



founded 1970

# THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the  
Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club



August, 1985  
Volume IX  
Number 8

=====

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

=====

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING NOTICE - The Texas DX Society meets the second Friday of each month except when changed by the Board of Directors. The August TDXS meeting will be held Friday, August 9th, at the Bellaire Hospital Professional Building, 6550 Mapleridge at 7:30 p.m. This month's board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 8th, at the residence of W5ASP, Joe Staples. Attendance is required by those sponsoring a new member's application (viz. K5RVK, K5LZO, KD5SP, and KE5FI). This meeting will be closed to all but sponsors and board members.

CONVENTION DX & CONTEST FORUM - This year the Forum will again be sponsored by the TDXS. The scheduled activities include:

- 10A Desecheo KP5
- 11A Get'em confirmed. KB5FU
- 11:30A County Hunttee and Hunter. WOAYL and K5RC.
- 1P Clipperton. W6OAT
- 2P DXing from a city lot. KC5M
- 2:30P Fundamentals of low band signal propagation. N3BB
- 3:30P Optimizing multipliers. K5GN

1985 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION - will be held in Louisville on October 4, 5, and 6. K5LZO is rumored to be giving a talk on KP5. Might be fun to get a gang to go to the National this year.

24 MHZ BAND - became available June 22nd this year. The CW and RTTY subband runs from 24.890 to 24.930 MHZ. CW, Phone, FAX, SSTV and Narrow Band FM is permitted from 24.930 to 24.990 MHZ. General, Advanced and Extra Class Licenses may use 1500 Watts PEP output on the new band. Remember...use it or lose it!

K6KPS FINED - FCC has fined James Brantley, K6KPS, 2000 dollars. The FCC had received complaints over a long period of time that Brantley was disrupting amateur communications. On December 19, 1984, Commission personnel observed Brantley on several 20 meter amateur frequencies make lengthy CQ calls and calling nonexistent stations. He did not make contact with any station, even though two stations made numerous attempts to respond to his CQ calls. It became obvious that the purpose of these transmissions was to disrupt normal amateur communications. K6KPS ignored the complaints of other stations on the frequencies. Brantley was cited for violating section 97.113 which prohibits broadcasting by amateur stations. The fine was issued June 13, and Brantley has 30 days to respond. (We'll keep you posted...Ed.)

PROGRESS ON THE NEW REPEATER (de K5TU) - not much new to report. The G.E. MASTER II repeater (GE TYPE DC76YAD66A) is crystallized up on 147.96/.36. The transmitter has been modified from 169.2 MHZ and tested at 110 watts output on 147.36. (I will run it at 30 W. output until I can see how well balanced the coverage will be.) The receiver has been modified to 147.96 MHZ, but not aligned and tested. K5VWW has offered to bring the fancy Transco signal generator by one evening soon to align it.

The control circuitry (220 MHZ control receiver, IDer and Touchtone Decoder) is in the able hands of K2TNO. Bill will mount the gear in RF tight boxes with feedthru caps and assemble it in a rack mounted chassis to fit in the repeater cabinet. Bill has been very busy in his work lately, so the control circuitry is not quite ready. The repeater came equipped with the mandatory timers already installed and working.

The IDer will answer "K5DX/R TDXS" when on primary 120 VAC supply. If the automatic battery back-up energizes, indicating loss of AC, the ID will change to "K5DX/R TDXS BAT." A good Sears Die-Hard would provide battery backup for a minimum of 36 hours.

There's no real hurry to complete the modifications since the old machine is still playing FB. I would like to wind this project up by mid-September though.

Lastly, a special gracias to K5VWW and W5ASP for arranging to remove our Phelps-Dodge antenna from the old site. Orville found a contractor working on the roof and struck a deal for transport of the 20 foot long antenna to street level where Joe strapped it to K5DX's truck and delivered it to my house. I have to store it horizontally polarized; otherwise it violates the deed restrictions!

