



founded 1970

# THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club



February 1988  
Volume XII  
Number 2

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The Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 540291, Houston, Texas 77254-0291  
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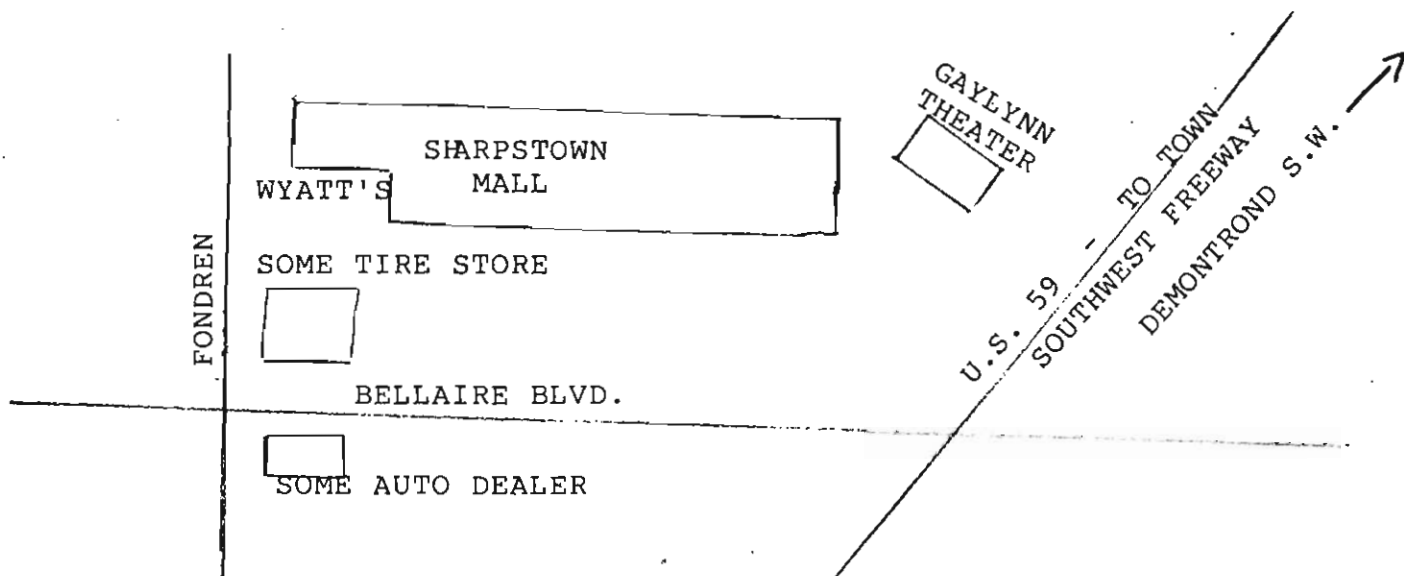
## Officers and Contributors

|                   |                         |                     |                    |
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| President:        | NR5M, George DeMontrond | Bullsheet Editor:   | K2TNO, B. Schrader |
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| Treasurer:        | KG5U, Dale Martin       | Field Day Chairman: | K5GB, Butch Barber |
| Contest Chairman: | K5GN, Dave McCarty      | Conv. Chairman:     | W5ASP, Joe Staples |

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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 February TDXS meeting will be held Friday, February 12th, PLEASE NOTE -- This month we will have a "dinner meeting" at WYATT'S CAFETERIA at Sharpstown just off the Southwest Freeway. Plan to eat about 6:30, and the meeting begins at 7:30. We will have a private banquet room. We hope to have a good crowd, so we can see how the members like the concept. Here is N5DU's back-of-a-napkin map of the meeting place. For all you statisticians, this map should be given a 90% confidence interval.



