



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net April 2021

The TDXS Monthly Meeting was held at Cullen Park West on Saturday, April 17th. See pics on page 14 of this issue.

Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

I am sorry the BS is late this month. I have been tied up with other things unfortunately, but propagation has generally picked up, with some rather good 10 and 6 meter openings. As a matter of fact, as I write this, 10 meters was open past 10pm last night (I even worked a VK, decoded several ZLs, etc. on FT8.) I also decodes some EU last weekend on 10m but unfortunately was unable to work any of them.

I want to congratulate Dave , K5GN and Bob K5WA for placing #4 and #22 respectively in the WRTC standings. As a matter of fact, Dave is #1 in area NA6. Congratulations again, guys, keep up the good work!!

I am still wondering if some TDXS members will volunteer for the open positions of President, VP of Programs, DX Chairman and Field Day Chairman. The article pages for "Prez Sez" and "DX Chairman's Report" remain empty and open for someone to take over.

Anyone?

Speaking of Field Day, I haven't heard a word from anyone on this. I assume we will do as last year with most working from home and regroup next year for a major effort(?) What say you?

73, Allen N5XZ

Inside this issue:

The Prez Sez by ?	2
TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug WB5TKI	3
DX Chairman's Report by ?	4
Contest Chairman's Report by Jim N5DTT	5
Where in the World is? by Ron K5HM	9
Eddy Reynolds K5WQG TDXS #169-SK	12
Who was Clemens Gerke? By Baldur Drobnic DJ6SI - SD6X	13
Radio Day at the Park - Pics by W9LCQ and AJ4F	14
TDXS Board Members	16
TDXS Birthdays	16

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 ????????



TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: March 18, 2021

Location: ZOOM Virtual Meeting

The March TDXS Meeting was held, as usual, via ZOOM Video conferencing. There were 41 participants! The agenda was:

Introduce the newest TDXS member, Jeff Greer W5JEF from Richmond (#234)

The program was “The Smith Chart: an Overview” presented by Robie Elms AJ4F. He covered the creation of the Chart by Phillip Smith and Mizuhashi Tosaku in the early 1940s as a way to graphically solve some complex mathematics associated with transmission line impedance. [Using a free program called SimSmith](#), Robie showed how to use the chart to design matching networks for transmission lines. It was a great presentation that demystified the interplay between impedance, reactance, resistance and induction. It was a lively session that is well worth a watch.

A full recording of the meeting is at [TDXS Monthly Meeting March 18, 2021 - YouTube](#), or you can follow the link on the TDXS webpage.

Submitted April 10, 2021

Doug Seyler W9LCQ

TDXS Secretary



DX Chairman's Report by ??



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.

April

- 3 Mississippi and Louisiana QSO Parties
 - EA RTTY Contest
 - North America Sprint
- 10 FTn DX Contest
 - OK/OM DX Contest
 - Nebraska, New Mexico, Georgia and North Dakota QSO Parties
 - Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest
- 17 Michigan and Ontario QSO Parties
 - ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB
- 24 10-10 International Digital Contest
 - Florida QSO Party

May

- 1 10-10 International Spring CW Contest
 - ARI International DX Contest
 - 7th Call Area QSO Party (7 states)
 - Indiana QSO Party
 - Delaware QSO Party
 - New England QSO Party (5 states)
- 8 Day of YLs Contest
 - CQ-M International DX Contest
 - Arkansas QSO Party
- 15 His Majesty King of Spain Contest
- 21 Hamvention QSO Party
- 28 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

TDXS members participated in a number of contests in March. Here is their score information as reported in the 3830scores.com website.

ARRL DX Contest, SSB 2021 Mar 6

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TIA			77	58	20	13,398	TDXS
KØNM		x		81	51 5	12,393	TDXS
K5TU			45	24	1.6	3,240	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT				105	51 10	16,065	TDXS
AJ4F			11	9		297	TDXS

SOSB/10 HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			139	16		6,672	TDXS

Idaho QSO Party 2021 Mar 13

SOABCW HP

Call	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Dig	Mults	Score	Club
K5TIA	7	0	0	5			0		0	8	70		TDXS	

SOABSSB LP

Call	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Dig	Mults	Score	Club
N5DTT	0	5	0	0			5		0		25		TDXS	

Oklahoma QSO Party 2021 Mar 13

SOABCW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TIA			22	0	0	16	8			1,056	TDXS	

SOABMixed LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT				9	6	0	15	3.5		585	TDXS	



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Wisconsin QSO Party 2021 Mar 14

SO Fixed HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW-Dig	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
K5TIA			35		0		24	10		1,680.0	TDXS

SO Fixed LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW-Dig	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
N5DTT			0			7	7	2		49.0	TDXS

Russian DX Contest 2021 Mar 20

SO Mixed HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Countries	Oblasts	Score	Club
K5GN(@W5KU)			349	34	114		34		244,496	TDXS

