



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 2019

The TDXS June Meeting will be Field Day held at Duhacsek Park in Sugarland, Texas. June 22nd and 23rd. Please come to the Quad Club Mega-Field Day with BVARC, KARS and Echo joining us. There will be plenty of operating slots, food, antennas and fun!

<https://www.sugarlandtx.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Duhacsek-Park-8>

Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

It is getting HOT out there! Part of my current job is doing inspections called PSSR's (Pre-Startup Safety Review) in the new LNG plant I am working at down in Freeport. A group of us go out into the plant to look for construction, operational and safety deficiencies and it takes several hours...in the HEAT!

The experiment with KONM's remoterig equipment was a success (for the most part). Almost flawless remote operation during several CWT's was a lot of fun. Too bad it is so late that sometimes I am just too tired to stay up

until 11pm. But a lot of fun was had!

This is the last time (this year) that I will mention the upcoming Field Day at Duhacsek Part in Sugar Land, TX. (other than results in July). I also have a shortened on-line sign up sheet link : <https://bit.ly/2WdxagP>

That should be a bit easier to type in for those who cannot copy it from the text. I have added a new feature to the sign up sheet: There is now a column for contest newbies to ask for a mentor and another column for mentors to offer that help. TDXS has many very experienced contest opera-

tors. Please consider being a contest mentor to one of these upcoming contesters and perhaps that will also lead to more, future TDXS members.

I am including Mike Davidson N5MT's full TenX DX article this month. I realize that many of you are not 10-10 members, but there is a wealth of information about 10 meters and general propagation in his articles and I hope to be able to share them every three months.

That's all for now, hope to see everyone at Field Day!

73 Allen 'XZ

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The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

June 2019

In May, I wrote about the WSJTX developer's continued progress with the new FT4 mode for digital contesting. Several new release candidates have been made available and progress continues. I believe this mode will be a "game changer" for digital contesting. The current version is WSJT-X 2.1.0-rc7. I highly recommend that you download this version and do some testing as FT4 in this version is more sensitive than in the previous versions. Some additional features have been added to facilitate easier operation. The general release of WSJT-X 2.1.0 is targeted for July 15.

Many TDXS members use remote stations for both contesting and DXing. Connecting to a remote station is becoming easier and I am studying another new method called RigPi Station Server. The RigPi server is a Raspberry PI 3B+ with several expansion boards called "hats". One hat is the RIGPI Keyer which contains the K1EL WinKeyer for CW, the second is RIGPI Audio which supports VoIP audio for voice and digital modes. This device connects directly to your radio via a cable set specific to each radio. You can use almost any web browser to connect to the device and operate your radio from across the room or from the other side of the world. The RIGPI provides rig & rotator control, logging, CW keying, and a host of other features. The entire system is available from MFJ as well as several other suppliers. I checked around and could not find one in stock! This system is Linux based and the software is open source. This should ensure rapid development of new functionality. In my opinion, it is not "contest ready" at this point but will likely be so soon. Here is the link to the RigPi website: <https://www.rigpi.net/>

Field Day is 16 days away! If you have not already done so, make a commitment to participate. We need your support to make this the best Field Day ever. If you have a question, contact Doug WB5TKI, Nizar KONM, or post your question on our reflector.

Summer vacation season is here and many of us will be taking trips to various parts of the country and possibly the world. Take your radio along. Portable operating can be a lot of fun and is easier than ever with modern equipment. Your operation can activate a National Park, a rare grid square, or county giving award hunters the opportunity to reach their goal. Your location could potentially provide you a better location from which to work ATNO as well. All contacts made from within the United States can be used for DXCC credit!

TDXS participation in contests seems to have picked up in the first & second quarters of 2019! I see several good CQ WPX CW scores posted on 3830Scores.com. Personally, I had one of my better scores this year. The level of activity demonstrated to me that in this age of repeaters, and digital modes that CW is not dead!

73,
Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: May 16, 2019

Location: Lasagna House Italian Restaurant, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Jerry K9GEM, Orville K5VWW, Larry KB5WWW, Robie AJ4F

Guest: Janice (XYL of K9GEM)

May was a dinner meeting, held this time at the Lasagna House on Westheimer in Houston. The turnout was once again light, but those who attended were treated to some mighty tasty fare. The Meat Lovers Lasagna was great!

