



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 2019

2019 TDXS Annual Banquet

Saturday, January 19th at 6:30 PM at Goode Company BBQ located at 8911 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024.



Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

OK! Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! I hope it was a great one for everyone reading this newsletter! 2019 is here and that means new DX and new contests. Also, don't forget the annual Texas DX Society banquet which is being held on January 19th, 6:30 PM at Goode Company BBQ! I haven't been there for a long time but I remember it was awful good! See the announcement on page 9 for more details.

Last night, I participated in the North American CW QSO Party and it was great! Due to my current schedule, I haven't been able to do much if any contesting and finally was able to get some time to this one. Due to my SteppIR being broken (first real physical malfunction since I bought it in

about 2006). It appears that the copper beryllium tape is not retracting in my first director, and I will need to bring it down to completely diagnose the problem. (I will be organizing an antenna party soon, including BBQ from Swinging Door!) Anyway I did the NAQP completely with my backup antenna, the Hy-Gain 18HT. It worked much better than I expected and made over 1000 QSOs in 9 hours (I forgot about the time change and started at 1pm instead of noon!) Oh well, still happy with the results.

All members should welcome our new board members: Pat, KJ5Y is going to be our new VP of Programs, Jerry K9GEM is taking the helm of VP of Membership and Larry

KB5WWW will be our new treasurer. Thanks to the retiring officers and to the new ones! The rest of the lineup remains the same. And by the way, don't forget to get your dues asap if you haven't already done so! Anyway looking forward to seeing everyone at the TDXS Banquet on Saturday!

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

January 2019

In case you have missed it, we have made significant changes to our meeting schedule for 2019. Almost all our activities will be scheduled in the week that contains the 3rd Thursday of the month. This change was made to eliminate conflicts with other radio club meeting days and hopefully increase our meeting attendance. The calendar is posted on our website, look for it in the upper left corner of the page – Meeting Calendar. With the anticipated increase in attendance we are looking for some good programs. We need your ideas for good topics and your participation to prepare presentations for our regular meetings. We need programs on what you are doing to improve your DXing and contesting performance, other members are very interested in learning what is working for you. We also need help identifying good locations for our dinner meetings.

Our first meeting of the year is the TDXS Banquet, scheduled for 1/19/19. We need your help to make this banquet a success. We plan to have some door prizes this year. This means we need some donations and I am asking you to purchase and/or donate some small ham related items. Examples could be coffee mugs, tee shirts, ball caps etc. We don't have a lot of time so quick action is required. Please let me and/or Pat KJ5Y know what you will donate. In the past the TDXS has presented the DXer of the Year award at the banquet. Please send your nominations and a short explanation of why your nominee should receive the award to either me or Pat KJ5Y. Which member represents the characteristics our for which our organization stands.

TDXS is planning to have a table at the Greater Houston Hamfest this year. The purpose of the table is to show case our club and what our members do. The objective is to increase understanding of what contesting and DXing are all about and potentially attract new members to our organization. Larry KB5WWW, Doug WB5TKI, Gerald K9GEM, Orville K5VWW are the main participants. They will need members to staff the table during the hamfest.

The interest in WSJT-X's FT-8 mode has been growing rapidly and this mode is moving into the contesting world. Those of us who operate in the VHF contests have likely used this mode during that major VHF/UHF contests during 2018. The level of interest in using this mode for contesting is one of the drivers for the development of WSJT-X version 2 and several of its features are to support VHF contests in North American and Europe. While others are targeted at RTTY contesting and Field Day. In the last few days the developers of N1MM+ have released a new version that allows of interoperation of N1MM+ and WSJT-X. This new functionality will get a robust test during ARRL's RTTY RU January 5-6. It takes a bit of studying and experimentation to the programs operating properly. However, this is part of the fun and you'll learn something as well. The following paragraph is from the N1MM+ documentation and discusses some of the potential issues:

“As mentioned in the reflector messages, the WSJT-X Decode list and its interface between WSJT-X and N1MM+ is a rev 1.0.0 release and the ARRL RTTY Roundup 2019 is its first trial. There are undoubtedly issues with the interface that are undiscovered and subsequently untested. We advise against using the Decode List if you are attempting a serious contest effort or if you're planning even moderate contest tasks like SO2R, SO2V, dueling CQ, interleaved FT8 and RTTY operation, band-hopping Run/S&P.”

2019 will be very interesting from the prospective of FT8's penetration into mainstream contesting and the development of the software required to accomplish effective contest operation with that mode.

