



# The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net October 2015

## October TDXS meeting night:

Thursday Oct 8th, 7PM at the [Tracy Gee Center](#).



This is a business meeting to discuss possible major changes in the constitution, DXpedition funding, and officer nominations for next year. Be there! Pre-meeting dinner at Pappa's BBQ on S. Gessner, just south of Westheimer, starting about 5:30PM. .

## Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

It's the time of year to think about giving back to the club. What I'm talking about is running for an officer position for TDXS. One of the things we'll be doing this coming Thursday night is seeking nominations (could be self-nominations) for various positions, including President. We have some new members, perhaps one or more of them might be willing.

We will also be looking further at the TDXS Constitution, especially at things like making it somewhat easier to join the club and DXpedition funding. If you have opinions on these items, or any others, be sure to be there.

Work on the new vertical at the N5XZ Antenna Farm is proceeding, but excruciatingly slow. Just too many other

things to do and take care of, including working overtime. I did manage to get a few grounding parts ordered and some work done this weekend, but it's still too slow. I'll be renting a trencher soon for the underground conduit to run the feedlines and control lines. Soon I hope.

The bands are starting to show some life again after being really bad for a while. A couple of DXpeditions are going on...Chesterfield Is. and North Cook Is. A number of locals ran fixed and mobile in the TQP last weekend and made a slew of contacts.

Some of the better DX in my log in September included: R11ANZ, 3D2KM, E6GG, Z21MG, T2GC, E51MQT, and E51MKW. Nothing too exotic and not that much, but again there has been less time

than optimal for working DX lately.

There's also been a lot of discussion lately about the 2016 Greater Houston Hamfest. It's going to be a 2-day event next year, and it is expanding into another building. We're always looking for volunteers, and since I am in charge of programs, I'm always looking for speaker volunteers. Did you hear?...the keynote speaker next year will be Riley Hollingsworth. K4ZDH! Kudos to Ron Litt for pulling that one off! Should be a great show. Please plan to be there. March 19th, 2016 at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds (just like last year).

Thanks and 73,  
73, Allen N5XZ

### *Inside this issue:*

<b>The Prez Sez by Bob Hardie W5UQ</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TDXS September 2015 Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Radiosport Items of Note by Ron Litt K5HM</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Where in the World is - by Ron Litt K5HM</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Digital Modes by Robie Elms AJ4F</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>TDXS Charter Members seen at the Belton Hamfest</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TDXS Board Members</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>TDXS Birthdays</b>	<b>9</b>

## The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

Subjects: Ole Codgers meeting, Belton hamfest and October meeting with nominating officers for 2016:

SOOOOOO, where did September go? How did October sneak in so fast? Oh well. If you didn't make the Ole Codger's dinner meeting, TDXS dinner meeting for September, then you really missed a big gathering of TDXS'ers. We sure had a great time and everyone I talked to seemed to feel it was a good dinner meeting.

Richard, K5NA, our TDXS No. 1 on the membership list was there with his "better half. J

I've seen Richard at three ham gatherings lately. We seem to be running into each other.

At Belton, Richard said that there were four of the original members there and he was trying to catch them all and get a picture. Hope it worked out Richard. If you did get the picture, I remember your saying that you would send it in to the Bull Sheet for all to see. Great.... Hope you got it.

I saw Ed Gerber and his better half. In fact, I saw them several times. Once was in a restaurant near the Belton hamfest. They were sitting at their table having a nice quiet dinner. My wife and I had just walked in looking for our group. When I saw Ed, we went over to speak to them.

The rest of the story: As I leaned over to greet his wife, I knocked her water glass into her plate. Talk about embarrassed. I'll bet I turned all colors of red, it was a dark restaurant.....and that saved me a little bit of embarrassment. J Anyway, my sincere apologies to you both. I promise to not run over to talk the next time I see you and your wife at a restaurant..... well maybe. J

Saw other hams in that same restaurant. Richard and his wife being there too. Since the weather was cooler, the turn out was better this year. Or for whatever reason.... Not sure why. But it was really good.

