



# The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net January 2016

**January 16, Saturday 6PM: TDXS Annual Banquet at Brady's Landing, 8505 Cypress ST, Houston TX 77012. Social hour starts at 6PM with dinner at 7PM and ceremonies at 8PM. Please RSVP to Mike Bragassa, K5UO with payment of \$34.95/person before January 8th. Visitors welcome. Don't miss it!**

**Good DX & Contesting to all in the New Year!**



## Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

The new year is here which means a new year of DXing and Contesting.

First thing, notice that there have been a few changes in the TDXS Board of Directors. Keith, NM5G is taking over the VP of Membership position from Bob, WB5IUU; Robie, KJ4F is taking over the VP of Programs position from Lance WD5X; Scott K5DD is now our Webmaster, taking over from Steve, W9DX who has done a great job at it for a very long time. And I would like to welcome Glenn WB5TUF as our new Contest Chairman, taking the helm from Cookie K5EWJ. Welcome, guys, to your new positions!!

The BIG news in my eyes (and hopefully in my log) in the new year is the DXpedition to South Sandwich and South Georgia Islands. SSI is the last one I need, period! Looking forward to snagging that one!

As I write this, I just saw an email about Ten-Tec. They have

been on a bit of a roller coaster lately, and I see that Dishtronix has purchased the assets (but not the liabilities) of Ten Tec from RKR Designs. There have been some service policy changes as well. See <http://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/ten-tec-announcement-january-4-2016.506554/>

Due to some unfortunate family issues, I haven't been on the air that much myself in December. N5XZ log entries include: S01WS, 3D2RJ, E51XGI, TZ9A, 9J2BO, 5R8SV, V51YJ, 5W1SA, V5/DD0VR, E51TLA, 5R8UI, OD5ZZ, T88RY, ST90IARU, TX90IAUR (New Caledonia), V5/DK1CE, BX4AG, OF9X (Santa), 5W0UO, and just a slew of "IARU" 90th anniversary stations (106 to be exact). It was kinda fun chasing them around the bands.

Also, due to circumstances and weather, I didn't get any work done on the vertical. Oh well,

maybe I'll something done in January!

Hope to see y'all at the TDXS Annual Banquet on the 16th at Brady's Landing. Should be a good one and an good time to welcome the new board members.

As a reminder, H.R. 1301 is the "Amateur Radio Parity Act". As you know, the bill directs the FCC to extend their existing regulation of "reasonable accommodation" for Amateur Radio communications to include all forms land use regulations. The bill is scheduled for a hearing by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology on Tuesday January 12th. Please go to [www.arrl.rallycongress.net](http://www.arrl.rallycongress.net) to send in your letters of support and for more important action items.

Thanks and 73,  
73, Allen N5XZ

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# The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

## Prez sez for January 2016.

A NEW YEAR and a very, very HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

It is time for our Annual TDXS Banquet. We sure hope you made reservations (RSVP'd) for the banquet as when you read this, the RSVPing will be done. IF you still want to attend, contact me, Bob Hardie, at W5UQ2@ATT.NET and I will see what I can do.

Location: Brady's Landing, 8505 Cypress ST, Houston TX 77012. Happy hour begins about 6pm. Dinner at 7pm and meeting with prize awards at 8pm. Date is January 16th, 2016 a Saturday evening.

The restaurant told me they would prepare for the number we tell them with about 4 more meals. In case someone shows up unexpectedly. And of course, it is likely that someone else doesn't make it as they had planned, so another one or two meals are open. We'll see.

Well we have been busy trying to get TDXS business done in 2015. For example, one committee was headed by Doug Seyler, WB5TKI, to bring our TDXS Constitution up to date with the 21st century. We had a meeting in October 2015, I believe it was, where we discussed a lot of the ideas and ways to improve on it. Contact Doug if you have some input. We will probably discuss it some more at one of the meetings this year.

February 2016 meeting will be at Tracy Gee at 7pm. I won't be able to attend as I will be at the Orlando Hamfest. So one of the other officers will need to preside. Robie Elms, AJ4F, is the 2016 VP of Programs and will be announcing the program soon. Then in March, we have a Dinner Meeting. Location will be announced later. April will be at Tracy Gee and/or BVARC meeting place. Usually we have a joint meeting that month and this year should be their turn to host it.

Then May will be another Dinner Meet-

ing. TBA. June meeting is different. We do Field Day typically a joint venture with BVARC and The Echo Society. Your attending and participating in FD can count as a TDXS meeting.

