



The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net December 2021

The next TDXS meeting will be held Thursday, December 16th at 7pm via Zoom.

The program will be an overview of a Bullsheet article that Kim Carr K5TU and I are preparing, entitled "Build Your Own High Accuracy NTP Time Server with a Raspberry PI and GPS Receiver"

Please watch the TDXS Reflector for log-in instructions.

Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

Once again, things are slow at the N5XZ station. However, there have been some great contests lately, CQWW, Sweepstakes, 10 Meters, and the 160 Meter contest is coming up. I hope to be joining back in the swing of things when other issues get sorted around here.

We have another opening for TDXS board: we need a new treasurer. Anyone want to belly up to the bar?

Last meeting we were visited by a voice and face from the past: Bill K2TNO AKA Tuna. Thank you Bill for joining us. I hope you will do so again!

We have been asking for months for someone to step up as President and VP of Programs and now Treasurer for TDXS. No one has done so.

Are there any active TDXS members out there who have the time and inclination to help us to rejuvenate this club?

As TDXS heads into 2022 we may be on the verge of non-existence.

Is that what you want?

ARE YOU LISTENING?

73, Allen N5XZ

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We are now holding my Thursday "EX-ZED SPRED" lunches on Zoom and it is every week! If you would like to be invited, send me at note at n5xz@arrl.net

The Prez Sez by ????????

We are still looking for someone to step of to be TDXS president...how about you?



TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: November 18, 2021

Location: ZOOM Virtual Meeting

The November TDXS Meeting was held, as usual, via ZOOM Video conferencing. There were 8 participants. They were: Doug W9LCQ, Allen N5XZ, Jim N5DTT, Scott K5DD, Orville K5VWZ, Larry KB5WWW, Jimmy NA5D and Bill K2TNO.

Agenda:

Announcement of Saturday Brunch, Nov. 20 @ 10 a.m. at Kelley's Country Cooking in Meadows Place.

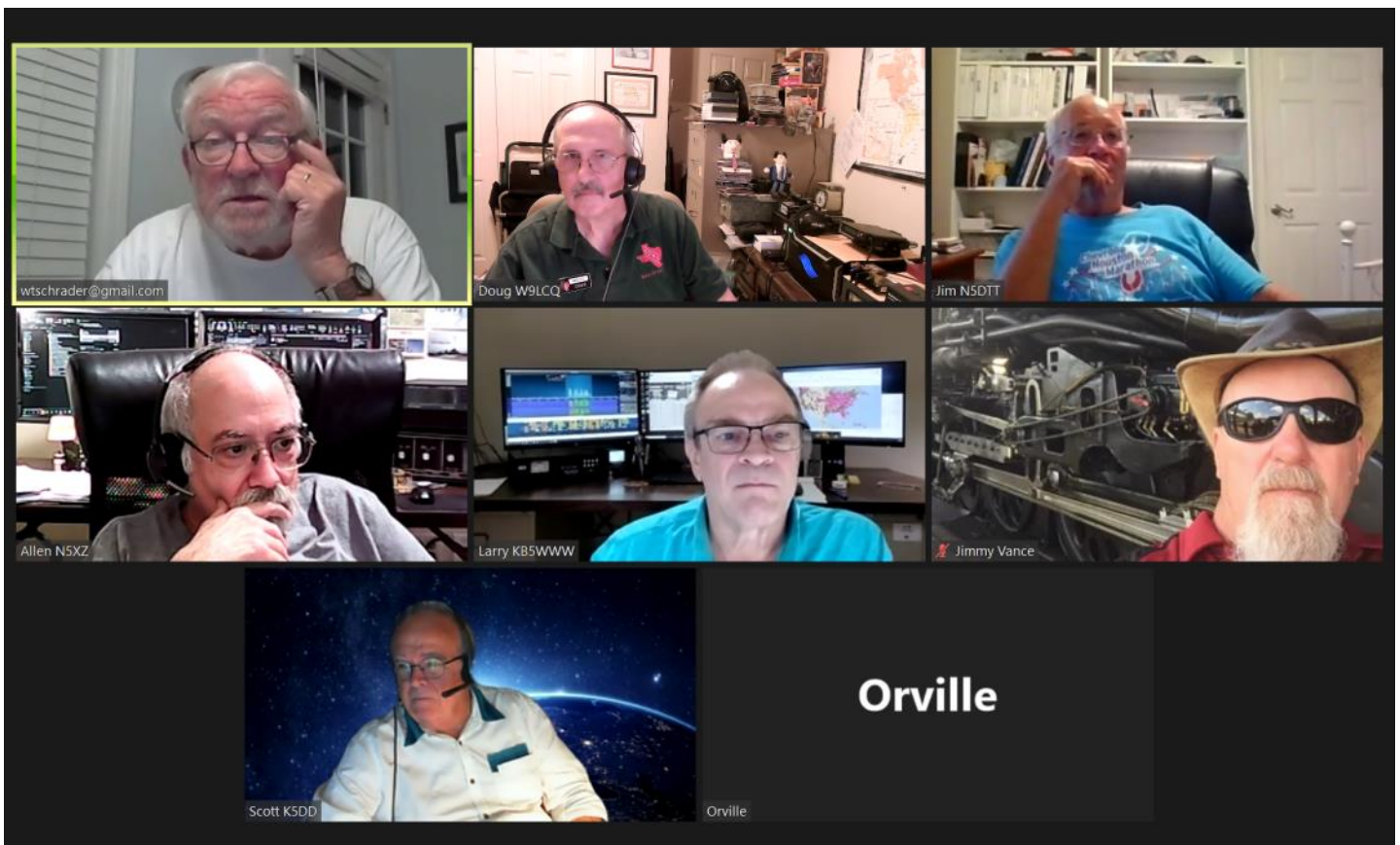
- Discussion of the Future of the Texas DX Society.

