



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net November 2018

TDXS Monthly Meeting:
2018 Old Codgers Dinner
Saturday, November 10th, 2018 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Pappadeux Seafood Kitchen
12109 Westheimer Road
Houston, TX 77077



Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

I am writing this on Nov 6th, election day. I hope everyone had a chance to get out your vote...I did the early vote thing last week and luckily didn't have to wait in line very long. So I eagerly await the results tonight. I don't think I am going to stay up like I did in 2016, so I will probably have to wait for the answers tomorrow!

I have heard that band conditions are starting to improve, and that bands have been open from 160 through 15 meters. I hope to get back into the swing of things soon.

I started troubleshooting my SteppIR beam last week and found a high resistance on one of the stepper motor loops, so as soon as I have some

more time, I will dig into that. Hopefully, it is not too serious, but with a high resistance, I am expecting that to be a connection issue. If there was a problem with the stepper motor, it would likely be an open circuit. So I will report back as soon as I have more answers. I need to take it down for maintenance anyway, so soon that will happen. I will be asking for help when the time comes.

Please note that the TDXS 2018 Old Codgers Meeting is coming up this Saturday night at 6:30 pm. I am going to try to make it and am looking forward to seeing everyone.

Also, there is a TDXS Board of Directors meeting and any and all members are invited to

join us. It will be held at Luby's, 100 Westheimer Plaza, 12121 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77077 11 am on Saturday, November 17th. Hope to see you there!

Last weekend was CW Sweepstakes, which I missed, but at least I can say that I have a Clean Sweep mug at home from two years before!

Not much else to report from down here in beautiful Lake Jackson, Texas. Rain tonight and mud tomorrow.

73 Allen 'XZ

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Please...if you read this and are a member of TDXS, we want to know more about you! PLEASE send me a biography of your ham life, equipment, accomplishments, regrets, wants, needs, etc. Pictures also, please!

The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

November 2018

There have been several tower incidents lately which have resulted in fatalities. Without knowing all the details of each I am certain they were all preventable. Several of our members are tower climbers and proud of it. I'm all for them doing what they want to do and can do, safely. We all must remember that every task is a new one, even if we've done it a thousand times before. The situation is different and one or several of the variables involved may have changed. The changes could be beneficial or not, and we don't know before they are evaluated. Proper pre-task evaluation and planning are the keys to executing a job safely. Of great importance is evaluating your own capabilities and recognizing that they change day to day and year to year. There is no shame in recognizing that you need help or even that you are not capable of a certain task anymore. If you need help, ask! The thing we don't want to do is visit you in the hospital or attend your funeral!

Attendance at our regular meetings is generally poor, even when we have a good program. One of the contributing factors appears to be that our meeting night (2nd Thursday of the month) coincides with BVAR's meeting night. We have many members who are also BVARC members and feel that impacts our attendance. Beginning in 2019 the TDXS meeting night has been changed to the 3rd Thursday of the month. We will still meet at the Tracy Gee Center and will alternate between dinner and regular meetings. The dinner meetings are much better attended and rather enjoyable. If you have not attended one come and join us. The Ole' Codgers dinner is scheduled for November 10th. I look forward to seeing you there. The 2019 meeting calendar will be a topic at the November 17 Board of Directors Meeting. All members are welcome to attend. BOD meeting times and locations are on the Meeting Calendar located on the upper left portion for our webpage. This gives you a picture of the entire year and allows you to plan accordingly.

We've had an interesting discussion on the reflector regarding technical skills. Many of us grew up in the era where that mostly meant calculations and measurement skills. Let's not forget that software is also a skill set, especially today. Years ago, having the skills to solve equations was the focus and you spent a tremendous amount of time doing just that. In fact, we often deferred to using "rules of thumb" simply because the math was too tedious and complex. Today's software has changed most of that. Remember Rick's W5RH program on Antenna Modeling. This package gives us tremendous insight into how antennas are likely to perform and provides numbers to use in selecting equipment and designing it as well. All the mid to higher end radios are software based and you must be willing to learn how to utilize the software to maximize their benefit. I spend a lot of time helping other hams, it's one of my passions, and almost everyone of them could benefit from improving their software skills. You need to be computer literate and that does not mean writing software! There are lots of FREE tutorials on YouTube! Just give it a try!