July will be another Dinner meeting. TBA. August will be at Tracy Gee at 7pm and will be announced later. (TBA = To Be Announced)

September and November months will be Dinner meetings, TBA. With October and December are Tracy Gee meetings at 7pm.

Keep monitoring TDXS.NET or TDXS.org for meeting information each month. All meetings are announced there each month as they happen. If anyone has a suggestion for a program, please contact Robie Elms, AJ4F at ruler55@gmail.com

We will be introducing, again, our officers for 2016 at the banquet. So, Officers, please attend the banquet. We will have a good time visiting, eating and visiting and eating and whatever.

Below are our officers for 2016:

<b>President</b>	Bob <a href="#">Hardie</a>	<a href="#">W5UQ</a>
<b>Vice President - Programs</b>	<a href="#">Robie Elms</a>	<a href="#">AJ4F</a>
<b>Vice President - Membership</b>	<a href="#">Keith Dutson</a>	<a href="#">NM5G</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<a href="#">Doug Seyler</a>	<a href="#">WB5TKI</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<a href="#">Mike Bragassa</a>	<a href="#">K5UO</a>
<b>Contest Chairmen</b>	Glenn Anderson	<a href="#">WB5TUF</a>
<b>Field Day Chairman</b>	Mike Davidson	<a href="#">N5MT</a>
<b>DX Chairman</b>	Orville Burg	<a href="#">K5VWW</a>
<b>Repeater Chairman</b>	Glenn Anderson	<a href="#">WB5TUF</a>
<b>Communications Chairman</b>	Allen Brier	<a href="#">N5XZ</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<a href="#">Scott Patout</a>	<a href="#">K5DD</a>
<b>Outgoing QSL Manager</b>	<a href="#">Scott Patout</a>	<a href="#">K5DD</a>

Please give our officers your full support and next year volunteer for one of the above positions.

Once again, try to join us at the TDXS Banquet at Brady's Landing on January 16th, 2016 at 6pm for happy hour and 7pm eating. See location at TDXS.NET, our website or the beginning of this article.

Thanks for reading this article. I was hoping someone does read it. :-)

Until next month,

**73 and good DXing and Contesting.**

Bob Hardie W5UQ

TDXS President for 2016

# TDXS December 2015 Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

## TDXS December 2015 Meeting Minutes

**Date:** December 10, 2015

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

**Attendance:** TDXS Members: Curt WG5H, Keith NM5G, Mike K5UO, Orville K5VWW, Steve W9DX, Bob W5UQ, Robie AJ4F, Chuck W5PR, Scott K5DD, John W5ZG.

The December meeting was held at the Tracy Gee Community Center in west Houston. near the racetrack. Items discussed during the business meeting:

K5VWW made a request for DXpedition support for the upcoming FT4JA Juan de Nova effort on March/April 2016. Info is available at <http://www.juandenovadx.com>. A donation of \$250 was approved by a show of hands.

- Mike K5UO gave a treasury report. He also reminded the members that 2016 dues are now due. In addition, advanced payment for the Annual Banquet on January 16 is also due.

VP of Programs Robie AJ4F is working on a program for February. John Stratton N5AUS, ARRL West Gulf Vice Director will not be available, as he will be attending the Orlando Hamcation hamfest. Robie also solicited program ideas from the membership.

John Firey W5ZG then presented another of his vintage gear restoration programs. As always, it was both entertaining and informative, and much appreciated by the audience.

*Note: Thanks to Bob W5UQ and Robie AJ4F for taking attendance and meeting notes, as I was not able to attend the meeting).*

Submitted January 1, 2016

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



## DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

Happy New Year! 2016 appears to be a great year for DX with all the proposed DXpeditions on the calendar.

One activity forthcoming is the operation of **ZL9A** from Antipodes Island. This was formerly known as Auckland and Campbell Islands and is part of the New Zealand SubAntarctic Islands DXCC entity. This will be active from January 7<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>.

Cooper Island in the **Palmyra Atoll** will be activated from January 12<sup>th</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup> with the callsign **K5P**.

It is listed as #9 in the ClubLog top 10 needed entities. It appears that the last activity was a single person operation by YL AH6NF/KH5 in 2005. This is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife and Nature Conservancy. It will probably be several years before it is reactivated. This is a storied atoll and the proposed activation operators were reduced from 12 to 9 due to the size of the aircraft which could "land". The "airstrip" was decertified early in 2015. An earlier operation which included TDXS member Galen Graff suffered a bad landing as the plane did a groundloop upon landing and injuries to some personnel required extrication by the military.

