



# 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 2024

The April 18, 2024 TDXS monthly meeting will be at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr., between Richmond Ave. and Westpark Dr. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

The program, "The latest in DXing and Contesting to give you the competitive Edge" will be presented by Dr. William "Bill" Schmidt II, K9HZ. This is a discussion of the latest hardware and software that can give you the edge in putting that new DX in the log, or boosting your contest score.

Bill is a very accomplished Contester, with Contest stations in Illinois (K9ZC) and on the island of St. Lucia in the West Indies (J68HZ), so his presentation promises to be very informative! The meeting will also be available over ZOOM. Login credentials are below.

## Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

April is here and the weather is again warming up. Nice weather these days and wish I was ready to do some work on my SteppIR, but not just yet.

Conditions continue to improve and I hope everyone is getting their DX and contesting fixes. Trying to carve out some additional time here and so some more DX in the log. Good stuff here during the month of March: H40, 5W, TY, ZD7, 3W, CE0Y, RI1, T32, V5, 7P, TX5 (FO-A), 9N, J62K!

Hope everyone had a great time in the CQ WPX SSB contest. I wasn't able to join in, but glad to see some great scores!

Don't forget the meeting on Thursday...in person or on Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89174745938?pwd=QzVPOGUxdnhXK3djN1F3cHJqQmFpQT09>

73/161, Allen N5XZ

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

**Date:** March 23, 2024

**Location:** Live Oak Grill, Sugar Land, TX

The March TDXS Meeting was held in person at the Live Oak Grill in Sugar Land. It was a social lunch meeting and there were 11 participants: Doug W9LCQ, Orville K5VWW, Jim N5DTT, Robie AJ4F, Rick K5GZ, Nizar K0NM, Jeff W5JEF and son, Allen N5XZ, Kim K5TU and Bill W5VOM.

During the lunch Doug brought the topic of the upcoming 3Y0K Bouvet operation planned for January 2025. There was unanimous agreement that TDXS should support this new Bouvet Dxpedition with \$500. This group is leveraging from the lessons learned in the January 2023 operation.

Also, Orville announced that he is organizing a TDXS POTA operation for Saturday, April 27 at the San Jacinto Battleground near Laporte. He is inviting TDXS, KARS, BVARC and anyone else to attend. For more information contact Orville Berg K5VWW.

**Submitted April 10, 2024**

**Doug Seyler W9LCQ**

**TDXS Secretary/Treasurer**



## Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

### April

- 6 Missouri QSO Party
- Louisiana QSO Party
- Mississippi QSO Party
- 13 New Mexico QSO Party
- Georgia QSO Party
- Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest
- 19 Holy Land DX Contest
- 20 Michigan QSO Party
- North Dakota QSO Party
- Ontario QSO Party
- 21 Quebec QSO Party
- 22 North America Sprint, SSB
- 27 10-10 International Spring Digital Contest
- Florida QSO Party

### May

- 4 10-10 International Spring Contest, CW
- ARI International DX Contest
- 7th Call Area QSO Party
- Indiana QSO Party
- Delaware QSO Party
- New England QSO Party
- 11 Canadian Prairies QSO Party
- 18 His Majesty King of Spain CW Contest
- Arkansas QSO Party
- 25 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW



## Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

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

### ARRL DX Contest, SSB 2024 Mar 2

#### SOAB HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GN(@W5KU)		4067	441	48	5,278,770	TDXS
W5GCX		210	99		62,370	TDXS
K5TU		118	69	2.7	24,426	TDXS

#### SOSB10 HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TIA		310	80	12	74,400	TDXS

#### SOSB10 LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT		95	46	6	13,110	TDXS

#### SOUAB HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WT4DX		1118	316	34:41	1,059,864	TDXS

### Oklahoma QSO Party 2024 Mar 9

#### SOABCW HP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AF5J		105	0	0	61	8:55	19,215	TDXS
K5TIA		73	0	0	46	12	10,074	TDXS

#### SOABMixed HP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5EKO		77	89	0	50		12,750	TDXS



# Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

## South America 10-Meter Contest 2024 Mar 9

SO Mixed HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Zones	Op Time	Score	Club
W5GCX		81	56	8	4.15	20,735	TDXS

## Idaho QSO Party 2024 Mar 9

SOABCW HP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Dig Mults	Score	Club
AF5J		26	0	0	11	0	0	872	
K5TIA		25	0	0	13	0	0	650	

SOABMixed HP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Dig Mults	Score	Club
N5EKO			9	10	0	4	7	308	

## Wisconsin QSO Party 2024 Mar 10

SO Fixed HP

Call	Remote	CW-Dig Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AF5J		47	0	31	3:54	3,014	TDXS
K5TIA		26	0	21	8	1,092	TDXS
N5EKO		15	11	20		820	TDXS

