



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 2016

FIELD DAY!

JUNE 25 & 26, 2016 at

**Pecan Grove Volunteer Fire Department and
Pecan Grove Park 727 Pitts Road, Richmond, TX**

Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

This month, the big thing is FIELD DAY! June 25 & 26 at the Pecan Grove Volunteer Fire Department and the Pecan Grove Park @ 727 Pitts Road about a mile north of Highway 90A, just south of Pecan Grove. (The Richmond Fire Department Training Grounds did not get reserved and as a result is not available this year). We will be upstairs in the training room, which is about the same size as last year's training room. However, we may be somewhat handicapped with antennas as we do not have the existing supports that we had at the training grounds. At this time, the plan is still to go 8A like

last year. We might have to remote one or more of the stations in Dave Topp's (W5BXX) RV in the park. At this time, my understanding is that motorized vehicles are not allowed on the grass, so the RV will have to stay on a paved area. We will have the manlift this year again, and can at least support one HF antenna on it. I am not sure what will be used of the other HF antenna yet. There will be discussion at the BVARC meeting being held on Thursday night, June 9th at the Sugar Land Masonic Lodge, 421 Eldridge Rd., Sugar Land, TX at 7:30 pm. If you plan to operate FD, please try

to be there. After that, there will be a Field Day planning meeting on Sunday, June 12th from 2pm to 4pm at the Pecan Grove Volunteer Fire Station. Please try to be there, also. If there are any changes, I will advise via the TDXS, BVARC and Echo reflectors
I hope to have a fair amount of CW ops lined up for FD, but we are in need of Phone ops. I know a lot of TDXS members have not participated in recent years, this is the year to change all that, Please be there!

73, Allen N5XZ

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The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

Prez sez for June 2016

Hi to all. Most know that there is NO monthly TDXS meeting this month. Instead the Field Day activity we share with BVARC and The Echo Society is counted as a meeting if you attend the Field Day activity and report your attendance to Doug Seyler, WB5TKI, our TDXS Secretary.

djseyler@comcast.net

Contact Mike Davidson, N5MT, to participate as he is TDXS's Field Day Chairman. Mike was our chairman last year and has been doing a good job for us.

n5mt@aol.com

WOW O WOW... have we sure have had a lot of rain this year. Most every time Houston gets flooding, our friends and family, from other parts of the USA and world, contact us wondering if we are fine. Our local family knows we're on a hill.

Anyway, we always tell them that we're fine and are on a hill outside of Houston. Well..... this year was very different. The rain was so heavy that even though we are on a hill, there was enough water to create a river through our screened patio. Thursday May 26th and Friday the 27th, we were fighting "the river". It rained for what seemed like several hours each day. And

very heavy rains too. We thought it would never end.

My wife had everything that was on the floor in our garage, outside drying out on Saturday and every day afterwards that there was sunshine or at least, no rain. Our home had a little intrusion of the water. Enough to cause lots of work drying it out and fighting the mold possibilities.

We both were very sore from "pushing water" through our patio to keep it from building up again like it did to get into our home. I twisted my knee and it's taken a week to heal. Both of us used a lot of muscle liniment (couldn't find any horse liniment) and hobbled around for days.

Hope none of you had water problems, however most likely, I'd say that some of you did. We all hope you are all over your episode of fighting water too.

July is Dinner Out Month. Keep an eye out on our website, TDXS.net, for information of where and when it will be. Last month we all had a great time at the dinner meeting. That meeting was a very good place for us to discuss subjects with each other as we sat across one long table from each other. A lot of good comments and information flowed

between attendees. I'd say it was one of our better dinner meetings. And we've had a lot of good ones. It makes it nice to not have our meeting on the same night as BVARC. That way their members, and some of ours that are members of BVARC, can attend.

Robie Elms, AJ4F, is our "VP of Programming" and even though this is his first year to handle this position, he has been doing a great job. Kudos to Robie. We appreciate all you do for TDXS.

