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Texas DX Society
An ARRL Affiliated Club

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

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MEETING NOTICE - The Texas DX Society meets the second Friday of each month unless changed by the Board of Directors. The November TDXS meeting will be held at the Bellaire Hospital Professional Building, 6550 Mapleridge at 7:30 p.m. According to the TDXS Constitution, the ballot for 1985 officers will be presented at the November meeting. If you are unable to attend, contact KZ5M for absentee details BEFORE the meeting.

Candidates for 1985 TDXS executive offices are:

PRESIDENT.....K2TND
VICE PRESIDENT...WA5ZVE and KC5M
SECRETARY.....NSJJ and KD5SP
TREASURER.....KC5CP and K5VWW

5U7LD NIGER (de KC5M) Documentation is not valid. The Secretary-General of the Nigerian Amateur Radio Society sent "Uncle Don" a document which stated that an official of the Niger licensing authority informed him that he (Lucio) was licensed by the government of Niger. I guess that means there is still a remote chance for approval.

ET8X KERGUELEN (de KC5M) FT8XA will be concentrating on CW from Kerguelen for about one year. He is a real pro and should spend a lot of his free time at his key.

DK9KD/5A LIBYA (de KC5M) "Slim" strikes again. However, work them first and worry later. Libyan operations are not likely as long as the current government is in power.

DJ5CQ/SV/A MOUNT ATHOS (de KC5M) Still no documentation...The letter submitted gave authority to operate. However, for DXCC purposes, the monks must also give their permission. DJ5CQ received "verbal" permission. Keep you fingers crossed as he is still trying to get this permission "on paper".

3Y PETER ISLAND (de KC5M) A group of JA's have permission. They are expected sometime after January 1, 1985.

HZ1AB WILL MOVE TO A NEW QTH (de K5TU) K5KG advises that HZ1AB is required to move to an entirely new QTH in conjunction with the sponsor, the U.S. Army, who

is moving to a new building. As a result of the move, they will lose access to the old and faithful rhombic which HZ1AB has used for years.

The really good news is that the Army is giving them full cooperation and support in providing facilities in the new building. They will have their own private shack of about 700 sq. ft. with four custom built operating positions, a storeroom, and a utility room with bunks and a restroom. All utilities will be installed to the club's specs, including full emergency power - a 10 KW diesel generator. George says "Obviously we have a strong interest in being able to provide maximum communications under adverse conditions - if you get my drift! (remembering Grenada, of course!)" At present, the move is targeted for early 1985.

As far as antennas go, the Army is installing a Hy-Gain commercial rotatable log-periodic antenna that covers 6-30 MHz, complete with 60 ft. tower and rotor system. The HZ1AB club station can use that antenna when it is not used by the Army. This is a similar arrangement to the use of the rhombic in the current location. In addition, they have located an in-country source for 110 ft. tall cedar poles, which the Army will procure for them. With the plot of land they have, (approximately 150 x 200 ft), they have devised a way to put up seven of the poles as exclusive antenna supports for HZ1AB. The antenna plan is:

- 160 - Dipoles and inverted vee
- 80 - 2 el wire beam and/or broadside array ala K5RC
- 40 - 2 el Hy-Gain (which HZ1AB already owns)
- 20 - 5 el monobander
- 15 - 5 el monobander
- 10 - 5 el monobander
- Tribander - (already owned by HZ1AB)

George advises that the club at HZ1AB needs assistance in the form of money and logistics in obtaining the 20, 15 and 10 meter monobanders and rotors. (The Army will supply cable, hardline and install the poles.) The HZ1AB club treasury simply can't afford all the expenses, so they are asking for assistance in the form of money donations and logistics to help acquire and transport the 20, 15 and 10 meter monobanders and rotors. (The Army won't help transport the equipment.) If you can see your way clear to help out the gang at HZ1AB, they promise to provide a continuous supply of both routine and contest QSO's for as long as they are able to operate, and could even arrange special contest/multiplier skeds for extra special contributing groups!

If you would like to help, contact Tom, K5RC.

I understand that the Department of State has been contacted to see if the equipment could be shipped under diplomatic cover since the customs duty and other problems with entry into HZ could prove to be both time consuming and expensive. More on this later...

SOME FEEDBACK FROM OUR FRIENDS SOUTH OF THE BORDER ! (de K5TU) KZ5M received a copy of the CRANTAC club bulletin that had some very kind words about the TDXS and the hospitality afforded our friends from south of the border at the Houston Com-Vention 84! I won't try to translate the Spanish verbatim, but they obviously had a great time. From my understanding of the Spanish, they were very impressed with the visit to the Johnson Space Center. There was honorable mention of the convention events, the "Sombrero Mexicano y un tipico

zarape", and especially the award plaques that were presented to XE2FU from the TDXS. We all sure had a great time, didn't we ?!

