



# The Bullsheet

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

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

## September:

Third annual Old Codgers **Dinner Meeting** ([RSVP](#)) on **Wednesday, September 23, 6:30 – 9:00 PM CDST**. Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, 9527 Westheimer RD, Houston TX 77063.



## Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

It's been a long weekend! Literally! Three sessions of the CW-OPS Open was a lot of fun, though. And Saturday morning, after session #2, I had a mini antenna party over at my place and we got the 18HT vertical up in the air! Finally after all this time, can you believe it! I still have a lot of work to do, though. I need to run a trench, buy conduit, fittings, etc. to run the feedlines, control line and AC power from tower A to tower B. Then, I need to run radials and/or screen in the ground. So, I won't be on 80/160 just yet! But it sure looks good standing up there, I gotta tell 'ya! Thanks again to Doug WB5TKI, Jose KF5ZAC and Dan KF5WCU and his two nephews, in from Phoenix. After showing them the shack, which Dan's nephews found VERY interesting and even "cool" (maybe

some new hams there?), I next introduced them to HD-Audio Jazz in the media room and they were very thankful for that. They were both tapping their feet and bobbing their heads, so I guess Jazz isn't so old fashioned after all! One of them even thanked me for introducing him to some Jazz he had never heard before (probably mostly "smooth" jazz). How about Charlie Mariano, Lee Morgan and Billy Cobham? How's that for a mix...you Jazz guys out there know what I mean!) Next was a good meal at The Swinging Door BBQ (no doubt one of the best BBQ joints in the entire Houston area). Then, back to session 3 of the CW-OPS Open. I made exactly 900 Q's in the CW-Open, first time I did all three sessions full time. I

really enjoyed it. I also formed a team, which consisted of K0NM, KJ5Y, AF5T, KE8G, K5IZO, W5HFF and WB5TKI. I don't have full reports back from them, but everyone had a great time, I think, and I hope to lead teams again in the future for CW contests. So, during the month of August, the following DXCC of note was worked at N5XZ: VK2XZ (cool call, I think!), 7Z1JA (Max, KE5JA from Friendswood), 3D2KM, E51DWC and PY0F/PP1CZ. Not much, I admit, I think this is somewhat indicative of the poor band conditions we have been having lately. CU at the Old Codger's Meeting at Los Tios! Thanks and 73, 73, Allen N5XZ

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## The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

Hope all had a great Labor Day weekend.

Well, it is about time for more thunderstorms and lightning. Hope all have their systems properly grounded. One of the biggest mistakes is having several grounding systems that are NOT tied together. Think of this. If you have two grounding systems, when the air gets charged and is looking for a place to discharge, then there is always a voltage potential between the grounds. And if you have a piece of ham gear that is connected by some means to the two ground systems, like the antenna coax is going to a tower with its own ground system, and the ham gear is grounded to a different grounding system, then that "ham gear" will have that difference of potential imposed on it. Also, the difference of potential may just seek the path to your AC line, a third ground system, to "bleed off the charge" Running at least a simple wire between "ALL OF THE grounding systems" is a good start. Of course a big grounding strap is best.

If there are any wires, cables, etc., running between the various separate grounding systems that are not "married together, then those cables or wires will have the charge (difference of potential) on them when the air is charged. Now, picture those wires/cables being between two pieces of ham gear or TV or computers or appli-

ances. Trouble is on the way.

Making all of your grounds married together with as large of a wire, or better yet, a copper strap, helps a lot. Also, if you remove your antennas every time you turn your rig off and always do that, it will help enormously too. (*Note: I disconnect everything: antennas, rotator and SteppIR control lines, AC power lines, etc.—ED*) Having lightning suppressors on the antenna lines is good (*A must, I think—ED*) too. That helps a lot if you don't like to have to disconnect the antenna cable and especially when you are listening or on the air when a large charge discharges in your area. Anyway, I always disconnect and tie the cables, center and outside conductors to ground. . Usually tying all the ground systems together and disconnecting all antennas (running them to ground) will do wonders to keep from being sorry later. Just some thoughts for you to consider.

Well we had a TDXS dinner meeting in July. It was a good dinner at Rudy's BBQ on 290. Had a good attendance too. Our time together was fun and everyone seemed to be enjoying their selves. A TDXS meeting was held and reports from our board members occurred. Also, Orville, K5VWW has been appointed, by me, as the new trustee for our club ham license of K5DX. Seems Steve, who has been the trustee, is needing to pass it to someone else now. Orville is a good

choice. He will serve that position well.

