



THE BULL SHEET

OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF THE TEXAS DX SOCIETY

an ARRL affiliated club

VOLUME VI, No. 5

May, 1981

MEETING NOTICE: The May TDXS meeting will be Friday, the 8th at our new meeting site near Bellaire General Hospital. Tommy, KA5GJO, says we should have air conditioning for this meeting at the Chimney Rock Medical Plaza located at 6550 Mapleridge. Two meter talk-in will again be available for those who have difficulty finding the rest of the crowd...or use your nose.

K5BZU and K5TU will present a program on computers, how they work and how you and I can benefit from their use in our day to day hobby related activities.

The meeting will start at 7:30. Please try and finish your evening guzzle early so we can start on time. Ken, K5YCP, always with an eye on the \$ said he may bring a cooler of soft drinks for meeting refreshments. (Only soft, Ken, or we'll be looking for a new meeting site!)

Several months back, we voted not to smoke during the meeting. Several individuals have noted that the haze level has again reached proportions that cause some great discomfort and irritation. The problem of no air conditioning certainly didn't help at the last meeting. Let us try and hold off with the smoking until the break.

WE DID IT!!! The TDXS is No. 1 in the ARRL Sweepstakes medium club category. The closest challenge came from a group up north that was 1.4 million points off the pace. Not exactly a cheap win, was it?

At the time this is being written, the above is just a rumor, but it's one from a solid enough source that the risk to print the good news seems minute .

Words of joy and pride just seem to well up into my mind, but none are anywhere adequate to describe the feeling I am sure I share with many other TDXS members who played a part in achieving this incredible feat. We can all be proud that we have reached a level in contesting few others have enjoyed.

We, The TDXS, will never fully satisfy those who are contesters only and who have little or no DX interest. But I hope this achievement will put to bed the comments that we are not a contest oriented club that can win the "Big One". Please, let us all share this wonderful moment together. There are so few times in life when one puts all his eggs in one basket and comes up a winner.

We should envy those who made it to Dayton and Fresno. That TDXS badge on their chest must have given them reason to strut a bit... and rightfully so.

Lets not get too fat between the ears, though. The record we set will only stir others to higher levels of preparation for this year's Sweepstakes. When you get your QST, take a look at our score --particularly yours. Then think about all the new antennas that have gone up and the new members we have taken into our ranks. Sure looks like 6 million points are possible if we want it bad enough...

TDXS OUTGOING QSL BUREAU: Joe, W5ASP, our Bureau Chief, reported at the last meeting that after all the careful planning and communicating we had with the ARRL, our program is in trouble. It probably wouldn't be fair to say the League has backed out of the agreement we established, but it is accurate to say there definitely is a lack of consistency between levels of management at the HQ.

Instead of seeing the type of program we have proposed as a positive idea, the League apparently has chosen not to see the big picture enough to visualize all the possible benefits they could receive. The type program we proposed could be offered to all if they wished, thereby greatly reducing the sorting and handling workload the ARRL Outgoing Service presently incurs.

SAY IT IN "HIS" LANGUAGE: Ever wish you could cap off a great DX QSO with a word of thanks in that person's language? Ever wish you could crack the RST, Name, QTH barrier with those DX stations you work fairly frequently. Well, your prayers are answered.

OH1BR and OH2BAD publish a book titled "The Radio Amateur's Conversation Guide". The book is available in the United States for \$10.00 from a California firm headed up by W6EUF.

Hon. Ed. ordered a copy and was very pleased with what he received. The book contains 147 commonly used phrases that run all the way from "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" to "Please give me a report in the ...contest". All subjects like WX, signal quality, rigs and antennas are covered plus a dictionary of single words.

Each phrase and word is translated into German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Russian (Phonetic) and Japanese. Supplements are available in Swedish, Finnish, Danish, Dutch and Yugoslavian. Cassettes can be purchased of several of the languages for practice before you jump into a 20 meter SSB pile and call someone a pink toilet seat by mistake. The book and other materials are available from:

Transelectro--America
2301 Canehill Ave.
Long Beach, Calif. 90815

PROPAGATION: My CQ arrived this month and already my crystal ball has started to clear. In May, we should see conditions above normal 6,23; high normal 2-3, 5, 15-16, 18, 24, 27, 29-30; low normal 1, 4, 7, 9-10, 13-14, 17,19, 22, 26, 28, 31; stinks 8, 11-12, 20-21, 25.

Our current cycle, Cycle 21, has been declared the second highest solar cycle recorded since daily telescopic observations of the sun began during the mid-1700's. The minimum for this cycle is unlikely to occur before 1986 so don't bust a final trying to work every JA that crosses your path.