During dinner we discussed ways to live stream videos of our regular meetings, as well as record them and make them available for offline viewing. Video streaming might be using Google Live Stream, and archiving might use Google Drive or Dropbox, to name a few.

The June meeting is ARRL Field Day on June 22-23. We hope to see a large turnout from TDXS.

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73,

Submitted June 6, 2019

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

This month there are not a large number of big DXpeditions active, but

Sao Tome – S9A will be active until June 18th on all bands 160M-6M.

This Group from Spain are very active on FT8 with over 50% of their QSOs being on that mode. Even though they are close to the East Coast of the U.S., the percentage of NA stations worked are just over 9%. EU stations account for 73% of their QSO total.

The All Asian CW DX Contest is providing activity from some less than common entities as evidenced by:

XV9DXB will be on from Veitnam until June 15th. Band will be 20M CW and SSB will be mode.

XV9DF is also on until June 15th on 40M-10M on CW. SSB and FT8.

XU7AMG will be active from Cambodia until June 19th. BG6XD plans on operating HF on CW and FT8.

OJØAW from Market Reef will be activated by 6 Finnish operators from June 8th to June 15th on all bands from 160M through 2M on CW SSB and FT8.

KHØN will be active from Saipan in the Mariana Islands until June 17th. JA6CNL plans on operating HF on FT8.

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

Good DX,
Orville, K5VWW



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. As usual, we will start with upcoming contests in June.

June 1 Museum Ships Weekend

10-10 International Open Season Contest - PSK

June 8 ARRL June VHF Contest

June 15 ARRL Kids Day

June 22 ARRL Field Day

Museum Ships Weekend, though not a typical contest, is a great opportunity to get on the air with a goal of working as many museum ships as you can. Participation in this event is a major annual undertaking of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club and at least a few of our TDXS members are involved.

After the CQ WPX CW Contest, Nizar, K0NM, posted his outstanding score and his Soap Box comments. He asked a very interesting question. He wondered why he contested. To generate such a great score, he obviously put in a lot of time and effort. It seems he wondered if it was all worth it. I have known him for a good while so wrote him a short note, with my opinion on why I thought he was a tester. After I sent him my note, I really got to thinking why I contested.

As I have said before, I am a “Little Pistol” and know I will never see my call in the Top Ten of any major contest. However, that reality does not keep me from participating. Like most of us that have been bitten by the contesting bug, I have spent a fair amount of money building my stations. I have a setup at home and am fortunate to also have a setup in Fayette County where I can put up multiple towers and longer dipoles. But all this has cost money. It has also cost me a lot of time, as I do most of the tower installation and maintenance myself. I would venture to say I spend 4-5 times more time building and maintaining than I do contesting.

So, I guess the question is “It is worth the effort and expense?” I will unequivocally say, “Yes, for me, it is worth it.” It is worth it because I get a lot of satisfaction out of doing the work and then getting the desired result. The result is not a Top Ten finish but rather a finish that is better than the last time.

Contesting also has another component for me. I feel a certain comradery with other testers, both Big Guns and Little Pistols. I feel that all testers know, deep down, that we are all dependent on each other. You can Search all day, and if no one is calling CQ, there will no contacts. The same can be said that you can CQ all day and if no one is searching, there will be no contacts. You cannot have one without the other.

Finally, the last thing that seems to be important to me and keeps me coming back is that I am proud to be a Ham. I worked hard to get my licenses and know I am a part of a relatively elite group of people. Contesting puts me “out there” as a part of a group of people with uncommon capabilities and skills. I want to exercise those skills. I want to get better at it. Contesting gives me the opportunity to do that. Most of all, it is fun.

Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

These are the raw scores for the major contests in the past month as reported to the 3830scores.com website:

CQ WW WPX – CW Contest

M/S HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
WA5ZVE		x	8155	431	32	773,214	TDXS

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
NU5A(K5GN)		x	3108	968	36:00	7,122,544	TDXS
KØNM		x	1623	619	34	1,811,194	TDXS
K5TU			1005	537	18.1	1,439,160	TDXS
WB5TKI			327	223	10	183,083	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F			312	206		110,210	TDXS
KG5U	x		202	138	6.7	42,504	TDXS
N5DTT			41	39	3	1,911	TDXS

Field Day is coming up on June 22-23. TDXS is again joining up with BVARC, KARS, and ECHO to have a Field Day much bigger and better than any one group could put together. When you think about it, this is likely the only opportunity most of us will have to operate in a Multi-radio, Multi-Operator setting. Multi-Multi operations take teamwork where every member of the team has the responsibility to put out a real effort to do the best job possible. Of course, with the responsibility comes the feeling of comradery and satisfaction with a task well done.

That's it for this month. I look forward to seeing you all at some time during Field Day. The accommodations are wonderful, and the location has plenty of room for a great set of antennas. It is going to be a lot of fun! If you cannot come out, operate from home as a 1D station and give us some points.

Jim, N5DTT



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

Brunei, officially known as the Nation of Brunei, the Abode of Peace. OR Negara Brunei Darussalam in Malay. It's located on the northwest coast of the island of Borneo. On three sides bordered by Malaysia and facing the South China Sea.



It's a good place to live, with its principal product being oil. Considered a "fully developed" country by the IMF. According to Forbes Magazine it ranks as the fifth richest nation on the planet. The country has zero debt.



Brunei's government is a constitutional monarchy. Under Brunei's constitution, the Sultan is the head of state with full executive authority. Since 1962, this authority has included emergency powers, which are renewed every two years. The country has been under hypothetical martial law since 1962. The Sultan, Hassanal Bolkiah also serves as the state's Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Defense Minister. As Mel Brooks observed, it is good to be king.

Petroleum was discovered in 1926. Oil and natural gas have been the basis of Brunei's development and wealth since the late 20th century.

This is a devoutly Muslim nation; land of gold-plated mosques and wooden water villages, a nation so rich from its oil and gas resources that no one pays tax. It is a seven-hour flight from Melbourne but Brunei is little known and very much underrated for travelers. Brunei is clean and virtually free of crime with pristine rainforests, palm-fringed beaches and palatial resorts.



In this land of over 400,000, there are approximately 400 licensed amateurs. According to Club Log, it is 109th on the Most Wanted DX entity, List

Reporting from the Dark Side,

Ron, K5HM



TenX DX News—by Mike Davidson N5MT #24949

The Spring quarter has passed and we are moving closer to the new solar cycle, where we will begin to have better propagation. As I write this in mid-May, the band has brought me new digital contacts from South America, as I just worked four FT8 contacts with DX stations but none were 10-10 members. Later that day, I finally got a number exchange on FT8 from Canada when I worked Mike VE3FGU #8482, who lives just north of Toronto. The solar flux was up to a 77, which helped with the north/south skip and the FT8 contacts on Ten. News Flash, I just saw Greece SV1CIF on my FT8 Ten meter waterfall and I called him! He replied to my weak signal and he is now in the log. My first European on FT8 on Ten at the bottom of the cycle!

The band has stayed open all afternoon on May 13th and I now have eleven new FT8 digital countries on Ten. This is my first chance since I installed FT8, to get a few digital Q's in the log. I see at least twenty stations calling/working a Q in the FT8 waterfall. I see other Louisiana stations in the waterfall but they are just too weak for me to work. The station HI8S from Dominican Republic, has a +17db signal, the strongest DX signal I have ever seen on FT8 on Ten.

I hope all of you have adjusted to the change of daylight saving time. The 10-10 daily net on 28.380 MHz is now one hour after noon time for us in the middle of the US and most of the days the propagation is poor, but today I checked into the daily net. My contact did not last long as net control had a weak signal and I may have been his only check-in as I did not hear him close the net. The only other signal I heard, was the local beacon on 28.211 MHz located 15 miles away. The 10-10 Winter QSO Party in early February was another challenge for my vertical antenna with a solar flux of 70. I managed to come in second in the fifth call area behind Mel KD5DE #33513, who is about 200 miles northwest of me, in Shreveport, LA. The propagation that weekend favored Germany as the top four scores were all DL stations. Robert KQ4PK #63201, was in fifth place followed by other fourth call area stations with the best scores in the USA.