A complete meeting recording is available from the TDXS.net website under News > YouTube Channel.

Submitted December 10, 2021

Doug Seyler W9LCQ

TDXS Secretary



DX Chairman's Report by Jim Blanca KE8G

DX Report December 2021 by Jim Blanca – KE8G

The month of December is upon us and with that, what might the old white bearded jolly fellow be bringing you radio equipment wise? Is it time for that new rig? How about a HP amplifier to make DXing just a bit easier? New antenna, paddles, coax...., and the list goes on!

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and hope Santa brings you something more than a lump of coal!!

India: VU2ABE by AB1F will be active on 40-20 meters until December 18th. QSL via AB1F, either direct or bureau or LoTW.

Tanzania: 5H3WX by OK2WX will be active in HF; both CW & SSB until December 6th. QSL via HA3JB

Belize: V31HT by G4LHT will be active on HF; SSB & FT8 until December 8th, no QSL information at this time

Mali: TZ1CE by DK1CE will be active on 160-10 meters CW, SSB & FT8 until December 8th. QSL via DK1CE either direct or bureau.

Mauritius: KX7M and M0SDV as 3B8/KX7M will be active on HF from November 22nd to December 1st. QSDL via F5CWU OQRS.

Rwanda: 9X4X by 4Z4KX, 4X6YA, 4Z5LA, 4Z1DZ, and 4X1VF will be active on 160-10m using CW, SSB, RTTY & FT8 from November 24th until December 1st. QSL via 4Z5FI.

Bahamas: C6AQQ by N3IQ will be active on CW, FT8 & FT4 until December 7th. QSL via EA5GL.

Dominican Republic: DL2SBY will be active as HI7/DL2SBY on HF, using CW, & FT8. There is a possibility he will activate IOTA NA-122 (Sauna Island) for 1 day using the call sign HI2/DL2SBY. The overall operation is scheduled to last until December 14th. QSL via DL2SBY direct or via the bureau.

St. Martin: TO9W by K9NU, W9MK, VE2BWL, FS4WBS, K9EL; on 160-40 meters, some 60m; using CW,SS, FT8 FT4 until December 10th. QSL via LoTW or Club Log OQRS.

Zimbabwe: DJ6TF as Z21A and DL7BO as Z22O will be active on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB, FT8 & FT4 until December 15th. QSL via LoTW.

Kenya: HB9DSP as 5Z4/HB9DSP will be active on 20-15 meters using SSB and some FT8 until December 16th. QSL via LoTW or HB9DSP direct or the bureau.

Burkina Faso: XT2AW by DF2WO will be active on 160-16 meters using FT8, CW, and SSB until December 20th. QSL via M0OXO.

Honduras: F2JD as HR5/F2JD will be active on HF, using CW, SSB and some digital. This operation is scheduled to continue until April 5, 2022. QSL via F6AJA direct or the bureau.

Bangladesh: S21DX by S21RC, S21AM, S21D will be active on 40-10 meters SSB from December 16th until December 22nd. QSL via EB7DX.



