



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

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Contest Chairman	Dale Martin, KG5U
Bullsheat Editor	Joe Staples, W5ASP
DX Chairman	Bob Walworth, AK5B
Repeater Chairman	Jim Lane, N5DC
Field Day Chairman	Bob Perring, N5RP
Legal Chairman	

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 April meeting will take place on Friday, April 13, 1990 (yes, Friday the 13th, Good Friday in this instance--ed). The meeting will be held at the Ashford West Swim Club courtesy of N5RP, Bob Perring. The building is located on the south side of Westella just west, about 500 yards, of the intersection of Dairy Ashford and Westella. There is a sign in front of the building displaying the name. Westella is about 1 mile north of Westheimer and 2 miles south of the Katy Freeway. In either case you would exit at Dairy Ashford. The meeting will begin about 7:30 P.M. Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

Program - The program for the March TDXS Meeting will feature a video film "The World of Amateur Radio" by Roy Neal, K6DUE. This well known and highly regarded film covers the entire spectrum of amateur radio and should prove quite interesting. In addition there will a video on SAREX, the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment, narrated by Roy Neal with astronaut Tony England, W00RE, who was the operator during the Challenger slow scan TV activity.

Weekly DX and Contest Net - Each Tuesday night a 9:00 P.M. local time the Texas DX Society sponsors a net on 147.96/36 MHz. The purpose of this net is to exchange information of interest to DXers and contesters. The agenda includes current DX and contest information, QSL routings and related announcements. Stations checking-in are urged to report DX heard or worked locally, band openings, contest claimed scores, and any other information that might be of interest. Participation is not limited to members of TDXS, but is open to all and everyone is encouraged to join in.

DX Packet Cluster - The TDXS Packet Cluster DX Bulletin Board, operating on 144.95 MHz with the call KE5IV, is located in Hempstead, TX. The Cluster runs the AK1A software and uses AX25 Level 2 protocol. A digipeater (ALD) is located on the north side of Houston to provide improved access to the cluster. There is an alternative path on 144.91 MHz, also under KE5IV's call, with a high, multi-element 2 meter beam pointed at Houston. It is linked into the the same computer that runs the Cluster. This allows those in Houston the option of connecting directly with Hempstead and has the virtue of giving faster response. K5FP operates another packet cluster located in Galveston county which is quite active on 144.93 MHz. It is usually connected with KE5IV. Stations in the southern parts of Houston may find it easier to connect with this cluster. Also, both clusters are frequently linked into Austin and Dallas for added DX coverage, especially during contests.

Bullsheat Mailing List - TDXS wishes to provide the Bullsheat 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 meetings will receive the 'Sheet for three months free of charge simply by signing the Attendance List and including their mailing address. Articles or other newsworthy items are hereby solicited by your editor. Articles should be submitted in the form of either ASCII files or as MS Word or WordPerfect word processor files. Files may be uploaded to the TDXS area on K2TNO's Bulletin Board at 713-798-4955, or sent direct to the editor on 5 1/4" diskette. Contact W5ASP at 713-974-3455 to arrange these file transfers. If necessary, files may be sent to "Dr. William Schrader" via FAX at 713-790-1275.

Amateur License Classes - The Sam Houston Radio Klub of Cleveland, TX and the Houston Area Communicators of Humble, TX are co-sponsoring classes to assist those who are interested in obtaining their Novice Class amateur radio operator's license. These classes will be held on Tuesday nights in Cleveland and on Wednesday nights in Humble. The classes on both nights will be conducted from 7 P.M. till 9:30 P.M. Classes will start on April 10, 1990 and will be offered free of charge. Starting August 1, 1990 a series of Novice to Technician upgrade courses will be offered in Humble. Anyone with an interest in this program should contact Sam Neal, N5AF, at (713)592-2257. (Take the time to pass the word if you know anyone who might be interested; we need new blood in amateur radio..ed)

The TDXS Bullsheet

The Prez Sez...

de Ken, KESIV

The April meeting of the Texas DX Society will be held at the recreational center in NSRP's subdivision. I am sure Bob or the Editor will have a more accurate address and map (no map...use the "hunt and pounce" method..ed) somewhere in the Bullsheet.

The "Greatest Distance Traveled" award for the CQ WPX SSB contest goes to Joe, W5ASP, who joined TDXS member Andy, GM0ECO, at his new QTH in Kenrosshire, Scotland. With Andy's strong signal on 10M during ARRL DX and on 15M during CQ WPX, he has a good start on a contest station. Joe did admit that it got a little breezy. Welcome to the North Sea!

