



founded 1970

# THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the  
Texas DX Society  
An ARRL Affiliated Club



December 1986  
Volume X  
Number 10

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DX Chairman:	WA9VLI	Steve Smothers	Bullsheat Publisher:	NR5M	G. DeMontrond

Columns by: K2TNO, KN5H, WA9VLI.  
Articles by: K2TNO, NC5M, W5ASP.

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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 next regular meeting will be on Friday, December 12. The speaker will be announced at the meeting. Please attend.

BULLSHEET MAILING LIST- It is the club's desire to provide the Bullsheet free to 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.

DETAILS OF THE TDXS BANQUET - are inside. Plan now to attend. Set aside the evening of January 10 for an evening at Magic Island.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER  
(de W5ASP)

The TDXS membership, with its usual flair for the spectacular, elected its new set of officers for 1987 by acclamation at the November meeting...President, K5TU; Vice President, K5GN; Secretary; KE5IV; Treasurer; KG5U. You'll get a chance to see these guys in action at the January meeting when the new TDXS Board is introduced. Through it's strong line up, they'll need your help to make TDXS succeed in the coming year.

If you haven't already heard, we'll be going back to Magic Island for the TDXS Annual Banquet on Saturday evening, January 10th. N5DU and K2TNO have made the necessary arrangements, so make your plans to attend...it was a real blast last year...don't miss it! (additional details appear elsewhere in this issue.)

The final wrap up of the Great Armadillo Run of 1986 is underway. K5RC and KB5FU are handling the disposition of the various "Certificates" and the results should appear in QST and CQ before long. It was a great success and everyone who played a part in making it happen deserves our thanks. It's going to be a tough act to follow. (Anyone out there want to suggest the next TDXS epic event?)

With the passage of KD5SP's motion at the November meeting for TDXS to provide nominal funding, the effort to establish a competitive contest station at XE2FU is now underway. Enrique's enthusiastic support of the idea and the donation of significant amounts of antenna hardware, have set the scene for another major TDXS undertaking. The entire program will be under the control of the TDXS Board of Directors, including all subsequent operations by TDXS members. A modest "User Fee" will be imposed to support ongoing maintenance and improvements. K5LZO is currently overseeing the initial planning and logistics. It's an ambitious and intriguing idea. Everyone with an interest should plan to pitch in when the time comes...there's lots of work to be done, and only us to do it!

I believe that 1986 has been a very good year for TDXS. A great deal has been accomplished, both as an organization and as individuals. What is most impressive to me is the extent of the participation by the full membership. For an organization of some fifty available members, more than forty of them played an active role in this year's events. It is that kind of attitude that enables TDXS to accomplish seemingly impossible tasks in the pursuit of our "hobby." I'm sure that each of the members of this year's Board joins me in expressing our thanks to each of you for all of your help and support during the past year.

And finally my personal thanks to the other officers and Board members for a really super year. Being the president of the Texas DX Society is not a job many folks aspire to, but believe me once you've been there you appreciate just what it means and you wouldn't have missed the chance for anything.

TDXS WINTER BANQUET  
(de N5DU, K2TNO)

The annual TDXS Banquet has been planned for Saturday, January 10, 1987 at Magic Island Restaurant, from 7:30 p.m. until about midnight. This banquet has become an annual affair, taking the place of the normal January meeting.

The banquet will involve a cocktail hour (1930 - 2030 local), complete dinner, magic shows and a few words of wisdom from the podium. The cost will be \$30.00 per person, which includes the dinner and dessert, plus tip and tax. NOTE: TDXS full members receive a \$15.00 reduction, with a payment by TDXS of the remaining \$15.00. This amount applies only to the full members, not to an accompanying guest.

Magic Island is a restaurant/night club on the Southwest Freeway, between Kirby and Greenbriar, on the Eastbound access road. Exit Kirby Drive, take the feeder road (Eastbound towards downtown) and turn into their parking area under the building. NOTE TO HAMS: Their entrance is low; leave the HF whip at home. Valet parking is mandatory, due to the high customer load, and will cost \$2.00.

