

THE BULL SHEET

OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF THE TEXAS DX SOCIETY

an ARRL affiliated club



VOLUME III NR. 2

APRIL 1978

MEETING NOTICE: The next full-blown TDXS meeting will be Friday night, April 14 at the Brisket House, 1217 Pierce, directly under the beautiful Pierce Elevated, in the heart of sparkling downtown Houston. 7PM arrival will assure you a seat next to David.

AA5A WHO? Well, your FCC has done it again. Effective March 24, there is a total call sign issuance restructuring in effect. At the same time, some other pending changes were put in to effect. The highlights are:

- A repeater sub-band is established from 144.5 to 145.5 MHz.
- WR call signs will no longer be issued. Those presently held will not be renewable.
- Technicians can work the entire 2 meter band.
- Repeaters are prohibited from 220 to 220.5, 431 to 433 and 435 to 438.
- No special events or special call signs will be issued.
- Secondary station licenses are not renewable.
- Call areas 1 thru 0 will remain as is, however if you move to a new call area, you may, if you wish, keep your same call sign.
- U.S. Possessions will have new call signs as follows:

KH1 was KB6	KH5K was Kingman	KH8 was KS6	KP3 was KS4
KH2 was KG6	KH5 was KP6	KH9 was KW6	KP4 is KP4
KH3 was KJ6	KH6 is KH6	KP1 was Navassa	
KH4 was KM6	KH7 was Kure	KP2 was KV4	

Now for the good stuff. Call signs will be issued by license class in a "phased" plan. Your call sign will be assigned by "Group".

Group A- Amateur Extra. Calls available; K, W, N, 1 x 2; AA thru AL, 2 x 1 and 2 x 2.

Group B- Advanced Class. 2 x 2 other than AA thru AL.

Group C- General and Technician. 1 x 3 call signs.

Group D- Novice. 2 x 3 call signs.

Phase 1, effective immediately, will apply to new licensees, those who upgrade and those who have 2 x 2 calls. I.E. A brand new extra class will receive AA5A. A brand new advanced will receive WA5AA, a brand new general or tech will get NSAAA and a brand new novice will receive a sequential call sign as presently issued. If you rush down today and upgrade, you can keep your present call (under phase 1) or, you can enter "Please assign a Group ___ (1,2 or 3) call sign" on line 13A of your form 610, and you will receive one of the new calls. The only others that are apparently involved in phase 1 are the extras who got 2 x 2 calls (AA4 and AA6). They have until October 1 to get a 2 x 1. Any speculation on what Phase 2 will bring???

CLIPPERTON is now history. At last report they had made over 25,000 QSO's, and, even with the rough edges, brought off a very successful DXpedition. Since most of the operators signed their calls once an hour or so, there is some confusion about who was on what band/mode. As far as your hon. ed. can determine, FOXXA was on 80 & 160, XB was 15SSB, XC was 20SSB, XD was 40, XE was 15CW, XF was 10CW, XG was 10SSB, and XH was 20CW. Instead of all of us sending 8 cards, return envelopes and a fistful of IRC's why don't we all bring our cards to the meeting, send them all in one package with one return envelope and enclose 10 or 20 dollars worth of Swiss francs (obtainable from a downtown bank) or an international money order??? We would each come out even or a little cheaper and we could help them defray some of their costs.

THE GOLDEN DAYS OF DXING are upon us. The long range forecast is out with predictions of improving conditions up to a peak in mid 1980 with high sunspot activity through 1982. During the ARRL CW second weekend, 20 was open over the pole to Europe and Asia most of the night. There have been several nights on 20 lately that most of the world was coming in at the same time. 15 and 10 are open to Europe and Asia almost daily, with 15 staying open past 0400. With Clipperton out of the way, YI is due on any day now. Some YU's are going to Baghdad to teach radio and YI1BGD is the first scheduled operation, with more to follow over the next year. If that doesn't get you moving, then Bouvet is due on by this winter. Revamp the old tribander or get some tubing and get going on a 10 and 15 yagi. Don't forget about 6, either, cuz the MUF is rising!

