



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net March 2019

TDXS March Dinner Meeting:

Thursday March 21 at 6:30PM

Location:

Silver Palace Chinese Buffet

4005-H Bellaire Blvd.

Houston TX 77025

Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

March is here and along with the time change and more hours of daylight in the afternoon is the Greater Houston Hamfest, which will be held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds as usual and this year on Saturday, March 23rd from 6:00 am to 3:30 pm. There will be vendor sales, flea market, balloon launches, programs, fox hunts, tailgating, VEC, etc. The main programs will be by Ed Hare, W1RFI from the ARRL and John Stratton N5AUS. Please make plans to be there. Go to www.houstonhamfest.org for more information. Note that TDXS will have a table there to promote the club, DXing, contesting and TDXS's new role as the sponsor of the Texas QSO Party. Be sure to stop by and say hello!

In June, please start planning for FIELD DAY! It is coming up again. TDXS will again join BVARC, KARS and Echo in this joint Field Day. It will be at the same place as last year, Ducecheck Park in Sugar Land, TX. We need top class operators!! Phone, CW and Digital. What will it take to get some of our finest TDXS contest operators to join in with us? I have tried, with mediocre success, to get some of our great contest operators out there to help propel the club back into the top ten scores for FD. Are you guys hearing me (that is, reading this?) What happened to the old TDXS spirit? We usually have a fair share of CW ops out there, but we really need some great phone operators to shore up our phone

score. I know we have some great phone ops in TDXS...c'mon...DO TH' RIGHT THING! I want to welcome our two new members to TDXS, Adrian Rodriguez, AG5QV and Alessandro Borgonovo WB5ALF (IZ2AOV). I hope to meet y'all at a meeting soon or perhaps at Field Day. (Perhaps one of you would like to send me a biography to publish in the BS???) Thanks also to Kim Carr K5TU for his story "We Were Contesters". I always appreciate guest articles for the BS. Thanks again, Kim! Finally, please read the article on ARRL's proposal RM-11828. I think this will be of interest to all TDXS members.

73 Allen 'XZ

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The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

March 2019

In December the TDXS was offered the opportunity to become the Texas QSO Party sponsor. The members present that night voted to accept. We are now learning what being the TQP sponsor “looks like”. This is a great opportunity for a club like ours which promotes contesting, for without contest sponsors there would not be contests as we know them. The TDXS will have the opportunity to control the path of the TQP for years to come. For 2019 we need to:

- Promote the TQP at hamfests
- Assist with Log database maintenance and data entry
- Maintenance of TQP websites
- Sponsorship of awards

Keith NM5G will continue to promote the TXQP, manage the TQP rules and awards. Chuck NO5W will process the contest logs for this year and Scott K5DD will take over the website maintenance. The 2019 rules have been changed so that plaques will be awarded only to first place winners, others will get certificates which will help control mailing costs. We already have plaque sponsors who provide funding for the physical plaques.

We need to develop a plan for the long-term handoff of these duties to a larger group of TDXS members. Broader participation of our membership is the key to sponsoring a successful contest. Individuals can discuss the TQP on local nets, promote it while attending local hamfests, etc. We need volunteers to work with Chuck NO5W and Scott K5DD during the 2019 contest to assist them and learn what they do to promote the contest and process the logs to produce the results. software and learn the methods to process the TQP logs. I have often written about the need for more members to become involved in our activities. The need is more acute than ever as we take on the TQP. Please take note that each member that has agreed to take specific TQP activities already has significant TDXS responsibilities. It is time for YOU to step up and make a difference!

Don't forget the TDXS will have a table at the Greater Houston Hamfest March 23. We'll need some TDXS members to man this table. Contact Larry KB5WWW for details. Also, TDXS has a Facebook page, which does not get much attention. We need someone to assume the role of keeping it updated to reflect our club's activities. The Facebook page is important because it reaches a different audience than our webpage. Any volunteers?

73,

Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS February 2019 Meeting Minutes

Date: February 21, 2019

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Don N5DD, Keith NM5G, Jerry K9GEM, Scott K5DD, Ed W5GCX, Randy KR5LM

Guests: Chris N8AI, John K5IZO

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

- The new club Mosely Shorty Forty antenna has been ordered and will be delivered to Bill Cordell W5VOM, for assembly and testing before Field Day. Cost will be \$789.89.

