



The Bullsheet

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

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

TDXS May Meeting:

Thursday May 16th, 2019 6:30pm
Lasagna House Italian Restaurant
13306 Westheimer Road
Houston, TX 77077

Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

It is starting to warm up outside now that Spring is here... and Summer is on the way. So looks like it is good antenna work weather. I am hoping to have some time soon to take the StepIR down to do some maintenance.

I am now experimenting with K0NM's TS-480 remote setup using a Remoterig setup. I haven't done much with it yet, but there are absolutely no delays going from transmit to receive and it is just like having a rig right in front of you. Next I am going to buy a K3/0 and go that route, but Nizar let me borrow his 480 just for fun. The

only thing I am trying to figure out as I type this is how to reverse the paddle inputs, which of course are backwards as of now.

I cannot write this Editor's Note without once again mentioning Field Day coming up at the end of June at Duhacsek Part in Sugar Land, TX.

There is an on-line sign up sheet which can be accessed by clicking :

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uVTuo7hwwwusEMT4f2jA7dEBtgjdM0hSGgK0khUUXmd0/edit?usp=sharing>

It's going to be another quad-club Field Day with BVARC, KARS and Echo, so please try to join us! I know I now sounding

like a broken record, but we really need more operators to fill in the slots, so if you read this note and want to join us, please feel free to sign up.

Note much else...I would really like to get more guest articles from anyone on just about any subject, so just send me whatever in MS Word format! (As you can see this is a bit of an abbreviated BS this month!)

That's all for now, hope to see everyone in June at FD!

73 Allen 'XZ

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The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

May 2019

The developers of WSJTX have released version 2.1.0-rc5 with a new digital mode developed specifically for contesting – FT4! FT4 is advertised to be 2.5 times faster than FT8 and could rival RTTY for rates while being up to 10 dB more sensitive. This could be a very interesting new mode and even has potential for Dxing. Here is a link to the WSJTX page that allows you to download the new release: <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wsjitx.html>. I've experimented with rc5, which has a few bugs, and was able to work many stations on 20M. There are many stations using this new release so you will have no problem finding stations to work. One negative point is that I don't believe there will be a full release of the software prior to Field Day.

Field Day is just around the corner. Our objective is to make this the best Field Day yet and your participation is critical. If you have a question, contact Doug WB5TKI, Nizar K0NMM, or post your question on our reflector.

The low band DX season is winding down. Several TDXS member reached at least 100 countries confirmed on 160M this season and several more added significantly to their country totals on 80M & 40M. DXpeditions focusing on the low bands helped make this possible and all of us "low banders" really appreciate their efforts. Hopefully, at a future TDXS meeting we can debrief this season and see what worked, what did not and develop some ideas for the 2019-2020 season.

Speaking of seasons, E-Season is rapidly approaching on 6M. This past weekend (4/27 & 4/28) we had a good opening to Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico. Several operators to which I have spoken said that several hours earlier the band was open to Florida and Georgia. With Sporadic E, you don't need much of an antenna to achieve some good results. A dipole at 20-30 ft. will work surprisingly well. I encourage you to give it a try. Last year was spectacular for 6M operation. Many Houston area stations worked into Japan with FT8 during the summer.

As I wrote last month, meeting attendance is down significantly this year. Please make a point to come to a meeting, bring a fellow TDXS member, another ham or a prospective ham. Sharing, and learning from one another is what clubs are all about!

Another one of my endless of experiments is with FLDIGI and its CW decoder. I've been impressed with its capability and know that we have several members who actively participate in contesting using a decoder. This would give you a way to do some CW contesting or work a new country using CW. N1MM has a CW Reader window and will allow you to use either FLDIGI or CWGet as decoders. Of course, the best option would be to contact CWOps and participate in the CW Academy! TDXS has several CWOps members who are willing to provide you with information needed to get started.