Come visit us at our July Dinner Out Meeting. (Location and date to be announced later) You may really enjoy yourself and decide that those meetings are good ones too.

Have a good June and a good Field Day. As has been for the last two years or so, I will not be here the Field Day weekend again. I sure would like to be here at FD as the ones I did participate in were a lot of fun. Our business takes us elsewhere now. Maybe next year.

Have a good summer. CU on the ham bands.

73,

Bob Hardie W5UQ
TDXS President

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS May 2016 Meeting Minutes

Date: May 11, 2016

Location: Fadi's Mediterranean Grill, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Scott K5DD, Bob W5UQ, Robie AJ4F, Orville K5VWW, Mike K5UO, Gerald K9GEM, Cookie K5EWJ.

Guests: Verna Patout (XYL of Scott K5DD), Janice Muller (XYL of Gerald K9GEM).

This was a dinner meeting, held at Fadi's Mediterranean Grill on Westheimer in Houston. The food was excellent, as was the conversation. I especially liked the Braised Lamb Shank Osso Buco! The major announcement at the dinner was that the revised TDXS Constitution has been approved by the voting membership.

Since the June TDXS meeting will be Field Day, there will not be a secretary's report next month, as I will be out of town on that weekend.

73,

Submitted June 5, 2016

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

Wow, band conditions have been in the pits. About the only band that has been fairly reliable in opening is Six Meters. Several TDXS members have been heard working e-skip including **N5AF**, Sammy, **AJ4F**, Robie, and **AC5K**, Wes. Watch 6M closely as several stations in the US have already worked into EU. It was posted that **W5OZI**, Pat, worked a TK from Corsica!

Active DXpeditions are not as prevalent but good DX can be had. African recent activity from Mali, **TZ**, and Uganda, **5X**, has been spotty, but **ZD8JX** on Ascension Island has been a bit more active on 20M and 15M SSB, and should be on the air for a couple more weeks.

Easter Island will be QRV as **XRØYS** until June 8. **Jeff, K5WE**, has been quite active in the evenings on 15M CW. Also travelling will be **CX3AN, Bert**, operating as **V73HA** from Majuro, Marshall Islands. He will then be active as **V63AN** from Micronesia and **T88AN** from Palau where he will finish on June 14th.

K5ALU, Red, will be operational as **K5ALU/KL7/M** until after Field Day if you might need Alaska for WAS.

Hopefully band conditions will improve as there is a scarce operation forecast. PG5M, Gerben will be operating from Macao as **XX9TGM** (tentative call assignment.) This will occur between June 20th and 27th.

Good DXing,
Orville, K5VWW



Contest Chairman's Report—by Glenn Anderson WB5TUF

Hello,

Can you believe that it's June, half of the year is over. I haven't been very active this month, work keeps getting in the way of my radio hobby. The only HF work that I've done is a few band-countries. I worked VK9NT a few times and VP2V/K6top.

Some of our members have been active this month.

Kim Carr K5TU put his new antenna farm and K3s through its first CQ WPX CW. Here is his report:

This was the first major contest where I had the opportunity to exercise the new antennas. I couldn't stay the entire weekend, so I operated about 11.5 hours. We had a major thunderstorm roll through about 5pm on Friday, and I got bit of a late start due to weather. I need to work on my stamina, though. I had to take 4 hours off between 1am and 5am. Even so, the monster 4 element full size 40 was amazing. I worked lots of EU until 1am, then from 5am until past local sunrise I was working lots of Asia and Pacific...and JAs. I held 7025.3 for over an hour running JAs with a couple of YBs, VKs, ZLs, a 4M6 and a BY5 mixed in there for good measure. I don't think I ever made more than 2 calls to get through a pileup on search and pounce; most were first call. That's a killer antenna!

The 6 el 20 was great, but not quite as dominating as the 4 el 40. I did a lot of search and pounce on 20, and on a couple of occasions, I had to call 3 or 4 times behind the east coast. Other times, I blew right past them. I have a StackMatch II to stack it with the identical antenna at 55 ft, so need to get that setup and evaluated, too.

