



The Bullsheet

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

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

**Dinner Meeting on
Wednesday May 11th at
6:30pm**

**Fadi's Mediterranean Grill
8383 Westheimer RD
Houston TX 77063
Phone 713-563-0666**



Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

Another month has come and gone, and the bands are just not cooperating much for working a lot of DX. As of this writing, the A index is sky high:

Solar-Terrestrial Data
08 May 2016 2129 GMT
 SFI: **84** SN: **51**
 A-Index: **63**
 K-Index: **5**
 X-Ray: **B2.1**
 304A: **119.1** @ SEM

Calculated Conditions		
Band	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Poor	Poor
30m-20m:	Poor	Poor
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor
Signal Noise:	S4-S6	

Click to Install Solar Data On your Web Site
<http://www.n0n0h.com>
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I noticed this last night trying to work DX on 80 and this morning on 20. Some DX was getting

through, but not much. Speaking of 80, the new 18HT vertical is working wonderfully and I now have about 14 radials and four nice ground rods installed. Doug WB5TKI and Dan KS5V came over to help me with the grounds, rods, and read the Cadweld instructions to me to show me why I wasn't getting them lit off. Anyway, two more to go. DX in the N5XZ log in April include: FT4JA, ET7L, TZ4AM, HZ1DG, VK0EK, FK8IK, S01WS, 4W/JE1CKA, A25UK, 4W/7K4QOK, FW5JJ, E51AND, EP2A, HV0A, 7Z1JA, CY0/VA1AXC, JD1BMH, ZA/IW2JOP,

7T7T, 9Q0HQ/1 and E51DLD. So, despite the poor condition, there is still DX to work out there. Don't forget, Field Day is coming up the end of June. As CW Captain, I am busy recruiting some great CW ops. But don't forget, we need some more phone and RTTY ops (and support crew) to round out the team. Last year, the BVARC / TDXS / Echo team came in 5th in the whole US of A! This year I am hoping we will move up a notch. We can make it happen with you folks!
 Thanks and 73,
 73, Allen N5XZ

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The Prez Sez by Bob, W5UQ

Prez Sez for May 2016.

May 2016 has snuck up on us and is biting our dexteriors. I don't know about you, but time is on a fast track for me still. It flies so doggone fast.

It's time to talk about field day in June with BVARC and The Echo Society. Mike Davidson ,N5MT, is busy setting it all up for the TDXS part.

Doug Seyler, WB5TKI, our TDXS secretary is waiting for the results of the vote regarding our TDXS constitution changes. Please check your emails for one from Doug asking you to vote. Contact him if you didn't get one.

When we get them, we will let you know.

We're getting ready for our annual trip to Dayton Ohio and HamVention. If you haven't ever gone to the biggest hamfest in the USA, then you need to go. Any year now it could disappear, in my humble opinion. We all hope not, but there are rumors that the Hara Arena/old fair grounds is in such need of repair that it just may have to close down.

Don't forget that May is DINNER OUT MONTH. We will meet at 6:30pm at I don't know the restaurant at time this was written.... Anyway, we'll have our May TDXS get together.

I am on a trip now and have to go. So my article is short. Have a good May and see you at the Wednesday night May 11th at 6:30pm TDXS Dinner night... Look at our website, TDXS.net or TDXS.org to see details.

73,

Bob Hardie W5UQ

TDXS Prez for 2016

TDXS April 2016 Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: April 14, 2016

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: WB5TKI, N5XZ, K5DD, WG5H, NM5G, W5GCX, WB5TUF, WD5X, W5PF, W5UQ, AJ4F, K5VWW, K5UO, K5GN, K5HM.

Guests: Dan KS5V, Nizar K0NM.

The meeting started with a brief business discussion. Among the items discussed:

- Contests – No good contests in April. Repeaters are in good working order.
- DX – Bands are pretty dead. EP2A would be starting up operation soon after the meeting date.
- Field Day - The plan is to basically repeat the formula from last year, where TDXS joined BVARC and ECHO clubs in a combined effort.
- Mike K5UO reported that he had possession of the club 2-element 40 meter Cushcraft beam and the Steppir vertical. He was looking for someone else to store them and Allen N5XZ volunteered.

