



THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

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The Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 540291 Houston, TX 77254-0291

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Announcements

The **Annual TDXS Banquet** will be **Saturday January 29th, at the Confederate House**. The restaurant is located at 2925 Wesleyan. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. Get your reservations in to Madison Jones, W5MJ.

How to Reach Us

On the World Wide Web: <http://www.tdxs.org>
On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz
On 70 Cm: 447.00/442.00 (103.5 Hz)
On Packet: Connect to **TDXS71** (145.71) then connect to K5LV
Reflector: Send to: majordomo@moonbounce.n5iq.org
In the body of your message only put: subscribe tdxs-list
do *not* include your email address, as the reflector will pick it up automatically. Put nothing in the subject line.

The Prez Sez- de Earl, N5TU

Welcome to the new Millenium! Looks like this year will bring the largest sweeping changes to the FCC amateur radio licensing program. The Report and Order has already been issued and soon the highest code speed you will be required to know will be 5 WPM. I don't expect this to cause any congestion in the CW bands but I do believe that activity in the phone bands will increase dramatically.

Financially the TDXS is in better shape now than at this time last year. However, activity has been down with fewer team entries in contests including Field Day which hopefully was due to the inclement weather. This year we plan to have meeting programs even if we have to pay our speakers. The repeaters and packet cluster are working as good or better than ever with improvements slated for the future. Everything is in place for lots of club activity. We just need to be active now.

This month's meeting will be satisfied by the banquet at the Confederate House at the end of the month. Get your banquet fees to Madison or Dave, W5BXX, along with your '00 dues. I am working on a speaker from out of town. He hasn't confirmed for sure but if his schedule works out he'll be a good one. Don't forget that door prizes will abound at this banquet also. Hopefully I'll see you all there.

PREZ SEZ Continued

XA5T CW expedition is next month. Though I regretfully will not be going this year there is a crew getting together. Looks like so far it is K5NZ, K1OJ, K5GN, and W5MJ for sure. If you are interested contact Madison as he is the focal point contact this year. As for the SSB weekend I'm sure there is some interest but so far I haven't heard of anyone putting anything together. If you are planning on going now is a good time to step forward and make your intentions known so that others can make plans too.

I am looking for warm ACTIVE bodies to fill some board positions. The TDXS needs a Repeater, Field Day, and Communications Chairman. Get in touch with me if you are interested in doing one of these. The Repeater position is the most difficult as you never know when you will be called in to perform repeater repairs. This position need not be an electronic wizard. Basic troubleshooting skills are required and if repairs need to be implemented then the equipment can be sent out to a radio shop. This is our 30th anniversary Field Day and the Field Day chairman can make the affair as involved as he wants to make it. The Communications Chairman takes care of the newsletter. Jim has done a great job but has expressed some interest in passing the torch. If you want to step up and take one of these positions then contact me.

See you at the banquet.

N5TU

Contest Corner by Dale, KG5U

TDXS Contest Participation:

CQ WW CW Contest

soab

N5LZ HP/1339/124/334/1,708,340

soab-assisted

K5NA HP/954/180/582/2,031,492

sosb-80

K5NU HP/389/26/81/107,856

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ARRL 10 Meter Contest

so mixed HP

N5LZ 1,707,424/2350/233

N5ZK (W5ASP) 845,184/1499/213

KN5H 685,240/1421/185

so phone LP

W9DX 41,040/285/72

W/VE SO SSB HP

KZ5MM 1,138,860/3515/162

W/VE Multi

NX5M 2,660,544/3425/288/(NX5M, N5XJ, N4GCA, K5NZ, KB5ZFO)

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ARRL SS CW

SO LP

N5TU 152,880/980/78

SO QRP

KG5U 90,636/581/78

Contest Corner Continued

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Internet Sprint
SO
KG5U 105 Q's
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M2000A at Greenwich, England by Dave Lawly, G4BUO

I want to give contesters advance notice of a station that is to be set up at Greenwich, south-east London to celebrate the millennium. We have been given the very special callsign M2000A and operation will be from 31st December 1999 to 29th February 2000.

