



# THE BULLSHEET



Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

founded 1970

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The Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 540291, Houston, Texas 77254-0291  
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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 May TDXS meeting will be held Friday, May 13, at 7:30 P.M. PLEASE NOTE -- The meeting will be held at DeMontrond Motor Homes, on Hillcroft just south of the Southwest Freeway. There will also be a board meeting beginning at 6:45 P.M.

WEEKLY DX & CONTEST NETS- 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. A second, informal net operates on Thursday nights at 20:45 local time to go over DX bulletins. The Club's Packet Cluster DX bulletin board is currently up and running on 144.95 using the call NZ5I. Use AX25 level 2 protocol; it can be accessed via ALD or HEMP digipeaters if not direct. Your active support of these activities is encouraged.

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. Send articles via FAX (713-790-1275) addressed to "Dr. William Schrader."

STOP PRESS! - WPX SSB and WAQP logs due - see contest report.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER  
(by George DeMontrond, NR5M)

Thanks to all who showed up to paint and refurbish the meeting room/clubhouse on Hillcroft. Those of you at the club meeting this Friday will get a first hand look at the improvement. Special thanks to Joe, N5AQT, for his bell to bell effort to paint a very thirsty ceiling. He gets the KE5IV award for duty beyond the call in the trenches. Also thanks to K5GB, KC5M, K5LZ0, KE5IV, KG5U, K2TNO, K2UA, W5ASP, KE5TF, N5DC, KE5MY, AK5B, KB5FU, NN50, NT5D, WB5N, WB5BIR, WN4KKN and the rest. Some worked; some ate; some drank. A good time, however, was had by all.

It's time to start thinking FD. Mark Friday June 24th through Sunday June 26th on your calendar. This year its 5A! - Operating time for all. Remember each person planning to operate needs to show proof of gainful employment sometime during the weekend on one of our station teams or set-up/tear-down crews. This is the premier TDXS get together each year. It is also a great chance for prospective members to get acquainted. Meeting attendance credit will be given to all attendees. Besides - it's a unique opportunity to witness K5RC munching veggies, quishe, (or whatever other sorts of meatless mush devotees of his culinary persuasion are into these days) while perspiring profusely in an environment to which his corporal being is clearly not well suited. The pictures should be funny; the negatives will be priceless.

73,

George

CONTEST CORNER  
(by Dave McCarty, K5GN)

Spring has sprung! With all that sun on the North Pole and the increasing solar acne we have had excellent propagation lately and that bodes good things for May contesting. Of course, the spots were absent from the CW weekend of NAQP--miserable conditions on 15-10. They bounced back to high levels for the 'Phone weekend (so K6LL could really run 'em just below 28.500). What a difference the novices make--what a different strategy you have to follow on 'phone.

Readers take note: some old geezer with an R and a C in his call actually was heard on the air making contest contacts in the NAQP, both modes. Yes, even on SSB! If this is possible, what next??

THE SHORT PATH

May highlights: CQ-M/CHSSB and CQ WW WPX CW.

5/6	902 MHz Spring Sprint
5/7-8	10-10 CW, Nevada QSO Party
5/12	1296 MHz Spring Sprint
5/14	Ten Meter Dash
5/14-15	County Hunters SSB--Armadillos??, CQ-M (Russian)
5/14-15	Utah QSO Party, Michigan QSO Party
5/21-22	50 MHz Spring Sprint
5/21-22	World Telecommunications Day Contest

5/26	2304 MHz Spring Sprint
5/28-29	CQ WPX CW Contest
6/4-5	RSGB FD, RTTY Contest
6/11-12	ARRL VHF QSO Party
6/18-19	All Asian 'Phone
6/25-26	Field Day

Spring Sprints -- (Apr. QST, p.97) The ARRL has set up these activity nights during the week for the various VHF/UHF bands. The only one worth fooling with is 15/21-22 on 50MHz. How can you call four hours on 2304 MHz a "sprint"?

Ten Meter Dash -- (May QST, p. 97) A two-hour sprint in the Novice band and low power only. Sounds like fun!

County Hunters SSB -- (Apr. QST, p. 98; May CQ, p. 88) Interest seemed lacking at the meeting on Friday. No guts??

