020

## TDXS ZOOM On-Line Meeting:

TDXS Monthly Meeting via Zoom: Thursday June 18, 7PM

Check the TDXS Reflector for an announcement.. This meeting will be part TDXS Monthly Meeting and part Field Day "Get Ready" Session #3

### Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

Quarantining continues as we try to continue our daily lives. My office is not scheduled to reopen until July 15th, and only on a voluntary basis. I have been just a efficient at home (maybe more so) than at the office, so I have not volunteered to go back to the office on that date (however, my boss may have something else to say about it!)

On a personal note, I have reach another Ham Radio milestone: 190,000 lifetime QSOs.

### FIELD DAY:

Field day has been the main topic of discussion and several Field Day coordination meetings and "Get Ready" meetings have been held. The next coordination meeting will be Saturday June 13th at 10am and the next "Get Ready" meeting will be held in conjunction with the TDXS regular meeting on June 18th at 7pm. It is not really a "regular"

meeting as we normally use Field Day itself as the June meeting. But since there will be no group Field Day, we will do this instead.

At the last "Get Ready" meeting, we discussed some basics of the N3FJP and WSJT-X software packages, for use in Field Day. On June 18th, among other topics, we will discuss N1MM+ basics for those unfamiliar with it. I will host the session as I have some years of experience with N1MM+, but I of course welcome additional input from TDXS "experts" as well. Other topics will also be discussed and we will have a Q&A session. Watch the reflector(s) and Facebook pages for sign-in links.

As most of you know, the ARRL has temporarily modified the FD rules so that 1D stations can work other 1D stations. I expect there will be new versions of contesting software released to cover this rule

change. Also, the ARRL will aggregate club scores for those who show their affiliation. So please, if you operate Field Day, make sure you designate Texas DX Society as your club so that we get maximum credit. The BVARC, KARS and Echo people will be doing the same thing. There may also be some interclub competitions.

*I'm just going to repeat the next section:*

*We're looking for input to make adjustments in the Texas QSO Party to increase participation.*

*As mentioned previously, 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of TDXS. The BOD is discussion how we can commemorate this and how you can participate. I was thinking of making TDXS member special multipliers or bonus points in the TQP. Please let me know what you think or if you have other ideas.*

73, Allen N5XZ

### Inside this issue:

<b>The Prez Sez by Robie AJ4F</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug WB5TKI</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DX Chairman's Report by Orville K5VWW</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Contest Chairman's Report by Jim N5DTT</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Where in the World is? By Ron K5HM</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>TDXS Meeting Tech Forum by Kim K5TU</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>International Postal Service Disruptions by Don N5DD</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>TDXS Board Members</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>TDXS Birthdays</b>	<b>13</b>

We are now holding my Thursday "EX-ZED SPRED" lunches on Zoom and it is every week! If you would like to be invited, send me at note at n5xz@arrl.net

## The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

ARRL Field Day is June 27-28 and there are some big changes this year. The restrictions placed on large gatherings due to COVID 19 virus make it impossible to conduct Field Day as we have in the recent years. The ARRL has granted temporary (2020 only) waivers to Field Day rules to facilitate individual participation and still have a collective club result. The most significant waiver is that home stations can now contact each other for points. This means you do not have to erect temporary antennas, emergency generators or move to temporary locations, you can operate your normal station. This year each TDXS member can operate Field Day in the manner he is most comfortable doing and submit his score to the ARRL. The ARRL will aggregate all scores identified for each club and publish the results. It is still possible for small groups to conduct a Field Day activity, similar with the way we've operated in past years, if you choose to do so. If you take this approach, please remember to "stay safe"! I hope all TDXS members will choose to participate in some manner. We've been holding sessions using ZOOM to help individuals get prepared to participate. These are scheduled for June 4, 10, 18 and 25 at 7:00 PM. The June 18<sup>th</sup> session will serve as our TDXS June meeting. ZOOM meeting invitations are sent to the TDXS reflector making it easy for you to join in. Various topics will be covered, for example: how to set up logging software for Field Day, operating practices, antennas, emergency power, etc.

