



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 2017

TDXS Annual Banquet

Jan 21, 2017

Social hour starts at 6PM and dinner at 7PM

Churrasca Brazilian Steakhouse

7801 Westheimer Rd, Houston Tx 77063

Editor's Note by Allen N5XZ

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and Happy New Year!! I hope many of you got nice new toys to play with make use of them to work DX and contests in this new year 2017! I didn't get any directly related ham radio toys, but I did get some wireless headphones and a Parrot drone, with a nice camera in it so that I can inspect the upper regions of my vast antenna farm. So at least I can play with those when the bands are not cooperating as they should.

TDXS has a slightly modified slate of officers, and I urge each and every one of you to look on the last page of this newsletter to see what the changes are.

Welcome to the new board members!

We are starting a new column this month: I want to include a biography of TDXS members, starting with current, local members and officers/board members. Robie was kind enough to send his biography so it is included in this issue on page 9. Next, I hope to get VP's and so on down the list. Just a small way for the membership to get better acquainted with the officers.

Now for notable DX worked at N5XZ in December: 3B9HA, ZB2CW, 5T5TI, D4X, RI1AND, A31MM, HS0ZIA, C50VB, 9K2HN, TY2AC, 6W/UA4WHX/P, V51WH, V53DX, C91PA,

TZ4AM, FK8DD, 5T0JL, D44TVB, A25SL, JD1BMH, V51WH, V53DX, 5B4AGN, HZ1BW, EA8/UA4WHX, KC4AAA.

Don't forget about the upcoming TDXS Annual Banquet, being held at Churrasca Brazilian Steakhouse on January 21st, starting at 6pm. It should be a lot of fun and I understand the food is exceptional there. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again this year.

73, Allen N5XZ

Inside this issue:

The Prez Sez by Robie Elms, AJ4F	2
TDXS December 2016 Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI	3
DX Chairman's Report by Orville Burg K5VWW	4
Contest Report by Glenn Anderson WB5TUF	5
What the Guano? By Ron Litt K5HM	6
Club Dues by Orville Burg K5VWW	8
TDXS Biography: President Robie Elms AJ4F	9
TDXS Board Members	10
TDXS Birthdays	10

The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez
January 2017
R1

This Is my first opportunity to say what is on my mind – so here goes!

I want to thank Bob Hardie – W5UQ for his past service as President and for his help in getting me get started in my new role as well as Mike Braggassa - K5UO for his service as Treasurer.

I am happy for the opportunity to serve as president for 2017. I feel the TDXS is becoming a more vigorous organization and I am looking forward to adding my own “spin” to the organization.

Here are some of my thoughts about clubs and why I want to participate. During the past two years, the TDXS officers have recognized the need to attract new members and have taken steps to make that happen. For example, Willis “Cookie” Cooke – K5EWJ was instrumental in raising my interest in becoming a member. I am sure that some of the other members who joined the TDXS in 2015 (the year in which I joined) had similar experiences. The changes made to the TDXS Constitution in 2016 are another example. These changes better align the TDXS with the current radio amateur population’s interest in clubs. Because of these initiatives, the TDXS has gained some momentum in addition to new members. I am planning a Board of Directors meeting in January and hope that the Board can develop a set of goals for our organization. I feel this is the

best way to set a direction for 2017. Collectively, the TDXS membership has a tremendous set of skills, knowledge, and manpower, which if shared can help each of us become better Radio Amateurs and better able to achieve our own personal goals. Good examples of the collective capabilities of the organization shown in Kim Carr’s – K5TU presentation on building his new station and Pat Cameron’s – KJ5Y presentation on remote operation of radio over the internet. You don’t have to make a formal presentation to participate in a meaningful way. You could assist a fellow club member with erecting and antenna or troubleshooting a problem with radio related software, or making a helpful post on our reflector. I especially enjoy conversing with individuals on specific issues or questions. I really learn a lot and get to know the individual as well. The more members we have the deeper our knowledge base becomes. The key to success is participation by everyone and not overloading anyone.

We have lots of opportunities for contesting and DXing in January. I hope to work many of you in the ARRL RTTY Roundup, the VHF Sweepstakes and the CQ 160 Meter CW contest. Glenn Anderson – WB5TUF will keep us informed on all the upcoming contesting opportunities. Propagation on the high bands is spotty at best, but It’s winter so noise levels 80 and 160 are low (relatively) and hopefully you can add to your DX totals on these bands. I’ll be in there pounding the brass for sure!

We have a group going on a cruise

in the Gulf of Mexico that will be on the air maritime mobile. I think this is a great opportunity to foster relationships and make a few Q’s!. I wonder if there might be an opportunity for some new grid squares on 6 meters?

