



# The Bullsheet

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

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net February 2024

The February 15, 2024 TDXS monthly meeting was at the Tracy Gee Community Center, and was both in-person and ZOOM. Unfortunately, due to circumstances out my control, I was not able to attend either in person or via ZOOM.

The program was "Setting Up and Operating a Remote Station Using the Remote Ham Radio Network". It was presented by Robie Elms AJ4F. He covered cost of "membership", ease of installation, modes of operation, as well as documentation shortcomings. It can be operated from a web browser.

This meeting was recorded, and should be available on YouTube soon.

## Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

Sorry this is late.

Some family issues came up (still ongoing at the time of this writing) prevented me from doing it.

February is a leap month this year, so you have one more day to snag that super rare DX, sort QSL cards, or learn CW. I hope you take advantage of your extra day.

Hence therefore go forth and work DX!

73/161, Allen N5XZ

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## **TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler W9LCQ**

**Date: January 18, 2024**

**Location: ZOOM Virtual Meeting**

The January TDXS meeting was held over ZOOM. There were 15 participants: Doug W9LCQ, Robie AJ4F, Allen N5XZ, Kim K5TU, Bill K2TNO, Don N5LZ, Leslie AD5WB and Andrew KC5DJT.

### **Agenda:**

Doug W9LCQ is back at Secretary/Treasurer for lack of anyone else volunteering  
January is dues month – as of January 18 the active member count stands at 23

Program – The program was “Show is your shack and show us some interesting QSL cards”.

The video from this meeting is available on the TDXS YouTube channel [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=No\\_86y33BhY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=No_86y33BhY)

**Submitted February 10, 2024**

**Doug Seyler W9LCQ**

**TDXS Secretary/Treasurer**



## Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

### February

- 3 10-10 Winter Contest – SSB
  - European Union DX Contest
  - Vermont QSO Party
  - Minnesota QSO Party
  - British Columbia QSO Party
- 10 CQ WPX RTTY Contest
- 17 ARRL International DX Contest – CW
  - Russian PSK WW Contest
- 23 CQ 160-meter Contest – SSB
- 24 REF Contest – SSB
  - South Carolina QSO Party
  - North American QSO Party – RTTY
  - North American Collegiate Championship (sub-contest to NAQP-RTTY)
- 25 North Carolina QSO Party

### March

- 2 ARRL International DX Contest, SSB
- 9 Stew Perry Top Band Challenge
  - Oklahoma QSO Party
  - Idaho QSO Party
  - North America Sprint, RTTY
- 10 Wisconsin QSO Party
- 16 Russian DX Contest
- 30 CQ Worldwide WPX Contest



## Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

TDXS members participated in several contests in January. Here is their score information as it was found in the 3830scores.com website:

### ARRL RTTY Roundup 2024 Jan 6

Single Op HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W5MF		498	49	18	15	33,366	TDXS

Single Op Limited-Ant LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
KC5TT		622	57	40	15	60,334	TDXS

### North American QSO Party, CW

Single Op HP (checklog)

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
K5TIA		311	159	6	49,449	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
KC5TT		230	118	5	27,140	TDXS
K5IZO*		172	83	7	14,276	TDXS
N5EKO		111	60	4	6,660	TDXS
AJ4F*		133	50	2:32	6,650	TDXS

Single Op Assisted LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
AF5J*		301	155	7:37	46,655	TDXS

\* Registered on TDXS Team



# Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

## North American QSO Party, SSB 2024 Jan 20

Single Op LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
KC5TT		55	34	1	1,870	TDXS

Single Op Assisted LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
K5GN(@W5KU)		61	53	1.25	3,233	TDXS

## ARRL January VHF Contest 2024 Jan 20

Single Op-All Modes LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5EKO		188	87	20	17,400	TDXS
WB5TUF	x	149	89		13,261	TDXS
AJ4F		83	37	7:46	3,901	TDXS
KC5TT		70	38		2,888	TDXS
N5DTT		28	14	12	336	TDXS

## CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2024 Jan 26

Single Op HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GN(@W5KU)		675	52	34	10	182,750	TDXS
K5GQ		95	32	3		7,560	TDXS

Single Op Assisted HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TIA		67	25	8	4	5,580	TDXS

Have a good month, contesting as much as you have the time for.