WEEKLY DX & CONTEST NET - Just a reminder that each Tuesday night at 9:00 p.m. the Club sponsors a net on 147.96/.36. Participation by non-membes as well as members is welcomed. The purpose of the net is to facilitate the exchange of DX, contest, and Club information within the amateur community. Your active support of this activity is encouraged.

BULLSHEET MAILING LIST - It is the club's desire to provide the Bullsheet free for all amateurs in the area with an interest in DXing and/or contesting. If you would like to receive our newsletter, simply send your name, call, and mailing address to the Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 540291, Houston, Texas, 77254-0291. Visitors at the regular club meeting can request the monthly newsletter by providing their mailing address on the sign-in sheet. Articles or other newsworthy items from club members and other interested amateurs are hereby solicited by your editor.

#### The President's Corner (de K2TNO)

(Rumor has it that Bill is still embarrassed over the 2m ruckus caused last weekend due to his foul humor on the 'Run. When last observed he was on the dead run trying to beat the tar and feather crew out of town. The good news is that we are spared his interminable blather in this column. The bad news is that he won't be available to kick around at this week's meeting. On the whole I believe we came out ahead...Ed.)

CONTEST CORRAL (de K5LZ0)CLAIMED SCORES AND RUMORS1985 CW COUNTY HUNTER CONTEST (ARMADILLO RUN)

<u>MOBILE</u>	<u>Q's</u>	<u>COUNTIES ACTIVATED</u>
NR5M (+ K2TNO, N5DU, NT5D, KE5IV)	2460	66
N5RP (+ K5GA, KE5FI)	1740	43
K5RVK (+ WA5ZVE, K5VWW)	1500	?
AA5Y (+ K5TU, K5RC)	1100	40+
W5ASP	600	40+

And special thanks to the following TDXS members/friends who followed the run and provided many of the Q's:

KB5FU, AK5B, KE5TF, W5DOZ, KC5M, K5DX, W5HNS, KZ5M, KA5SBS, N5JJ, K5AAD, KN5H, W5MBB, W5GJ, W5VQ, W5PWG, KA5UPB, N5EA and others.

Results will appear in these pages as soon as they are compiled.

FROM THE TRENCHES (or under) (de K5LZ0)  
96/36 - Why the cost?

If you happened to listen to the repeater July 27th or 28th you would have heard an unscheduled spotting net. Being spotted were NR5M/M, K5RVK/M, AA5Y/M, N5RP/M, and W5ASP/M. These stations were participating in the County Hunters CW Contest along with the TDXS sponsored Armadillo Run.

The net was held on the 147.96/36 repeater. You remember the same one used so successfully to spot multipliers for the multi-op stations in the ARRL DX contest last February. The same one used to spot rare DX stations including the KP5 bunch in March. The one used for the Fun Run. Last but not least, the one that we all shoot the bull on 24 hours a day.

The repeater breeds activity. The Armadillo Run net started with a couple of us giving out the operating frequencies of the mobiles. Before the run ended I copied KB5FU, W5ASP, K5WA, K5DX, W5DOZ, AK5B, W5HNS, KA5SBS, and others spotting the mobiles for the rest of us.

And what was the first thing the mobiles did when back in repeater range? That's correct, they used our repeater to find out what the other mobiles had done.

When all is considered the repeater is the best investment our club has made. How many dollars have you invested in your 2 meter rig per hour of repeater operation? Bet it's a lot less than your low band rig! So, let's give a well deserved round of applause to people like Kim K5TU, Orville K5VWW, Tom K5RC, Tuna K2TNO, Wes N5WW, and the others who have put in many hours maintaining the repeater. The rest of us thank you.