And we had a TDXS regular meeting at Tracy Gee on August at 7pm. Keith, NM5G gave the program on Texas QSO party. I'm sure he did a great presentation like last years. I wasn't able to be at this meeting. Doug Seyler officiated over the meeting as I was not able to attend in August.

Before you know it, it will be wonderful fall weather. I do have to say one thing. When I hear people complain about the hot and humid Houston summers, I wonder how much they are enjoying their "cold weather" with ice and snow. Because I sure didn't enjoy it very much. The weather here is good, IMHO. One just has to know when to be here to enjoy it.

CU at the Third annual Old Codgers Dinner Meeting (RSVP to Orville Burg, K5VWW at: k5vww@tdxs.net ) which will be on Wednesday, September 23, 6:30 - 9:00 PM CDST. Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, 9527 Westheimer RD, Houston TX 77063.

73, Bob Hardie W5UQ  
TDXS President 2015

# TDXS August 2015 Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

## TDXS August 2015 Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 13, 2015

**Location:** Tracy Gee Center, Houston, TX

**Attendance:** TDXS Members: WB5TKI, W9DX, WG5H, K5DD, KG5U, NM5G, AJ4F, K5EWJ

Visitors: Ken Mitchell KD2KW

The August meeting was held at the Tracy Gee Community Center in West Houston, with the usual pre-meeting get-together at Pappas BBQ on Gessner.

### Business –

The meeting began with a moment of silence, followed by remembrances of TDXS member and friend Bill Stone WS5H, who passed away on July 31 after a courageous battle with cancer. A memorial for Bill will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 10:00 a.m.-Noon at the Gulf Coast Club in Southwest Houston.

Scott K5DD announced that he and Steve W9DX have established a reflector especially for the TDXS Board of Directors. This will keep BOD-related traffic off of the general TDXS reflector.

Cookie K5EWJ brought up the question of what to do with the club TH-6 beam. He is currently storing it in his garage, but wanted to know the club's long term plans for the antenna. The discussion was deferred to the next BOD meeting.

Dale KG5U reminded the club of the upcoming CWOPS Open contest on Saturday, September 5. It is broken up into three 4-hour sessions and one can work any or all of the sections. In addition, teams of up to 10 hams can pool their scores.

The October meeting will be the annual Old Codgers dinner. This year it will be held at Los Tios Mexican Restaurant on Westheimer. It promises to be another very entertaining evening!

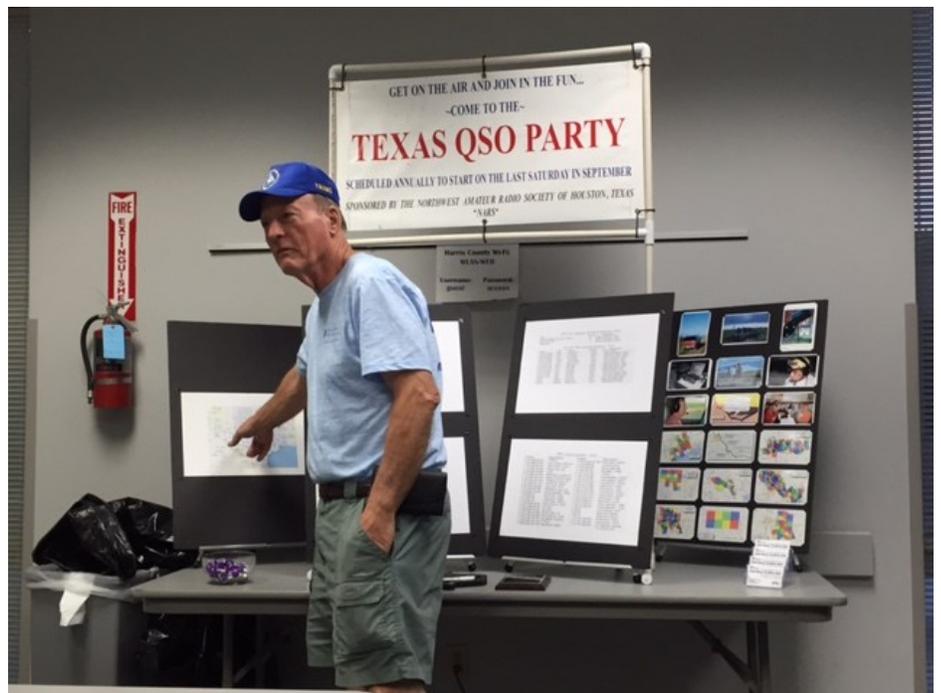
### Program -

Keith NM5G presented a very informative program on the Texas QSO Party, which is coming up on September 26-27, 2015. Keith gave some of the history of the contest, showed his hamfest booth setup for promoting participation, and gave tips on techniques for a successful contest, including route planning and multi-county line operation. More information is available online at <http://www.n5bia.net/txqp/index.php>.

