



founded 1970

# THE BULLSHEET

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An ARRL Affiliated Club



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The Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 54091, Houston, Texas 77254-0291

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## HOUSTON HAM CONVENTION

This year the Convention will take place near Intercontinental Airport at Sheraton Crown Hotel, 15700 JFK Boulevard. Take the Ventura Freeway past the LaBrea Tar Pits. Turn right at the second blinking left-hand yellow light and proceed 17 miles south. When you come to the first short brown sign announcing the start of the Mount Houston ski academy, be prepared to exit quickly backing down the on-ramp to avoid the congestion at the Earthly Resurrection Tabernacle booth. Park your vehicle in single file two blocks to the east of the northeast corner entrance to Pilgrim Cleaners, then follow the crowd across the median strip until you reach the main gate. Pass by the main gate and board the Metro bus (Route 2775) to the convention site. If you are carrying items for the flea market such as relay racks or KW power supplies the organizing committee suggests that you follow these directions in inverse order to bring you closer to the flea market table area located about one hundred yards downwind of the speakers platform.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MEETING NOTICE** - The Texas DX Society meets on the second Friday of each month, except when the date is changed by the Board of Directors. The November TDXS meeting will be held on Friday, November 11 beginning at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will be held in the TDXS Hospitality Suite at the Houston Ham Convention. The convention will be at the Sheraton Crown Hotel and Conference Center, 15700 JFK Boulevard (south of Intercontinental Airport). The Suite will be open Friday and Saturday evenings for exchange of views, dues and brews.

**WEEKLY DX AND CONTEST NETS** - Each Tuesday night at 9:00 p.m. the Club sponsors a net on 147.96/36 MHz. Participation by non-members as well as members is encouraged, for the exchange of information of interest to DXers and contesters. The TDXS Packet Cluster DX bulletin board is currently up and running on 144.95 MHz using the call K5DX. This is the AK1A system; use AX25 level 2 protocol. It is located in Hempstead and can be accessed via the ALD digipeater north of Houston if not direct. Frequently it is linked into both Dallas and Austin for additional DX coverage.

## BE THERE OR BE SQUARE

Once you have arrived, bring out the cash and help TDXS by buying tickets for our drawing of the TS 440 transceiver. The drawing will be held on Sunday morning at the time when the convention prizes are awarded.

The Club will present its annual TDXS DX and Contest forum on Saturday afternoon, featuring photo/video presentations on late-breaking DXpeditions and on the NR5M multiop station.

**BULLSHEET MAILING LIST** - TDXS wishes to provide the Bullsheet free to all amateurs in the area with an interest in DXing or contesting. Donations to help defray publication and mailing costs are appreciated. Visitors to our club meeting will receive the 'sheet for three months free of charge simply by signing the attendance list. Articles or other newsworthy items are hereby solicited by your editor. Send articles to K2TNO or via FAX (713-790-1275) addressed to "Dr. William Schrader".

## DX ROUNDUP

(de Jim Lane, N5DC)

I'll hold back the usual DX report this month in order to give you my impressions of the new ICOM 781. I got my hands on a "loaner" to use during the CQ Worldwide Phone contest a couple of weeks ago.

The ICOM 781 is quite a box. I had a ball operating this rig for the weekend. I shall attempt to give you some feel for how it plays. First of all, I don't see how they can justify the price. As great a rig as it is, it certainly is priced out of the range for most hams. On the plus side, I found many of its features to be very good.

The most obvious feature of course is the big spectrum analyzer and display panel built into the radio. It was easy to use this display to spot pileups, especially when I was on ten meters. I could see clearly the peaks and valleys in and around each pileup! The band watch switch, which allows you to listen to both VFO's at the same time is a terrific feature. It really shines when you're working split frequency. It was very easy, for example, to spot where the 3W was operating and listening, just by switching to VFO B and tuning around with it while listening to the 3W on VFO A. This feature was superior to anything on the lesser radios that I've tried, such as the T-F button on a 930 or 940.

The radio also has infinitely variable AGC hang time, which lets you go from none to full AGC and anything in between. The noise blanker seemed to be very effective; I could not detect the usual crosstalk when the blanker was on in the presence of strong signals on the band nearby. The blanker was effective on line noise. The various filters in the rig offer numerous choices, and were more than adequate. The passband tuning seemed to me to be better than on my 940. I could swing very far away on either side of the desired signal and still maintain readability. On my 940, in contrast, if you do that trick you quickly lose intelligibility.

