



founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET

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



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TDXS Officers

President:	K5TU Kim Carr	Repeater Chairman:	NM5M Eric Silverthorn
V. President:	K5GN Dave McCarty	Bullsheet Editor:	KE5FT Chuck Dietz
Secretary:	KE5IV Ken Grabenstein	Legal Chairman:	KN5A Al Vacek
Treasurer:	KG5U Dale Martin	Field Day Chairman:	K2TNO Bill Schrader
Contest Chairman:	NT5D Brent Levit	DX Chairman:	WI5P Bill Wibker

IT SEEMS TO ME...(de K5TU) Remember that the October meeting is the last chance you have to nominate a full TDXS member as an officer for the 1988 calendar year. Unlike the last few years, the Board of Directors will not recommend a slate of candidates this year. In years past, we have failed to nominate a competitive ballot knowing that the Board of Directors will give us somebody to vote for. The result was a "rubberstamp" approval of the Board's nominated candidates, without much thought to who was really best qualified for the job, or who might really enjoy helping to run the TDXS. Please give some careful thought to nominations this year. Be sure you receive the nominee's approval before you nominate him.

This month's club meeting will be held in the Hospitality Suite at the Houston Convention. There will no doubt be a few party goers there, making it a bid difficult to conduct much business. The Board of Directors would appreciate you stopping by the Board meeting just prior to the general meeting if you have any "new business" to put before the club. We'll help you expedite it.

Moving on...Many of you have probably received a sample copy of the National Contest Journal (NCJ) in the last few months. Randy Thompson, K5ZD, has done a super job of editing, printing, mailing, etc. over the past few years. Now that the ARRL has assumed the publishing responsibilities, it can only get better! K5ZD will continue to act as Editor, and has just QSY'd to Pittsburgh. Even our own K2TNO and KE5FI (the epitome of profundity) have received had articles originally authored for the Bullsheet reprinted there! Yours truly is ashamed to admit that he doesn't have a current subscription to the NCJ...but I'm subscribing now...How about you?

FROM THE SECRETARY

The regular October meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. at the TDXS Hospitality Suite during the Houston Ham Convention. This year the convention will be held at the Hyatt Regency Downtown.

Nominations for the 1988 elected officers will end with the regular business meeting in October. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor during the regular business meeting. Be sure to talk to the member before nominating them. Remember, the Board of Directors is NOT nominating a slate of officers as in the past couple of years.

The Club still needs volunteers in several areas at the convention. If you have some free time during the convention, I know NR5M can use help with the tickets and N5RP needs members to assist in the flea market. K2TNO has made his garage available as a drop off point for Club donations to the flea market. The TDXS will not be taking any equipment on consignment this year.

W5ASP has planned several presentations during the DX and contest forum that should have a wide range of interest. From a video tape comprised of 3 local area Field Day operations to the VK9 (Y) Cocos-Keeling slide show by W5KNE. There will be the usual CW tapes along with the TDXS SSB pile up tape.

Any members having their stations ready for the upcoming contest season might contact NR5M or W5ASP to volunteer a hand to put the finishing touch on Radio Hempstead or the Lumber Yard. CQ WW SSB is just around the corner !

73,
Ken

CONTEST CLUBS (by AA6CV (ex W8LNO) - reprinted from the NCJ, September/October 1987) Contest clubs and contest-oriented DX clubs have long been those most recognizable to the masses as being responsible for activities affecting the DXCC country total or contest score of participating amateurs. Contesters provide the push necessary to get important DXpeditions off the ground and conducting programs and activities at major conventions, some of the thrust that makes our hobby more interesting.

The quality of the hobby and the health of contesting is perpetuated by contest-oriented clubs. Strong, geographically disbursed clubs increase the level of contest operating and competition and strengthen our voice. In the coming months, contest club activities and the people making them happen will be covered in this (NCJ-ed.) column. Also, ideas to strengthen clubs with emphasis on club competition and intraclub competitive programs.