Submitted September 5, 2015

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



## Band Conditions by Mike Davidson N5MT

A realtime band condition web site named [www.bandconditions.com](http://www.bandconditions.com) is available on the internet for your lookup. The experimental web site provides 24/7 realtime conditions for all ham radio interest for contest, nets and casual QSO's. The web site info is based on a new method of HF ionospheric soundings which operates like the POLSAR system used by NASA. I used this site during the 10-10 Summer QSO Party to watch the propagation as it changed. Give this new web site a try as it should help your country count increase! The 10-10 Summer SSB QSO Party this past August was only an "average" event for many members. I operated all but three hours of the QSO Party as someone wanted to get lunch away from the house! So my score was lower than I could have submitted. During the QSO Party, I did not talk into Europe as expected but South America was the direction to put my beam for most of the afternoon contacts. Propagation on Saturday was better to the north with S. America in the afternoon and on Sunday I made 75% fewer contacts with poor conditions. There was some backscatter on both days, but these signals were very weak and up-and-down so that many weak signals did not make it into the computer log. Sometimes it helped to come back to a frequency and check conditions again after 15 minutes to see if you could talk with a weak signal. My log had just under two hundred contacts for the Summer QSO Party.

The 10-10 table at the June HamCom convention in Irving, Texas was better attended than the previous year. The venue was much bigger than the old Plano site. The table was across from a commercial dealer who rang a large bell whenever they made a sale and it was ding-dong all day! I think we had about 25% more names in the sign-in book than in 2014.

Well, I hope you made some contacts during the Field Day in June as Ten meters was open. I operated with a group of three clubs in a 9A setup with a GOTA station. We had four towers with beams and we setup the radios in an air conditioned building while the outside temp got up to 97 degrees. The solar flux got up to my expected 110-115 which helped us make more contacts than last year even though we had to shutdown for an hour during an electrical storm! I have a camera picture taken almost at midnight outside that looks as if it's daylight from all the lightning flashes. Good luck with your FD score.

Look at the Upcoming DX section as you will find what could be a first time 10-10 event! St. Barthelemy will be an easy contact if Bill K2HVN #14073, gets on in the Ten Meter contest and likewise for Vietnam, Chesterfield and South Cook Islands this fall.

### Miscellaneous Items & Notes:

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

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

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

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

Propagation: I expect the solar flux to range from 88-125 this next quarter, which is about the same as the past three months. The autumn equinox starts a new Fall DX season on September 23rd and fall propagation will allow signals to come in from the east for the USA but it may be November before we begin to hear Europe on Ten.

On September 1st the solar flux was 91, the A index was 6 and K index 2. The high solar flux was 125 on August 27th this past week so a big drop. In the next four months, look for the best conditions: September 22-24th, October 21-23rd, November 17-20th and December 13-16th. For USA stations, expect a 20% chance of DX to Europe or Asia, for South America and the South Pacific, look later in the day or after sundown. Listen to the beacons from 28.175-28.300 (especially 28.200) so you will know which direction a beacon is from and the DX is open to. Use web site: [www.bandconditions.com](http://www.bandconditions.com) .

73 Mike N5MT

## DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

August has certainly been underwhelming with summer propagation in control and the sunspot numbers dwindling.

There have been a few goodie stations active, particularly for the IOTA aficionados, by YB8RW to several Indonesian Islands, and Russian operators from rare Arctic Islands.

There is one major Dxpediton forthcoming for the end of September, TX3X. They are planning on sailing from Noumea, New Caledonia on September 28<sup>th</sup>, with operation from the Chesterfield Islands from October 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>.

Bob, W5UQ, our president, is one of the corporate sponsors of the Dxpediton, providing a SPE Expert 1.3K-FA amplifier. That should help punch a signal through for those needing the DXCC credit, i.e. K5VWW.

We will certainly be looking forward to the major dxpeditons this fall, and winter seasons. Activity will be from all areas of the globe including the Antarctic, Heard Island, and the Pacific, Palmyra.

