



founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club



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The Texas DX Society, PO Box 540291, Houston, TX 77254-0291

President	Ken Grabenstein, KE5IV
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Field Day Chairman	Bob Perring, N5RP
Convention Chairman	George DeMontrond, NR5M

Bullsheat Mailing List - TDXS wishes to provide the Bullsheat to all amateurs in the area with an interest in DXing and contesting. No, you were not dropped from the list last month. There was no April Bullsheat so this one is a combined version. (Sorry for the unavoidable delay in publishing your favorite reading material). 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." I also have a modem at work and can hook it up to receive files if you call me first at my office, 713-798-6231.

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. This month the May meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, May 12. **THE MEETING WILL BE A SPECIAL DINNER MEETING AT STEAK AND ALE RESTAURANT**, Interstate 10 and Wirt Road, on the south side of the freeway. **NOTE THIS CHANGE OF QTH**, and also the **SPECIAL TIMES**: 7:00 p.m. social hour; 8:00 meeting begins. Sharp, K5DX, has arranged a fixed-price dinner special (or use the menu if you wish) for \$14.95 per person that features a choice of either Hawaiian chicken, stuffed flounder, top sirloin or blackened snapper. This plan for a dinner meeting was one we suggested to the Board; come try it out and give us your opinion.

Program: Field Day planning will take up a lot of the time, so no program is scheduled. (whew! was afraid wud hv sit thru XU1SS agn.. ed.)

Weekly DX and Contest net - Each Tuesday night at 9:00 local time the TDXS 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 up and running on 144.95 MHz using the call K5DX. This is the AK1A system; use AX25 Level 2 protocol (see article in the January 'Sheet for updated parameters). The cluster is located in Hempstead and can be accessed via the ALD digipeater north of Houston if not direct. Usually it is linked into both Dallas and Austin for additional DX coverage.

Thanks to TDXS from your editor - Many of you are aware that my dad Bill, K2GT, became a Silent Key on March 28. He was my very good friend in addition to being my father, and I shall miss him very much. We had skeds on 14050 on Saturday mornings for over 30 years. Dad was first licensed as W9CY and W9EIP in Chicago in 1928, and got back on the air postwar only when I got interested in 1956. He worked mostly 40 cw and did no dxing or contesting but sure could send on those lil' paddles. 73 and 88, om. The Club sent flowers to New York to his service, which touched me very greatly. Somehow Barbara, WB5RUS, managed to explain over the twisted pair all about the TDXS logo, and sure enough! the NOO YAWK florist managed to create it in the flower arrangement. Thanks for your thoughts, gang. --Tuna.

Old Home Week

April and early May brought a few former Texas residents back to town for various alleged business reasons. Ken, NZ5I, jetted in from DL to hoist a few more sackfuls of Compaq bux to the vaults. Randy, K5ZD/3, made the April meeting and even sweet-talked a certain K5** into being the new NCJ editor. Then Jan, K5MA, blew through during OTC week and had an eyeball with some clubbies before Kim, K5TU, arrived from the UK for a week. About a dozen of us tried to stick Kim with either the check or ptomaine poisoning at Los Tios one evening. Finally George, K5KG, was in town briefly (missed that one --ed.). It was fun to see all of you as usual.

DX Roundup

(de Bob, AK5B)

Ramblings and Rumors:

We had a ball in Dayton, getting to see so many of the folks we all talk to and about for the rest of the year. The Colvins still look like they're ready to go, and go they will with a trip to visit 15 republics in the USSR. I also had a nice chat with Erik, SM0AGD and it looks like he is ready to do some more dxing also. I sure hope so, because he's a super cw op and a pleasure to work.