Tickets (\$30.00 per person, except \$15.00 for full members) will be on sale at the December meeting or from N5DU or K2TNO. You must have a prepaid ticket to be admitted; last year there were several no-pay situations which the club had to cover. Seating is limited to 70 people, so bring your checkbook or find N5DU/N2TNO elsewhere. You'll receive a ticket for admission; without the ticket you can guard our cars in the parking lot with your date.

Ask anyone who attended last year, and you'll learn what a fun time we had there. The food/drinks/comeraderie/magic were great, and you even get to show the YL what those clowns on 2M look like.

The menu is fixed due to both price considerations and the problems last year of getting the right plate to the right person. Details are at the December meeting.

Finally, the drop-dead date will be December 31, 1986. After that date no tickets will be sold, since we must pre-pay and order at that time.

WHAT: TDXS Banquet  
WHEN: 7:30 P.M., January 10, 1987  
WHERE: Magic Island  
COST: \$30.00 per person  
TICKETS: From N5DU, K2TNO

73,

Bob and Bill

THE OTHER FELLOW'S SHACK

(de K2TNO)

Reprinted below are articles of interest purloined from other rags:

KANSAS CITY DX CLUB NEWSLETTER (November 1986)

From WOJLC comes a perfectly reasonable (to me - ed.) reason why DX on the low bands is best at local sunrise and sunset. The reason has nothing to do with gray line and all that jazz - it's because the power company demand is less at these times so your line voltage is higher. That puts more watts in the output of your 4CX100,000A.

W5YI REPORT (November 1, 1986)

Quoting an article from "Radio", a Soviet magazine, the report relays the info that there are about 48,000 Soviet hams who "make excellent military draftees." The author criticized the "number of high scores obtained by fraudulent means - excessive power, additions to the logs, etc." Nice to know the Rooskies are catching up in creative contesting for crafty commies.

The November issue of "High Technology" is quoted saying the US military is building an HF over-the-horizon radar (Read "Our Own Woodpecker"). "The 1.2 billion dollar network is slated for completion by the 1990's.

Part of the ARRL's proposed 2.7 Megabuck Visitors Center is slated for "WIAW Enhancement". This item is \$200K. (Do they mean here the League will be spending the bux to go QRO? - ed.).

YCCC SCUTTLEBUT December 1986

An interesting testimonial surfaces about the use of the YCCC Packet system for reporting multipliers in CQWW SSB. Over the weekend 839 announcements were put out on their system (285 dupes). But, "assuming that a station what was announced the breakdown would be: 554 QSO's, 383 band-countries, 135 zones for a score of about 770K." Does that make you TDXS types think of a system here?

DX REPORT

(de KC5M)

Courtesy of QRZ DX and the "Rumor Mill"

G3JKI/5A (Libya) has been approved by the ARRL for DXCC credit. Supporting documentation has been received for this 1980 and 1981 operation, thanks to G3JKI, and his very persistent effort.

7Q7LW (Malani) is scheduled to return to England in May, 1987. His wife and QSL manager is already on here way to their new home. All QSL's must go to Helen Sampson, 57 Milford Court, Brighton Road, Lancing, Sussex BN158RN, England. Already rare, Malani will be "super rare" when Les leaves. He has been the principle SSB and CW operator from that small country for several years. If you need it, you better get busy!



VKOSJ (Macquarie Island) SOJO, yes thats his name, will remain on Macquarie Island until January 1987. He is the first CW operator from that DXCC "Country" in a long time. In January he will be replaced by VKOGC who definitely prefers SSB.

D44BC (Cape Verde) for the resent CW "test" operation, by a good U.S. guest operator, QSL via callbook to Julio S Vera Cruz, Box 36, Mindelo. Julio handles all QSL's (yes, even for his guest CW operators.)