BARTG HF RTTY Contest 2021 Mar 20

SOAB HP

Call	QSOs	Countries	Call	Areas	Continents	Op	Time	Score	Club
K5TU	36	12	13		4	2		3,600	TDXS

Virginia QSO Party 2021 Mar 20

SOAB/CWFixed HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
K5TIA			56	0	0	30	10					3,360	TDXS

SOAB/MixedFixed LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
N5DTT			5		8	0	11		6			198	TDXS



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

CQWW WPX Contest, SSB 2021 Mar 27

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
W5GCX		287	210		162,540	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT			212 179	13	80,192	TDXS

SOSB10 HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
KZ5MM(W5PR)		409	153		171,972	TDXS

A recurring problem in Amateur Radio are the limitations on antennas due to local restrictions and Homeowner CC&Rs. This greatly limits contest operation from home. I am lucky to have a place in Fayette County that allows me to have a good tower with a tri-bander and plenty of room for dipole or vertical antennas. I know I have not yet reached my full potential there regarding infrastructure, but I at least have a place to contest that is better than my home in the city.

This certainly brings up the fact that a lot of people are not so lucky to have a rural operation. What does a new Ham do if he or she wants to get into contesting? One option is to do contesting as a portable operation. For several years, I operated from beneath a live oak tree in my mother's yard in Fayette County. During Spring and late Fall contests, the temperature was quite pleasant but the IARU and the August NAQP were quite a challenge. After all, if a location works as a Parks on the Air or Field Day location, it should be fine for a contest.

Another option is organizing a Single Radio, Multi-operator contest effort. Someone with a good location and good antennas could invite a few new or old contesters to his place and have each guest operator take some time at the radio. New ops would gain valuable skills during this time. Old ops might learn a few things, too. The best part of this type of operation is that there can be a lot of free time, away from the radio, where techniques can be discussed, and ideas exchanged.

A final option is a full-bore multi-radio, multi-operator effort. The most easily visualized of this type of operation is the Four Club Field Day operations of recent years. Many complicating factors arise with this type of operation. In addition to the more complicated logistical issues there are radio to radio, antenna to antenna and operator to operator interference issues. While this type of operation might be greatly beneficial to a new operator it might also prove confusing.

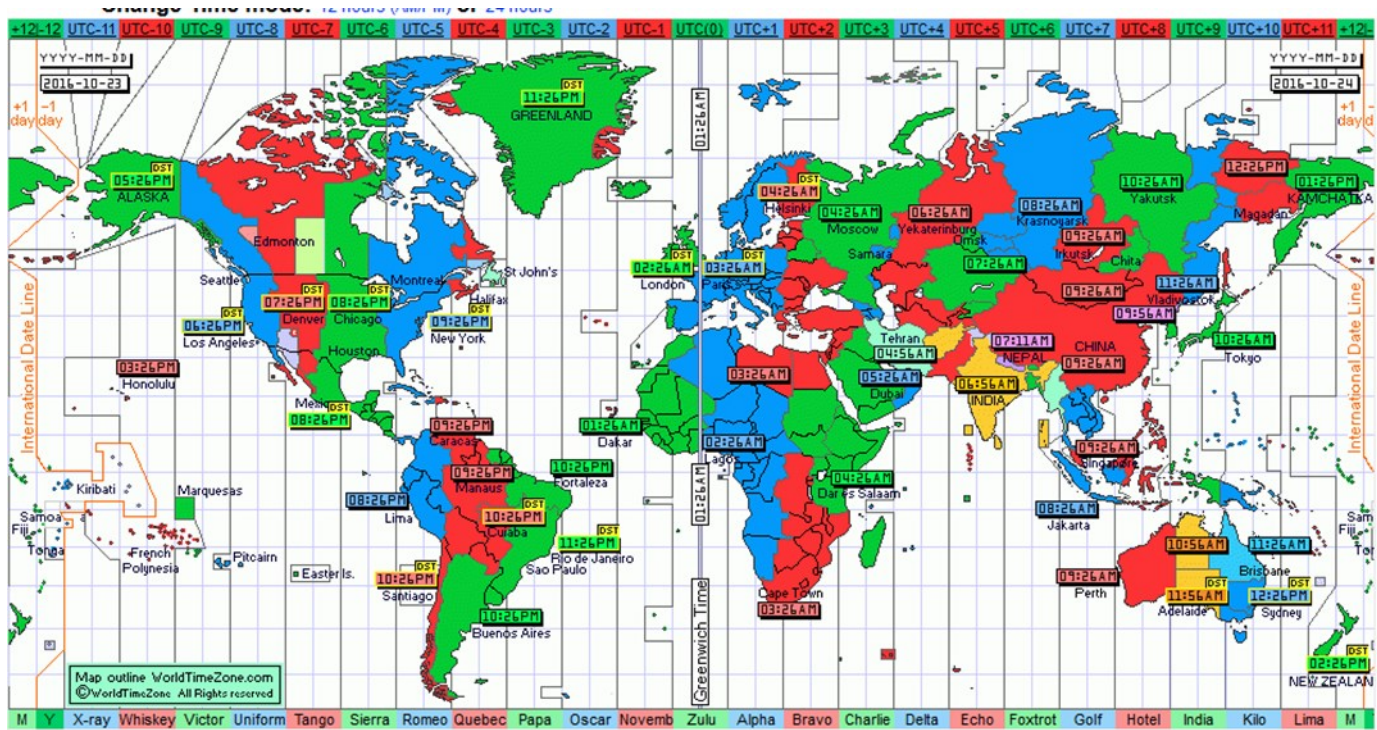
These are just some of my thoughts about how more Hams can get into contesting. I think a group that is as diverse and skilled as TDXS is, we would be in a great position to encourage members who want to contest but lack a place to effectively do it. Let us think about it.