CQ-M -- (Apr. QST, p. 98; May CQ, p. 88) The Russian World-Wide DX Test. If you're hunting oblasts, this is the place to get them. It should provide lots of fun and polar flutter on both modes.

WTD Test -- (May QST, p. 88) The Brazilian DX contest. Similar to IARU HF but often poorly attended.

CQ WW WPX CW -- (Jan. CQ, p. 24; Mar. QST, p. 83) The big contest for May. Lots of activity planned. See below.

ARRL VHF QSO Party -- (May QST, p. 89) Complex rules but sometimes great fun. Six meters can be a blast for us Texans if the sporadic-E is good. Look for a multi-op or two in the area.

Field Day -- (May QST, p. 87) Come to the meeting and get details on the plans we have for the TDXS effort.

#### THE LONG PATH

In last year's WPX CW, conditions stank and the weather turned stormy (read: noisy) so local scores weren't the best (see below). This year, the bands have been hopping! N5EA is proud to report a 180 hour on 15M SSB in the WPX 'Phone test...you thing WPX is boring? No way!

We will be sending in a club entry for the WPX CW test. Now is the time to reserve a spot at one of a number of competitive stations waiting for your skillful touch at the key. Plan to get on and work a few of the boys. A discussion of operating strategy is included elsewhere in this issue.

THE SKEW PATH

April QST: SS results!!!

CW SS:

K5GA piloted W5WMU to the numero uno, U.S.A. CONGRATULATIONS, OM!  
K5GN (at NR5M) lost a close race for third, at #5 U.S.A., #2 W. Gulf, and  
#1 STEX.  
KG5U was #3 STEX (over 1000 Q's--great show!)  
KN5H (at W5RRR) was #4 STEX.  
W5ASP (at the lumberyard) was #5 STEX.  
KC5CP held down the #2 multi-op in STEX.  
also participating were K5DX, AC5K, and several locals.

PH SS:

None of the club membership broke into the Top Ten.  
NR5M was #2 STEX (again).  
KG5U was #3 STEX.  
K5DX was #4 STEX.  
KC5CP was #5 STEX.  
W5ASP was #6 STEX (at the lumberyard).  
also reporting activity were K5WA, N5ZR, and some local talent.

Club Score:

TDXS was #8 in the medium category. NTCC owns the gavel (disgusting!).

Many locals were listed in the results. Let's see if we can't find ways to get them out to our meetings and perhaps join the team...

EME (May QST) Contest: Once-upon-a-time member and now local big gun W5UN blew the field away with his monster 144MHz array in Manvel. Many of you will remember the slide show he gave on his antenna at a TDXS meeting about three years ago. Have you heard? He put up a support on the other side, and doubled the size!

May CQ: WPX results!!

Synopsis: Lousy conditions, dominated by the coasts. Great DX activity:  
DX entries outnumbered W/VE by 6:1 ratio.

Multi-multi: WX5S (at the lumberyard with N5EA, W5ASP, NM5M, K5TU, and  
WB5N) #9 WORLD and #3 U.S.A.

Multi-single: NR5M (by K5GN, KN5H, and WM5K) #4 U.S.A.

All-band: KG5U #2 in W5. (Good score.)

14Mc: KN5H #4 in W5. (Lousy score...)

7Mc: W5WMU (by K5GA) #2 U.S.A.

1.8Mc: K5NA/2 #2 U.S.A.

GJ: GJ/K2TNO #1 in GJ...(just a great op...ed.)

Other locals: WB5BIR did well in all-band.

May CQ: CQ WW SSB HIGH CLAIMED SCORES!!

Tremendous scores in the DX department, and I think some records will fall when the results are out.

No TDXS All-banders.

28Mc: KE5FI #2 U.S.A. (again).

Multi-single: W5WMU #10 U.S.A., K5NA/2 #16.

Multi-multi: NR5M #3 U.S.A. (again behind N5AU).

Rumors: NR5M #1 or 2 in NAQP SSB (K6LL never gives out his score on 3830).

Cardiac arrest: K5RC made over 100 Q's each mode in NAQP from the home QTH, surprising everyone on the band...

The K5LZ0 multi-multi was sorely missed both modes...

NR5M close to #1 in the single-op, all-band category of WPX SSB.

Finally: Congrats to Jan, K5MA, for winning the FOC Marathon. He operated from NR5M and had twice the score of #2!!

