



THE BULLSHEET



Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

July, 1984
Volume VIII
Number 7

founded 1970

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

MEETING NOTICE - The Texas DX Society meets the second Friday of each month except when changed by the Board of Directors. The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on July 20, 1984 at the Bellaire Hospital Professional Building, 6550 Mapleridge. This change was approved by the Board of Directors so the monthly meeting would not interfere with the IARU Radiosport Contest (July 13-15).

FIELD DAY '84 RESULTS - KB5FU has done a super job of duping and sorting the Field Day logs. The following final QSO totals were released just before press time (The QSO totals are after dupes):

Band	SSB QSO's	% Dupes	Band	CW QSO's	% Dupes
75	131	2.9	80	37	0.0
40	416	2.5	40	642	4.1
20	1221	6.6	20	847	6.2
15	143	0.0	15	251	1.9
10	0	-	10	0	-
Oscar	4	0.0	Oscar	18	5.2
			Novice	46	0.0

Total SSB QSO's: 1915

Total CW QSO's: 1841

The Novice station ran into a bit of trouble this year when it interfered with the 15 M and 20 M stations. Therefore, the Q total was down a bit.

A grande muchas gracias to WA5PQK who hosted this year's event at this ranch out near Hempstead, TX.

CONTEST REPORT - (de K2TNO) Rumors: No solid reports of contest results were available as this went to press. However, if the All-Asian DX SSB contest (June 16,17 weekend) is to be believed, the bands have been pretty stinko of late. Ken, KE5IV (20 SSB) and Tom KD5SP (40 SSB) put K5LZ0's station through the contest. Meanwhile, Barbara, WB5RUS and 'Squirt' KA5SBS were on six meters for the SMIRK contest. Sounds like Chuck, the Leopold Stokowski (who's he? -ed.) of the multi-op contesters, had nothing to do but orchestrate and smoke those El Ropo's of his. Eric, NM5M and George, WA5PQK were busy at George's new QTH trying 15 SSB with the new antenna. George should be QRV by the fall contest season with big aluminum. Bob, N5DU is also ready for action at N5AF's QTH. The antenna farm is used as a landmark by Southwest Airlines out of Love Field because the 40M 4-el KLM at 160 feet can be seen dead ahead as soon as the planes leave the runway in Dallas! Grady, NA5R and Tom, K5RC continue making progress down at Radio Manvel. The 40M 4 el is now up at about 175 feet. Their latest recruit to the steeple jack biz is John, WA5ZVE. (There's

nothing like a vertical and low power at home to get you interested in multi-multi, is there John ?) Our worthy leader, KZ5M is in the throes of completing a new add-on shack to his mobile home. A key feature is a clothesline over the finals to dry diapers with the hot air. (That's hot air from the rigs; his own hot air scorches the fabric too much.)

Upcoming Contests (de K2TNO) IARU Radiosport takes place July 14-15. Starting time is ~~0000~~ GMT (7 pm Friday night). See May QST for details of the various categories. The exchange is signal report plus ITU Zone (We're Zone 7). Note that you should work USA stations only for their zone multiplier, otherwise try to haul in that DX. Fast band-changing is a must; since the contest is on both CW and SSB, you can take your pick, or work both modes. The Eastern Block seems to go crazy in this one; with all the new UA calls, it should be a lulu if we get some openings.

Don't feel like putting out a big effort? Why not ask around and see who will be multiop and needs some extra ears/fingers/lips? Logs and dupe sheets will be available at the July meeting.

Dupe Sheets - (de K2TNO) It's painfully obvious that the DX dupe sheet we've been using is less than useless now with the callsign changes. So, Dave, K5GN has taken it upon himself to re-vamp to form to be more accomodating. Please give him the necessary encouragement (i.e., threats...).

Armadillo Run - (de K2TNO) This contest of ours is part of the county hunters CW contest over the last weekend of July. The exchange is QSO nr, Class (M=mobile, P=portable, F=fixed), RST, State, and County. A new QSO number set is used in each county. Frequencies are about 70 KHz. up from the bottom of each band. Not going out with the TDXS four-wheelers? Try the contest...its wild!