Ron Litt, K5HM, was there. Our newest member, Robie, was there. And I saw BVARC ex-prez, Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z. Lots and lots of others. Wish I had written down all their calls/ names. Oh well, I seem to always think of these things after it is too late. So, forgive my memory, but that is all I have to look to right now. J

John Straton, K5AUS dropped by, as usual. It's always good to see him. And many friends from the Austin and central Texas area were there. No rain and no humidity with reasonable temperatures sure helped. Only pest was the flies.....which seem to stalk us all every year. Oh yes... we did not have the barking dogs this year either. So, other than the pesky flies, this Belton hamfest was really good, one of the best ever.

Hope you all attend the next TDXS meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup> at Tracy Gee. Some of us will meet at Papa's BBQ before the meeting for dinner. Come join us.

AT THE TDXS MEETING OF October 8<sup>th</sup>, we well be finalizing electing OFFICERS for 2016. We need someone to replace me as president as I am so busy now with my business that I am "not able" to perform the duties of president.

However, if we can not find anyone else, and IF you will put up with my not being able to perform my duties as I would if I were not tied up with my business, then, bottom line..... if necessary... I will serve one more year. We do have a great secretary

and a great treasurer. Our board of directors is really good.

Speaking of that... we need a VP of Programming as Lance Rumfield's work load has increased to where he can not be VP of Programming in 2016. Thank you Lance for your serving for the last two years. You have done a great job.

Now... someone needs to step up to that position. And we need a VP of Membership Chairman. So someone needs to step up to that position.

Come to the October meeting with some ideas of who to nominate for these positions. Then lets have a wonderful 2016 and a stronger TDXS. We're GROWING... yep... we are growing. Thanks to everyone's concern and hard work.

Have a good October.

73,

Bob Hardie W5UQ

President, TDXS for 2014 and 2015

# TDXS September 2015 Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

## TDXS September 2015 Meeting Minutes

**Date:** September 23, 2015

**Location:** Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, Houston, TX

**Attendance:** TDXS Members: Lance WD5X, Mike N5MT, Bob W5UQ, Cookie K5EWJ, Ron K5HM, Scott K5DD, Jim N4AL, Steve W9DX, Bill K5GA, Doug WB5TKI, Allen N5XZ, Curt WG5H, Robie AJ4F, Bob N5ET, George NR5M, Keith NM5G, Orville K5VWW, Ron K5LLL, John K5JS, Bill W5SG, Richard K5NA

Guests: Margie Davidson (XYL of Mike N5MT), Gerald Mueller K9GEM and XYL Janice, Nizar Mullani K0NM, Angela Boockholdt (XYL of Jim N4AL), Milanie Bradford (XYL of Bill K5GA), Lynn Seyler (XYL of Doug WB5TKI), Ken Mitchell KD2KW and XYL Kaye, Beth Dutson (XYL of Keith NM5G), Verna Patout (XYL of Scott K5DD), John Stevens (son of John K5JS) and Susan King K5DU (XYL of Richard K5NA)

The August meeting was the annual Old Codgers Dinner, held this year at Los Tios Mexican Restaurant on Westheimer in West Houston. The event was well attended, with 21 TDXS members and 13 guests. The group spanned the range of members from Richard King (member # I) to Robie Elms (member # CLXXXVI).

The food was delicious, the conversation was lively, and it was a great opportunity to meet and great members old and new. You can't go wrong with all-you-can-eat fajitas!

**Business:**

After dinner a brief business meeting was held. Topics discussed included:

- The October meeting will not have a speaker. It will be held at Tracy Gee and will be business only, including Officer nominations for 2016.
- Mike N5MT, or Field Day Chair, announced that Field Day results are still pending but our team probably placed around 10<sup>th</sup> in the world.
- Ron K5HM announced that the 2016 Greater Houston Hamfest will again be held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. This time it will be a 2 day affair, on Friday and Saturday, March 18-19. The featured speaker will be Riley Hollingsworth K4DZH. Riley is the former Special Council for Spectrum Enforcement.
- Mention was made of ongoing Board of Director discussions concerning TDXS Constitution revisions and DXpedition support.
- A request was made to update the TDXS Secretary on changes to member contact information.