The station will operate from a historical building, Ranger's House, which is owned by English Heritage. It will be open to the public and during the two months of operation we expect thousands of visitors, hams and non-hams alike. This will include parties of schoolchildren who will also have the opportunity to build simple but effective shortwave receiver kits.

There will be three HF stations capable of simultaneous operation with a variety of yagis. One of the two towers will be physically located on the prime meridian, about half a mile from the Royal Greenwich Observatory, the origin of Greenwich Mean Time.

As a contester I want to make use of the station to demonstrate contesting at every opportunity. I have seen on the reflector many times the question 'how do we get more people into contesting?' and this is an ideal opportunity to demonstrate contesting to fellow hams.

Subject to normal licensing arrangements (which for US hams are now covered by the CEPT rules), any visiting ham can operate M2000A, so if any contesters plan to be in the London area for the millennium celebrations or in the following two months, please make M2000A part of your itinerary. This will be a great showcase for amateur radio in general and contesting in particular. I'll be happy to supply more information, and please check our web site which is being built at www.qsl.net/m2000a To sign up as an operator of M2000A please contact Bernie Harrad G8LDV at berniharrad@tesco.net

Why Do We Put Rag Chewers On A Pedestal?

by Fred Laun, K3ZO

I have often been struck by how, here in the USA, we seem automatically to assume that rag chewing is the normal on-the-air activity in which hams engage. We contesters are made to feel guilty when we fill the bands with our activities on weekends, as though even this temporary interruption of the normal activities on the bands — mostly rag chewing — is barely tolerable and not really politically correct.

At the same time I hear the complaints about how ham radio growth has come to a halt in this country and I hear concerns that our hobby will soon die on the vine for lack of new recruits.

As a contester geographically blessed with a good location from which to work Europe, I have been impressed by the growth of contest activity in that continent. My logs show it: the number of Europeans to be worked increased year by year, even when conditions were not the best. It seems that the new hams in Europe enjoy competitive operating activities in greater numbers than our own new recruits over here.

During the recent sunspot minimum I was especially thankful to the Italian and Spanish hams for keeping things interesting under even the worst conditions. It seemed that, especially in SSB contests, there was almost a limitless supply of EA's and I's waiting to give out contest points to those of us over here who were able to put a consistent signal into those areas.

Contest Corner Continued

I have been getting the magazine of the ARRL's sister IARU society URE in Spain, "Radioaficionados". I have noticed that the proportion of pages devoted to operating activities in that magazine seems to be much greater than what we find in "QST." I know the ARRL supports contesting and even publishes "NCJ" — though I get the idea that some ARRL Directors prefer not to bring up the subject of ARRL's support for contesting in polite company — but here I'm talking about the Spanish equivalent of "QST", which goes to all members of the society, including rag chewers. So I took the May 1999 issue of "Radioaficionados" and did a page count.

The magazine has many fewer pages than "QST", 68 in total, including the covers, which they count as part of the total over there. Here is what I found when I tabulated the number of pages devoted to different subjects:

| Subject | Number of Pages |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Contests, Awards and Special Events | 30 |
| Technical and Construction | 8 |
| Advertising | 6 |
| Society Administrative Matters | 6 |
| DX | 5 |
| Local Club News | 3 |
| Want Ads | 3 |
| Space | 2 |
| Photos | 2 |
| Editorial | 1 |
| SSTV | 1 |
| Special Article about ARRL's K8CH | 1 |

In summary, the magazine seems to encourage participation in fun operating events by giving such events preferential space. Can it be that this contributes to the fact that there seems to be such a great supply of EA's in the contests, especially on SSB?

Is it any wonder that our kids might be turned off by the image that we seem to hold up as the "most normal" of Amateur Radio activities, that of one old geezer rag chewing with another?

I know I'm preaching to the choir here, but I for one am proud of my contest activities and don't believe that I need apologize to anyone or in any way feel guilty about them. I believe that what I am doing provides a far more attractive image for youth than does rag chewing.