The CQ WPX CW Contest - Get Ready Session was held on May 28. This session was held using ZOOM and we reviewed how to setup N1MM+ for the contest, operating practices, and how to prepare and submit an entry to CQ. The feedback received from the participants indicated the session was helpful. The Field Day Get Ready sessions are being held the same way. ZOOM is a useful tool when interacting with others on a variety of issues, especially setting up software and trouble shooting. A personal account is free, so give it a try.

The WSJT-X development team has released version 2.2.1. This version of the program is more sensitive and has much faster decode speed. It's time to upgrade if you have not already. If your plan is to operate as a Digital only station during Field Day, WSJT-X has all the tools you need. After you decide your entry classification it takes less than 5 minutes to set WSJT-X up for Field Day. After the contest you can prepare a Cabrillo file for submitting your entry and an ADIF file for importing into your master log in just a few minutes. All these actions are executed directly from the program menu. If you've got questions plan on participating in one of the Field Day Get Ready sessions.

Sporadic E season has going full blast on 6 Meters. The band has been open to Europe from the East coast in the mornings for many days in a row. Many local stations in EL29 & EM20 have worked into Europe during these openings. Hopefully, this good propagation will continue and more of us will be able to work into Europe. Most activity is on FT8 (50313 KHz) and intercontinental activity also occurs on 50232 KHz. Don't forget to check the DX window 50100 – 50125 KHz for CW & SSB activity.

Robie – AJ4F

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# TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

## TDXS May 2020 Meeting Minutes

**Date:** May 21, 2020

**Location:** ZOOM Virtual Conference

**Attendance:** AJ4F, K0NM, K5DD, K5GZR, K5HEM, K5TU, K5IZO, KG5U, K5VWW, K5WAF, K5WRN, K9GEM, KB4KBS, KB5WWW, KC5TT, KE5ELV, KM5VI, KN5A, N4AL, N5DTT, N5ET, N5LZ, N5MT, N5XZ, NA5D, NE5B, NN5DX, W3RZ, W5AU, W5MJ, W5PF, W5PR, W5SG, W5VOM, WB5TKI, WB5TUF, WG5H

The May business meeting was once again held online via ZOOM video conferencing software. We had another great turnout; 28 attendees representing not only the Houston area, but other parts of Texas and several other states. Items discussed were:

- Welcome to members and visitors
- Update on where Field Day stands in lieu of guidance from ARRL.
- TQP – Robie will set up a meeting with Keith NM5G to discuss future changes to the TQP.
- Discussed plan to start regular Technical Sessions, starting in June or July. Kim K5TU would coordinate.

Discussed planned CQ WPX CW Session for newbies, scheduled for May 27.

The program was presented by Madison Jones W5MJ and Robert Brandon K5PI. They presented their 2019 DXpedition to Hiava Oa, Marquesas Islands, which received a sizeable donation from TDXS. The talk was interesting and informative. Thanks guys!

73,

Submitted June 10, 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](http://WWW.TDXS.NET), reports the following activity:

XR0YHM Easter Is. Aug 27 to Sep 7

8Q7QR Maldives Sep 4 to 8

[RI1ANM Antarctica until early 2021](#)

KC4USV Antarctica active now

**Six Meters has been HOT with propagation all over the globe. US stations have been having openings to Central and South America, Africa, Europe, Alaska and Japan. Operation is predominately FT8 on 50.313, or 50.323 for DX, with rare CW and SSB activity.**

**Due to travel restrictions attributable to the Corona Virus, most currently planned DXpeditions have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. The few planned operations are mostly single ops from:**

**Alaska – KC1KUG** will be operating from **Pine Island (IOTA NA-158)**, predominately on **40M-20M**, but look for him on other bands as propagation changes. He will be on SSB and CW, possibly on FT8. He will be there from now until **June 27<sup>th</sup>**.

**Market Reef - OJØA, IOTA-EU-053**, is active until **June 12<sup>th</sup>**. All bands/modes.

**Cayman Islands – IOTA NA-016**, is active until **June 17<sup>th</sup>**. **KK5XX** will be operating as **ZF2FD** on **80M, 40M, and 20M** on **SSB**.

