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# THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

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

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING NOTICE - The Texas DX Society meets the second Friday of each month except when changed by the Board of Directors. The May TDXS meeting will be held Friday, May 10th, at the Bellaire Hospital Professional Building, 6550 Mapleridge at 7:30 p.m.

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-members 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.

1985 TDXS FIELD DAY (de W5ASP) - The 1985 TDXS Field Day will feature a head-on clash between the ratchet-jaw SSB ops (led by NR5M) and the twitchy-finger CW ops (guided by N5JJ). Both groups will use the K5DX call at the Demney site over the June 21-23 weekend. Each team will have a pair of stations using generator power with which to gather in the Q's, and will be allowed two 35 foot towers and as much aluminum and wire as they care to put up.

Scoring will be the usual two points per CW contact and one per SSB contact. In addition a variety of special TDXS bonus/penalty points will be awarded as described below. To the winner will go suitable rewards...(to be detailed in next month's edition). The combined score plus ARRL bonus points will be submitted for the overall TDXS effort.

Generators, gasoline and oil, as well as the erection of TDXS towers and beams, will be joint club effort. Station equipment and shelter will be handled by the station captains assisting team leaders NR5M and N5JJ. Personal shelter, food, drink, etc. will be the responsibility of each participant.

Setup will begin at 1:00 P.M. on Friday. Everyone will be expected to help with all stations and antennas regardless of their intended mode of operation. The Field Day Chairman will maintain the Official Sign-In Sheet to record the names of those actively involved in the set up and the time they arrived. Sign-Ins close at 11:00 Saturday. (Late arrivals and visitors will have to negotiate with one or the other of the Team Leaders following the drawing.)

The drawing for operating slots will take place at noon on Saturday. Each person will select in order of his arrival his choice of operating mode and initial slot. After the first round the drawing will continue until all desired slots are filled. A person may only choose slots available for his declared operating mode. Following the drawing, the Team Leaders may revise their schedules in anyway they wish, PROVIDED that an individual drawing a specific operating slot agrees to any and all changes effecting him. Trades, waivers, negotiations, bribes, coercion and blackmail are acceptable in forming the final team schedule. "Hired Guns" and "defectors" from he other camp are allowed.

All participants are expected to assist in the shut-down and clean-up on Sunday afternoon. Our goal is to remove ALL evidence of our presence from Mr. Demney's property so as to preserve our welcome in the future.

Here are the TDXS Penalty and Bonus points (thanks to KZ5M) for the clash. Know them well or suffer the consequences.

- 1. Direct interference with competitor's on-the-air operations during in-progress qso's..... 50
- 2. Excessive SSB splatter or nasty CW key-clicks...Offending operator to receive 1 can of beer...poured over his head by the offended operator in full view of the assembled group!
- 3. Tampering in any way with generators or fuel supply...LOSS OF THE COMPETITION without recourse to adjudication! There is no defense to this cause of action.
- 4. Unauthorized adjustment of a competitor's communications equipment, i.e..rigs and antennas..... 200
- 5. Use of a "Woodpecker" and/or noise generating devices will be considered a "CREATIVE ACTIVITY" not subject to penalty so long as the duration does not exceed 10 minutes in any consecutive two hour period. Location of the offender and/or source device results in bonus points to offended team.

(The perpetrator of such a "CREATIVE ACTIVITY" may stand around, drinking beer, with a silly grin on his face until such device is located by the opposing team at which time he must furnish the beer to be poured over his head.)

- 6. "Trashing Out" any device less than \$100 in value..... 100
- "Trashing Out" any device more than \$100 in value..... 200

(Please note: "Trashing Out" anything places the burden of repair or replacement on the offender.)