Jim, N5DTT



## Where in the World is .. By Ron Litt, K5HM

Where in the World is ...

Grand Fenwick(FWK)

CQ Zone 14



The Duchy of Grand Fenwick is so rare that its name does not appear on any DX entity list anywhere. It is decidedly obscure but geopolitically important. The tiny nation is a constitutional monarchy previously ruled by Grand Duchess Gloriana XV who some believe bears a striking resemblance to the actor Peter Sellers. Grand Fenwick is no more than five miles long and three miles wide and lies in a fold in the Northern Alps. Most of the inhabitants live in the City of Fenwick, which is also home to the only bar/hotel/restaurant in the country, the Gray Goose Pub.

Due to its location in a deep valley between France and Switzerland, propagation does not favor contacts with Grand Fenwick, even in the best of times. Hence it is one of the most sought-after DX locales on the planet.

The primary industry in Grand Fenwick is the export of the local wine, Pinot Grand Fenwick. The annual export volume is kept deliberately small so as not to disrupt the balance of power in the world. In 1962, the distilled byproduct of the grape was found to be an extremely powerful agent in the manufacture of rocket fuel. Hence there is plenty of vintage for local consumption.

After months of planning and preparation, the DX-pedition was canceled when the tiny nation abruptly declared war on the United States during what became known as the Glorious War of 1955. During apparently cordial negotiations with Grand Fenwick officials, Rapp was suddenly declared an enemy alien and thrown into a dungeon in Fenwick Castle.

The details of the conflict are buried in the marginal notes of history, but Grand Fenwick won a total and bloodless victory against the United States. For some years Rapp lay forgotten in that deep dungeon in the castle. His only companion was his jailer, who befriended Rapp. The jailer shared his food with Larson which kept him alive but forced him to play played tic/tac/toe marathons every night.



## Where in the World is .. By Ron Litt, K5HM

To maintain his sanity, Rapp posited several radical approaches to current and future problems in the hobby. These would appear in later years in *QST* as *A Radical Approach to VFO Design*, *A Compact All Band Antenna* and *the QS-56 Communications Receiver*.

Eventually, rumors of a prisoner in the castle dungeon reached Duchess Gloriana. She was furious about Rapp's imprisonment. Immediately, she freed Rapp and forced the jailer to learn how to play Chess and Pong as a punishment.

Larson was so debilitated, the princess decided that he should be installed in her own quarters in the palace till his health recovered and took charge of his care personally. During this lengthy process the couple drew quite close to each other and developed an intimate relationship.

After several years, Rapp decided it was time to return to his laboratory at Kippering-on-the-Charles off Route 128. They had one final intimate evening. Nine months later, Princess Gloriana XVI was born and rules Grand Fenwick today.

No one at the castle would confirm the rumors that anything untoward happened that evening but Gloriana XVI bears a striking resemblance to Larson E. Rapp. Too bad there are no photos of Rapp extant to compare. However, the FCC (Fenwick Communications Commission) recently announced that Princess Gloriana XVI was awarded a Novice license.

The Duchy is not a member of the ITU. Having defeated both the USA and the USSR in the Glorious War of 1955, Grand Fenwick believes they are free to choose any call sign prefix they wish, resulting in the decidedly different, FWK. As victors they claim the right to be left alone and are not bound by any international conventions regarding radio or anything else for that matter.

Reporting from the Dark Side,  
Ron, K5HM



## Radiant Barriers and Roof Mounted Antennas

By  
Larson E. Rapp, WIOU

There are lots of older homes around Houston. Some are owned by Amateur Radio fans, Homes like these are often purchased by hams because they do not have restrictive covenants on the property, especially on antennas.