Jim, N5DTT



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

Time is very important to every ham. It can be the difference between a good QSO and a busted one; the last contact for honor roll or not; a win or a loss in the CQ WW. Yet I suspect few of us give it much thought. As a new ham in 1954, I used to keep my paper log using local time and an alarm clock my old man discarded. When I came back to ham radio in 2009, most computer logging programs used UTC time.



That took some getting used to. We all know that UTC time is either five or six hours ahead of our local time, depending on Daylight Savings Time but what is UTC anyway? UTC or Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) is the basis for civil time today. No, the letters don't line up in French either, where it is known as *Temps Universel Coordonné*. It is still referred to as **UTC**.

Universal Time (UT) was created at the International Meridian Conference in 1884, attended by 26 nations. This is the basis for the 24-hour time zone system we know today. At the time, Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) was chosen as the world's time standard. For most, UTC is considered interchangeable with GMT. UTC Time is generally observed by nations along the Prime Meridian, a line running roughly from North to South along the zero-degree longitude line. I say "generally" observed because there is no international treaty about time zones. Each nation is free to observe whatever time standard they choose. For example, on the Korean peninsula, Korea Standard Time (KST) UTC +9 is observed by South Korea. Pyongyang Time (UTC+ 8:30) is observed by the folks in P5 land.

UTC, referred to as Zulu Time, used by the military community and refers to the zone along the Zero Longitude line. Traveling east, the world is divided into 25 time zones labeled Alpha (UTC+1), Bravo (UTC+2), Charlie (UTC+3) each with a positive offset to UTC, skipping Juliet for some reason, and continuing until it runs smack into . . .wait for it . . . The International Date Line.

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

Mike time (UTC+12) is the last zone before the Date Line. The next time zone east of Mike is Yankee time (UTC-12). What??? Yes, Virginia, you just crossed the International Date Line and gained a day traveling east. East of the date line, the time zones have a negative offset and begin with Yankee(UTC-12), X-ray(UTC-11), Whiskey(UTC-10). They continue east through Texas, where it is mostly Sierra Time (UTC-6), except in EL Paso (Romeo Time, UTC-7) and during Daylight Saving Time. At last running into Zulu time again.

The International Date Line. No, it is not a yellow line drawn on the water of the Pacific Ocean. To have a global time zone system, the day and date must be separated at *two* locations — you can't split a circle into two parts with a single "cut." The solution was provided by the International Meridian Conference.

The IMC selected the 180-degree meridian as the other "cut," not because it was directly opposite the Prime Meridian. 180 degrees was chosen because it runs mostly through open ocean in the central Pacific, zigging and zagging to keep nearby nations on their own day and date. So the choice of 180 degrees was arbitrary, but it established the International Date Line in use today.

Although the line starts out in the middle of its UTC±12 time zone at the North Pole— exactly at longitude 180 degrees — for most of its length as you go South, it shifts to the east and coincides with the eastern edge of its time zone, which also zigs and zags.

This accommodation keeps the island nations of Oceania each on their own clock and calendar. But there are exceptions. Tonga preferred to be at UTC+13 (or UTC-11) for reasons of commerce and convenience. Samoa, originally in the UTC-11 time zone, in 2011 "gerrymandered" their time-zone borders to place them in UTC+12. The Chatham Islands sets their clocks at UTC+12.75, creating an "orphan" time zone inside UTC+12. Fractional time zones are used in 16 locations around the globe. Countries simply choose what works best for them.



In Antarctica where all the time zones converge, there is no official time zone. Most of the residents choose to handle their time zone problem in the most convenient way. Some research stations follow the time zone of their home country. Others, like

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

the McMurdo and Palmer stations, both run by the US, synchronize their time to the closest point in the inhabited world.