- 7. Rendering a competitor's transceiver or antenna inoperable during the contest period..... LOSS OF COMPETITION

8. Using a direct harmonic or known spur to distract the opposition while in the orderly pursuit of their operating activities (other than actual QSO exchanges) i.e. CQing or scanning the band, is to be considered a definite "NO-NO" and must cease and desist upon detection.  
Failure to comply..... 50
9. Filing false and misleading complaints with FD Chairman will lead to a fine of 1 cold beer per instance payable upon demand.
10. Emission of noxious gases in the immediate vicinity of (or even upwind of) a competitor's operating position..... 50

NOTE: Each complaint must be brought to the attention of the FD Chairman at the time of its occurrence. At the discretion of the FDC a "STATE OF MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE" may be declared and an ad hoc "kangaroo court" convened on the spot to try, sentence and punish the offender without due process of law or any other judicial safe guard and with unrestrained humiliation to the offender.

BONUS POINTS FOR "ATTABOYS"

1. Location of the source/offender of competitor controlled noise generating device..... 50
2. Identification of individual competitor causing splatter or key clicks..... 25
3. Achievement of a QSO total of 80 CW contracts or 140 SSB contracts during a 60 minute time period..... 100
4. Valid exchange with any DX station (per band)..... 1
5. For each different individual operator who completes a two hour operating session..... 25
6. For providing the Field Day Chairman with breakfast, lunch or dinner..... Minus 50
7. For a dupe percentage below 3%, per band..... 75  
(Minimum of 200 Q's required on that band.)

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 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.

tested, the two repeaters were transferred to their surplus equipment people, who put it up for auction by closed bid. Trinity Communications in Beaumont won the bid expecting to sell them for another use locally. After that fell through, the word was put on the street that Trinity Communications had them and wanted to move them ASAP.

After a little soul searching and a few phone calls, I decided to purchase one of the repeaters. At present, the club is under no obligation to pay more than the \$800 already authorized. My conversations on 2M indicate the majority of members would favor spending the other \$1000. Consider it and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.

Regardless of the vote on the additional funds, the repeater is being modified to work on 2M. It is currently operating on 169 MHz, and requires some modification in both the transmitter exciter and receiver local oscillator to operate properly at 2M. The oscillator modules have already been sent to International Crystal in Oklahoma City to be re-crystaled. K5VWW is working on the parts for modification. K5IY and N5DU will pick up the CW ID board (K5DX/R TDXS) from Spectrum Communications at Dayton and K2TNO will mount it and the 220 MHz. control receiver in an RF tight chassis. All other interfacing is in the repeater as purchased. The new machine should be QRV for trials by mid-June. In the mean time, the old Spectrum SCR-1000 seems to be minding its manners after the last repair, sporting increased coverage from improved receiver sensitivity.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER (de K2TNO)

Well, it certainly has been a busy month TDXS-wise. At the April meeting we adopted new rules and membership criteria along with a new application form. The new forms will be available from the membership committee: KD5SP, N5EA, or KESFI. There was much debate, as benefits so important an issue but I think that two years of talk on the subject is enough. Let's see how the new system functions. The membership form can be changed once a year by the club, so we may yet need a few alterations.

For those of you who missed the fun and games, here is a synopsis of the new membership idea:

1. We established clearly defined criteria which a person must meet before he/she can be nominated. Basically, the criteria can be summarized as follows:
  1. General class license or higher.
  2. Attendance at six meetings in a one-year period.
  3. Active participation in at least two club-sanctioned activities.
  4. DXCC holder or demonstrated active contester.
  5. Appropriate operating skills/procedures to be a credit to TDXS.
  6. Familiarity with the membership.

2. The procedure for membership shall be essentially as before:
  1. Completed application, with sections by both the candidate and the full member sponsor. This means that the sponsor certifies his/her belief that the candidate meets all of the criteria above.
  2. Sponsor meets with the Board to present the application, only in February, May, August or November.
  3. The Board certifies that the criteria are met, and may advise the sponsor informally of the likely outcome of a club vote.
  4. If the criteria are met, the sponsor presents the candidate to the club at the meeting in February, May, August or November.
  5. Ballots are mailed following that meeting, and included are copies of the application form and a brief biography of the candidate.
  6. Ballots must be received by the board before (or at) the next board meeting, in March, June, September or December.
  7. Results of the balloting will be announced at the club meeting in March, June, September or December.

