



founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET



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

July 1986
Volume X
Number 7

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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, July 11, at the Bellaire Hospital Professional Building, 6550 Maple Ridge at 7:30 p.m. The board meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. This month's speaker is Bill, K2TNO, who will talk on receiver performance.

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

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.

REPORT ON FIELD DAY, 1986
de Bob Burns, W5SJS

Field Day 1986 began with the club having to move to the "back-up" location due to a problem in harvesting the hay at the Demny site near New Waverly. Announcements during the net and over the repeater, (plus a telephone campaign), alerted club members of the change to the Burns and Goeke ranches near Kenney, Texas in Austin County.

As planned, this year's Field Day was truly an "all out" effort. Total "Q's" probably will run in excess of 3,700; bonus points were earned in virtually every category. The club should place quite high in Class 3A.

All of this was made possible through the hard work of many dedicated club members. A tremendous amount of Pre Field Day Effort went into the planning, gathering of gear, testing of rotors, coax, control cable and generators. Plus, additional effort went into planning the bonus activities. As a result, the Board of Directors would like to thank every club member who contributed his time, effort and sweat towards this year's successful Field Day effort. In addition, special thanks go to the following named members who "worked their Butts off" working on the Field Day Committee.

Hats off to the station captains, George DeMontrond, NR5M; Dave McCarty, K5GN; Bill Schrader, K2TNO; and Eric Silverthorn, NM5M. These guys got their equipment together, organized their stations, and "goaded" their operators to high rates.

A "Job well done" to special project managers:

Kenny Grabenstein, KE5IV, who handled antennas and towers.

Chuck Coleman, K5LZO, who handled VHF co-ordination (and especially handled the bucket truck).

Steve Smothers, WA9VLI, who handled the sign-in, operating schedules, supplies, equipment maintenance, fuel, etc.

Also, the members in charge of Bonus activities did a superb job. Thanks to:

Mike Davidson, KC5CP, who did the solar powered station.

Larry Vehorn, W9AGH, who handled our passage of ARRL messages.

Wes Whiddon, N5WW, who handled our Field Day publicity.

Kenny Manchester, NZ5I, who handled our packet radio station (making over 40 contacts).

Steve Nace, KN5H, who handled our satellite station.

Plus,

Clarence Sharp, K5DX; Galen Graff, KB5FU; and George DeMontrond operated 12 meters to give us even more bonus points via a last minute bulletin from ARRL.

In addition to these key people, there were many tower climbers, screw anchor specialists, and willing hands who helped everywhere. It should be noted that last year's Field Day chairman, now our president, did a fine job of keeping things on track and lending a hand everywhere.

Kenny, the club secretary, has written a letter of thanks to Mr. Charles Goeke, the Austin County Cattle Rancher, who jointly hosted the TDXS Field Day group.

Especially, everyone at FD needs to remember the efforts of KD5SP, KZ5M, N5EA and WB5N for their heroic midday work atop those two 60-foot 45G towers. Sunday afternoon was unbearably hot for everyone, but somehow those guys stuck to the job and got the antennas and towers unbolted safely.

Thanks to everyone who helped out; we left the site in great shape (the site, not us).

DX REPORT

(de Steve, WA9VLI)

- Pagalau Island-----3COA was active on all bands thru July 5th. If you were lucky enough to bag this one, QSL to: TROA, OR A.G.R.A., P.O. Box 1826, Librville, Gabon West Africa.
- Market Reef-----After finishing up on Aland Island, OH2BH and crew will head for Market Reef starting July 8-15 as OHOMD/OJO, on all bands 10-160 meters, SSB and CW. CW frequencies: 1830, 3505, 7005, 14025, 21025, & 28025. For SSB: 1830, 3795, 7090, 14195, 21295 & 28595. QSL to OH2BH.
- Andorra-----C30C was worked locally on 14195 at 0200Z. Also activity at 2030 UTC reported.
- South Cook Islands-----ZK1XU, "Bing" Crosby, is busy working pile-ups on 14187 around 0300 UTC. Bing says he plans to operate from North Cook Island next year. QSL to VK2BCH in the '85 or '86 callbook.
- Ogasawara-----JD1BDK heard again at 1220 UTC on 7006.
- Minami Torishima-----7J1ACH (Rick, NJ7D) has been reported on 14021 & 14225 about 0900-1000 Z. Good luck getting over the West Coast! QSL to NG7X.
- Fran Josef Land-----UV100 has been very active on 20 meter SSB. UA9LAL, "Leo" is the op. QSL via UA9LBR. Look for them starting 0000 Z around 14178 and 14214.
- Thailand-----HSOA was heard during all Asia phone on 14192 at 1400-1600 UTC.
- Laos-----A possible operation from XW-Land is mentioned by JALUT in September.