ARRL BULLETINS VIA RTTY - (de W5DOZ) HR ARRL BULLETIN NR 47 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS, NEWINGTON, CT JUNE 15, 1984

TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

THE FCC HAS DENIED THE ARRL PETITION FOR RULEMAKING, RM 4040. THE LEAGUE HAS REQUESTED THAT CABLE TV OPERATIONS BE PROHIBITED ON AMATEUR FREQUENCIES, BUT THE FCC FELT THAT THIS WAS TOO DRASTIC AN ACTION. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT A TOTAL LOSS FOR AMATEUR RADIO. IN DENYING THE LEAGUES REQUEST, THE FCC USED STRONG LANGUAGE TO REMIND THE CABLE TV COMPANIES OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES NOT TO LEAK EXCESSIVELY AND TO ELIMINATE HARMFUL INTERFERENCE EVEN IF LEAKAGE IS WITHIN FCC LIMITS. DETAILS WILL APPEAR IN THE ARRL LETTER AND QST. AR

XU1SS - (de KC5M) Kampuchea (Cambodia) - Several DX bulletins have given a Thailand P.O. address for QSL purposes. However the correct QSL route is via JAIHQG. This comes direct from VS6CT who assists the operators of XU1SS every Sunday morning. Though the callbook address will work, this one gives quicker results: Mr. Y. Arisaka, 4-3-9 Yuigahama, Kamakura, Kanagawa 248, JAPAN. This operation takes place on 14.335 at 1200 Z. It usually starts long path and after approximately one half hour, switches to short path. Good luck to all!

PETER I ISLAND - (de KC5M and courtesy of CQ Magazine) Since the ARRL DXCC labeled this one a new country when someone manages to get there and operate, there has been a lot of interest mixed with anticipation. There were some dedicated types who said they might soon be headed for the island, and the

hopes of the needy DXers soared. However, going to Peter I Island is not exactly like hopping over to Barbados. Actually, it is a difficult place to get to, difficult to get ashore, and there have been but two recorded landings since the island was discovered in 1821.

After the island's discovery, the first landing was not until February, 1929, when the Norwegian research vessel *Norvegia* put a crew ashore in the vicinity of Cape Ingrid Christensen on the west side of the island. Though a number of other vessels have been in the vicinity over the years, the ice pack often kept them at a distance. In 1960 the USS *Glacier* and USS *Burton Island* were in the vicinity and reported the ice pack just five miles south of the island.

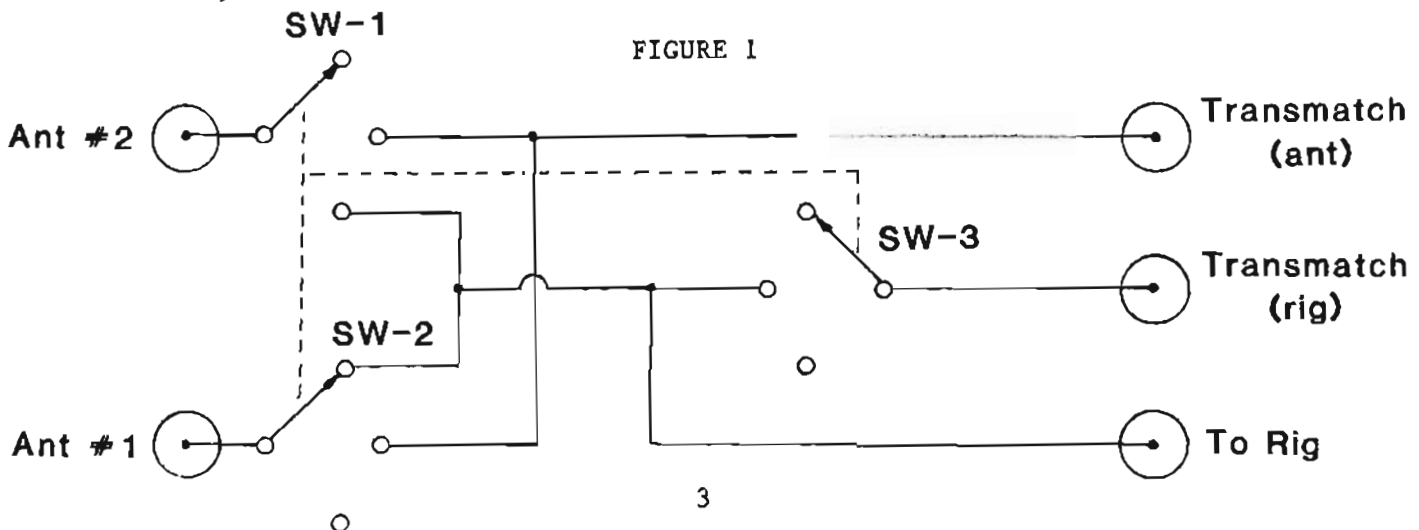
Though there has been increased Antarctic activity in the last 50 years, there has been only one other landing on Peter I since 1929, and that was in 1982 when the M/V *World Discover* on a circumnavigation cruise of the Antarctic managed a landing at *Norvegiabukta* in the area of the previous landing. The same vessel the year before was not able to make a landing.