Guests were Dan Villalanti KS5V, Nizar K0NM and Dave McCarty K5GN. Dave is actually an inactive club member, number 34 from 1975 and a master contester.

The program was given by Robie, AJ4F. It was an overview of contesting and covered the goals, methods, contest prep, methodology, software, and post-contest log submittal and score posting. During and after the presentation there were numerous discussions led by other accomplished contesters in the club concerning tactics. After the presentation and discussion there were several member who opined that this was the best program presented by TDXS in a long time because of the liberal input from the many avid contesters in the club.

73,

Submitted May 8, 2016

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

The major DXpeditions, **VKØEK** and **FJ4JA** of April are now qrt. Heard Island, **VKØEK**, made a very great effort with a total of 75,175 qso's. **FJ4JA** operating from the island of Juan de in the Indian Ocean made 105,596 qso's. **EP2A**, operating from Gilan Province in Northern Iran managed 68,156 qso's which included one to Wes, AC5K, which gave him CW DXCC Honor Roll. Congratulations Wes!

This month there are a lot of other DXpeditions active, or soon to be on the air. Some of these operations include:

9QØHQ is operating from the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. They will be active on 80-10M until May 22nd. Operation will be predominately SSB and RTTY. This is a "Doctors without Borders" operation and the current operator is Elvira, IV3FSG.

TN2BJ and **TN2MP** will be operating from the **Republic of the Congo** from May 15th through May 23rd. Bands will be 20-10M on CW and SSB.

YJØCS will be operating until May 27th from Vanuatu. HB9LCA will be operating from several islands

E44QX will be activated from May 8th until May 15th by 3 DL's on 80-10M 24 hours per day.

Look for **PYØF** operated by PY7RP from Fernando de Noronha. He will be active on 160-6M until May 9th. He will be followed by **PYØNY** from May 13th until May 23rd.

E6AC will be active from Niue until May 10th.

VK9NT on Norfolk island will be activated by several VKs from May 20th through May 31st on 160-10M.

Another South China Sea operation will be **9MØZ**, Pulau Layang-Layang, Spratley Islands, by ZS6EZ and 9V1YC until May 14th. 160M-6M.

Good DXing,
Orville, K5VWW

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Contest Chairman's Report—by Glenn Anderson WB5TUF

Hello again!

April was a slow month for contesting. There were only a couple of state QSO parties. Not that it matters, the bands have been horrible! The flux has been hovering around in the 80's all month and the A index hit a high of 68 last week. I'm in Denver this week on business. I was hoping to work my station remotely from the hotel room, but there hasn't been anything good on the bands.

The results for this year's RTTY Roundup have been released. I placed second in the SO UL LP category worldwide.

#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Power	Section	Club	Ops
1	AA5AU	230,160	1,944	120	U	A	LA	Louisiana Contest Club	
2	WB5TUF	174,360	1,462	120	U	A	STX	Texas DX Society	
3	YV1KK	167,388	1,478	116	U	A	YV		
4	K9OM	159,427	1,235	131	U	A	NFL	Florida Contest Group	
5	XE2K	139,314	1,328	107	U	A	XE		

The next big contest is the CQ WW WPX CW the weekend of May 28th. Field day is the last weekend of June. Stay tuned for more info as the plans come together.

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



The Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch by Ron Litt K5HM

The Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch

_"The Wouff-Hong is amateur radio's most sacred symbol and stands for the enforcement of law and order in amateur operation." "The Rettysnitch is used to enforce the principles of decency in operating work."

The Radio Amateur's Handbook, 1930, p. 11

In 1930, the Handbook had pictures of both instruments of enforcement. By 1936, only the Wouff-Hong appeared, and by 1947, the Handbook had deleted both photos.

Just when we need traditions of law and order and of decency in amateur operations to guide its growth in the era of technology and easier licensing, these symbols have disappeared from view.



The Wouff-Hong

The Old Man" (T.O.M.), originator of the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch, is known to be the one and only Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, founder of the American Radio Relay League in 1914.

