



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net April 2020

TDXS ZOOM On-Line Meeting:

Our April meeting is scheduled for 4/16/2020 @ 7:00 PM. The Tracy Gee Center is closed due to the COVID-19 virus. We plan to conduct an online meeting using ZOOM. ZOOM is a free application you can use for conferences, meetings and face to face discussions.

Robie, AJ4F will host the meeting from his ZOOM account. If you would like to attend, please send Robie an e-mail at ruler55 at gmail.com with your name and call sign (if you have one) Robie will send invitations to those e-mail addresses. He is taking this approach to minimize the possibility of unwanted interruptions to the meeting. This is referred to as ZOOM Bombing. You may have read about this in the news recently.

Editor's Note by Allen Brier

The COVID-19 virus situation has changed EVERYTHING. Well maybe not everything, but a whole lot. We are mostly all self quarantining at home and as far as I know, no member of TDXS has been infected. We can all be thankful for that. So far, Connie and I have been well stocked, have made only a few trips to the grocery store or any restaurants and have been able to keep our composure with each other.

I have been working at home, when there is work to do. I am happy at least that I took a salary job, and so far no hit on income.

The net positive here is that I have had a lot more time to play radio. Especially since my home work office is in the same room as my shack. All I have to do

(all day) is turn the chair 180 degrees, click on a new QSO and turn back around. If something is spotted that I need, my logging program (still LOGic) will give me an audible alert, and I can (try to) work it. Iffy sometimes with a vertical.

The upcoming TDXS meeting will be held via ZOOM conferencing. See the notice above.

Field Day! It is unknown at this time what will happen with Field Day. The ARRL position is as follows:

Field Day is still on as of this writing, and the ARRL is leaving decisions on operations up to individuals and clubs, based on public health advice and restrictions that may still be in place by late June. The League is recommending that clubs be flexible, and is encouraging operation from home

stations on emergency power or backyard portable operations with temporary antennas.

TDXS has not yet made a decision regarding how we will handle Field Day (I haven't heard from BVARC, KARS or Echo, either) but we have been discussing it and will coordinate with the other clubs. Hopefully, we will be able to carry on business as usual. In the case that is not possible, we will advise.

Finally, note that 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of TDXS. The BOD is discussing how we can commemorate this and how you can participate. Please see the following document from Richard K5NA TDXS member #1:

<http://www.tdxs.net/bs70/Beginnings70.pdf>

73, Allen N5XZ

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Last month I mentioned my "EX-ZED SPRED" lunches but of course they are now on hold until we can all meet safely.

The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

April 2020

The Tracy Gee Center notified me on 4/2/2020 that Steve Radack, Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner, had cancelled all events through May 4, 2020. As a result of the need to comply with the Harris County's & the city of Houston's stay at home orders we're going to try to conduct a virtual "over the internet" meeting for April. We're investigating the use of Zoom as possible way to conduct the meeting. We'll have more information as the investigation proceeds. Stay alert for e-mail on our reflector and updates on our website for details.

Actions take by local governments to prevent spread of the COVID-19 virus have pushed the possibility of have a TDXS 50th Anniversary operating activity until later in the year. One idea is to activate K5DX during the Texas QSO Party. I'm sure that would be fun. We will continue to watch the situation and keep you informed of our plans. I'm disappointed in the very small amount of feedback on the 50th Anniversary from members. Does anyone have an interesting experience to share? For example, DXpedition activities, a memorable Field Day or contesting experience, Texas QSO Party mobile experience? We would all enjoy sharing your experiences. Please post them on our reflector or send directly to Allen N5XZ for publication in the BullSheet.