DX REPORT (de KC5CP)

- SAO TOME - S92LB - Luiz is on 14.183 from 1900Z in a list operation working both Europe and U.S.
- CHAD - N7DF - Lee hopes to be on 15 to 80 soon. Look for TT8AQ, KA4JRY/TT8 and G3KQL/TT8.
- CHINA - BY1QH - OH0 heard in Houston on 14.206 at 0345Z and from 1300Z near 14.205.
- CHRISTMAS ISL. - VK9XZ is usually near 14.200 at 1300Z.
- CYPRUS - 5B4MF is around 14.195 from 0000Z and on 7.075-8 from 0400Z.
- GALAPAGOS - Upcoming operation from August 18 to 24 on all bands-phone and CW. Operation by Quito Radio Club.
- ISLE OF MAN - GDO/WOJF until August 15 using a QRP rig around 0600Z.
- GLENNANS ISL. - FDIHVQ by Dominique is planned for August 16 & 17 or August 23 & 24. Phone and CW.
- CUBA - Using T4 prefix in place of CO prefix to commemorate National Youth Festival from now to October.
- JOHNSTON ISL. - W6DMJ & K8CRM/KH3 expect to operate in about two weeks on 10 to 80.
- MACQUARIE ISL. - VK0GC & VK0YL meeting with Jim Smith on 14.220 from 0400Z and also 3.795 at 1800Z.
- RHODES - SV0DH/5 - Bill is near 14.217 almost daily at 0000Z.
- WILLIS ISL. - VK9ZB is active on 14.158 from 1200Z. He is expected to be active the rest of 1985.
- VIENNA - 4U1VIC - was heard on 14.178 at 2130Z. The latest QSL info is 2IRC's to Vienna International Centre, Wagramer Strasse 5, PO Box 200, A-1400 Vienna, AUSTRIA.
- MALDIVE ISL. - 8Q7MA is expected to operate from August 2 - 12. Look for Irma on 14.195, 21.295, 7.065 and 3.789.
- PROPAGATION BY N4XX - High Normal August 4 - 6, 14 to 20.

Thanks to: QRZ DX & Long Island DX.

SQUELCH TALE (de N5JJ)

IN AND ABOUT THE CLUB IT HAS BEEN RUMORED THAT...

... K5RC has a comfortable ride now. Seems his Pontiac Fiero is another statistic...Some members are transient - KN5H moved to Dickinson and K5JS resides in Beaumont...K2TNO has a repaired 40 meter loop thanks to the throwing arm of K5GN...The callsign plates for the honor roll plaques are in and will be at the meeting...and congrats to K5YCP for making honor roll...don't get on AA5Y's frequency or he'll sue... KB5FU should watch his army stories on the repeater... N5DU is being unjustly called Bob "SCREAMIN' DEMON" Evans... Mr. Bill K5GA came out of the woodwork to run with the armadillo.... K5LZO is having trouble with his KLM 6 element 20, or is it a 5 element? Oh well, I always twist things... can you believe it? K5RVK has a new Van. Well, almost new. After driving New Mexico it only has 3000 miles the first week... K5TU's 2nd harmonic is due around Labor Day. Somewhat appropriate... KC5M doesn't have to leave town to do all those division audits. His company is being sold... KD5SP has had a couple of nice trips to L.A. to learn how to manage even more effectively... someone was bootlegging KE5FI's call. It was heard on CW during the run... KE5IV notes an unusual 10 meter opening. On July 30 at 2200 UTC Ken worked a dozen Europeans on sporadic E... Europe must be popular with a strong dollar this summer. NR5M went to France for Bastille Day then took a cruise from GI to LA; KG5U took a bicycle trip; and N5SM and YL are still there... we last heard KY5A was moving from Arizona to DL. Now he showed up in Washington. Does anybody know where he's going?... K25M'S new venture is off with a bang and a keg party... and N5DC's venture is mobilizing along... The 204BA at W5DOZ is in need of repair. Time for the Beam Team... W5JWM is in a new home in the heights. Sure is easy to move his five year old KT34XA, especially since it was never put up. The Beam Team may be busy.

73 N5JJ

HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION  
By N5JJ

Dear Mom,

No, I'm not writing you to send money. Besides, there is nothing to spend it on here. I'm doing fine and everybody treats me very well here, although they wake me up a lot at night and are always giving me strange pills to take. They say "They're Good For You." I pass my days mostly by reading, watching TV and watching the clock. I don't get out too often.