I am really looking forward to our banquet on January 21st. Be sure and make plans to attend and encourage TDXS members who haven’t been active to attend if you can. It would be great for some of them to see what is going on and get active again. Perhaps, we could get a few perspective members to attend and convince them to join.

I want encourage each of you to communicate with me and the other officers. Let us know what you are doing, seeing, hearing and thinking. This is how we know what is going on, what is working, what is not working and what needs to be addressed!

I want to wish all of you a very happy and prosperous 2017!

73,

Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS December 2016 Meeting Minutes

Date: December 8, 2016

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Scott K5DD, Mike K5UO, Doug WB5TKI, Curt WG5H, Keith NM5G, Orville K5VWW, Gerald K9GEM, Tibor KE5ELV, Ed W5GCX, Bob W5UQ, Robie AJ5F, Charles K4TY, Rose-Marie KB4RM

The December meeting was held at the Tracy Gee Community Center in Houston. The highlights from the business meeting were:

- The Treasury contains about \$15,500.
- There was some discussion about the future use of the Dave Topp DX Fund

A new PayPal account has been set up for Orville, as the new Treasurer, at Treasurer@TDXS.net.

The annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 21 at Churrascos Brazilian Steakhouse.

The program was presented by Keith NM5G. He described the planning that goes into a DXpedition, using his upcoming Nicaragua trip as an example. The talk was very well received and very informative.

We have 2 new members of TDXS:

- # 198 is Brandon Brinkley AC4OU from Humble
- # 199 is Tibor Ramirez KE5ELV from Spring

Welcome to the club!

The next meeting will be the annual Banquet, which will be held at the Churrasca Brazilian Steakhouse on Westheimer in Houston. See the TDXS website for details.

73,

Submitted January 5, 2017
Doug Seyler WB5TKI
TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

Conditions are apparently getting better, at least on the low bands, this past month. There have been QSO's reported with **A35MM**, **JT1CO**, **9V1YC**, **V53DX**, **ZS6CCY**, **V51WH**, **9M2/R6AF**, **4X07W**, and **5TOJL** on the TDXS Reflector this past week.

Rumor has it that **7Q7** may become harder to work in the future as the one active station from Malawi will be permanently moving back to Great Britain this summer.

DJ6SI, Baldur, DF9TM and DL2SWW are operating as **5R8GC**, **5R8UJ** and **5R8UR** from Madagascar until January 12th. They will be on all modes.

There will be an activation of **ZC4SB** and **ZC4JB**, The Sovereign Base Area of Cyprus from January 11th, 2017 through January 25th, 2017. **GØSGB** and **G4IAQ** will be the operators and will be mainly on 80, 40 and 20M, CW and SSB.

E51AMF will be the call used by K7ADD from both South and North Cook Islands. He plans on operating from January 5th through 9th from Rarotonga in the S. Cooks and then from Manuhiri Atoll in the N. Cooks from January 11th through February 6th. No CW.

Michael, DF8AN will be active from Robinson Crusoe Island, Juan Fernandez Islands as **CE0Z/DF8AN** between February 21st and 24th, 2017. QRV on HF bands CW and Digital.

There is a planned Dxpediton from February 13th, 2017 through February 26th, 2017 by a large group of 10 DL operators manning 3 stations 24/7 on all bands from **Macau** as **XX9D**. All modes and focusing on NA QSO's. See <http://xx9d.mydx.de> for information.

6Y2T will be the Jamaican call issued to VE3DZ for use from February 14th through 21st in the ARRL CW contest.

February 1st, 2017 through February 14th, 2017 will be the dates of operation for **TL8TT** from the Central African Republic. They will have 7 operators putting on 3 stations active 24/7 on all modes, 160M-6M. See www.i2ysb.com/idt for further information.

The 22nd of January 2017 to 2nd of February 2017 are planned for operation of TU5MH from the Republic of the Ivory Coast. There will be 5 operators with 2 stations. Sorry, no 160M operation.

Also operating from Africa will be DF2WO while in Kigali from February 3rd through March 11th. He will be using the call 9X2AW.

5JØNA will be activated on San Andres and Providencia by LW9EOC during the CQ WW WPX SSB contest March 27th and 28th.

There will be activity from Ghana as **9G5X**, and Niger, **5U5R** in early March. You might keep an eye out for **ZS8Z** operating from Marion Island in the next year.

Good DXing,
Orville, K5VWW

.....

Contest Report—by Glenn Anderson WB5TUF

Happy New Year! I haven't had much time for contesting in the last few months. My life has been occupied with the preparation for the Super bowl next month. I did participate in the 10-meter RTTY contest last month. The band conditions were horrible. I managed to make 53 q's in about 12-hours. A lousy rate but good enough to place 4th overall.

As I'm writing this article, I'm preparing for the ARRL RTTY Roundup. It starts in about two hours. I managed to place 2nd in single op unlimited last year.