Another "benefit" of these restrictions for many of us is more time to operate. Conditions have improved and I've been able to make numerous DX contacts on 20, 17, 15 and even 12 Meters [*even 10 and 6 have been open—Ed*]. Conditions seem to be best in the mid-afternoon through early evening. Conditions on the low bands especially 80 and 160 Meters have been good in the early morning 10:00 – 12:00 UTC. I've been able to work Guam, China and the Philippines with my modest station. I use FT8 on both bands and it is very effective. I have had the time to do some experimenting with antennas as well. If you have a short vertical, such as a Butternut HF2V consider adding some top loading (capacitive hat) to improve its performance. Adding 2, 3 or 4 wires radially from the top of the antenna in a fashion similar to an umbrella frame will improve the antenna's current distribution and raise radiation resistance making it more efficient. You will have to retune it to achieve resonance on your desired frequencies. The ARRL Antenna Book contains a very good discussion on this subject. I recommend reviewing it prior to conducting your own experiments.

Another opportunity to fill your additional time is to increase your knowledge of the programs you use to operate various modes. Examples are N1MM+ for contesting, your chosen logging program, and WSJT-X for the FT modes. WSJT-X and a companion program named JTAlert have the capability to help you identify needed countries, CQ Zones, states and Grid Squares while you are operating. Call signs of needed entities are high-lighted in bright colors when decoded. This will make it much easier to make contact with those entities and improve your totals. Take time to read the documentation and do some experimenting. You will be glad you did!

Robie – AJ4F

TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

“Some people ate somewhere”

The meeting was cancelled due to the COVID19 virus situation.



DX Chairman's Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

DX Report by Orville Burg, K5VWW

The TDXS website, WWW.TDXS.NET, reports the following activity:

XZ2D Myanmar until Apr 17, 2020
9J2MYT Zambia until May 2020
T6AA Afghanistan until Summer 2021

Due to travel restrictions attributable to the Corona Virus, all currently planned DXpeditions have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

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 off with a summary of contests coming up in the next two months.

April

- 4 Missouri, Nebraska, Mississippi and Louisiana QSO Parties
Florida Parks on the Air
- 11 OK/OM DX Contest, SSB
New Mexico, Georgia and North Dakota QSO Parties
- 17 Holy Land DX Contest
- 18 Texas Parks on the Air
Michigan and Ontario QSO Parties
- 19 ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB
- 25 10-10 International Spring Digital Contest
Florida QSO Party

May

- 2 10-10 International Spring Contest – CW
7th Call Area QSO Party
Indiana, Delaware and New England QSO Party
- 9 Arkansas QSO Party
- 16 His Majesty King of Spain Contest – CW
- 30 CQWW WPX Contest – CW

TDXS Members participated in a number of contests since the March Report. Their scores, as reported on the 3830scores.com website, are provided below:

[ARRL DX Contest, SSB 2020 Mar 7](#)

SO Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GN(@W5KU)			665	241	13	439,584	TDXS

ARRL DX Contest, SSB 2020 Mar 7 (cont.)

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KØNM	x	x	120	78	5	27,846	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT			34	30	5	3,060	TDXS

SOSB/10 HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			41	12		1,476	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

BARTG HF RTTY Contest 2020 Mar 21

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Countries	Call Areas	Continents	Score	Club
KC5TT			274	18		37	4	60,280 TDXS

Russian DX Contest 2020 Mar 21

SO CW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Countries	Oblasts	Score
K5GN(@W5KU)	x		1159	0	258		83 1,742,169
KJ5Y(WP3C)		x	485	0	86		13 175,923
N5XZ			200	0	54		9 46,998

[CQWW WPX Contest, SSB 2020 Mar 28](#)

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
NU5A(K5GN)	x		3628	957	36	6,733,452	TDXS
WB5TKI			173	144		50,112	TDXS
KB5WWW			136	110		31,130	TDXS

CQWW WPX Contest, SSB 2020 Mar 28 (cont.)

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
KC5TT			479	249	26	170,814	TDXS
WD5CAY		168	132			46464	TDXS
N5DTT			7	7	1	56	TDXS

SOSB10 HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
KZ5MM(W5PR)			520	212		205,640	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

The really big contest in March was the CQWW WPX - SSB Contest. K5GN had a remarkable score. I really need to get together with David and get some information on the secrets to his success.