## Virginia QSO Party 2024 Mar 16

SOAB/CWFixed HP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TIA		70	0	0	31	8	4,309	TDXS
AF5J		65	0	0	27	5:24	3,510	TDXS

SOAB/MixedFixed HP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5EKO		5	1	0	6	66		TDXS



# Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

## Russian DX Contest 2024 Mar 16

SO CW HP

Call	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Countries	Oblasts	Op Time	Score
K5GN(@W5KU)		1193 0	209	224	23		3,448,845

## CQWW WPX Contest, SSB 2024 Mar 30

SOAB HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
WT4DX		455	305	15:32	371,795	TDXS
N5EKO		183	140	4	52,920	TDXS

SOAB Unassisted HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
AD5WB		66	62	3.5	8,680	TDXS

SOAB LP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT		150	123	7	37,515	TDXS
AJ4F		39	38		3,154	TDXS

SOSB10 HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
K5TIA		270	212	8	142,040	TDXS

SOSB15 Unassisted HP

Call	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
KM5VI		1750	865	26	3,009,335	TDXS

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

Jim, N5DTT



## TDXS Challenge—by Robie AJ4F

TDXS 2024 CQ WPX SSB Challenge					
Call	QSOs	Multipliers	Operating Time Hr:	Score	
AD5WB	66	62	3.5	8,680	
AJ4F	39	38	< 1	3,154	
J62K	8324	1476	48	31,632,156	
K5TIA	270	212	8	142,040	
KM5VI	1750	865	26.00	3,009,335	
N5DTT	150	123	7	37,515	
N5EKO	183	140	4	52,920	
WT4DX	455	305	15.5	371,795	
			Total Score	35,257,595	
Participants	8		Score	35,257,595	
Goal	18		Goal	7,500,000	

Bill's J62K score edged us over our goal by a bit!

Here's some additional info about the TDXS Challenge.

1. The Challenge is my attempt to encourage activity and promote camaraderie among TDXS members.
2. There are no "official rules", but I try to focus on the efforts of active members.
3. The Challenge is not the same as the CQ WPX Club competition. That activity has its rules and is processed by the individuals who manage the contest. Club participants are limited to a certain geographic area.



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

The Solomon Islands, a nation of hundreds of islands in the South Pacific, has many WWII era sites. Guadalcanal, a province and one of the archipelago's largest islands, honors fallen Allied soldiers at its U.S. War Memorial. Guadalcanal is also home to the nation's capital, Honiara, whose bustling Central Market show cases the islands' produce and traditional handicrafts.



Consisting of six major islands and over 900 smaller islands to the northeast of Australia. It is directly adjacent to Papua New Guinea. It has a total population exceeding 734,000. Though the islands had been populated for many thousands of years, the Spanish navigator Alvaro de Mendana was the first European to discover the Solomons. Relations with native islanders but they often soured over time. Beginning in the 1840's, islanders began to be recruited (or often kidnapped) as laborers for the colonies in Australia, Fiji and Samoa in a process known as "black birding" Conditions for workers were often poor and exploitative, and local islanders often attacked any Europeans who appeared on their island.



From 1942 until the end of 1943, the Solomon Islands were the scene of several major land, sea, and air battles between the Allies and the Japanese Empire's armed forces. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, war was declared between Japan and the Allied Powers. Japan, seeking to protect their southern flank, invaded South-East Asia and New Guinea. In May 1942 they invaded most of the western Solomon Islands, including Guadalcanal where they began work on an airstrip. Most of the European population had been evacuated to Australia. The Marines counter-invaded Guadalcanal in August 1942, followed by the Army under Gen. Macarthur's New Georgia campaign in 1943, both of which were turning points in the Pacific War, stopping, then countering the Japanese advance.

Solomon Islands achieved internal self-government in 1976 and became independent in July 1978. The country's system of Government is a Parliamentary Democracy with a unicameral legislature. The British monarch as Head of State is represented locally by the Governor-General. Legislative power is vested in a unicameral National Parliament of 47 members, elected for a four-year term. Executive authority is exercised by the Cabinet.





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

English is the official language, but Solomon Islands pijin is the lingua franca. There are over 80 different local languages plus dialects. English is the official language, but Solomon Islands pijin is the lingua franca. There are over 80 different local languages plus dialects.

The Solomon Islands are 91<sup>st</sup> on the Club Log most wanted list. There are 132 callsigns listed in QRZ. Several are duplicated. H40A is the Solomon Islands Amateur Radio Club (SIARC). Please contact them or the ARRL for more details about operating there.

Reporting from the Dark Side,  
Ron Litt, K5HM



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

**Australia ( VK1 - VK9 )  
IOTA OC-001, OC-006  
CQ Zones 29, 30 ITU Zones 55, 58, 59**



Australia is a sovereign country that is made up of the Australian continent, Tasmania, and other smaller islands. It is the world's sixth-largest country and the largest country in Oceania. Australia is located between the Pacific and Indian oceans, west of New Zealand. You can't miss it.