Here are some results from our member's activities:

N5XZ was in the CW ops Mini test on 12-29. He made 36 Q's and 36 mults for a score of 1,296.

K0NM was in the NCCC Sprint on 12-16. He made 21 Q's and 18 mults for a score of 378.

Several of our members were in the ARRL 10-meter contest:

Pat KJ5Y was part of a remote multi-op group in New Mexico. They made 591 Q's for a score of 183,546.

Chuck W5PR made 945 Q's and 96 mults for a score of 181,440.

Allen N5XZ made 995 Q's and 165 mults for a score of 475,200.

Nizar K0NM made 555 Q's and 98 mults for a score of 211,680.

Robie AJ4F made 88 Q's and 40 mults for a score of 13,440.

Pat KJ5Y operated as part of the W7DXX group in the ARRL 160 contest. He made 195 Q's and 64 mults for a score of 25,920.

CQ WW CW

Pat also hosted a remote operation with MMOLID and N5XZ. They made 1202 Q's and had a score of 1,467,984.

Nizar K0NM made 908 Q's and had a score of 1,008,024.

Kim K5TU made 1002 Q's and had a score of 1,061,578. This was a great shakedown for his new station and antennas!

That's all I have for now...Please remember to post your scores to 3830.com.

73, Glenn

What the Guano? - By Ron Litt K5HM

What the Guano??

What do these islands have in common?

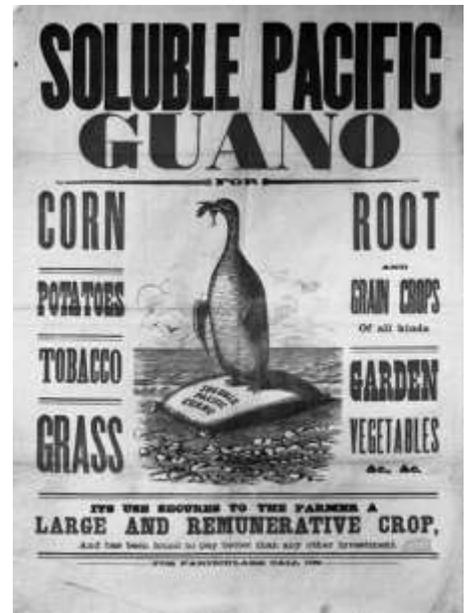
Most Wanted DX	Name	Prefix	IOTA#
#4	Baker & Howland Island	KH1	OC-089
#8	Johnston Is	KH3	OC-023
#20	Midway	KH4	OC-030
#23	Kingman Reef & Palmyra Atoll	KH5	OC-085
#23	Jarvis Island	KH5	OC-081
#42	Wake Island	KH9	OC-053
#45	Navassa	KP1	NA-098
#51	Swains Island	KH8/S	OC-200
#252	French Frigate Shoals	KH6	OC-055

HINT: Even though they are all islands and most have low numbers on the Most Wanted DX list that is not the link. The thing the all have in common is guano; particularly bird poop. Yes, without our national desire for bird guano some of the world's premier DX locales might never have showed up on the radio spectrum.

In the mid-nineteenth century before the advent of chemical fertilizers, American famers discovered that bird guano was a superior fertilizer compared to commonly used manure. The trade in guano became the foundation of modern farming and inspired the colonization of remote bird islands in many parts of the world. When the word spread about the power of guano, Americans became eager for it, despite high prices.

President Millard Fillmore addressed the matter of guano, stating that it was "the duty of the Government to employ all means properly in its power for the purpose of causing that article to be imported into the country at a reasonable price."

In 1856, the U.S. government passed a dubious piece of legislation called the Guano Islands Act. It allowed any unclaimed or unoccupied islands containing guano to be annexed. The U.S. Navy was directed to back up this claim. Companies could use this protection to explore and claim other islands.



What the Guano? - By Ron Litt K5HM

The Celebrated
— B I D —
Sea Fowl
GUANO,
stands unrivalled in price and quality.
Its original standard is guaranteed and
Prices Reduced.
It has proved to be THE FERTILIZER
for Corn and Cotton and in comparison to
price is undoubtedly the
CHEAPEST USED.—TRY IT.
Enquire of any one who has used it—you
will get a satisfactory answer.
Testimonials furnished on applica-
tion.
Then send orders and applications forth
with to
R. W. ASKEW, Agent.
Windsor, N. C.
Febly. 20-5w

The act was originally intended for Americans to acquire their own guano rich islands and was one of the founding acts of American imperialism. Guano islands were found in the Caribbean, such as Navassa Island, and some in the Pacific, including Baker and Jarvis islands.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, the guano trade flourished. At one time there were more than 60 islands claimed under the act. The Pacific Guano Company was one of the largest who mined guano from the central pacific islands. During this time, the company flourished. At the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, the company had its own Pavilion that sang the praises of their products.