On the negative side, I did not like the way you toggle from VFO A to B. It is rather involved, and not nearly as simple as a push on the A/B switch on the Kenwoods. I also did not care for the audio out of the internal speaker, but with all those goodies inside I expect they have scarcely any room left for a speaker.

In summary, the rig is great to use but overpriced. (Contester's annex de K2TNO: I fooled with one for a while and think it has too many knobs and gadgets. The screen is distracting to me, but I agree with Jim it sure helps spot band openings easily.)

Notes from the multitudes: Congratulations to Barbara, WBSRUS, for getting the 3W on ten. That makes 200 and counting! As for CQWW, it was unbelievable to hear so much DX on the high bands, especially ten meters. Let's hope the CW contest gives us the same conditions. If you're after 5BDXCC, better stay active and keep an ear tuned to the repeater. See you in the pileups.

## CONTEST CORNER

(de Dave McCarty, K5GN)

Are we having fun yet? The answer is YES! Especially if you were on during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest at the end of October. Conditions were fantastic (even though they favored the northern states) and activity was excellent. The repeater and the packet cluster were abuzz all weekend with hundreds of QST's.

The high-band frolicking made SS CW a bit more difficult with everyone spread out on 40 thru 10, but good scores were in from all over. Many club calls were heard on the air. Congrats to those of you who completed your commitment hours.

### THE SHORT PATH

- November = SS + CQ WW CW (and a terrible time for a convention!!)

11/5 - 7**	ARRL SS CW (over, by now)
11-13	Japan Int'l DX Contest, SSB
12-13	European DX Test, RTTY
12-13	Houston Ham Convention
19-21**	ARRL SS Phone !!
26-27**	CQ WW CW DX Contest !!
12/2 - 3	ARRL 160 Meter contest
3 - 4	Texas QSO Party
10-11	ARRL Ten Meter Contest
18	Canada Day Contest
24-31**	NR200M Activity Week

### RULES FOR SOME OF THESE CONTESTS

*JA DX:* 30 hours/48 for single-op; full 48 for MOMT. Times: 2300Z Friday-2300Z Sunday; ten-min bandchange rule for all. Work JA's only, 5 bands. Coipy RST+prefecture; send 59+QSO number. QSO points 2 each on 80, 1 each on 40 - 10. Separate logs for each band. (See QST Oct p. 108)

*WAE RTTY:* Same as CW and SSB; important QTC rule so see QST Oct p.108.

*Houston Ham Convention:* Separate DX pileup tape competitions will be done on SSB and on CW. The competition will be at 1600 local time in the Forum

room (NOT the suite!)

ARRL Sweepstakes SSB: Secxond lap of the team competition.

CQ WW CW: Everybody on the air!!

ARRL 160: 42 hours (sleep in daytime), 2200Z Friday to 1600Z Sunday. Classes for SO and MOST. Exchange: send RST + STX. (score 2 pts. per W/VE QSO, 5 pts. for DX). See Nov QST p. 90.

**THE LONG PATH**

Christmas parties, December. "Single-banders" in January. Sprint and ASRRL DX in the spring.

**RUMORS**

CQ SSB:	W5ASP	MOST	1750 x 400
	NR5M	SOAB	2500 x 520
	WB5BIR	SOAB	
	K5DX	?	

SS CW:	K5GA	1137 x 76
	K5GN	1106 x 75 (not ve1)
	WB5BIR	1040 x 76

**FACTS**

More on ARRL DX Contest results. The League also fouled up the club scores. Stealing the unlimited category away from FRC and making YCCC #1 by leaving out a big multiop score. A correction will be prionted (big deal). Correctsion of the NR5M score (also fouled up) will not be enough to put us ahead of NTCC.

**FIELD DAY NEW RECORD SCORE FOR TDXS**

The club was Numero Uno in 5A this past June, setting a new record in that category with 7151 QSO's, for 19836 points. This 27-op effort broke the old 1982 mark held by W2RQ who had 5481/16276. Only one bunch out-pointed us, a 15A battery score (2920 Q's x 21015 pts.) Wanna go for the all-time score next year? By the way, our 3A (1984) and 4A (1987) records still hold.