Now on to radio-related matters. I'm very pleased to find that TDXS won the 1984 ARRL Sweepstakes medium-club competition! Another coveted gavel for the team, and more importantly, we beat the North Texas Contest Club. If you recall our little friendly wager, the losing club is to send two delegates (President and Contest Chairman) armed with cold beer and soft drinks to the winners' meeting. So, I'll write to NTCC and gently remind them of their unfortunate loss, and suggest a date. I think the September meeting is a good one to choose - that would be Friday, September 13.

Congratulations to all who participated in last year's operating; in case it escaped your notice we did the following in '84:

1. Set all-time multi-multi record from XE2FU in ARRL DX tests.
2. Won class 3A at Field Day.
3. Won the SS club gavel.

If you have plenty of time, try looking back through ARRL history and see how often that triple crown was accomplished. I'll give you a hint: NEVER BEFORE!

Hope to see everyone slide on into summer easily - still plenty of operating events coming up even if the spots keep the DX down. Have fun!

73 Bill K2TNO

DX DATA (de KC5CP)

Active Now

CRETE DL7FT/SV9 SSB & CW 10-80 May 12-24.  
FALKLANDS VP8ALJ on 160 SSB.

FRANZ JOSEF LAND VW3HY/1 on 7005 at 0100 UTC and 14025 at 1200 and 2300 UTC.  
 GAMBIA C53AL on 3780 at 0500 UTC.  
 KENYA 5Z4EQ on 14270 at 2000 UTC.  
 MACAO XX9UT CW & SSB. Low end 40, 80 & 160.  
 SSB near 7083 & 3795. QSL VIA JAIUT. May 1 thru 8.  
 UK Base Areas ZC4Z??? by G4SDJ & RFV May 3 - 15.  
 Expect to op 20, 40 & 80 CW & SSB.  
 NEPAL 9N1RNK on 14176 at 0200 UTC.  
 UGANDA 5X5GK only has verbal permission to operate.  
 MACQUARIE IS. VKOGC on 3795 at 1100 UTC, 14210 at 0300 UTC and 7245 at 0745 UTC.  
 VANUATU YJ8RT & YJ8RG on 14182 from 0200 UTC.  
 PROPAGATION: Best HF May 2 - 4, 7 - 14, 16 - 18, 30 - 31.

Thanks to QRZ DX, the Long Isl. DX Bulletin, DX Report & DX News Sheet.

CONTEST CORRAL (de K5LZ0)

CONTEST SCORES

This month's magic numbers are 1 and 6. TDXS was Number 1 in the country in the Medium Club category in the 1984 SS contest. Yes, we did it again. Was it because of conditions like QST Magazine said? Maybe, but what about during the high in the sunspot cycle a few years back when we also did it!! That must have been luck.

The magic number 6 appeared on several other SS national rankings. On CW N5JJ was NR 6 single op and KZ5M was NR 6 multi-op. On SSB K5LZ0 was NR 6 single op and K5RVK was NR 6 multi-op. N5JJ placed NR 8 multi-op and KE5IV was NR 10 multi-op.

Others who contributed to our victory are listed below in order of their finish.