TIPS ON RUNNING A DX CONTEST (reprinted from the Mad River 'Flash') The best way to learn what propagation is going to be like in your area is to get on a few weeks before the contest. Combined with a good propagation chart, this should allow you to lay out a game plan for the contest.

Make sure you get your station set up so you can change bands quickly - in 30 seconds or less. You may find it convenient to use masking tape to mark the control settings for various bands. With rare exceptions, never spend more than 30 minutes on a single band in one stretch. Even if a certain band is hot, you risk the chance of missing something equally important on another band.

Don't use a speaker. Get some of the cushioned stereo headphones or some of the stethoscope variety and use them.

On phone, avoid the use of non-standard phonetics for your call. Stick to the ARRL or military lists.

In looking for a specific area, you must consider its local time. Don't be looking for ST2SA just because the band is open. If it is 2 a.m. in the Sudan, chances are Sid is in bed. Because the DXpeditions are on 24 hours a day, we sometimes forget that the other guy has to sleep too.

Learn to recognize the DX station's operating habits. Is he answering callers on his frequency or only those up 5 KHz? Is he accepting tail-enders? By failing to recognize how he is working stations, you can have an excellent signal and still not get through.

The DX station knows his own call so you only need to give it once (at most). A one by three call is the longest call you should ever give. Keep calls short, especially on 80 and 40. A big signal isn't as important as good timing.

Don't necessarily stay in the low end of the band. You may be able to find more QSO's higher in the band with less QRM and other competitors to contend with.

Sleep is a personal matter, but is good to get some. You must weigh the small number of multipliers that you will work in the middle of the night against your loss of efficiency the next morning when things are comparatively much busier.

Try not to spend more than five minutes in a pileup. Note the frequency, or go off and work someone else and come back later. (Learn to use the memories in your new fancy radio for this... -ed.) Don't waste much time in a pileup if the station isn't working people from your call district. At the beginning of an opening (for example to Europe), skip will favor the east coast and will move slowly as the day progresses. If you leave the pileup and return 15 to 20 minutes later, you may find the station working your area.

Don't get discouraged on the first day of the contest, because as the contest progresses, it becomes easier going - especially for the low power stations.

If ten is open, stay with it longer than you normally would. Try and make an

effort to hit ten harder the first day. It may not open as well on the second day.

Don't miss the European openings on any bands. Be careful spending time on the sunset European opening on 40. You will get beaten too easily and too often by the east coast to make it worth much time. Europeans come thru on 80 and 40 about 0300Z thru 0800Z. (Remember this was written for the USA midwest. -ed)

The USSR and Eastern European opening will come with the bands also open to Western Europe. It is a good plan to try to work nothing but Eastern Europeans when 15 opens in the morning, while ignoring the equally loud Western Europeans which you can pick up later on.

Spend half an hour on 40 and 80 between 1200-1400Z. Don't try for quantity, just work each multiplier and leave the band.

You are far better off concentrating on the second level Europeans. HBODX may be 599 and have a hundred stations calling him, but at the same time, HBOXJO may be up 5 KHz with only a 559 signal and nobody calling him. A lot of big signals will be in the contest seriously and be literally begging for contacts the second day.

20 meters will die out at night and then come back again. Don't go to 40 and 80 at 0100Z and never listen back on 20 until the next morning. Keep checking 20 meters. Look for Asiatic Russians at 0100-0330Z.

Make up a chart of multipliers by continent and band after the first day. This way you will find out which openings to what areas you should hit harder the second day. If you hve two Europeans on 80 and 25 on 40, it would probably be more profitable to spend a bit more time on 80. If the band is open. it will be considerably easier to work the third European multiplier on 80 than the 26th one on 40.

Use some 3 x 5 index cards to make up prompting cards for each band of multipliers you feel you are likely to pick up on the second day. You may have worked EL2CB on four bands the first day, but be missing him on 20. Not if you are not aware than you need EL2 on 20, there is a good chance that unless your memory is awfully good, you might even pass him by without even checking the dupe sheet because you are sure you have him.

IDXS IIPS (de K5GN) The article on the preceeding pages was preprinted from the Mad River 'Flash'. Hence, it is geared toward a WB location and should be read with that in mind. Many of the points are very helpful to the TDXS DX contesteer.