**MAJOR PACKET**

During the CQ WW Phone contest over 400 announcements were made on the packet network. Many were repeated from (or rebroadcast to) the 2M FM repeater as well. The Dallas-Fort Worth area had over 1000. Details and stats were not available at press time, but KE5IV will have the poop at the Hospitality Suite on Friday night. Big thanks are due to those who participated in this way. I know of several new DXCC countries put into area logs thanks to these spotting nets. Let's get even more involved in this during the CW contest! It really helps the multiop scores, especialy on Sunday.

How do you like this new style for

The Bullsheet?

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove

Resignation \_\_\_\_\_

**LOGS DUE TO WHO?**

Contest Name	Log Receipt	Send Logs To
IRSA WRC	12/31	W3FG, Walt McGuhan, Box 7, Odenton, MD 21113-0007
RSGB 21/28	12/5	RSGB Contest Committee, Box 73, Litchfield, Staffs, WS13 6UJ, England
RSGB 21	12/31	Same as above
CQWW Phone	12/1	CQ WW Contest, 76 N Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801
CALIF QSO Party	11/15	Gary Caldwell, 1830 Polk St., Concord, CA 94521

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## NO, BUT HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE NEAT-O NEW FM CHANNELS ON 220 MHZ?

(de Bill, K2TNO)

The "letter" reproduced below arrived at Madison Electronics during one of your editor's recent lunchtime forays to the "Store with 10,000 6AL5's". (That's a tube type. Like inside an amp only smaller.) So anyway, read the letter to find out how the intellectual climate of Rutherfordton NC is holding up these days. Don was QRL opening his lunch bag (the kind you find in the seat pocket of an airplane), and asked me to please pinch-hit for him in the reply department.

Dear madison company  
do yall have a president  
madison cross broadcast  
radio, how much is it,  
if yall have it how much  
is shipping charge inc  
and does it have a  
slider on it,

Dear Airhead (not his real name, which was *Andy*):

We're reel het up on accounta gittin yer letter. Yall (your spelling, not mine) done come to the right a-dress to git a president madison, cepting we done gone'n let the last of them critters out the door less'n a minute afore you. City feller comes in, opens his poke an dag-nab if he dont up and buy ever last president in the place. Scent my pappy a-racin' after him to see if'n he'd be of a mind to reconsider. Dontcha know that ol boy had that truck locked up tightern' Dicks hatband and didnt none of us figger to change him none. Ol Pappy, he dang near got the fire scared outof himself. That truck warn't much to peer at but it went right smart, Pappy a-jumpin clear when this Mason jar flew out the winda and hit ol Pappy such a lick it near to took his glasses five minutes to fall back aground. Raised a

pumpknot aside Pappys head, it did. So we shore tried to git yer order for that president. I figger with the time we been awasting on account of your'n, we ain't got a lick to show for it. Leastaways for the helpin hand we gived you I told my Pappy I was sure you'd want to do right by us for the trouble, right off an natural. So I seen my way fair and square to set you onto that slider geegaw you wanted. But you being all of a bother for it I knew you would want to send that payment first off. Waren't no good to wait knowin' you want to help ol Pappy after you caused his near untimely end. Jest you send up some of that Mason jar shipment likeunto the ol boy had in his truck and I can see my way clear not to make no nevermind on account of Pappy or on account of you needin' them radios to watch the woods around Pigeon Forge less some people see the smoke or figger out how you kin use so many sacks of sugar in a week. If'n I get no pleasings by your reply I guess I gwine hafta let them other revenoors up the road a hoot n'a holler in Gettysburg know about yer wantin' a slider too...

Tuna.

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## SISKEL AND TUNA AT THE MOVIES

### Who Framed Roger Over?

Cartoon characters who hang out on 14231 sending frames to each other find themselves trapped between two warring factions. Contesters from 14150.001 invent a lethal elixir which dissolves the Indexa Net and the West Virginia QSO Party. Brilliant performances by K8CC (as Roger), K1ZX (as Iceman) and KSLZO (as the evil judge) are skillfully blended into a pleasing whole by Director K1KI. Camera work by K5RVK shows flashes of brilliance, as well as occasional brilliant flashing. You'll marvel at the clever juxtaposition of real and unreal, fact and fancy, dupe and broken call. Cameo appearances by N5DU (as a log checker), K5ZD (as a Toon) and W3LPL (as owner of the Voice of America) complement nicely the fawning obsequiousness of the FCC boardmembers (playing themselves) bending over to pick up the soap in the locker room of the UPS Brown annual picnic in Hot Springs. (Maybe that's where they get the expression Band-AIDS -- ed.)