73,
Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS April 2019 Meeting Minutes

Date: April 18, 2019

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Scott K5DD, Kim K5TU, Orville K5VWW, Larry KB5WWW

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

- The joint TDXS-BVARC-KARS-ECHO Field Day effort was discussed. We need to encourage our best operators, both CW and Phone, to sign up for slots as soon as they come available. In addition we need to be proactive in getting more casual operators some operating time. Initially limit the number of slots that a single operator can claim, so as to provide these casual slots.
- Treasurer Larry has renewed the club's liability insurance for the year.
- There was some discussion of the feasibility of broadcasting our meeting over Skype.

The May dinner meeting will be at the Lasagna House on Westheimer on May 16.

The program for the evening was presented by Orville K5VWW. He gave an in-depth overview of the popular Club Log website. This free service is maintained by Michael G7VJR for the worldwide DX community. Registration is free, although donations are gratefully accepted. Club Log can be used as an online logging program, and can synch with LOTW. Many DXpeditions upload their logs in near real time, allowing one to see whether you are in the log during the operation. Many DXpeditions also use Club Log OQRS (Online QSL Request) functionality to automate the process of validating a QSO and requesting a card. They even maintain an on-line volunteer help desk. If you haven't tried out Club Log, go to clublog.org and begin the adventure!

73,

Submitted May 7, 2019

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

Bolivia – CP1GJ will be active from **May 5th** until **May 16th** on **6 Meters EME**. **Lance, W7GJ** will be actively pursuing contacts during non-moon periods on other modes as well. Watch ON4KST web pages for information.

FW/G0VJG will be on from **Wallis & Futuna Island** from **May 8th** – **May 22nd**. Bands will be 40M – 6M and SSB and FT8 (f/h) will be modes.

8Q7NH and **8Q7XB** will be active from the Maldives **May 7th** thru **May 10th**. They plan on operating 160M - 6M on CW and FT8.

OGØC from **Aland Island** will be activated by 6 Finnish operators from **May 22nd** to **May 28th** on all bands from 160M through 2M on CW SSB FT8 FT4 and MSK144.

There will be several one to 3 day DXpeditions internet for postings by single operators operating in holiday mode during the next month. Some of these prefixes are: **OA, J88, J7, LX, 3D2 and XV**. Watch the internet for postings.

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, I will start out with a summary of the major contests this month. Like last month, the pickings are sparse. However, though the quantity is small the significance is large. The only major contest is the **CQ WW WPX – CW** contest on May 25. The WPX contests are a great deal of fun, provide for some really impressive scores (due to the number of possible multipliers) and attract a lot of DX stations. With the sunspots and associated lack of propagation this means my emphasis will be on 20 meters during the day and 40 and 80 meters at night. If I had a 160-meter antenna, I'd work there too but right now that is not on my list. Maybe after some more work on the Fayette County Hamshack is completed, I can get some sort of 160 antenna up.

There are a number of major State QSO parties in May with a couple of regional state groups combining their efforts. The New England, Delaware, Indiana and 7th Call Area QSO Parties all run on May 4 and 5. Most good contest software offers an option to participate in all of these contests using a common log. Also, for the 10-10 people, their Spring CW contest is the same week-end. That's a lot of opportunity to operate in one week-end.

Major contest activity for TDXS as reported on the 3830scores.com website.

CQ WW WPX Contest

SO(A)AB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
KØNM	x	x	101	85	4	20,230	TDXS

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
KB5WWW			210	153		71,298	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
KG5LRP			413	244	22:42	161,772	TDXS
WB5TKI			627	175		109,725	TDXS
N5DTT			169	135	15	52,245	TDXS

SOAB TB-Wires LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GN			81	67	3	15,209	TDXS

SOSB10 HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
KZ5MM(W5PR)			172	101		45,147	TDXS

SOSB20 HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
NU4A(K5GN)			244	160	1.5	56,800	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

I don't know how many TDXS members are subscribers to the **National Contest Journal** (NCJ). If you are not, you are missing some really great contesting articles, some dealing with station improvements and others concentrating on enhancing operating skills. Within the past year, a new editor, Scott Wright, KOMD, has taken on the big job of guiding the development of this great journal. He has taken a very holistic approach and has solicited comments from readers with ideas on how to improve the publication. In the January-February issue he invited readers to provide input. In the March-April issue he published a very comprehensive reply from Bob Neece, KOKR. Bob is a former ARRL Contest Advisory Committee member and an active contester.

