



founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET

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



October 1988
Volume XII
Number 10

=====
The Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 540291, Houston, Texas 77254-0291
=====

Officers and Contributors

President: NR5M, George DeMontrond Bullsheet Editor: K2TNO, B. Schrader
V. President: KB5FU, Galen Graff DX Chairman: N5DC, Jim Lane
Secretary: KE5IV, K. Grabenstein Repeater Chairman: N5DU, Bob Evans
Treasurer: KG5U, Dale Martin Field Day Chairman: K5GB, Butch Barber
Contest Chairman: K5GN, Dave McCarty Conv. Chairman: W5ASP, Joe Staples
=====

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING NOTICE - The Texas DX Society meets the second Friday of each month except when changed by the Board of Directors. The October TDXS meeting will be held Friday, October 14th. This one will be a "Eat and Meet" affair at the Steak and Ale on I 10 at the Wirt Road exit on the south side of the freeway. Visit 6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. Eat 7:30 P.M. Meet 8:30 P.M. We will have a brief meeting this time followed by a 15 minute slide presentation by K5GN of his recent XE trip. Your presence will be a vote for similar meetings in the future. Board members please be there at 7:00 P.M. sharp for an important meeting.

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. The Club's Packet Cluster DX bulletin board is currently up and running on 144.95 using the call K5DX. Use AX25 level 2 protocol; it can be accessed via the ALD digipeater 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."

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

The weather has been great; the spots have been plentiful. Even some of our out-to-lunch bunch have been "recycled" by the recent radio weather. KZ5M, a.k.a. Canal Zone Dennis, has recently burst on the scene trying (somewhat convincingly) to make us believe that he will be sprouting aluminum as soon as it gets green enough for such things to grow. Frank, KC5M, has been secretly chasing DX in the wee hours cuz his 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. six day a week job gets in the way the rest of the time. NM5M was given a Butternut butterfly antenna by his wife recently and he will have it up at 45' soon. (Rest assured that even with this new burst of enthusiasm Eric still won't send in his logs.) And KN5H is alive, active (although after reading his letter, printed elsewhere in this section, I fear not well) where he has always belonged - the high country of Colorado. Even Pete, KF4VS, materialized this week and threatened to make the meeting this Friday. I certainly don't need WWV to tell me that somethings cooking on the sun these days. I for one am glad to see some of the (semi-) retired TDXS'ers getting back into the swing of things. Welcome back guys!

It is time to select your club officers for next year. But you gotta hurry. Nominations for president, V.P., secretary, and treasurer close at the end of the meeting on Friday. If you don't get a favorite son candidate by then, the political machine will select next year's rulers for you. If anyone really wants to serve in a spot but is too shy to "run," call me and I'll discreetly put your name in the hat at the club meeting.

The Sweepstakes teams have been chosen. A list of teams will be passed out at the meeting. You need to make your commitment to your captain by November 1st for CW and November 15th for phone. Remember, operate at least your commitment time and you get the bonus. There will be a trophy for the winning phone and CW team as well as certificates of merit appropriate to each individual's level of achievement (or lack thereof). Good luck!

CONTEST CORNER
(by Dave McCarty, K5GN)

Have you been on the air lately? Conditions have been incredible! Even the king of "pooh-poohing" (N5EA) has been heard to say that this should be a very interesting contest season!

There isn't much time left for getting ready, but you can still get yourself better prepared for the upcoming fun. Ask around--your club members can help.

It is October, and that can only mean one thing to the truly hard-boiled ham: CQ WW DX Contest, SSB style!!

SHORT PATH

Highlight of October: CQ WW DX SSB. November is crunch time: SS and WW CW.

- 10/8 RadioSporting Championship Contest, phone
- 10/9 RadioSporting Championship Contest, CW
- 10/8-9 VK/ZL/Oceania contest, CW
- 10/9 RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, SSB
- 10/9-11 Illinois QSO Party
- 10/15 9V QSO Party (This rivals the WYO QSO Party)
- 10/15-16 R.I. QSO Party (A sequel!)
- 10/16 RSGB 21 MHz CW Contest
- 10/22-23 ARRL International EME Competition
- ** 10/29-30 CQ WW DX CONTEST PHONE!!

