



founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET

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Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club



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

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DX Chairman	Bob Walworth, AK5B
Repeater Chairman	Jim Lane, N5DC
Field Day Chairman	Bob Perring, N5RP
Convention Chairman	George DeMontrond, NR5M

the beam many of us can hit that one direct, which is much faster! There are a couple of stations acting as digis on the new frequenc. Usually the cluster is linked into both Dallas and Austin for additional DX coverage. Frequently there are five or six nodes and as many as sixty stations linked up at nights.

Bullsheet Mailing List - TDXS wishes to provide the Bullsheet to all amateurs in the area with an interest in DXing and 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 *brief* articles to K2TNO or via FAX (713-790-1275) addressed to "Dr. William Schrader." Longer articles on 5 1/4" diskettes in any routine word processor language or as ASCII files are acceptable too. Steve, WA9VLI, has generously volunteered his office typing abilities to input longer articles and the regular monthly columns in order to compensate for the incompetent typing of the editor. His FAX number at work is 713-872-3425. Please mark items to Steve Smothers' attention.

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 meeting coincides with our local Ham Com-vention. So, the Board has authorized the meeting to be held AT THE TDXS HOSPITALITY SUITE at the convention. The suite will be Room 701 of the Sheraton Crown Hotel, JFK Boulevard, just south of Intercontinental Airport. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Program - The Club is sponsoring the DX and Contest Forum at HHC again this year, and will feature videotaped highlights of several DXpeditions of the past year. They will be shown on Saturday afternoon.

Annual Raffle - The club is raffling a Kenwood TS-140, complete with power supply. George, NR5M, is in charge of tickets. PHONE HOGS: Help with the sales; club paddle-witchers will be tied up in Sweepstakes this weekend.

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 in Hempstead is up and running on 144.95 MHz. using the call KE5IV. There is a digipeater north of Houston (ALD) for use with this cluster. This is the AK1A system; use AX25 Level 2 protocol (see article later in the Sept/Oct issue of the 'Sheet for updated parameters). Also, a recent addition of another tnc now puts a second routing up and running: KE5IV is also on 144.91, and Kenny has a beam pointed at Houston on that frequency. It is linked into the same computer, so it is simply an alternate path. But with

Repeat Performance

The TDXS Officers for 1990 were chosen at the October meeting. Ken, KE5IV, has agreed to serve us again at the helm for '90. The slate will have a new face at the Scribe's post; Barbara, WB5RUS is our new secretary.

We all owe the officers our support: see what YOU can do next year to help. (There are fewer of us still here and active, folks -- pass up the helping out part and you'll be hurting us all! --ed.)

Repeater Performance

(de Bill, K2TNO)

Special kudos to Bob, K5VMX, who's stuck with the program to get the repeater(s) up and QRV again. Bob just installed a new antenna at the Jersey Village backup site, a phased array pointing southeast right out the Gulf Freeway to help signals from down NASA way hit the backup machine. The main machine is still QRX due to unbelievable intermod at the Greenway 5 site. A new (downtown?) site is in the offing, possibly as early as next month.

EXPEDITION TO BOUVETOYA 1989/90

News Release #3

• Oslo 10 September 1989

NEW DATE FOR DECISION ON SHIP WITH HELICOPTER: 15 OCTOBER

Decision date deferred upon request of one ship-owner and to improve alternatives. Target date 22 December for landing unchanged. Leading Norwegian zoologist responsible for scientific part of expedition. Contributions: Japan far ahead with 62% of amounts from ham world. Discussions held with another group.

Further clarification of ship alternatives and more funding is required before taking final decisions. Club Bouvet is grateful to all those who have contributed so far and wishes to encourage those who help promote the project locally.

We have been invited to go as guest operators with a much larger group with 18-20 hams and scientists in February and to abandon our own plans for an expedition in December. The other group, wishing for the time being to remain anonymous, is believed to be fully funded already by non-ham money.

Disparities between the two expeditions:

A) Club Bouvet demands more ample margins in its schedule, for bad weather.

B) In a place like Bouvetoya, where there are many hazards and where space is severely limited by animal life and terrain

constraints, we prefer an operation with a smaller number of

people over a relatively long period of time (number of operators not yet final).