By the 1880's the trade in guano declined as cheaper chemical fertilizers came to market. However, guano is still in demand by organic farmers.

Today, only eight islands remain administered as the US Minor Islands and one each annexed by American Samoa and Hawaii remain as possessions of the United States (see list above). However, there is still plenty of guano around, on 75 meters.

Reporting from the Dark Side

Ron Litt, K5HM



2017 Annual Dues by Orville Burg K5VWW

2017 Annual Dues are now due

According to the TDXS Constitution, the dues for each member are payable on or before the first regular meeting of February, which occurs on February 9th , 2017.

Currently only 29 members have paid their dues.

The dues for 2017 have been set at \$25.00 for local members or \$12.50 for a member living in excess of 75 miles from Grid Square EL29hs.

Payment of dues may be made by 3 methods:

- Cash presented to the Treasurer of the TDXS, (Orville, K5VWW), at a scheduled meeting. Next Scheduled meeting will be January 21st at Churrasca Brazilian Steak House on Westheimer.

- Check made payable to the Texas DX Society. Checks may be sent to the Texas DX Society by mail or delivered in person to the Secretary, (Doug, WB5TKI) at the meeting. The mailing address is:

Secretary of the TDXS Society

1614 Fair Oaks Lane

Richmond, TX 77406-1388

- Via PayPal, www.PayPal.com, which will be payable to the account: treasurer@TDXS.net.

If paying via PayPal, please utilize the option to "send money to friends and family."



TDXS Biography—President Robie Elms AJ4F

Robie Elms – AJ4F Bio

Allen asked me to prepare a short biography so you can get to know me better.

I was born in western North Carolina in 1955. My family lived there until I was about 6 years old and we moved to city of Decatur in northern Alabama. I have always been curious about the physical world and interested in math and the sciences. I planned at an early age to become an engineer. My seventh-grade math teacher, Roy Curtis, introduced me to ham radio. He was not a ham but had previous experience with hams. He tried to identify, in each of his students, one of their interests and encourage each student to pursue it. I was tinkering with electricity at that time and he gave me a newspaper clipping about ham radio classes being offered by the local radio club. I persuaded my mom to let me attend, drive me there and after the first class I was hooked!

I received my novice license (WN4NLK) in June 1969 just in time for Field Day. That first Field Day weekend was a tremendous experience for a new ham! I upgraded to general in December of that year. I became active in the NTS (National Traffic System), DXing and contesting. Ed Stone, K4WHW (SK) helped me develop my VHF interest by asking me to assist him in the ARRL VHF contest with his portable station which we set up on a local mountain. In addition to unloading and setting-up, fueling generator, and cook I was the CW operator on 6 meters. I had a good ear for CW and was “pulling” the weak ones out of the noise during an opening. Ed was impressed and I was forever hooked on 6 meters! I upgraded to extra class in 1977 to obtain frequency privileges that would allow me to experiment with SSTV (slow scan television).

I attended Auburn University and received a Bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering. Professionally I have worked in the aircraft engine manufacturing industry, fossil and nuclear power industry, petrochemicals and most recently in the Engineering Procurement and Construction industry supporting refineries. I have accumulated approximately 40 years of industrial experience in engineering, facilities management and project management.

I moved to Webster, Texas in 1981 and to my current location (Kemah) in 1992. I am an avid tinkerer. I enjoy building all types of equipment and antennas. I am often torn between working on some piece of equipment or using it! I integrated a computer into my shack in as soon as PC's became available. My first radio computer was an Apple II and I wrote most of the software I used as well as built interface circuits as needed. I was very proud of my software that served as logging program and sent CW from the computer keyboard.

My current interests still include tinkering, DXing and chasing grid squares. I have worked and confirmed over 100 countries on 80 through 10 meters. Worked 416 grid squares and confirmed 348 on 6 meters. I have accomplished this all with low power (100 watts or less) and wire antennas. My future plans include installation of a tower and better antennas for 160 and 6 meters.

My wife, Theresa, and I have been married for over 33 years and we have 3 children Ryan (26) and twins Marisa and Luke (23).

Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
VP Membership	Keith Dutson, NM5G	kdutson at sbcglobal.net
VP Programs	Gerald Muller K9GEM	gmuller885 at aol.com
	Lance Rumfield WD5X	ltrumfield at sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	djseyler at comcast.net
Treasurer	Orville Burg, K5VWW	Orville at rubyglass.com
Contest Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at arrl.net
Field Day Chairmen	Mike Davidson, N5MT	n5mt at aol.com
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at earthlink.net
DX Chairman	Orville Burg, K5VWW	Orville at rubyglass.com
Outgoing QSL Manager	Scott Patout,, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Webmaster	Scott Patout,, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.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

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