I was recently looking through some old QST antenna articles when I came across this scholarly paper on vertical antennas by Larson E. Rapp, WIOU. As a student of Larson's work over the years, I just had to send a copy to ARRL HQ for authentication. Now, If I could just find a copy of Carmichael's Equation!

Carmichael's Equation is the principal calculation for optimum antenna height over a roof or radiant barrier. The effect of the radiant barrier is decreased by the square of the distance from the roof to the antenna according to Carmichael's Equation. It's complicated due to the fact that the shingle material and plywood underlay have a capacitive coupling effect on the antenna. So, it is important to consider the reflective effects of both the ground plane material and the coupling of the plywood and shingle sandwich as well as the radiant barrier.

That's where the Schmidt number becomes a significant factor in Carmichael's equation. The Schmidt number is a function of the material composition and its thickness. It is increased in direct proportion to the material thickness. So, the higher the Schmidt number, the higher the antenna must be to escape the effect of the roof shingle or radiant barrier.

One can look up the Schmidt number for simple materials in any Table of Materials. However, when you have a roof that is made of complex sandwich of radiant barrier and plywood and roof shingle and/or an angled roof surface, you must calculate the integral of the entire roof volume including the thickness of each layer to arrive at the proper reflective value of the roof.

This value, "r" is key in calculating the Schmidt number. When there is a layer of plywood between the shingles and the radiant barrier, the three materials are all factors, which are significantly more important than the capacitive effect of just the shingles or the radiant barrier by itself with the ground plane itself. Any value of "r" that is less than  $10^{-3}$  doesn't really matter anyway.

Ignoring this interaction can result in poor antenna performance as noted in Carmichael's paper, "The Effect of Antenna Height on Roof Mounted Antennas" published in Proceedings of the IEEE, April 1966. Carmichael's work was later confirmed by experiments conducted a year later by noted amateur, Larson E. Rapp, WIOU in his paper published by QST in April 1967. Rapp was of course, famous for his experimental work advancing ham radio in many areas, especially propagation.

Reporting from the Dark Side Ron Litt, K5HM

Originally published by Larson E. Rapp, WIOU in the April 1967 issue. It was discovered amongst his unpublished papers in his former home at Kippering on the Charles, Ma. Just off Route 128..

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## Texas DX Society Board members

<b>President</b>	<b>STILL OPEN!</b>	
<b>VP Membership</b>	Gerald Muller	gmuller885@aol.com
<b>VP Programs</b>	<b>STILL OPEN!</b>	
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Keith Dutson, NM5G	keith1 at dutson.net
<b>Contest Chairman</b>	Jim Burrough, N5DTT	jandpburrough at sbcglobal.net
<b>Field Day Chairman</b>	Allen Brier, N5XZ	n5xz at arrl.net
<b>Repeater Chairman</b>	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf at arrl.net
<b>DX Chairman</b>	<b>STILL OPEN!</b>	
<b>Outgoing QSL Manager</b>	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
<b>Webmaster</b>	Scott Patout, K5DD	k5dd at arrl.net
<b>Bullsheets Editor</b>	Allen Brier, N5XZ	n5xz at arrl.net

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<b>DXCC/WAZ/WAS QSL Card Checker</b>	Bob Walworth, N5ET	rwalworth at charter.net
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<b>DXCC/VUCC/WAS QSL Card Checker</b>	Robie Elms, AJ4F	ruler55@gmail.com
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### How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxx.net> email address: [k5dx@tdxx.net](mailto: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/>

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

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

Dave Blaschke - W5UN  
 James Clark - N5RO  
 Bob Cooney - K1TU  
 James Parnell - W5JAW  
 Don Butler - N5LZ  
 Ronald Amox - K5EJO  
 Jim Boockholdt - N4AL  
 Bob Perring - N5RP  
 Fred Pevoto - K5FP  
 Marty Kirkland - WA5TMN  
 Mike Crownover - AD5A