PROPAGATION FORECAST
(de Chuck, KE5FI)

The propagation forecast for July can best be described as a "good news - bad news" story. The good news is that the magnetic activity is expected to be low for most of the month. This means low absorption, strong lower frequency signals and good propagation over and close to the poles.

The bad news is I expect that the average solar flux for this month will be the lowest so far in the decline of the solar cycle. It will probably take some new solar activity to get the flux level much over 70. (Remember, a flux level of 66 corresponds to a sunspot count of zero.) While this will signal the demise of 15 and 10 for DX purposes, it may allow some periods of extremely strong DX on 20 during daylight and 40 and 80 during darkness.

The best days will be 15 and 16 July, count on it! Best 40 and 80 days are the 6th and 7th. Radiosport may have a few reasonable openings on 15, but forget 10. The VHF contest on 19-20 July has the best chance of sporadic-E on the first day. If I had to pick the worst days of the month, I would pick July 10 and 18, however, my computer modem is down so I have not been able to forecast past the 21st.

CORRESPONDENCE

I propose the following amendment to the constitution of TDXS. I believe it will alleviate a lot of confusion about abstaining votes and make the election of new members much more fair. The old procedure was good in the past, but with the larger number of members it has become obsolete. I can foresee a day in the future when it will be impossible to elect a new member and also impossible to change the constitution! The two new sections would replace section 5 of Article XII. The current section is reprinted below the proposed sections.

ARTICLE XII.

Section 5. Any election regarding a proposed new member in which the Secretary does not receive ballots from at least 50% of the full members qualified to vote therein shall be null and void. The name of the proposed new member shall be resubmitted for balloting on the next ballot unless withdrawn by the sponsor.

Section 6. For admission to membership, the proposed new member must receive a favorable vote of at least 66 2/3% of those voting and not abstaining. Abstentions shall only count toward the 50% requirement of Section 5 and shall not be considered a "yes" or "no" vote.

Article XII.
Current Section 5

5. Any vote regarding a proposed member on a membership ballot which does not receive the required 50% of the total qualified full member vote, either for or against, shall be considered null and void. The name shall be resubmitted for balloting at the next ballot opportunity if deemed necessary by the Board of Directors, Membership Committee, and Sponsor. A favorable vote shall be 75% of the total vote for each proposed member with at least 50% of the qualified full members voting.

Procedure for voting on amendments:

1. Submit proposed amendment to Secretary in writing.
2. Read to members at next meeting
3. Present to full members in a ballot.
4. Count ballots at 2nd meeting later. 2/3 vote required.

Chuck Dietz - KE5FI

A VIEW FROM THE TRENCHES
(de Bill, K2TNO)

Field Day '86 is behind us, and I think an "after-action" report is called for. Here are my own thoughts on the subject, for what they are worth.

Antennas: Stacking tower is impossible in the heat; the few willing climbers literally risked their lives this year. I wonder how we would all feel today if one of those guys had actually passed out up there from heat exhaustion. We need to stick with crank-ups exclusively because they go up so easily.

Rigs: Having one guy bring an entire station works the best; he knows what goes where. Let's stick to that plan.

Time slots: K5GN did a real service by highlighting high-rate times. I think that helped us a lot, and we need the same idea done next year from this year's logs.

Interference: We still have the problem of novice 15M/main rig 15M killing each other. Maybe front-end crystal filters would help. Any ideas out there? Forty meters is also tough, but this year we managed.

Teamwork: There was too much wasted effort in the heat. A tower/antenna team of 4 guys should be assigned/assembled by the station captain of each station. That crew would do all the tower/guy anchor/coax work for their station except for attaching the antennas.

A separate bucket-truck team of K5LZO/K5RVK would go around and stick the beams in place once the towers were up.

A separate beam-assembly team (headed by KE5IV) would do nothing but assemble the beams correctly. They wouldn't carry, move or stack the antennas at all - just assemble them.

Generators/fuel: One pickup truck should have all the fuel tanks and oil on it. It also has one small 2-3 KW generator on it. The truck would visit each station, and feed them 110 volts for their rig from the truck's generator through a separate power cord coming out of the RV. Then the main generator is shut off, refueled, oil checked and power transferred back to the main generator. The truck would have an electric fuel pump with a hose to fill generators, and jerry cans only for filling RV tanks. This way, the unnecessary siphoning that went on is eliminated. Hint: memory keyers should have battery backup; mine did not, so every time we shut off the generator we lost the memories and I had to re-program.