What is the TDXS going to do for Field Day? No problem, it is still two months off! I think we should have a little discussion to avoid the rush. What transmitter class and how serious of an effort this year?

April 13th-17th, LY2ZZ (ex-UP1BZZ), Victor will be in Texas. He will arrive Friday in Dallas and will be escorted around by Ralph, N5RZ. As I understand the program, he will be attending a joint meeting of the North Texas Contest Club and the Lone Star DX Club for dinner on Saturday evening. Ralph will put 1,000 miles on his vehicle showing Victor around the Metro-Plex.

Sunday, he will fly to Austin to see the sites and the stations and have dinner with the crew there. Monday, Victor will fly into Houston. KG5U, Dale, has volunteered to show him J.S.C. and W5RRR. I plan to take him by NR5M, K5LZO, the Lumber Yard, and Madison's--depending on the time schedule.

I am open from there. Where would those who would like to meet Victor want to have a dinner meeting on Monday night? Victor will be in the U.S. for 60 days and will cover a lot of ground, making the conventions at Visalia, Dayton, Orlando and others.

I promised the Editor to have a break down of what was put out on the Packet Cluster during ARRL DX SSB and now CQ WPX SSB. The information will have to wait until next month. Fire the Prez, PLEASE!!!! I RAN OUTTA TIME!

Outgoing QSL Cards

The ARRL provides a service to it's members which allows them to send DX QSL cards to foreign countries at minimum cost and effort. TDXS members can take advantage of this service by getting their cards to K5LZO, who will in turn forward them to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service. TDXS pays the nominal service fee of \$2 per pound as well as the postage.

Those wishing to use this route for their cards must sort their DX QSL cards alphabetically by country as shown on the ARRL DXCC Country List. This means that the prefix ES or LY goes with the Russians, XQ and 3G with Chile, AZ and L2 to Argentina, etc. However, it is not necessary to sort within a given country, i.e. all Russians may be lumped together...don't sort RA, UT, LY separately.

Keep in mind that QSL's for DXpedition operations usually go the country of the operator, e.g. JW9XG via LA9XG, 3D2XR via SM7PKK, etc. Many foreign stations have stateside QSL managers. These cards may be included with the "K's". By the way, most caribbean stations turn out to be nonresidents, so send such QSL's to the operator's home country.

There are number of DXCC countries not served, e.g. many U.S. territories (KH3, KH7, KH9, etc.) and countries such as

Taiwan, Egypt, Nepal, etc. A complete list currently appears in September 1989 QST, page 65.

Finally, each TDXS member must include their QST address label with each group of cards submitted. Contact K5LZO if you have any questions (before you drop the cards on him!).

DX Report

de Bob, AK5B

As mentioned last month, we did make it to Mexico. The four of us, K5LZO, WB5N, KD5SP and myself, had a real blast. The wx was the nicest that I've seen down there yet, and the contest was a ball. All of that coupled with the gourmet feed on Sunday eve made for a super week-end. Check elsewhere in the Bullsheet for our equally impressive score. If you haven't been there since '84, or at all, you should be sure to include a DX week-end down there in the near future.

As I'm sure you are aware, Jim Smith has indeed made it one the air from Bhutan, using the call A51JS. Seems the only times that he has been heard from this area is in the mornings from 6 to 7 or so, long path, or thereabouts. The worse part about this is that we won't be able to kid K5YCP about this one anymore...yes, he worked it this AM. Jim finally had a good signal this morning, so I am assuming he received the promised beam antenna. Now if he will just work CW.

The bulletins say that he will stay till the demand is satisfied, so guess he'll be there for a year or so...Hi, Hi. After A5, in the middle of April or so, he is supposed to stop in S2 were he has a visa to enter the country. No operating permission yet, but he is hopeful.

This may be the last chance for Abu Ail, A15. They have been on with good signals, so if you need it be sure to catch it this time around. Seems that possession of the island is about to be given back to 70 land. That would probably put a screeching halt to any radio at all!

April is sure a popular DX month. Later this month will be an operation from Jarvis Is. which is currently part of the Palmyra group. The operators are planning on applying for separate country status for Jarvis Is. There are seven op's listed, including Martii, OH2BH. They are to be on the island on or about April 13th, and leave on the 23rd.

Also this month, two groups are reported to be on the way to YV0, Aves Is. One group will be "digital" only, RTTY, AMTOR, and packet. The other will be on HF, both CW and SSB.

And let us not forget ST0, Southern Sudan. One bulletin still has it on for the middle-to-end of the month, aiming for 50,000 qso's, and another has it on hold or cancelled. So if you hear PA3CXC/ST0, put it out on the packet and two meter repeater, then work it.