HOT FLASH - Your editor now has access to a FAX machine, a Pitney Bowes 8000. It is connected to its own phone line, telephone number 713-790-1275. The identifying name is "Baylor Cell Biology." Please add at the top of any document "Attention Dr. William Schrader" so the paper will be brought to me. This FAX unit is QRV 24 hours a day.

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. Donations to defray the publication and mailing costs are appreciated. 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- 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.

TEX DX WRECKS MEX REST.;  
TOM TELLS TALL TALES;  
CLUB CLAPS CARR'S QUIPS;  
CAR CLIPPER CLAIMS CROWN!

NOW FOR THE DETAILS - The TDXS Annual Banquet was the scene for another evening of overindulgence this year. That Maestro of the Modem, K5RC, sullied forth to greet the multi-tudes from high atop the podium. Balanced precariously on a stack of unmailed TDXS Sprint logs, he bestowed mirth and prizes to the deserving culprits of yesteryear. Ken Martin, K5YCP, appeased the mob with his pawn shop imitation. Then Kim, K5TU, bedecked in ceremonial regalia, proudly bestowed the official Jawbone of Office upon the incoming huckster, George, NR5M (or was that NM5R? - ed.). George outdid himself this year, by managing to stay throughout the entire evening.

Notable moments included KE5FI's announcement of this engagement to Alice; K5GN won a V-J 100W 2M amp (still no microphone, but now the loudest unmodulated carrier in all of Crosby, TX); Brent, NT5D and new XYL learned the difference between "stylishly late" and "too late" when they arrived to find no seats left at dinner.

Special kudos go to the staff of Los Alamedos restaurant for their ability to delay meals and drinks almost forever. (It's a lovely place - but bring a good book to read while you wait! - ed.). See you next year - we're going to a restaurant picked by W5JWM.

Thanks to the following for donating prizes at the banquet:

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| K5GA & Melanie, V J Assemblies             | NR5M, George, DeMontrond Buick |
| K5AAD, Madison Electronics                 | W5SJS, Northwest Lumber        |
| K5DU, Rawson & Company                     |                                |
| K5YCP and WA5EBF, Ken and Charlotte Martin |                                |

FLASH!

KOOL KEYERS KOMPETE DESPITE DASTARDLY  
DEED OF DECEITFUL DEFECTOR

K5??? PADDLES ON WRONG TEAM FOR WRONG REASON

The TDXS crack(ed) Sprint team paddled its way to a respectable showing Saturday night without longtime stalwart K5-something-or-other (?). Despite having only 9 oars in the water, captain K5GN roared around the circuit in a commendable 4 hours flat to equal last year's time. When asked whether losing his best paddler to a team of pathetic piddling plodders prevented a perfect performance, Dave declined to be derisive. "After all," he said "our time last year was no better with what's-his-name on the team. As far as I'm concerned he can paddle with the plodders for awhile. At least we could all breath during the contest."

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(by George DeMontrond, NR5M A.K.A N5RM)

The early returns show that we have two new members. Congratulations to N5AQT, Joe, and WX5S, Matt, the two newest members of TDXS.

A veritable maelstrom of contentiousness was generated recently over an apparent failure on the part of one of our members to submit Sprint logs last October. Aside from the fact that a few of us jumped the gun and incorrectly placed blame where it was not due, the resulting turmoil in the team brings to light a serious shortcoming in our procedures. We can no longer rely on each member to get his own logs in on time.

I propose that the contest chairman be made responsible for overseeing the turn-in of Sprint logs. (I personally would be willing to help collect the logs for Dave in time for him to turn them in.) I propose that the club pay the expense of mailing these logs Federal Express to the appropriate place. Maybe then we won't be surprised six months from now with yet another "missing log."

The HHC group has invited the TDXS to fill a board position with one of our members. Joe Staples has graciously agreed to represent us on the Convention Board. Thanks for taking on the job. I know the TDXS will be well represented.

Finally, elsewhere in this issue you will find a questionnaire designed to determine where we should place our contest emphasis this year. Please take the time to respond. Dave will place the club's emphasis on the activites in which you are interested. The spots are up; let's have a good club effort in the events which we decide are important.