Some of the club members came by to visit yesterday. Many come quite often, it really helps cheer me up. I suppose I can overlook having to talk to them with an intercom and look at them through two pieces of glass. Of course, the window does protect me from K5LZO's cigar.

I was certainly glad to hear that the remaining TWA hostages were released. However, after being held by Anderson Hospital in an isolation room for 34 days, the TWA hostages' 17 days doesn't seem as long. Don't worry. To avoid media criticism such as that received by Allyn Conway I have decided never to offer public sympathy for the Doctors and Nurses holding me captive.

Did I tell you about all of the club members offering to donate platelets to me? The word was passed around the club that I needed donors. They only wanted four or five but instead a dozen of my friends came forward to give. I was really touched beyond words and will never be able to thank them. As it turns out I only needed three transfusions for the entire time I have been here. The doctors assure me that I cannot acquire any of the physical attributes of any donor. This may be true but I swear that after receiving George - NR5M's platelets I experience sudden urges to become a 20 meter phone hog. (That's HAWG!...ed) Fortunately, this has been offset by transfusions from TOM-K5RC (My code is bound to get better, but I'll have to wear a jump suit to send) and Bill-K2TNO (My codespeed has increased tremendously but I want to work with chickens now). I am sorry to report my hair still hasn't grown back. What a shame I didn't get some of KE5IV's blood, I'd be bushy by now.

Well that's all I have to say for now. Keep those cards coming. It only takes about four days for them to autoclav a letter and drop it through the slot into the room.

Your son,

Dave

#### REFLECTIONS ON AN ARMADILLO (de KE5FI)

The Armadillo Run black bean for Southern New Mexico was accepted by N5RP - Bob Perring, K5GA - "Mr. Bill" Bradford and me with much trepidation with regard to the number of miles involved (2,300) and the short time we had to prepare. On Thursday while Mr. Bill was closing a business deal and I was in San Antonio, Bob went to the CIA motorpool and drew out a Toyota mini-window van. He and Ev Haines, a brand new novice who got his call less than a week before the run, had almost finished installing the station when I arrived at 6:00 p.m. Ev had mounted the antenna base to a plate which he mounted with U-bolts to the right rear of the luggage rack on the roof. We put a 3 foot base section on and mounted 3 Hustler resonators and whips to that with a 3-way aluminum plate. We left the 40 and 20 resonators on throughout the trip and traded out the 80 and 15 depending on the time of day. The resulting fast bandswitching capability helped us immensely.

We removed the middle seat of the van and installed a table made of an old typing stand, some plywood, and a two by four. A chair with the legs sawed off provided the operator with a place to sit. The van obliged us with a roof light in exactly the right position. We threw the KWM-380 on the table and, much to our amazement, the van battery just happened to be located right next to the operating table. After we installed everything we made a test run and found the noise level from the van to be less than the S-3 general noise level at the time. (Lucky for us because we were out of time.)

We tuned the antenna on Friday morning and managed to shove off about 10:00 a.m. The original plan was to start the contest just prior to Abilene and quit for the night at midnight in Clovis, NM. About two hours into the contest it became apparent, however, that stopping to run counties on a zigzag route would make us very late. Sure enough, we made it to a flea bag motel in Lubbock at 1:00 a.m. and got right to sleep at 2:30 a.m. after a couple of toddy's for medicinal purposes. We shoved off Saturday already 1-1/2 hours behind schedule. Time wise it went down hill from there, even though we cut 19 counties in Texas off our plan.

The scenery in New Mexico was beautiful. We ascended to an elevation of 7,500 feet or greater three times during the trip. At one point we stopped on a small road to run a county and were able to watch a herd of antelope. Later we saw the U.S. Government "Very Large Array" antenna for deep space work. Believe me, when the government builds something and calls it "Very Large" they aren't kidding. It consisted of about 25 huge dishes which are moved on railroad tracks into different configurations.

