



The Bullsheet

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

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

TDXS Meeting:

Thursday 7:00PM Oct 17

Program: N3FJP Logging Software by Jim N5DTT & Rick K5GZR

Tracy Gee Community Center

3599 Westcenter Dr. Houston TX 77042



Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

Ok then! This is the first Bullsheet I have done in a while from home. I am taking two weeks off between jobs. As you might know, my job in Freeport has ended and I am starting a new job on Monday October 14th in the Park Ten area. I will be spending most of my time in Houston, with some time in Lafayette, La as part of the job. The job in Freeport paid well, but was not ham radio friendly and I had to do BS editing remotely which sometimes was a pain. Hopefully, I will be able to do more ham radio now that I am home. My SteppIR EHU's are back and I will start the process of rein-

stalling them on the boom soon, after I buy a few more required parts from SteppIR and other sources. I will be taking my time to make sure it is done correctly.

I also recently reinstalled WSJT-X on the computer, and with good instructions from Robie, I had it up and running in ten minutes. I am using the vertical and making a lot of contacts. Kinda cool being able to make contacts all day while doing other work in the office or on the computer, just look over and see that I made a QSO, then "click click" and start the process all over again. I started last night and have made

well over 200 QSOs already! Part boring and part "what a hoot"!

Well, hopefully I will get the SteppIR back up in the air soon and do some real contesting. Oh, did I mention my Alpha 78 is broken, too? I sent it off to N4UQ yesterday for repairs and a tune-up. Hopefully it won't cost too awful much, as I plan to sell it and get a good legal limit solid state amp soon...anyone got one for sale at a good price? And anyone in the market for an upgraded Alpha 78?

73, Allen N5XZ

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The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

October 2019

I read posts from several reflectors related to contesting and there are continuing threads regarding the impact of the JT modes on contesting. As you might expect the opinions vary from very positive to extremely negative. Here are my views on the subject.

Ham radio and therefore contesting are evolving. That is part of the enjoyment of the hobby. I feel that these new modes fall in line with this thinking. I've enjoyed learning about, implementing and operating the JT modes. There have been significant challenges in this process, especially related to computer operating software, hardware, radio interfacing and application program (logging) setup and operation. I've also been drawn into assisting others to complete their implementation process. I'd like to point out this effort parallels previous ones to implement packet, and later PSK modes. Overall, I view this facet of the new modes as very positive.

The JT modes in general are more sensitive, but slower (contact rates) than CW, RTTY & SSB/FM. Because of the increased sensitivity I've been able to contact stations that I could not with the traditional modes, but with a lower contact rate. This requires me to be much more conscious of the impact of mode choice at various times during the contest (where mode choices are permitted). This is especially important when operating VHF/UHF contests where in recent years many of my contacts were made during relatively short band openings and if I don't recognize the opening and shift to a higher rate mode my score will be impacted significantly. Another significant facet of the JT modes is that they utilize broad band decoding. All the signals within the 2-3 KHz wide receiver passband get decoded. This drives all the stations to congregate on a single or at least a small number of frequencies. The positive aspect is that you know where all the participants are, and if propagation allows, you should be able to work them. The negative aspect is that not all contest participants choose to use the JT modes and therefore can be missed. A strategy that I use is to rotate modes periodically. For example, on 6 meters I operate CW on 50.098, SSB on 50.155 and FT8 on 50.316. I operate with a specific mode until there are no more contacts to be made, then shift. One change I'd like to see, especially in VHF/UHF contests, is to allow one contact per mode i.e. Digital, Phone, CW. I believe this would make the contests a much more enjoyable experience for all participants.

Another facet is the skill level, or the perceived lack of, required to effectively utilize the JT modes. Like all contesting, operator skill is a major component of the participant's success. The process, while automated, is far from hands off and requires a developed set of skills to minimize interference from other stations and minimize repeats to complete a contact. This is in addition to the points I made earlier about appropriate mode switching to maximize the score.