73, George

P.S. It's not the quantity of powder that's important, it's the size of the shell.

CONTEST CORNER  
(by Dave McCarty, K5GN)

It seems only yesterday that I was writing for the January issue. Time flies when you're back in school! I have not yet seen the latest CQ issue, but February QST has arrived. Inside was an inauspicious reporting job on the results of the IARU HF Contest. A storm of protest has descended upon League HQ in response to the glaring inaccuracies in these results. Perhaps this will lead to improvements at the contest desk...(or homicides -ed.)

THE SHORT PATH

February is upon us already! It's the second lap of the contest season, and it's happening now: (An asterisk means a team event or club competition.)

|          |                                    |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| 1/29-31  | CQ WW 160M Contest CW<br>REF CW    |
| 1/20-2/7 | Novice Roundup                     |
| 2/7      | (Saturday, the 6th) Sprint CW*     |
| 2/14     | (Saturday, the 13th) Sprint Phone* |
| 2/20-21  | ARRL DX CW*                        |
| 2/26-28  | CQ WW 160M Contest Phone           |
| 3/5-6    | ARRL DX Phone*                     |
| 3/26-27  | CQ WW WPX Contest Phone*           |

CQ 160 -- (Nov. CQ) By the time you read this, CW will be over, but I hope you won't have missed it. Condx should be super. The phone weekend sees great activity, but not as much DX is worked due to the heavy QRM.

Novice Roundup -- (Jan QST, P. 81). This is your chance to teach the up-and-coming how to do it right. Make a point of getting on and working some of the boys.

REF CW - (Jan CQ, p 84) The world working the French, including the French departments and territories world-wide.

Sprint - (NCJ, Jan. WST p. 88) Don't miss it! On the CW team at time of writing: KG5U, KN5H, K2TNO, K5GN, K5TU, and NT5D = six stations = not enough. I need to hear from you now! Phone team not at all settled yet, either. K5LZO has quit our CW team in disgust over the rumor that we only had nine entries out of ten getting their logs into the September Sprint. Silly, but he's not changing his mind...

ARRL DX - (Dec. QST p. 81) More spots, more fun! Don't forget the repeater. We may also have several stations on packet connected with WN4KKN's AK1A setup in Austin. The ARRL DX Contest plaques are the best looking plaques going. The TDXS sponsors a plaque for DX CW Multioperator - Unlimited, Europe. Plaques club members could shoot for are:

- Single-op, all band and single-band (phone & CW).
- Multi-op, single-TX, two-TX, and unlimited (phone & CW).
- Single-op combined score.
- Low-power combined score.

THE LONG PATH

Last month I discussed long-term planning for club contest activities. I had planned to take a survey at the banquet, but it was suggested that I wait until the next Bullsheet or meeting. Therefore, see Figure 1 for a short questionnaire. Fill it out and bring it with you to the meeting for discussion on TDXS club competition in 1988.

-----  
TDXS 1988

1. What are your personal operating priorities for 1988? Number the choices below from 1 (top) to 12 (bottom).

|                   | Phone | Code  |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
| ARRL DX           | _____ | _____ |
| NA Spring (Sept.) | _____ | _____ |
| CQ WPX            | _____ | _____ |
| SS                | _____ | _____ |
| CQ WW DX          | _____ | _____ |
| FD                | _____ | _____ |

2. On which do you think the club should concentrate its efforts to generate a club score? (Choose three, ranked from 1st to 3rd choices)

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| ARRL DX           | _____ |
| NA Sprint-(Sept.) | _____ |
| FD                | _____ |
| CQ WPX            | _____ |
| SS                | _____ |
| CQ WW DX          | _____ |