I worked some EU on 15, but only Caribbean and South America on 10. The propagation was lousy on 15 and 10.

I am using temporary feedlines from the shack to the tower. I hope to bury some 4" conduit with all the feedlines as soon as the weather permits.

I'm still evaluating the antennas, but I'm having fun!

CallSign Used : K5TU
 Operator(s) : K5TU
 Operator Category : SINGLE-OP
 Assisted Category : NON-ASSISTED
 Band : ALL
 Power : HIGH
 Mode : CW
 Club/Team : Texas DX Society

Band	QSOs	Pts	WPX
7	364	1523	242
14	120	296	86
21	38	110	25
28	7	18	2
Total	529	1947	355

Score : 691,185

Rig : K3S and Alpha 76PA
 Antennas : 4 el 40 @ 124 ft
 6 el 20 @ 114 ft
 6 el 10 @ 79 ft
 5 el 15 @ 79 ft

Robie, AJ4F, also participated in the CQ WPX CW. Here is his report.

Band	QSOs	Pts	WPX
7	3	3	3
14	75	125	53
21	128	223	99
Total	206	351	155

Score: 54,405



Contest Chairman's Report—by Glenn Anderson WB5TUF

This month's contests:

ARRL June VHF June 11

All Asian DX CW June 18

Stew Perry Topband Challenge June 18

ARRL Field Day June 25

That's all for this month.

Please remember to post any of your contest activity to www.3830scores.com and be sure to select Texas DX Society as your club.

Thanks and 73,

Glenn WB5TUF

wb5tuf@arrl.net

[Ed: And this report from Pat KJ5Y on CQ WPX CW:]

Had a great time despite Murphy's Law. Thunderstorms to start the contest, network issues between remotes, 2 operators could not make it.

Lessons learned list is forming.....

Special thanks to Alex 4j3dj for being a trooper and taking 14 hours of coverage ... starting the contest off ... and finishing it ... and with his wife's bday in day 1. It was an honor to have him help out from Azerbaijan.

And John K3MA, we could not have done it without you! John filled in numerous hours from missing "help" ... and had a HDD failure and had to reload his computer!!! Damn Murphy!

And Allen.. what can say N5XZ===BEAST MODE ... he came in and made a bunch of Q's on 40, 80, 15 ... when 20 was about dried up.

We started out as Multi Single 20 meters but changed to AB category.

If we had stayed SB20, score would be a lot better in comparison to other entrants. Remote will be MUCH better next year... BIG antennas next time!

THANK YOU TO ALL THE TEAM!!! 73 from Texas, Pat KJ5Y

Call: [KJ5Y](http://www.kj5y.com)

Operator(s): [4J3DJ](http://www.4j3dj.com) [K3MA](http://www.k3ma.com) [KJ5Y](http://www.kj5y.com) [N5XZ](http://www.n5xz.com)

Station: KJ5Y

Band QSOs

160:

80: 52

40: 315

20: 822

15: 90

10: 0

Total: **1279** Prefixes **628** Total Score **1,730,140**



Where in the World is... The Dry Tortugas (K4T) IOTA NA-079 by Ron Litt K5HM

Proving that you do not have to go halfway around the world, the recent DXpedition to the Dry Tortugas is a case in point. Bet you thought the next stop after Jimmy Buffet's Key West locale was Cuba? Wrong Dick Tracy!

A small group of islands lying in the Gulf of Mexico at the end of the Florida Keys, the Dry Tortugas are jointly claimed by both the U.S. and the Conch Republic. So no currency or licensing issues.

The keys are low and irregular. Some keys have thin growths of mangroves and various other vegetation, while others have only small patches of grass or are devoid of plant life. In general, they rise abruptly from relatively deep water. They are continually changing in size and shape.