Successful clubs have strong leaders and informal programs to identify and develop new leadership. They have excellent newsletters that provide communications with members and club identity. Entertaining meetings and activities, internal award pro-

grams, nets and repeaters, multioperator and expedition contest entries, and a strong belief in camaraderie round out the characteristics of successful and winning contest clubs.

The Contest Advisory Committee of the ARRL has recently given regional clubs a powerful shot in the arm by amending the meeting attendance rules to require attendance at only two meetings, regardless of the total number held. The new format will allow cells of activity which may resemble local clubs, but which will generate greater participation in club entries. Act now to be sure your club is organized in a way which will maximize your "medium" or "unlimited" class entry for ARRL competitions.

The changes are not the harbinger of the demise of the local club. Currently existing clubs will have renewed pride in their exclusivity. New local clubs will result from the spin of factions within the membership of regional groups. These changes are likely to have a greater positive effect on contest clubs than anything since Murphy protested the 1971 Mad River Sweepstakes win.

Determining how clubs stack up in ARRL- and CQ-sponsored events is a mystery which often lingers even after the official results are published. Your (NCJ) columnist will be sending each newsletter editor or appropriate club person a request for reporting estimates of club scores and the class of entry, where applicable. It will be interesting to see what resemblance exists between high claimed and final club scores.

In undertaking this (NCJ) column, it seemed appropriate to list the events that would be indicative of its success:

- 1) The Society of Midwest Contesters not winning an ARRL SS gavel in the unlimited category.
- 2) The Texas DX Society not winning their chosen competition.
- 3) The Yankee Clipper Contest Club having a peer.
- 4) The Kansas City DX Club having a great newsletter without ABOX.

Your suggestions for most effective use of this (NCJ) page will be appreciated. Editors are requested to send particulars about their clubs to: Joe E. Warden, AA6CV, P.O. Box 314, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067.

ABOUT OUR AILING REPEATER ... (de KSTU) Those of you who frequent the club's repeater know that it has had its share of technical trouble over the last 6 months. Hopefully, we've got it sorted out.

Eric, NM5M, changed jobs and transferred to granola land (that's California for you non-Texas boys), leaving the appointed office of Repeater Chairman vacant. Since that time, Wes, N5WW has offered to pitch in as temporary Repeater Chairman. Bill, K2TNO and I have also helped out.

The club operates a General Electric Mastr II repeater capable of running 110 watts output all day. It's located in the Greenway Plaza area, up about 475 feet. It's a beautiful piece of electronics, but then looks aren't everything. It has to work, too! Bill, K2TNO, and I designed the controller and interfaces for the identifier and 220 MHz control logic. Bill did a first class job of homebrewing the controller to fit into the repeater rack. The installation is equipped with battery back-up, and automatic switching should the AC power mains fail. When operating from battery power, the ID will change to "K5DX/R TDXS BAT". If you should hear this ID, please contact N5WW, K5TU or K2TNO immediately.

Unfortunately, the high power amplifier has had its troubles. The most recent failure wiped out some very expensive final transistors, probably because of a failure of the SWR shutdown circuit. (Ninth Corollary to Murphy's Law - The most expensive parts will fail in such a way to protect the least expensive parts.) For the last 2 weeks, the repeater has been running on only the exciter, with output power to the antenna of about 0.1 watts.

The amp is now repaired with a new set of transistors and some other parts that were vaporized when the transistors blew have been replaced. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the repeater will be back up at NR5M power levels (almost). For at least the first 90 days (the length of the warranty), the repeater will run full output of 110 W to make sure the amp is really "fixed". So, if you can hear it further than it hears you, you know why. After we're satisfied it is fixed, we'll return to the normal power level of around 50 W.