Rig conveniences: The rigs generally had dual earphones. Anyone needing a special keyer paddle ought to bring it along himself with a 5-pin DIN plug attached to plug into an AEA keyer.

The dupe sheets need a big area; the operating table should have no extraneous junk on it. Build a shelf to sit above the rig for junction boxes, SWR bridges, etc.

Automatic pencils are a must. Nobody can read blunt #2 pencils written on a dupe sheet.

SPECIAL FD AWARDS
(from an observer)

Outstanding Vaquero Award - to K5LZ0 who chased the cattle herd away from the antennas on Friday evening.

Silkiest Shampoo Award - to KD5SP for contaminating the water hole with Johnson's Baby Shampoo.

Penthouse Free-Spirit Award - to K2TNO for his on-camera rendition of Channel 2.

Lloyd Bridges Award - to KG5U for swimming in the pond surrounded by a catfish feeding frenzy.

Mario Andretti Award - to N5IVF for driving the dune buggy to its untimely death.

Desecheo Award - to K25M for his experiments with Bourbon and corned beef.

ARMADILLO RUN 86
(de Galen, KB5FU)

The County Hunters CW contest runs over the weekend of July 25-26-27. Within that period in the Armadillo Run, I hope to hear that a number of TDXS'ers are out there rolling. Times for the 'Run are shorter than the County Hunters:

County Hunters: 00Z 7/26 to 24Z 7/27

Armadillo Run: 1300Z to 0100Z both days.

The exchange is a bit different from the SSB contest; a new serial number is sent for each QSO, and you start again at #1 in each new county. Exchange:

The exchange is: serial number, class (P or M must be sent for portable or mobile stations, county, state.

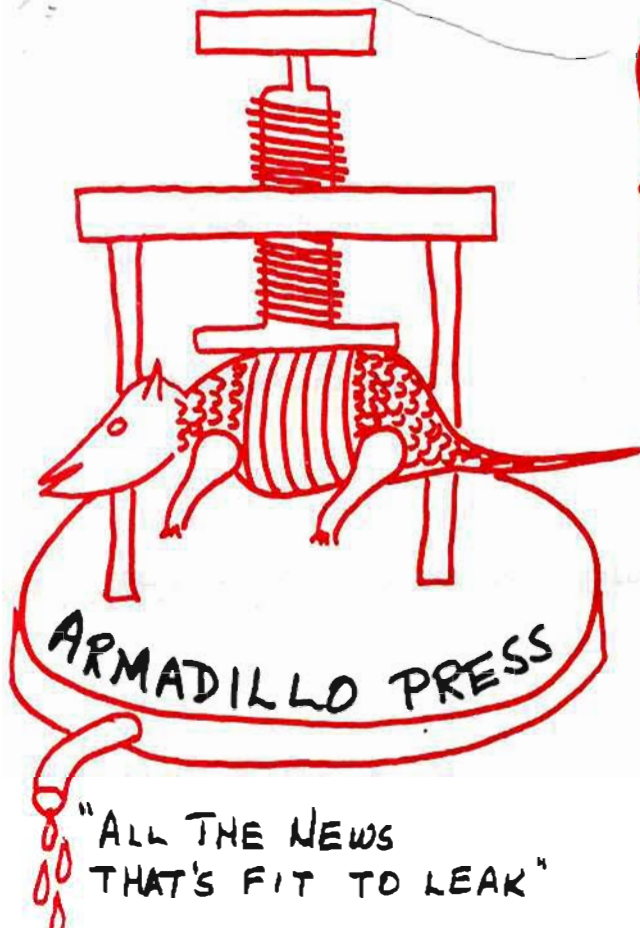
Feel like a drive? There are still 90 counties in GA, 62 in KS and 62 in MS.

The following counties in Texas need to be "put on" during the CW Armadillo Run. Any help would be appreciated.

COUNTIES (21)

Blanco
Cochran
Correho
Crachett
Crosby
Floyd
Garga
Hockley
Kennedy
Lee
Leon

Limestone
Llano
Lynn
Mason
Milam
Sutton
Terrell
Terry
Val Verde
Yoakum



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

VOLUME:

ISSUE:

DATE:

"ALL THE NEWS
THAT'S FIT TO LEAK"

ARMADILLO PRESS EXCLUSIVE

Here we present an interview with one of ham radio's earliest pioneers, a man loved and respected by all who worked him, Zoan, Forty, W5CULOM. Zoan is that rare individual who makes important discoveries and lives to become a legend in his own time. We interviewed Zoan at his QTH in Brainstem, Mass. at the Massachusetts State Home for the Bewildered.

A.P.: Zoan, what was you greatest contribution to DXING?

Z40: What?

A.P.: I SAID, WHAT WAS YOUR GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO DXING?