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The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The final facet I'll comment on is that the JT modes are "stealing" operators from other modes. I don't believe this and feel that specified frequency required for these modes and their high sensitivity are the main drivers for their popularity. As I mentioned earlier, some operators will not utilize these modes, just as some operators do not use CW or SSB. I believe the JT modes have drawn a segment of the "no code" operators into contesting as well as DXing, which I perceive as a very good thing. I believe we need to continue to investigate new technologies as they become available, evaluate their usefulness for our needs, and either adopt them or move on to something else.

Robie – AJ4F



TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS September 2019 Meeting Minutes

Date: September 26, 2019

Location: Pappas BBQ, Houston, TX

Attendance: Members: Doug WB5TKI, Jerry K9GEM, Orville K5VWW, Larry KB5WWW, Robie AJ4F, Scott K5DD, Dale KG5U, Kim K5TU, Bob WB5IUU, Jim N5DTT, Norm N9MM, Rick K5GZR, Keith NM5G

Guest: Janice (XYL of K9GEM), Verna (XYL of K5DD)

For the September dinner meeting we chose our regular pre-meeting hangout, Pappas BBQ Restaurant on Gessner. The meeting was rescheduled from the previous Thursday due to heavy rain and flooding on that day. We had a nice turnout and the room was quiet enough for good conversation. President Robie conducted a short business meeting while we let the BBQ settle.

- TXQP saw a significant increase in the number of logs submitted: 309 vs 259 last year
- Nominations opened for 2000 elected Board positions. Doug to continue as Secretary and Larry volunteered to continue as Treasurer. Nominations end with the October meeting.
- Robie recommended that we combine the Annual Old Codgers dinner with the Annual Banquet, and hold it in January. There was general agreement with this plan.
- Robie announced that the October meeting will continue our review of logging software, this time focusing on AC Log and the contest software of N3FJP.

There was some discussion of badges for new remote members who only pay dues of \$12.50/year. This doesn't cover the cost of the badge and postage, which runs about \$20. It was agreed that, should this become more than an isolated occurrence we can change our policy and require reimbursement for the excess cost.

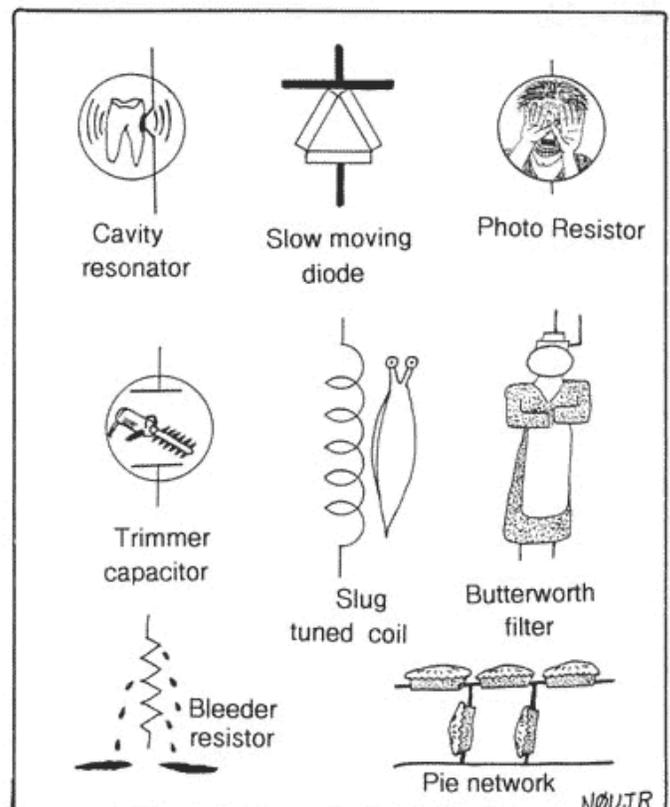
73,

Submitted October 3, 2019

Doug Seyler WB5TKI

TDXS Secretary

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Little known standard electronic symbols.