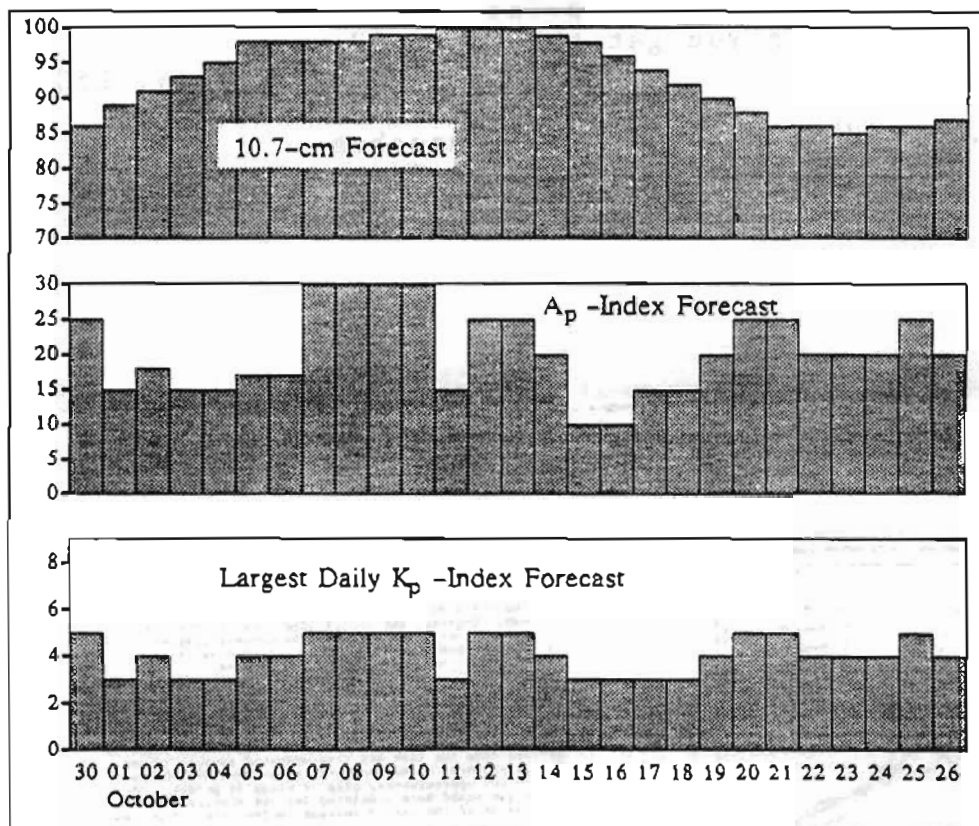
The Spectrum (backup) repeater is currently in need of a major power supply repair. Plans are in the mill to redesign the power supply to reduce dissipation and make it more reliable. We will then go about completing the modifications to the control system that will allow remote switchover from the GE to the Spectrum without a trip to the site.

PACKET RADIO NETWORK FOR CONTESTS - (de K5TU) Last contest season we experimented with packet radio for distribution of QST's related to DX contest multipliers. As a whole, it worked pretty well. I'll be holding an informal discussion on furthering this application immediately following the October club meeting in the hospitality suite. Join in and let's see how to improve the network.

The October meeting will be held in the TDXS hospitality suite in the Hyatt Regency Hotel downtown, home of the 1987 HHC Houston convention. The serious topic for the night is officer nominations. Give this some thought and discuss it with other members before the meeting. On the lighter side, the program will be a lively one. There will be previews of some of the next day's Forum events, plus an activity you won't want to miss. (Hint: it went over big in Dayton.) The theme for the night is participation, so don't leave yourself out! Afterward, the suite will be in full swing, with friends and visitors from all over.

You won't have to register for the convention just to attend the meeting (no excuse there). The entrance to garage parking is off Louisiana St. The room number has not yet been assigned by the hotel, so look for signs leading you to the suite. Hope to see you all there!

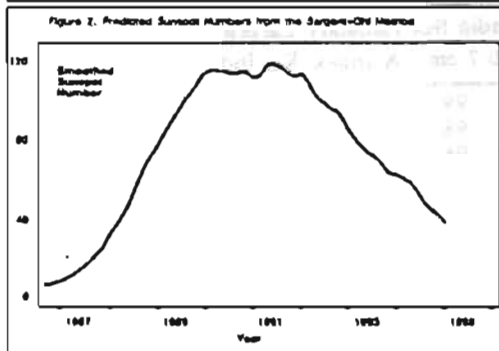
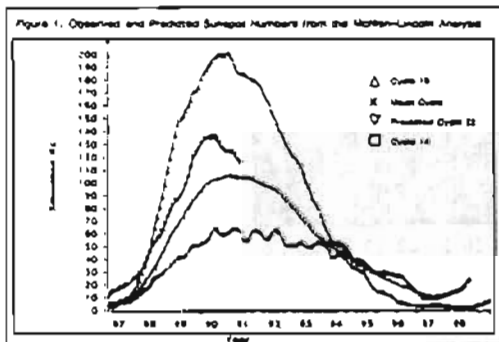
Twenty-seven Day Indices Forecast