Look for an increase of Sporadic--E in May. A major meteor shower is expected between May 4 and 6. Look for possible auroral activity on those days listed as stinks. Go to 10 meters or higher, point the beam north and see what happens. Auroral displays were visible as far South as the Gulf Coast in April--a rare occurrence indeed. Maybe we will get more of the same this month.

WARNING AEA KEYER USERS: A recent article in the National Contest Journal cleared up a "QRM" problem I have been having. The article reminded readers that microprocessors can generate RF signals. Sure enough when I turned on my AEA CK-1 keyer, which sits right next to my RX, and hit the paddle, my 7553 came alive with what appeared to be low power steady carriers all over the place. Low level, true but loud enough enough to QRM weak DX signals. Moving the CK-1 away from the RX about a foot or so cleared the problem. The problem can be most easily detected on a dead band--like 10 at night. Check your equipment arrangement out and see what you find.

DAYTON--as seen by K5RC: Tom reports the following facts/rumors/lies were floating on top the beer suds at Dayton. -9N1MM going to be in the states Oct.-Dec. Might be a super catch for the TDXS for our DX/Contest Forum at Convention '81. -DXAC met. Still too close to call on Knights of Malta as a new country (located in Italy). -AA2Z, Mark Wilson, will replace K1Ki at the ARRL Contest helm. -W4BPD, Gus, swears he's going to bless the New Guys with a Caribbean trip that is supposed to cover all countries down yonder. -All contacts registered in SS logs with station call signs K5PFL/2 and WA3OVC/5 were removed under the "multiple calls from one location" rule.

More from Dayton---The "general world" had not been made aware of our SS medium club crushing score so our guys could only sneer at the slop-jaw talk going around. -A special request was made for a repeat performance by K5WA and KA5CHW of their Hospitality Suite act that was so well received at Baton Rouge awhile back. -DL7FT was there with ZA talk on his breath. -The "4AM Diehards" took a vote and decided to grab what few bottles were left and start hitchhiking to Fresno. -ARRL DX TEST High Claimed put TDXS folks in the following slots: K5GA #2-M/S Phone; K5IY (KA5CHW op) #1-20 CW; W5UN #1-40 CW; W5WMU #2-40CW; K5RC #1-M/S CW. These positions are national standings. -For \$8.00, K5TM can furnish a copy of "DX IS" which is a recap of high spots of the West Gulf DX Bulletin. Tom says its good for lots of laughs and will bring back memories for many. -K2SS (W2FVS) offers a unique method of plotting the dark, light and gray line terminator for \$14.95. His package uses world maps (with zones) and a plastic overlay for each month of the year. You 5B-DXCC types need one of these for those tough ones on 75/80.

FIELD DAY - JUNE 27-28 1981: Ok Gentleman...we are under two months before Field Day. Here is the plan of attack for equipment transfer to the Field Day site. Saturday, June 13th, we will make the rounds for crank-up towers, antennas and associated equipment. I will coordinate with all parties that are donating equipment to schedule pick up times plus or minus 2 hours. I would request that all towers be cranked down with antennas removed so that we can make quick work of removing equipment. Antenna that are already disassembled will need to have elements wrapped for easy identification and re-assembly. This pick up process is usually a full day of hustling, so please have things as ready as possible. On Sunday, June 14th, this equipment will be taken to the Field Day site for antenna assembly and checking and then storage outside the Field Day 1000' circle. I need 3 or 4 volunteers to go with me, W5JQ and KN5A. I will be taking the TR-7 to tune up the antennas if anyone wants to come and learn how to operate it. By taking towers and antennas up two weeks ahead of time, we will have one week to spare in case of a rainout on the 13th and 14th.

It looks like each station will have a RV, including the Novice station. The K5TU/K5MA RV will be stationed at the 20CW station. K5IY's RV will be stationed at the 20SSB station. KA5GJO/N5JJ/K5DX/N5CDO/WB5WHR's RV will be at 15CW/SSB station. N5DU/W5JQ's RV will be the Novice Station. (if the above isn't the most disgusting and perverted thing you've ever read, I don't know what is....hon.ed.)

Our Novice operator will be KA5KDO who is being put through a quick contesting course by KN5H. We still need another Novice/Technician to help Jim out, though.

ROTATORS ! - Big on my need list is rotators. Give me a call if you have one available for F D.

See you at the meeting.