Many of Mr. Neece's comments are similar to what I have expressed in my monthly reports. This is especially true about what he calls Casual Contesters, what I have referred to as Little Pistols. He says, "What should be obvious to all of us is that casual contesters are an invaluable commodity. In any contest, what we want to see is a number of QSO opportunities that is so large to be inexhaustible, even by the best operators." So, his first point is the **NCJ** needs to provide for the Little Pistols as well as the Big Guns. His opinion is that **NCJ** goes a long way to be inclusive of the Casual Contester through its sponsorship of the North American QSO Parties. Many contesters got their first exposure to contesting through these events. But he further believes that many new contesters are not subscribers. Providing more for the Little Pistol might, in his opinion, increase the **NCJ** subscriber base and increase the skills and equipment of this very important component of the contesting community.

NCJ already provides some help to the casual contester. Every month, Mike Goldstein, VE3GFN, produces his "*Little Pistol Pages*" that provides information to the new or casual contester. I find these articles quite interesting and insightful. He actively solicits comments from his readers and often incorporates reader input into his articles. Also, in every **NCJ**, Don Daso, K4ZA, provides tips and techniques for improving stations through his "*Workshop Chronicles*" article. While these articles are primarily aimed at improving Big Gun stations, there is a lot of information that can help us smaller operations improve our capabilities. Finally, Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, writes "Next-Gen Contesters", a column that really clarifies where we need to go to insure the future of Radiosport and, perhaps, the Amateur Radio hobby. Bringing in young, new Amateurs to contesting is critical if we are to have a future.

If you are not an NCJ subscriber, please consider becoming one. If you already subscribe, do not hesitate to provide the editor and columnists with your comments and input. Subscription information is available on the NCJ website, **ncjweb.com**.

Until next month or the next contest,

Jim, N5DTT

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

Chiloe Island (CE) CQ Zone 12, ITU Zone 16 IOTA SA-108



Chiloe is the largest island in the coastal archipelago. To the east, 30 miles from mainland lies Chile; to the west is the Pacific Ocean. Situated in an area of heavy rainfall, the densely forested island is little developed.

Spaniards captured the island in 1567 and it remained the last stronghold of Spanish domination in Chile its struggle for Chilean independence until 1827.

Most of the island's inhabitants live in one of two port cities, Ancud or Castro. They are connected by a road.

The inhabitants (Chilotes) are engaged in agriculture, fishing, and lumbering. They live in brightly painted

houses on the narrow beach. called *palafitos*.

Sometimes the tide is a little higher than planned. Due to the threat of tsunami, the danger of erosion, or rising tides, Chilotes may need to move to a new spot. When they do, their house comes with them. It's a real show, and it's known as a *minga*. Looks like this one could use a pint job too.

Moving a house can be tricky, having been pulled to the beach, the house is deposited below the waterline at low tide to wait for the tide to come in. As Chilote houses are single-story and wooden, they are generally light enough to flat and be towed across channels without completely submerging!