Doug WB5TKI will be the TDXS Field Day representative.

Following the business meeting Keith NM5G held a discussion of the status of the Texas QSO Party. He gave some history of the contest, which started with the Midland ARC in the 1970s. TDXS picked up sponsorship in 1976 held it until 2002, when NARS took over. Now NARS is transferring sponsorship back to TDXS. Sponsorship and maintenance of the contest consist of:

Promoting the contest at hamfests

Log database maintenance and data entry

Website maintenance

Sponsorship of awards. This means shipping them to recipients, not the cost of the awards themselves.

Keith said he will continue to promote the TXQP. For the time being Chuck NO5W will continue to handle contest logs, and Keith does database maintenance. We do need to plan, though, for the long term handoff of these duties. Scott K5DD said that he is taking over the website maintenance. Award mailing will be reduced, as Keith is changing the rules to only have plaques for first place. Others will get certificates. All of the plaques already have sponsors, so TDXS is only responsible for the mailing.

73,

Submitted March , 2019

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary

DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

Central Kiribati – Canton Island – T31EU active until **March 5th**. Most of his activity has been on low bands FT8. 31,000 QSO's thus far from this rare location.

A5A – Bhutan focusing on **160m** FT8 regular mode until **March 5th**. By JH1AJT DJ9ZB E21EIC; All Bands, **160-10**, CW SSB FT8
A52ZB, A52IC – Bhutan February 6th to March 9th by DJ9ZB and E21EIC.

HD8M – Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos. Active until **March 6th**. 160M-10M. All modes, particularly FT8.

Guantanamo Bay – KG4AS & KG4SC. Active March 6th- March 13th. All bands, modes including 60M (5357 kHz.)

5X3C, 5X3E – Uganda. Active March 13th until **March 25th**. **5X3C** all modes all bands. **5X3E** will be FT8 Only.

6O100 – Somalia. Active through **March 24th**. Mostly FT8.

XRØZRC – Juan Fernandez Island will be active March 11th to **March 27th** with 3 stations, 160-10M CW, SSB, FT8.

J20DX/p – Djibouti Watch for this one **April 14th-20th**. Operating from islands in the Gulf of Aden.

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. I am doing a little R&R in SW Florida right now so this month's report will be a little short.

March Contests

2-3 ARRL International DX - SSB

10 North American Sprint - RTTY

30-31 CQ WW WPX - SSB

I was hoping to work the ARRL International DX contest as a guest op at the ARASWF multi-op effort in Naples but the family plans for the week-end changed and I will be in Tampa. I will probably still go to their monthly meeting Thursday night to renew some friendships, **meet some new friends and have a few "eyeball QSOs" with folks I have worked in some past contests.**

February was a busy month for contesting for us. The reports captured from the 3830scores.com website are provided below.

CQ 160 Meter CW

Multi-Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
NU5A(@W5KU)			1043	58	52	23	323,070	TDXS

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
KØNM			289	47	5	10	32,916	
								TDXS

Single Op Assisted HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR		561	57		38		152,190	TDXS

Single Op Assisted LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F		168	43		10		22,631	TDXS

[ARRL January VHF](#)

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			119	56		6,664	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

ARRL January VHF (cont.)

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F			18	13	234		TDXS

CQ WW RTTY

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PF			773	327	18	514,371	TDXS
N5DD			250	162		98,820	TDXS

SOAB TB-Wires HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PF			773	327	18	514,371	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club	
WB5TUF			702	373	12	472,964	TDXS	
KG5LRP				170	102	5	26,010	TDXS
AJ4F			108	81		15,633	TDXS	
KG5U			61	49		4,704	TDXS	

SOAB TB-Wires LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
WB5TUF			702	373	12	472,964	TDXS

SOSB/10 HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
KZ5MM(W5PR)			34	30		1,680	TDXS

ARRL International DX CW

M/S HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5FMH		x	505	192		286,262	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

SO Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TU			165	91	5.5	45,045	TDXS