73,

Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS December 2018 Meeting Minutes

Date: December 13, 2018

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Robie AJ4F, Larry KB5WWW, Don N5DD, Keith NM5G, Jerry K9GEM, Scott K5DD, Jim N5DTT, Kim K5TU, Orville K5VWW, Ron K5HM, Dale KG5U

Guests: Ron Matussek WA6TQH, Don Mayhall N5DM

The December regular meeting was held at the Tracy Gee Community Center. Items discussed were:

- Incoming Treasurer Larry KB5WWW is in the process of filing required IRS documents in support of the club's tax exempt status.
- The annual Banquet location was picked, as well as the date. It will be on January 19, 2019 at Goode Company BBQ on the Katy Freeway. Check the TDXS website for details.
- There was some discussion of a TDXS presence at the Greater Houston Hamfest in March. We discussed having a manned table and with displays showing the DX and Contesting foci of the club.

At the request of Keith NM5G the club voted to take over the sponsorship of the Texas QSO Party from NARS.

Following the business meeting Robie AJ4F presented an introduction to the [DX Labs](#) suite of programs that support DXing activities. These include rig control, logging, propagation, spots, macros, and synching with LOTW and eQSL. It also interoperates with other popular logging programs and digital mode applications. The best feature of DX Labs is that it is free! It is certainly worth the time to install and evaluate it.

73,

Submitted December 30, 2018

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

9L - Sierra Leone is planned for **January 9-21**, using the call **9LY1JM** from Banana Island, AF-037 see <https://9l2019dx.wordpress.com/>. 12 ops will be on 160-10M CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK and FT8 Fox and Hound mode with 4 rigs.

Brunei - V84SAA, 13 international operators have announced a **February 7-18** operation from Istana Pantai, Tutong District, Brunei. They will be mainly concentrating on low bands with verticals for 160 and 80M. 4 square for 40M.

The hottest DXpedition coming up is **Macao, XX9D** from **February 11-26**. They will be on CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 on all bands from 160M through 10M. There will be 4 stations on the air 24 hours a day with 15 operators. Focus on 160-40M to **NA!**

Actual dates of the proposed **Bouvet Island** operation, **3YØI**, being planned have still not been announced. The Rebel DX Group of operators are in South Africa assembling antennas and equipment, having completed training for Antarctic operation.

9U4RI - Burundi will be activated by MOKRI from **February 15th -25th**. He will be on CW, SSB & PSK on 40-10M.

Central Kiribati – Canton Island – 6 European operators will activate **T31EU** from **February 15th to March 5th**. Most of his time will be on CW, SSB and RTTY with some FT8, operating on 160 through 10M.

Please continue to monitor the main page of the TDXS Web Site, www.TDXS.Com, for updates to activity on the bands.

Good DX,
Orville, K5VWW



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. As promised, we will start off with a list of major contests coming up in January.

January 12	NAQP – CW	1800 Z to Jan 13 0559 Z
January 19	NAQP – SSB	1800 Z to Jan 20 0559 Z
	ARRL January VHF	1900 Z to Jan 21 0359 Z
January 25	CQ 160 Meter	2200 Z to Jan 27 2200 Z
January 26	Winter Field Day	1900 Z to Jan 27 1900 Z

You are encouraged to read the Rules of these contests as they may change from year to year.

What is the best way to encourage Amateurs to join the ranks of Radiosport Contesters? Likely, there is more than one way. At the last TDXS Meeting, there was some discussion about members having a table at the Houston Hamfest in Rosenberg. The idea here is to advertise the Texas DX Society to other Hams and to encourage them to join. To make ourselves appealing to these prospective members we need to present our organization with emphasis on our two purposes for our existence – DX activities and Contesting. TDXS in the past has been a powerhouse in both. When the planning for this event begins maybe we could organize a group of members to man the table and talk-up our current involvement in both DXing and Contesting. That will help our organization grow and provide additional human resources for our contesting efforts.

Since I am an active Volunteer Examiner, another thing I have been doing is talking to newly upgraded Hams right after they pass their exam. I have found that a lot of folks upgrading really are not sure what they are going to do with their expanded privileges. I figure I'll catch them when they are excited about passing their test and give them a quick introduction to the many benefits of Radiosport. I emphasize how fast a person can get Worked all States by being active in one or more of the North America QSO Parties. Then I tell them that the ARRL and CQ DX contests like International DX, WPX, IARU and CQWW can provide fabulous opportunities for quickly getting that first 100 for DXCC.

This works better for folks upgrading from General to Extra because they likely have come across contests while on the air during week-ends. At least they are aware. Often, they say they have been tempted to join in but were hesitant because they were not clear on how best to get involved. They are unaware of the contesting software that makes our recordkeeping and result reporting so easy. They also hesitate to join in because they are unsure that they would be welcome. I give them a business card with my contact information (and the TDXS logo) and assure them that I can be a resource to answer their questions and relieve their concerns.