ADDITIONAL NOTES: 1. Sleep is important to maintain your competitive edge through the contest. The most important time for sleep is the week before the contest. During the test, the sleep that multi-ops get has a great effect on second day performance. For single ops, sleep time must be carefully balanced between the expected result of operation in slack time and station limitations.

The time for sleep is not during any European opening. The time for sleep is not during the good parts of the JA runs. Sleep is best taken in short snatches between openings. Some good times are:

0930-1100, and 2030-2200 first day; 0900-1100 second day

You must take conditions and activity into account before turning off the rig. If your low band signal is not so good, you can afford to miss more of the late night action and stay on the air for the afternoon pileups. If you run JAs better on 40 than on 15 you might want to stay up all night and leave the football viewers in peace on both afternoons.

2. More than thirty minutes on one band is too long. The K5RC rule is that the band changes every 15 minutes. Near sunrise and sunset, propagation will be improving or deteriorating to different areas of the world rapidly.

3. If you have any kind of signal on the low bands you probably want to spend more than just one half hour down there near sunrise at your QTH. The sunrise peak varies in intensity but is always better than before sunrise. In summer, the sunrise peak on 80 and 160 tends to start just at sunrise and lingers afterward. In winter, the peak starts before sunrise and falls rapidly afterward. Know exactly when sunrise occurs at your QTH on the day of the contest. Plan to be on 160 about five or ten minutes before sunrise. Be up on 80 at that time. Leave 160 a few minutes after sunrise and go back to 80. As the sun rises, the propagation turns southward to Pacific regions and long path. After a short time on 80 (ten minutes is a good rule of thumb), drop down to 40 and work some JAs. The later you are on 40, the more JAs there are on the band, because they are just getting down only 40 from 20 at this point in their strategy. (It is about 9 or 10 p.m. there in CQWW.) Also, the long path is best after sunrise as the terminator moves into the Middle Eastern countries.

While you are riding the sunrise peak on the low bands, the high bands are coming to life. The first region to open up on the high bands is the far eastern Caribbean and eastern South America. Soon to follow is Africa and the rest of South America. Twenty meters may open quickly into a worldwide opening before it settles into the morning European run. 15 meters may not open to Europe early on, but when it does, the countries further east will be only near the start of the opening. Ten meters hasn't opened to anywhere early in the morning for the past few months, but the best conditions for scatter skew path to European mults come near the start of the opening to Africa and South America. So, as you settle down into your morning bounce pattern between 20 and 15, don't forget to check 10 (you don't have to tune up the transmitter and amp to listen!).

4. Multiplier charts are a great help in making sure you get each mult on as many bands as possible. They work best for multi-ops and single band ops because you have more time for filling them out. Prompting cards can help anyone, especially if you are changing bands often.

On the other side, KEEP YOUR DUPESHEET up to date. Otherwise you will be working multipliers as many times as possible on each band, which doesn't lead to good scores. You can be so excited about one-calling that 7Q7 on ten meters that you forget to enter the next two LU3s you work. You can be sure that you will work them later!

CONTESTS AND THE REPEATER (de K5GN) Remember, and act on the fact that the DX repeater is left on during contests for the use of those not in the contest!

The use of the repeater (whether you transmit on it or not) to improve your score is cheating of the worst sort when you send in your logs as single operator. Using the repeater to aid in racking up a bigger Multi-operator effort is legal, but tempting to the single ops. Perhaps it would be better to use a simplex frequency for this purpose, but this is difficult to coordinate over a wide area. 73 and GL...K5GN

ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET OCTOBER 25 AND 26 (summarized from RTTY bulletins provided by W5DQZ) Events of particular interest to TDXSers...It was unanimously voted that counsel file a request for a 45 day extension of the time in which to file comments in PRB 1, ARRL's request for issuance of declaratory ruling to establish limited federal preemption over amateur antennas and supports...The General Manager was instructed to prepare a paper on the status of the Vienna International Center, and the DX Advisory Committee is to reconsider the 4U1VIC question no later than January 20, 1985...The ARRL will request that the FCC issue a public notice advising manufacturers of their obligations with regard to RF shielding and filtering...A draft petition to permit automatic control of amateur digital communications above 30 MHz was approved in substance...There is to be a study to determine what existing and or new DXCC awards if any should apply to the 24 MHz band...There is to be a survey of U.S. ARRL members concerning the feeling about SSB mode operation in the band below 7.1 MHz...The Board also voted to recognize the District of Columbia as a separate multiplier from that of Maryland for annual ARRL DX contests and the annual ARRL Ten Meter Contest...Full minutes of the Board meeting will appear in QST.



KEEP YOUR DUPLICATES up to date. On any times as possible on each band. It is so exciting about one-calling the next two use you work.