SO Unlimited LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5DD			260	147		114,660	TDXS

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KØNM	x	x	547	216	19	354,456	TDXS
W5PF			512	212	11:30	325,632	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KG5U	x		249	144	8:35	107,568	TDXS
WB5TUF			50	48		7,200	TDXS

North American QSO Party - RTTY

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
W5PF			375	99	7:30	37,125	TDXS
WB5TUF			320	94		30,080	TDXS
KG5U			310	95	7:59	29,450	TDXS

CQ 160 Meter Contest - SSB

Single Op Assisted HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			666	55	30	28	152,405	TDXS

I want to remind you that Field Day will be June 22-23. Planning will soon be under way, but for right now, mark your calendar and plan to participate. TDXS provides a group of experienced operators that have a major impact on the final score.

That's it for this month. Have a good month and I'll see you in a couple of upcoming contests.



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

Sovereign Military Order of Malta (1A)

CQ Zone 15



This DXCC entity is unique in that it occupies only two buildings in the city of Rome, Italy. Its headquarters are recognized by the Italian government as sovereign territory. The Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) is a sovereign subject of international law, with its own constitution, passports, stamps, and public institutions. The 79th Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing, was elected Head of the Order for life on March 11th, 2008. The Order has diplomatic relations with 104 countries – many of which non-Catholic – and missions to major European countries, as well as to European and international organizations. The Order of Malta is neutral, impartial and non-political.

While the International Telecommunication Union has granted radio identification prefixes to similar quasi-sovereign jurisdictions like the United Nations and the Palestinian Authority, SMOM has never received one. For awards purposes, amateur radio operators consider SMOM to be a separate "entity", but stations transmitting from there use an entirely unofficial call sign, starting with the prefix "1A".



SMOM is the modern continuation of the original medieval order of Saint John of Jerusalem and later as the Knights Hospitaller. The group was founded in Jerusalem around the year 1050 as a hospital to provide care for poor and sick pilgrims to the Holy Land. After the loss of Christian held territories of the Holy Land, the order operated from Rhodes (1310–1523), and later from Malta (1530–1798). Although this state came to an end with the ejection of the order from Malta by Napoleon Bonaparte, it retains its claims of sovereignty over Malta under international law and has been granted permanent observer status at the United Nations

Following its historic mission to help the sick, the needy and the most disadvantaged in society, the Order of Malta continues its work today, operating in more than 120 countries. The Order relies on the involvement of its 13,500 members, as well as approximately 80,000 trained volunteers and 25,000 employees, the majority of whom are medical personnel.

According to Club Log, 1A0 is the 121st most wanted DX entity. Most amateur radio activity in 1A comes from DXpeditions in conjunction with the Order's charitable activities. The next planned DXpedition is early in the new year. 1A0C will be QRV from Dec 28th – Jan 6th 2015.



Reporting from the Dark Side, Ron, K5HM.

The Great Harvey Wells Caper—Part 2...by Ron Litt K5HM

The Great Harvey Wells Caper

Part 2

By Ron Litt, K5HM

I stared at her for a long time. A pristine beauty with big black eyes and creamy white face. She looked back at me from the magazine. A salty trail of perspiration formed on my upper lip. Six months earlier, I discovered her buried in the back pages of QST. Each month as a new issue arrived, I grabbed it, turned quickly to the ad to be sure she was still there; the Harvey Wells Band Master Z-Match Antenna Coupler. I had to have it.

For the last two years I had one single band antenna for 20 meters. It was great, but I was getting close to my WAS and I needed practically all the New England states. Connecticut and New Jersey were almost impossible from New York City without a 40 or 80 meter antenna. I was desperate.

As a 17-year-old kid with no car and no money, I had next to no social life. You might convince a chick to take the subway ride to night court in lower Manhattan to see the evening folk routinely scooped up by the cops get arraigned. Or take the Staten Island Ferry for a nickel moonlight cruise across the harbor. After that, your options for a second date were badly limited without personal mobility.

My life was like a fully charged electrolytic capacitor; ham radio was my only way to bleed off the stored energy. The informal Saturday Night Nerd net was regularly attended by the guys from high school that couldn't get a date. I was a regular member. We lasted until one or two in the morning talking about antennas and Q-multipliers and Collins gear we could never afford. It was my only relief from the teen age hormones running amok.