**Guantanamo Bay – KG4MA** will be on the air for **12 months** starting soon, operated by **W1SRR**. Mostly **SSB** and **FT8**.

**Please continue to monitor the main page of the TDXS Web Site, [www.TDXS.net](http://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 with a summary of major contests coming up in the next two months.

## June

- 6 10-10 International Open Season PSK Contest
  - VK Shires Contest
  - IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW
  - Kentucky QSO Party
- 13 ARRL VHF Contest
  - Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB
- 20 ARRL Kids Day
  - Stew Perry Top-band Challenge
  - All Asian DX Contest, CW
  - West Virginia QSO Party
- 27 ARRL Field Day
  - His Majesty, King of Spain Contest, SSB
- 29 10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party

## July

- 1 RAC Canada Day Contest
- 4 DL-DX RTTY Contest
  - Marconi Memorial HF Contest
- 11 IARU HF World Championship
- 18 CQ WW VHF Contest
- 25 RSGB IOTA Contest

TDXS Members participated in some contests since the May Report. Their scores, as reported on the 3830scores.com website, are provided below:

### [Florida QSO Party 2020 Apr 25](#)

SOAB(A)CW QRP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
KB4KBS			64	0	29	0	7:30	11,136



# Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

## Florida QSO Party 2020 Apr 25 (cont.)

### SOABCW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
K5GQ			95	0	34	0	5	6,392
W3RZ			39	0	3	0		117

### SOABCW LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
NM5G			56	0	26	0	4	2,912

### SOABMixed LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
N5DTT			43	1	22	1	4	2,001

## **7th Call Area QSO Party 2020 May 2**

### SO(A)CW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	W3RZ
		101	0	0	30	3:50	3,030		

### SOSSB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	
N5DTT			0		70	0	41	8	5,740

## **50 MHz Spring Sprint 2020 May 9**

### Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			35	21	4	735	TDXS

### Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F			7	4		28	TDXS



## Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

### CQ-M International DX Contest 2020 May 9

#### SOABCW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W3RZ			106	0	22	7	5,214	TDXS
NM5G			12	0	7	1	210	TDXS

### CQWW WPX Contest, CW 2020 May 30

#### SO(A)AB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
KB4KBS			326	264	21 HRS	185,592	TDXS
W3RZ			104	162		13,122	TDXS

#### SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
NU5A(K5GN)x			4100	1083	36	10,101,141	TDXS
KØNM x		x	1365	520	25:37	1,318,720	TDXS
K5GQ			324	203	13.5	111,650	TDXS

#### SOAB Classic HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TU			1229	589	17.3	1,370,603	TDXS
NM5G			373	235	24	151,340	TDXS
KJ5Y(KJØD)		x	329	211	7	120,270	TDXS
K5IZO			237	166	7	56,274	TDXS

#### SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
K5HEM			133	98	18:37	17,738	TDXS
N5DTT			45	42	5.5	2,016	TDXS

#### SOAB Classic LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
KG5U			477	264	12:42	186,912	TDXS
AJ4F			306	183		80,886	TDXS



# Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

## CQWW WPX Contest, CW 2020 May 30 (cont.)

SOAB Rookie LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
AD5US			81	78		10,452	TDXS

We had a fantastic participation in the CQ World Wide WPX Contest. As you see in the report above, there were some impressive scores. In addition to the great scores, we had participation of some new contesters. This new op involvement was boosted by the May 28 Zoom training session “How to Prepare for and Enter the CQ WW WPX Contest” organized by Robie, AJ4F. I participated and tried to contribute some of my experiences that might assist in getting the new contesters more comfortable with the idea of participating in the WPX Contest. The Zoom session really paid off. It was well received and really provided the “boost” needed to get more folks involved.