I was talking with our local Pelican 10-10 net last Saturday at 10:10 local time on 28.450 MHz. I have to use the HF amp so all the local members can hear my station with my low vertical antenna. The extra power helps me to be heard on ground wave. I was making my last transmit with the amp, when a solder joint melted in a low-pass filter in my transmit feed line in the radio room! The filter got hot and I did not know there was a problem until I stopped talking and then things got quiet. The power meter was showing no power output. I began to feel my equipment for any hot spots when I quickly found a hot filter. I turned things off and removed the filter and moved the coax to the power meter. All signals were back to normal and the local net was over by then, but Murphy had visited the station again.

I continue to use the SILSO website for Sun data and any new Sun spot activity that might bring us better solar flux. The SILSO website address was mis-spelled in my last article so please update to: www.Sidc.Be/SILSO/. A panel of experts for NOAA and NASA, released a forecast for cycle 25 in April. The panel reached a consensus that cycle 25 will most likely peak from 2023 to 2026, with a max sunspot number between 95 and 130. Thus, cycle 25 will be similar to the present cycle 24, which peaked in April 2014. Note: The SILCO site tracks Sun spots which is not Solar Flux. They are two different numbers so be careful and do not confuse them on graphs. In most of my DX articles, I reference Solar Flux values.

Since I do chase DX on other bands besides Ten, I have been spending time on 17 & 30 Meters using an old vertical that I have had for 30+ years. Its time to replace the antenna and use something better that has a good resonate frequency and low SWR on all bands. I have seen videos of good multi-band antennas on the internet. My new Hygain vertical has arrived, it has been put together and has being tuned for lowest SWR on nine bands. Now I will use it in the Open Season PSK QSO party today, June 1st.

Countries Award: There were no Countries Awards submitted this quarter. A DXCC Most Wanted list can be found at: <https://secure.clublog.org/mostwanted.php>.

The old DOS Countries Award program has been replaced by a new OS version. The new program is improved and updated on this computer. The update was made by Gerry WA6POZ #21274. Thanks again to Gerry for the software upgrade.

There are a total of 340 countries on the current ARRL DXCC list. Here are the ten most wanted: 1. North Korea P5; 2. Bouvet Is. 3Y/B; 3. Crozet Is. FT5/W; 4. Scarborough Reef BS7H; 5. San Felix Is. CE0X; 6. Pratas Is. BV9P; 7. Kure Is. KH7K; 8. Johnston Is. KH3; 9. Kerguelen Is. FT5/X; and 10. Peter First Is. 3Y/P.

I am posting this to the 10-10 website on June 1st.

General 10-10 DX reported in the past quarter:

3D2 Fiji. Antoine **3D2AG** #72719, did not make it back to Rotuma in April. He has been in Fiji using his 3D2AG call since March 4th. He was in Tuvalu from Feb 20-27th using call T2AR but I saw no Q's on Ten by him.

7P Lesotho. A group of seven ops got into Lesotho from March 8-16th and used call 7P8LB. The only 10-10 member was Gerald **OE7PGI** #36910. Website: <http://www.LA9VPA.com/7P8LB/index.html>.

9G Ghana. Emil **ZS6EGB** #71820, has left Ghana for good and will not return soon. Please use LoTW to confirm any QSO's. His callsign was 9G5ZS while in Ghana.

CU Azores. Herman **HB9CRV** #72110, arrived on Flores on May 24th and will leave on June 11th. In a IARU Field Day event, he will change calls to CR2V. LoTW.

EA Spain. Hans **ON6ZK** #70109, was active as EA7/ON6ZK from May 14-19th from Los Terreros.

HH Haiti. Dale **N3BNA** #32100, was in Haiti for a week in May. I logged him with FT8 on 30 Meters but not

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TenX DX News—by Mike Davidson N5MT #24949

Ten.