In those days the \$70 price for the coupler was beyond astronomical. It cost more than a senior prom date! Day after day, I sunk deeper into depression. The kind only pubescent teenagers know when they are rejected by the head of the cheerleading squad. Little did I suspect salvation was at hand. The very next Saturday, fate struck a blow right out of left field, KAPOW!

I had gone to Saturday breakfast with the Queens County Bagel, Bowling and Spark Club (QCBB&SC). For about the twentieth time, I bent my old buddy Ralph's ear about the Harvey Wells Coupler. Ralph, the greatest Elmer of all time, listened patiently while preparing his bagel. I whined on for five full minutes. He was quiet but nodded appropriately and grunted in assent when I paused for a breath.

Precision was Ralph's key to fame as a ham. He could lay down 25 turns on a coil form without a gap or an overlap; as if it had come from a machine. So too, Ralph had a system for preparing a bagel with cream cheese and lox. Like brain surgeon, he spread the cream cheese evenly, carefully leaving no space uncovered; trimming any excess cheese that drooped over the edges. Then he layered the lox on top, using a fork to mash down the smoked fish so it was buried into the cream cheese.

Finally, he looked me straight in the eye and said, "Listen kid." Everybody was a kid to Ralph. "Whyncha go home and work the South Dakota QSO Party? There's only two hams in the whole state. You might get lucky."



The Great Harvey Wells Caper—Part 2...by Ron Litt K5HM

Lucky? I hadn't gotten that lucky, since I got to second base with Wanda Louise Schwartzberg on the ferry ride a month ago, but I needed South Dakota for WAS. This might be the day. I threw down a couple bucks for my share of the bill and took off for the bus stop.

I had just bounded up the front steps and into the house when the old man hit me with the letter. The mail had arrived early this day and clutched in his trembling hand was the dreaded pink ticket. "You better take care of this", he said. The old man didn't get the enormity of transgression that a pink ticket represented. But he knew that anything that came in an envelope with no stamps and "Official Business" printed on it was trouble. As far as he was concerned, I was as good as being carted off to Leavenworth.

Without uttering a word, I snatched the letter from his hand, turned and fled down the basement stairs. I had to figure out what to do. I sat for a long time; thinking. The U.S. phone band ended at 14200 KC. Most of the good DX was always just below that great divide. We worked split back then, running full carrier double sideband AM, pushing as close to the band edge as we dared, calling for that DX station we needed on the other side.

Late at night, my stubby little fingers would be numb as I gripped the band spread knob and tuned my receiver into the low end of 20 meters. Across the electronic wall at 14200 KC between the U.S. phone and CW bands. You could hear them calling CQ; siren's voices from places like Australia, Tahiti, Japan and Pitcairn. It was a drug. The call signs and those strange accented voices from exotic places drew me in. I had to make the contact.

From 14205 and down the QRM was like shock and awe in the Iraq war. Screaming heterodynes beating against one another. Guys over-modulating their rigs and the infamous Kalifornia Kilowatts tuning up. Kaah-Chunk! Hello Test . . .Hello TEST...HEELLLO Test... 1,2,3,4...4,3,2,1! Okay, okay, I know you can count already.

Night after winter's night I spent in my chilly basement shack looking for that rare one on 20 meters. The only warmth came from the glow of the parallel 6146's in the final and the 807 modulator tubes.

Finally, I snapped out of my reverie and mustered the courage to call my old buddy Ralph on the land line. I laid it all out about the pink ticket. In one breath, I unloaded on Ralph non-stop. There was silence for an eternity. "Listen kid", he began; his voice had a way of piercing through the QRM in my head. "You just need an accurate marker for the band edge. A crystal calibrator. You can pick one up at Harrison Radio for about ten bucks."

"Hey Ralph", I said. "What about the letter I have to write? What should I say?" Ralph started in again, "Just tell them the truth kid, you'll be fine. See you later kid." And then there was a click. That's it? Tell them the truth? Somewhere from the dark reptilian part of my desperate brain, the thread of a diabolical plan began to form. A way to solve my FCC problem and snag the Z-Match in the bargain.