So April should be a fun month on the bands. I know it will be for conventions. I'll be going to Visalia the first week-end, and to Dayton on the last. It definitely will be a month for DX. May, June, and July, well who knows. Tune in next month and we'll see if we can drum up anything. CU then...Gud DX es 73.

DXCC News

New Honor Roll Members

N5DC 313/326

Endorsements

K5YCP 331 Mixed & Phone

Current Standings

K5WA 236 Mixed

Packet Racket

de Ken, KE5IV

Here are the most important parameter settings to maintain a reliable connect with the KE5IV Packet Cluster node. Those settings marked with an asterisk (*) are "must" settings.

- 8BITCONV ON (*)
- AX25L2V2 ON (*)
- CHECK 0 (*)
- CMSG OFF (*)
- DIGI OFF (*)
- DWAIT 0 (*)
- PARITY 4 or NONE (*)
- PERSIST 63 (*)
- RELINK OFF (*)
- CONPERM OFF (*)
- RETRY 6 or 7 (Max)
- SLOTTIME 4 (*)

Others parameters are variable and must be selected as follows:

AXD 6 or AXD 3 - The AXD 6 allows synthesized radios time for the PLL to lock and get to 90% full power before the packet is sent. This is to avoid the front of the packet from being chopped off. AXD 3 applies to crystal controlled radios for the same reason.

AXH 6 or AXH 3 - The same rules apply as in AXD, except that now they help the receiver.

EQUALIZE - Try it OFF or ON to see which way gives you the fewest retries.

FRACK - Set this to the month of your birthday. This will, along with RESPTIME (below), help avoid collisions with other users.

RESPTIME - Set this to the day of your birthday. This, along with the FRACK setting, should help educe collisions.

TXDELAY - A good starting point would be around TXD 15 for a crystal radio and TXD 30 for a synthesized radio. It will depend on how fast the radio locks on frerquency.

Contest News

de Dale, KG5U

Well, folks, you have yet another contest columnist to press the issue and push the product. I am looking forward to writing about things "contest" and maybe doing some contesting in the next year, if time and externalities (yep, it really is a word..ed) permit.

We are still enjoying the effects of high sunspot numbers, with good band conditions and lots of DX-peditions taking place almost every week. There are a number of fun contests coming up in the next few months. (The SP-DX CW Contest and the Yuri Gagarin Cup contests were held on the weekend of April 7/8.)

First up will be the North American QSO Party. This (CW and SSB) is a fun contest that does not suck up the whole weekend...yea!

North American QSO Party - CW: April 14th, 1800Z through April 15th at 0600Z. SSB: April 21st, 1800Z till April 22nd at 0600Z. The report is Name and State; 160-10 M (excluding WARC); 10 hour limit for single ops; NA works the world, but mults are NA countries, VE call areas, and states (including KL7 & KH6). KE5IV reports that NR5M will be Multi-Op/Multi-Transmitter for NAQP SSB. Have fun....

Helvetia Contest - CW & phone (mixed mode only); April 28th from 1300Z till April 29th at 1300Z; 160-10 M (except WARC) RS(T) plus 3-digit serial number. Switzerland works the world.

CQ-M Contest (Peace to the World) - May 12th from 2100Z till May 13th at 2100Z, CW & Phone; 160-10 M; RS(T) plus 3-digit serial number. Everyone everywhere works everyone, everywhere. Michigan QSO Party - May 19th at 1800Z till May 20th 0300Z and again on May 20th from 1100Z till May 21 0200Z, CW & Phone; RS(T), QSO number, and state.

OMARC Midnight Special - QST reports it in the May 21st calendar listing. Actually, it is scheduled to begin May 20th at 0300Z and run until 0500Z, 40 M SSB for the first hour and then 80 M CW for the second hour. Exchange the name and callsign of your first "Elmer". This is our own TDXS member K5NA's sponsored/initiated/conceived contest... support our Ex's who no longer live in Texas!!

QRP ARCI Sprint QSO Party (CW) - The same weekend as NAQP SSB, April 14th from 1200Z through April 15th at 2400Z. Look around 40-60kHz up from the bottom of the CW bands. Non-ARCI members give RST, state, and power out. QRP contesting and dx'ing is lots of fun...it's interesting what can be done with low power. (Spotted on a Tee-shirt at Dallas Ham-Com, "Life is too short for QRP")

MARAC County Hunters SSB - April 21st from 0000Z till April 22nd at 2400Z; 80-10 M (except WARC). Report: RS, status i.e. fixed/portable/mobile, county, state.