CW	PHONE
N5JJ	K5LZ0
N5GN	N5DU (NU or DN)
K5LZ0	NR5M
NA5R	KZ5M
N5DU	KB5FU
NR5M (op NM5M)	KC5CP
KN5H	KG5U
KG5U	NA5R (op KN5H)
K5WA	KD5SP
K2TNO	K5WA
W5ASP	KE5FI
K5TU	K5BZU
W5SG	K5DX
W5HNS	W5ASP

<u>CW (cont.)</u>	<u>Phone (cont.)</u>
KC5CP	W5JWM
K5DX	KC5M
	W5DOZ
	KC5CP
	W5LLU
	N5DC

MULTI-OP

CW:           KZ5M (+K5VWW, N5GTH)  
              K5GM (+KA5QAA, Net)  
              KN5A (+NR5M)

PHONE:       K5RVK (+KC5M, KF4VS, W5ASP)  
              N5JJ (+NM5M)  
              KE51V (+KA5SBS, Net)  
              K2TNO (+KA5PJG, Net)  
              K5VWW (+K5GN)  
              K5EA (+Net)  
              K5GB (+KA5QAA, Net)

CQ WW WPX

Another Pair of ACES for the club. We were Number 1 in the combined US club category and the Number 1 multi-op CW was NM5M. Eric and crew not only won but set a new record. Other record holders in this contest from previous years include NA5R for multi single.

ARRL 160

A special apology goes out to one of our YANKEE members who I forgot to mention in last month's results of the 160 meter contest. K5NA, Richard King was NUMBERO UNO in the world. A great effort Richard.

FROM THE TRENCHES (OR UNDER) (de K5LZ0)

Having just finished about 6,000 QSL cards representing 9,000 qso's I would like to relate a few pet peeves. The following you may or may not agree with, but I believe avoiding some of these no-nos will help you to obtain a card easier.

The first gripe I have is with the guy who works you and ten minutes later works you again and signs his call/QRP. Usually these guys call the

second time in the middle of a European or JA run. Say what you want but the logs prove it usually takes the place of a weak station who hasn't even worked you once. These stations need it for a new country. I'm not saying don't work us QRP, but why not do it QRP the first time and make only one qso on the band and mode. One Italian station wrote a note apologizing for breaking our US run to work us. I just hope other foreign stations didn't feel the same way.

I made a policy of not putting "/QRP" on any outgoing QSL. My feeling is that I don't know if the guy is QRP or QRO cubed. If the QRP awards committee won't take the operator's word that he worked as QRP, why should I?

Then there is the guy who sends 10 cards with no donation, an envelope so small that only 2 cards will fit without glueing the flap to one of the cards inside, a single 22 cent stamp (which will only send 4 of the double cards), and a note asking for a separate card for each contact. If you want to get a Qsl manager hacked off fast, just do all of the above. We kept our cool, however, and sent 2 cards—one for SSB and one for CW.

When sending a card to a manager be sure the date and time are correct. We found 90% of the NIL Qso's were good but the info was off by a day or an hour one way or the other. The tough ones were the DXers(?) who used CST or PST, and were 40 minutes off or had the wrong band listed.

I guess what I'm trying to say is think of yourself as being the guy or gal who is about to answer the card. What you would like to see? Then with that thought in mind proceed accordingly.

73 Chuck K5LZO

#### YOU GOT RHYTHM? (de K5GN)

...A good sense of time? You're observant? Careful, restrained? Quick on the draw?

Yes?

Then maybe you can crack a few pileups by tail-ending.

TAIL-END (tāl end) n. 1. A method for getting through a pile up to the desired station by sending one's callsign immediately after the last word said by another operator as he finishes his QSO with the station. 2. A great method for unintentionally getting everyone in the pileup ticked off at you.

Definition one occurs when a good operator uses judgement and restraint in choosing the right opportunity to throw in a well-timed tail-end call. Definition 2 prevails when the tail-ender gets sloppy.

A good tail-end call is a rare thing: Several factors must be right before it will work. First, there must be time to call. Either the operator you want to



reach (the DX op) must be the patient type who allows a slight pause between his contact's end-of-transmission and his reply or there must be a sudden, unexpected pause that can be recognized in time to take advantage of it. Your call must be timed perfectly. There must be no one else (anywhere near as loud as you) calling at the same time. The DX op must have enough snap to get at least part of your call. Finally, he must be willing to work you that way.