Stations/Countries to look for in May:

- Canary Islands, EA8: Our own K2TNO is going to be in Las Palmas May 27 to June 4. Tuna will be on all bands from EA8ACH during CQWW WPX. After the test he'll be on all bands from his hotel, but then only running 100 watts. Look for him mostly on 20 cw, 14020-25. He's taking a tuner, and will try the WARC bands on request. (Conditions ought to be better than during my last junket to GJ... ed.)
- Mozambique, C9MKT: Looks like the last chance for this one will be on two weekends this month, May 12-14 and May 19-21. He will not be on in June so get him now before his license expires. I'll be listening on cw, that's for sure.
- Western Sahara, S0 (callsign to be announced once they are QRV): OH2BH and OH3UU are off again after the successful XF4 operation. They will be back at S0 at the invitation of the government for a 7-day operation beginning May 11. CW will be stressed, but since a generator will be used from a refugee camp round-the-clock operation can't be assured. Two stations will be set up, so they may manage two bands at once. Try 1821-3501-7001-14020-21020-28020 cw; 1831-3791-7091-14145-21195-28495 ssb..
- MV Island, 4J: After leaving S0 land, Martti will join forces with Finnish and Soviet ops (also K7JA, Chip, we hear -- ed.) for a 4-xmtr round-the-clock 9 day operation. Scheduled for May 22-30.
- Banaba Island, T33: Another new one? This is by Jim, VK9NS, (using T33JS) and Bob, KN6J (using T33RA). It's been delayed until around May 8, for a full two weeks until about May 22. Also known as Ocean Island; we'll make 350 countries yet! (yeah, especially when they keep adding Banaba republics -- ed.)
- Rotuma, 3D2: Look for 5w1GP, Yama, to be active May 13-20. Word has it he has obtained permission to operate from the island so those who missed the last operation from there should get another shot at this one. Good luck!
- Glorioso Island, FR5AI/G: To be active later this month, beginning May 19, both modes.
- Mexico, 6D2A: Another TDXS dxpedition for the CQWW WPX contest, featuring the likes of KZ5M and others on the air from the XE2FU QTH with the aid of our friends from CRANTAC.

Dates to remember:

- CQ-M contest May 13-14, good for digging out those rare UA oblasts and republics. Should be great over the pole late at night on 20, 15.
- CQWW WPX May 27-28 GO with the club to XE2FU in Nuevo Laredo
- ARRL National Convention in Dallas, June 2-4
- Field Day, June 24-25 Still the hottest game in town! Don't miss the record-setting effort at QRP.

The Other Fellow's Shack

(de Bill, K2TNO)

FRC Newsletter, April, 1989 - There's an article by Drew, K3PA, on "DVK Modifications": "After trying the usual grounding and shielding, I could not eliminate RFI in my DVK (DVK 100 Voice Keyer --ed.). I was able to eliminate the problem by rolling off the response below RF in the audio input and output op amps. To make this change: Licate U18 (an LF347) on the DVK circuit board. Find R20 (47K) and R35 (47K unless gain of the unit was changed). Bypass both of these resistors with a 47 to 100 pF mica or ceramic capacitor. This should reduce RFI susceptibility greatly.

I also had problems with the DVK and low output mikes. To set the DVK gain appropriately, look at U18 pin 7 on an oscilloscope. In your normal on-the-air voice (you mean normal when working a W9 or normal when trying to crack the C9 pileup during CQWW? --ed.) you should see 2 volts peak-to-peak there on voice peaks. If the signal is too small, increase the value of R35, and vice-versa. When properly set, the back panel gain control should be at about 9-11 o'clock for correct output to the radio.

Insight Magazine, Feb 20, 1989 pp 46-47 - "For many, the word 'shortwave' invokes images of giant antennas and technonerd's painstakingly tuning huge, complex, expensive, hard-to-operate receivers to wrest noisy, static-shattered signals out of a resistant atmosphere. But this stereotype is outdated. There is still a hard core of fanatics, who thrill at chasing down the elusive signals of far-flung stations." (You bet your sweet bippy there is, pal! --ed.)

Mad River Flash, December 1988 - The Contester's Stress Diet (author unattributed):

Has the stress of contesting been getting you down? Well, this new diet has been designed to help you cope with the stress of long hours at the mike and the frustration of finding, after four hours of calling CQ, that your antenna was disconnected. Needless to say, this diet can also help if you have a high stress job and feel the need to balance this pressure with the little satisfactions of life when you get home.

Breakfast: 1/2 grapefruit
1 slice whole wheat toast, dry
8 oz. skim milk

Lunch: 4 oz. lean broiled chicken breast
1 cup steamed spinach
1 cup herb tea
1 oreo cookie

Mid-afternoon snack:

rest of the oreos in the package
2 pints rocky road ice cream
1 jar hot fudge sauce
bing cherries, whipped cream

Dinner: 2 loaves garlic bread with cheese
large sausage, mushroom and cheese pizza
4 cans or 1 large pitcher of beer
3 milky way candy bars.