TDXS participation in the CQ WPX SSB contest last month was somewhat light. Here are some of the reports received:

- GM0ECO2546/743MS/AB4.4 M
- K5LZO100/?SO/SB/10 M
- WB5RUS.....50/?SO/SB/10 M
- KG5U.....55/?SO/SB/10 M QRP

- KE5FI.....575/328.....SO/SB/75 M
- K5XI.....104/81
- J34A.....6563/306

That's it for now. If you get in any contests, I would like to hear about it. Leave me a message on K5FP PacketCluster, KA5KTH (KG5U @ KA5KTH), Tuna's BBS, or call me at (713) 484-4465(H) or 483-7740(W)

Dispatches from the UK

de Joe, W5ASP

I was fortunate enough to be able to visit Andy, GM0ECO, at his new home in Scotland and to multi-op with him in the CQ WPX Phone contest. Contest conditions were not nearly as good as Andy had experienced in ARRL DX Phone. Ten meter openings to the states were very spotty. Apparently the absorption was high enough to markedly attenuate propagation along the high latitude paths. But the final results, 2546 Q's with 743 prefixes, were excellent...enough hopefully to take top honors in the UK. (Before and after the contest I managed to work a bit of CW as GM0/W5ASP with some 500 Q's.)

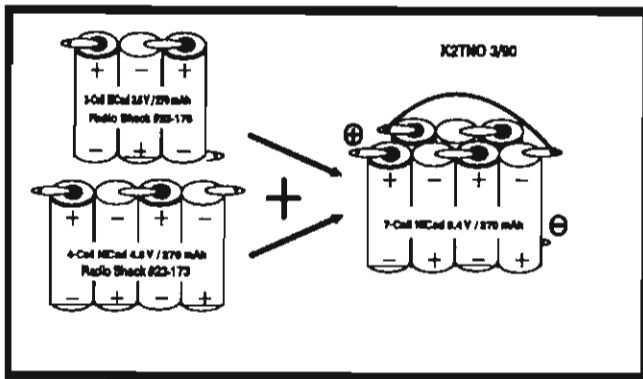
It was quite an interesting and enjoyable week. Andy and his fine family were super hosts. His home couldn't be nicer or more appropriately located for a GM contester, and he already is well along to establishing himself as the heir apparent to the UK's "Top Gun" title. Next month's Bull Sheet will have more details...it's a great station.

While passing through London I had a long talk with Kim, G0/K5TU. All is well though he still is not very active on the bands. He'll be over this way before long, so we'll have a chance to catch up with him a bit.

Radio Shack Replacements for ICOM BP-3 NiCad Packs

(de Bill, K2TNO)

I have had a couple of handheld battery packs for my ICOM IC-2AT's go out recently. Replacements from the company are expensive (about \$40) and replacements from the various battery-supply houses in QST are always slipping my mind. So, I recently found that Radio Shack sells the exact same batteries, only not as a 7-pak but rather as a three-pak (RS Part # 23-176), and a 4-pack (RS # 23-173). The cartoon below shows how they were installed. Total price is about \$23.00.



The only BEWARE is that they also make a different 3-cell that looks much the same; it is #172 and lacks solder lugs so it won't work. Get the two listed above.

Construction details:

1. Remove top side of BP-3 away from the rear plug-in by removing two bottom slotted screws and two of the four small Phillips screws on the top metal plate. Remove the latter screws only from the side being lifted off.
2. Unsolder orange wire from positive terminal, lift out entire 7-cell assembly to expose purple negative wire below. Unsolder it too.
3. Mark + and - poles of both battery sets. Tape the two sets together to hold in place during assembly (not crucial after insertion into holder so go easy on the tape). Align the two sets so that: (a) the two positive terminals are adjacent; (b) negative of the three-cell set is on bottom, at opposite end from + terminal of four-cell set.
4. Positive terminal of four-cell set will be + of completed battery; negative of three-cell set will become - of completed battery.
5. Install jumper from - of 4-cell to + of 3-cell. Both of these terminals should be on top if alignment was correct.
6. Re-insert into case and replace screws.

