



The Bullsheet

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

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

Save the Date, **Saturday, January 18th, 2020** for a great time.

The **TDXS Annual Banquet and Old Codgers dinner** is forthcoming on Saturday, January 18th at 6:30 pm.



The details are:

- **Location:** Harris County Smokehouse private dining room
- **Address:** 222 West Grand Parkway South (Hwy 99) Katy, TX 77494

Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

2020. A new decade! We're finally here! Here's hoping for a prosperous new year, new decade and new solar cycle! Already some spots of Cycle 25 have been observed on the surface of the sun. I for one cannot wait until we can start working 12, 10 and 6 meters again with regularity. 10 meters is and always has been my favorite band, with its low noise and DX potential when there is prop. I'm also looking forward to working my last few states (and about 60 more countries) on six meters to cap up those respective awards. Not that I will abandon the low bands. I have only four more zones to work to get 5BWAZ and I would like to get WAZ on 160 also. My wife asks me sometimes why do I run up

here when there is a new country spotted (I have an alert system with my software, as most packages do). Well, I told her it is a life-long quest to "collect" states, countries, zones, grids, IO-TAs, etc. Seems to never end! And I guess it never will. There will always be another award to shoot for and complete. I have a file cabinet drawer full of them. Someday, I will make them "wallpaper" like some of my QSL cards. I might even try for some of the awards from Ron Litt's column! There are actually books and websites out there to help you with all the awards. For example:
https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/DX_Resources/Ham_Radio_Awards,
www.arrl.org/awards,
<https://www.dxawards.com>,
<https://www.dxzone.com/cata>

log/Operating_Aids/Awards, https://www.dummies.com/programming/ham-radio/how-to-chase-ham-radio-awards and others. Even QRZ.com has a slew of awards, but me thinks they are just duplicates of other awards already out there.
 I want to say welcome to our two newest members:
 Jim Whipkey W3AT #225
 John Chauvin K5IZO #224
 Welcome to TDXS!

Lastly, I organize a bi-weekly lunch (generally every other Thursday) that meets near where I work, Park 10 area. TDXS members are welcome to join us. Send me your name/email and I will put you on the list.

73, Allen N5XZ

Inside this issue:

The Prez Sez by Robie AJ4F	2
TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug WB5TKI	3
DX Chairman's Report by Orville Burg K5VWV	4
Contest Chairman's Report by Jim Burrough N5DTT	5
Awards to Win by Ron Litt K5HM	8
TDXS Annual Banquet & Old Codgers Dinner by Orville Burg K5VWV	9
TDXS Dues are now due by Larry Daze KB5WVV	10
TDXS Board Members	11
TDXS Birthdays	11

The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

At our December meeting the following officers were selected for 2020:

President: Robie Elms - AJ4F

Vice President: Programs - OPEN

Vice President Membership: Gerald Muller - K9GEM

Secretary: Doug Seyler - WB5TKI

Treasurer: Larry Daze - KB5WWW

Contest Chairman: Jim Burrough - N5DTT

Field Day Chairman: OPEN

DX Chairman: Orville Burg - K5VWW

Repeater Chairman: Glenn Anderson - WB5TUF

Communications Chairman: Allen Briar - N5XZ

Webmaster: Scott Patout – K5DD

Outgoing QSL Manager: Scott Patout – K5DD

We still need volunteers for two positions. The VP of Programs is the most urgent.

Reflecting on how to increase participation in 2020 I'd like to propose the following theme for programs this year:

Improving the DXing and Contesting effectiveness of stations on small lots or with antenna restrictions.

This topic seems appropriate to me because many of our members are in this situation. We have the technical expertise to provide guidance on antenna selection & optimization, RFI elimination (receiving & transmitting), and equipment selection. Experience with portable (field day, Museum Ships Weekend, vacation operation) & mobile operation (Texas QSO Party) are very relevant to this issue and participants in these activities have useful information to share. If we can select presentation topics in advance and notify other clubs who could "advertise" the program in advance and potentially draw attendance from non TDXS members. I'd also suggest we could canvas other clubs for resources they have available on this topic. There is no reason to "re-invent the wheel"!

Robie – AJ4F



TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: December 19, 2019

Location: Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Orville K5VWW, Larry KB5WWW, Robie AJ4F, Scott K5DD

The December business meeting was held at the Tracy Gee Community Center, on Westcenter Drive, in W. Houston. Items discussed were:

The club voted to this year combine the Annual Banquet and the Old Codgers dinner, to be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020. The venue will be the Harris County Smokehouse, located near the intersection of I-10 and the Grand Parkway in Katy. The menu can be found at <http://www.harriscountysmokehouse.com/menu>.

- Officers for 2020 were announced. Robie AJ4F will continue as President, Jerry K9GEM will continue as VP Membership, Doug WB5TKI will continue as Secretary and Larry KB5WWW will continue as Treasurer. Since there were no volunteers for VP Programs, the program and dinner selections will continue to be ad hoc.
- Pres. Robie asked for suggestions for the TDXSer of the year award. This is the individual who, through their DXing prowess, Contesting prowess and/or club service over the past year has best exemplified the club ideals. The honoree for this prestigious award will be announced at the Annual Banquet.