VIA BURRO

Time to fold, staple, and mutilate (read "dupe, photocopy, and mail"):

5/10 CQ WW WPX SSB

CQ MAGAZINE  
WPX CONTEST  
76 NORTH BROADWAY  
HICKSVILLE, NY 11801

5/10 NAQP CW  
5/17 NAQP SSB

DAVE PRUETT, K8CC  
2727 HARRIS ROAD  
YPSILANTI, MI 48198

6/1 (received) VP9 CONTEST

RSB  
BOX HM275  
HAMILTON HM AX  
BERMUDA

6/20 ARRL Spring Sprints

ARRL HQ  
225 MAIN STREET  
NEWINGTON, CT 06111

Do it this time: send in the log. Don't let your efforts go uncounted!

CQ WW WPX CW 1988

A club entry will be made by the TDXS in this year's cw prefix contest. It should provide a full weekend of contest fun. Why WPX? Three factors combine to make the WPX CW test well-suited for the TDXS. They are propagation, participation, and scoring structure.

Propagation in late spring is about the most enjoyable, all around, that you will find all year. The continuous illumination of the N. Polar region leads to an enhancement of the polar paths on 20 and 15 meters, with usually unreadable Asiatic and Eastern European stations coming in solidly. It is also not so late in the year that QRN would make the low bands unenjoyable. In fact, 40M seems also to be enhanced on near-polar paths.

Participation in this event favors the enjoyment element: low in the States, high in all quarters of the rest of the world. In the '87 test, log entries from the rest of the world outnumbered the W/VE entries by 6:1. This means that the average Stateside op finds it easier to find and hold a frequency, less QRM, and lots of DX to work.

In two ways, the rules make up for some of the usual disadvantages Texas stations face in DX contests. We are blessed with the ability to work large numbers of DX on 40 meters (namely, Japan) to take advantage of the doubling of points per QSO on the low bands. This helps us keep up with the rates that the East-and West-Coast stations get on 20 and up. With the tremendous proliferation of prefixes within the U.S. we get another bonus: Prefix multipliers from the U.S. can make up nearly half the total mult., and we beam each coast when we point at Europe and Japan. Another nice thing is the off-time requirement, which adds an extra element of strategy and rest to the DX contest mindset.

What should my strategy be? The level of involvement or time commitment may be boiled down to three categories: limited time at home, strong effort but not all out, and all-out contesting. The elements of strategy for the WPX CW test are common to all three categories, with different emphases:

Rate is the name of the game in WPX. You will find it hard to go more than ten contacts at a stretch without working another new multiplier. In fact, it will average around three or four contacts per mult. Therefore, multiplier hunting is not very important at all. If you spend some time hunting-and-pecking while looking for a clear frequency, you will probably work most of what is on the air. Remember, you want to maximize the generation of QSO points. The fact that you work a lot of zero point W's and the doubling of points on 40 and down make it difficult to have a good handle on the actual point rate. A good technique is to count the number of stations you worked in the last ten minutes, subtract the W's, multiply by 6 to get an estimated rate, and multiply by two if on 40 or 80.

Play to your strengths as you choose your bands/times for operating. The louder you are on 40, the more time you should try to devote to it. The best time is the first night JA run from 0800-1200. The second night may start later and be slower near sunrise. (80 meters can help, if conditions are good). The next best time is judicious short runs/hunts of Europeans as an alternative to 20M in the 0200-0530 range. It is challenging to balance the point rate between 20 and 40 in this period. Tall tribanders should plan a strong attack on 15 meters, which has been opening wide into Europe and other continents with early and late peaks.

Hot times are important to catch:

The start of the contest is usually rip-snorter as the W's work down the band. It also falls in the middle of a key time on 15 and 20.

20 Meters in the evening--great over the pole from late afternoon on. Followed by midnight JA's

40 Meters to Japan--up to four hours of good solid point production, usually with good signals and less QRN than early evening.

40 Meters to Europe -- usually more QRN in the evening, but a 30 hour here is a 60 hour on 20. Short blasts of working everything on the band and a stab or two at running them might be a proper use of the opening.

15 Meters has twin peaks -- morning and afternoon to Europe, early afternoon and mid-to-late evening to Japan.

Get your operating in on Friday and Saturday. Unless there is a flare on Saturday, Sunday is usually off-time day.