Anyone who has ever gotten a pink ticket will tell you it is a serious matter. In my kid mind it was like getting called to Mr. Murphy's office. Mr. Murphy was the Vice Principal at Millard Fillmore High School. Like the FCC, he knew everything. He was the most feared man at school. It was rumored that he had some medieval torture mechanism in his office. A relic from the Spanish Inquisition that would make the toughest kid confess. Just like the FCC, when you went to see the Vice Principal, you had to confess your transgression, explain why and then describe how it was never, ever going to happen again.

The Great Harvey Wells Caper—Part 2...by Ron Litt K5HM

I spent the rest of the day composing the response to the FCC notice. I pulled out my No.2 Dixon Ticonderoga, the same pencil I use in my logbook. The same pencil that was an accomplice to my crime. Its penance would be to help me contrive this document of contrition. I began writing and correcting phrases; adding more verbiage where it was needed.

I skipped lunch and supper. Skipping meals did not sit well with Mom who believed that food was the solution to every problem. I was hungry but I didn't want to stem the creative juices while they were flowing. Mostly, I wanted to avoid the old man until I was ready.

It was a work of classic prose worthy of the Pulitzer Prize. In the first part, I acknowledged my crime; pled guilty and promised not to do it again. I said, I'm sorry three times in the first paragraph. In the second part, I described what I was going to do. Purchasing a crystal calibrator, using it to mark the band edge and NEVER operate any closer than three kc from the marker. Then I really poured it on. I swore to check my receiver monthly against WWV, recalibrate my VFO and receiver every 90 days. I even promised to buy a crystal for 14.203 in the event my VFO became unstable.

Then, in the midst of my epistle of contrition, I slipped in a tiny little paragraph about adding an antenna impedance matcher, like the Harvey Wells Band Master Z-Match Coupler. I went on for a couple of sentences about how it would eliminate spurious emissions and reduce any TVI.

There it was! My secret was out. I was betting on the TVI thing because the old man hated most of the neighbors and he didn't want any of them complaining to the cops, let alone the FCC! I finished the letter with a recap of the whole incident and how it would never happen again . . . ever. Finally, it was ready for typing.

As a southpaw, my handwriting was beyond bad. I was the only kid in Mrs. Shapiro's fourth grade class to flunk Penmanship. When you got to be thirteen, most guys I knew got a fancy fountain pen for their birthday. Instead, the old man had wisely decided on a typewriter for me. Carefully, I typed each word on the Smith-Corona. To avoid any erasures or mistakes; I redid whole pages until it was perfect and pristine. I wanted to make a good impression on the FCC about the sincerity of my penance. Finally I signed it and typed the envelope too.

By the time I was done, it was after eight in the evening. I could hear the TV in the living room. The old man was watching Sid Caesar; his favorite show. He was laughing; a good sign. At least for the moment he wasn't thinking about the FCC or Leavenworth. I slipped out of the basement, up the stairs to my bedroom without notice and turned out the light. I'd decided to wait till Sunday morning to launch my plan. By now, I was drained.

Saturday night, I hardly slept. The adrenalin was relining my blood pressure. I pictured the neighbors standing outside my house as the squadron of FCC men swooped down. They'd all be wearing the official FCC uniform; black pants, long sleeved white shirts, rolled up to the elbows; pocket protectors full of pencils and those little slide rules. No nonsense and grim faced, they summarily clapped me in handcuffs and collected me to pay for my crime. Or so the nightmare went; repeated each time I nodded off, with different endings. None of them good.

Now it was Sunday morning. Time for the final act.

The Great Harvey Wells Caper—Part 2...by Ron Litt K5HM

I came down to breakfast with the letter in my hand. The old man was eating an onion roll with smoked whitefish; his favorite. He had a copy of the *Sunday New York Times* on the table. Even though he was a blood sworn Democrat he read the *Times*, a Republican bastion from cover to cover each Sunday. Mom was cooking eggs and my kid sister was nowhere in sight.

Nervously, I proffered the letter with the pink ticket on top. The old man looked up from the *Times*. He was reading the financial section and mumbling about the Republicans. He took the letter and started reading.