Australia is very ham active. There are over 30,000 ham call signs registered in Australia, according to QRZ. There is an initial license fee of \$80 (AUD) and \$55 (AUD) for renewals. The Australian Communications and Media

Authority (ACMA) issues reciprocal licenses for U.S. Hams. The highest-grade license is the Advanced Class. It is equivalent to the Amateur Extra Class in the U.S. Australia has as a "bilateral" operating agreement with the US. If you are planning a trip there, contact the ARRL or ACMA for assistance.

Australia is a fascinating country. Did I say it was big? It was first discovered around 1660 by Dutch traders and explored later by Captain Cook. They traded with the aborigines. Most of the island's interior is desert and high plains. 87% of the population lives within 31 miles of the coast.

The Industrial Revolution, which brought tremendous wealth to Britain, had spawned a major crime wave. Beggars, pickpockets, and thieves swarmed London's streets. Law abiding citizens feared this "criminal class" from the slums. They demanded action to stop the crime wave.

British authorities already punished criminals severely—often by hanging. There were over 200 death penalty offenses, most of them for stealing and other property crimes. Since no prisons existed as we know them today, hanging criminals was one of the few options available.

The British government began offering "transportation to Australia" as an alternative punishment to hanging for petty crimes. There was a total of 19 crimes for which a criminal could be sent to Botany Bay. The main port of entry. Between 1786 and 1868 more than 162,000 convicts were transported to various penal colonies in the countryside. More than two years passed before any relief ships arrived from Britain. During this time, the colonists nearly starved. But somehow over the next few years, Governor Phillip used convict labor to plant crops, establish herds of livestock (mainly sheep), and construct buildings and roads necessary for the colony. In the meantime, the British government continued to empty out the English hulks by transporting more than a thousand convicts to Sydney each year. By 1792, when Governor Phillip returned to Britain, New South Wales had survived five harsh years to become largely self-sufficient.



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

Since the country is below the equator, you will find lots of differences in daily life there. They drive on the wrong side of the road, use the metric system, drink 5% beer, summer is winter and vice versa. Also they insist on adding a “u” in words like, harbour instead of harbor and colour for color.

Since Australia is an island, many unique animal species have evolved. Wallabies, koala bears and the platypus to name a few. Oh yes, they limit transmit power to 400 watts.

**Melbourne** is the second-largest city in Australia and is a cool metropolitan city full of culture. It has loads of galleries, museums, markets, festivals, dining, and bar options. The city is easy to move around with the free public transport system it offers. The city’s architecture and multicultural experiences give you European vibes. If you’re a cricket buff, you have got to visit the Melbourne Cricket ground.

You cannot visit Australia and avoid **Sydney**, the largest metropolis, and the most popular tourist place in Australia. The capital city of New South Wales, Sydney is a modern city developed around a scenic harbor. If you go don’t miss the Sydney Opera House.



Remember, to get there just head south and turn right at New Zealand, You can’t miss it.

Reporting from the Dark Side

Ron Litt, K5HM



## **TDXS POTA Activity—By Orville K5VSS**

*Attention !*

*On April 27th, Saturday, we are going to have a get together for all TDXS, KARS, BVARC members, and anyone else desiring to have a good time. We are planning on all the congregating at 10:00 AM plus or minus at the San Jacinto battleground off Highway 225 near Laporte. There will be at least three stations set up for operation for anyone design to operate on the low bands in any mode. We plan on operating on POTA frequencies and passing out lots of park activation QSOs during the day, using the K5DX call, your call, or possibly a special call , K5J. We are fortunate to have several gurus in our club; John , K5EC, has over 2100 QSOs from the San Jacinto battleground alone and has operated from 220 of the 223 Texas state parks. Norm , N9MM has many thousand contacts as an activator from all over the US. They will be available to give hints about the operations and equipment requirements, and suggestions. We are also planning to eat at the Monument Inn, a historic seafood restaurant adjacent to the park. Please put the April 27 date on your calendar and plan to come out and have a great time with all of us , please RSVP if you might be attending to me, K5VWW, ORVILLE, at QRZ.com address.*



## Main Trading Company Announcement

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Main Trading Company (MTC Radio) Becomes Exclusive North American Distributor for SPE Expert Amplifiers**

*Paris, Texas, April 1, 2024* – Main Trading Company (MTC Radio), a leading provider of amateur radio equipment, is proud to announce its new partnership with SPE Expert, the renowned Italian manufacturer of high-quality amplifiers. As of today, MTC Radio is the exclusive distributor of SPE Expert amplifiers in North America.



## 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>	
<b>Secretary</b>	Doug Seyler, W9LCQ	djseyler at comcast.net
<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>Bullsheel Editor</b>	Allen Brier, N5XZ	n5xz at arrl.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 April:

**Please notify the Editor if I have missed any-one 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  
 Alan Riley – KD5R