- ** 11/5-7 ARRL NOVEMBER SS CW!
- 11/11-13 Japan International DX Contest, Phone
- 11/12-13 European DX Contest, RTTY
- ** 11/19-21 ARRL NOVEMBER SS PHONE!!
- ** 11/26-27 CQ WW DX CONTEST CW!!

RSCC: 22 hours/24, max two off times for SOSB/SOAB, 24 hours for MOST/MOMT, starting 00Z. 6 bands, once per band, 599001+. (1 pt. for sending exchange + 1 pt. for receiving exchange on SSB/2 pts. receiving on CW) X (Call Areas of W, JA, VE/VO/VY, VK UA plus other DXCC countries plus one for /M, /MM, /AM, per band).

VK/ZL/Oc: 12 hours/24 in on-the-hour blocks, Single Op, starting 1000Z. 6 bands, once per band, 599001+. (2 pts/QSO) X (VK/ZL/O prefixes/band.) Separate logs/band.

RSGB 21/28 SSB: SO, MO (ST/MT??) 0700Z-1900Z. 21/28 only G/GD/GI/GJ/GM/GU/GW only, 59001+, (3 pts/QSO) X (sum of prefixes).

RSGB 21 CW: Same as 21/28 SSB except CW on 21 only.

Note that the regional contests are useful for checking our October propagation and the health of your antennas especially the new ones). They also give you a tune-up on hearing the weak ones.

THE MAJORS ARE HERE

It doesn't matter how small your station is, or what bands it is good on. This year's editions of the CW WW DX contests will be fun for you. Check it out! This time we will have a good number of people on the repeater and on packet, so you can see just how many DXCC countries you can work in one weekend. There are two great articles in the latest NCJ on single-op-plus-packet and little gun contesting. I'll have my copy at the meeting if you're interested at all. Pick out a goal for yourself and see if you can obtain it!

The club competition is shaping up well for the two weekends of SS. I'm even going to put in an effort in the 'phone end. Don't forget to make your commitment hours!

RUMORS

Great efforts were made by TDXS members in the September Sprints. However, we were apparently bested by the top paper clubs. Highlights: K5GN did manage to get on the air from XE3, through no one could copy his call; the SSB end was delayed a week to let VLI get on the team, but he stayed in Europe too long anyway; NT5D beat KG5U on SSB; KN5H (LOUD from Colorado) beat them both using only a dipole.

FACTS

The ARRL did it again, it appears. NR5M's CW score in the ARRL DX Test was listed as 8th in the U.S., when the effort was second only to W3LPL...

ARRL DX:

CW -- MOUT	NR5M #8 U.S. @ 1.4MM (actual #2 @ 4.5MM)
CW -- S015	W5ASP #2 STX (#10+ U.S.)
CW -- SOAB	K5NA #1 ENY (#10+ U.S.)
SSB -- MOUT	NR5M #2 U.S.
SSB -- MOUT	K5NA #3 U.S.
SSB -- SOAB	K5DX #1 STX (#3 in Texas/West Gulf, #5 in W5)
SSB -- SOAB	KC5CP #4 STX

CQ WW CW: My November issue hasn't arrived yet! Details next month.

MAIL BOX

Get 'em in a wrapper and into the Postal Service:

Sprint CW: DUE NOW!
Trey Garlough WN4KKK
7609 Hardy Drive
Austin, TX 78757

Sprint SSB: DUE BEFORE THE MEETING!
Rick Niswander K5GM
910 W. Claremont
Phoenix, AZ 86013

CUL IN WW TEST, OM --73

K5GN

DX ROUNDUP
(By Jim Lane N5DC)

Boy has 10 meters been HOT! It sure seems good to see 10 in the shape it is in. I can't recall when it has been this good. I understand that Barbara Coleman, WB5RUS, has even been able to find some new countries, which certainly tells you how good 10 is. Her country count is high enough that new ones are tough. I hear that Chuck is getting a long pin ready for her coax!