DX Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

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

A35JT Tonga Sep 22-Oct 7
FP/KV1J St. Pierre & Miquelon Sep 24-Oct 8
S79GJ Seychelles until Oct 5
5X8C Uganda until Oct 7
A82X & A82Z (FT8 only) Liberia Sep 30-Oct 11
JW/LB2PG Bear Island until Nov
TX7T Hiva Oa Marquesas Is. Nov 6-19
T6AA Afghanistan Sep 2019 until Summer 2021

In addition:

A new feature for DXpeditions has been introduced: **Instant Log Checking**. **ClubLog** has introduced a Realtime Log Checking being utilized by several of the operations currently in operation; ZK3A, 6O7O, A82X and A82Z, and WWØWWV. It certainly has the advantage of not having to wait for the logs to be uploaded daily to confirm if you are in the log. This will become a very popular feature.

Until **October 11th**, **ZK3A** will be operational from **Tokelau Atolls** being operated by 19 experienced DXpeditioners at up to 6 stations. They will be on 160M thru 6M +EME on SSB, CW, FT8, and RTTY. 6M EME will be on 50.200 and JT65.

A preliminary operation has provided 4427 QSOs only on 160M, 80M and 20M.

For further extensive information, see: <https://tokelau2019.com/>

From **September 30th to October 11th**, 11 operators will be active from 5 stations in **Liberia** using 2 calls, **A82X** for CW, SSB and RTTY and **A82Z** for digital modes including FT8 and FT4. All Bands 160M-10M.

For further information, see: <https://tinyurl.com/Liberia-A82X>

Another operation from **St Pierre & Miquelon, TØ8ØSP**, will be active from **October 2nd through 14th**. Seven operators on 3 stations will activate CW, SSB, and Digital on 160M-10M.

Western Kiribati will be from **Tarawa I.** by **T3ØGC** will be on October 7th thru 23rd, all modes and bands.

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

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Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. As usual, we will start out with a summary of the major contests coming up in October.

October

- 5 Oceania DX Contest – Phone
Russian WW Digital Contest
- 6 RSGB DX Contest – CW & Phone
- 10 10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint
- 19 10-10 International Fall Contest, CW
Worked All Germany Contest – CW & Phone
- 21 ARRL School Club Roundup
- 26 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, Phone

State QSO Parties

- 5 California
- 12 Nevada, Pennsylvania, Arizona
- 19 New York
- 20 Illinois

There was a lot of club activity in contests this month. The following are summaries of member activities as reported on the 3830scores.com website.

World Wide Digi DX Contest – August 31

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ4F			180	39			8,463 TDXS

SOSB10 HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			111	15			2,250 TDXS

Texas QSO Party – September 14-15

Multi-Op Mobile LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5DX(@NM5G)			609	2	0	237	18		144,677 TDXS
N8AI			173	0	0	180	8.5		37,640 TDXS

SO CW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KØNM/WHAR		x	305	0	0	88	5:41		79,992 TDXS
KØNM/DUVA(@WG5H)		x	76	0	0	52	2:40		11,856 TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

SO CW LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time Score	Club
AJ4F			362	0	0	92	99,912	TDXS
KG5U			217	0	0	85	6.133 55,335	TDXS
KE8G			47	0	0	26	3,666	TDXS

SO Mixed HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time Score	Club
W5MF			135	25	455	57	4 25,935	TDXS

SO Mixed LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time Score	Club
K5OJ(K1OJ)			163	19	0	110	12:43 61,470	TDXS
KC3LEE			0	3	54	32	14 5,088	TDXS

SO SSB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time Score	Club
N5DTT			0	93	0	72	10 13,392	TDXS

ARRL September VHF Contest - September 14

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time Score	Club
W5PR			103	56	5,768	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time Score	Club
WB5TUF		22	17		374	TDXS

WAE DX Contest - September 14

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	QTCs	Mults	Op TimeScore	Club
K5GN(@W5KU)	x		370	344	279	14	199,206 TDXS

The Fall contest season is about to get started. After the Texas QSO Party, we all have a pretty good idea of how ready we are. My hamshack in Fayette County is not as finished as I had hoped it would be but the only thing missing is the air conditioner which will be not too sorely missed over the Fall and Winter. By Spring I will have gotten the cable from the power pole and meter to the hamshack and I'll be up-to-speed.

I think we all plan some level of participation in the CQ and ARRL contests. I am not holding out a lot of hope for the ARRL 10 Meter Contest in December, but strange things do happen when everyone gets on the air and charges up the environment with RF. We can hope. Be sure to put your scores into the 3830scores.com website so I can share and compare in my monthly report of member activity.