November and December are big contest months. Let's see what the TDXS machine can do! We've got ARRL Sweepstakes CW/Phone, 160 Meter and 10 Meter contests along with the CQ WW CW. In addition, as winter approaches conditions for DXing on the low bands 40, 80 & 160 meters are improving. I'm already copying EU in the early evening on 160 and lots of JAs in the morning on 80 meters.

73,

Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS October 2018 Meeting Minutes

Date: October 11, 2018

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Larry KB5WWW, Don N5DD, Keith NM5G, Jim N5DTT, Orville K5VWW, Jerry K9GEM, Scott K5DD, Robie AJ4F, Dale KG5U

October was a regular meeting month at the Tracy Gee Community Center in West Houston. The business meeting addressed the following issues:

We have a new member, Scott Straw KB4KBS, #215. Scott lives in Roswell, GA.

We have a nominee for each elected Board position, and the results will be announced at the November meeting.

The next Board of Directors meeting has been postponed until November 17. It will be held at 11:00 a.m. at Lubys, 12121 Westheimer. All members are welcome to attend.

After considerable effort, Orville K5VWW has selected Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen at 12109 Westheimer for the annual Ole' Codgers Dinner. It will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 10. The purpose of the meeting is to recognize the founding and early members of the Texas DX Society. Also to eat, drink and be merry! We hope to see you there!

The program for October was "Vacation-style DXing from Belize - licensing, equipment and operating" presented by Doug WB5TKI. Doug covered the process of obtaining a Belizean operating permit and temporary equipment importation license. He also showed his portable equipment, consisting of an Elecraft KX-3, Hard-rock-50 amplifier, and Buddipole dipole. This setup would allow SSB, CW and FT-8 operation at a max output of 50 watts. The operating location is a second floor balcony which faces south, so a shortened dipole on the balcony works OK into the US.

73,

Submitted November 1, 2018

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

November appears to be a continuation of planned ZERO Sunspot numbers!

The hottest DXpedition currently on the air is Ducie Island, VP6D.

As I write this on October 26th, VP6D has made over 59,600 qsos on CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 on all bands from 160M through 10M . 6M EME made 5 qso's.

DS4NMJ is operating from the Korean Antarctic base King Se-Jong on King George I in the South Shetland Islands as DT8A. Operation will be on 40M-12M on all modes through the end of December.

VK9XG operating from Christmas Island will continue on all bands until October 29th on 160M-10M all modes.

YJØGC is operating from Vanuatu on 160M-6M, all modes and will be active until November 4th.

XT2SZZ is operating from Burkina Faso on 80M-6M. 5 operators will be active until October 30th.

Many operations will be active during the CQ WW DX SSB contest the weekend of October 27th and 28th and the CQ WW DX CW contest the week of November 24th and 25th.

Additional operations planned are:

Palestine	October 27 th - November 11 th	E44WE by SP9FIH. 20M-15M, SSB, RTTY & possible FT8.
Sri Lanka	November 1 st November 30 th	4S7KKG by DCØKK. CW & FT8
Madagascar	November 5 th November 30 th	5R8IC by F8ICX mostly CW & FT8
Cocos Keeling	November 6 th November 9 th	VK9CH by DF8AN 160M-6M CW& Digital
Minami Torishima	November 15 th November 30 th	JG8NJQ/JD1. 20M-17M, CW, RTTY
Ogasawara	November 22 nd December 07 th	JD1BPH by JH1HHC & JI1CRM/JD1. 160M-6M, all modes.

Good DX,
Orville, K5VWW

This just in from Mike N5MT:

My score for N5MT CQWW DX SSB contest:

20 M 38 Q 15 Zone 26 Cty
 15 M 17 Q 7 Z 15
 10 M 10 Q 4 Z 7
 Total 65 Q 26 zones 48 countries 74 mults for 13,024 pts.
 Credit to TDXS.