Date	Radio flux Planetary Largest			Date	Radio flux Planetary Largest		
	10.7 cm	A Index	K _p Index		10.7 cm	A Index	K _p Index
September 30	86	25	5	October 14	99	20	4
October 01	89	15	3	15	98	10	3
02	91	18	4	16	96	10	3
03	93	15	3	17	94	15	3
04	95	15	3	18	92	15	3
05	98	17	4	19	90	20	4
06	98	17	4	20	88	25	5
07	98	30	5	21	86	25	5
08	98	30	5	22	86	20	4
09	99	30	5	23	85	20	4
10	99	30	5	24	86	20	4
11	100	15	3	25	86	25	5
12	100	25	5	26	87	20	4
13	100	25	5				

DX and CONTEST FORUM - 1987 HOUSTON COM-VENTION
 Presented by the Texas DX Society
 Joe Staples, W5ASP-Moderator

- 9:00 A.M. DXpedition to Paradise - WK9YW, Cocos Keeling
Bob Winn, WSKNE
- 10:00 A.M. DX "Pile Up" Challenge - SSB Call Recognition Tape
Dave McCarty, K5GN
- 11:00 A.M. DXing from Jersey (the "island" not the "state" !)
Bill Schrader, K2TNO/5
- 1:00 P.M. Field Day 1987...TEXAS STYLE !!!
Jeff McClain, KD5MR
- 2:00 P.M. Rate Your CW Copying Ability
"Can you get the facts ?"
Dave McCarty, L5GN
- 3:00 P.M. XUISS Rare DX from Kampuchea
Frankford Radio Club Contest Parody
Dennis Alexander, K2UA

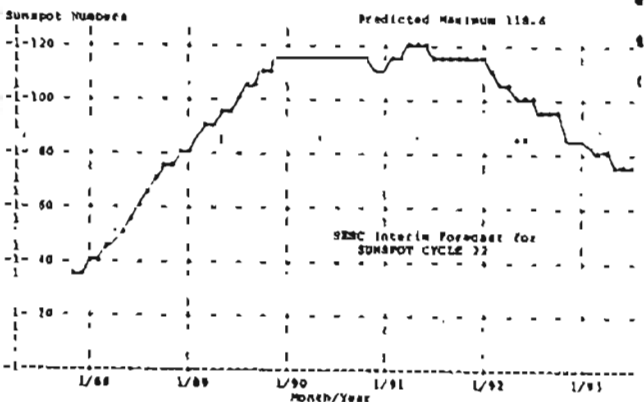


SSSC Interim Sunspot Cycle Forecast for Cycle 22 - dated 1/10/87

Disclaimer
 There are no clearly superior methods of predicting the size of sunspot cycles years before maximum. However, the method used here has done as well as any other method. The numbers graphed and tabulated here should be regarded as general guidance, and not as exact predictions.

The predictions are based on the assumption that sunspot minimum occurred in September 1986. The prediction of maximum value of Sunspot Cycle 22 is based on the Ohl method (as modified by Sargrent in 1978). The profile is derived from the last six even-numbered sunspot cycles. In the vicinity of maximum, the 95 percent confidence limits are approximately plus or minus 40 points. The technique would have predicted (as did predict) the maximum value of the last 4 sunspot cycles within 1 percent.

The values charted and tabulated are predicted smoothed monthly mean sunspot numbers for the designated months.