Be sure to cast your vote in the ARRL West Gulf Director and Vice-director Election. I have my opinion on who should be elected, and I am sure you have yours. The important thing is to cast your vote.

See you next month or in the next contest. Jim, N5DTT



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



Ivory Coast or officially The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire is a West African country with beach resorts, rainforests and a French-colonial legacy. Surrounded on the east by Ghana, on the west by Guinea and Liberia and on the North by Burkina Faso and Mali.

For more than three decades after its independence from France, Ivory Coast was known for its religious and ethnic harmony, as well as its well-developed economy.

The Western African country was hailed as a model of stability. But an armed rebellion in 2002 split the nation in two; a Muslim North and a Christian South. Since then, peace deals alternated with renewed violence as the country slowly edged its way towards a political resolution of the conflict. Despite the instability, Ivory Coast is the world's largest exporter of cocoa beans, and its citizens enjoy a relatively high level of income compared to other countries in the region.

Abidjan, on the Atlantic coast, is the country's major urban center. Its modern landmarks include, the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace of Yamoussoukro. It surpasses even St Peter's Basilica in Rome, with an exterior area of 340,000 square feet. Finished in 1990, its design is said to have been inspired by its Vatican City sibling, with a hefty dose of Renaissance and Baroque style. It can hold about 18,000 worshippers, though is very rarely full. North of the central business district, Banco National Park is a rainforest preserve with hiking trails.



The first Europeans to explore the West African coast were the Portuguese. Other European sea powers soon followed, and trade was established with many of the coastal peoples of West Africa. The absence of sheltered harbors along its coastline prevented Europeans from establishing permanent trading posts. The slave trade had little effect on the peoples of Ivory Coast, though a profitable trade in ivory was carried out during the seventeenth century, but it brought about such a decline in elephants that the trade itself virtually had died out by the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Only in the mid-nineteenth century did the French establish themselves firmly in Ivory Coast. Activity along the coast stimulated European interest in the interior. France wanted to maintain a presence in the region to stem the increasing influence of the British along the Gulf of Guinea coast.

In 1885 France and Germany brought all the European powers with interests in Africa to rationalize what became known as the European scramble for colonies in Africa. That conference set off a scramble

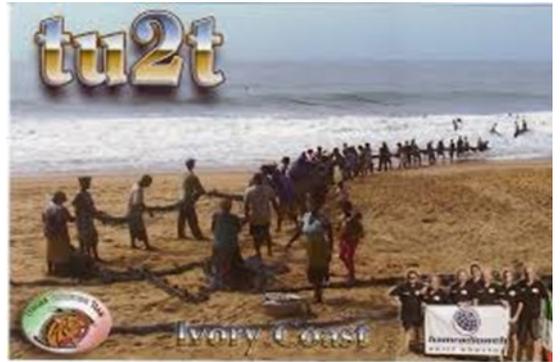


Where in the World Is...by Ron Litt K5HM

for territory, primarily by France, Britain, Portugal, and Belgium. Eventually, Ivory Coast became an independent nation in 1960.

The literacy rate in Ivory Coast is low. Only 48% can read and many children between the age of 6 and 10 are not enrolled in school. Likewise, the healthcare system is not well built out in the country. HIV Aids are prevalent in much of the population. Also, postnatal health issues are a problem as well. Medical care is supplemented by Africa Mercy (www.mercyships.org), a fully equipped hospital ship that makes regular visits to Ivory Coast.

According to Club Log's Most wanted DXCC list, Ivory Coast is listed at the 141st Most Wanted DXCC entity. QRZ lists a total of 93 Amateur Radio Operators. About 30% of these from various DXpeditions or temporary visitors. In 2011, I had a QSO with TU2T, the Italian DXpedition team and in 2017, I worked TU7C, a DXpedition sponsored by the Radio Club de Provins (F6KOP).



Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron, K5HM



Texas DX Society Board members

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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 October:

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

Jim Whitmire KD4M
 Wes Whiddon N5WW
 Ron Marosko, Sr. K5LLL
 Bill Schrader, K2TNO
 Jeff McClain, K5MV
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