On Saturday, nightfall caught us in Grant County in southwest NM. Since the Armadillo Run counties needed to be activated during daylight, we took in three rare Arizona counties and rolled into Lordsburg for the night (or at least what remained of it) at 2:00 a.m.

We put the peddle to the metal on Sunday, but did not finish New Mexico until almost 5:00 p.m. which left us with about 750 miles to drive. With gas stops we figured we would have to average 120 MPH to get to Houston by midnight. Instead we arrived totally exhausted in Austin at 2:00 a.m. Monday. We slept for a few hours there and finally got back to Houston at 11:00 a.m. Monday. Luckily, the judge of the court in which I was due for trial at 9:00 a.m. was a friend.

All in all, we hit 43 counties, made 1,744 QSO's and had 82 multipliers. We worked 79 mobiles.

The only real problems we encountered (other than the time lost due to the size of the counties) were a completely dead band for almost 2 hours on Saturday due to a small sunspot flare, the surrounding high mountains, and having to run with the windows open on Sunday after Bob ate Mexican food in Deming, NM.

Mr. Bill, alias "Big Al," consented to take over the operating position from Bob just as the propagation got good on 20 and just as we rolled onto a mountain peak and into a super rare county. The resulting 120 Q hour in Lincoln County was a pleasure to watch. NSRP operated most of the time, however. Mr. Bill sat right seat as navigator or took over the wheel late at night when I was too tired. Bob - NSRP - is now hooked on the Armadillo run and is already talking about next year.

The car rental place is going to change out the speedometer on the van - nobody could drive over 2,300 miles in a three day weekend. Why, that would take 55 hours of driving and leave only about 12 hours for sleep - completely ridiculous!

ARMADILLO RUN - THE STORY OF THOSE WHO WAIT (de Connie)

After bidding KESFI an angry farewell by phone on Friday (left to mind the store alone again) I did not expect to hear from him again until he came out of trial (not his own!) on Monday morning. I was right except for one small detail. NSRP's extremely upset XYL called Monday while I was opening the store to tell me that none of the southern New Mexico group was anywhere to be found.

After assuring her everything would be fine, I began calling. I contacted Bill Bradford's office - he was AWOL. I then called the court - KESFI never showed up. At this point even I was concerned and started calling other members.

Our thanks go to Madison's, N5JJ and N5DU for trying to help but particularly to NR5M who let us know the group had been heard from at 10:30 p.m. the previous night. Almost immediately after hanging up he spoke with WB5RUS and determined that the group was on their way in from Austin and notified Mary Beth and me. (This meant the group faced only hours to live.)

Thanks to NR5M's quick action NSRP is alive and still married today. A murder trial or potentially devastating property settlement was averted. In the case of KESFI, physical mutilation and expensive negotiations between numerous corporate attorneys has at least been delayed.

So goes the story of those who sit and wait (or run the store and wait). The moral of this story is - Call (or face dire consequences if your friends won't cover for you).

ARMADILLO RUN '85 FROM AA5Y/M (de K5TU)

At the organizational meeting for this year's Armadillo Run, it became obvious that NR5M's "Hilton-on-Wheels" would have a hard time making all the Oklahoma counties...That was just too much for one mobile. The counselor, AA5Y, mentioned he was interested in the Run and we were off! Our aspirations were slightly different than the NR5M crew...We just wanted to operate during the Armadillo Run and have a good time...see some countryside...in general, get away from the things that drive us nuts Monday thru Friday.

We soon recruited K5RC and seasoned navigator Troy (son of RC). The counselor had the perfect vehicle. His 1984 GMC customized van was real luxury. AA5Y designed and fabricated a operating position that included a table for the Yaesu FT-757. The operating position was immediately behind the driver, complete with a special anti-skid mat courtesy of K5RC that proved invaluable in the Eastern Oklahoma mountains. K5RC added a CK-1 and CK-2 package powered from the cigarette lighter (this was definately a NO SMOKING vehicle.) He also managed to connect three different paddles to this keyer duo, so the op had his choice of weapon.