Good DXing.



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

## Radiosport Items of Note for September 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.

### Texas QSO Party Sept 26-27

Colorado QSO Party– Sept 5-6

Tennessee QSO Party Sept 6-7

Arkansas QSO Party Sept 12-13

South Carolina QSO Party Sept 19-20

New Jersey QSO Party Sept 19-20

Maine QSO Party Sept 26-27

### Mixed Mode Contests

Washington State Salmon Run Sept 19-20

### SSB Contests

All Asian DX Contest, Phone Sept 5-6

WAE DX Contest SSB, Sept 12-13

### CW Contests

None of interest this month (Ron! You didn't see the CW-OPS OPEN?)

### Digital Contests

CQ WW DX Contest RTTY Sept 26-27

### Selected Special Event Activities

Commemorating the 70th anniversary of VJ day in Europe and USA Sept 1-4, GB2VJ

Hurricane Katrina 10th Anniversary Week-Long Special Event: Aug 26 - Sept 2 K5H

National POW MIA Recognition Day Special Event Station Sep 9-Sep 20, K4MIA

2015 Route 66 On The Air Special Event Sept 12-20

Plano Balloon Festival Sep 18-Sep 21, K5P

Bankhead Military Vehicle Convoy On-The-Air Event Sep 19-Oct 17

Lunar Eclipse, Sep 25-Sep 28, K0L

195th Anniversary of the Founding of the Austin Colony, Sep 26-Sep 27, W5SFA

### And The Ever Popular . . .

47th Annual National Hollerin' Contest Sep 12, N4C

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:2015-09-30/model:Event](http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:3/Date.start:2015-09-01/Date.end:2015-09-30/model:Event)



# Where in the World is ... Seychelles Islands (S7) by Ron Litt K5HM

CQ Zone 39 / IOTA AF-024

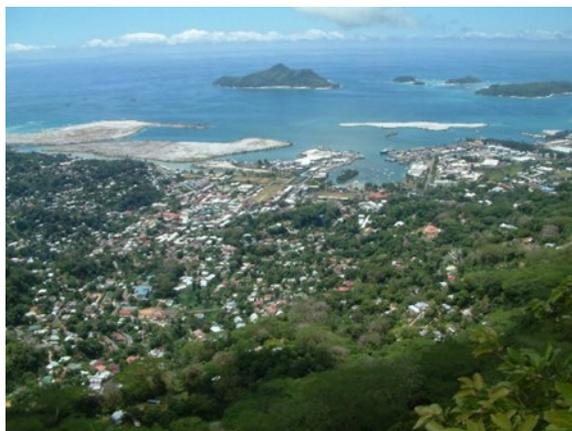
The Seychelles is an archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean off East Africa, known for its beaches, coral reefs, diving, nature reserves and rare wildlife such as giant Aldabra tortoises. Mahé island, with an international airport, is a key transport hub, home to capital Victoria, the mountain rainforests, Seychellois National Park and white-sand beaches.

The Seychelles were uninhabited throughout most of recorded history. The earliest recorded sighting by Europeans took place in 1502 by the Portuguese Admiral Vasco da Gama, who passed through the Amiranthes and named them after himself (islands of the Admiral). Nice Going Vasco.

A transit point for trade between Africa and Asia, the islands were occasionally used by pirates until the French took over in 1756. During the Napoleonic Wars, Britain eventually assumed full control upon the surrender of neighboring Mauritius in 1810. Seychelles became a crown colony separate from Mauritius in 1903. Elections were held in 1966 and 1970.

When the British gained control of the islands, they allowed the French upper class to retain their land. Both the French and British settlers used enslaved Africans, and although the British prohibited slavery in 1835, African workers continued to come. Thus the *Gran blan* ("big whites") of French origin dominated economic and political life. The British administration employed Indians on indentured servitude resulting in a small Indian population.

Through harmonious socioeconomic policies and developments over the years, today Seychelles is described as a fusion of peoples and cultures. Numerous Seychellois are considered multiracial: blending from African, Asian and European descent to create a modern creole culture. Evidence of this harmonious blend is also revealed in seychellois food, incorporating various aspects of French, Chinese, Indian and African cuisine.



As the islands of Seychelles had no indigenous population, the current Seychellois are composed of people who have immigrated. The largest ethnic groups were those of African, French, Indian and Chinese descent. French and English are official languages along with Seychellois Creole, which is primarily based upon French, yet nowadays is often laced with English words and phrases.