Never approach a pileup with tail-ending as your first plan of attack. Call with the group--you may get through that way, and there will be no disruption of the operation. If several ops try to tail-end every time, you rapidly end up with definition 2 and a big mess. As you call, observe how the DX op comes back when each QSO is completed. Is there enough of a pause? When someone else tries to tail-end does he get through, blow it, or get ignored? How do the guys who work him arrange what they say?

OK, it's three or four tries and still NG. You think, "I'll try a tail-end." The key that you are looking for now is the break in the routine: something that disturbs the DX op's timing or makes him hesitate on reply at the end of a QSO. Be patient, because this doesn't always come right away. It may come in the form of a timely cough (SSB) or an uncorrected error in sending (CW) by the guy who is finishing up. Or he may send something extra just as the DX op is about to start, causing that hesitation. He may reverse the order of information or be much more brief than the last guy. The sudden stop or hesitation forms your opportunity: There is time to send your call and the DX op's ears are pricked because of the change. The point is that you have to see it coming to be ready when it happens.

Now you GO, saying your call once, quickly, using short phonetics for the suffix. On CW, send it once, quickly, but not zero beat with the finishing guy. Quick VOX or a quick hand on the PTT is essential to tell if your timing is good or you were ignored. If you didn't get through, be patient, keep calling with the pileup, and watch for another opportunity. If he ignored you, don't keep trying or he'll get mad at you--the worst possible result.

How can you practice? Nowadays, with the crummy propagation, there's not a lot of DX around and what's there isn't usually rare. But (DXers being what they are) there is always something that people will pile up over, just to flex their muscles. Find a pileup and listen. Don't call unless you really want to work him. Look for the opportunities for tail-ending. See how they develop. When you think you see it coming, don't key the rig--say your call out loud as if you were tail-ending. This way you will know if it really was the right time. Pileups on 75 are different from those on 20--same for CW and SSB--so don't limit your learning.

Remember, timing is everything and everything hinges on recognizing the opportunity. Without these, definition 2 will be the sad reality. GL!

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A DAMN YANKEE or  
How a nice New York boy found health and happiness through ham radio - by  
Bill Schrader, K2TNO.

My cousin was much older than I was - cause he was ten. I envied him not just for his advanced years, but also because he had this really neat crystal set. Not to be out-done, I ordered a cat's-whisker (still got it too - no, Chuck it's not the IF selectivity in my ASTRO) and found to my delight that my old man had an old cardboard box full of big brass jobbies with fins on them that meshed when you turned the knob. Condensers, I was told, from Dad's old ham rig in the '30's. Soon we had a coil wound, and with the addition of a 30-foot wire in the attic and a pair of Baldwin earphones, I was in business! Spent a hellava lot of hours poking that old galena with that hat pin. I guess that first detector got me hooked; soon I built a one-tube regenerative receiver (battery-operated 3S4 pentode) with plug-in coils. I got an ARRL lightning calculator and figured out by trail-and-error how to get the thing up to higher frequencies. You could tune it roughly with the main capacitor (anyone here remembers the National Radio Velvet Vernier?) and then fine-tuning was done by moving your hand closer or farther from the front panel.

I can still remember the cover of my first QST - December 1954, but who's counting? Learning the code followed, and then one day in June 1956 my novice ticket arrived. Sad to say, I was 1,000 miles away on vacation - thought we'd NEVER get home so I could see it for myself! Yep, KN2TNO in block letters.