Ten isn't the only good band. Fifteen seems to be doing its' thing also. I have noticed in my regular twice-a-week sked on 20 with ZL30Y that signals at 0130Z are down three S units from where they were three weeks ago. I certainly hope that these band conditions will hold for the upcoming contest season for the gang.

I keep hearing persistent rumors that the 4W will be up. I certainly hope that it will come to pass. I just missed VP8BRR (South Georgia) on Indexa last Saturday. VP2MO was doing the honors. He passed along the following QSL info:

H.J. Timbrell G4YLO
Crossing Cottage
Laymatt Shepton Mallet
Somerset BA46NG
England

Bulletin Browsing

DJ6SI/5U October 15-17 CW only. QSL via CBA.
VKOGC Macquarie October 14 for one year. QSL via VK9NS.
VQ9QM Chagos 28026 1500 UTC.
TR8SA Gabon 28493 2100 UTC. QSL via F6FNU*
EP2HZ Iran 21290 1300 UTC. QSL via Box 16765 Tehran, Iran.
A4XJW Oman 14190 long path 1200 UTC.
TA3C 28463 1530 UTC QSL via CBA.

*F6FNU QSL Manager Problems (from DX Bulletin Fullerton CA). F6FNU is QSL Manager for over 100 stations, including several very active and very rare stations. Unfortunately, some of his QSL practices are controversial. He refuses to answer cards sent via the bureau, and will not return cards via the bureau. He has stated he expects 2 French francs per QSL card, plus postage. (French francs are worth about U.S. \$0.16.) DXCC administrator, Don Search, W3AZD had asked him to stop "selling" QSL cards. He has returned one half of a card to DXers who don't send enough money. He wants 2 IRCs instead of U.S. \$1, as IRCs are worth more than the dollar bill. He doesn't answer multiple card requests. INDEXA has cut off all relations with F6FNU, and he cannot use the INDEXA logo on cards. Have any of you had similar or other documented problems with F6FNU? If so, I would suggest that you contact the DXCC desk for possible action.

I have an update from CQ Magazine on all of their awards and how to apply. I will have copies at the meeting for those interested.

See you in the pileups!

WHO'S SERIOUS?
by K50N

This is a list of calls appearing more than twice in my YV5TK log from the 1985 CQ WW CW contest, arranged alphabetically for DX and by call area/suffix for U.S.A.

Worked on three bands:

C53AA	0A4ZY	W1BIH	W3ARK	WC5D	K7LJ
N4RP/C6A	0G2TI	W1CWU	W3AP	N5DU	N8BC
CN8ES	0H2BA	KA1DWX	W3BON	NC5H/4	W8GOC
CT2FN	0H2BH	W1FJ	N3CXY	K5LP	WD8IXE
CY8SAB	0H2YY	KY1K	N3ED	KC5M	W8LNO
D44BC	0K1DBM	K1KI	W3EYW	K50TI/4	WD8PKF
DF3CB	0K1YD	AK1L	W3GRF	AD5Q	WD8QBP
DL1YD	0K5R	K1RX	KT3M	K5RR	K8QWY
DL7AV	0Z5KU	K1YR	K3MD	N6AR/4	K8UNP
DL8IU	0Z8AE	K1YUT	KB3MM	N6AW	K9AGL/6
DL8KF	RB5GW	K2FL	W3NZ	N6BFE	K9CAN
EA7TH/8	SM3CXS	N2LJ	N3RS	W6BIP	N9NS
F5IH	SM7WT	N2LT	K3SO	W6BYH	KV9S
G3MXJ	UR4QWW	K2OPJ	KB3TN	N6IC	W9SE/7
GB4DX	UP7A	KN2Q	K3TUP	W6NKR	K9UIY
HG19HB	UQ1GWY	K2RD	K3WJY	W6OKX/4	K9Z0
HG6N	UQ1GXN	W2REH	K3WW	K6PU	N0GA
I4EA7	UQ2GLW	WA2UEC	K3ZZ	WB6RRY	K0HLB/4
K4TEA/KH6	UQ2PQ	W2UI	N4AA	A16Y	KM0L
KP4BZ	UR1RWX	N2UN	KF4CI	N6VR	W0WP
LA5X	UZ6AZW		N4LJM	W6YA	W0YCR
LU8DQ	Y3A		K4LQ	K6ZM	
	VE2UMS		K4LTA	N6ZZ	
	Y04ALO		N4NO		
	Y02WL		W400		
	Y33ZL		WA4QQV		
	YU3EA		N4TO		
	4Y2C		N4VZ		
	9Y4YT		W4WJ		
			W4XD		
			N4XR		
			N4ZC		