I planned out the initial cut at our route, trying to keep the transit time across any county down to 20 minutes or so. This just isn't possible in Oklahoma (and even worse in New Mexico). We avoided the small country roads, which turned out to be a wise decision. K5RC spotted a small country road on the map that would be easy access to a county line near Vera, Oklahoma. That road suddenly 'deadended' in some farmer's driveway!

The mountains in SE Oklahoma were a pleasant change of scenery from the flat coastal prairie around Houston. The winding roads and steep hills to climb were a bit difficult on the operator, though. During my first turn as driver, K5RC was being tossed around in the back a bit as we navigated the hills at warp speed. I guess Tom had his fill when he pulled one headphone away from his ear and hollered "This ain't no damn roadrace...I'm back here trying to operate the f#@%&! radios!" They didn't let me drive anymore the whole weekend.

We amassed 1192 QSOs between sunrise and sunset and covered 39 Oklahoma and Texas counties during contest hours. The counselor's '757 played perfectly the whole weekend, though I still don't know how to make the IF SHIFT and VARIABLE BANDWIDTH controls work together. The CK-2 went T U before we got to the Oklahoma border on Friday, but the CK-1 did the job.

Thanks to all the TDXS gang that followed us around and jumped in the pileups. Even WD4IIO and K5FU finally learned how to tailend. "ZO" was by far the most effective tail-end...plus being 40 db over S9 didn't hurt either! Noted dedicated county hunters included WIGNR, W1APU, W2EMW, W3ARK, K4ARK, K4BV, W5VGF, K6YK, W6CV, and KS7T, to name a few. Our first year winner K1ZX/4 was in the top five entries in every county as usual. Even W5GJ and W5MBB stayed up late to work us. OK1APV, YU4GD, G3WPF and JA8JL broke the pileups in several counties.

For those who were weak of heart or wallet, and didn't make the trip, you missed a lot of fun. Special recognition is due to the NM mobiles, K5RVK and N5RP, who drove a lot of miles to cover NM for TDXS. Plan on a trip in Texas next year...de K5TU.

#### The NR5M/M Armadillo Mobile (de N5DU)

George NR5M, Kenny KE5IV, Brent NT5D, Bill K2TNO and myself N5DU spent the Armadillo Run weekend finding out what the central part of Oklahoma looked like. It looked just like the inside of a well equipped GMC recreational vehicle complete with 2 TS-930's, 2 alpha 76's and co-phased verticals on 20 meters. Our hustler 40 got bent before we left K5LZ0's house prior to the start of the run but seemed to work well until broken completely off on our way through Tarrant county on the way home. It is amazing how dead forty sounds on a dummy load. Oklahoma also FELT very bumpy. I heard other stations comment about our signal jumping around. Now you know why. Bill did most of the operating as well as ALL on the air instructing to less experienced operators on the other end. Kenny did all of the driving from 7:00 a.m. till 2:00 a.m. each day and never used a fake-a-break once even though the lite beer was disappearing at a regular pace. Brent and I shared duty spelling Bill on 20 or operating the 40 station as we passed through a county. George spent the weekend

misguiding Kenny as navigator and head chief. Of course, George had to have some reason not to get out of his chair so he took a chicken bone in one hand and snapped it as he kicked a well carpeted step. From that point on, George was in need of constant attention, hand and foot. Naturally, he had us place his food at his feet and back away, bowing. He really got fired up when he found out we had a chance of passing Dave Busick's 2300 QSO record and Dave said we couldn't do it. George broke out his whip and spikes and forced us to really start working. I was not able to take my normal bi-hourly nap for the rest of the trip. I guess it paid off. We ended up with 2460 QSO's, 66 counties and no casualties. My thanks to the Houston crowd for following us so well and especially the Busick family for staying by the radio and giving us over 300 QSO's. (Mary could brush up on her code a bit, though.) Hope to do it again next year.

73 Bob Evans N5DU

QUIZ (de KC5CP)

What TDXS member who is not so well known as a hospital administrator and who lost his bets during the 1984 Sweepstakes has still not paid his debt?