Late evening snack:

Entire frozen cheesecake eaten direct from freezer

Rules for this diet:

1. If you eat something and no one sees you do it, the food has no calories.
2. If you drink a diet soda with the candy bar, the calories in the candy are cancelled out by the diet drink
3. When you eat with someone else, calories don't count if you eat less than they do.
4. Food used for medicinal purposes never counts, such as hot chocolate, brandy, toast and Sara Lee cheesecake.
5. If you fatten up everyone else, you look thinner.
6. Movie-related foods do not have calories because they are part of the entire entertainment package and not part of one's personal fuel, such as Milk Duds, buttered popcorn, Junior Mints, Red Hots, and Tootsie Rolls.
7. Cookie pieces contain no calories. The process of breakage causes calorie leakage.
8. Things licked off of knives and spoons have no calories if you are in the process of preparing something. Examples are peanut butter on a knife while making a sandwich or ice cream on a spoon while making a sundae.
9. Foods that have the same color have the same number of calories. Examples are spinach and pistachio ice cream, mushrooms and white chocolate. Note: chocolate is a universal color and may be substituted for any other food color.

This diet should improve your outlook on life before, during or after any particularly stressful contest, whether it be against other hams on 80 meters or against your boss on company policy.

Southern California DX Club Bulletin, March 1989

Reprinted from an earlier article by James T. Beckham of the FCC Field Operations Bureau: Report on the Woodpecker signal by all thirteen FCC monitoring stations for one week beginning August 14, 1988. "Our findings are: 1) The pulse rate remains at 11 to 11.5 pulses per second; 2) the pulse width remains at 4 milliseconds; 3) the lowest confirmed frequency was 7 MHz and the highest 19 MHz; 4) the lowest confirmed bandwidth was 20 KHz and the highest 800 KHz; 5) the most occupied bands appeared to be 10.5-11.0, 12.2-13.0 and 16.0 to 17.0 MHz; 6) the least occupied bands appeared to be 9.7-10.5, 11.0-12.2 and 13.0 to 15.0 MHz; 7) the bandwidth mean was 150 KHz...; 8) the air time of a signal was... 7.7 minutes for the mean...; 9) all of the transmissions originated from a single location that we fixed at coordinates 51 degrees 24 minutes North by 137 degrees 42 minutes East, or near the city of Komsomolsk in the USSR."

PVRC Bulletin, April, 1988 - "With two 9M point-plus efforts, Frank (W3LPL) won all four DX contests this season and now holds the all time records in each one, as well." (congrats to you, Frank - a worthy opponent! --ed.)

North Texas Contest Club Newsletter, April 1989 - News of their club's plans for the ARRL National Convention says they are sponsoring the Contest Forum. The schedule is to begin Saturday, June 3 at 0900 with the following events: VP2MW operation and Rick, KSUR on Low Band operating. They will also host a hospitality suite both nights in the Sheraton Center Park hotel. **HOT FLASH:** they also report "AEA is sponsoring a Casino Party on Saturday night at the Sheraton. The bad news is that the party is by invitation only but the good news is that anyone can get invited. Telephone to AEA at 206-775-7373 to 'get on the list'.

XE2FU Statistics-ARRL DX Contest

(de Galen, KB5FU)

Here are some results from the TDXS effort in multi-two SSB we achieved while putting up antennas for the future:

Band	28 MHz	21 MHz	14 MHz	7 MHz	3.5 MHz	1.8 MHz	Total
Total QSO's	4,638	2,408	1,728	960	897	128	10,759
DX & Invalid	12	3	2	0	1	0	18
Duplicates	331	156	57	34	35	1	614
Valid QSO's	4,295	2,249	1,669	926	861	127	10,127
QSO Points	12,885	6,747	5,007	2,778	2,583	381	30,381
Multipliers	58	57	59	57	57	35	323
Total Points	747,330	384,579	295,413	158,346	147,231	13,335	9,813,063

Whimsy

Thanks to K5GN for rushing us this calling card from an ethnic CW artist. Is that a B or a V, Dave?



a gift from the
ETHNIC ARTS SHOP
Natural History Museum

900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, Ca. 90007
213 - 744-3336

Shucks, Maw, y'all cain't hardly git a good licka salt outa them hams nowadays - next thing ya know them Federal fellers gwine ta come snoopin' 'round during tuneup time and find that lil' extr'y 25 KW amp I got stuck way back yonder by the still. (from the Houston Chronicle, 4/23/89)

New rules on hams closer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department inched closer last week to new federal regulations on old-fashioned country hams.