Worked on four bands:

DF0BY	OK2BFN	W1IHN	W3GU	W5ASP	K8HYT
EA9CE	OK5W	W1KM	K3LR	NSAW	W0ZY
FY5YE	OK7AA	WA2ASQ	AB4H	K5FUV	
	RF3Y	WA2CNF	K4II	N6AV/4	
	SP3KEY	AG2S	K4JPD	K6NA	
	K3UOC/YY4	W2VJN	N4K0	W6NNY	
	YV5ANE		K4MF	W6NYS/4	
			K4VX	W6TMD	
			N4WW	N6TU	

Worked on five bands:

	PJ2FR	K1EA	W3GM	N6RO	KS8S
	U22FWA	N2AA	W3LPL		W9RE
	Y2A		W14R		W0AIIH

Worked on all six bands:

NSAU
K5LZO

KG4:
FIDEL'S BACKYARD
A 'BOOT CAMP'
FOR U.S. SHIPS

(Article reprinted from Insight Magazine, Sept 19, 1988)

A vulture is roosting atop giant cinder blocks piled by the side of the road. From this vantage point, it can look out over a vast expanse of minefield, stretching as far as its squinting eyes can see, and get a bead on little animals ripe for the swooping.

But its concentration is soon broken. A Navy van pulls up and honks its horn, startling the bird into flight. The vulture sails out over the minefield, leaving in its wake a snickering serviceman: "There goes Castro's air force."

There also goes one of the few creatures free to transit the border of Cuba and the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, on the southeast corner of the island. Save for a handful of aging commuters, no one--not even Fidel Castro himself--walks both sides of the fence.

The U.S. side has minefields and booby traps designed to keep the Cubans out. The Cuban side has minefields, cactus thickets and a shoot-to-kill policy aimed at keeping people in.

The recently vacated cinder block tower, more than just a bird sanctuary, is part of the U. S. network of obstacles positioned for making the base inaccessible to invading Cubans. The blocks would be toppled over the road. Other tricks up the Navy's sleeve include tank-proof ditches, exploding highways, collapsible bridges and, of course, the minefields.

But all of this--plus the mortars, the tanks and the rocket launchers--amounts to just-in-case defense. No one really thinks that Castro, Cuban ruler and host to terrorist boot camps, would dare take on his U.S. tenants.

"We don't worry about Castro harassing us," says Commodore Albert Johnson, who is charged with training ships of the Atlantic Fleet. "He's not in a good position to do anything that would be an act of war."

Johnson and his fellow commanders at Guantanamo Bay, in fact, rarely think of themselves as being in harm's way or on the frontlines. When speaking of the base's position on Cuba, they tend to focus on the curiosity value of their posting.

Cmdr. Edward Ulrich, who runs the aircraft squadron, has calling cards featuring a fighter jet and the slogan: "We work in a Communist country every day." But he is quick to add that his men are under strict orders to respect Cuban airspace, while they enjoy "the best flying you can get without being on a carrier."

Ulrich and Johnson are helping to carry out Guantanamo's mission as a training base. Except for submarines, all ships in the Atlantic Fleet stop at the southeast end of Cuba and go through simulated combat. "This is boot camp for ships," says Johnson. "And we're the best in the world."