Treasurer Larry KB5WWW reminded that annual club dues are due by January 31 in order to maintain Active club membership.

The program was presented by Scott K5DD. He demonstrated his 48.5” 4K UHD monitor for use in the ham shack. With a resolution of 3840 x 2160 it is equivalent to 4 1920 x 1080 HD monitors. With it, he can simultaneously display his logging program (AC Log) along with a DX Spot screen, his transceiver display (Flex SDR) with multiple independent panadapter windows, and more. It was quite impressive. The 4K monitors are becoming much cheaper, so now is the time to consider upgrading!

73,

Submitted January 3, 2020

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary



DX Chairman's 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

Further Information on Activity:

8Q7MA, Maldives will be active until **January 23rd** by **RX3AMY**. 40 & 20M SSB.

6O100, Somalia will be active until **February 5th** by **EP3CQ**. All bands and modes.

VU2RBQ, India will be active until **January 24th** by **DJ9RB**. 80-20M CW.

VK9NK, Norfolk Island, will be active until **January 31st** by **SP9FIH**. 160-10M, CW, SSB & RTTY

TI9, Cocos Island, will be active **January 20th-February 9th** by **XE1B** and **HK5OKY**. 160-6M SSB 2 stations, 700W.

TI9A, Cocos Island, will be active **February 1st-12th** by **TI2JV** and **3 UA stns**, All bands and modes.

Additional operations and dates forthcoming are:

E44CC, Palestine, will be activated by **F4AJQ and team** from **February 5th-17th**. All bands and modes.

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 January and February.

January

- 4 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 11 North American QSO Party, CW
- 18 North American QSO Party, SSB
North American Collegiate Championship, SSB (Within NAQP, SSB)
ARRL January VHF Contest
- 24 CQ 160 Meter Contest, CW
- 25 Winter Field Day

February

- 1 10-10 Winter Contest, SSB
Mexico RTTY International Contest
- 8 CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
- 10-14 ARRL School Club Roundup
- 15 ARRL International DX Contest, CW
- 21 CQ 160 Meter Contest, SSB
- 29 North American QSO Party, RTTY
North American Collegiate Championship, RTTY (Within NAQP, RTTY)

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2019 Dec 6 Claimed Scores



Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GQ			138	44	2	4:49	6,072	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F			108	47	5		12,012	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

SO Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N5XZ			400	78	21	9:12	86,328	TDXS



ARRL 10 Meter Contest December 14 Claimed Score

SO CW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KJ5Y(KJØD)		x	83	332	6	6,308	TDXS

SO CW LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KG5U			28	12	5	1,344	TDXS
K5GQ			16	2	1	128	TDXS

SO CW Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KSTU			78	16	2.8	4,992	TDXS

SO Mixed HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KØNM	x	x	66	20	3:30	5,160	TDXS

SO Mixed LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT			20	6	6.25	468	TDXS

SO SSB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KB5WWW			4	1		24	TDXS

Last month we looked at the **ARRL Contests Landing Page**. As you recall, we looked at the first five options available on the task bar. I ran out of space in my report, so left the last two options for this month.



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

The first left to cover is the **Public Logs** tab. To access this valuable information, you click on the tab and you are then presented with a screen asking which contest you want to review. The drop-down menu shows the available contests. For our review, I have selected the 10 Meter Contest. Press Go and the page shows what years have logs available. In the case of the 10 Meter Contest, the data for 2018 is available. Click on the year and all the Call Signs with available logs are presented. Find your call, or anyone else's, and you have a copy of the Cabrillo file submitted. I am usually not too interested in my own file but rather find the files of some of the Big Guns quite interesting. I get a little insight into how they operated and, more importantly, what frequencies they used. I mean, if you are going to build a new 80-Meter dipole, it might as well be tuned to the part of the band, the part where the most operators are transmitting.

The last option on the task bar is the LCR's Tab. After you click on the tab, you are asked for your Call Sign. After pressing GO, the page displays all your available LCR's. Check the box adjacent to each contest in the list to retrieve the log check report (LCR) for that contest. An e-mail with a link to each selected LCR will be sent to the e-mail address of record. As you know, LCR's are a great tool for reviewing your contesting weaknesses. These reports can provide information on the specific areas where you can improve you contesting techniques. I find I am accurate, most of the time. I know better after each LCR review where I need to concentrate.

Well, that sums up the Contest Landing Page. Take advantage of the many tools offered and enjoy another benefit that ARRL Membership offers.

That's all from London. I hope you had a great Christmas and hope we all have a great New Year.

73,

Jim, N5DTT



Awards to Win by Ron Litt, K5HM

WAZ, DXCC, WAS, IOTA; certificates of achievement that are clear testimony to your operating prowess. Chasing awards is a niche segment of amateur radio; some might call it a cult, to aspire to capturing every possible certificate.