Slow times are hard to identify ahead of time, but 1800Z and 0600Z qualify as most consistent, as the open bands are usually slumping to both Japan and Europe around then. If propagation fails, the morning hours can be very slow on 20. In fact, the best point production comes from about three hours before sunset through the hour of sunrise. All-out single-ops might plan to sleep some during the day on Sunday and nap near midnight and on Saturday. Ten meters is normally closed by the end of May, as the continuous irradiation of the polar area limits MUF to less than 28 MHz. Static is usually too heavy for productive operating on 160 and 80, except near sunrise on 80 to Japan.

The home station with limited time to operate might concentrate on the best times only. If 40M is not a strong point for the station, then 20M in the evening and 15M at morning and afternoon will be the best bets.

For a strong effort of twenty to thirty hours, plan to avoid the slow times listed above. If possible, sleep in short blocks at midday and before the JA opening on 40 Saturday night.

The all-out operation, whether single- or multi-operator, should concentrate on making the rate shine. Keep abreast of the propagation by making a lot of band changes. Avoid battling for a frequency--they are not so scarce in this contest.

Each one of you can probably fit into one of the above three categories of effort and time limitations. Plan to jump into the fray! Logs, dupesheets, and multiplier sheets will be available at the May meeting.

73,

K5GN

DX ROUND UP  
(by Jim Lane, N5DC)

I keep reminding myself how good the T-F button is on the TS-930/940 series rigs. Only today I was able to spot the KH5 on Palmyra working someone by using the T-F momentary button to be able to look at my transmit frequency and then release it to go back to my other VFO to listen to the DX station. If you haven't had the pleasure please drop by and see how much help it can be. Speaking of the KH5 I want to let off a little steam about the CW operation. I think it is ridiculous for them to be running upwards of 40 or 45 wpm on cw. Sure many of us can at least copy our own calls at that speed, but I'll bet my hat that there are very few anywhere can copy 100 pct at 45 wpm. I think if they would run in the 30-35 wpm area the rate would be as good or better. The speed they are running sure makes it hard on a new general at with a 15 wpm copy ability.

I'm sorry to have missed the DX doings at Dayton, but I hear from Tuna that 4X6TT is a real person. After working him through the Pacific on 75 and 40 I was beginning to wonder if he was a robot or something. Speaking of Dayton it's everything it is cracked up to be. I got a quick look at the new Icom 781 and it is quite a box, but I don't see the price tag. The flea market is a sight to behold. I saw everything from socks to peanut brittle for sale as well as Zenith Radios from the 1930's. It is worth the trip!

By now the Palmyra operation has come and gone and it was another one for many of us. I am most happy to see that OH2BH and Company will be getting 4W on the air. That should be a good one for many of us.

I hope that within the next couple of weeks we can finish up the 440 link for the K5DX-1/ALD digi. The 2 TNC's needed are being made available to us thanks to Mission Communications and the ROM's are on order. We should have the whole system up and running before long. We all owe a big vote of thanks to Bob Mooreman, K5VMX, for all his help, in addition to a site for the digi. Many thanks Bob!

I have ceased putting out the ARRL bulletin on Thursday nights due to an apparent lack of interest. If there are enough of you out there that would like to have it "hot off the wire," let me know and I will start it up again. Response recently has been zero.

See all of you in the pileups!

HISTORY OF THE TEXAS DX SOCIETY  
(by Richard King -K5NA ex K5PFL)

Editor's note: This is part II of the saga. Part I appeared in the April 1988 Bullsheat.

Friendships Renewed

In the summer of 1966 my family and I moved to Alvin, a suburb of Houston. As I settled into a job my thoughts turned to ham radio and DXing again. One day at Madison Electronics I met Wes, K5RLW (now N5WW) and we became instant friends. We had a lot in common because Wes was a member of the Cleveland/Conroe Group



and we seemed to know all the same people. Our friends-in-common, K5SOR and N5AF, had been telling Wes and me about each other for many years. During the next two years Wes and I became better and better friends. One of the interests that we each had was a love of DXing. Many, many hours were spent on the telephone spotting DX (This was before 2 meter spotting nets and packet). It was not unusual for Wes and me to spend 2 to 6 hours non-stop on the telephone with one another. This was while Wes tuned one band looking for DX and I tuned another. When one of us would find a good DX station to work, then we would both be there in a few seconds to get it. Our wives thought we were crazy, sitting in front of a radio for hours and hours with a pair of headphones on and tucking a telephone under the headset of one ear. (they were right...ed.)

