



THE BULL SHEET

OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF

THE TEXAS DX SOCIETY

an ARRL affiliated club

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MEETING NOTICE The next TDXS meeting and eatfest will be Friday, September 12, at the Marriot Brookhollow, Loop 610 at TC Jester. Happy hour runs from 1800 until dinner in the restaurant at 1930 followed by the meeting in the River Oaks room at 2030. The Marriot has discontinued the buffet, but will continue to seat us together and have us order from the menu. Our Matre d' has had a problem with trying to get all of the bills paid at once. He's lost some money in past months, and we may lose our "individual checks" if we don't stagger our exit a little. (and I've seen a few people staggering as they exit). There will be a program, subject matter to be announced.

THE CONVENTION: This will be the last Bulsheet before Houston CONVENTION 80, October 3,4,5. WD5CHY is coordinating the TDXS hospitality room activities, with K5VWW organizing the forum, KA5CHW emcee, and W5DOZ and K5DX coordinating the QSL display. Please bring the QSL's you are proudest of to the September Club meeting. Lee will collect them and get them back to you after the convention. Also, bring your own club QSL(s). The hospitality suite can use some help with keeping order and selling raffle tickets. K5BZU is heading up the raffle activity. We've got a full weekend of DX/contest activities planned. If you haven't received your mailer, contact one of the Committee for a copy. Let's see the whole club turn out. How about a TDXS table at the banquet?

THE BULLSHEET: The December issue will be your hon. ed.'s last edition as editor of the Bullsheet. I have agreed to be the editor to the NCJ for the next year, and I can't handle both jobs. The Board will line up a replacement editor, shortly. K5TU started the Bullsheet five years ago, and was editor until he QSYed to PY1 land. I've been at the helm for 4 years and have enjoyed it. Please continue to support your new editor.

TOM'S SHORTS: I don't know if any W-5 has done it before, but the K5LZO multi-op crew made the top ten in the June VHF QSO Party and set a new West Gulf record. Those of you who operate the high bands around this part of the country know how difficult it is to overcome the 'east-coast curtain'. Congrats! If the North American Sprint hasn't happened by the time you read this, dont forget to enter it. Again having to be a seer into the future, I predict the TDXS annual picnic in Cut 'n Shoot was an overwhelming success. Thanks again to Wes and Ellie for having us at their home. Lloyd and Iris may have to pass up the convention if their plans gel for a goodie in the Middle East. Stay tuned.

To a newcomer listening to a contest like the ARRL Sweepstakes, it probably sounds like there only about 50 stations really in the contest. They seem to sit one frequency for hours working one contact after another. They are lighthouses in the darkness leading the poor little guys through the darkness to them. Those memory keyers make them sound like machines. But, my friends, those with "finesse" actually are all over the place like neurotic cockroaches. As an example, take the Top Ten in last year's SS on CW. The average fella changed bands 40 times in the 24 hours of the contest. The 40 figure only applies if you remove W2YV from the math because he changed bands 138 times. That's almost 6 times an hour! And QSY's on the same band aren't even considered. You still think these guys with the big winning signals are crystal controlled?

There is a reason these guys are jumping all over the place... "Keep the rate up". They probably all set a QSO goal before the contest and know that if their QSO rate isn't being achieved on one band its time to move on and try another one. Even if it hurts. And if that frequency doesn't pan out, move on to another. If he gets lucky and finds a hot spot, he'll sit there until things slow down and away he goes again.

"THE BOUNCE"

I call this constant frequency shifting "The Bounce". I consider it a "finesse" in CW contesting because it takes discipline and drive to keep it up when it would be so much easier to sit on one frequency and hit the CQ SS button over and over turning the air blue with RF trying to pull one more QSO out of the frequency. This business of sitting on one frequency too long is simply an ego trip that is short lived when one ultimately ends up not reaching the goal set before the contest started.

The Bounce involves two types of frequency changes: (1) Same band (2) Different band. The whole program is that your present frequency has dried up for some unknown reason. It'll drive you nut knowing you have a clear frequency and a good signal with stations all over the band but no one calling you. This experience is like all of a sudden finding yourself wondering if you accidentally switched the transmitter output into the dummy load. What happened? Where'd everybody go?

My suggestion is don't wait around too long to find out. Go find 'em! If they aren't coming to you, go to them...

At any given moment in a contest like Sweepstakes, two or three bands are open and can produce reasonable rates of contacts. So...don't cheat the poor fellas, spread yourself all over the place so they can find you. The 7's might be hot at 2200Z on 15 but what about the poor East Coast guys who cannot hear anything but crushing W5 signals on 20 at the same time? Bounce, my friend, Bounce! As soon as it slows up a bit on one band switch to the other

Even with one rig, with practice almost all of us can tune a rig, amplifier and all, in 10-20 seconds. Pencil marks on the necessary dial controls before the contest really can speed things up. If you have two rigs, all the easier.

The motion described above was the Band change Bounce. The other Bounce involves a frequency change on the same band. I usually use this tactic when things are particularly hot on one band or when I find my dupe sheet shows a deficit in contacts from a call area I know I should have contacts from and that call area is coming through really good on one band.

The Same band Bounce seems to work best on a high/low basis. I usually plant myself up around 075khz for high and 030khz for low. Three CQ's either place without an answer is like a boot to my head to grab the dial for a quick QSY, pick a clear frequency, and slap out a CQ. This move gives one a high percentage shot at all the fellas moving up and down the band working people calling CQ. Hopefully, you can see

how one could hardly miss these vitally important guys. They make up probably 80% of your contacts.

The discipline of the Bounce is tough because it really is an un-natural feeling to pull off a frequency that has produced a bunch of QRM free QSO's for you but it must be done if one wants to keep up the ever important rate per hour. It takes drive to push yourself to make the QSO's even if you are tired and those seconds required for the change seem like long minutes.

I can only guarantee one thing and that is satisfaction with yourself when its over and you have substantially beat your last years score. Who cares if you're top in the section? Improvement is the name of the game also and the Bounce will improve your contesting ability more and more as it becomes habit.

DE KA5CHW

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Once again we have a trio to welcome aboard. Keith, KA5F, Tom, N5EA, and Al, N5ATC have been voted in. Congratulations. As you have noticed, we finally have attached a roster of members. Thanks to W5DOZ and his little computer.

MEMBER NEWS: K5NA is now in residence in W2-land and the Board, as specified in the Constitution has accepted Richard's resignation as Treasurer and appointed K5GB to replace him. Butch picked up the Club checkbook and said something about going on a DXpedition; oh well. Speaking of stations ending in NA, there's a rumor about that W5NA may have his sights set on Houston again?? K5TU is still on the air after the local do-gooders tried to injoin him from keeping his tower up. It was reported that AA5Y dazzled the Judge with footwork. KA5CHW and HOLLY are now Mr & Mrs after a semi-official wedding at Big-Ed's place. TDXS members in attendance did the Club proud by doing mild damage to the getaway vehicle. Big-Ed did register disappointment, however, that the TDXS did not exhaust his Coors and cheap champagne supply, as previously promised. The bachelor party the night before, was also a success, with only minimal divorces reported to this editor. K5RC is writing a book on how to evacuate after two evacuations in as many weeks, one for Hurricane Allen and one for a blown-out gas well. W5PTJ has agreed to contribute a chapter on getting your boat ready and unready for hurricanes.

73 and DX,



Tom, K5RC