J6 Saint Lucia. Three members were in Saint Lucia for the ARRL DX contests. They stayed from March 1-9th and May 6-11th. Bill K9HZ #2618, Dan W0CN #27026 and Kyle WA4PGM #50763. They were using J6/home call before/after the contest. During the contest they used call J68HZ and upload logs to LoTW.

K USA. The steam ship Queen Mary, callsign W6RO #25000, observed its 40 years of operation from Long Beach, CA during the month of April. The QM made her maiden voyage May 27, 1936, and in 1967 she was retired and sold to the city of Long Beach. The QM has a haunted history of spirits which have been heard by guests who have stayed on the QM or eaten in a restaurant onboard the QM.

KH2 Guam. Toshinobu JI3ERV #39995, was on Guam for the CQWW WPX CW contest the last weekend in May. He used callsign AH2R and please QSL via LoTW.

KG4 Guantanamo Bay. Carl KP2L #47405, operated the club station using call KG4SC from March 6th to 13th. Carl made a lot of FT8 QSO's but no reports of 10 Meter activity.

SV8 Greece. Jacques F6HMJ #52711, was on Ios Island from May 14-17th. He was on all bands on CW and SSB but I have no feedback if he operated on Ten.

P4 Aruba. John W2GD #14109, was in Aruba again for the March 30-31st CQWW WPX SSB contest and May 22-27th for the WPX CW contest using call P44W. Outside of the contest he operated on the WARC bands. LoTW.

PJ2 Curacao. There were two members in a group using call sign PJ2T during March. They were Jeff K1ZN #60508 and Barclay WT4BT #76242.

V5 Namibia. Mike V51MA #64688, has taken a direct lightning strike and all of his HF equipment was destroyed. There is a Go-Fund page setup to replace HF equipment. He now has a radio and power supply donated by two anonymous hams. Good luck.

VP5 Turks & Caicos Isl. Dennis K2SX #9023 and John K4BAI #45389, were on Providenciales Island from May 21-28th using callsign VP5/homecalls. They used CW, SSB and DIBI. QSL to home calls.

VP9 Bermuda. Three members went to Bermuda from March 28th to April 2nd. They were: Frank W8KA #69853, Lee N8LJ #61088 and Stan AC8W #62885. Club call sign is VP9I and send your QSO to LoTW.

Upcoming DX & New 10-10 Activity:

CN Morocco. Bruno IK2PZG #42066, will be with a group of ops on Los Farallones Island from July 25-30th. The call for this rare IOTA DXpedition will be 5C9A.

CY9 St. Paul Island. A group of nine operators that visited the island in 2016, will be back from August 1-7th. They will setup two HF sites. There are two 10-10 members: Dan W4DKS #5395 and Will AA4NC #15774. All bands/all modes including EME by WW2DX. Website: <http://www.CY9C.com> with a YouTube video from 2016.

D6 Comoro Islands. Antonio IZ8CCW #70101 and a dozen friends, will be on the island from October 20th to November 1st on CW, SSB and Digi with callsign D68CCC.

FO/M Marquesas Island. Eight ops will be on from November 6-17th from Marquesas using call TX7T. The only member you need is Bob K4UEE #75256. Website: <http://www.Marquesas2019.com>.

FP St. Pierre & Miquelon Islands. Eric KV1J #31247, will be back for his 13th trip to Miquelon operating as FP/KV1J from September 24th to October 8th. Mostly SSB, RTTY, FT8 and hopefully CW. LoTW. Website at: www.KV1J.com/FP/Sep19.html.

HC Ecuador. Uwe DL8UD #70315, will be operating from Cuenca as HC5M in October for the CQWW DX SSB contest. He will be on all bands when not in the contest.

P4 Aruba. John W2GD #14109 will be back using call P40W in October for the CQWW DX SSB contest and in November 23rd for the CW contest. He uses LoTW.

V4 St. Kitts. Gaylord N4SF #568, will be on the island in October as V4/N4SF or contest call V49V.

VP6 Pitcairn Island. A DXpedition to Pitcairn will start on October 18th and end on November 1st. There will be six 10-10 members going to Pitcairn! They are: Ralph K0IR #2609, Hal W8HC #12502, Pat K0PC #37931, George N4GRN #73941, Mike K9NW #29804 and Mike W0VTT #14404. The shipping container was packed and it is on its way. Website: <https://PitcairnDX.com>. There has been a 10-10 member on Pitcairn in past years.