The site is perfect for the purpose, he says, because only two or three days are lost per year due to poor weather; there are no Federal Aviation Administration rules governing types of simulated air attack; and the water is deep. From Norfolk, VA, for example, a ship would have to traverse 250 miles of continental shelf before encountering waters deep enough to train in. Those conditions exist just outside the Caribbean base's harbor.

"There's no neighbors worrying about us making too much noise or dropping bombs," says Johnson. "If we want to surprise our troops with a simulated 3:30 a.m. attack, we can do it." The remoteness of the place also enables captains to command 100 percent of their troops' attention.

The bay has been frequented by a series of distinguished naval visitors. Christopher Columbus was here twice, and pirates are said to have lurked in its waters while awaiting European seamen. The French and British navies fought here in the 17th and 18th centuries, and the British West Indies squadron launched an attack on Cartagena, Columbia, from Guantanamo Bay in 1741.

In 1898 the U.S. Marines arrived to fight the Cuban front of the Spanish-American War. In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed a lease with Cuba, enabling the United States to use the site as a coaling station and naval base.

The base expanded over the years and now consists of 45 square miles, under perpetual lease (since 1959, Castro has cashed only one of the annual rent checks for \$4,085).

In recent times, the base came closest to conflict in 1962, when Soviet missiles were found to be on Cuba, only 90 miles from the nearest coast of Florida. All civilians were evacuated to the United States. A number of Cubans were living on the base, and they, too, were given the chance to leave.

"All of said we would stay and defend the base," says Victor Thomas, a Cuban native who lives and works on Guantanamo. He is part of the island's 80-member exile community. "I was just 17, but I stayed and patrolled with sticks. I thought it was really going to go."

The Cubans who stayed with the Navy were later offered homes on Guantanamo, in thanks for their loyalty. Some, like exile Noel West, are happy with life on the base. "It's safe here," he says. "You can walk anywhere at night without having to look over your shoulder, and you can play golf and play softball all year-round. I can play 18 holes every afternoon."

But others, like Thomas, would like to move on. "After all this time, I'm ready to go." He stays because of conditions governing his retirement pay. Once he completes his government service, he plans to move to Miami, where he owns a home.

Guantanamo Bay is synonymous with stress for the approximately 45,000 seamen per year who train here. But there are 7,000 or so base residents, a mix of military and civilian, who live a different style of life than is found on the visiting ships.

While trainees in port are busy saving "sinking" vessels or fighting their way out of "smoke-filled" galleys, the good folk of Guantanamo can be found looking for barracuda by the waterside or floating in rafts at the popular "dive-in" movie theaters.

On a typical lunch hour, cars converge at the center of town. Six vehicles line up at the base's only traffic light, which is clearly labeled: "This is a stoplight." Grumpy faces lean on arms propped against open windows. "Rush hour," huffs an enlisted man. "Wouldn't you know it?"

Once the light turns green, the cars career off at the maximum 35 mph allowed on base and head to the commissary, the Navy exchange, or the single McDonald's restaurant. There is an almost ritual greeting at every parking lot: "What do you plan to do with that car?"

The constant ebb and flow of Navy personnel produces an ever-rotating pool of automobiles, some of which have been on the island for decades.

Says one enlisted man's wife, who has not been back to the States in six years, "I don't even know what they drive back home anymore."

Home is a long way off for everyone, even the natives of nearby Miami. Passenger jets come twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The planes fly a set pattern: Norfolk Naval Air Station to Guantanamo Bay; on to Kingston, Jamaica; back to Guantanamo; then home to Norfolk. There is no variation.

People either love it or hate it here. Some arrange their time to fit in the

myriad local activities, from early morning fishing to midnight horseback rides. Others reject the entire setting with a curt epithet: "It's another lousy day in paradise."

"It's just like a small town here," says Lt. Cmdr. Gerry Ladouceur. "We have our own ecosystem."