Contest Scores

ARRL DX Phone

XE2FU.....MS/AB.....6893/327.....6.8 M
 (K5LZO, AK5B, WB5N & KD5SP)
 ZF2NE/ZF8.....SO/AB.....3832/226.....2.6 M (W5ASP)
 GM0ECO.....SO/AB.....3200/250+

ARRL 160 M

K5NA.....123,084.....2nd SO.....(1st Hudson Division)
 K5MA/1.....82,490.....9th SO.....(1st New England Division)
 KE5TV(WN4KKN/5 Op).....5th STX
 K5GN.....6th STX
 W9AGH/5.....9th STX

North American QSO Party CW

KN5H.....59,428/358/166.....8th SO
 WN4KKN/51,400/40/35
 K5LZO.....58,155/673/235.....1st MO
 (+K5GA, K5RC, NTSD, WB5N & N5IVF)

North American QSO Party SSB

K5LZO.....671,028/2388/281.....1st MO
 (+NTSD, WB5N, N5IVF & WB5RUS)

All-Time Field Day Records

3A K5DX19843756 Q's17,194 Pts.
 4A K5DX19875394 Q's16,246 Pts.
 5A K5DX19887151 Q's19,836 Pts.
 5E K5DX19836019 Q's7,987 Pts.
 23ABat. K5DX....19893326 Q's25,260 Pt. (*)

(*) This is the All-Time total Score!

Upcoming Events

April 14.....NA QSO Party CW
 April 21.....NA QSO Party PHONE
 April 21.....MARAC County Hunters SSB
 April 27.....Dayton HAMVENTION
 May 10.....CQ WPX Phone Logs *POSTMARKED*
 May 26.....CQ WPX CW
 (All dates in UTC)

The Junk Box

Dayton - The annual Dayton HAMVENTION is scheduled for April 27-29, 1990 and should again be the extraordinary event of this year's amateur radio agenda. For those of you who survive the Giant Flea Market here is a rundown of the hospitality suites as given by the management of the Stouffer Hotel.

Room 1201-1203Society of Midwest Contesters
 Room 1211North Jersey DX Association
 Room 525Kansas City DX Association
 Room 425Overlook Mountain ARC
 Room 325Western New York DX Association
 (Courtesy of The Black Hole, official journal of the Society of Midwest Contesters.)

The "Emporium" - It's true sports fans...Madison Electronics is actually closing its doors. Don, K5AAD, has targeted the end of May to complete the change over to an exclusively mail order business. The long time Houston enterprise will relocate to the "Busick Center" on Zavalla. No word yet on the availability of their catalog, but we can hope that the "goody list" will appear shortly. (By the way, the new number will be (713)729-7300.)

Results of the annual TDXS Receiver Clinic

(de Bill, K2TNO)

I brought my two crystal oscillators and hybrid combiner to the March Meeting and tested some more receivers, including a brand-new TS-950. You'll be happy to learn that Kenwood continues to improve their stuff; the '950 scored an impressive -140 dBm noise floor and an even-more-impressive two-tone dynamic range of 115 dB. Most important is the *trend* in the TS series. Note below how the 2-tone DR value has gone from 85 dB for the TS-830's to 95 ('930) to 105 ('940) to 115 for the '950. Of course, you have to sell your house to afford a new '950 but what the hell--it's only a hobby. Also, I re-print below some earlier results including a test of nine TS-930's on the same day. The serial numbers (in millions) are shown; note the lack of correlation of these numbers with serial number.

TDXS Receiver Clinic Results								
Test Date	Owner.	Receiver Model	Serial No.	Noise Floor (MDS)	Two-tone Dynamic Range	Filters Installed		S-9 Signal Level (dBm)
				(dBm)	(dB)	Bandwidth (KHz)	BW (-10 dB)	
March 1990	K5AAD	TS 950	0120838	-140	115	2.7	2.7/VBT 1.9	-40
	AK5B	TS 940	9030132	-142	101	0.5	0.620/VBT 0.25	-51
	NN50	IC 751A		-131	97		0.600	-78
	K2TNO	TS 140		-124	99	0.5	---	---
	K7WOC	OMNI V		-135	107	0.5	0.74	-56
	N5DC	FT 757		-128	87		---	---
September 1988	K7WOC	IC-781		-136	98	0.5		
	N5DC	TS 940		-140	109	0.5	0.43/VBT 0.1	-55
	?	IC-761		-136	98			
	K2TNO	TS 930		-138	95	0.5		
	K7WOC	HF-380		-129	91	0.5		
	N5DC	IC-735		-128	80			
	W5ASP	IC-730		-138	100	0.5		
	?	IC-751A	1998	-131	84	0.5	-82	
?	TS-940	6060466	-133	104			-80	
September 1987		TS-930	3 x 10 ⁶	-134	95	0.5		
		"	"	-131	87	"		
		"	"	-130	96	"		
		"	4	-135	81	"		
		"	"	-138	97	"		
		"	5	-137	92	"		
		"	6	-137	96	"		
		"	"	-137	97	"		
		"	"	-134	92	"		
		TS-830	?	-132	84	"		
		"	1	-136	87	"		
		"	2	-137	85	"		