A61AP (United ARAB Emirates) has been checking into Jim Smith's net. This is another very reare DXCC Country which suffers from the "Documentation Blues." Several operators have been on since 1979 but if memory serves me right, only A6XJC "counts." Good luck (Call me if you hear him).

EDITORIAL  
(de Bill, K2TNO)

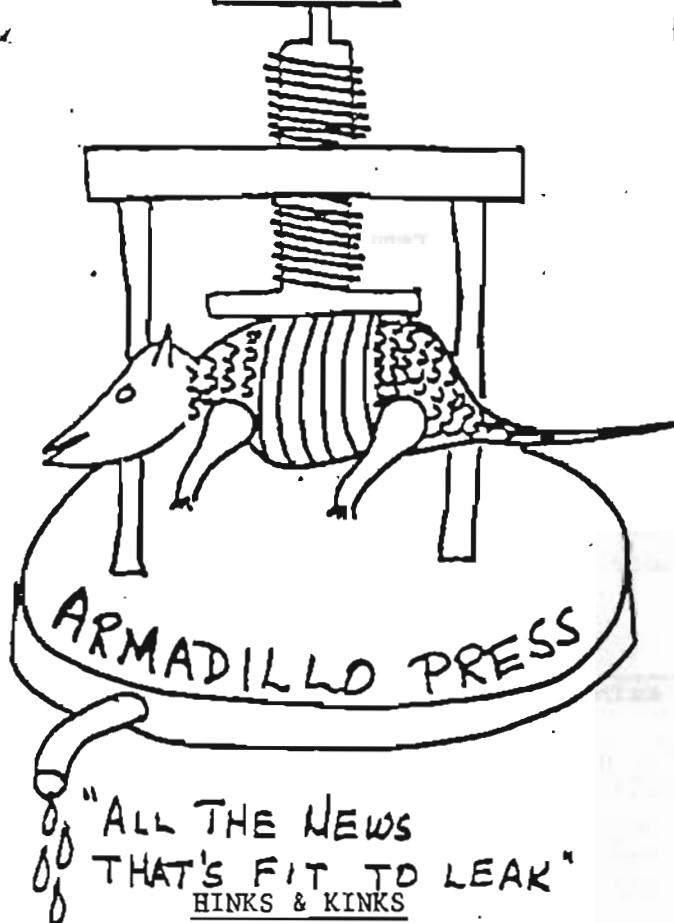
This is my last Bullsheet as your editor. I hope 1986 has been enjoyable for you, and especially that you have read your TDXS rag religiously. I have certainly enjoyed the help of many contributors who sent words of wisdom in this direction. I lament, however, those few disgruntled comments from wrong thinkers who maintained that the Bullsheet was most appropriately read while seated in a tiled room which echos a lot. Shame on you!

Please keep this info flowing; the Armadillo Press adduct has been fun, and I do hope it will set the stage for further glib tidings regarding radio, its sublime pleasures and its ridiculous fanaticism. We need more marlarcky to see us through the 'spots doldrums. I leave you with two thoughts: first, that you'll take the time to write an article for the 'Sheet. Second, if some of the characterizations in the 'Sheet have been too barbed or caused any domestic squabbles - tough!

73 and SK

Tuna

P.S.: On the serious side, my special Kudos to the secretarial staff of DeMontrond Buick Company, who have tirelessly endured both George and me to bring you the rag. George published this stuff for two years and contributed his editorial pen upon occasion this year when scientific duties precluded by editorial attention.



PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY  
IN ARMADILLO COUNTY, TEXAS  
by the  
TEXAS DX SOCIETY

VOLUME: I

ISSUE: 4

DATE: December 1986

#### REDUCED ATMOSPHERIC NOISE ON THE HF BANDS

My countries total on the lower three hams bands is now approaching the 100-mark. Thus I spend a lot of frustrating hours trying to dig really weak signals out of the static. Even with eleven 1500' Beverages available, there are times when the QRN simply prevents copy. This situation prompted me to review the technical literature on pulse-noise reduction. I came upon a simple but effective noise blanker that reduces QRN to nearly zero.