### The DXing Interest

We eventually graduated from the telephone to 75 meters. For the next few years the founders of the Texas DX Society laid claim to and held 3803 Khz as their nightly get-together frequency. 3803 KHz was the premier frequency for 75 meters because the low edge of the USA phone band was 3800 Khz. Most DX worked during those days would start tuning at 3800 KHz for USA. Of course, when the band was not open, we could find plenty to talk about with each other. Occasionally one of us would QSY to another band to check it out. This would necessitate his return 3803 to "report in" and give the rest of us a DX report. Since we all only had one rig apiece, this meant re-tuning our transmitters each time we QSYed. This was a lot of bother and you have it much nicer now with the 2 meter spotting nets.

Some of us finally solved the problem of QSYing to and from 75 meters. Three of us bought used Heathkit HW-12s. The HW-12 was a 75 meter, SSB only, transceiver that ran about 100 watts input. Now we could spot DX on 20 or 40 meters and cross-talk with each other on 75 meters. It worked almost as well as a 2 meter spotting net. I guess you could say that the TDXS founders lay claim to having the first multi-participant DX spotting net. Our net covered from Houston to Dallas where K5ZJK (NX7K) lived. The only problem we had was holding 3803 Khz clear while everyone was tuning the other bands for DX. This annoyed many of the 75 meter die-hards who kept trying to move into our 3803 Khz territory.

### The Field Day Interest

In 1968, the two groups finally completed their merging by going out to Field Day together near New Waverly, Texas. The Cleveland/Conroe group had previously used the site (I think?). The participants that I remember at that first Field Day were WA5UHT, who arranged the site, K5NA, N5WW, K5SOR, K5PFE, and N5AF. We entered in the 2 transmitter class and we were not a threat to the top spot (we finished 73rd). One station was 20/80 meters and the other was 15/40 meters. We actually put up a rotatable ZL-special antenna that Wes (N5WW) had made out of 2X2 boards and TV twin-lead. It worked very well.

The 1968 Field Day was so much fun that we decided to do it again in 1969. That year we added K5DEG (VP2VM) and Jim, W5JAW (I think he was there?), to the same line-up of operators from the preceding year. Our antennas were more complex, our score improved, and we finished 21st in 2A. Once again, we labeled the effort a success and looked forward to doing it again the next year.

1969 was also the year that 5 Band DXCC started and the group could always be found on 3803 Khz nightly. If we weren't chasing DX, we were talking about Field Day. This was also the year that we started having meetings as a group. The meetings were infrequent, very informal, and were generally at centralized points in Southeast Texas. We used the get-togethers to plan for the next meetings because we enjoyed each others company and we would use any excuse to get the gang together. The meetings were generally organized on 3803 Khz and may group decisions were made right there.

1970 was our first year to try the 3A category in Field Day. We were an immediate success and finished 5th in the category. Oddly enough, the winner in 3A that year was W5WMU/5 who would later become a member of the Texas DX Society.

### The Contesting Interest

By 1969, the group membership was becoming better defined. The nightly check-ins on 3803 Khz were myself, N5WW, K5SOR, NX7K, WA5UHT, K5DEG (VP2VM), K5PFE, N5AF and W5JAW. Most of the group was interested in contesting but Jim, W5JAW, was the only one successful at finishing high nationally. The rest of us were just hackers even though we were regularly submitting scores for publication. Until 1970, we had not given much thought to participating in club standings. Our Field Day efforts were always as a "non-club" group or we used an unofficial name like the "East Texas DX Society." However, we couldn't compete in Sweepstakes or the DX contest without affiliation with the ARRL. For the first time, we began thinking about becoming a formal club for affiliation. Wes (N5WW) and I discussed it at great length on the telephone.

At the 1970 Field Day, the group came to the conclusion that affiliation was necessary. We knew that we wanted to be a radio club and submit scores for all the contests under a club name. We also wanted to continue operating Field Day together. Above all, we just liked to get together as a group and talk about Field Day, DXing and contesting. We had developed a real fraternal attitude towards each other. At this point we were less concerned with contesting than we were Field Day and everyday DXing.