DX Chairman's Report by Jim Blanca KE8G

***** Special Notice*****

Bouvet Island: 3Y0I by 3Z9DX and an accompanying team; will be active on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, FT4/FT8, RTTY. These dates are tentative... December 25, 2021, through January 25, 2022. No QSL information at this time.

(NOAA)

27-day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2021-11-22

#	UTC	Radio Flux	Planetary	Largest
#	Date	10.7 cm	A Index	Kp Index
2021	Nov 22	78	10	3
2021	Nov 23	78	5	2
2021	Nov 24	80	5	2
2021	Nov 25	82	5	2
2021	Nov 26	82	5	2
2021	Nov 27	82	10	3
2021	Nov 28	82	8	3
2021	Nov 29	82	5	2
2021	Nov 30	85	5	2
2021	Dec 01	85	5	2
2021	Dec 02	85	5	2
2021	Dec 03	85	5	2
2021	Dec 04	82	5	2
2021	Dec 05	82	5	2
2021	Dec 06	82	5	2
2021	Dec 07	82	5	2
2021	Dec 08	82	5	2
2021	Dec 09	85	5	2
2021	Dec 10	85	5	2
2021	Dec 11	85	5	2
2021	Dec 12	82	8	3
2021	Dec 13	80	12	3
2021	Dec 14	78	10	3
2021	Dec 15	78	5	2
2021	Dec 16	78	5	2
2021	Dec 17	78	8	3
2021	Dec 18	78	10	3

If anyone should happen to hear of some upcoming DX or DXpeditions, please contact me, ke8g.jim@gmail.com. I will be happy to include the information in this report.



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. As usual, we will start with a summary of major contests coming up in the next two months.

December

- 3 ARRL 160-Meter Contest
- 11 ARRL 10-Meter Contest
- 17 Russian 160-Meter Contest
- 18 RAC Winter Contest

January

- 8 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 15 North American QSO Party, CW
ARRL January VHF Contest
- 22 North American QSO Party, SSB
NA Collegiate Championship, SSB
- 29 REF Contest, CW
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW
Winter Field Day

TDXS members participated in a number of contests in November. Here is their score information as reported in the 3830scores.com website.

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW 2021 Nov 6

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GN(@W5KU)			1312	83	23:50	217,792	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
KG5U			728	81	22:52	117,936	TDXS
AJ4F			82	40	2:13	6,560	TDXS
K5TU			61	31	2	3,782	TDXS
N5DTT			41	22	3	1,804	TDXS

SO Unlimited HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
AF5J			145	74	16:07	21,460	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5GCX		16	15	2	3,040	TDXS

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB 2021 Nov 20

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
K5EC		331	76		50,312	TDXS
K5GN(@W5KU)		112	48	1	10,752	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score	Club
KD5FBA		113	57	8	12,882	TDXS
N5DTT		70	52	7	7,280	TDXS

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 2021 Nov 27

SO(A)AB HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TU		780	113	304	18.4	924,489	TDXS
AF5J		243	73	139	27:30	133,560	TDXS

SOAB HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TIA		184	23	65	8	89,208	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
KG5U		375	73	165	21:59	241,332	TDXS
AJ4F		368	76	149	23	216,225	TDXS

Jim, N5DTT



Where in the World—By Ron Litt K5HM

The North Pole

Well, here it is . . . After almost two years of Covid, depending on how you count it. We are at the Christmas season. It’s about time we figure out what happened to Santa. Does he still live at the North Pole? And where the heck is that?



There are many North Poles. There is North Pole NY, North Pole Idaho, North Pole Alaska, and North Pole Oklahoma. There is even a North Pole in Western Australia. Then there is the Magnetic North Pole which moves around from time to time.

Then of course there is the True North pole. It is the northernmost point on Earth. It is the precise point of the intersection of the Earth's axis and the Earth's surface. From the North Pole, all directions are south. Its latitude is 90 degrees north, and all lines of longitude meet there (as well as at the South Pole, on the opposite end of the Earth). Polaris, the North Star, sits almost motionless in the sky above the pole, making it an excellent fixed point to use in celestial navigation in the Northern Hemisphere. As well as a way for Santa Claus to find his way home after his annual night out with the reindeer. Mrs. Claus wasn’t kidding when she said, “I’ll leave the light on for you!”