I'd worked up my simple letter into a literary masterpiece. I mentioned the purchase of additional equipment a couple times in the letter to include the crystal calibrator. In addition to the letter itself, I added a diagram of the shack, descriptions of my equipment, including the Z-Match and my ARRL membership certificate.

I tried to maintain an air of calm detachment but inside I was shaking like a nervous cat as the old man looked it over. As usual, he got right to the heart of the matter. "How much is this all going to cost?"

The old man was a depression era high school dropout. What I didn't know at the time was how committed he was to seeing his kids get the education he had to forgo. He would never understand the ins and outs of amateur radio. He inherently believed that there were only four acceptable career paths for young male children; Medicine, Dentistry, Accounting or Engineering. As long as my interests fit into one of those niches, he was willing to do anything to help it along.

I mumbled something about eighty dollars. "What? How Much? Eighty?!", he raised his voice raised to the fight or flight level. I am sweating through my eyeballs. "You better make sure this fixes it!" Then in one single motion, he reached into his wallet and dropped four brand new twenty dollar bills on the kitchen table.

I grabbed the money and the letter and dashed from the kitchen. Took the basement stairs two at a time and called Ralph on the phone. Once again, I unloaded on him about the letter, the crystal calibrator and the Z-Match. Through the signature wheeze of his breath, I could swear he was smiling on the other end of the phone. He was of course, the greatest Elmer of all time, so he probably knew how it was going to come out.

"I know kid. That's great.", he said. He knew? How could he know? I took the cash out of my pocket and stared at the four crisp, sequentially numbered bills. I wondered for a second if Ralph and the old man had worked it out in advance.

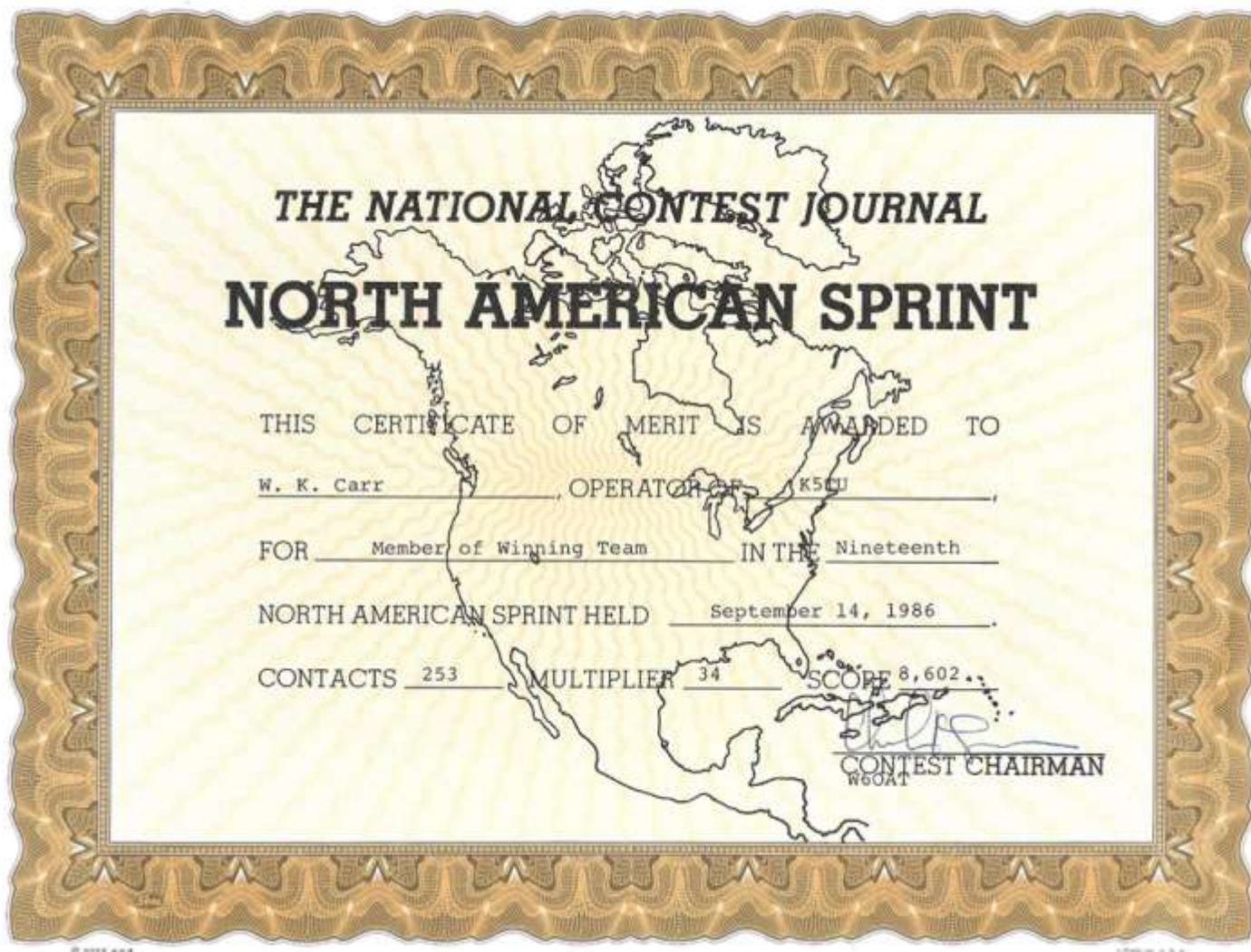
Ralph's raspy voice broke into my thoughts, "Make sure you mail the letter, kid. I'll meet you down at Harrison Radio Tuesday afternoon." "And go work that W0 from South Dakota on 14235." Click went the phone in my ear.