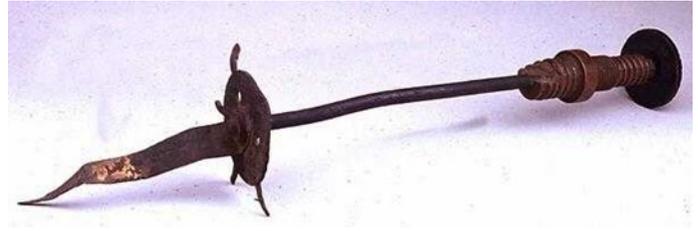
T.O.M. wrote his first mention of a Wouff-Hong and a Rettysnitch in 1917. In 1919, the league received an actual Wouff-Hong specimen directly from T.O.M. The first photo of the Wouff-Hong was published in July 1919 *QST*. In 1921, the Washington DC Radio Club presented the Rettysnitch to the league's traffic manager. According to legend, the club received the Rettysnitch specimen from *The Old Man* himself. Even at its first public appearance, two of its teeth were missing, suggesting a long history of necessary and effective use. However, to this day, the Rettysnitch has lost no further teeth.

In 1930, *The ARRL Handbook* had pictures of both instruments of enforcement. By 1936, only the Wouff-Hong appeared. By 1947 the *Handbook* had deleted both photos. An editorial on the Wouff-Hong appeared many years later in February 1961 *QST*. Presently, both of these legendary instruments are on display at the ARRL museum in Newington, CT.



The Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch by Ron Litt K5HM

The Rettysnitch



The Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch stories have been told and retold again and again. In the current time, when young amateurs are ignorant of the meanings of traditions of decency and good operating practice, perhaps it is time to bring back these two instruments of terrible punishment,

You can never have law and order without first having decency. Some pessimists think that we now have neither. Sure, the number of bad operators has skyrocketed, but not their proportion to the main corps of good, legal, and decent operators, capable and courteous to a fault.

We should not be troubled by the size of the job of curing amateur radio of its illegalities and indecencies, for we have more folks to help use the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch just where and how they ought to be used. Not on others, but on ourselves--to make sure that we set a model for how amateur operations ought to be conducted.

Remember T.O.M.--*The Old Man*--who wrote in earliest days of the League, about "Rotten QRM." His very first article in 1917 blasted concocted abbreviations just coming into use. Among the almost unintelligible gibberish in his headphones were words like "Wouff Hong" and "Rettysnitch," surely instruments of terrifying punishment. By mid-1917, ARRL was besieged by orders for these contraptions, orders that could not be filled because the League staff had never seen either device.

In 1919, the League received from The Old Man a package containing an authoritative and well preserved specimen of Wouff-Hong. The contents of the package were described as "gruesome instrument of torture." The Old Man also presented the world with its first glimpse of the Rettysnitch. In 1921, the monstrous machine was presented to the League traffic manager by the Washington, D.C., Radio Club, ostensibly after receiving it from T.O.M. In the 20s and 30s, many a reproduction of both instruments, but especially the Wouff-Hong, materialized across the country.

A group of hams in Flint, Michigan, created the mystic society called the *Royal Order of the Wouff-Hong*. The society endures to this day, according to legends to which I recently became aware. What has become of the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch? More important, what has become of their power to enforce both decency and law and order on the ham bands? Hams used to cringe at the thought, let alone the sight, of these dreadful tools of enforcement. We do not hear of them much anymore.

Why were the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch so powerful to those early hams? Perhaps because those hams cared about amateur radio in their hearts. They wanted what they knew they could never have: a perfectly law-abiding and decent radio service that would inspire young and old alike to become hams or, to become admirers of hams. Every minute of on the-air time was a chance to show how noble a pursuit amateur radio was and should always be.

(continued)

The Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch by Ron Litt K5HM

They feared the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch as instruments of their own conscience, as they strove to meet the standards they set for themselves. That is where you will find both the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch today. Deep in your own conscience. If they seem to hold no power, then you know it is time to elevate your standards a notch higher, and then to strive to achieve them perfectly.