Over the past month, you may have noticed a few changes in the way I am promoting TDXS member Contest involvement. Every Monday, I have tried to send all the members a message, reminding them of the contests coming up in the next weekend. I try to cover contests that members are most likely to want to be involved in. I may miss a contest. A perfect example is the April 11 FT8 DX Contest organized by the European FT8 Club. This 24-hour contest has, over the past two years, provided a contesting opportunity for the growing FT8 user population. However, the contest suffers from an apparent lack of effective advertising. As popular as FT8 is, there were only 28 logs listed for the contest in 2019. Similarly, the April 11 contest this year drew only 44 logs. If I wanted to make things look better here, I could say that was a 57% increase. But that is just 16 more participants in a world-wide contest. So, if you see that I am not mentioning a contest that you think ought to be listed, just let me know. No need to feel hurt, just send me an email.

It certainly looks like Field Day will be a lot different this year. With the Covid 19 social distancing, a normal type of FD with huge numbers of people in one place is impossible. I know, I will be following the recommendations of the TDXS Field Day leader and will be working as a 1E or 1D station. A lot of my decision on which way to go depends on where I operate. If I operate from Fayette County, I’ll likely take the 2K generator and do 1E. If I don’t have my power cable run and an air conditioner in place in the ham shack by then, I’ll stay home and just do 1D. Either way, I’ll report Texas DX Society as my club affiliation and wait to see how our aggregated score stacks up. Keep an eye open for updates about the TDXS Field Day. But most of all, plan to participate.

Two weeks after Field Day we have another good contest coming up. The IARU HF World Championship Contest is July 11-12. This is a 24-hour contest where you can work everybody, DX and state-side using SSB, CW or both. It is another great opportunity for new contesters to rack up some DX countries as well as U. S. states. It will get you warmed-up for the upcoming North American QSO Parties.

Stay safe and eat well while you are protecting yourself from the VIRUS. See you next month or in a contest.

Jim, N5DTT

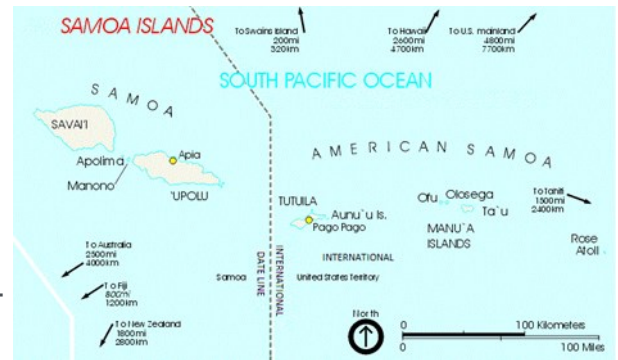




## Where in the World is? ... Ron Litt, K5HM

Yes, there really is a place called Pago Pago. Really. It is a city of about 3,600 and the capital of American Samoa. Not the same as Samoan Samoa, which is about 100 miles to the Northwest. American Samoa is where America's day begins, lying just east of the International Date Line.

The National Park of American Samoa, protects lush rain-forest, coral reefs and waters visited by humpback whales. A trail leads up to Blunts Point Battery, a WWII gun site. It is a popular tourist attraction.



American Samoa consists of three main islands, Tuila (pronounced Too – too – ee -la), Ta'U (pronounced Tah – oo) and Ofu (pronounced, well I think you can figure it out). The total land area is 76.8 Square mile, slightly more than Washington, D.C. American Samoa is the southernmost territory of the United States and one of two U.S. territories south of the Equator, along with the uninhabited Jarvis Island. Tuna products are the main exports, and the main trading partner is the United States. Both Star-Kist and Chicken of the Sea have canneries here. Pago Pago provides direct passenger service to Hawaii.

The Tripartite Convention of 1899 partitioned the Samoan Islands into two parts: The eastern island group became a territory of the United States in 1900. People born on American Samoa are considered American nationals, but they do not have automatic U.S. citizenship at birth. Some Samoans fear that automatic citizenship will destroy the Samoan way of life. Pago Pago's villagers have preserved "The Samoan Way," so residents have a strong sense of tradition and observe many of the customs that began with them 3,000 years ago. Traditional meals are eaten while seated on the floor, businesses are closed on Sunday, and nearly all the population primarily speaks Samoan, despite the predominance of English. Samoans are divided regarding the citizenship issue.



