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THE BULLSHEET

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



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UP YOUR COAX (BY TOM TAORMINA, K5RC)

I am often asked to reflect on my passive experience regulating the care and feeding of antennas. Eddy and Henry have coaxed me out of retirement to admit some of the primary and secondary tricks I have logged over the years. If the response is positive, I will discharge a series of parallel articles over a constant time.

Hardline has been gaining acceptance as the most efficient element for the passing of high power. It couples increased capacity with the potential of resistance to breakdown. It terminates the need for lossy lines because of its susceptance to matching a variety of frequently encountered impedances to loss-free loads. It not only stands the response of booming winds, but it deflects with minimum sinusoidal induction on crystal clear days.

Hardline is not conducive to efficient erection. Its nature is to react with resistance to clipping and skin effect. To rectify its response to coil, you often have to induce a ripple into the load and many times you must resort to climbing a ladder network to transform the inverted elements.

A common mode failure in hardline is in the effects of field use. When linear mixing occurs in bridging the ground or when bypassing happens, sloping traps bias the cable. Clipping will attenuate much of the broad band of possible responses, but there is much to be gained from alternating feed lines from direct biasing.

Key communicating and filtering about the use of hardline will show how the future will transform. Induce your friends to respond to the high passing of the core issues and we will all enjoy the feed back and watt ever discharge will be generated.

IT SEEMS TO ME (de K5TU)...Let's think about club membership for a minute...We've been in a severe recruiting slump for the last two years. Think about the last club meeting you attended. Did you take the time to introduce yourself to the new faces and get acquainted? If you did, you know there are several candidates for membership attending the meetings. Most are active DXers you hear on the repeater daily.

You may remember that membership requirements are set by the membership committee each year. At present, a prospective member must attend six meetings in a year to qualify for membership. While this practically guarantees that a candidate is interested in the TDXS, it also discourages those in outlying areas who may not be able to make the longer drive. The ARRL is enlarging the geographic radius for ARRL affiliated clubs, which will open the door for much larger, regional clubs. The meeting attendance requirements will also be relaxed, making it easier for members to stay current. In light of these changes, I encourage everyone, and more specifically the 1988 officers, to take a hard look at our meeting requirements and see if they truly reflect the current spirit of the TDXS.

1988 HOUSTON CONVENTION - (de K5TU) Our October meeting was held at the TDXS Hospitality Suite oactivities (kudos to W5ASP) were reasonably well attended, the general consensus was that this year's convention was poorly attended, by both exhibitors and convention goers alike. Special thanks to KE5IV, KG5U and WD5CHY who were instrumental in the success of the hospitality suite and to K5GN, K2UA and K2TNO for their presentations in the DX and Contest Forums.

WELCOME BACK MR. BILL - Well, it appears that K5GA has cleared activities (kudos to W5ASP) were reasonably well attended the general consensus was that this year's convention was poorly attended, by both exhibitors and convention goers alike. Special thanks to KE5IV, KG5U and WD5CHY who were instrumental in the success of the hospitality suite and to K5GN, K2UA and K2TNO for their presentations in the DX and Contest Forums.

WELCOME BACK MR. BILL - Well, it appears that K5GA has cleared the rust from his keyer paddle. Preliminary totals place Mr. Bill at the top of CW Sweepstakes scores. Goes to show you that contesting isn't just for the young guys! Only a few microns behind you will find (kerchunk kerchunk) K5GN with an estimated fourth place. I hear Dave missed VE8, which could have made the difference. KG5U turned in his best effort ever with over 1000 Q's and a sweep. Congrats all around.

IF YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING ON THE REPEATER, YOU'VE HEARD ... That K5GN still doesn't have a working microphone for his ICRUM (helloooooo Dave ?? kerchunk, kerchunk)...KE5IV has a new boss... K5SU has a new tribander sidemounted for SS...W9AGH only got an IOU for his new radio...NY5L is working lots of DX, based on the number of QSTs he puts out...NZ5I joins K5MA's club for short drive time to work...N5DU has little time for contesting between grad school and his current lady...N5WW must have about 6 million miles in Continental's frequent flyer program, all between Houston, Phoenix and Denver...N5DC is enjoying the upswing in steel activity... There's more steel with 15M aluminum standing vertical at NR5M. The new beverage antennas are also working like the proverbial hose...KE5FI thinks he has a bum feedline on his 10M stack...K5LZO and K5GA will soon be independently wealthy gas barons (Chuck had plenty of gas BEFORE this well came in)...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING NOTICE - The Texas DX Society meets the second Friday of each month except when changed by the Board of Directors. The November regular meeting will be on Friday, November 13, 1987 at Demontrond Motor Homes, 6015 Hillcroft (Just south of the Southwest Freeway) at 7:30 P.M.

BULLSHEET MAILING LIST - The Club provides the Bullsheet free of charge to all amateurs with an interest in DX and Contests. A donation to offset printing and mailing would be appreciated, however. To subscribe, send your name and address to TDXS, P.O. Box 540291, Houston, Texas 77254-0291.