The country ham issue began in March 1983 when the department initially proposed new safety rules for commercial processors. But industry challenges, USDA tinkering and other hurdles kept pushing back the rule-making deadline, which is currently Dec. 31, 1989.

Country hams are most commonly found in cloth bags in supermarkets and country stores, preserved from spoilage by salt, smoke and air for months and even years. They must be scraped, soaked and cooked before being

eaten.

Most hams in supermarket meat counters are wet-cured quickly in brine solutions and cooked before sale to consumers.

In its latest move, the USDA proposes "to allow certain amounts of potassium chloride as an alternative to salt" in the curing of country hams to kill trichinae, microscopic parasitic worms. If improperly cooked and eaten, infested meat can cause a disease called trichinosis in humans.

Current rules call for a 4 percent salt content to ensure safety of the ham. But research by North Carolina State University indicates that some substitution of potassium chloride can be allowed with-

out compromising safety, said Lester M. Crawford, administrator of the U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service. A minimum salt content in the cure mixture would be required, but up to half the weight could consist of potassium chloride.

Federal regulations currently allow three curing methods for destroying trichinae in ham. The proposal modifies two of the methods in addition to allowing the new potassium chloride method.

Public comments on the country ham proposal can be sent through June 19 to: Policy Office, Attention: Linda Carey, FSIS Hearing Clerk, Room 3171-S, FSIS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

WARC-FEST '89

QST...QST...QST...

JOIN THE TEXAS DX SOCIETY FOR A GOOD OLD FASHIONED SUNDAY AFTERNOON SOCIAL

WHEN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1989
1800Z - 2400Z

WHERE

WARC BANDS
24.890 - 24.990, 18.068 - 18.168, 10.1 - 10.15 MHz

WHY

TO OBSERVE THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARC BAND ALLOCATION AND TO PROMOTE THE EXPANDED USE OF THESE VITAL FREQUENCIES.

HOW

1. Eligibility - Amateurs worldwide

2. Object - To contact and exchange personal information with amateurs around the world.

3. Categories - Single Operator, either:

- CW Only
- Mixed

4. Exchange

- Operator's first name
- QTH...
 - ARRL section (68)
 - Canadian province (12)
 - DXCC Country
- Antenna type*

*Single word descriptor, e.g. dipole, sloper, yagi, quad, vertical, gndplane, rhombic, windom, etc.

5. Conditions

- 1 hour time period minimum per band
- Stations may be contacted once per band-mode
- Existing restrictions on WARC band use must be observed, i.e. license class, power, etc.

6. Reporting

Participants are requested to provide TDXS with Summary Sheets detailing their activities. Official Forms may be obtained for an S.A.S.E. to:

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

These sheets will show the contacts broken down by band-mode, total ARRL sections, Canadian provinces and DXCC countries contacted, time spent per band, and signature. (Individual logs and dupe sheets are not expected. Each participant is asked to follow commonly accepted operating and record keeping practices.) The use of official TDXS summary sheets is urged. Submissions must be postmarked no later than October 15, 1989 for consideration.

7. Recognition

Participants whose activity places their station in the upper 10% of their category as regards QSO totals will receive Official TDXS WARC-FEST '89 Certificates of Merit. Certificates will be sequentially numbered to reflect the relative level of accomplishment.

All participants providing an S.A.S.E. with their summary sheet submission will receive a copy of the Official Results.

May 1989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 TDXS MEETS	13
14 Mother's D	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Victoria D	25	26	27 CQ WPX CW
28 CQ WPX CW	29 Memorial D	30	31			

June 1989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Dallas Ham	3 Convention
4 Convention	5	6	7	8	9 TDXS MEETS	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Father's D	19	20	21	22	23	24 Field Day
25 Field Day	26	27	28	29	30	