VP8 South Orkney Island. A big DXpedition will begin on February 20, 2020 for fourteen days to South Orkney Island. The call on the website is listed as VP8/VP8DXU. The only 10-10 member will be, Gene K6GS #15119. Past activity from the island by a member was in February 2011, so visiting the island only happens about once every ten years. Good luck. Website: <https://SOrkney.com>.

TenX DX News—by Mike Davidson N5MT #24949

Miscellaneous Items & Notes:

Propagation forecast: <http://www.solen.info/solar/> ,
www.SolarHam.net and <http://ARRL.org/Propagation> .

More propagation: <http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/> .

DX Calendar: <http://www.dxwatch.com/> .

DX: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4dJcK-WVRw>.

Propagation: I expect the solar flux to range from 66-78 during the Summer of 2019. The Summer Solstice is when spring ends and summer begins on June 21st for the USA, and we have maximum daylight for a day. Propagation all depends on the Sun ionization so radio waves can skip.

Our solar cycle #24, peaked in February 2014 at 170.3 and the cycle is now going through the solar minimum phase, until we begin cycle #25, probably in 7-12 months. The natural cycle of the sun is 11 years and we are now ten plus years into cycle #24. Cycle #25 could start as early as January 2020, then the sun could take 1-2 year of increasing sun ionization before we get better skip conditions.

The monthly maximum solar fluxes for 2019: January 76, Feb 72, March 81, April 81 and May 79.

The monthly minimum fluxes for 2019: January 68, Feb 70, March 68, April 67 and May 68.

On June 1st, the solar flux was 68, the A index was 8 and K index was 1. There were few solar flares this spring and the solar flux high so last year has remained low. The June 1st to July 14th solar flux forecast by the USAF will be 68 to 76.

My Prediction: Over the next three months, the best conditions on Ten could be: June 6-10th, July 4-7th, August 1-5th and 28-31st. For the lower USA, expect a 5% chance of DX to Europe or Asia with a 15% chance of DX to South America and later in the day to the S. Pacific. Listen for the CW beacons from 28.175-28.300 to see if the band is open.

We had no New 10-10 DX members join from March to May 2019. This DX News edition is number 116th.

Thanks to the Daily DX by W3UR #25731 and the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletins. Info to Mike Davidson, 26274 Whispering Pines Ave, Denham Springs LA 70726 USA Email: N5MT@aol.com .

DX IS! 73 Mike Davidson N5MT #24949

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Dayton Hamfest Report by Curt WG5H and Nizar K0NM

Going to Dayton Hamvention is like going to Mecca. It is a pilgrimage for sure. If you have never been to the Hamvention, you need to try it at least once. We made the pilgrimage again for the second consecutive year at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Having been to the last Hamvention at the Hara Arena in 2016, the new venue at Greene County Fairgrounds is a delight to be at. Parking, traffic, hospitality and food choices are excellent. Corn Dogs are big, delicious and greasy, especially when eaten with lots of mustard. (Verified by Bill W5VOM, Paul WW5PA, and Anita Easter)

Hamvention has several exhibit halls packed with vendors from all over the world. It has Lecture Halls, Tail Gate areas and Food. Everything seems to be organized like clockwork. What makes this possible is the 700+ volunteers who make this event a joy to attend. We heard there were 25,000+ attendees and a total of about 35,000 people including vendors. The attendance numbers are almost double the attendees from last year.



Every waking minute from Thursday through Saturday were filled with Ham radio activities. Thursday we elected to attend Contest University. It is a whole day event starting at 7:00am and ending at 5:00 pm. Ten hours of nonstop discussions and presentations for everyone in the hobby, whether you are a DX'er, Contester or just want to learn. Topics included,

tower safety, grounding and bonding, solar activity, USB devices, contesting with remote radio, improving your contest scores etc. We think attending Contest University is a must for anyone planning a trip to Dayton. We always walk away from the Contest University with a sense of having learned something new. Perhaps the best part for some is meeting people you have worked on the radio, but never met before. Kudos to Tim Duffy, K3LR and DX Engineering, for putting this together every year.