The prime agricultural products currently produced in the Seychelles include sweet potatoes, vanilla, coconuts and cinnamon. These products provide much of the economic support of the locals.

In 1971, with the opening of Seychelles International Airport, tourism became a significant industry, essentially dividing the economy into plantations and tourism. The tourism sector paid better, and the plantation economy could only expand so far. The plantation sector of the economy declined in prominence, and tourism became the primary industry of Seychelles.

In recent years the government has encouraged foreign investment to upgrade hotels and other services. These incentives have given rise to an

enormous amount of investment in real estate projects and new resort properties. The government has moved to reduce the dependence on tourism by promoting the development of farming, fishing, and small-scale manufacturing and most recently the offshore financial sector. Sounds like a good place to stash your money too.

The Aldabra Giant Tortoise populates many of the islands of the Seychelles. These unique reptiles can be found even in captive herds.

There are several unique varieties of orchids on the islands. Seychelles hosts some of the largest seabird colonies in the world. The marine life around the islands, especially the more remote coral islands, can be spectacular. More than 1,000 species of fish have been recorded.

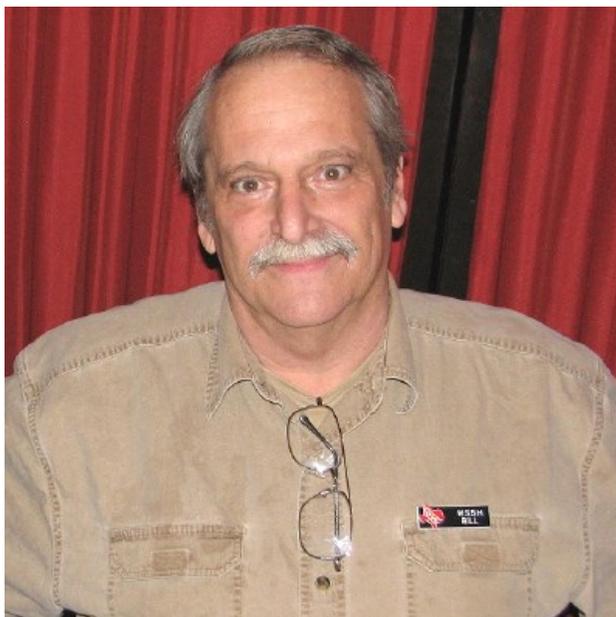
According to QRZ.Com, there are 129 licensed amateurs, although many of them are foreign visitors or DXpeditions. The Seychelles are 120<sup>th</sup> on the list of Most Wanted DXCC list according to Club Log.

Reporting from the Dark Side,

Ron, K5HM



## In Memory of...Bill Stone WS5H



*In memory of our friend,*  
**William "Bill" D. Stone - WS5H**  
**July 31, 2015**

There will be a memorial service for Bill on Saturday, September 19th at The Gulf Coast Club, 14540 Minetta, Houston, TX 77035 from 10 am till noon.

*A death is not the extinguishing of a light,  
But the putting out of a lamp  
Because the dawn has come.*

**Bill Stone Memorial Service**

*Saturday, 19 September 2015  
Gulf Coast Club  
10AM-12Noon*

*14540 Minetta  
Houston, TX 77035  
(713) 729-3415*

**3rd Annual Old Codgers Dinner Meeting—Sept 23rd, at 6:30 PM  
Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, 9527 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77063**



It is only 2 weeks until the 2015 TDXS Old Codgers dinner party.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Old Codgers dinner meeting will occur on **Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at 6:30 PM.

It will be held at the Los Tios Mexican Restaurant located at 9527 Westheimer, Houston 77063. Ordering will be done from the menu.

We will have a private dining room for our sole use

Currently we have 38 confirmed attendees.

If you have not responded, please RSVP to [K5VWW@TDXS.net](mailto:K5VWW@TDXS.net) in order that we might get a head count to size the private dining area. We are just short of needing a larger area.

I hope to see you there, and please bring your XYL, girlfriend, or significant other as this is a party meeting.

73,

Orville, K5VWW



## Texas DX Society Board members

President	Bob Hardie, W5UQ	w5uq at att.net
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CQ WAZ Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net

### How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxx.net> email address: [k5dx@tdxx.net](mailto: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

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

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Bill Denton - W5SB  
 Dave Evans - K5SOR  
 Galen Graff - KB5FU  
 Tom Taormina - K5RC  
 Jay Temple - W5JQ  
 Lance Rumfield - WD5X  
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