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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 March 9, 1984 at the Bellaire Hospital Professional Building, 6550 Mapleridge.

TDXpeditions '84 (by KZ5M) One down and one to go. I'm writing this Monday am following the CW weekend and I must admit I'm feeling a little dingy. But, alas, our Hon. Ed. must spend a little time over in EU so the pressure is on to put the Bullsheet to bed a little earlier than normal.

CW weekend was a real winner! It is, of course, too early to tell if the competition was ever in the same league but we are feeling pretty strong about winning the World Multi/Multi plaque and about a new record that will stand for sometime. Conditions were a long way from ideal but we managed to bang out a bunch of Q's. Look for yourself:

Total QSO's.....8,696
Total Mults.....331
Total Score8.6 MM

15 and 10 weren't too great but the boys milked them for all they were worth. On the other hand, lots of hard work paid off for N5JJ and N5AF and an occasional hand from others on 160. Dave and his merry gang of antenna helpers put up three 1000 ft. beverage antennas that were super signal suckers. This was no easy task either, since it all was across uncleared cactus infested terrain, to say nothing of the 4½ foot rattlesnake killed near us the same day the antennas went up! His 648 Q's with an amazing 50 multiplier blew the socks off the old record so far they'll have to be picked up by the next STS mission. (The same mission that will hopefully take Chuck's socks out into space to clear the international pollution problem created when he refused to change them this weekend.)

Dale, KG5U, drove the ops picking slots on his band, 80, to 1149 QSO's. In those Q's they found all but two of the possible multipliers missing VE2 (!) and VE8/VY1. The noise was really tough for these dedicated souls on Friday night so Dale tapped the closest barbed wire fence and found a gem of an antenna for the Saturday night runs. I'm sure this addition was worth at least 100 hard to come by QSO's and a few of those mults.

XE2FU now owns a 70 ft. tower that was used by Dave, K5GN, and all ops lucky enough to get an operating slot on 40 M to make 2,110 QSO's in all states and VE provinces except a totally inactive VE8/VY1. This is so many hundred Q's more than the previous record, the old score isn't worth mentioning. We

managed to keep Dave in line using a straight jacket and regular intervals of Valium stuffing so none of the ops on this band ended up having their lungs torn out by our club Iron Man. Dave did a heck of a job fighting some pretty tough noise problems. The atmospherics cleared Saturday, but our noise persisted. A shakedown of the whole ranch was conducted to find the real pesty man made noise that threatened to wipe out 40 Saturday night. Finally, the noise was traced to a neon light on a battery charger for a handi-talkie in a room in the ranch house. One learns something every day...

Many novices worked their first XE because of the efforts of Dave and his gang to keep the rate up even when the sun was up. Each of those hard Q's was worth 1000 points so the effort really helped.

The 20 meter ops enjoyed a very comfy station inside the W5BZN RV. Air conditioning and all. Orville, K5VWW, managed the second all multiplier band total by making wise use of the VE national calling frequency on SSB, 14.140 MHz. A cooperative VY1 finished off his multiplier sheet on Sunday. This band produced the most QSO's - 2110 and also the two highest hour QSO rates. I felt extremely proud to make those two rates (186 & 164) considering I was surrounded by the finest collection of CW ops in the world, including several who could have done the same or better if they would have had the same opening two hours.

Kim, K5TU, came on board as a last minute replacement as the 15 meter station captain and did a swell job with a band that was a little too long for our liking. Many times we found the EU or JA stations louder than the USA. Even at that, Grady, NA5R, with a 157 hour and the other 15 M ops managed a big 1761 Q's. These guys were the first to find all 57 multipliers by lucking onto a VE8 early in the test. Unfortunately, the VE8 was entering single band 15M (if he had been in rifle range, he would have had his last QSO just as he said that!) The cursing could be heard all the way to Mexico City, I'm sure.

All participants learned that W7,8,9,Ø and sometimes W6 are actually out 'east', not where one would ususally expect to find them with a 5 el beam on 10M. All hands got a real good lesson in working backscatter before they were set down to operate here. The 10M captain, K5RC, also was lucky enough to pick his own band for the opening two hours and led a 965/56 effort by having a "Ø" opening hour. As a matter of fact, we had a total of 3 Q's and 2 mults all day Friday and one of the Q's didn't count because he was a PY! Mental telepathy was also used as a mode of transmission in pulling out the toughies on 10M.

We had a 2M net set up for passing around multipliers that worked great for the most part. Many a SDAK and VE4 felt like a ping pong ball as we bounced him from band to band. Surprisingly, almost all requests for QSYs or schedules were eagerly accepted by the USA troops. Also, the gang on the VE SSB calling frequency were as helpful as one could ask for with a rumor of 'firebombing' VE hospitals hanging over their heads. (you had to be there! ed.)