Z40: Oh yes, I recall him well. Terrific op, never missed a 20-watt JA call in his life. He used to work 'em 90 an hour at high noon, I recollect. And that was two days before the contest started...

A.P.: Our readers would like to hear about your invention of the key click. Before you, all CW signals took five milliseconds to rise or fall. What inspired you to experiment with shorter rise times?

Z40: What?

A.P.: I said, what about clicks?

Z40: Chicks? Never had time for 'em. Too busy getting my Sterba curtain up.

A.P.: No, I said clicks! KEY clicks!

- Z40: Oh! Why didn't you say so before, sonny? Yes, I used to do a lot of key tricks. I remember one time I built a key entirely out of Bakelite, and keyed the A.C. line to the final. Made the damndest racket on the band you ever heard! Worked the whole forty meter contest pretending to be a CQ2.
- A.P.: Let's change the subject. Tell us about your work on the heterodyne principle.
- Z40: Principle, my foot, sonny! The whole point of my work was to have absolutely no principles if you were going to heterodyne. I guess my greatest moment was when I realized that a receiver was unnecessary if you were really into heterodyning. I reasoned one day I could sell that receiver and put all my money into a better transmitter so it would give bigger heterodynes. That's what prompted me to invent the keyscrew.
- A.P.: The keyscrew?
- Z40: Yep! Best damned contraption in its day! 'Course, it was before the days of memory keyers.
- A.P.: Please, what's a keyscrew?
- Z40: I'll show you one. See this old hand key here? Well, before me they were all set at the factory to rock up and down on the pivots like this (demonstrates). What I did was to add this here little knurled screw and jam nut at the far end away from the knob. That's a keyscrew.
- A.P.: But I thought that was for adjusting the spacing of the...
- Z40: Don't interrupt, sonny! The beauty of the keyscrew was that it let you close the key contacts permanently. Hell, with one of them gadgets you could tune up on 7005 on Friday evening about 2359Z, tighten that keyscrew and leave for a weekend fishin' in the country.
- A.P.: Let me guess: the keyscrew let you keep heterodyning even while you were out of town fishing?
- Z40: You ain't as dumb as you look, sonny!
- A.P.: Zoan, our time is about up. Do you have any tips to DXers you'd like to share as a result of your years of operating?
- Z40: Sure do! But you're probably not interested in big countries totals or in winning every contest.
- A.P.: Try me.
- Z40: O.K., sonny. Here's my secret for the '80's. Computers and fourteen-year-olds.

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A.P.: You mean because the youngsters have better hearing and stamina for those long nights hunting JA's on 160?

Z40: Nope! It's because the ARRL and everybody use computers.

A.P.: So what?

Z40: So that's how they compile results, check logs and even typeset their mag!

A.P.: I'm still not sure I follow. What's that got to do with successful scores?

Z40: Boy, sonny, you ain't no bright copper penny, are you? Look, after the contest is over, and all the logs are in, what do they do? They put all that stuff on their computer to check everybody, especially the leaders. Then the contest department writes up its report on disc, and shoots the whole shebang over to the Magazine Production Department.

A.P.: And there it's typeset from disc?

Z40: Righto, sonny! And that's where the creative contester enters the picture. Ya see, by that time the contest department has long since forgotten about your contest because they're already busy working on the Drill Press Operators QSO party, or some other damn-fool event. They're so sick of looking at the pages of numbers from your DX contest they wouldn't catch it if somebody changed the title of the article for crying out loud.

A.P.: I think you're about to suggest something akin to mail fraud...

Z40: Hell, sonny, you wanna beat P42J and N5AU or not? So anyway, while the disc is in Production, you just access their computer and make a few last-minute text changes.

A.P.: You mean falsify your score at the typesetting stage?

Z40: There's hope for you yet, sonny.

A.P.: But where does the fourteen-year-old come in?

Z40: You're really a dead short between the headphones, ain't you sonny? Ya need a picture drawn? Look, do you read the papers?

A.P.: Of course I do.

Z40: Well, you ever read about anybody cracking into a bank computer or the U.S. Naval War Games?

A.P.: Sure.

Z40: Well, if you ever stopped to read, the hackers are all fourteen years old! You think either of us could get into the QST production discs by a few keystrokes? Hell no. But I betcha them Newingtons ain't no match for a hacker in his prime. Two minutes, and wham! Your score goes up, your pitcher ends up in the article and you've won yer first major contest!

A.P.: But isn't that way just a bit out of line with the fraternal spirit of contesting and DXing?

Z40: Sonny, there's a spare room here at the Home. Why don't you just sit here quietly while I get you an attendant with some pills.