THE SKEW PATH

Or is it screwed path: IARU HF results: Congrats are due for NR5M & crew, N5EA (lumberyard) & crew, and KG5U (by himself) for top 10 performances! Condolences to M, EA, and RVK for the League's folding, stapling & Mutilating of their callsigns/entries. Specifics:

|               |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| NR5M M/S      | #1 USA                       |
| N5EA M/S      | #8 USA                       |
| KG5U S/O CW   | #10 USA                      |
| Other locals: | N5IVF, WB5BIR in top 10 SSB. |

In the "what's wrong with this picture?" department: identify erroneous callsigns reported in QST for IARU HF:

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| HQ9R     | (HG9R)  |
| YUTUE    | (YU4EU, and twice!)                             |
| UA9AYA   | (UZ9AYA, twice also!)                           |
| N5RM     | (NR5M, three times!)                            |
| N5EA     | (left out of top 10 USA)                        |
| K5RVF    | (K5RVK, op at N5EA)                             |
| LZ1UDP   | (Questionable)                                  |
| KHZ/KY6M | (NY6M)  |
| K4VI/O   | (listed under Colorado,<br>instead of Missouri) |

That's thirteen screw-ups out of 1333 entries. (QST used to average one or two goofs/contest.) One wonders if the copy was proofed at all. What is most disturbing is that these entries aren't just average C guys -- they're top 10 and category winners.

More analysis of IARU results show that multipliers are the key to this contest: NR5M had the highest multipliers in the US (despite the July QRN) and tied for 10th, worldwide. KG5U had the 7th highest US (CW only category)...

Over seventy-five DXCC countries were represented in the results. Of USSR types, only UF and FJL were missing...UB4MZL, claiming multi single had 2822 QSO's and 256 mults. Nearest competitors were HA6GN (2383 Q's) and LZ9A (185 mults). After LZ0 "won" SS multi-single, and after reading the rest of the results, one must wonder whether the 'MZL log might actually have been multi-multi? (And whether it was even checked?)...This contest is very popular in Europe. There were 199 entries from W/VE. Compare that with 739 from Europe. (319 from zone 28 alone).

VIA BURD

Mailing deadlines for your possible dead beats:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| All 73 Contests: | February 18 (See page 118, CQ, Dec. 87) |
| VHF SS:          | February 25                             |
| TEXAS QSO Party: | March 14                                |
| CQ 160 CW:       | February 29.                            |
| Sprint CW:       | March 8 (in OAT's hands).               |
| Sprint PL:       | March 15 (in GM's hands)                |

SAYONARA!

See you in the Sprint.

DX ROUND UP  
(by Jim Lane, N5DC)

For those of you who have IBM or compatibles, Don at Madison has one of the slickest programs I have seen in many a year. If you've been at Hempstead during a contest you have seen George's beautiful Geochron Clock. This program emulates the clock. It is called "Terminator," (by Arnold Schwartzenegger, no doubt...ed.). According to their writeup: " 'Terminator' is a very precise map of the world which displays the time in 24 locations simultaneously - any place you choose." It shows the line between light and dark in real time. You can customize 'Terminator' easily; just enter in the name, latitude, and longitude of any location you want displayed. Terminator has a high speed display that allows you to advance time in increments of up to a week every few seconds. You can graphically see the migration of the sun northward and southward. The program supports monochrome and CGA cards. I highly recommend it. Don has offered a 5% discount to TDXS Members. (You get a finder's fee, Jim? - ed.).

Good news, bad news. I talked with Jackie at The Radio Callbook. She indicated that the only thing they could (or would) do is research their back callbook issues and give you a notarized statement as to when your call first appears in their publication. For this "service" they charge \$10.00. They will not research any back calls, foreign or domestic.

Kudos to Steve Smothers, WA9VLI, for spending some dough with Ma Bell to track down an elusive 7Q7WW QSL route. Get him to tell you the story.

As of this writing the big question still is - did several of us work W6KG/S2??. He was put out on the repeater and several of us worked him. As of 1/26/88 no word if it is a legit contact. Lloyd hasn't been heard from since.