The Tortugas Atoll has had up to 11 islets during the past two centuries. Some of the smaller islands have disappeared and reappeared multiple times as a result of hurricanes. Today, they constitute the Dry Tortugas National Park. The park can be reached by ferry or seaplane from Key West. Limited camping is available.

The main feature of the islands is Garden Key, which houses Fort Jefferson. The fort started in 1846, was never completed. During the Civil War, it was used as a prison.



The first European to see the Dry Tortugas was Ponce de León in 1513. The preponderance of sea turtles caused him to refer to the areas as the "Tortugas" (turtles). They are called *Dry* owing to the absence of surface fresh water on the island.

In a historical footnote, in 1995, when President Clinton shut down the federal government, the National Park Service closed access to the Dry Tortugas Park. So important was the tourist revenue from park visitors, the Mayor of Key West declared the Dry Tortugas a possession of the Conch Republic. The Republic was created in 1982 by the "secession" of the Florida Keys in protest to U.S. Border Patrol roadblocks that were hindering tourist traffic.

This year a team of six hams with proper documents took their equipment, food, and all supplies to operate on Dry Tortuga Island May 6-9, 2016. If you blinked you missed it.

This DXpedition was something special for DX chasers. Since the Dry Tortugas are a National Park, special designation from the ARRL, National Parks on the Air and World Wide Flora & Fauna were added to the NA-049 and a rare grid square, EL84np as well.

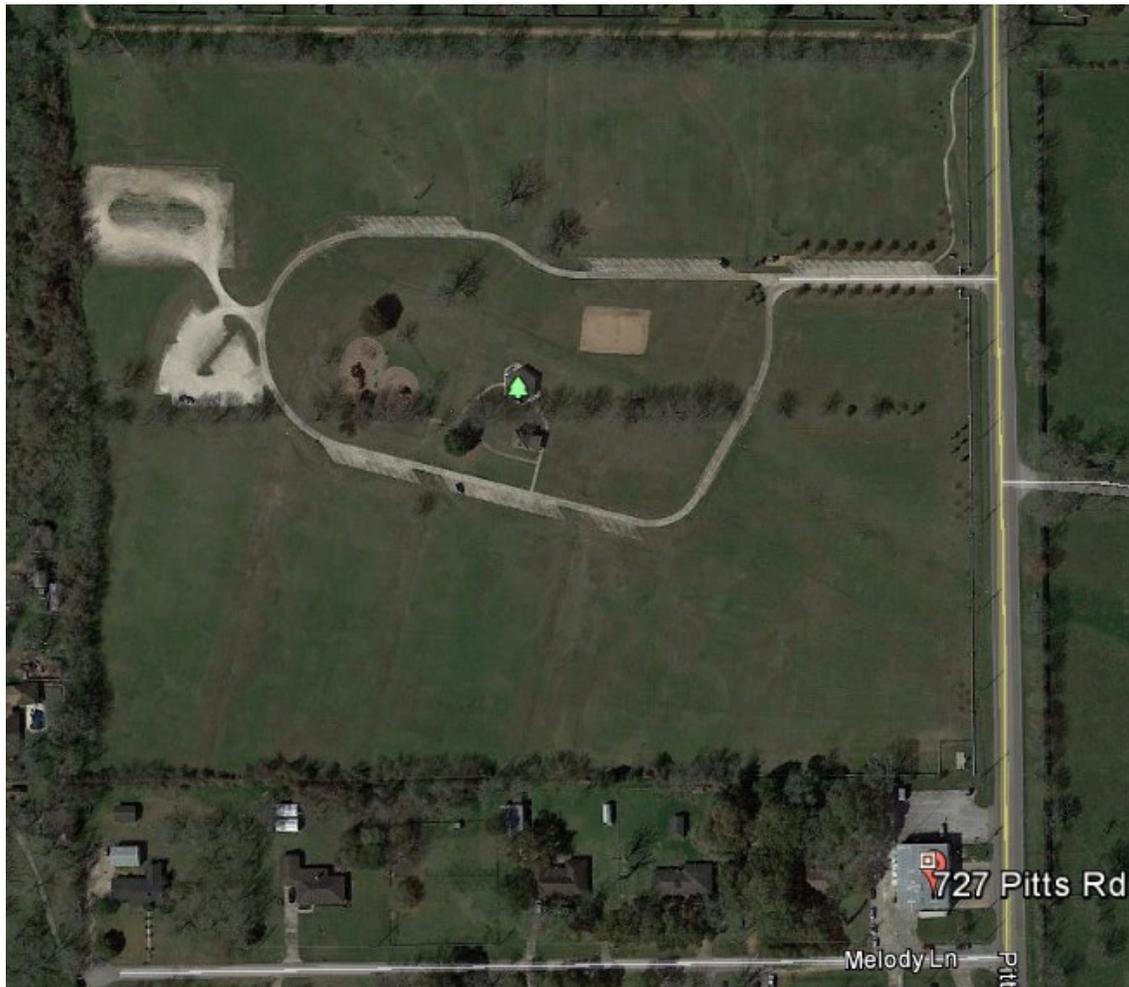
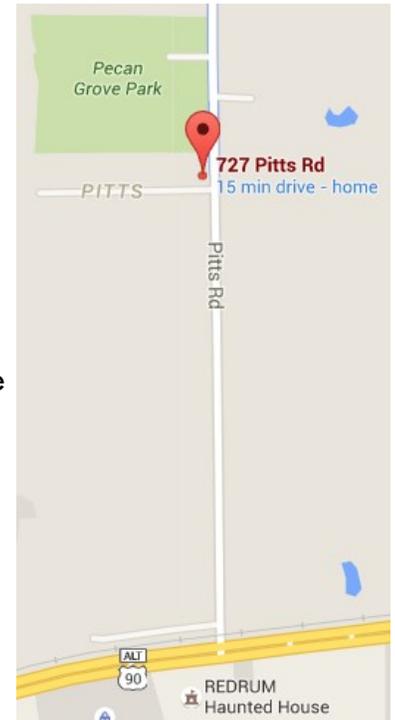
According to Rick K4JTT, "Our purpose was to activate a lighthouse and IOTA for other hams to contact. We'll have fun, give other hams a chance to get credit for a new Islands on the Air (IOTA) credit, have fun, test out our skills in setting up portable stations, have fun, and challenge our operating skills. Oh, did I mention it is to have fun?" I guess they had fun.

Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron, K5HM



2016 TDXS/BVARC/ECHO FIELD DAY SITE MAP

Here is a map to the Field Day site this year. It is about 2 miles north of 90A on Pitts Road. In the Google Earth picture below, the Pecan Grove Volunteer Fire Department building is in the lower right corner. We will have an operating room about the same size as last year, and a “flop room”, but less “miscellaneous ” areas. All the plans have not been made yet, but I expect that we will be using a remote site for some of the operating positions, utilizing Dave Topp’s (W5BXX) mobile home with a log periodic and 6 meter beam. Please come to FD this year! There will be discussions at the upcoming BVARC meeting on Thursday and at the Pecan Grove Volunteer Fire Station on Sunday from 2 to 4 pm. Details on the front page.



Texas DX Society Board members

President	Bob Hardie, W5UQ	w5uq at att.net
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Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net
DX Chairman	Orville Burg, K5VWW	Orville at rubyglass.com
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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

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 June

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Alex Stalinsky - WA5UHT
 Joe Brassfield - N5AQT
 Cal White - WF5W
 Al Loeckle - K5FK
 Madison Jones - W5MJ
 Larry Vehorn - W9AJ
 Dave Topp - W5BXX
 Paul Frantz - W5PF
 Mike Anderson - N5MV
 Grady Ferguson - W5FU
 Kirby van Horn - K7EC

Bill Stein - WB5SJS
 Don Busick - K5AAD
 William Goins - K5WMG