C) Club Bouvet has a strong preference for using helicopter, to greatly improve probability of QSOs with Japan, Australia, New Zealand, USSR and Eastern Europe if a second, temporary "short path station" can be set up to work those parts of the world which otherwise could only be worked long path from the base camp on the western shore. Helicopter also helps cut drastically time and risk in landing and departure operations and generally enhances probability of success. The other group's vessel cannot carry a helicopter.

D) Finally, timing of the two expeditions is incompatible, inasmuch as Club Bouvet operators depend on using Christmastide to reduce absence from work, and because of other commitments.

From the above, it can be concluded that as of today, a joint expedition seems unrealistic. In any event, we shall give the other expedition the help we can. We take it that our supporters wish that we proceed to try to fulfill Club Bouvet objectives.

• **Ham Funding Statistics** (8 weeks after start of campaign):- Contributions actually received: 65% (of 100,000 USD target) - Pledged and received amounts together: 76% (no major US foundation). 252 supporting members/sponsors in 23 countries (will you be among first 500?)

- Geographical distribution, amounts received: Japan 62.4%, Norway 20.7%, USA 6.0%, Australia 4.0%, Canada 1.7%, Spain 1.1% W Germany 0.9%, France 0.9%, Sweden 0.7%, Switzerland 0.4%, others less than 0.2%.

DX Report

(de Bob, AK5B)

STATIONS/COUNTRIES TO LOOK FOR IN NOVEMBER

The good news for the month is that Erik Sjolund, SMOAGD, will be going on another DX trip, this time putting on some of the rare ones in Africa for us. On November 1-6 look for him from 3C, *Equatorial Guinea*. Then on November 9-12 at S9, Sao Tome. He will finish up at 3C0, *Pagalu Island, (Annobon)*.

Also out this month, per the "DX Bulletin", are the Colvins, Lloyd and Iris. This time in Africa, they will start in XT, *Burkina Faso*, (good old upper Volta). Then around mid November, will move on to 5U, *Niger*. Tune in next month for next stops. QSL via YASME.

D2, *Angola*, sez "QRZ DX" has too good possibilities of being on the air. LUS6ELF/D2 with the UN Peacekeeping Force, who will also be there till next March, and ON6VN/D2 who is also thought to be there now. The LU is said to favor 21.240 at 19 to 2030Z.

It goes without saying that the biggie for the month will be CQ WW CW. Should be lots of activity, so if the solar flares will cooperate, a good time will be had by all.

KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED TYPE STUFF

Sprattly Is. A fall operation being planned by a group of U.S. operators.

Bouvet 3Y Being planned for the end of the year by LA1EE, LA2GV, and LA6VM. Should be a great operation if anything like their Peter Island one.

Also the second group, to be on the air in February. The ARRL is going to love all the 1 and 2 gsl card endorsements!!

Madagascar 5R8JD Jean-Paul active again says that he still hopes to get written permission to operate. He'll be there 18 months or so.

Cocos Is. TI9 in early November by several TI8 ops.

Yemen 70 UA2AO reports that four Soviet operators have permission to operate for 12 days in late November.

Dates to Remember

Nov 3-5 Houston Com-Vent'89

Nov. 4-6 ARRL Sweepstakes CW

Nov. 18-20 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB

Nov. 25-26 CQ WW DX CW Contest

Now the Bad News

Out-of-towners may not have heard that Sharp, K5DX, and Irma lost their house in a terrible fire about two weeks ago. Both got out OK, but with just the clothes on their backs (not even time to grab his wallet, so he even lost all the ID's, etc.) They hope to rebuild (same QTH), and are now in a rental house about 400 yards from the fire QTH. Their fone number is the same; TDXS'ers have volunteered rigs for the time being but Sharp's still too QRL to have much time for radio.

You can be sure they're feeling pretty down, so I bet they'd appreciate a jingle on the landline. -- ed.)

Able, Boston . . . Yellow, Zulu

We have all heard the amazing array of phonetics used on the bands — but where did they originate?