McMurdo for instance, follows the same time as Christchurch, New Zealand, since most visitors and researchers to the station use Christchurch as their point of embarkation to Antarctica. Palmer Station on the other hand, follows Chilean time. Other research stations tend to follow UTC.

Reporting from the Dark Side

Ron, K5HM



Eddy Reynolds K5WQG TDXS #169- SK

It is with much sadness that I report the passing of Edward M. Reynolds, (Eddy), K5WQG.

He passed away Thursday, April 9, 2021 at Tomball Regional Hospital after a massive heart attack earlier in the week.

More information to follow when arrangements are made.

Bob Walworth, N5ET



Who was Clemens Gerke? By Baldur Drobica DJ6SI - SD6X

JANUARY 22, 2001 marked the 200th anniversary of Clemens Gerke's birth. The large majority of radio amateurs are unaware of an existing relationship with him. Clemens Friedrich Gerke is the reformer of the Morse telegraphy code. Since 1851 whole generations of telegraphists have got their training according to his new system. Gerke was able to eliminate the shortcomings of Morse's original code. Altogether he redefined or rearranged eleven letters of the alphabet and nine numerals. In the early days of wirebound telegraphy the signals were printed on a moving paperstrip at their destination and were then transformed in a written text by

an experienced telegraphist. So there was quite enough time to decipher the marks the telegraph printer had left on the paper strip. Listening to wireless signals and writing the letters down right away became standard procedure a good number of years later. In Morse's original system signals were of different length; some signals were composed of other basic elements. Thus quite a number of errors occurred, and the learning process proved to be difficult. About half of Morse's original signals have been retained, though. The basic structure of Gerke's system is a short signal (dot) and a long signal (dash), the length of which corresponds to three dots. So each signal is unique. The respective intervals between signals and words were defined; the numerals got a systematic structure. We have a extra call for 3 months DC220GERKE (see www.qrz.com). 161, Baldur, DJ6SI -SD6X ☺ J

	American (Morse)	Continental (Gerke)	International (ITU)
A	• —	• —	• —
Ä		• — • —	
B	• • • •	• — • — • —	• — • • •
C	• • •	• — • — • —	• — • — •
CH		• — • — • —	
D	• • •	• — • —	• — • •
E	•	•	•
F	• — • •	• • — •	• • — •
G	• — • •	• — • —	• — • —
H	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •
I	• •	• •	• •
J	• — • — •	• — • — • —	• — • — • —
K	• — • —	• — • —	• — • —
L	• — • —	• — • —	• — • —
M	• — • —	• — • —	• — • —
N	• •	• •	• •
O	• •	• •	• •
Ö		• — • — • —	
P	• • • • •	• • • • •	• — • — • —
Q	• • • • •	• — • — • —	• — • — • —
R	• • • •	• — • —	• — • —
S	• • •	• • •	• • •
T	• —	• —	• —
U	• • •	• • •	• • •
Ü		• • • •	
V	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •
W	• — • — •	• — • — •	• — • — •
X	• • • •	• — • — • —	• — • — • —
Y	• • • •	• — • — • —	• — • — • —
Z	• • • •	• — • — • —	• — • — • —
1	• — • — • —	• — • — • —	• — • — • —
2	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
3	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
4	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
5	• — • — • —	• — • — • —	• • • • •
6	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
7	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
8	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
9	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
0	• — • — • —	• — • — • —	• — • — • —
0 (alt)	• —	• —	• —



Radio Day at the Park - Pics by W9LCQ and AJ4F

A group of local hams met at Cullen Park West, Pavilion "C" on Saturday, April 17th for an eyeball gathering which took the place of our April Zoom meeting. Sadly, I wasn't able to go due to previous plans but I was sent some pics of the event. I'm sure you will recognize some TDXS members. Hopefully, someone will do a small writeup for next month's BS. See below.



Radio Day at the Park - Pics by Doug Seyler W9LCQ



Texas DX Society Board members

President	OPEN!	
VP Membership	Gerald Muller	gmuller885@aol.com
VP Programs	OPEN!	
Secretary	Doug Seyler, W9LCQ	djseyler at comcast.net
Treasurer	Larry Daze KB5WWW	dxon20@gmail.com
Contest Chairman	Jim Burrough, N5DTT	jandpburrough at sbcglobal.net
Field Day Chairman	OPEN!	
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at arrl.net
DX Chairman	OPEN!	
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/WAZ/WAS QSL 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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TexasDXSociety/> (new)

TDXS says "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to these members with birthdays in April:

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

John Cashen - W5UG
 Bob Burns - W5SJS
 Bob Bradshaw - N5RF
 Orville Burg - K5VWW
 Wayne Bailey - NX7K
 OJ Quarles - K1OJ
 Steve Flannigan—W5HPQ
 Robie Elms – AJ4F