Some of the station operating positions left a little to be desired, but nobody complained though two of the stations set up in the WASPQK RV became known as BackBreaker #1 and #2. The ops on 160 were all required to clean up before operating because their armpits were highly exposed all the time due to the unusually high operating table.

Bob, N5DU, and Galen, KB5FU, did a superb job of keeping the watts going to the rigs. Also, Galen was assigned armed sentry duty on a certain red generator which he stood admirably. Mike, WA5POK, gave the club a big helping hand by hauling the mega-trailer down with over a ton of generators and water. Another non-member Rob, W5VAH, let us use his van as a station shelter in exchange for a shot at amking a few XE2FU Qs. Tommy, KD5SP, did arrange for the water as promised even though it was used for coffee and cleaning K5GN's feet (since beer seemed to be the main staple for most ops). Some 884 beer bottles pointed towards the sun or the moon throughout the trip. Not bad for 20 some operators and about 15 XE types. I must admit a few of us had quite a disproportionate share of those 84 bottles.

NA5R, KZ5M, KC5CP, and K5TU took a few of their off hours to push poker chips back and forth across the table. M and CP enjoyed splitting TU's money when it was all over. (your mean to tell me that 2 pair doesn't beat a straight flush?! - ed.)

The XEs were incredible and wouldn't let us spend a dime while we were there. They kept a real close watch for incoming ops and escorted most across the border.

CONTEST REPORT (de K2TNO) Results of the IARU Radiosport contest back in July were announced in February QST. The Field Day Leftovers, NA5R and company, were tops multiop with 2.4 megapoints. Now we know why our FD effort required putting up all that educated aluminum out at Radio Manvel. Of course, that setup was two storms ago, so nothing remains except the insurance forms.

The results average out to 273 kilopoints per operator, good enough for only second place in South Texas. Tops was the KB5FU bunch, who had 278K per operator. Both fine efforts in multiop. Our worthy leader, KZ5M, was tops single-op in STX, and fourth W/VE on mixed mode. Meanwhile, back at the mike button, Sharp, K5DX, was tops in STX, and third-high W/VE. The Radiosport is a terrific contest for you oblast hunters, because the eastern bloc countries come out of the woodwork for this one.

March CQ gave results of the CQ SSB WPX contest of a year ago. Dave, K5GN, operated NA5R to the top W/VE slot on 10 meters. Not only did he win, he beat the number two score by a factor of two. (Dave says he would have done better, but it was tough to translate the SSB into CW, copy it, send his exchange on CW, translate to SSB, and transmit. He owns the only Bencher microphone in the club.

Galen, KB5FU, blabbed his way to sixth-high W/VE on 75 meters. July is always such a nice, quiet time on 75 - no static crashes at all, eh Galen?

Enough of the past - what's up next? We had two fine teams for the CW and SSB Sprints in February. DON'T FORGET TO MAIL IN YOUR LOGS, GUYS! They're due (received!) by March 5 for CW (logs to W6OAT) and due for SSB by March 12 (to K7GM). Conditions were terrible on 20, since the band closes by about 7 pm local time. Probably they'll move up the starting time an hour or two for the fall sprints (de K5ZD/M). Ask any of the newcomers to Sprints and they'll tell

you it's definately the world championships of contesting. Three band capability is a must.

The ARRL DX Contest attracted fair activity out of the club on CW - I was disappointed to see how many members only got on long enough to track down XE2FU and then went QRT. Phone will be the weekend of March 3-4-5.

Next up is CW 160 SSB contest on February 24 to 26. The test starts at 2200Z Friday, and ends 1600 Z on Sunday. The band is hot, quiet, and very active. Call me if you need some logs.

Finally, the CQ WPX SSB test is March 24-25. You new-call types will have a ball in this one. Watch out for strange special prefixes - they get very strange indeed in this one. By the way, WPX contest rules have been clarified - a prefix is a different multiplier if it differs at all ahead of the letters in the suffix from the standard prefix. For example, LZ1KBA and LZ1ØØKBA would be two separate mults.

Work me from XE2FU in the SSB contest. I'm the one with the Northern Mexican accent. de K2TNO.

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT (de K2TNO) I've been somewhat vexed by the problems we have when the whole club is on 80 and 160. The ground-wave signals are so loud we desense each other's receivers, to say nothing about the ear damage! There's not much we can do about loud, but there sure is something we can do about clean. If your rig clicks, fix it! If you can overdrive your amp or run the processor up too high, you aren't helping your signal out at all, but it sure tears up the rest of the club. We'll have at least 3-4 years of heavy use of 160-80-40, so how about an ounce of prevention? Consider the alternative: a late night visit from the RFI committee and their twelve pound adjusting hammers.