Though the island is volcanic in origin, 11.5 by 6 miles in size, and composed of basalt rock. The island drops off steeply on most of the west side although there are offshore rocks and reefs indicated by breakers and disturbed water. Most of the close approaches seem to have been made in the vicinity of Cape Ingrid Christensen. Notes on the island mention a large, remarkable cave on the south side of this Cape, and some discussions on possible DXpedition efforts have speculated on the possibility of setting up a camp on this cave. The two landings on Peter I both have been made on the west side, the Norwegians landing both north and south of the Cape. A small depot hut was erected on a steep platform of basalt lava at the head of *Sandefjortbukta*.

To some extent Peter I Island is only partly explored, and some charts of the island show scant features on the east side. While every DXer will live in anticipation of hearing this one, longevity could be a definite factor. But then again, DX has always been for the enduring, and as anyone who has 300 DXCC countries knows, new ones come hard.

ANTENNA COMBINER SWITCH
by Bill Schrader, K2TNO

The circuit shown in Figure 1 allows switch selection of either ANTENNA #1 or ANTENNA #2 or both connected together. It is built into a small minibox. The circuit requires that both antennas 1 and 2 have a low VSWR when used alone.



CONCEPT: If both antennas present about a 1.5:1 or less VSWR to the rig, then switching from one to the other requires no re-tuning of the transmitter. However, when two antennas are connected in parallel, the impedance falls to about half of the value of either antenna. That is, if both are resonant and 50 ohm (VSWR 1:1 for either alone), the impedance will be 25 ohms for the parallel circuit and thus the VSWR will be 2:1. Thus, a transmatch will be needed to use the antennas in parallel. Even if an amplifier is able to operate into a 2:1 VSWR, it would require re-tuning each time the combined antenna position were selected. By adding the transmatch to the circuit as shown, the VSWR will be low for the combined position, and thereby allowing switching to each position with no alteration of rig tuning.

CIRCUIT: A transmitting-type ceramic switch is required. It should have three sections. A Centralab JV-9003 3 pole heavy duty switch is ideal. Max at the Emporium has them new for \$15 (very cheap). Sections 1 and 3 of the switch connect either antenna alone to the transmitter. The switch is shown in the 'ANTENNA #1 ONLY' position. When either of the two antennas is selected by itself, the transmatch is removed from the circuit by section 2. In the middle position (both antennas in parallel) the two antenna lines are diverted to the antenna side of a transmatch. The rig side of the transmatch is connected to the transmitter terminal in this position.

OPERATION: If a heavy-duty switch is used with # 12 or #14 solid wire, the box can handle high power. A rule of thumb is to choose a switch equal in physical size to the output stage's bandswitch. ***WARNING*** Do not "hot switch" the box because arcing of the contacts will result.

When both antennas are combined, obviously only half the power output goes to either one. Thus, your signal will be down by 3 db in the direction favored by one antenna. In directions where the patterns overlap, the signal may approach (at best) the strength of one antenna alone. Therefore, it is unwise to combine antennas unless (a) you expect you are very loud in both antenna directions anyway and (b) the band is open in more than one direction. The box should be particularly effective as a band changes.

CONSTRUCTION: Mount all five coax connectors on the back of a suitable aluminum box. Placement is not critical, but keep leads as short and direct as possible. Mount the switch itself on the front panel. Use care in bending stiff solid wire soldered to switch terminals; the ceramic wafers and/or the terminals will break, if stressed. If the switch is purchased new, choose one that has "shorting" contacts, i.e., make-before-break. With this type of wafer switch, the antennas are never disconnected from the rig. (The JV-9003 switch is non-shorting.) If you accidentally switch while transmitting, the rig will never be exposed to a "no antenna" situation. Solid-state finals have VSWR protection circuitry, but it's a good idea never to put that circuit to test.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A TDXS PRESIDENT...KZ5M I was born at a very early age in Moorehead, Minnesota which is located near Fargo, North Dakota. My father was a farm boy from a family of 12 children. Mom came from small town - small family stock. My "developing" years through seven were spent living a small boy's dreams in Dilworth, Minn. - population 475. Hide and seek in the cornfields; fishing every weekend; snowmen in the winter and attending school in a small building that housed grades 1 through 12.

It took some thirty years but I've finally made it back to that life with my recent move to Booth, Texas. But, in between these two slower paces in my life, I saw a little of the faster lanes.