Bulletin and Net Browsing:

ARRL Bulletin reports possible Spratley operation in mid March (K6EDV)  
Looks like VP8BPZ S. Georgia should be on by the time you read this.

|         |        |       |       |        |       |
|---------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| TP2CE   | 14.191 | 1600Z | TU4BU | 14.183 | 1500Z |
| 3C1MB   | 14.226 | 2030Z | UV3DF | 14.226 | 1515Z |
| FP5HL   | 14.183 | 1930Z | 5H3RB | 14.183 | 1545Z |
| W6KG/S2 | 14.024 | 1430Z | 5J4JB | 14.183 | 1600Z |
| 5Z4HL   | 14.183 | 1530Z |       |        |       |

New address on F6FNU is:

B.P Antoine  
B.P. 14  
F-91290  
ARPAJON  
CEDEX  
France

The new French QSL Buro address is:

B.P. 2129  
3701 Tours  
CEDEX  
France

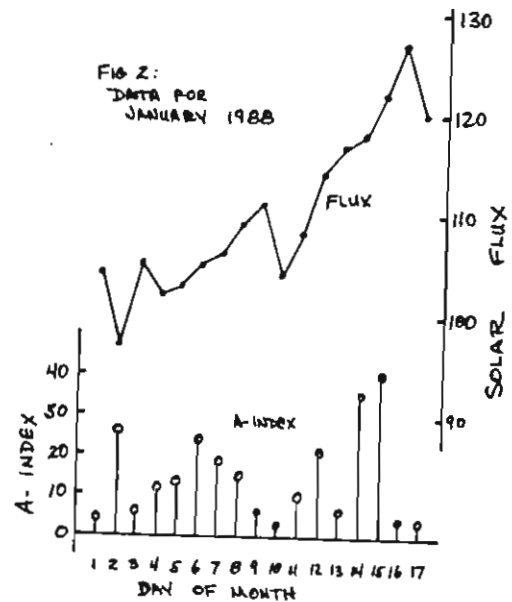
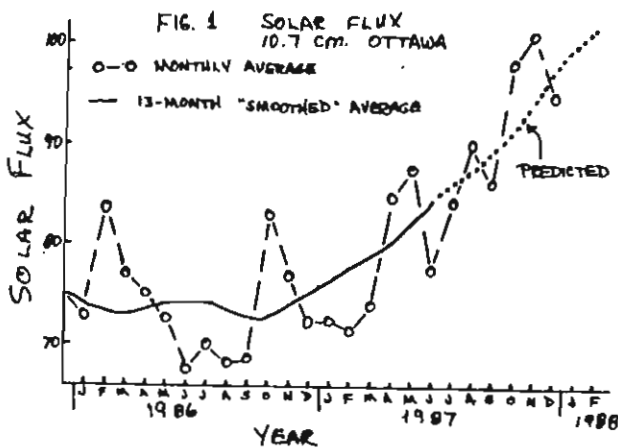
Finally if anyone has VHF Packet capability, don't fail to check in on the WN4KKN DX bulletin Board in Austin. You can access it thru your favorite digi here in Houston, to LAG, and connect with WN4KKN. It has some really slick features. I won't go into all the bells, lights and whistles, but K5RC and I both have copies of the users manual and I will be glad to provide you with info on how to use it.

PROPAGATION FORECAST  
(by Chuck Dietz, KE5FI)

The sunspot cycle has provided us with much higher solar flux levels than we have seen for several years. In figure 1 I have graphed the monthly average solar flux levels for 1986 and 1987. The smoothed number is obtained by averaging the current month with the 6 past and 6 future months. As can be seen from Figure 1, June, 1986 was the lowest month, but September 1986 was the low on the smoothed line. Thus, September 1986 marks the end of cycle 21 and the start of cycle 22.