Cut a lot of lawns, fed a lot of neighbors' animals to come up with the bux for my first rig - a Heath DX100 that out-weighed me by 25 pounds. We scrounged through the storage closet and found Dad's vibroplex bug he had bought second-hand in 1928. We got up a center-fed doublet with tuned feeders, and I was QRV at last. Pretty soon, I started finding Dad's handwriting in my log. He'd been shut down by WWII like everybody else, and had let his license (W9CY) lapse. After he'd bootlegged a while, I started grousing and so he re-upped and became K2GT. I spent the rest of my formative years happily pounding away on that rig. Yes, the DX100 still works and the bug still sits on Dad's shelf on Long Island in it's leather-and-felt carrying case. Both items have long since been retired from active duty, but they're family now and no way I'd see them scrapped.

Anyway, from high school I went to John Hopkins University (W3GQF/WA3EPT) where I got my serious introduction to DX and contesting. First real effort for me was the 1960 SS, which in those days was two weekends long. We were mulitop then (as I seem to be now) with a swell bunch of guys. We still stay in touch, and I always find time to add a couple of words of encouragement when we QSO in SS.

Time flies - I was K2TNO/3 until 1969, then /4 at Vanderbilt University until 1972, and finally here to Houston as /5. As family and job grew in complexity I became less active until a chance QSO an 20M ground wave one night with some guy in Booth, Texas. I told him I was looking for a group to do Field Day - and boy, did he have a swell suggestion!

You know the rest - I have enjoyed late night high-speed CW on 7030 the best, and like to rip into my rig when I dream up a better gadget for it. I get little chance to do much construction in my work, so I really enjoy the time spent puttering. Of course if there is a contest upcoming, I sew up the rig and drag it off to heaven-knows-where.

I need a CW fix just about every night, so I usually fire up for a couple of QSO's after the family goes QRT. My most memorable moment in radio? That's easy - I've been working K2GT just about every Saturday morning on 14050 for almost 20 years.

DID YOU KNOW? (de KE5FI)

Did you know? (Experts from FCC Regulations Part 97): [Note, I wrote this article some time ago so of these rules may have recently changed.]

1. No more than one amplifier may be modified to cover 10 meters each year by an amateur without type acceptance! Sec. 97.75
2. For transmitters and amplifiers built after April 1, 1977, spurious radiation is limited to 40db of the mean power of the fundamental with a limit of 50 milliwatts. (p.s. for KC5CP: for equipment with mean power less than 5 watts the attenuation is only 30db). Sec 97.73
3. Each amateur radio operator must have the original or a photo copy of his or her license in possession while operating. Sec 97.82
4. The original or photocopy of the station license shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the room occupied by the licensed operator while the station is being operated at a fixed location or shall be kept in his/her personal possession. Sec 97.83 (This means if someone else is operating your station, your license should be on the wall).
5. At the end of an exchange of third party traffic with a station located in a foreign country, you must give the call sign of the station with which the traffic was exchanged. Sec 97.84
6. Amateur stations may communicate with non-amateur and U.S. Government stations for civil defense purposes in emergencies and on temporary basis for test purposes.
7. To determine the effective height of a transmitting antenna you must determine the antenna's center of radiation above average terrain as follows:
  - (a) lay out evenly spaced 10 mile long radials on a 1:250,000 or greater scale U.S. Geological Survey map beginning at 0 degrees;
  - (b) establish elevation above mean sea level at 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 miles out on each radial; (use nearest contour line)
  - (c) subtract this average from the height of the antenna's center of radiation. Appendix 5 to Sec. 97

8. The effective height in the last paragraph is used to determine the maximum allowable effective radiated power for a repeater transmitter. For example, an E.R.P. of 200 watts is maximum for a 2 meter repeater antenna with an effective height 525 feet and under 1050 feet, while it is 400 watts below 525 feet and 100 watts above 1050 feet. Sec. 97.67
- 9.) Under Sec. 97.407 only an extra class station license may be used to communicate from space to earth. (This was intended to apply to satellites but was written a little broad considering the space shuttle.)

73 Chuck KE5FI

SQUELCH TALE (de NRSM)

In order to shorten the 'sheet  
I felt it would be more discrete  
To shorten my column  
Than tackle the problem  
Of choosing which one to delete.