### Choosing A Name

I don't remember whether I was appointed by the group to handle the organizational paper work or if I just decided to do it on my own. Anyway, I got started and Wes, N5WW, supported me with good input and advice and kept me from doing anything too outrageous.

The first step was to choose a name. A few discussed were Houston Contest Club, Texas Contest Club, or South Texas DXers. To be honest, I don't remember all the names under consideration. When the name "Texas DX Society" came up, I was sure it was a winner. I knew that we were a special interest group and anything ending with ARC would not really fit us. Even though we had become a group through our love of Field Day, a name with "Field Day" in the title would confine us. Almost all of the group was interested in chasing DX and I thought that the use of "DX" in the title allowed us more flexibility. Also, it was in the back of my mind that the club had the potential to grow and I didn't want just "Houston," "South Texas," or a local region included in the title to limit our area.

The next step was to run the name by N5WW and see what he thought. Wes liked the name so we submitted it to the rest of the group. Everyone seemed to be happy with it and the name became official. My only concern was that the acronym "TDXS" seemed to be too unusual sounding. I thought it was so bad that no one would ever call us by that without laughing. My concern turned out to be

unfounded because the Texas DX Society went on to earn respect for "TDXS" and make it a contesters' household word. We used the name "Texas DX Society" for the first time for the 1970 Field Day. Now it was official.

Will Lucretia ever play the violin again? Will Igor get his sloper up? Tune in again next month as we hear more.

THE PACKET RACKET  
(de Dale, KG5U)

Attention All Packeteers (present, future, and those still trying to figure it out):

Tuna (K2TNO) and others have thrown down the gauntlet for a person to do a small Packet column in the BS. I happened to trip over it, pick it up, and asked 'who left their stupid gauntlet laying around?' So, here I am. I will take any and all questions/comments/rumors/lies/answers from TDXS'ers, their friends (limited the scope, haven't I?), and other interested parties. Hopefully, before the questions arrive at my feet, they have been researched in other areas (like reading the manual provided with your radio/tnc/computer).

For the newer packet operators (myself included), there is a voice packet net on 146.94 each Sunday night at 2100 ct. It is a good place to get answers to problems with, or questions you may have about packet.

Ken, KE5IV, has a message board up most of the time. If you want to leave a short message for someone, an announcement of general interest, or detailed poop on the latest ZA worked, the message board is a convenient place to put it. It, like the cluster, is on 144.95, and is under the alias "grabby" couldn't get your whole name in, Ken? Thank goodness KZ5M isn't on packet...yet).

Ken's digi function (KE5IV-1 [alias HEMP-1]) also has, off and on, and when band condx permit, been interconnecting the WN4KKN and NZ5I clusters together. The increase in activity (dx announcements, etc.) when they are linked is noticeable. Ken hopes to have two not small beams up soon: one on Austin, and the other on Houston, greatly improving the paths.

For those of you who have not received the handout of the cluster command summary listing, the summary is on the KA5KTH BBS on 145.01 and .09 (?). It is the abbreviated command summary list. The full list with descriptions and examples is in two files on KA5KTH BBS, under TDXS.ONE, and TDXS.TWO, respectively. They are long, a little over 7kb each (1kb = 1/2 page), so please download them, if you must, during low activity times.

Notes from elsewhere:

George, WB5VZL, reports that Randy, K5ZD/3, is getting up a listing of contesters/dxer's on packet and their Bullentin Boards of choice to be printed up in the NCJ. Should be a neat way of staying in touch with your buddies and/or competition. Message transit time is around 48 hours, or less.

I am making up a list to send to Randy, at his BBS, and would like to get it out on or about May 15. If you know of a BBS nearby which you can hit easily, let me know and I will add you to the list. This only refers to BBS's which have message forwarding capabilities, like WB5BBW, KA5KTH, and a few others. Look on 145.01 for the BBS beacon announcements, if you haven't used them before, and check it's accessibility from your station. You want one that is easy to communicate with. Mine is KA5KTH, in Clear Lake, about 5 miles away, and I can get in no matter how busy HOW and IAH and others are. Do not give me the nickname; the system will not recognize nicknames, only the callsign. If you aren't on packet, any of the stations/ops on packet would, I'm sure, be glad to serve as your 'gateway' to the packet message system.