It was announced that TDXS has received sponsored membership applications from Gerry Mueller K9GEM and Leslie Bartosh AD5WB, which the Board will review.

Submitted October 3, 2015

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



## DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

September was a continuation of August with summer propagation in control and the sunspot numbers continuing to drop. We experienced several M class solar flares which didn't help the upper bands. One good 6M opening occurred on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> with HC8/G80FQ being worked from the Houston area.

The E6GG operation from Niue by 7 UK stations turned out quite well and they were worked on all bands 160M-10M. The predominate mode was CW but they were active on SSB on 20M-10M and provided some qso's on 17M RTTY.

D67GIA was the call sign used by Kenneth Opscar, LA7GIA, while operating from the Comoros. He was active from Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> until Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. He will be operating from 3C, Equatorial Guinea, between Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. 3C currently ranks as the 29th most needed entity from N.A.

There were a few goodie stations active during the CQWW RTTY contest the weekend of Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> including D44TUQ from Cape Verde, E51AAR from South Cook Is, OZ1JTE from Denmark, and TG9IIN from Guatemala.

A DXpedition by LZ1GC and OM5ZW to Funafuti, Tuvalu is currently using the call T2GC. They will be active from Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> through October 14<sup>th</sup>.

The North Cook Islands Manihiki Atoll will be active from Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> through Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> on all bands and modes by E51MQT, E51MBX and E51MKW. I do not believe the North Cooks have been active in the past 3 or 4 years.

The major Dxpediton for the October is TX3X. They have sailed from Noumea, New Caledonia and will operate from the Chesterfield Islands from October 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. They will have 12 members and 7 active stations utilizing Elecraft K3's, P3's and KPA500 Amplifiers. They should easily be heard as Bob, W5UQ, is providing two SPE Expert 1.3K-FA amplifiers.

We will certainly be looking forward to the fall and winter seasons. Activity will be from all areas of the globe including the Heard Island, Palmyra, Kerguelin activations in addition to South Sandwich and South Georgia Dxpediton.

TDXS will also be initiating a Dxpediton sponsorship program to provide funds to needy DXpeditions in the name of TDXS. Details will follow. (hint: matching funds for donations from TDXS members plus grants from the club treasury.)

Good DXing!



# Radiosport Items of Note for October—by Ron Litt K5HM

## Radiosport Items of Note for October 2015

For a complete list of contests click the link below

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

State QSO Parties – An easy way to try a contest for the first time. If you happen to need these states for WAS, they are a great way to work states to work states you can't easily find on the bands otherwise.

California QSO Party Oct 3-4

Arizona QSO Party– Oct 11

Pennsylvania Oct 10-11

Arkansas QSO Party Sept 12-13

Iowa QSO Party Oct Oct17

New York QSO Party Oct 17-18

South Dakota QSO Party Oct 17-18

Illinois QSO Party Oct 18-19

### Mixed Mode Contests

Worked All Germany Contest Oct 17-18

ARRL School/Club Roundup Oct 19-23

### SSB Contests

Oceania DX Contest, Phone Oct 3-4

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB Oct 24-25

### CW Contests

Oceania DX Contest, CW Oct 10-11

Stew Perry Top Band Contest

### Digital Contests

PODXS 070 Club 160m Great Pumpkin Sprint Oct 10-11

### Selected Special Event Activities

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Oct 3-11 W5B

Camp Hope BBQ Cook-off Oct 10 K0D.

Eisenhower Birthday, Oct 10 W5I

Head of the Charles Regatta Oct 15-19 W1R

76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Oct 16-18, Various

Yorktown Surrender Oct 17 K4RC

Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald Oct 31-Nov 1 W0jh

**And The Ever Popular . . . Juan Batista de Anza Days Oct 17 WE7GV** - Celebrating Juan Bautista De Anza's expedition from Tubac, Arizona to San Francisco.