BULLSHEET ARTICLES - Articles and other newsworthy items are hereby solicited by the editor. Please send them to Chuck Dietz, KE5FI, 4406 North Main, Baytown, Texas 77521. The Bullsheet is assembled on an IBM computer using the "Wordstar" word processing program. If articles can be submitted on a disk or via telephone modem it would be greatly appreciated.

WEEKLY DX AND CONTEST NET - TDXS sponsors a weekly DX and Contest net on our 147.36/147.96 repeater each Tuesday night at 9:00 P.M. The purpose of the net is to exchange DX, contest and club information. Participation is welcomed from non-members as well as members. Your active support of this net is welcomed.

PROPAGATION

By Chuck Dietz, KE5FI

One of the most misunderstood factors relating to propagation is the relation of the "A index" to the "K index" and what these indices mean with regard to propagation. Many operators realize that the solar flux, A index and K index are broadcast on WWV at 18 minutes after every hour. The "18 after" watch has become rather popular on the TDXS repeater in Houston, Texas. This is helpful to most of us who tend to remember at 19 or 20 minutes past each hour.

Most operators also know that the "A" and "K" are both magnetic indices, but many do not know their relationship. Both these indices are measurements of the intensity of geomagnetic intensity made by magnetometers in various locations. The "Fredricksburg K index" is a measurement in Fredricksburg. The "planetary K" (or Kp) is an average from readings at College, Alaska; Goose Bay Newfoundland; Loring, Maine; Boulder, Colorado and Upper Heyford, England. These are collected by the U.S.A.F. Global Weather Service and give some idea of the global magnetic activity (at least in the Northern Hemisphere). WWV, you may have noted, transmits the Boulder, Colorado measurements.

The K index is an instantaneous measurement made at three hour intervals, beginning at 0000 hours. The A index is the average of the prior day's K indices, however, a different scale is used. Figure 1 shows the relationship of the K and A indices.

K	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	0	3	7	15	27	48	80	140	240	400

The K can vary between zero and nine while the A can rise as high as 400 if all eight of the day's K readings were nine. On a recent day (September 27) the Fredricksburg K index showed three readings of 3 and five readings of 2. Using the chart in Fig. 1 to convert to the A index scale for each K reading and averaging one arrives at an A index of 10 for that day.

A indices of 10 or less and K indices of 2 or less generally indicate reasonably quiet geomagnetic levels. This results in lower levels of absorption in the polar regions resulting in better possibilities for long path and over the pole paths and in less D and E layer absorption resulting in lower atmospheric noise and stronger signals in the lower frequency bands.

This Contest season has already kicked off with a bang. The CQWW Phone Contest saw long path Asia coming in on ten meters the first morning and OH-SM's all the first day! And that was with solar flux levels of 88 the first day and 93 the second. The magnetic "A" index rose to minor storm levels on the second day which tamed things down on all the bands. CQWW Code, Nov. 28-29, should have flux levels about ten points higher than phone and magnetic levels much lower. Look out on ten and fifteen!

Just a word in passing about SS Phone, Nov. 21-23. SS Code had flux levels in the mid to low 90's. I expect phone to be a little higher. What this will do to propagation is unclear, but it may open up ten and fifteen for a large portion of the day.

The 160 Contest is coming upon Dec. 5-6. I expect the flux to be in the mid to low 90's and the magnetic index to be relatively quiet. There may not be any records set, but it should be a good Contest if the thunderclouds stay away.

The ten meter Contest is on Dec. 12-13. The flux should be in the high 90's to low 100's. If the magnetic index repeats its prior behavior the A index may be extremely low providing us with the best ten meter conditions for years. This, coupled with tens of thousands of new ten meter operators between 28.3 and 28.5 will mean QSO totals over 2000 for many stations! Look for long paths to Asia to begin before 7:00 a.m. local time. Look for OH-SM openings straight north to continue from Noon to 4:00 p.m. local time. Look for Europe to open at 7:30 a.m. local and Africa at 8:00 a.m. local. Africa will be workeable all day long. Have fun & call me!

CONTEST CORNER

Contests Coming Up:

Nov. 21-23	ARRL SS Phone
Nov. 28-29	CQWW DX CW
Dec. 5-6	ARRL 160 CW
Dec. 12-13	ARRL 10 Meter

The 10 Meter Contest has new rules and new players. Novices and techs are on phone between 28.3 and 28.5. They will only count double on CW, however. For the first time, those going both modes and multi-ops will count CW Mults separately from phone mults. These two changes should increase activity significantly.

Remember that multipliers are the 50 States, DC, Canadian call areas, DXCC countries (except US & VE) and ITU regions for MM stations.

KE5's in Texas with stations at their vacation homes should be given a clear frequency.