Over the years we've often wondered how the present-day phonetic alphabet was derived, and indeed an old friend of ours looked into it many years ago with a view to writing something for publication. Unfortunately it never got finished — so imagine our pleasure when the following article fell on to the editorial doormat recently. R W Cornford, G4NGK explains:

"The name is Jim — John India Mexico — and the location is Dayton — David America Yankee Thomas Oboe Norway." An imaginary contact, but one which is quite typical insofar as it demonstrates the use of phonetics which are still being used years after the introduction of a standard international alphabet. Why do they persist, and where do they originate?

It seems that old alphabets — like old soldiers — never die but only fade away; they fade so slowly because it appears to be impossible to 'unlearn' the first alphabet with which one first becomes reasonably familiar. You will frequently hear youthful-sounding stations carefully using current phonetics and then for some reason getting slightly flustered; they then immediately lapse into phonetics which were last used forty-odd years ago when the operator in question was probably wearing a tin hat!

As far as origins are concerned, it is clear that the problem of ensuring accuracy in verbal communications existed long before the advent of radio and the old joke about the message which started out as "send reinforcements, we are going to advance" and ended up as "send three and fourpence — we are going to a dance." That particular one was not only pre-decimalisation but also in all probability pre-1900. However, all joking stopped in 1914 when precision in such things became — quite literally — a matter of life or death, and soon all officers and NCOs of front-line units were familiar with what was sometimes called 'signales'. By this was meant phonetics covering eight commonly transposed letters. It has

often been stated that this part-alphabet evolved informally but it was, in fact, prepared (except for DON, added in 1914) as early as 1904 by the professional signallers of the British Army — at that time the Telegraph Battalion of the Royal Engineers.

FULL ALPHABETS

Full phonetic alphabets were produced by the United States Army in 1916 and by the Royal Navy in 1917. Rather surprisingly, the British Army did not adopt a full alphabet until 1927, and indeed for some purposes Royal Signals personnel were still using phonetics for only fourteen of the twenty-six letters as late as 1938. Following the entry of the United States into the Second World War, the production of a common phonetic alphabet for use by all Allied forces was obviously essential. One was duly produced early in 1942 and taken into use in June 1943. However, in March 1956 all NATO forces adopted the alphabet currently in use whose origin is discussed later.

Digressing for a moment, one might speculate that it was in the 1914-18 period that troops with little to do devised the comic alphabets of the form 'Ay for 'orses, B for mutton, etc which became quite well-known during the 1920s and 30s; they were extensively featured in theatre and cabaret by Clapham and Dwyer, who were highly popular contemporary entertainers.

In the field of amateur radio, it has unfortunately not been possible

to establish the date at which guidance in the use of phonetics was first given. However, by the mid-1930s the ARRL was suggesting the use of either the US Army alphabet of 1916 with some variations or that used by Western Union. At some point after World War II the ARRL produced the first — and probably the only — phonetic alphabet intended specifically for use by amateurs; this was still being quoted in books produced for the amateur radio market during the 1970s and indeed is still occasionally heard in survivals such as 'Q R Mary' and 'Q R Nancy'. Enquiries suggest that in the inter-war years, British amateurs used either phonetics picked up during contacts with fellow enthusiasts in the USA or those used by the Post Office on international telephone circuits. It has not been possible to date these, although the composition of the 'B' Code strongly suggests 1920-30. Code 'A' may have set the fashion for using names of cities, states and countries as phonetics, and it is interesting to note that a few of these ('Baltimore' and 'Washington' especially) are still widely used.

INTERNATIONAL USE

It seems clear that some early alphabets were constructed on a very unscientific and indeed casual basis; there are a few obviously humorous examples and some words such as CHARLIE are clearly unsuitable. However, when it became necessary in the aftermath of World War II to formulate a phonetic alphabet for international use in the rapidly expanding field of civil aviation, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) had before it the results of studies made in the USA and considered during a series of meetings in the late 1940s. Even so, the version eventually approved and taken into use in April 1952 was continually scrutinized in operational use, and changes were made in respect of six letters. The amended alphabet — which included our old friend CHARLIE — came into use in the form in which we know it today in March 1956. It was adopted by all forces in NATO later in the same year and — after twenty years of both civil and military use — was approved for all branches of radio communication by the Big Daddy of all the regulatory bodies, the International Telecommunications Union, in Appendix 16 of the 1976 Radio Regulations. The table opposite shows the various alphabets mentioned in the text; no doubt there are others.