I am a great admirer of those of our fellow Amateurs who are engaged primarily in preparations for emergency communications, but outside of that I don't feel that there is any segment of our hobby that contributes more to the state of the art than contesters, and I'm proud to say so to anyone!

73, Fred

(Me, too! de kg5u)

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The Fourteenth Annual School Club Roundup (2000)

The January 2000 QST Magazine carries the announcement for the SCR 2000. This 5-day long contest begins at 1300Z, Monday, February 14 and ends at 0100Z, Saturday, February 19, 2000. The URL for the announcement at the ARRL website is <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/00/scr.html>

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Get on for NAQP SSB!

The Sprints are coming up. I'm taking team member entries.

Everybody send me your scores for whatever contest you participate in, no matter how short on long you participated.

73,
dale, kg5u

DX Report by Buzz, N5UR

DX January Should Be Fun!

It should be on the air as you read this, CE0Z, JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLAND.

Marco, CE6TBN, reports their CE0Z DXpedition is set to go January 6-16th. He provides the following suggested modes and bands/frequencies: Modes: SSB, FM, CW, Packet, RTTY, SSTV, PSK and Satellite Bands/Freq: 80m - 3795, 3510 40m - 7045, 7015, 7030 20m - 14190, 4.020, 14.105 17m - 18150, 18075, 18055 15m - 21290, 21025, 21085 12m - 24950, 24900, 24920 10m - 28520, 29400, 28025, 28045 6m, 2m and 70 cm. No word on 160 so I guess not.

Look for the MALDIVES with Rob/PA5ET signing 8Q7ET and Ronald/PA3EWP signing 8Q7WP. Their activity will take place January 12-18th from Kuramathi (IOTA AS-013).

JAN13-17 PW5W (SSB) PR5L (CW) will be operating all bands from IOTA SA-027, DIB-46 Arvoredo Island Brasil. QSL PP5LL DIB is the Brazilian Island Award, check <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/6377/> for this award.

The big one this month is XZ0A from MYANAMR. Not only rare DX, but the first ever IOTA operation from Burma. XZ, MYANMAR. The first group of XZ0A operators departs for Myanmar on January 9th. They will reach Thahtay Kyun Island (off the southernmost tip of the Union of Myanmar, Zone 26, Southeast Asia) by the afternoon of January 12th and hope to be active by the afternoon of the 14th at the latest. They expect to have a total of eight stations running FT-1000MPs and Alpha amplifiers with full size antennas on all bands. Although the majority of contacts will be made on 80 through 10 meters, there will also be dedicated stations, with specialized operators, for Top Band, RTTY and 6-meters. This will be the first ever XZ IOTA, and a brand new prefix. This DXpedition will run continuously through February 6, 2000. QSL requests can be made directly, or via the appropriate bureau. Direct QSLs go to: XZ0A QSL Request, c/o Bob Myers, W1XT, 37875 North 10th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85086 USA. Bureau QSL cards should be clearly marked: XZ0A via W1XT. Check out the DXpedition web site: <http://getnet.com/~k7wx/myanmar.htm> MAQUARIE VK0LD became VK0MM on January first. Check out his web site at <http://www.geocities.com/vk0ld/1.html> for operating times and practices. THIS IS NOT A DXPEDITION, and Alan is intolerant of those who call out of turn. He says he will be the last CW op there for quite some time, so if you need him, follow the rules on his web site. He has created a large amount of chatter on the DX reflectors because he won't operate the way certain DX and NA stations think he should, but its his game. In addition to his scientific duties, Alan is also the Postal Clerk on the island, and seems to be a decent guy from the emails we have exchanged. Good luck, he will be there all year.

Finally, sometime this month VP6BR is supposed to fire up from PITCAIRN and possibly the other two VP6 IOTAs, Henderson and Ducie Islands. For those of you old enough to remember, VP6 used to be the prefix for Barbados, now 8P. Check out the website at <http://www.qsl.net/oh2br/> for late breaking news. Hope this gives y'all something to chase. See you at the meeting, Buzz N5UR

January Banquet by Madison, W5MJ

TDXS Banquet, Millennium Style!