The preliminary numbers for January, 1988 show the flux averaging 110 for the best month in years. The magnetic index has also been relatively quiet on most days. A graph of the flux and magnetic indices for the first 17 days of January appears on Figure 2.

I'm going to stick my neck out and predict that February will have no day with a flux below 110. (Of course I'm not sticking my neck out too far considering January's high levels.) The flux should peak around the 6th of February. Best days should be February 5 - 7 and 10 - 12. Worst days may be February 2nd, 3rd, 8th and 13th. Keep in mind that an average day in February, '88 would have been a "best" day in February '86 or '87.





THE OTHER FELLOW'S SHACK  
(Thanks to our contributors  
W9AGH, N5DC, KN5H, WN4KKN)

From the NASA computer, the following complaint courtesy of WN4KKN:

If I talk to a guy, I consider it to be a valid QSO. I think the essence of making contact is for the two stations to identify each other. Signal reports are nice, but they certainly don't certify validity.

This is what befuddles me about net/list operations. By the time the list manager has fed your call sign to the DX station and vice versa, the hard work has already been done. That's why I hardly consider the following case to be an example of a "valid" QSO.

net control: "FH4EC -- please stand by for  
WN4KKN. WN4KKN go ahead"  
WN4KKN: "FH4EC from WN4KKN you're 33 33 33  
33 33."  
FH4EC: "WN4KKN you're 59 59 59 59 59."  
WN4KKN: "Was that a 55?"  
net control: "Nope, Higher."  
WN4KKN: "58?"  
net control: "Nope."  
WN4KKN: "59?"  
net control: "Roger contact. Congratulations,  
you just made a valid QSO."

From N2IC/O -

If you have been an active ham for more than several years, you have probably noticed that the F-layer MUF is lower in the summer time than the winter time (i.e. the high bands are better for DXing in the winter than the summer). To the uninitiated, this seems counter intuitive. Wouldn't it seem that the greater number of daylight hours in the summer would contribute to greater ion densities, and therefore high MUF's?

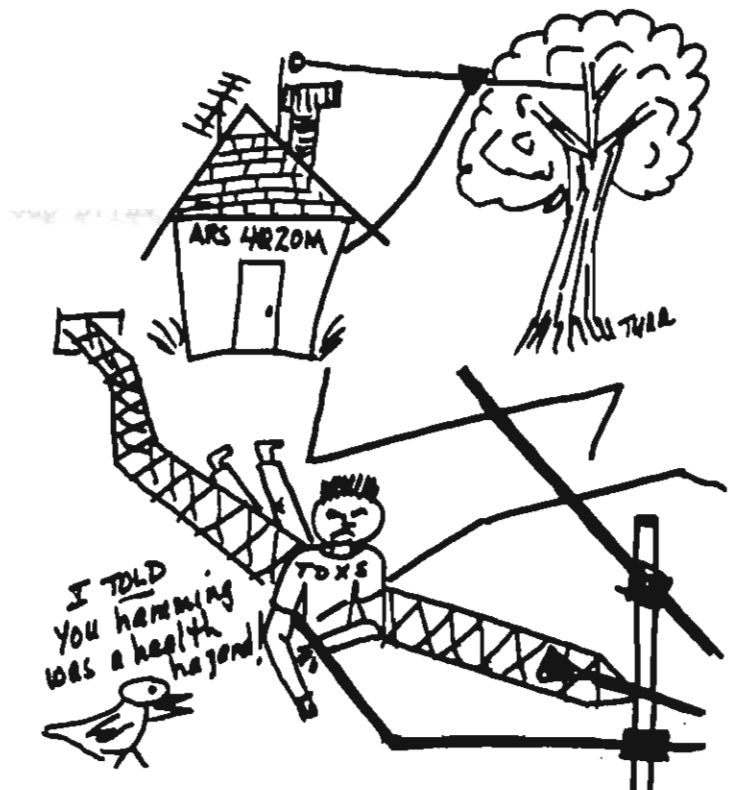
At a recent meeting of the Mile Hi DX Association, Dr. Ken Davies was the guest speaker. Dr. Davies works for the National Bureau of Standards - Space Environment Services Center (the organization that supplies the solar flux, A-index and K-index numbers to WWV). Dr. Davies is also author of the book "Ionospheric Radio Propagation" - considered the definitive work in this field.