For details on every Special Event in August, go to [http://www.arrl.org/special\\_events/search/page:3/Date.start:2015-09-01/Date.end:2015-10-31/model:Event](http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:3/Date.start:2015-09-01/Date.end:2015-10-31/model:Event)



## Where in the World is ... KP2RUM—U.S. Virgin Islands by Ron Litt K5HM

### KP2RUM – U.S Virgin Islands

#### IOTA NA-106

KP2RUM is the club call of a loosely knit group of rum loving amateurs. Some members are located on St. Croix in the US Virgin Islands, while others visit to enjoy the beauty, and of course the rum(!), of St. Croix. The club members' penchant for Jimmy Buffett songs inspired the club name of "It's 5 O'clock Somewhere". Their club meetings are usually held before major contests at, where else, "Cheeseburgers In Americas' Paradise", or "Cheesies".

As we prepare for contests, nearby residents can watch us try and stand in a football huddle and scream our club motto: MULTS Rrrrrr! We're not all serious testers as our most favorite holiday is September 19th. Why September 19th you may logically ask? Why of course it's because that's International Talk Like a Pirate Day! You think we're crazy? Check it out... [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Talk\\_Like\\_a\\_Pirate\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Talk_Like_a_Pirate_Day)

To exemplify the importance of rum to the economy of St. Croix, in many contests requiring a name in the contest exchange, "RUM" is utilized so that operators do not have to remember their own names. It also makes it easy since we don't have to remember to change operator names in our contest logging program.

An early alcoholic drink, rum has been around since ancient times. Though it wasn't first distilled in plantations until the 17th century, rum is believed to have existed thousands of years prior in the form of brum, a drink made by the Malay people.

An alcoholic drink determined to have a place in history – even the dark parts of history - rum was involved in the slave trade, as slaves, molasses, and rum were part of the triangular trade. When this trade was interrupted because of the 1764 Sugar Act, another straw was thrown on the American colonists' back. Thus, bottles of rum can often be overheard bragging to bottles of wine and bottles of whiskey that they were the reason for the American Revolution.

More than any other alcoholic drink, rum was associated with pirates (yo ho ho and a bottle of rum, anyone?). This initially started when English privateers began trading it. As some of these men eventually became pirates, they carried with them their liking of rum. Works of literature that coupled rum and piracy perpetuated this notion.

Technically, rum is a distilled beverage made from sugar cane by-products such as molasses and sugar cane juice. It is first fermented, then distilled and aged in barrels. Shades range from light to golden to dark and some rums are also infused with spices or fruit flavours. Most of the world's rum production takes place in the tropics, close to where sugar cane grows, especially in the Caribbean and South America, but it is also produced in Australia, Fiji and India, as well as other places around the world.

The rum industry has historically been vital to the USVI economy. There are two major brands of rum that are produced on St. Croix. Cruzan has the home court advantage as they've been here for several generations. Although Cruzan is technically owned by Suntory (JA land), it is still managed & operated by the Nelthropp family, just as it always has been.

Captain Morgan is the new kid on the block having commenced production in 2012. Owned by British parent company Diagio, Captain Morgan relocated from its former production facility in Puerto Rico amid significant controversy.

Over the years sugarcane ruled St. Croix and at one time as much as 85% of the island was covered with sugarcane fields. The mid 1700's saw a peak in production through the mid 1800's. It was at the beginning of this era, in 1760, that the Nelthropp family started the Cruzan tradition. The name for the brand is derived from the term "Crucian," which refers to the people who live on the island.