The End for Now

We Were Contesters—by Kim Carr K5TU

While cleaning in my shack here in Houston, I found a folder with some of my older certificates and ham wall paper. To my surprise, I found two North American Sprint CW certificates; one from February, 1985, and one from September, 1986. I didn't remember having these. That's 32 years ago!

The September, 1986 certificate was for Member of the Winning Team in the 19th NA Sprint CW!



I was curious to know who was on that team, but I didn't have the results that were printed in the NCJ. I emailed Rusty, W6OAT, and Tom, K5RC, hoping they would have some archives. Rusty had just disposed of his old NCJs prior to his move to WA, and Tom's were buried in the attic in Nevada protected by sub zero temperatures. I emailed Randy, K5ZD, and he sent me a copy of the article from the 1986 CW Sprint results.



We Were Contesters—by Kim Carr K5TU

Here's the team:

TEXAS		
DX SOCIETY	#1	
K5GN	11,817	
K5LZO	10,108	
KN5H	9,835	
NR5M	9,695	
N5DU	9,590	
K2TNO/5	9,345	
K5TU	8,602	
KG5U	7,456	
K5WA	6,976	
K5MA/1	5,742	
	<u>89,166</u>	

Some of the calls you will recognize right away. Chuck Coleman, K5LZO, Rich Keller, K5WA and Jan Carman, K5MA/1 are all now SKs. Steve Nace, KN5H is still active as AA7V in Scottsdale, AZ. NR5M was operated by Eric Silverthorn, NM5M, for this CW Sprint. Eric now lives in Dallas. Bob Evans, N5DU is now K5WA. Bob has a super station up in Brenham. K2TNO, Dr. Bill Schrader (Tuna), is now in Beaufort, NC but no longer active in ham radio. Dale Martin, KG5U, and I are around and still enjoying contesting. TDXS had a second team with 3 ops in this contest also.

I don't think SO2R was around back then. It was all brute force single radio.



Greater Houston Hamfest

Greater Houston Hamfest

2019 Greater Houston Hamfest will be our 18th year

Friday March 22, 2019 12 pm to 8 pm - Vendor Setup Only

Saturday March 23, 2019 - Tailgate 6am-3:30pm

Programs 7 am - 3 pm, Indoor sales 8 am - 2 pm, License Testing 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm

Grand Prize Raffle 2 pm - Two balloon launches - Equipment Check Table



GRAND PRIZE

Raffle 1st Prize

Icom IC-7300



Convention Prize

Raffle 2nd Prize

ANYTONE AT-D878UV



Raffle Tickets \$2.00 Each - Drawing at 2 PM
Door Prize Hourly Drawings Start at 9 AM
Raffle Tickets can only be purchased onsite

Here comes the 2019 Hamfest!