73 Mike N5MT



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. There has been a lot of contesting activity since we last met. It looks like many members took advantage of the State QSO parties to warm-up for the Fall Contest Season. There was a lot of activity with the CQ WW RTTY contest, too.

I'm writing this from my daughter's kitchen table in North London. We are here visiting her and the grandkids. Since I'm here and not at home, I will probably miss the CW WW SSB contest unless I can find a club around here that wants a Guest Operator. I tried this three years ago when I contacted a club in St. Albans, about a 30-minute train ride North of London. Everything looked good for joining them until their Contest Chairman got back from a sailing trip and emailed me that they "...would be putting on a limited effort, only on Sunday afternoon." That seemed a bit fruitless, so I did not join them. I looked at their score in the CQ WW SSB Scores database when the results were posted. Let's just say they did a lot on a Sunday afternoon somehow managing to cram in 48 hours of operation and a very respectable score. It is obvious they (or their Contest Chairman) did not want a Yank with them. I met a couple of Hams from a group that operates from the Kelvedon Hatch Nuclear Bunker Museum so will contact one of them to see if I can join them for the weekend. Like many clubs in England, they operate contests Field Day style with temporary masts and beams and dipoles. They have one advantage though, they have access to the 100-meter-tall communications tower atop the bunker so have permanent 40, 80 and 160 meter dipoles to utilize along with their temporary triband beam. Being in Europe and having access to a lot of near-by countries and CQ Zones, they do very well with multipliers. I hope it works out. I think I would learn a lot about European contesting.

The results of recent TDXS contest operation appear below:

Texas QSO Party										
Single Op HP										
Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club	
WB5TKI			56	160	0		76	37,588	TDXS	
Single Op LP										
Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club	
K15LR			170	95	0		99 17	70,300	TDXS	
SO CW LP										
Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club	
AJ4E			283	0	0		92	78,108	TDXS	
SO Mobile LP										
Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club	



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

[K5GQ](#) 464 0 0 254 18 117,980 TDXS

SO SSB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT			0	216	0		69 13	29,808	TDXS
KB5WWW			0	80	0		37	5,920	TDXS

CQ WW RTTY

SO(A)AB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	D X	Zones	Op Time	Score	Club
W5DPT			6		5 1	6	1	72	TDXS

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	D X	Zones	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DD			255		69 81	38		92,872	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	D X	Zones	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4E			216		76 35	26		41,374	TDXS
KG5U			58		16 24	18	4	6,670	TDXS

SOSB10 HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	D X	Zones	Op Time	Score	Club
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Where in the World Is...by Ron Litt K5HM

The Marshall Islands (V73)
CQ Zone 31 ITU Zone 65
IOTA OC-028

Think WW II - the big one. Names of individual atolls are engraved forever in American military history. Part of Admiral Nimitz' island hopping strategy, islands in the Marshall and Gilberts chains became battle grounds. After the war, the islands, especially Bikini and Eniwetok atolls became U.S. atomic testing grounds. The first hydrogen bomb was tested there,



Officially named the Republic of the Marshall Islands, none of the 29 low-lying coral atolls and the five coral islands in the Marshall group rises to more than 20 feet above high tide. The islands are coral caps set on the rims of submerged volcanoes rising from the ocean floor. The island units of the Marshalls are scattered over about 180,000 square miles of the Pacific.

The Marshall Islands consists of 29 atolls and 5 individual islands totaling about 1,225 islands and 870 reef systems scattered over 750,000 square miles of the Central Pacific. After almost four decades under US administration as the easternmost part of the UN Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Marshall Islands attained independence in 1986 under a Compact of Free Association.



Because of the close association with the United States the Marshall Islands currency is the U.S. Dollar.

The largest atoll in the group is Kwajalein, which has a land area of only six square miles but surrounds a 655-square-mile lagoon. The U.S. maintains a large missile testing facility and radar station on it. Its majority English-speaking residents (about 1,000 mostly U.S. civilian personnel) are often called by the shortened name; KWAJ.