Ladouceur is in charge of the base resale shops, which offer everything from ice cream to clothing. His job is a regular hot seat: "People are very sensitive about having their needs met, and they tend to get very vocal about it."

The locals make their voices heard all the way up to the base commander's office. Capt. John S. Boyd, the top man on base, says he spends more than half his work time dealing with civilian matters. "This is like running a little city. It's like being the mayor of a small town. I find that the most challenging part of this job."

His goals for Gitmo, as the base is affectionately called, contain no surprises: "My priorities are safety, mission-readiness, and to do good things for good people."

Ladouceur gets more specific. "We want to build a better pizza."

THE MAILBOX

(Letters to the editor and various material for which we refuse to take or accept credit.)

Dear TDXSers:

This story that I am about to tell you may sound a bit far fetched or slightly unbelievable but I know that it is the truth!! You see, it all started one beautiful Saturday afternoon. I had just finished cleaning up the shack and all was spick and span for the SSB sprint. I had operated the sprint before but this was the first effort from my new QTH, Colorado Springs, CO. As the afternoon faded into evening, I became very excited with the prospect of great 20 meter conditions with every call district booming in. Little did I know this was to be an evening I would never forget.

The contest started with a bang. Lots of loud ones and a few of those ones you need mental telepathy for. Twenty meters was the place to be for almost 2 complete hours. I was about to QSY to 40 when the QSO of my life called in.

The voice was strangely familiar but I just could not place it when it said "Kay In Five H ... This is Keelo Delta Four Tayngo Charlie Braaavo." I quickly glanced at the S meter just to see how loud this very slow speaking person was. It didn't seem to be working properly as the needle was barely off the left peg. Still the voice in the phones was loud, with no hint of fading or distortion, just a slow southern accent that seemed almost spiritual.

I realized I would probably have to spend a little time explaining the rules for it seemed that would be appropriate in order to secure what might be a new multiplier. As I rapidly regurgitated the standard explanations, something told me that this voice was not only familiar to me, but also one which millions of people have experienced at least once in their lives. As I quickly wrote down my report, my hands began to shake so violently I would not write legibly. I could only muster enough strength to scream out for my wife who was upstairs. She appeared just as I threw my headphones down on the desk and yanked the headset out of the rig. I politely asked the voice to repeat my report so that my wife could witness this incredible and miraculous event. Thousands of thoughts were going through my mind as we listened. "Kay Inn 5 H this is Kay Dee 4 T C B. Kay Dee 4 Takin Care o' Buisness." I looked at my wife who was a white as a sheet. She had also realized that it was who we thought it was.

"You are my number one, Elvis, Tenniseeee." Could this be true? What transpired next is not really clear. I tried to think of a question to ask but all I could say of was, "KD4 T C B this is KN5H, thank you for the contact. I was wondering if you have an address for a QSL!" There was no reply. I began to panic realizing that all the rumors were true. The King was still alive and we had just spoke with him!!

The frequency was clear, no QRM, no pile-ups...nothing. It did not seem likely that our QSO went unheard but there were no callers. I tried to continue on in the contest but my heart was not quite in it.

Page 11

At 0400 Zulu, I tuned down to 3830 to listen in on the score reporting. I asked KG5U if he had worked Tennessee. He said he had but not any KD4's. I could not tell anyone about my QSO with Elvis for I believed the overwhelming onslaught of hams wishing to contact me would be entirely too traumatic. Not until now can I safely reveal this miraculous conversation.

73 Steve KN5H

As a postscript to this story:

I read that some people were talking with Elvis using a Ouija board and asking unimportant questions about Priscilla and such. I knew that Elvis would talk with me since we were already acquainted. My wife and I got the old Ouija board out of the attic and began asking for him. Our response - S-E-E-Y-O-U-I-N-T-H-E-S-S-1-4-2-5-0-2-2-0-0-Z.

(And now you know why we call it the "Bullsheet"! You also know why we sent Hose to Colorado for a little fresh air...ed.)