Friday March 22nd, 2019 - Set-up only

Saturday March 23rd, 2019 - Vendor Sales, Flea Market, Workshops, Presentations,

Prizes, 2 Balloon Launches, Fox Hunt, Tailgating 6 AM - 3:30 PM

Programs 7 AM - 3 PM, Indoor Sales 8 AM - 2 PM, License Testing 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM

Grand Prize Raffle 2 PM

RV parking available - Scouts, Military, and First Responders (in uniform) get in free.

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds

4310 Texas 36

Rosenberg TX 77471

Contact Phone Numbers

Hamfest Hotline 401-584-GHHF (4443)

713-502-5896

713-569-8799

Talk In 146.94 Tone 167.9

ARRL Proposal RM-11828 proposal to give Tech licensees expanded HF privileges

Please read the following email I received from Dan White, W5DNT. I have modified this slightly for purposes of this newsletter, I trust Dan won't mind too much. I will be happy to send a copy of Dan's comments to RM-11828. Just send me an email directly to n5xz@arrl.net. I think it should be fair to say that this is my opinion, that I agree with Dan and I think this is of interest to all TDXS members who currently use the HF bands for DXing, contesting or any other purpose.

Dear Amateur Radio Friends:

I have submitted comments to the FCC with regard to ARRL's proposed change to give Tech licensees expanded HF privileges, RM-11828. Their real game is HF Digital email and through their actions they seem to believe that will be the secret to attracting new members.

As most of you know, I have been very vocal with regard to past FCC comments STRONGLY AGAINST ARRL's push for wideband digital on HF, under the guise of "EmComm". That issue is still very alive at FCC, with a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking 16-239 ready to be approved at any time. Unfortunately, the comment period is long past on that one, FCC could approve it tomorrow. Sources tell me ARRL leadership believes it will be approved, as do I.

If RM-11828 is approved by FCC, 385,000 existing Techs, and whoever else decides to "study on Sunday and pass Tech on Monday", will have immediate freely granted access to greatly expanded HF privileges, without going through any steps on their part to advance in the hobby. Should NPRM 16-239 also be approved, as we think it will, a real recipe for disaster will have been put in place. Our CW, RTTY and FT-8 bands will be overrun by boaters and preppers that simply wish to have free or off the grid email, without having to pay an ISP. For those of you that are SSB operators, RM-11828 would freely give 55% of the General Class HF phone bands to existing Techs with the stroke of a pen. RM-11828, a major "dumbing down" of amateur radio licensing, removes incentives for advancement, it does not create them. So much for incentive licensing!

It's always easier to do nothing and complain after the fact, but here is an opportunity to get involved in the process before a problem is created! I encourage each of you to read my comments and those of others. Consider the importance of this issue. Please consider filing your own comments with FCC. Below is a link that will walk you through the very easy process of an express filing. It will only take a few minutes of your time and the future well being of amateur radio is certainly a worthwhile cause.

The filing deadline is April 13, 2019.

Please help spread the word to your friends and together let's put a stop to this.

73 & Thanks for your consideration of this important amateur radio issue!

Dan
W5DNT

Instructions for a prepared document upload:

<http://wireless-girl.com/HowToFile11828STD.html>

Instructions for an Express filing, to type in brief comments:

<http://wireless-girl.com/HowToFile11828Express.html>

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Texas DX Society Board members

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How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxs.net> email address: k5dx@tdxs.net

On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz (100 Hz) On 70cm: 447.00/442.00 MHz (103.5 Hz)

DX Cluster—On Packet: Connect to **K5DX** on 145.71 MHz or telnet via IP address 75.148.198.113

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

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

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

Al Bayer – W5AEB
 David Bean - W5ZQR
 Bob Walworth - N5ET
 Ed Seeger - K5EBS
 Bill Frink - K5WAF
 John Godwin - K5IUA
 Buzz Jehle - N5UR
 Ken Grabenstein - KZ5KG
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