N5DU-BOB

H-463-0417 W-688-8126

DX BEFORE (or after) IT HAPPENS: Hopefully, all will have had the opportunity to receive a 599 or 5/9 from TYA11 and ADØS/KH5 or KH5K. Rumors have it that Jan Gould has filed suit against most parties involved in the last Palmyria/Kingman DXpedition and include the owners of the island, as well as the aircraft personnel. This may mean the last operation from palmyria for a long time....ZL1AMO is on the move again, now signing H44RW from the Solomon Is., mostly CW....FK8DV, Jack, is active on ten, around 28550 from ØØØØZ....FR7AJ/G will be active thru 11 May on a list on 21290 around 17ØØZ....Rumors also are pointing to operations this fall to such nice prefixes as CEØX, S9, VKØH, Mellish Reef and Cocos (VK9) Islands....

We will try to keep you posted in advance of these operations.

73 de K5VWW

CONTEST CRAZIES: The major contest season being over, the contester turns to minor contests and summer weather for the opportunity to improve his form and farm. Take care not to get a crick in your neck as you stare up at your aluminum and wires searching for a few more db.

One problem I've noticed lately is the lack of understanding of the rules for each contest and the strategies they imply. It is important that you know the rules and what they mean in terms of your operating so that you get the most out of each hour.

Take the CQ WW WPX Contest, for example. The phone weekend was at the end of March. The CW weekend is coming up on the 30-31 of May. In this contest, QSO's with USA are zero points, other North American countries are two points, and other continents are three points. On 40 and 80 meters the point values are doubled. Since the multiplier is prefixes worked, no matter which band, the only reason to go to the low bands is to make QSO's at the higher point values. But, what a reason! Leaving 20M where your rate was 30 EU+ 5 VE+ 10 W = 100 pts per hour, going to 40M, you can work 15 EU+ 3 VE+ 5 W = 102 pts per hour at half the QSO rate. So when you're on the low bands, look to keep your QSO rate at half or better the rate you have been making on the high bands. Another point: since Americans are not valuable for QSO points, listen hard for the weaker DX stations calling you and answer them first. Try to maintain a high average ratio of points per QSO while maintaining a high QSO rate. Also keep good track of your multipliers so that you do not waste precious minutes calling KG2Y for the 3rd or 4th time.

Besides WPX CW, CQ-M contest, a world-wide DX contest sponsored by Box 88, is available May 9-10. Both phone and cw modes are used in the same weekend, so the basic strategy is to mix it up, changing mode frequently to take advantage of new activity and variable band conditions. QSO's once per band regardless of mode W zero points, N. A. one point, other continents 3 points, 80--10 meters.

It's a 24 hour contest, so you get each opening only once. The multiplier is countries per band, using the Russian DXCC list. (UN1 and UAØY are separate countries on this list) This makes the low bands important for chasing mults.

RADIOSPORT RIPPLES--K5ZD operated K5RC to a high standing in WPX Phone--Did any TDXS members see the aurora borealis that occurred April 11-13? I've never seen it before and I wish I hadn't missed it....KN5A at K5KG with K5GN and KD4M (an extra-class operation, no doubt) had a ball in WPX, even though the USA-to-DX concentration was rather high. 10M was fantastic to both EU and JA....How many Poles did you work in the SP DX Test? Did you know there were that many Polish hams? KA5CHW let a box of goods spoil his plans for early summer antenna forays. Hopefully, his back will heal quickly and he'll be back on the road to bigger and better things out in the boonies....The tremendous aurora wiped out the GC contest but made the Open CD CW a W5 contest. KN5H reports averaging nearly 100 QSO's per hour early on....K8MR plugs his proposed rule changes for IARU in the latest NCJ. Sounds like he wants to take away the only equalizing factor that the Midwest has in that contest. Write him and the rest of the CAC to let him know how it affects us....Do you subscribe to the NCJ? A six dollar subscription could easily lead to 10% improvement in your contest scores....QRZ?

See you in the pileups!

de K5GN--Dave

LAST MINUTE INPUTS: K5BZU is ready for the next round of QSL orders. Congratulations to our new members-KA5GJO, N5DC, KN5T, (New members please reread the sentence above). Next month we'll have a detailed wrap-up of TDXS SS results and a comparison of the costs of the most popular monoband yagi's and various quads available today. I am keeping this issue short to give all my helpers a moment of relief; W5SG who mails this sucker; Holly who makes me do the dishes while she types it; K5VWW-K5GN-N5DU for their monthly inputs; and K5MA-K5VWW and others who sneak a ream of paper/Xerox time to print it. Its gratifying to receive your positive about the Bullsheat. We, the above and myself put in between 20 and 35 manhours a month to get the dribble out on a timely (?) basis and we are all pleased that the effort makes the TDXS just that much stronger.

de KA5CHW (who?) Dennis