In 1885 Germany gained control over the Marshall Islands from Spain under the demarcation limits set by the Protocol of Rome. At the outbreak of World War I in Europe, Japan joined the Triple Entente; a treaty of friendship between the U.K, France and Imperial Russia. She seized the Marshall Islands against only token resistance.

(continued)

Where in the World Is...by Ron Litt K5HM

. In 1922 the islands were placed under Japanese administration as a League of Nations Mandate until the beginning of World War II in the Pacific. 1941.

In early 1944, the U.S. 7th Infantry Division, invaded Kwajalein. Of the 8,782 Japanese personnel deployed to the atoll, 7,870 "Japanese" were killed according to U.S. military documents. Additionally, many of the native Marshallese fled the island in their canoes just before the battle. In February 6, 1944, Kwajalein was claimed by the United States and was designated, with the rest of the Marshall Islands, as a United Nations Trust Territory under the United States.

In the years following, Kwajalein Atoll was converted into a staging area for campaigns in the advance on the Japanese homeland. After the war ended, the United States used it as a main command center and preparation base in 1946 for Operation Crossroads, the first of several series of nuclear tests at the Marshall island atolls of Bikini and Eniwetok.

Most people living on this speck of an Army base smack in the middle of the Pacific Ocean develop some passion that substitutes for life in the "real" world, as they call it. For some its golf. There is a small 9-hole course, next to the only runway. It is maintained by volunteers many who also work at the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site.



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Kwajalein Atoll has been leased by the United States for missile testing and other operations from well before independence for the Marshall Islands. Although this

military history has influenced the lives of the Marshall Islanders who have lived in the atoll through the war to the present, the military history of Kwajalein has prevented tourism. Since 2000, Kwajalein has become one of five preferred locations from which rockets can be launched into equatorial orbit.

Access to KWAJ, as those in the know call it is restricted. Basically, the entire island is a U.S. Army base. A visitor needs a letter of permission or be employed as a civilian to get on the weekly flight to KWAJ.

The Marshall Islands are number 110 on the Club Log Most Wanted list. QRZ lists 146 licensed amateurs in the Marshall Islands but none on the KWAJ. MY most recent QSO was with Randy, V73/WW6RG. Randy is a commercial pilot who sometimes has a layover on the atoll.

Reporting from the Dark Side, Ron, K5HM



2018 Old Codgers Dinner—Saturday, November 10th, 2018



2018 Old Codgers Dinner Of the Texas DX Society

The date of the **TDXS** 5th Annual Old Codgers Dinner has been carved in stone as **Saturday, November 10th, 2018**.

We plan on meeting at **Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen** located at 12109 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77077 at 6:30 PM.

We will have a private dining room which will be for our exclusive use until 9:30 PM. Libation will be available for this festive event should you care to imbibe.

A complete compilation of menu items will be transmitted as soon as it is formulated. We have decided the scrumptious meal will start with a first course of a choice of Shrimp Gumbo or the Pappadeaux Salad. The main entrée will be a choice of one of three seafood items or a Filet Mignon. Three vegetables will accompany the entrée. The desert course will be a choice of Crème Brûlée or Key Lime Pie.

Please put this event on your docket. We will certainly be looking forward to your attendance.

Please RSVP to Orville@K5VWW.com and indicate the number of attendees in your party.

73,

Orville, K5VWW
TDXS Treasurer



Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
VP Membership	Keith Dutson, NM5G	kdutson at sbcglobal.net
VP Programs	Open	
Secretary	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	djseyler at comcast.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.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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TexasDXSociety/> (new)

TDXS says "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to these members with birthdays in November:

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone or of any updates:

Keith Huger - KA5F
 Tom Ashworth – N5EA
 Joe Staples - W5ASP
 Charles Brues - N5AM
 Robert McWhorter - K5PFE
 Chuck Dietz - W5PR
 John Davis - KN5T
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