DX Report (de WI5P)

Andaman Island --- VU/A
October 6-26 -- By VU2GDG Gopal & 5 Operators
Modes: CW & SSB - Freq: All Bands

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

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

Fiji Island --- 3D2RY
October 12-18 -- By Peter, OH1RY

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

Jan Mayen --- JX1UG
October 16-23 -- By Ivar LA1UG
QSL Via LA1UG

Juan Fernandez --- CEOICD
01:00Z - 14,236

Nauru --- C21RY
October 18-21 -- By Peter, OH1RY

Somalia --- T5GG
NOW -- By Juliano
Freq: 14,190 @ 2240Z - 21,270 @ 1900
QSL Via POB B62, Mogadiscio

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

Sudan --- PAOGAM/ST2
NOW - Low End of 80,40 - 02:00Z -- By Gerben, PAOGAM
No callsigns or mention of amateur radio on envelope.
QSL Via Box 3794, Khartoum

Svalbard --- JW7FD
October 16-27 -- By Ragnar, LA7FD & Mathias, LA5NM
They will use JW5E during CQWW

Tunisa --- 3V8RFA
October 19-27 -- By Craig, WB7RFA
Including CQWW SSB

W. Kiribati (Gilbert) --- T3ORY
October 21-28 -- By Peter, OH1RY
QSL: Pekka Kolehmainen, POB 29, 21531 Paimio, Finland
See 3D2RY & C21RY Above same QSL Info.

CQ WW -- THE BIG ONE
by K5GN

CQ Magazine's Worldwide DX Contest has long been regarded as the DX championship contest. The phone weekend, October 24-25 UTC, usually sees the best worldwide participation of any contest year-round. Similarly, the CW weekend (after Thanksgiving Thursday) is often the best attended code event, worldwide. More rare countries pop up, more DXpeditions are mounted, more time is spent on the air than in any other contest.

Why is the WW so well attended? One reason is that popularity feeds popularity. The desire to go all out is greatest when everyone else is going all out, too. Another reason is the timing. Summer conditions are ending as fall begins. QRN drops, the low band openings lengthen, ten meters comes alive again. People are itching to get back into the fray and the WW contest is the first to really fit the bill. Another good reason is the format. The world works the world, except for your own country. Round the clock there is somebody, somewhere you can work. Lots going on, and lots of people out there to work. It all adds up to a lot of fun for both the casual op and the hard-boiled type.

What does this mean for a TDXS member in the first year of a new sunspot cycle? It means the first opportunity to stretch his legs again after the long summer doldrums. It means the best weekends for catching new countries, new ones on the low bands, learning more about propagation. It means an opportunity to help the guys in the club who are going multi-operator by lending a hand at the station, or by helping with the multiplier network on the repeater. In short, it means a good time to save up some weekend hours for operating the radio.

Now, a personal plea from the multi-ops to the guys at home: Get on the air--whatever bands you like--find/work DX and put it out on 2M. If we have a packet network and you can do it that way, great. If not, use the repeater. You may ask, why bother to tell us about a "garden variety" station, such as a VP2 on 15? Because we may not have worked it: Often, at the end of a contest we look back and see that the VP2 or LU or HBO that we worked on three or four bands was missed on 15 or 20 or some other band where they would be duck soup if we had only found them. Since the difference between winning and losing in the big multi-op battles is sometimes just a few multipliers, just a few successful helps from 2M could put your buddies over the top. Even if we don't need it, one of the deserving might need it for 5BDXCC or WAZ. So do it--put it out on the air. The more DX we put on the repeater, the better off we all are.

CONTEST CORNER
(de NT5D)

Well its October and several things come to mind: The Houston Ham-Com, CQ WW Phone, and Sprint Logs are due. The September CW and Phone Sprints were a complete success. Rumor has it that the Texas DX Society may have won first place in the Club Competition CW. Also, we had a full team for phone with excellent scores, so I am very optimistic about the Club's standing in that mode.

The Houston Ham-Com is just around the corner and we should have an excellent Contesting and DX Forum put together by Joe Staples, W5ASP.