We have commandeered the Confederate House in Houston for the 2000 edition of the TDXS Banquet on January 29, 2000. The tab will be \$25 per person, with wine included with the fish, steak or chicken dinner. There will be door prizes, awards, good times, good food, adult beverages and the usual exchange of strange-but-true tales of adventure and daring while on the quest for the rare ones for The Deserving and how to keep the rate over 300 into the teeth of QRM in a hostile environment.

Banquet Continued

For those of you who went to the Banquet last year, you recall how fine an experience it was. For those who did not attend, this is your big chance to improve your lives (who would have thought it could be done so easily, given your circumstances?!). For those who think it's just another restaurant, I direct your attention to last Sunday's Houston Chronicle, where the Confederate House received high marks on a review of Confederate House short ribs. I have the article if anyone wants to see it.

This is your big chance to see those new and old TDXSers who never come to the meetings but always show up at the Banquet (you know who I am talking about), so give Madison a call at (713)621-6688 days or (281)350-4330 nights, or drop an e-mail to w5mj@hal-pc.org to make a reservation! Not to miss!

Regards,

Madison
w5mj

Food for Thought by Dave, K5GN

From the internet:

My favorite is the guy on CW who comes upon some DX and immediately sends “?”. My Elmer taught me that this is the briefest possible abbreviation for “I am a lid”.
de N5CQ

Dave, K5GN

Frank Montgomery, W5JWM

W5JWM, curmudgeon emeritus, is in Spring Branch Hospital following cold/flu aggravating his longstanding breathing problems. Last night, he seemed pretty well and is concerned about an infection in one of his fingers. 713 984 3465, Room 465. I think he would like a call occasionally, particularly if you are in front of a real time stock ticker.

Jim/NN5O

K5LZO Award by Mike, K5NZ

Below, I have pasted an e-mail from Bob about our discussion on a K5LZO award for the NAQP contests. You will see in the letter the concern to give this a special place and not just add to the awards the same guys seem to win each contest. If you have any ideas on this matter, please send them to me (not Bob) and I will compile them and present to the NAQP crew.

Thanks Mike K5NZ

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Hi Mike,

I wanted to drop you a note and bring this subject up again. We haven't forgotten about it but we haven't been able to come up with something good in the way of a suggestion yet either! I'm sure if we put our heads together we can come up with something decent. I didn't know Chuck personally but he was in fact one of the founding fathers of the NAQP idea back in 1985.

K5LZO Award Continued

Here's some food for thought. You originally suggested a combined CW/SSB award of some kind. We already have a combined CW/SSB plaque but not one for all four contests in a year. It's not a bad idea but something to consider is that we already end up giving upwards of 2-4 plaques per year to the same individual as it is. I.e. K6LL wins Single Op CW and places high in SSB as well; he'll usually get the Combined CW/SSB plaque too. Do it in

January and August and now you're up to 4 plaques in one year and the LZO Plaque would simply become one of many. In looking through the first several years' NAQP Results I see that LZO was very prominent in the Multi-Op category and rarely, if ever, did the NAQP as a Single Op. Perhaps something in the way of a Multi-Op award would be good? The only trouble with this idea is that the M2 category isn't active enough to have a combined CW/SSB plaque for this one. You'll either have no winner or the same group getting 2 awards again. We currently have no award for the Team Competition. Off hand it would seem like a good candidate area for an award, but how would it work? Who would receive the award? If you give it to the highest scoring station you're back to giving an individual multiple awards again. Should a trophy be made and kept somewhere with inscriptions put on it for each winning team?

Just trying to stimulate some ideas by throwing out my thoughts above. I would like to see an award that won't go to the same individual along with multiple other awards. That would devalue it. It would be nice to come up something semi unique such that it takes extra effort to win it or such that the winner cannot be automatically determined by who has the highest score, etc...

Any thoughts? I would like to go ahead with something and make an announcement on CQ Contest before the January 2000 contests are held (if possible) so that people know about the existence of the new award. We don't have to work out all the details yet as long as we know the basics we can go public with it!

73, Bob K6ZZ