*Reprinted with the permission of the "It's 5 O'clock Somewhere Amateur Radio Club", KP2RUM*

Reporting from the Dark Side,

Ron, K5HM

## Digital Modes on 6 Meters—by Robie Elms AJ4F

I enjoy experimenting with digital modes on 6 meters. My current favorite is JT65A, most often referred to as just JT65. JT65 is a weak signal mode and was developed for EME (earth moon earth) communication, however I use it routinely during Sporadic E and TEP openings. This protocol and a number of others (JT6A, JT9, JTMS, and FSK441) were developed by Joe Taylor, K1JT. Here is the link to Joe's website:

<http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/index.html>

The various protocols were designed for different types of propagation. For example, JT65 is considered a slow mode, the transmit cycle for each station takes 60 seconds, requiring approximately 5 minutes to complete a QSO. This would be fine for EME where the moon is in position to reflect signals between stations for up to several hours. However, FSK441 is designed for meteor scatter where the meteor trail that reflects signals between stations may exist for only a few seconds. The transmit cycle for FSK441 is either 15 or 30 seconds. Even with this short cycle several meteors are likely needed to provide sufficient reflections to exchange the information to complete a QSO. Since Sporadic E and TEP propagation both change relatively slowly, I have been very successful using JT65 on 6 meters for state side and DX contacts.

These modes transmit their data using a sequence of tones that are generated and decoded by computer software on both ends of the QSO. I currently use WSJT-x version 1.5 software, and a RigExpert Plus USB sound card. The JT65 data is structured in a rigid time sequence and the clock of both the sending and receiving stations must be synchronized very closely. The Windows time synchronization function has not proven accurate enough for to get accurate decodes of signals. I use an old network time synchronization software NetTime on my computer. The WSJT-x generated tones are fed from the soundcard to my transceiver and transmitted in the USB mode. The bandwidth required by modes differs. For example, JT65 has a bandwidth of approximately 176 Hz, while the bandwidth for JT9 is 17.6 Hz. The calling/working frequency for JT65 is 50.276 MHz and the relatively narrow bandwidth of JT65 allows several signals to exist simultaneously. Contacts are initiated by calling CQ on either even or odd numbered minutes of the hour. Stations respond to the CQ during the alternate minute. A QSO is completed when call signs, signal reports (received signal levels in dB) and grid square are exchanged. Because of the signal processing capability of the software, very weak signals can be decoded. I have had many QSOs using JT65 that were not discernible to my ear using headphones.

The state of the art with this type of digital communications is changing very rapidly and new modes with enhanced capabilities are introduced frequently. A much more complete discussion of JT65 and JT9 was written by Jeff Steinkamp, N7YG, in the January 2015 edition of the TEN-TEN INTERNATIONAL NEWS.

---

## TDXS Charter Members seen at the Belton Hamfest



TDXS Charter Members seen at the Belton Hamfest

Front Left to Right: Robert McWhorter, K5PFE #5 and Sammy Neal N5AF #6

Back Row Left to Right: Richard King K5NA #1 and David Evans, K6SOR #4

(Thanks to Richard K5NA for the pic.)



## Texas DX Society Board members

President	Bob Hardie, W5UQ	w5uq at att.net
VP Membership	Bob Mennell, WB5IUU	bmennell@consolidated.net
VP Programs	Lance Rumfield, WD5X	ltrumfield at sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	djseyler@comcast.net
Treasurer	Mike Bragassa, K5UO	bragassa at consolidated.net
Contest Chairman	Willis "Cookie" Cooke, K5EWJ	wrcooke at yahoo.com
Field Day Chairmen	Mike Davidson, N5MT	n5mt@aol.com
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net
DX Chairman	Orville Burg, K5VWW	Orville@rubyglass.com
Outgoing QSL Manager	Scott Patout,, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Webmaster	Steve Smothers, W9DX	cougar70 at earthlink.net
Bullsheat 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](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

**TDXS says "HAPPY BIRTHDAY"** to these members with birthdays in October

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Jim Whitmire KD4M  
 Wes Whiddon N5WW  
 Ron Marosko, Sr. K5LLL  
 Bill Schrader, K2TNO  
 Jeff McClain, K5MV  
 George DeMontrond, III, NR5M  
 Kim Carr, K5TU  
 Laurent Thomin, W0MM  
 Bob Mennell, WB5IUU  
 Tom Campbell, KD5TIO  
 Bob Hardie, W5UQ