My one 10-meter contact in the WPX-SSB contest was with Chuck, W5PR, who was operating under his South Texas Contest Club call, KZ5MM. In that contest a KZ5 call is much less common than a W5. That's good for attracting attention from other ops looking for another multiplier. Well, that and being the only strong station on the band. With his setup in Manvel, it is easy to see why he works that band in the contests. But it has to be very frustrating to call CQ so much and have so few takers responding. I don't know whether he takes a good book along or not.

May is going to be thin as far as major contests are concerned. So, you might consider your participation in the State Contest Challenge that I wrote about last month. There are a number of state contests that month. I have filled a lot of my extra time on Saturdays and Sundays with these state contests. I work almost entirely on CW. I'm using this as an opportunity to increase my CW skills. An added benefit is that the operators on CW seem to be a lot more skilled in the best contest operating techniques. Their transmissions are "cleaner" as they have often been preprogrammed into the contest software they are using. The exchanges are quick and minimized to exactly what the proper exchange is – nothing more. There is none of the "please copy....." and other diversions that we find a lot in phone contests.

Stay safe and eat well while you are protecting yourself from the VIRUS. See you next month or in a contest.

Jim, N5DTT



Where in the World is? ... Ron Litt, K5HM

Sri Lanka, the name connotes a tropical isle with warm breezes and a life of ease.

Officially, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The island nation is located off the Southeastern tip of India in between the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. During WW II it was part of the British Empire but achieved independence in 1946. Formerly, known as Ceylon it changed the name in 1972 to reflect the dominance of the ethnic Sinhalese population.



Its strategic location between East and West made Ceylon (Sri Lanka) a busy trading place along the Maritime Silk Road that flourished between Europe, India and Asia during the 2nd Century BCE and the 15th Century CE. After the death of Mao Zedong, the Chinese government made itself an important partner in East-West trade. It obtained long term leases over port facilities along the route including in Sri Lanka. But – I digress.

The country's largest city and its commercial capital is Colombo; a name I can at least pronounce, while the legislative seat of government is Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, which I cannot.



The country's trade in luxury goods and spices attracted traders of many nations to the island, creating the diverse population in Sri Lanka there is now. The Portuguese, whose arrival in Sri Lanka was largely accidental, would intrude into the country's internal affairs by seeking to establish control over the maritime regions of the island in order to control its lucrative external trade.

The Portuguese possessions would later be taken over by the Dutch, and the Dutch by the British who would later extend their control over the whole island, colonizing it from 1815 to 1948. Resistance to the British was immediate. A nationalist political movement arose in the country in the early 20th century for political independence, which was granted in 1948; the country became a republic and adopted its current name in 1972. Sri Lanka's recent history has been marred by a 26-year civil war, which ended decisively when the Sri Lanka Armed Forces defeated the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in 2009.

In addition to the trade benefits between east and west, Sri Lanka is the world's number two exporter of tea. Ceylon tea has been recognized as the cleanest tea in the world regarding pesticide residue.

Sri Lanka is one of only two South Asian countries rated "high" on the Human Development Index (HDI), with its HDI rating and per capita income the highest among South Asian nations. The Sri Lankan constitution accords Buddhism the "foremost place", although it does not identify it as a state religion. Buddhism is given special privileges in the Sri Lankan constitution.



Where in the World is? ... Ron Litt, K5HM

Sri Lanka is the 57th most populated nation in the world with roughly 21,670,000 people. The densest areas are in and around the capital. Sinhalese constitute the largest ethnic group in the country, with 75% of the total population. Sri Lankan Tamils are the second major ethnic group in the island, with a percentage of 11%.

According to QRZ, there are 320 licensed hams in the country. Sri Lanka stands at number 183 on Club Log's Most wanted DXCC most Wanted List,

There are several radio clubs sponsored by universities, along with The Amateur Radio Society of Sri Lanka (RSSL), which is the official representative to the IARU.

Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron, K5HM



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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 April:

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

John Cashen - W5UG
 Bob Burns - W5SJS
 Bob Bradshaw - N5RF
 Orville Burg - K5VWW
 Wayne Bailey - NX7K
 OJ Quarles - K1OJ
 Steve Flannigan—W5HPQ
 Robie Elms – AJ4f