Kenneth Opscar, LA7GIA, is still planning on operating from **Equatorial Guinea, 3C**, in March 2016 for 10 days. 3C currently ranks as the 29th most needed entity from North America.

The long awaited operation from **South Sandwich Island, VP8STI**, is scheduled to commence on January 17<sup>th</sup> and operate until January 25<sup>th</sup>. It is ranked #3 in the ClubLog most wanted. Fourteen operators will be operating 24/7 for the full 8 days.

If you hear loud shouting from the Richmond, TX area, it will probably mean that Allen, N5XZ, worked the operation which will give him #1 Honor Roll.

The crew from the South Sandwich operation will then proceed to **South Georgia Island** where they will use the call **VP8SGI** starting on approximately February 1<sup>st</sup>, dependent on the weather and sea conditions. There will be 8 full days of operation from this site. South Georgia ranks as #8 in the ClubLog most wanted.

We will certainly be looking forward to the operation from **Tonga Island, A35T**, by several TDXS members including K5NA, W5MJ and W5PF. They will be active for 7 days starting February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Several other DXpeditions will be commencing during January including **TY1AI** from Benin, **V63GG** from Micronesia, **4S7JTG** from Sri Lanka, **6W7SK** from Senegal, Several **T88** calls from Palau, **XW4ZW** from Laos and **PYØF** from Fernando de Noronha. Watch the TDS cluster for those operations as they occur.

Good DXing!

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## Contest Chairman's Report—by Glenn Anderson WB5TUF

Happy New Year! My name is Glenn Anderson WB5TUF and I am the new Contest Chairman for 2016. I have been a ham since 1976 and a member of TDXS (#156) since 2002. I have DXCC on seven bands and my mixed total is 293. My favorite contest mode is RTTY. My first RTTY station was a TS 820, HAL ST 6000, and a Teletype model 28KSR. I am also interested in weak-signal VHF and UHF operations, Meteor scatter, and Moonbounce.

As I'm writing this article , I am preparing to activate K5DX in the NAQP CW contest . I'm going to try something a little different this time. Since CW is sometimes called a digital mode, I'm going to try to run it like a RTTY contest. Writelog's (my favorite contest program) Rttywrite module supports a soundcard-based CW decoder that should operate just like a RTTY decoder. I'll let y'all know how it worked next month.

Speaking of K5DX, We have this awesome club call that needs to be used. It is open for use by any TDXS member. I would like to see it used more often in contests and operating events. Please remember to send a copy of your ADIF file to the trustee so that we have a recode of callsign usage. When submitting results of your individual contest participation and to 3830.com, please remember to select TDXS or Texas DX Society as your affiliated club. We need to get TDXS and K5DX back on the path to world domination. LOL.

For future articles, please send a copy of your 3830 report or summary sheet. I will add them to this report. My email address is [wb5tuf@arrl.net](mailto:wb5tuf@arrl.net).

Thanks and 73,

Glenn WB5TUF

P.S.

I am also the repeater and DX cluster chairman. Here is a quick report on the status of the repeaters and DX cluster.

442.00MHz : The repeater is fully operational with IRLP and Echolink.

147.360MHz: The repeater is operational on a temporary antenna. The 25+ year old DB-224 failed before Christmas. I am repairing it and should have it back by Feb. The DX Alert (Igor) is operational.

DX Cluster: The cluster is operational and serving DX spots to the world. We typically have 50+ connected users.

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## Where in the World is... Christmas Island (VK9X) OC-002—by Ron Litt K5HM



That's right little Jimmy. Do you think Santa Clause really likes living at the North Pole? He prefers the temperate climates of the tropics. Christmas Island is a territory of Australia in the Indian Ocean. It has a population of 2,072 residents who live in a number of "settlement areas" on the northern tip of the island variously called Flying Fish Cove, Kampong, Silver City, Poon Saan and Drumsite. The majority of the population are Chinese Australian. It is called Christmas Island because it was discovered on Christmas Day, 1643 by Capt William Mynors of the Royal Mary an East India Company trading vessel as he sailed past it. In 1957, the island was transferred from the U.K. to Australian sovereignty.

Geographically, the island lies closer to Central Java (380 KM) than Australia (1565 KM) but it seems that the Indonesians aren't interested and the Australians aren't having much luck either. Phosphate mining had been the only significant economic activity, but in December 1987 the Australian government closed the mine. In 1991, the mine was reopened by a consortium which included many of the former mine workers as shareholders. With the support of the government, the \$34 million Christmas Island Casino and Resort opened in 1993, but was closed in 1998. As of 2011, the resort has re-opened without the casino.