From memory, I will try to quote his answer to the anomaly of the MUF:

"It's really just a chemistry, rather than a physics problem. During the summer season, the long hours of daylight and the high angle of the sun cause the lower ionosphere (the D-layer) to (overheat). Turbulence causes this overheated air, which is relatively rich in oxygen molecules, to rise into the F-layer of the ionosphere. When this molecule-rich air interacts with the ion-rich air of the F-layer, the ions recombine into molecules. Thus the ion density of the ionosphere decreases, and the MUF is reduced."

From N5DC and KN5H come clippings out of the Houston Post describing the alarming news that ham radio causes some kinds of cancer. There has been some talk about this on the repeater. The authors of the original study (which I can't find) examined the cause of death in 2,500 hams on the West Coast. They found an increased incidence of some cancers, compared to the expected number in that size population.

Before you sell the rig and take up Parcheesi full time, I'd suggest you relax. It takes years of very sophisticated number-crunching to verify such a wild claim. Remember the Bermuda Triangle story? Or how lipstick causes cancer in rats? You're a heck of a lot more likely to go out as shown in the cartoon than by radio waves themselves.



Now for the serious side. Wouldn't you expect that power output, proximity of antennas, ham bands used, regularity of operation and so forth would affect the findings? None of those factors has even been looked at yet. I'll bet over half of those 2500 hams never owned anything more exotic than a 2M rig. It's always easy to make statistics look good. Did you know that every winner of Sweepstakes in the past 25 years has at one time or another seen a baseball game?

ARMADILLO PRESS

LEAGUE CONTEST DESK D.Q.ed FOR BROKEN CALLS.

Newington, CT (TDXS). - The ARRL's crack contest desk finally got caught in its own trap. After years of nit-picking, whining and complaining, the Nattering Nabobs of Newington hit the jackpot in their Radiosport Report (see February 88 QST). It seems the multi-multi category was won by some obscure Johnny-came-lately from the fifth call area. The call was reported as N5RM, an easy mistake to make since the station has only been on in every big contest - and most of the little ones - for the past four years. But a broken call is a broken call! So, the ARRL contest desk has been disqualified, and their report is reclassified as a "checkreport." A lot of calls were broken in the report, including K5RVK, but this reporter was one of the ops at the winning multi. Oh! I almost forgot to tell you (and ARRL) the correct call sign. It's

NOW RUNNING **FIVE MEGAWATTS**

**norway-radio-five-mexico Five Mexico! 5 MEXICO!!!**

➤ **NR5M** ← **N**<sup>ancy</sup> **R**<sup>omeo</sup> **THE NUMBER** **F**<sup>ive</sup> **M**<sup>ike</sup> **NR5m**  
NR five em