RUMORS

SS CODE:

W5WMU (K5GA)	-	1265	x	75
K5GN	-	1224	x	74
W5RRR (KN5H)	-	850	x	74
W5ASP	-	750	x	73
KG5U	-	1020	x	75

CQWW DX PHONE:

	QSO's	Zones	Countries	Pts
NR5M Multi-Multi	3905 x	162	x 557	= 7.6 meg
N5AU Multi-Multi	3750 x	173	x 576	= 7.4 meg
KE5F1 Single-Op 10Meters	515 x	28	x 85	= 160 K

DX Report (de WI5P)

Angola --- YU2NA/D2
YU2NA will be in Angola till March and has been promised a license.

Antarctica --- ZL6BA
December 1 - Till? -- By Sojo - VK7ZSJ
QSL Via VK7RM or WB6AFJ

Cocos-Keeling Island --- VK9YV & VK9YH
November 25 - December 7 By G3AAG - F6GVD
No NETS, No Tailenders. Modes: SSB

French Polynesia --- FO/OH1RY
November 10-13 -- By Peter, OH1RY
QSL: Pekka Kolehmainen, POB 29, 21531 Paimio, Finland

Glorioso Island --- FH/G/FH4EC
NOW - November 16 -- 18:00 - 19:00 -- Freq: 14,183
QSL Via F6FNU

Heard Island --- VKOHI
September 1 - May 1 -- By VK3DHF
QSL Via VK3EVN

Mongolia --- OK1XC/JT
00:25 - 00:40 Modes: CW - Freq: Low End

Rwanda --- 9X5NH
19:00 - 21:00 -- By Hans - SSB - Freq: 21,294 QSL Via DJ6EA

South Orkney Island --- LU1ZA/Z
01:00 - 04:00 -- Freq: 7007

Sudan --- PAOGAM/ST2
02:00 -- By Gerben, PAOGAM
No callsigns or mention of amateur radio on envelope.
Modes: CW - Freq: Low End -- QSL Via Box 3794, Khartoum

Tristan da Cunha --- KYOT/ZD9
November 22-30 -- By John -- QSL Via WV4F

Turkey --- TA1A
01:30 - Freq: 7002

Vanuatu --- YJOAA & YJOAYL
November 26 - December 3 By Don, K5BDX & Brenda -- Via K5DBX

QSL Info:
SORASD -- By OH2BH, EA2JG, & EA2ANC -- QSL Via EA2JG
Arseli Echeguren, Las Vegas 81, 01479 Luyando (Alava), Spain

MICHAEL JACKSON BECOMES HAM???

Sources close to super star Michael Jackson have refused to comment on the rumor that Michael has become a ham radio operator. Yet, a persisant rumor continues to circulate among the major DX and contest clubs in California that Michael has become interested in building a super contest station on his private estate in southern California.

Numerous reporters who traveled to Japan on the recent Jackson Tour of Asia have fueled the rumor by reporting that Michael went on a buying spree on radio row while in Tokyo. It was reported that numerous boxes of electronic equipment made by Trio-Kenwood and clearly marked "Amateur Radio Equipment" were sent back to the states by the Jackson entourage.

The original rumor about Jackson's interest in building a contest station included the reuniting of Michael and his brothers to form a multi-op team, The Jackson 5, again. If their strained relations could be patched up with all their energy they could be unbeatable. However, later reports from one of the contest groups in California, who have mentored Michael's entrance into the world of radio contesting, have indicated that he will continue to perform alone just like his musical act and will enter the very competitive single-op category in the contests. Obviously, this later report seems to better fit the style and personality of Michael as his skill with a microphone would make him a first rate phone contester.

With Jackson's almost unlimited funds one can only dream of the quality of the contest station he could afford to build. Yet, if Michael enters into the world of contesting with the same style, enthusiasm, and engery that he has done with his music, he will certainly sweep all the major contests! Instead of seeing Michael receiving multiple Grammy awards on TV, we could easily imagine him at the Dayton Hamvention receiving various contest awards from CQ in the Contest and DX Forums.

Michael's entrance into contesting could easily have a dramatic effect on the rather bland world of radio fashion as well. Instead of the traditional club shirt or jacket, one can easily imagine major contest clubs ordering a sequined glove for club members to wear of matching colors to meetings and hamfests.

Jackson's physical prowess illustrated by his special dancing ability could be a skill that could be taught to serious antenna builders and tower jockeys. Who knows when the ability to "Moon Walk" on the boom of an 80 meter beam at 120 feet up, may be invaluable.

However, Jackson's personal style could be a bad influence on the already arrogant attitude of many contesters around the world. The Liar's Net after the contests on 3830 KHZ could turn into this, "I'M BAD. YA'KNOW, I'M BAD!" (For our older members this really means "I'm very good!"), OR worse yet: "I made 2 million points, NOW BEAT IT! YEAH, BEAT IT!"

Only time will tell if the rumor is true. However, a reliable source back east has added to the credibility of the rumor by reporting that a certain well known contest club in that part of the country has already ordered their light blue sequined gloves for their next meeting!

Reported by ABOX who is not responsible for the validity of these rumors.

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