W5AC, Texas A&M University, College Station, is active on packet, and hopes to be able to access the cluster. They are very interested and active in contesting and dx'ing, so they want to get in on the cluster activity.

That's it for this month. Again, if you have any information, questions, answers, or rumors about packet ops, cluster ops, etc., and it might be of interest to some or all, let me know and I will try to get the message out.

TUNA TELLS  
(de Bill, K2TNO)

This month we start a new feature in the Bullsheet. Through a special publishing exclusive we are able to bring you an astrology forecast in addition to the regular propagation forecast. This info will help you decide upon good times to change bands, call CQ and other day-to-day routines. This famous seer promises to always tell the sooth, the whole sooth and nothing but the sooth. So, fresh from the halls of power (Canon City, CO) come this month's predictions:

ONES: You have to get over this well-deserved feeling of inadequacy. Sell that beam and get a real antenna like a dipole. Beware of heights! Poisonous aluminum fumes could be your undoing.

TWOS: You are not revered by your associates and rightly so. Instruct them often to yield the frequency to you. They know you're pushy by nature. Why disappoint them? (Exclusive to TNO: Got ya!...pub.)

THREES: No good will come from your efforts to gather radios into groups and operate them as a team. New construction breeds disaster. You will be called frequently by foreigners; do not respond.

FOURS: By all means answer that yearning to move to the plains. Type extensively upon a keyboard. The number five and nine are unlucky for you. Never write them adjacent to each other.

FIVES: Your E and H planes are orthogonal. Sit out the doldrums of Helios and rise only with number 22. A tempting vehicle entices you to spend for a loved one. Submit to these yearnings. The fleur-de-lis is your go signal to buy. (Psst: Confidential to GPO: April showers bring May towers.)

SIXES: Visit faraway lands, but the Planet will be favorable for travel only at Halloween. All compatriots will depart together, leave none behind. Worship at the Yasme tabernacle. Green is your color, when on stamps. Favorite animal: the borro. Have a nice day.

SEVENS: Unclip the bonds to earth and soar with proud birds. Carry cohorts to faraway places in silver machines. Be both Alpha and Omega.

EIGHTS: Write of fives and stars that follow them. You will bore the brunt of parties. Seek a shrink if you say AH.

NINES: Your fear of gravitational collapse is well founded. As the event horizon looms closer communicate only with others in your own realm. Enchew aliens, seek shelter in low places. Avoid showdowns with star-star-stars.

TENS: Height is now the same as altitude. An ear to the ground reaps rewards, an ear to the heavens brings frustration. Obey spousal directives regarding domicile and its appearance. Improvements to structure take time. Do not sprint with new arrivals.

DX: Listen with your ears but write from the heart. You know the sounds are weak but familiar from times past. Ask about five, your special number, and joy will multiply.

#### RESULTS OF THE FIRST GREAT 3Y RUMOR CONTEST (de Bill, K2TNO)

Last month's Bullsheit contained a list of outrageous rumors hatched by our beloved TDXS 2M rubblerlippers. As promised, at the April TDXS meeting a scientifically-conducted survey was done to determine the winner.

The Setup: An audio level quantification device (an applause meter) was constructed. True to TDXS form the device consisted of a TS-930 feeding the Cantenna dummy load. A Procomm 250 headset was connected to use the mike as the audio input. A video camcorder (Hitachi VM 5000A) was focused on the rig S-meter. Video display was shown on a 19-inch color TV set. The speech processor was turned on, and the processor controls were adjusted to calibrate for a full-scale reading by having the audience holler "N8II, the frequency IS IN USE!!!"

Each rumor was read aloud to the audience by K2TNO, and then the applause level was scored on the video monitor. Unfortunately, the results were badly skewed due to the presence behind TNO of NR5M, who controlled the voter response by a series of hand signals to the audience. This writer finds it most distressing to think that his own contributions may not have been properly rewarded due to this scurrilous ballot-mongering.

The Results: Several excellent rumors were reported. But a clear winner resulted, submitted by Kenny Martin, K5YCP:

"The ship was navigated by an SP9 who led the ship to 6Y by mistake. The captain was so embarrassed he insisted upon taking the op to 9Y at no extra charge."