**NR5M NR5M nrFive-m NR5M NR5M**

**NOVEMBER ROMEO FIVE MIKE**

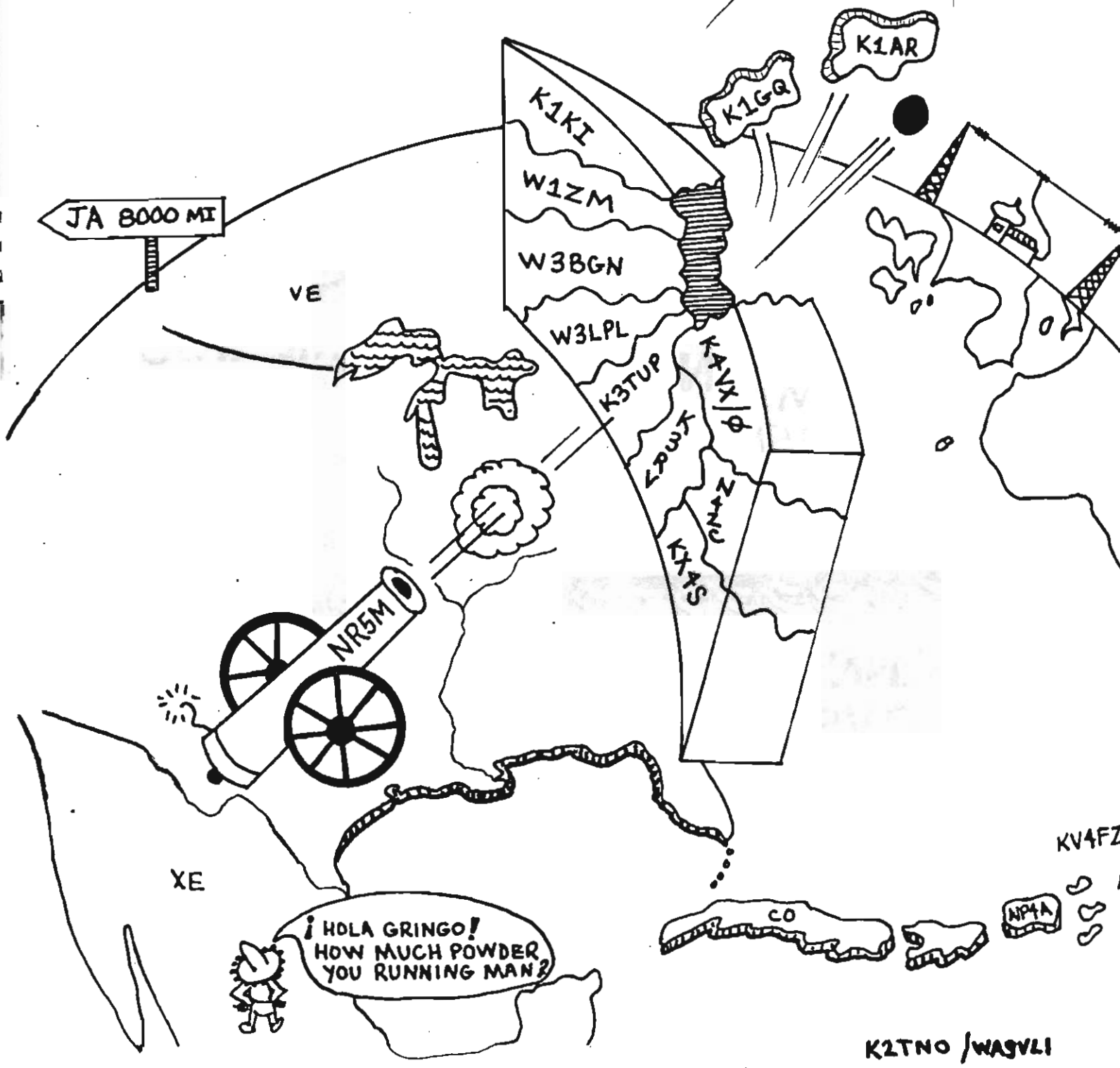
**"ENN☆ARE☆PHYVE☆MULTIOP**

**OVER! Over! over: over.... (over) QRZ?**

73,

Tuna

# IT'S STARTING TO CRACK ... FIRE FOR EFFECT!



JA 8000 MI

VE

K1KI

W1ZM

W3BGN

W3LPL

K3TUP

KAVY/φ

KXK

ZNUZ

NR5M

CO

NP4A

KV4FZ

K2TNO /WASVLI

¡HOLA GRINGO!  
HOW MUCH POWDER  
YOU RUNNING MAN?

XE

K2TNO /WASVLI