THE SUMMER CONVENTION.As discussed at the last couple of meetings, the TDXS has been invited to participate in the Texas VHF-FM Societies Summer convention to be held in Houston, August 4,5,6. Members of the TDXS board have attended steering committee meetings and the TDXS board has met to line out the extent of our participation in the convention. It is really shaping up into a first class event which might be a prelude to bigger and better things for the Gulf Coast. There will be a more comprehensive report at the meeting, but some tentative plans have been hashed out which include; a hospitality suite, a DX/Contest/DXpedition forum and maybe a guest speaker. There are many rough edges to be hashed out and we need some volunteers to help with preparation, so come to the meeting with your volunteering hand well exercized.

TOMS SHORTS. 96/36 has really been buzzing lately, with the nice band openings and the FOØ activity. It's really gratifying to hear all the members on there in the evenings. There have also been a few toes stepped on when non-member autopatch subscribers disrupt the DX activities on the repeater. It is time to re-emphasize the purpose of the repeater, and that is for the interchange of DX information and as a gathering place for those interested in DXing and contesting. The autopatch was installed for the convenience of the members, and the non-member subscribers have signed an agreement to respect the purpose of the repeater. Most of the subscribers have gotten a three month free-bee to compensate for the time that the repeater was down last fall, but it is now renewal time and those who will not respect the repeater rules can find themselves another autopatch to use.

MEMBER NEWS. WB5CFI is awfully close to completing that 4-1000 foot warmer. Look out honor roll when AB gets that thing fired up. K5NU did a bang up job in the ARRL 160 meter test. See the contest report for details. K5DX is getting

the Highlands ham-heaven into shape. There seems to be a steady growth of steel and aluminium at Sharps new place. K5KG has a new TH6DXX to play with while N5DU is trading in his Hy-gain 40 for a Mosley (bankrupt beams don't work too well). WB5QWX's great DXpedition to C6A turned into disaster when they gave him a hotel room with no patio and a view to Europe. Dave Bean, WSZQR has been elected and is the newest member of the TDXS. Welcome, Dave! Do you realize that in our little club we have, as a group, operated in over 25 DXCC countries, have members who have or previously had licenses in HR, XE, VP2, PY, FP8, KL7, C6A and have members from the 2,3,4,5,6,8,9,Ø call areas?? how about that, trivia freaks?

CONTEST CORNER. We had planned a wrapup of the contest season for this issue, but several problems in collecting the data have occurred. First, the ARRL has discontinued listing high claimed scores due to space problems and the SS results will not be out until May QST. The second problem is that the NCJ has run into a temporary setback and the December issue will be the last one for a while (mid-summer). The CQWW phone high-claimed scores are in the April issue and CW will be in May (final results will be in August and September). The other holdup is that K5BZU hasn't heard from a lot of you guys and cannot compile the ARRL DX contest results until he hears from everyone. Al will have a preliminary report at the next meeting and we will have a wrapup in the June "Bullsheet."

SPRING HAS SPRUNG the grass has riz and Field Day is just around the corner. Richard Leon King, K5NA, Secretary Emeritus, has come out of retirement and has been duly appointed (after a little coercion) the new TDXS Field Day Chairperson. Under his benevolent dictatorial rule is his royal staff of "volunteers," K5RC, N5WW and N5JJ who will carry out Sir Richard of Alvin's commands as band captains. (for the three main stations) and, by royal decree, bringing up the "specialty" team will be K5LZO and N5AF, in charge of the novice and VHF/OSCAR stations. We need to select a site forthwith. If you have any parcel of land that you can secure that would suit a FD site, please verify its availability and bring your suggestion to the April meeting. We need towers that are or will be laying on the ground around the middle of June. We need beam antennas; tribanders, monobanders, VHF yagis. We need rotators and generators and we need conveyance for these items to the FD site. We need KWM-2's, we need Drake lines and we need to know who will be available for installation, operation, teardown and cleanup. Once again, for the next 2 months, the skilled hands of K5RC will be available to go thru all of the gear that will be used for FD.

P.S. Since the initial announcement of the call sign re-structuring, there has been some clarification to the call-sign issuance sequence. Group B (Advanced) will start with KA1AA and KB2AA thru KBØZZ. Group D (Novice) will start with KA1AAA. Tech's also have all of 6 meters and the novice license is now 5 years, renewable. The ARRL is petitioning the FCC to reconsider!

73 and DX,

Tom, K5RC