There are multiple affiliated dinners every night to satisfy the interests of every ham. We attended the CWOPS dinner, DX Dinner and Contest dinner on consecutive nights. Others attend top band, QRP, or AMSAT dinners. Attending these dinners is a real treat, the speakers are usually well known in the hobby and the camaraderie is fantastic. Where else can you sit next to a ham with 377 countries, or sit at the table with N1MM, or meet WA7BNM who developed and maintains 3830 scores and Contest calendar, or a Nobel Prize recipient, N1JT, who introduced FT8 and now FT4 digital modes? We also listened to one of the hams who invented the wireless technology and 5G. What became obvious to us is that the ham population is full of people who have contributed greatly to science and technology in the world. Yet, they are very humble and you would never know who they are or what they have done. Perhaps we need to change this and acknowledge our ham buddies for their contributions to society.

One afternoon, we sat down for lunch and shared a table with five EU guys with bright yellow jerseys. They were from Czech Republic and members of OK Contest club. We introduced each other and one of the younger guy quickly looked up his log to show us that he has worked both K0NM and WG5H. They had wonderful stories to share with us about their contesting, their clubs and their careers. One of them showed us a picture of their 3 over 3 over 3 80 meter antenna on a 150 meter tower. We were impressed for sure. In return, they looked in amazement as Curt ate his Second Corn Dog with lots of yellow mustard. What a great hobby. No matter where you go or your profession, hams across the world share a common bond. This was reinforced at our lunch meeting with the Czech contest team (see photo).

Dayton Hamfest Report by Curt WG5H and Nizar K0NM

Commercial exhibits start on Friday morning. Elecraft introduced their new K4. Needless to say, the crowd surrounding the K4 was six people deep. All the big boys, Elecraft, Flex, Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu, Ten Tec were all displaying their latest radios. Ham Radio Outlet, DX Engineering, MFJ all have a huge presence at the show. Antenna and tower manufacturers abound as well. Expert Amps were of course there, it was great seeing a TDXS member and former President Bob Hardy with the owner of SPE amps at the booth.

We met several TDXS members at the show. Richard K5NA, Susan K5DU, Chuck W5PR, Madison W5MJ, Keith KM5G, Mark K5GU, Eric NM5M and several others were there. It is always a treat seeing them. We were all there at the Contest University Dinner event. Over 500 people were crammed into the hall for dinner. We sat down at a table and guess who joined us at the table? Yup, our buddies, the Czech Contest Team. A nice surprise.

A lack of time prevented us from visiting the row after row flea market area.

All affiliated clubs are well represented, the ARRL as always has a large square footage display. It's a great place to renew your memberships in Ten-Ten, AMSAT, and the ARRL.

During the three days of the show continuous forums are scheduled in buildings on the grounds. These forums have speakers for every conceivable interest. If you are interested in DX, Contests, FT8, moon bounce, balloon launch, remote radio etc. there is a forum for you.



My first trip to Dayton, Rick Hiller provided much needed guidance. Planning a trip should be done a few months in advance as hotels, dinner tickets and flights are booked well in advance. For TDXS members the Contest and DX dinners are a must, both were sold out well in advance.

The Dayton Hamvention maintains a very good website, a few months before the event the forums and their discussions are scheduled. We would recommend a 'game plan' in advance of the show. Time seemed to be our biggest enemy at taking it all in.

The 2020 dates are May 17-20. If you have never been there, you need to do it once and be able to say "I have been to the Mecca of Ham Radio – The Hamvention".



The Quad Club Mega-Field Day by Nizar K0NM

WHEN?

The Quad Club Field Day is going to be held on the fourth weekend of June. The Dates are June 22-23, 2019. The FD operation starts at 1800 UTC Saturday and ends at 23:59 UTC on Sunday. Antenna setup starts on Friday afternoon and tear down information will be immediately after the last QSO on Sunday. For more information about operating times and rules, click on the Rules link below to the arrl.org web site.

WHERE?