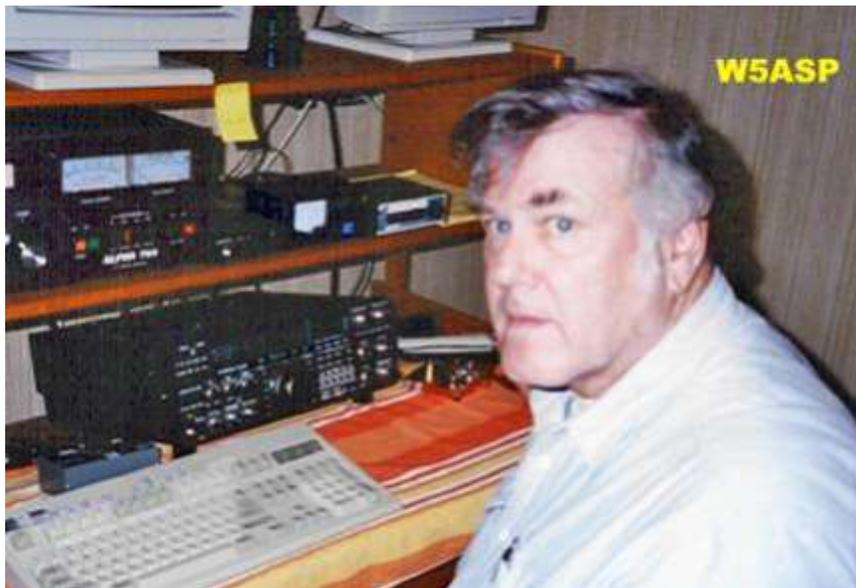
Once the tide is in and the house is surrounded by water, it's hooked up to one or more boats, and is pulled at a steady speed through the water to its destination. The house is then floated as close to shore as possible at low tide, hitched to a team on oxen, pulled back onto wooden rollers to finish the job. After the move comes the Paaartey!

Javier, CE7VPQ (above) lives on Chiloe and offers up this rare DX locale during many contests with his contest call, CA7CAQ.

Reporting from the Dark Side
Ron, K5HM



Joe Staples W5ASP—TDXS #87 SK



Joseph Addison Staples, III – W5ASP
November 27, 1932 – April 24, 2019

Joe joined TDXS in 1981 as member #87 and served the organization in many roles over the years.

TDXS Secretary: 1982-1983

Field Day Chairman: 1985

President: 1986

Bullsheets Editor: 1990-1994

Contest Chairman: 1997-1998, 2005, 2014-2015

He was an avid contester and was part of the various TDXS trips to XE, V3, and others. He made many solo trips to the Cayman Islands for ARRL DX and CQWW contests and gave a number of presentations at club meetings. Several TDXS programs featured Joe giving us tips on how to pick a contest, pick a category, and how to increase your score. He was the first to invite me to contest at the "lumberyard" (West End Lumber, owned by W5SJS) when I joined TDXS in 1985. Joe W5ASP, Tom N5EA, Phil K5RVK (SK), Bob W5SJS were the regulars there. His preferred mode of operation was always CW, but he had one of the loudest, deepest and commanding voices I've ever heard. He probably never needed a speech processor in phone contests! RIP Joe. – Steve W9DX

Joe was born in Oklahoma and lived all over the country as his father was an executive with The Federal Power Commission. He received his undergrad degree at The University of Texas at Austin where he met his wife Leila. He received a masters degree at Rice University and later received an engineering degree from TCU while working for General Dynamics in Fort Worth. In 1956 Joe and Leila moved to Houston where he joined Schlumberger as an engineer. He worked with Schlumberger until he retired at age 55. After he retired, Joe was an active scuba diver, traveled throughout the world with his wife, was an active bench rest rifle and .45 caliber pistol shooter and an avid ham radio contester and DXer. He was president of The Voss Little League and was active in The Boy Scouts of America with his sons Mark, Craig and Keith. One of Joe's favorite ham activities was operating from islands in the Caribbean, including Montserrat, Grand Cayman and Bon Aire. Joe was also a very active member of TDXS and participated in most of the club's Field Day events. He also operated at 'The Lumber Yard' station as well as the W5SJS ranch station in Austin County. (He used the calls NQ5K and N5ZK from those stations).

At the time of his death, Joe was 86 years of age and is survived by his wife Leila and his children Mark, Craig, Janet and Keith. He will be sorely missed.

(obituary courtesy Bob Burns – W5SJS)

Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
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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 May:

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

Leon Pringle, Jr. - W5NA
 John Guida - K5XA
 Jan Carman - K5MA
 Mike Mauldin - K5NU
 Mitch Whitney - AD5W
 Kenny Manchester - NZ5I
 Gregg Erlenbusch - W5IDX
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