I think we can all do something like this. If you enjoy contesting, talk to new and old hams and encourage them to try one of the many contests that occur throughout the year. The NAQP contests and the State QSO Parties make great, low stress ways for getting into contesting. If you are an expert user of N1MM Contesting software, spread your knowledge to the new contesters. If this software is too complex for them, suggest the N3FJP Contesting software where the software is very intuitive, and the downloads are free to try for the first 30 contacts. Not a bad way to get involved.



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Any way, you get the idea. We all enjoy being a member of TDXS. We want to share our joy. We need more members to be involved in contesting. If we have more members, we will likely have more involvement.

Here are the results of TDXS member Contest participation last month.

ARRL 160 Meter Contest

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Score	Club
K5GN(@W5KU)			576	77	24	133,017	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Score	Club
AJ4F			153	61	9	19,764	TDXS

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

SO CW Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KØNM	x	x	382	60	11	91,200	TDXS

SO Mixed HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WB5TKI			23	10		800	TDXS

SO Mixed LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT			46	26	9.1	4,108	TDXS
WD5CAY			21	11	7	572	TDXS
WB5TUF		15	6			336	TDXS

SO Mixed Unlimited LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W3RZ			25	17	4	1,666	TDXS

ARRL 10 Meter Contest (cont.)

SO SSB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			580	68		78,880	TDXS
KB5WWW			11	6		132	TDXS

SO SSB Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5MT			36	15		1,080	TDXS

Folks who apparently did not enter their score in 3830scores.com but participated in the contest include K5GZR, KI5LR and W5GCX. We had 11 entries so qualified as a Medium Club for ARRL's Club Competition.

Everybody, please have a great New Year. See you next month. Jim, N5DTT



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

Christmas Island, (VK9X)

OC-002



That's right little Jimmy. Do you think Santa Clause really likes living at the North Pole? He prefers the temperate climes 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 several "settlement areas" on the northern tip of the island variously called Flying Fish Cove, Kampong, Silver City, Poon Saan and Drumsite (I will leave the visual picture of the last two to the reader). Most 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 than Australia 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 69th 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'ɾisməs]. 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.



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

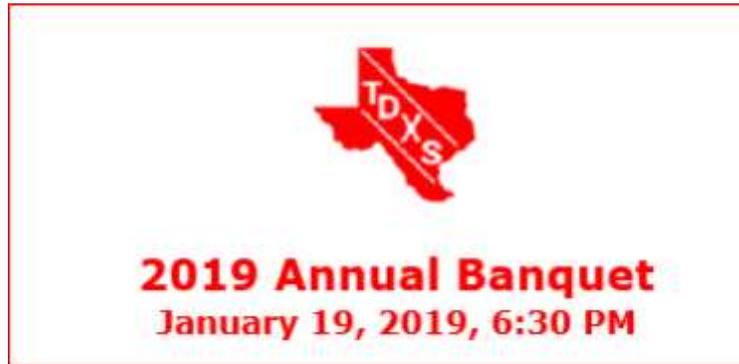
Congress passed the Guano Islands Act to take advantage of these deposits. It allowed any citizen of the United States who discovers a deposit of guano on any island, rock, or key, not within the lawful jurisdiction of any other Government, and not occupied by the citizens of any other Government, to 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 DX-peditions. As part of Eastern Kiribati, it is the 154th most wanted DXCC entity.

Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron, K5HM



2019 TDXS Annual Banquet—January 19, 2019 6:30 PM



2019 Annual Banquet
January 19, 2019, 6:30 PM

The Annual Banquet and January monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, January 19th at 6:30 PM at Goode Company BBQ located at 8911 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024.

We will have the private upstairs dining area for our exclusive use. Rather than have a banquet style plated dinner, you will be able to go through the serving line and choose whatever you prefer on individual checks. The Dine-In Menu is located online for your perusal at:

<https://tinyurl.com/TDXS-Goode-BBQ>

We will need to have a count of attendees 2 days prior to our banquet in order that they may set up the private dining area.

Please R.S.V.P. to K5VWW@TDXS.net with your number of attendees.

73,

Orville, K5VWW



TDXS Membership Renewal Time by Larry Daze KB5WWW

It is that time of year to renew your TDXS membership by paying your 2019 dues. Annual dues is still only \$25. The easiest way to pay is via PayPal.

Send your payment to treasurer@tdxs.net. Please include your name, call sign and that it is for 2019 dues.

Use the payment to friends or family so that PayPal does not take a fee out of the transaction.

You can also bring a check to the regular monthly meetings, or mail your check. Checks for membership renewal should be made out to The Texas DX Society.