SOME MORE ABOUT WAA-NC&S/WMC (de KC5M) I have received a request for clarification of the rules which are being applied to these two contests. I assume the confusion surrounds the band/mode format. I hope the following will clear the confusion.

January	80-CW	July	"Catch-Up" Month
February	75-FONE	August	"Catch-Up" Month
March	40-CW	September	20-CW
April	15-FONE	October	10-FONE
May	10-CW	November	15-CW
June	20-FONE	December	40-FONE

For each of the contests, the object is to make as many qualifying contacts using the stated band/mode format provided. The band format is the key. For example, ten meter contacts in January do not count. To participate in either of the contests, you must make at least ten contacts on each of the band modes. If you moss this minimum, you still have July and August to "catch up". (Yes, 80 M in the summer!)

This minimum contact requirement was to encourage CW activity for SSB buffs and SSB activity for CW buffs. After all, ten in any one month should not be difficult. On the other hand, SSB buffs can "work like hell" during the ssb

mode months and CW buffs can do like wise on CW mode months. This way, you can pick your mode and submit a possible winning score regardless of your mode preference. As many members have a definite mode preference, this must be addressed in our attempts to generate interest in as many members as possible.

The "wire" vs. "aluminum" rule is applied to each band as needed. For example, you may use a wire inverted vee on 80 and use an aluminum beam on 40. Thus, you must use the appropriate point assignment. This was an attempt to equalize the inequity of any competition between members with beams and rotatable dipoles versus those using wire antennas. If confusion does exist, please let me know.

In order not to discourage those who failed to get the necessary ten 80 M contacts in January as a result of the confusion, this requirement is waived. Good luck. de KC5M.

DX CALENDAR (de KC5M) Clipperton should be up approximately March 9 for at least six days. All the DX reports indicate that this is going to be an "all-out" effort with several stations on the air around the clock. The QSL's go to YASME, Box 2025, Castro Valley, CA 94546. KERMADEC Jim Smith is still trying to get things together. Kermadec resident ZL8AFH has been reported on 20 meters. This may prove to be a major effort for Warwick, ZL3AFH, who has a history of active DX'ing and should be on the island for several more months. If you work ZL8AFH, his QSL goes via the callbook address to ZL3AFH. However, be patient as he intends to do his own QSL'ing.

TDXS FACTS AND FIGURES (de W5ASP) Some of you may remember the questionnaire I sent out in THE BULLSHEET just before the ARRL National Convention. I wanted to gather some facts and figures about the members of the TDXS that might be of interest to both the visitors, to our Hospitality Suite, and to the members themselves. Although it didn't fall into place in time for the convention, I thought many of you would still be interested in what I found out. Here is part of it...

I received a total of 35 replies from the sixty or so full and associate members of the TDXS. The first thing that struck me was the early age at which many of our members first obtained their original license...19 (54%) were eighteen or under...the youngest was only 10 years old. Three managed to hold off until their 40th birthday passed.

As we know, the Extra Class license is predominant...held by 28 of the 35 (80% compared to 7.5% for all U.S. amateurs), the remainder are nearly all Advanced.

As the name TDXS suggests, DXing is a major area of individual accomplishment. Six who responded (and at least three more who didn't) are on the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll (about 15%). Twenty-nine (83%) had achieved DXCC officially...the other six apparently are still trying to figure out how to fill out the submission forms! There appear to be three, possibly four, 5 Band DXCC holders.

The average DXCC countries "Worked/Confirmed" was 276/258. The maximum individual count was 355/355. The cumulative total of countries worked was nearly 9,000, obviously one heck of a lot of DXing.

Besides DXCC there were 21 WAZ (one being 5 Band WAZ and one 40CW WAZ), as well as 21 WAC (one 50 MHz WAC). That's 60% with the "triple combo" to their credit. A number of other DX awards turned up, including of course CW DX and the various USSR awards.

Finally, the wanderlust appears to have struck many of the group. More than thirty different countries were reported as the site of amateur radio activity either as residents, visitors, or as a result of DXpeditions. Some of the calls listed were: YU7CDR, FØHM, EP2IA, ET3USA, F7FM, PY1ZDK, HK3MON, J3ABP, KH4K, FP8CB, XE2FU, VP1WMU, /DL, /VE8, /OHØ/OJØ, /KP2, /FØ8, /KH5, etc.

That's the DX part. I'll see what can be done with the contest information next. 73 de W5ASP.