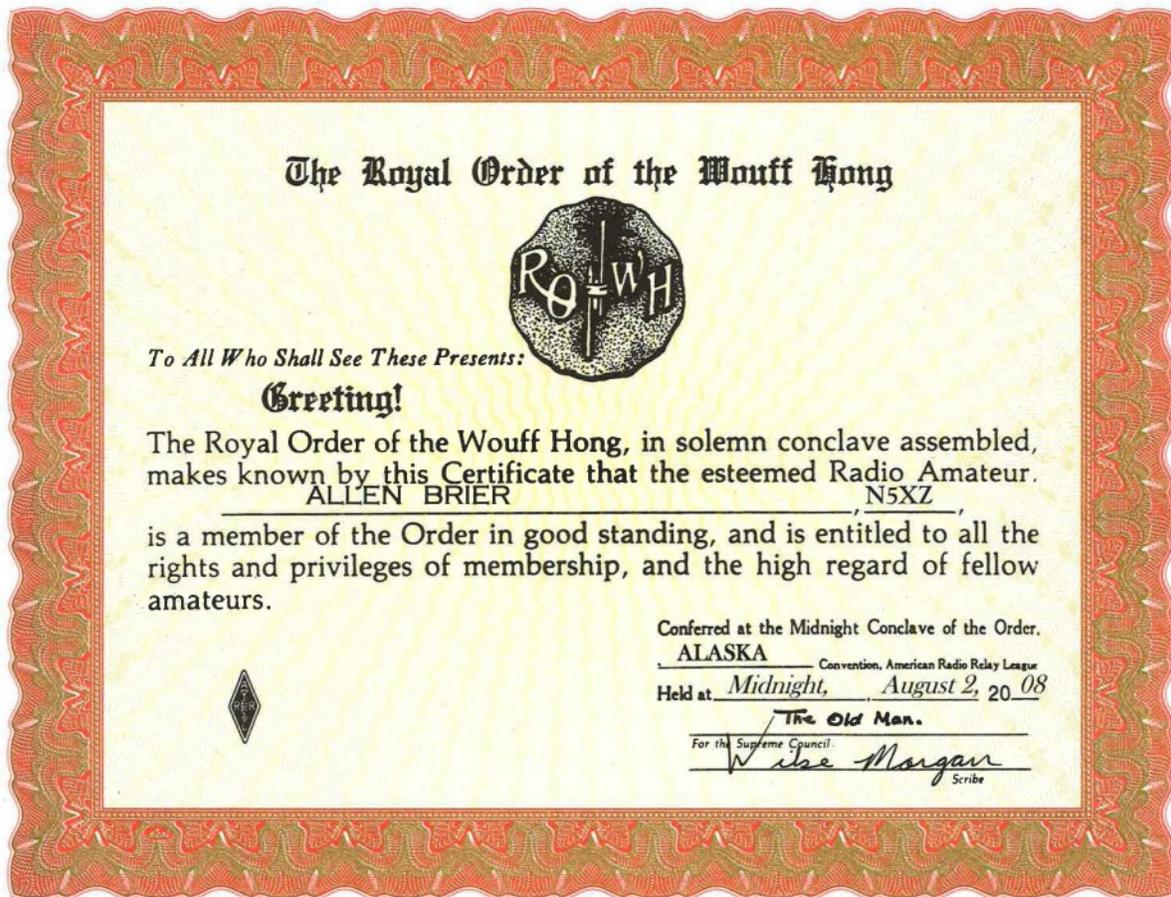
Each of us should carry the image of these terrible instruments in our conscience. One of law and order, the other of decency. However much the outside world may neglect the tradition of these terrible reminders of responsibility, each of us possess our own Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch. May you never deserve their sting.

Like all legends, this one, too, must end with special words: Pass It On.

Reporting from the Dark Side

Ron Litt, K5HM

(In case you didn't know what a Wouff Hong certificate looks like, see below. Your humble editor went through the actual midnight ceremony at the Anchorage Hamfest in 2008. I am forbidden to discuss or describe exactly what went on at that ceremony, but I can tell you, it was nothing like anything I had ever gone through before or since. If you really want to know, you'll just have to go through it yourself).



Texas DX Society Board members

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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

TDXS says "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to these members with birthdays in May

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone

Leon Pringle, Jr. - W5NA
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 Henry Schneider - W5HNS
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