And mailed to: Texas DX Society
9941 Briarwild Ln
Houston, TX 77080

Thanks,
Larry Daze
KB5WWW



DX Related Websites v4 by K0YY and AJ4F

This list is designed for the fairly new DXer but is useful for the experienced DXer as well. Any list is out of date nearly as soon as it is published, but these links are active at this time. Please send updates or additions to k0yy@arrl.net

WHAT IS DX?

WIKI <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DXing>

ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

DX RESOURCES:

DX ZONE <https://www.dxzone.com/>

AC6V <http://ac6v.com/dx.htm>

ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/chasing-dx>

DX SPOTTING SITES:

DX SUMMIT <http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/>

DX WATCH <https://www.dxwatch.com/>

DX CLUSTER <http://www.dxcluster.info/WebDXCluster/webcluster.htm>

EHAM <https://www.eham.net/DX/spots>

QRZ <https://www.qrz.com/dxcluster>

DX ANNOUNCEMENT SITES:

NG3K <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

DX NEWS <https://dxnews.com/announcements/>

AC6V <http://ac6v.com/dx.htm>

DX NEWSLETTERS/BULLETINS:

DAILY DX <http://www.dailydx.com/>

ARRL DX- Members only www.arrl.org

OPDX <https://www.papays.com/opdx.html>

425 DX <http://www.425dxn.org/>

DX MAPS:

DX MAPS <https://www.dxmaps.com/spots/mapg.php>

DX ZONE https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/DX_Resources/DX_Maps/

SIGNAL CHECKS/REVERSE BEACONS:

REVERSE BEACON www.reversebeacon.net/srch.php

PSK REPORTER <https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>

DX LOGGING SOFTWARE:

CLUB LOG <https://clublog.org/loginform.php>

DX4WIN <https://dx4win.com/>

DXLabs <http://www.dxlabsuite.com/>

CQRLog – Linux based <https://www.cqrlog.com/>

ADIF Master – log correction/modification software <http://www.dxshell.com/adif-master.html>

ARRL LOTW - <http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>

DX Related Websites v4 by K0YY and AJ4F

DIGITAL MODE SOFTWARE – RTTY, JT65, JT9, FT8

- WSJTX <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wsjsx.html>
- JTDX – focused on the HF bands <http://www.jtdx.tech/en/>
- JTAlert – Audio & visual alerts for JT & FT modes <https://hamapps.com/>
- MM HamSoft – RTTY + many other modes <https://hamsoft.ca/>
- FLDIGI <http://www.w1hkj.com/>
- WG7J GRID MAPPER <http://wg7j.reinalda.net/gridmapper/gridmapper.php>
- HAM RADIO DELUXE/DIGITAL MASTER 780
<https://www.hamradiodeluxe.com/>
- JS8CALL <http://js8call.com/>

DX AWARDS:

- ARRL/DXCC <http://www.arrl.org/awards>
- CQ MAGAZINE https://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_awards/index_cq_awards.html
- RSGB <https://rsgb.org/main/operating/amateur-radio-awards/>

CONTEST/SPECIAL EVENT LOGGING SOFTWARE

- N1MM <http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php>
- Writelog <https://writelog.com/>
- N3FJP software suite <http://www.n3fjp.com/>

CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- WA7BNM <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>
- ARRL <http://contests.arrl.org/>
- CQ Magazine https://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/index_cq_contests.html
- NG3K CONTESTS <https://www.ng3k.com/Contest/>

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- Audio Systems Group – K9YC Baluns & RFI elimination
<http://audiosystemsgroup.com/>
- EZNEC – W7EL antenna modeling software
<https://www.eznec.com/>
- VOACAP HF Prediction Software www.voacap.com/hf/

OPERATING AIDS:

ICOM:

U.S.A. Amateur Band Plan

U.S.A. Amateur Radio band plan with common country prefixes.

U.S.A. Amateur Grid Square Map

A grid square map of the entire United States

CQ DX Zones of the World

World ITU CQ DX map.

ARRL

ARRL Band Plan-- http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Regulatory/Band%20Chart/Band%20Chart%208_5%20X%2011%20Color.pdf



Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
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VP Programs	Pat Cameron KJ5Y	kj5y@comcast.net
Secretary	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	djseyler at comcast.net
Treasurer	Larry Daze KB5WWW	dxon20@gmail.com
Contest Chairman	Jim Burrough, N5DTT	jandpburrough at sbcglobal.net
Field Day Chairmen	Open	Open
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at arrl.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

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

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

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

Barbara Coleman - WB5RUS

Lon Cottingham - K5JV

John Stevens - K5JS

Dale Martin - KG5U

Al Vacek - 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