The increasing number of sunspots should make this year's CQ WW Phone Contest the best it has been in years - save last year's contest when I worked JA's Long Path on 10 meters. There are plans to operate multi-multi at NR5M, so please contact Dave, K5GN If you are available to work the contest. In addition there is usually a group out at K5RVK, so give Joe W5ASP a call to see what their plans are.

Yours truly along with Dave WB5N and Brian KN5X will be operating multi-single from Grenada. Word from the Radio Club down there is that they have stopped issuing calls unless you plan to live on the Island. So listen for one of our calls portable J3 unless we are able to negotiate a call sign.

SCORES.....

1987 ARRL International DX Contest

K5KG/LU (CW) 7th Pl. DX Single Op. CW
HR6A (op: WB5VZL) 2nd Pl. DX S. Op. Phone
W5WMU 1st Pl. Single Band 80 W/VE Phone (Plaque)
KE5FI 1st Pl. Single Band 10 W/VE Phone (Plaque)
WN4KKN 2nd Pl. Single Band 40 W/VE CW
NR5M (Phone) 2nd Pl. Multi-Multi W/VE (Ops: K5GA, K5LZO, KE5IV, KG5U, KN5H, N5IVF, NM5M, NT5D, NZ5I, NR5M and WBSN)
NR5M (CW) 1st Pl. Multi-Two W/VE (Plaque)
(Ops: K2TNO, NT5D, K5GN, KN5H, NM5M, WB5N and W5AGH)
XE2FU (CW) 1st Pl. DX Multi-Two (Plaque) (Ops: K5GA, K5LZO, K5VWW, KB5FU, KE5IV, KG5U, KZ5M, XE2AAM, XE2GL and XE2KN)
K5KG/LU (Phone) 4th Pl. DX Single Band 15
W5ASP 1st Pl. W5 Dist. Multi-Sing. CW (Ops: K5MA, K5TU, K5WA, N5BA, N5EA, W5ASP and WA5ZVE)
N5JJ (CW) 2nd Pl. W5 Single Op.
N5JJ (Phone) 5th Pl. W5 Sing. Op.
N5IVF 7th Pl. W5 Sing. Op. CW

In the club competition the TDXS placed 2nd in the local category

1986 CQ WW DX CW

W5WMU 2nd Pl. USA Multi-Sing. (GA, LZO, IVF, WMU and K5AN)
NR5M 3rd Pl. USA Multi-Multi (TNO, GN, IV, KG5U, KN5H, RP, NM5M, NT5D, NZ5I, AGH, WB5N, WM5K, NR5M and WI5P)
N5JJ 2nd Pl. W/VE Sing. Band 160

ALL ASIA CW

NR5M 3rd Pl. W/VE Multi-Multi

RUMORS...

1987 N.A. QSO Party

NR5M 2nd Single Op. Phone
WB5VZL 3rd Single Op. Phone
K5LZO 1st Multi Op. Phone
K5LZO 1st Multi Op. CW

Sept. N.A. Sprint CW

K5TU 272 X 40
KG5U 265 X 41
KN5H 270 X
WX5S 192 X
NT5D 153 X

Sept N.A. Sprint Phone

K5LZO 305 X 52
NR5M 291 X 47
NT5D 257 X 46
KG5U 249 X 42
N5IVF 238 X 44
K5DX 210 X 39
KE5FI 204 X 41
WX5S 203 X 40
WA9VLI 170 X 36
WB5N 157 X 36

COMING ATTRACTIONS...

Oct. 9 TDXS meeting AT THE HYATT REGENCY IN DOWNTOWN
Oct. 10-11 Houston Ham Com
Oct. 11 RSGB 21/28 Mhz SSB contest
Oct. 17-18 Boy Scout Jamboree
Oct. 18 RSGB 21 Mhz CW
Oct. 23-25 CQ WW DX PHONE
Nov. 7-9 ARRL CW SWEEPSTAKES
Nov. 21-23 ARRL SSB SWEEPSTAKES
Nov. 28-29 CQ WW DX CW
Dec. 4-6 ARRL 160 Meter Contest (CW)
Dec. 12-13 ARRL 10 Meter Contest (SSB, CW or Mixed)

DEADLINES...