Pago Pago has a tropical climate all year round with two distinct seasons, [wet](#) and [dry](#). The wet season is usually between December and March and the dry season from April through to September with the average daily temperature around 81–83 °F. Great Field Day weather. The climate is warm, tropical, and humid. Throughout the year, rain follows clouds blown in by the trade winds that rise from the east almost daily. The mountains of the Pago Pago area, protect Pago Pago Harbor and catch these clouds, bringing an average of 200 inches of rainfall per year.

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

QRZ.com counts 37 resident hams in American Samoa as of this writing. Recent DXpeditions to KH8 included W1AW/KH8 in 2014 and another supported by W5MJ/KH8 in 2018.

**Reporting from the Dark Side**

**Ron Litt, K5HM**



# TDXS Meeting Tech Forum

At our next virtual meeting, The Tech Forum will have 15 minutes to address any technical issue of interest to you. If you have a technical issue you don't understand, or would like help solving a problem, have a ham radio software problem, etc. please send me an email to [wkc3@wkimbrough.com](mailto:wkc3@wkimbrough.com) with a clear description of the problem and any related information.

The TDXS Tech Forum has 4 members now:

- Robie, AJ4F
- Rick, K5GZR
- Curt, WG5H

and me, Kim, K5TU

I will distribute your question to the group and be happy to see if we can provide you a solution and lots of information. No problem too big or small.

73 Kim K5TU



# International service disruptions by Don N5DD

## International Mail Service Suspensions

Updated: June 9, 2020

The Postal Service™ is temporarily suspending international mail acceptance for certain destinations due to service impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Suspension Due to Foreign Postal Operator Service Suspension			
Bolivia	India	Malawi	Samoa
British Virgin Islands	Iraq	Maldives	South Africa
Chad	Kyrgyzstan	Nepal	Turkmenistan
Dominican Republic	Kuwait	Panama	
Ecuador	Libya	Peru	
Honduras	Madagascar	Rwanda	
Suspension Due to Unavailability of Transportation			
Algeria	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mauritius	Sudan
Angola	Egypt	Mongolia	Suriname
Argentina	Ethiopia	Morocco	Swaziland (Eswatini)
Azerbaijan	Faroe Island	Mozambique	Tajikistan
Bahamas	Fiji	Namibia	Tanzania
Bahrain	French Polynesia	Nigeria	Timor-Leste
Bangladesh	Gambia	Oman	Tonga
Benin	Ghana	Pakistan	Tunisia
Bermuda	Grenada	Papua New Guinea	Turks & Caicos
Botswana	Guatemala	Paraguay	United Arab Emirates
Brunei	Guinea Bissau	Philippines	Uganda
Burkina Faso	Guyana	Qatar	Uruguay
Burundi	Haiti	Republic of Congo	Uzbekistan
Cameroon	Kazakhstan	Saudi Arabia	Vanuatu
Cape Verde	Kenya	Senegal	Venezuela
Cayman Islands	Kiribati	Seychelles	Yemen
Chile	Laos	Sierra Leone	Zambia
Cook Islands	Lebanon	Sint Maarten	Zimbabwe
Costa Rica	Lesotho	Solomon Islands	
Cuba	Liberia	South Sudan	
Curacao	Mauritania	Sri Lanka	

Thanks, Don!



## Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
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VP Programs	<b>Open</b>	
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Webmaster	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Bullsheat Editor	Allen Brier, N5XZ	n5xz at arrl.net

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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](mailto: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 June:

**Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone or of any updates:**

Alex Stalinsky - WA5UHT  
 Joe Brassfield - N5AQT  
 Al Loeckle - K5FK  
 Madison Jones - W5MJ  
 Larry Vehorn - W9AJ  
 Paul Frantz - W5PF  
 Mike Anderson - K5MV  
 Grady Ferguson - W5FU  
 Kirby van Horn - K7EC  
 Bill Stein - WB5SJS  
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