The North Pole sits in the middle of the Arctic Ocean, on water that is almost always covered with ice. Sunlight is experienced in extremes at the poles. The sun is always above the horizon in the summer and below the horizon in the winter. So, the region experiences up to 24 hours of sunlight in the summer and 24 hours of darkness in the winter. As all lines of longitude meet at the poles, and the sun is only overhead twice a year. For this reason, scientists and explorers at the poles record time-related data using whatever time zone they want.



Technically, no nation owns the North Pole since the closest land lies 13,000 feet beneath the Arctic Ocean. That hasn’t kept countries from making the claim. The United States, Russia, Denmark and most recently, Canada have all petitioned the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea to grant them the rights of ownership on the North Pole.

The so-called Northwest Passage is the problem. It is the shortest sea route between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. It runs through the Arctic Ocean, along the northern coast of North America via waterways through the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. The eastern route along the Arctic coasts of Norway and Siberia is accordingly called the Northeast Passage.



Where in the World—By Ron Litt K5HM

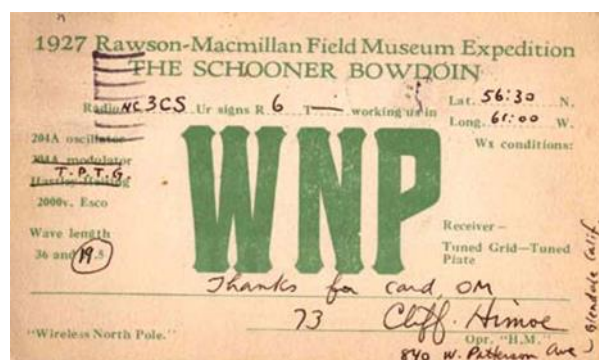
For centuries, European explorers, beginning with Christopher Columbus in 1492, sought a navigable passage as a possible trade route to Asia, but were blocked by North, Central, and South America, by ice, or by rough waters rounding Cape Horn. Even the Panama Canal is too shallow for some super-sized cargo ships today. In 1854 Norwegian Roald Amundsen found a route, making the first complete passage in 1903–1906. Until 2009, the Arctic pack ice prevented regular marine shipping throughout most of the year. The Arctic Sea ice decline has rendered the waterways more navigable for ice navigation.



Amateur radio was very important to polar explorers. It helped aid logistics and morale. From the 1900's – 40's, some 40 expeditions were recognized and became increasingly dependent on wireless communication. Until the McMillan and Byrd expedition, previous explorations used medium and long wave to penetrate the screen of the Aurora Borealis. They failed to provide reliable communications. McMillan turned to the ARRL for assistance in outfitting his expedition with shortwave gear. Hiram Percy Maxim (photo – Left in knickers) assisted and helped recruit an operator, Donald Mix, 1TS. The radio equipment was specially designed and constructed by M.B. West and amateurs at his firm, Zenith Electronics. The equipment was installed aboard the schooner *Bowdoin*. The McMillan expedition in 1923, was most notable in its use of short waves to be in consistent contact with the outside world. Eventually, there were eight expeditions, beginning in 1923 that used shipboard ham radio for daily communications. For more information, see *Polar Exploration* in the June 2014 issue of QST.

The final photo is a QSL card from the schooner *Bowdoin* to 3CS during the 1927 expedition. The vessel's callsign, WNP stood for "Wireless North Pole."

In the 21st century, major changes to the ice pack due to climate change have stirred speculation that the passage may become clear enough of ice to permit safe commercial shipping for at least part of the year. On August 21, 2007, the Northwest Passage became open to ships without the need of an icebreaker. This was the first time the Passage has been clear since they began keeping records in 1972. The Northwest Passage opened again on August 25, 2008, for various kind of ships, making it possible to sail around the Arctic ice cap, possibly cutting thousands of miles off shipping routes.



Reporting from the Darkside,

Ron, K5HM



2 Nights Before Christmas—By Ron Litt K5HM

Two nights before Christmas and up at the shop,
Santa was checking his sleigh for the big hop.

His APRS was already on line,
So, the gang down at NORAD could track him 5 – 9.

The new HF rig was tuned up on 20.
He knew that 100 watts would be plenty.

“I’ll be on VOX for this flight”, he said in his head.
I have to be able to look straight ahead.”

So, sideband it is for the big night tomorrow.
I hope the CW guys won’t be too full of sorrow.

The two-meter rig was already encoded,
With every repeater that could be uploaded.

They’ll know when Santa’s near; they won’t be surprised,
And make sure the kids have all closed their eyes.

He stopped for a moment then gave a big start,
When he suddenly realized he was missing a part.

“Of course!”, he shouted. “its my laptop PC!
I won’t get far without it on my knee.”