The Australian government in 2001 agreed to support the creation of a commercial spaceport on the island, however this has not yet been constructed, and appears that it will not proceed in the future. The Australian government built a temporary immigration detention center on the island in 2001.

Christmas Island ranks 69<sup>th</sup> on the DXCC Most Wanted List.

### Kiritimati (The Other Christmas Island) (T32)

#### OC-024

Kiritimati or Christmas Island is a Pacific Ocean raised coral atoll in the northern Line Islands, and part of the Republic of Kiribati. The name "Kiritimati" is a rather straightforward respelling of the English word "Christmas" in Gilbertese, in which the combination *ti* is pronounced *s*, and the name is thus pronounced [kə'risməs]. The island has the greatest land area of any coral atoll in the world: about 150 sq mi; its lagoon is about the same size. The atoll is about 93 mi in perimeter, while the lagoon shoreline extends for over 30 mi. Christmas Island comprises over 70% of the total land area of Kiribati, a country encompassing 33 Pacific atolls and islands. It lies 144 mi north of the Equator, 4,160 mi from Sydney, and 3,330 mi from San Francisco. Christmas Island is in the world's farthest forward time zone, UTC+14 and is one of the first inhabited places on Earth to experience the New Year.



Christmas Island was discovered by the Spanish in 1537. Captain James Cook visited it on Christmas Eve (24 December) 1777. It was claimed by the United States under the Guano Islands Act of 1856. During the 1840s, guano came to be prized as a source of saltpeter for gunpowder as well as an agricultural fertilizer. In 1855, the U.S. learned of rich guano deposits on islands in the Pacific Ocean. Congress passed the Guano Islands Act to take advantage of these deposits. It allowed any citizen of the United States who discovers a deposit of guano on any island, rock, or key, not within the lawful jurisdiction of any other Government, and not occupied by the citizens of any other Government, to take peaceable possession of, such island, rock, or key and the discretion of the President, be considered as a part of the United States. In 1983, the island was ceded to the Republic of Kiribati as most Americans had plenty of guano from their politicians.

Christmas Island has been visited by eight recent DXpeditions. As part of Eastern Kiribati it is the 154<sup>th</sup> most wanted DXCC entity.

Reporting from the Dark Side, **Ron, K5HM**

## Texas DX Society Board members

<b>President</b>	<b>Bob Hardie, W5UQ</b>	<b>w5uq at att.net</b>
<b>VP Membership</b>	<b>Keith Dutson, NM5G</b>	<b>kdutson at sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>VP Programs</b>	<b>Robie Elms, KJ4F</b>	<b>ruler55 at gmail.com</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Doug Seyler, WB5TKI</b>	<b>djseyler at comcast.net</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Mike Bragassa, K5UO</b>	<b>bragassa at consolidated.net</b>
<b>Contest Chairman</b>	<b>Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF</b>	<b>wb5tuf at earthlink.net</b>
<b>Field Day Chairmen</b>	<b>Mike Davidson, N5MT</b>	<b>n5mt at aol.com</b>
<b>Repeater Chairman</b>	<b>Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF</b>	<b>wb5tuf at earthlink.net</b>
<b>DX Chairman</b>	<b>Orville Burg, K5VWW</b>	<b>Orville at rubyglass.com</b>
<b>Outgoing QSL Manager</b>	<b>Scott Patout,, K5DD</b>	<b>k5dd at arrl.net</b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Scott Patout,, K5DD</b>	<b>k5dd at arrl.net</b>
<b>Bullsheat Editor</b>	<b>Allen Brier, N5XZ</b>	<b>n5xz at arrl.net</b>

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<b>DXCC QSL Card Checker</b>	<b>Bob Walworth, N5ET</b>	<b>rwalworth at charter.net</b>
<b>CQ WAZ Card Checker</b>	<b>Bob Walworth, N5ET</b>	<b>rwalworth at charter.net</b>

### 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 January

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Barbara Coleman - WB5RUS

Lon Cottingham - K5JV

John Stevens - K5JS

Dale Martin - KG5U

Al Vasek - KN5A

Dennis Motschenbacher - K7BV

Bill Bradford - K5GA

John Duncan - WA5ZVE

Mike Hance - K5NZ

Allen Brier - N5XZ

Ben Worrell - NE5B

Ken Eckel Jr. - AB5A

Earl Morse - K8SS (ex-N5TU)

Doug Seyler - WB5TKI