The strategy of noise blankers depends upon the fact that static consists of pulses of very short duration, whereas desired signals are relatively long. Unlike conventional noise blankers, the circuit of Figure 1 operates continuously and does not require a switch or gain control. The heart of the circuit is a digital-to-analog converter IC.

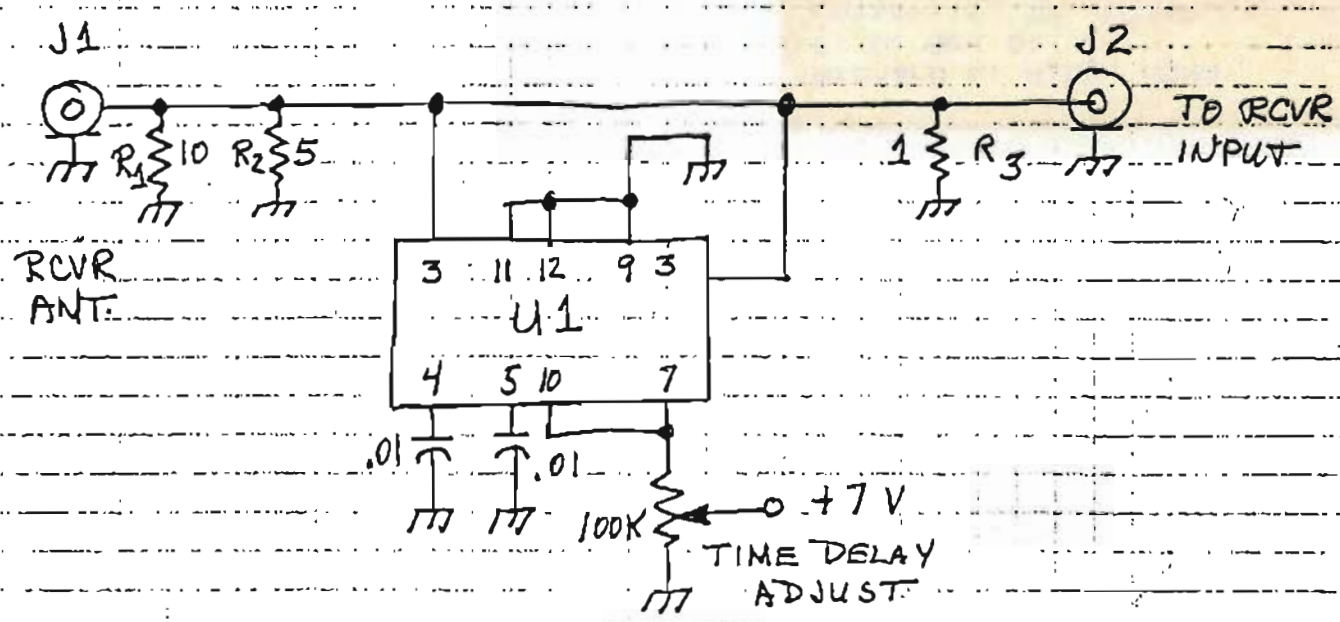
Resistors R1 - R3 must be carefully selected to be exactly the values shown. A good idea is to buy about a dozen of each, and measure them with a voltmeter. Charge R3 briefly with a 15 volt battery and then discharge it through R1 and R2 connected in parallel. When the values are in the correct range, the voltmeter will null and indicate zero volts.

Atmospheric noise is completely attenuated by the circuit, and no QRN can be heard at J2. Noise calculations for the circuit indicate that the noise level at J2 should be no greater than -178 dBm at room temperature. Further improvements can be realized by cooling the circuit to about 70° K. Suitable designs for achieving this are available by sending \$1.00 s.a.s.e. to the author.

- W. Schrader, K2TNO

FIGURE 1

# CIRCUIT DIAGRAM OF THE K2TND QRN ELIMINATOR



U1 - ULTRONOMETRICS RJS 3066A

R1-R3 - 0.1% ; see Text