“Its got my log and my list and my flight plan too,
Though I always have Rudolph to guide me through.”

He pulled out his wallet once more to check,
That his FCC license was there for the trek.

“Well, it looks like I’m ready”, they heard him declare,
“I’ll be single op unassisted for the entire affair.”

“I better get some rest now before the big night,
So, I can be ready for the long flight.”

And they heard him exclaim as he walked off to bed,
“CQ, CQ, CQ . . . QRZed?”

Merry Christmas Y’all 73,Ron, K5HM

160m BC Interference—By Robie AJ4F

I really enjoy chasing DX on 160 meters and do a lot of experimenting to improve my station's performance. I read that one of the best ways to improve station performance was to use a specialized receiving antenna. These antennas generally have better signal to noise characteristics than verticals. I installed a BOG (beverage on the ground) and discovered to my surprise that I could copy stations with it that I could not hear with my vertical. One characteristic of this type of antenna is that it has very low gain and signals are weak. I continued to experiment with various types of receiving antennas and settled on a pair of K9AY loops oriented 90 degrees to each other. This allows me to change the direction of best reception relative quickly. The K9AY loop produces better signal strength than the BOG. The next step I took was to install a high gain preamp (Advanced Receiver Research 20 dB) in the receive antenna signal path. This made a significant improvement in the antenna's performance. However, using the preamp I noticed that on 1840 KHz I would hear the KYST AM broadcast station very clearly! KYST is located Texas City, TX approximately 10 miles from my QTH. KYST transmits on 920 KHz 1 KW at night and 5 KW during the day with a directional antenna focused on Houston! This was not a big problem unless the station I wanted to hear was near 1840 KHz. This configuration was very useful for 160 meters FT8 but the broadcast signal was annoying. Further improvement was necessary!

With KYST transmitting on 920 KHz I needed to determine the cause of my receiver "hearing" it on 1840 KHz. Two possibilities came to mind. First, I could be hearing the 2nd harmonic and 2nd there could be some unintended signal mixing going on in my RX antenna path. I tuned my receiver to 920 KHz and found that KYST was a very strong 10 dB/S9. Fundamental overload and the resulting mixing were likely possibilities. The Advanced Receiver Research preamp is very broad banded 0.1 KHz to 30 MHz To achieve this broad bandwidth it has no "filtering" (frequency selective circuits). Clearly the strong 920 KHz signal within the filter's band pass and the high preamp gain could be the cause of the mixing. After a brief discussion with Dave K5GN about this situation, I decided to install a high pass filter in front of the preamp in the RX signal path.

I installed a high pass filter with a lower cut off frequency of 1700 KHz at the input of the preamp and tested the configuration. During the day with KYST running 5 KW and my K9AY loop directed toward the station, I can still hear KYST on 1840 KHz, however the signal is very weak. At night the signal is almost non detectable. I'm really pleased with this solution as it allows me to operate on 160 m FT8 and CW with negligible interference from KYST.

I have no financial interest in Advanced Receiver Research nor Morgan Filters. Here are the model numbers of the components I'm using. Perhaps this information will help some other DXer improve their station performance.

Preamp

Advanced Receiver Research - Model P0.1-30/20VD

High pass filter

Morgan Filter - Model M-402x

If you want to know more about this setup please contact me!

Robie AJ4F

TDXW Dues for 2022 due soon—by Larry Daze KB5WWW



The annual Texas DX Society dues for 2022 will be due soon.

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

Payment is best made with PayPal.

The PayPal account is: treasurer@tdxs.net

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

73,

Larry Daze, KB5WWW
TDXS Treasurer



Texas DX Society Board members

President	OPEN!	
VP Membership	Gerald Muller	gmuller885@aol.com
VP Programs	OPEN!	
Secretary	Doug Seyler, W9LCQ	djseyler at comcast.net
Treasurer (OPEN SOON)	Larry Daze KB5WWW	dxon20@gmail.com
Contest Chairman	Jim Burrough, N5DTT	jandpburrough at sbcglobal.net
Field Day Chairman	OPEN!	
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Outgoing QSL Manager	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Webmaster	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
Bullsheets Editor	Allen Brier, N5XZ	n5xz at arrl.net

DXCC/WAZ/WAS QSL Card Checker	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net
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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 December:

**Please notify the Editor if I have missed any-
one or of any updates:**

Mike Young W5RRX
Sid Leach K5XI
Larry Daze-KB5WWW