### Good Morning, Three Whiskey!

William Robins brings to life the crazy experiences of a guest op at the Armed Forces multiop effort from Saigon in 1969. Despite proximity to JA, the station makes do with vintage AM gear including old RCA

Saltshaker mic's, no Voice Keyers, and other implausible lapses from the prop department. In the pivotal scene our airman veteran of ZC5 is forced to choose between high QSO rates mobile with locals in a downtown traffic jam, and getting to the rig in time for the longpath opening to DaNang.

The movie suffers from a lack of realism - where is the station owner bitching about the rate? No HDR300 rotators fail in the whole show - who can believe that? The op hollers into the mic without once having anybody slide on top of him to complain he's 20 kc wide. Where the hell is The Dog?

Finally, there is the romantic angle. The guest op (played alternately by W2GD and N6AA) encounters a young 3W YL at a language class he teaches, and the audience is forced to endure a senseless panoply of implausible platitudes. Does he teach her to log? Ask her to run JA's on 20 while he gets some shuteye before the EU opening? No, we're shown interminable cross-cultural exchanges, each devastating to his final score. The worst part is he leaves the shack for the last time and doesn't even bring the logs.

## Big

A 13 year-old Novice wishes he could impress the YL's who won't even speak to him 'cause he's such a geek. No matter how fast he talks or how long he hollers, they ignore him. So, he makes a wish to be BIG, and awakens to find out he's been transformed into an Alpha 77 two-holer. NR5\* gives the performance of his life as the awkward Alpha who struggles to play with the big boys. Living in a penthouse crash-pad that is filled with impulsive purchases from his favorite emporium, our hero fends off hostile attacks by co-workers, come-ons by the YL down the hall and finally has to choose to revert back to being a punk Heathkit. A real tear-jerker, but a good way to score a few brownie points with the family after seven or eight straight weekends of contesting.

## The Hunt for Red October

This month we give you a report that's a true "sneak preview" of what will surely be the hit of this or any other year. Tom Clancy's remarkable novel will draw incredible crowds on the silver screen. It's the story of Martti Lane, OH2BH (playing himself) and his valiant attempt to smuggle the Team Finland multi-multi contest crew into Albania for 1989 CQWW Phone. If they succeed, it'll surely be a "Red October" for thousands of ZA-watchers. You'll see an amazing psycho-docu-drama as the team's plan unfolds. They try to bring in

the beams disguised as playground "jungle gym" sets, rigs (disguised as computers), Don Search (disguised as a can of caviar) and the ever-present Finnish YL's (disguised very poorly as ZA YL's).

The gut-wrenching suspense will keep you on the edge of your chair! We won't divulge the ending; you'll have to watch the movie. It won't be released on videocassettes EVER, but a pirated copy can be downloaded from any AK1A packet cluster. Just log on and type in "sh/Finns".

## Moonstruck

Don't miss this Academy-Award-winning flick that showcases the emotional rollercoaster of a closeknit family of EME enthusiasts. The male lead features WSUN as the estranged brother who ends up with the girl, who's really a dish. She shows some fine gain despite  $D/d = 0.2$ ;  $r = 16 \text{ cm deg/atm}$  and  $SHA = 12' 37"$ . The two bedded lovers gaze fondly out the window of their tenement and spy a "blue moon", the rare second full moon of the month when even 10 watts to a Ringo will get you a QSO. Our nomination for best dialogue of the year goes to the screenwriters who proceed to extricate our hero for his lady love's grasp with the immortal line "got a sked to keep."

## Ten

This remake of the old Dudley Moore classic finds our hero (played by KE5FI) swinging on down the ten meter band in full mid-sunspot cycle crisis trying to reclaim his lost youth and multielement quad. He loses his frequency too, and finally settles for a spot in the Novice band. There he spies the ten meter YL of his dreams. She breaks pileups with ease and runs up a phenomenal countries total as he's forced to watch from the sidelines. The heroine (played by WB5RUS) doesn't even know he's alive. As amusing as the original, especially with casting of KC5CP as the friendly bartender who offers useless advice to our lovesick contender who only has eyes for ten. Screenplay (unfinished, alas) by K5RC.