The years '55 through '66 were spent in Costa Mesa, California near the ocean. Naturally, that meant lots of beach time and an inborn love for the Beach Boys' music. I was only a "B" student and for many years was the skinny guy everybody picked on. Ham radio came into my life when my self confidence was at its lowest. It allowed me to escape from the real world each day. Right or wrong, it did give me time to develop my first real talent which in turn brought back the self confidence. As with most hams of my generation, DXing and contesting took a back burner to women and beer in my later high school years. I did manage to win the novice certificate in my first SS, though. The piece of paper proved to be the beginning of a sickness that has been very hard to shake. Of course, that certificate won with 79 QSO's which took two weekends while today my first hour rate must be better than that just to stay in the game.

I graduated from high school with no permanent police record, thanks to cops who could still laugh. Since the Navy was going to be my career for life - I thought - I had attended boot camp during my summer vacation between Jr. and Sr. year so I really only attended school for the laughs it offered. After graduation, a friend and I took off for Miami and the beginning of my first expedition. We went to the then rare island of VP2L for many days of pile-ups. On the way home, we stopped at VP2A where I met Don, K5AAD for the first time. Don says we had a good time that night...I can't remember.

Next came Vietnam for me. Actually, it came twice for me. Two weeks on active duty was all I needed to tell me this wasn't the life I expected. So, nine bright ribbons and pretty pieces of metal later, I beat feet for the civy life again. The Navy did not allow me to get in many fun hours of operating as WA6WTD/KH6, KP6, KG6, and VK3 though.

I had gotten engaged between Vietnam trips #1 and #2 so the big day was waiting for me almost as soon as I hit the docks.

The next 11 years offered only brief spells of ham activity, but nothing like I really desired. Mostly, apartment living and no beams, if antennas, at all. I stayed active by operating QSO parties and learning to chase DX the hard way. We lived in Michigan from '69 until '75 when Texas came into our lives after a short stretch in KL7 - which was swell to operate - if the bands every opened up. I became a small time 'hired gun' and even managed to achieve my all time stupendous #1 grandiose moment - beating Randy in a CW sweepstakes! (he still thinks I cheated!)

In '79, my then ex-wife packed her bags and our two children and headed back to Michigan. That started the year the City of Houston will never forget when Jan, K5MA and I merged our partial household belongings into a "pad". But one year as a "wild and crazy guy" was all my body could take. Besides, Holly had stepped into my life...

Next came two years of building Radio Booth. Holly and I are very happy on our 5 acres and plan a long happy life there. Our first (and only) child is due in early August so we will be busy this year. The present station includes:

Collins S-Line, TS-830, TS-820/R820

SB220, SB200

Shunt fed 112 ft tower for 160, 3 el bobtail curtain for 80M

4 el 40 M @ 70 ft, 4 over 4 on 100 ft tower on 20 M

4 over 4 over 4 over 4 on 15M on 112 ft tower

5 el 10's at 112 ft and 40 ft.

I make my \$\$ as a straight commission salesman of fire protection systems for computer rooms and pretty much any other type of electronic equipment.

Most enjoyable moment in my life: Getting to call Tom, K5RC 'ROTUND TUMMY' in the Bullsheet every so often.

SCUTTLEBUTT The following is a true story. Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent.

The scene: Two TDXS members on the telephone

The cast: Ham #1: A Field Day station captain

Ham #2: A rig supplier for FD.

The plot: Arranging pick-up or transfer of the rig from #2 to #1

The time: Three days before Field Day.

#1 Can I come over to your place and pick up the rig tonight?

#2 Sure...Do you know how to get here?

#1 No, gimme directions.

#2 Okay, it's easy. Go out I-10 east seven miles past the 610 loop. Get off at Sheldon Road, and go north to Highway 90. That road's not marked, but you'll know you've gone too far because Sheldon changes to two lanes at that point.

#1 QSL.

#2 Make a right on Highway 90. Keep going until you cross the river. Make a left at the first light past the river. That's FM2100. Go north on 2100 through Crosby until you cross the railroad tracks. At the first light after the tracks turn left on to South Diamondhead.

#1 QSL...And you're on Diamondhead...

#2 No. Go down Diamondhead to the first stop sign, and turn right onto Port O'Call. Go north one mile until you cross the canal.

#1 Canal!? I cross a CANAL?

#2 Right.

#1 O.K., QSL. Let me guess: we're not there yet, are we?

#2 Nope. After you cross the canal go to the fourth street and turn right on Harbor Mist. Take that road until it ends at South Lighthouse. Turn left on that street. Go down South Lighthouse to the first right. That's Pelican. Our house is down the block at number XXXX. You can't miss it.

#1 Thanks. QSL. Gotta run; I've gotta pack some sandwiches for the trip.