Our Field Day will be held at the beautiful 50 acres Duhacsek Park in Sugar Land. To get there, turn left on Voss Rd (going west) from Highway 6 in Sugar Land. The road ends at the Park. There is a nice house in the Park with full amenities for the weekend. Mike, N5VCX, was able to secure the house and access to the park for antenna erection during Field Day operation. The last Field Day was held there and it worked out great. Bill Cordell is bringing an extra air conditioner to cool the main room. You can find directions and more information about the Park at the following web site:

<https://www.sugarlandtx.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Duhacsek-Park-Community-Center-45>

WHY DO WE CALL IT MEGA FIELD DAY?

Most Field Days have one or two or three operating stations. Our Mega Field Day has 10 operating stations plus a separate GOTA station and an Emergency Communication Truck. We will be operating 10 stations simultaneously in three different modes: CW, SSB and Digital. All on generator power.

RULES

The rules for the Field Day can be found at the ARRL web site.

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2019/2019-Rules-RevA.pdf>

PICTURES FOR 2018 MEGA FIELD DAY

If you want to see pictures of last year's Mega Field Day, click on the link below to the BVARC.ORG web site. You can see the initial setup, antenna erection, operation during FD and tear down. The location is perfect with lots of room for antennas, a nice house with A/C, separate rooms for operators and a great kitchen for food and drinks.

<http://www.bvarc.org/photos.php?year=2018&event=fd>



The Quad Club Mega-Field Day by Nizar K0NM

ANTENNAS

Bill Cordell has once again rented two man-lifts to raise the antennas. One is 60 feet tall and will be used for the CW antennas. The other is a 40 feet man-lift for the SSB antennas. Mike Hardwick antenna trailer is 30 feet and will have the Digital antennas. Antenna organization and layout is being done by Bill Cordell, Rick Hiller and Dave McCarty. Dave is a world-renowned contest-er and has worked on several super stations with multiple rigs and antennas. He and Bill can usually be found in the man-lift buckets putting up the tri-band antennas for 10, 15 and 20 meters and a two element 40 meter Yagi. Hanging from the bucket will be the 80 meter inverted VEE. Antennas for the SSB and Digital modes will be same as the CW antennas. We hope to have the 6 meter antenna on a push up pole near the house.

Please come on Friday and help us raise the antennas and lay down thousands of feet of coax cable.

RADIOS AND COMPUTERS

We will have 10 Elecraft K3 radios that are known for contesting. Each radio will be hooked up a computer that Glenn brings that is already setup with N1MM program for contesting. All the computers are networked by Glenn so that a total score for each mode is displayed on a large TV screen in real time. Glenn is usually helped by Jimmy Vance to do the setup of the computers. Please volunteer to help with the power and internet connection to these 10 computers and rigs.

FOOD

Daphne, Kelli and Mike Hardwick are in charge of the main meals during FD. This is a major job. PLEASE volunteer with them to help with the food. Also, DONATE some extra money towards the food if you can afford it. Most importantly, if you have special needs foods, please bring your own.

Come join us even if you just want to see or meet some of your friends. It is a great time to meet the members of other clubs. Encourage your family members to come and see how you spend your time preparing for emergency communications in case the power goes down, the cell towers get knocked out and the satellites are disabled. COME AND HAVE FUN.

operators and a great kitchen for food and drinks.

<http://www.bvarc.org/photos.php?year=2018&event=fd>



Texas DX Society Board members

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VP Membership	Gerald Muller	gmuller885@aol.com
VP Programs	Pat Cameron KJ5Y	kj5y@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.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

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

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

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

Alex Stalinsky - WA5UHT
 Joe Brassfield - N5AQT
 Al Loeckle - K5FK
 Madison Jones - W5MJ
 Larry Vehorn - W9AJ
 Paul Frantz - W5PF
 Mike Anderson - K5MV
 Grady Ferguson - W5FU
 Kirby van Horn - K7EC
 Bill Stein - WB5SJS

Don Busick - K5AAD
 William Goins - K5WMG
 Steve Smothers - W9DX
 Bob Evans - K5WA
 Paul Jaeger - KY5A
 Wes Spence - AC5K
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