After reading up on various awards available, I learned of several unique awards that fill in some blank spots. For Example:

WOTA – Wal-Marts On The Air. Requires proof of QSO's with amateur radio stations operating from at least 400 Wal-Mart locations. Individuals or clubs may activate an individual Wal-Mart location at any time and notify WOTA authorities by registering the activation in the WOTA worldwide data base. The WOTA committee will issue a unique WOTA number for the location. Each QSO submitted for credit must be a current activation at the time of contact. There are over 6,600 Wal-Mart locations worldwide. Good Luck.

Contact with Sam's Club locations do not count for WOTA credit. The WOTA committee is contemplating offering a separate award for Sam's Clubs on The Air (SCOTA) later this year.

FFOTA (Fast Food On The AIR) announced in 2013. There are special endorsements for MDOTA (McDonalds On The Air), JIBOTA (Jack In the Box On The Air) and KFCOTA (you can probably figure this one out for yourself).

Academy Award Award – Given for contact with hams in cities where a movie filmed in that location won the Academy Award for Best Picture. The same city cannot be used multiple times. Only one city per film. Sorry, extraterrestrial locations such as Remulak, Vulcan and other mythical locations cannot be used for this award. In addition to the certificate, each award includes a package of microwave popcorn.

Special 78th anniversary Commemorative Casablanca Award – Commemorates the 78th anniversary of the Humphrey Bogart film. The award is earned for contacts with hams in the area of the former French Morocco whose first names are: Rick, Ilsa, Victor, Louis, Heinrich, Sascha, Carl or . . . Sam (as in "Play it again Sam")

Ring of Fire Award – This award is given to hams who have contacted portable operations located on the rim of at least five active volcanoes. Considering the element of danger for the expedition operators, this is the only award in the world that is reciprocal. A person may earn this for themselves by going to five different volcanoes and contacting at least one other amateur before running for their life. Note – There is no power limit for this award although Ring of Fire expeditions favor lightweight QRP gear in order not to hinder their need for a rapid departure!

And, my personal favorite:

The Next Year Award – This is the most prestigious of all amateur radio awards because the standard of achievement is quite high. Off hand, I can't recall a single person, who has won this award. It is given to amateurs who have delayed, put off or deferred making or completing any changes in their equipment, operating skill, club participation or license class. The amateur eligible for the award must apply themselves. Of course, by doing so, one is automatically disqualified for the award, having accomplished something in the process.

Good Luck Award Hunter!

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TDXS Annual Banquet and Old Codgers Dinner by Orville K5VWW

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The details are:

- Location: Harris County Smokehouse private dining room
- Address: 222 West Grand Parkway South (Hwy 99)
Katy, TX 77494

This is just south of the intersection of Interstate 10 and West Grand Parkway South, off the 99 southbound service road.

Time: 6:30 PM

Dinner will be your choice of items selected through the serving line and will be Dutch treat.

For an idea of menu choices, see: <http://www.harriscountysmokehouse.com/menu>

Hope to see Y'all there.



73,

Orville, K5VWW



TDXS DUES DUE NOW!



The annual Texas DX Society dues for 2020 are due now.

The yearly dues for 2020 is \$25.00 for local members and \$12.50 for members in excess of 75 miles from grid square EL29hs.

Payment is preferred by PayPal.

The PayPal account is: treasurer@tdxs.net.

Please select the “payment to friends and family” option in order to avoid payment transfer fees.

Payment by check made payable to “Texas DX Society” can be brought to a TDXS meeting or mailed to:

TDXS Treasurer
9941 Briarwild Ln
Houston, TX 77080

73,

Larry Daze, KB5WWW
TDXS Treasurer

Texas DX Society Board members

President	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55 at gmail.com
VP Membership	Gerald Muller	gmuller885@aol.com
VP Programs	Open	
Secretary	Doug Seyler, WB5TKI	djseyler at comcast.net
Treasurer	Larry Daze KB5WWW	dxon20@gmail.com
Contest Chairman	Jim Burrough, N5DTT	jandpburrough at sbcglobal.net
Field Day Chairmen	Open	
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at arrl.net
DX Chairman	Orville Burg, K5VWW	Orville at rubyglass.com
Outgoing QSL Manager	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Webmaster	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Bullsheat Editor	Allen Brier, N5XZ	n5xz at arrl.net

DXCC QSL Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net
CQ WAZ Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net

How to reach US

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

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

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

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

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

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

Barbara Coleman - WB5RUS
 Lon Cottingham - K5JV
 John Stevens - K5JS
 Dale Martin - KG5U
 Al Vacek - KN5A
 Dennis Motschenbacher - K7BV
 Bill Bradford - K5GA
 John Duncan - WA5ZVE
 Mike Hance - K5NZ
 Allen Brier - N5XZ
 Ben Worrell - NE5B

Ken Eckel Jr. - AB5A
 Earl Morse - K8SS (ex-N5TU)
 Doug Seyler - WB5TKI