1904	1916	1917	1927	WESTERN	1943	ARRL	BRITISH	TELECOM	1956
BRITISH	US	ROYAL	BRITISH	UNION	ALLIED	ARRL	BRITISH	TELECOM	ICAO
ARMY	ARMY	NAVY	ARMY		SERVICES		A	B	
A ACK	ABLE	APPLES	ACK	ADAMS	ABLE	ADAM	AMSTERDAM	ALFRED	ALFA
B BEER	BOY	BUTTER	BEER	BOSTON	BAKER	BAKER	BALTIMORE	BENJAMIN	BRAVO
C CAST	CHARLIE	CHARLIE	CHARLIE	CHICAGO	CHARLIE	CHARLIE	CASABLANCA	CHARLES	CHARLIE
D DON (1914)	DOCK	DUFF	DON	DENYER	DOG	DAVID	DENMARK	DAVID	DELTA
E EASY	EDWARD	EDWARD	EDWARD	EDWARD	EASY	EDWARD	EDISON	EDWARD	ECHO
F FOX	FREDDY	FREDDY	FREDDY	FRANK	FOX	FRANK	FLORIDA	FREDERICK	FOXTROT
G GEORGE	GEORGE	GEORGE	GEORGE	GEORGE	GEORGE	GEORGE	GALLIPOLI	GEORGE	GOLF
H HAVE	HARRY	HARRY	HARRY	HENRY	HOW	HENRY	HAVANA	HARRY	HOTEL
I ITEM	INK	INK	INK	IDA	ITEM	IDA	ITALIA	ISAAC	INDIA
J JIG	JOHNNIE	JOHNNIE	JOHNNIE	JOHN	JIG	JOHN	JERUSALEM	JACK	JULIETT
K KING	KING	KING	KING	KING	KING	KING	KILOGRAMME	KING	KILO
L LOVE	LONDON	LONDON	LONDON	LINCOLN	LOVE	LEWIS	LIVERPOOL	LONDON	LIMA
M EMMA	MIKE	MONKEY	MONKEY	MARY	MIKE	MARY	MADAGASCAR	MARY	MIKE
N NAN	NUTS	NUTS	NUTS	NEW YORK	NAN	NANCY	NEW YORK	NELLIE	NOVEMBER
O OPAL	ORANGE	ORANGE	ORANGE	OCEAN	OBOE	OTTO	OSLO	OLIVER	OSCAR
P PUP	PUDDING	PIP	PETER	PETER	PETER	PETER	PARIS	PETER	PAPA
Q QUACK	QUEENIE	QUEEN	QUEEN	QUEEN	QUEEN	QUEEN	QUEBEC	QUEEN	QUEBEC
R RUSH	ROBERT	ROBERT	ROBERT	ROBERT	ROGER	ROBERT	ROMA	ROBERT	ROMEO
S ESSES	SAIL	SUGAR	SUGAR	SUGAR	SUGAR	SUSAN	SANTIAGO	SAMUEL	SIERRA
T TOC	TARE	TOMMY	TOC	THOMAS	TARE	THOMAS	TRIPOLI	TOMMY	TANGO
U UNIT	UNCLE	UNCLE	UNCLE	UNCLE	UNCLE	UNION	UPPSALA	UNCLE	UNIFORM
V VIC	VICE	VINEGAR	VIC	VICTOR	VICTOR	VICTOR	VALENCIA	VICTOR	VICTOR
W WATCH	WILLIE	WILLIAM	WILLIAM	WILLIAM	WILLIAM	WILLIAM	WASHINGTON	WILLIAM	WHISKEY
X X-RAY	XERXES	X-RAY	X-RAY	X-RAY	X-RAY	X-RAY	XANTIPPE	X-RAY	X-RAY
Y YOKE	YELLOW	YORKER	YOUNG	YOUNG	YOKE	YOUNG	YOKOHAMA	YELLOW	YANKEE
Z ZED	ZEBRA	ZEBRA	ZEBRA	ZERO	ZEBRA	ZEBRA	ZURICH	ZEBRA	ZULU