



THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the
Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club



founded 1970

June 1990
Volume XIV
Number 6

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

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DX Chairman	Bob Walworth, AK5B
Field Day Chairman	Bob Perring, N5RP
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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 June meeting will take place on the 1st Friday, June 1, 1990. The meeting has been moved up a week as many TDXS members plan to attend Ham-Com '90 over the second weekend at the Arlington Convention Center. The June club meeting will be held at the Briargrove Park Club House courtesy of Joe, W5ASP. The building is located at 2301 Seagler Road. This is just a couple blocks north and east of the intersection of Westheimer and Beltway 8. Seagler Road is the first street east of the Beltway running north off of Westheimer. Just beyond Westheimer on Seagler are two large churches, one on either side of the street. Just past the one on the east side is the club house adjacent to the tennis courts and pool. The parking lot is located between the tennis courts and the pool with the club house next to it. The meeting will begin at 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 June TDXS meeting will consist of a short slide presentation by W5ASP of his visit to GMOECO's new QTH in Scotland, and a video of the TDXS trek to XE2FU for the ARRL DX Phone contest as filmed by KD5SP. The sharp contrast between the Scottish hills and the Mexican border country should make for interesting viewing.

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 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 either 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" 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.

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 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.

PSE QSL

If you are a TDXS member, past or present, we want your QSL card. And if you have ever operated as a DX station we want that card also. These cards will be assembled into a display for the traditional TDXS hospitality suite at this year's Houston Com-Vention '90. Send your cards to Sharp, K5DX, 216 Meyers Road, Highlands, Texas, 77562, or bring them to the TDXS meeting. **Do it now!**

The Prez Sez

de Ken, KE5IV

My column this month has far more questions than answers. The Club voted to enter the 2A category during Field Day. By the initial response on the repeater and the Packet-Cluster, I am not sure we have enough manpower to erect and fully man a 2A operation. Remember both stations have to be able to cover any frequency from 80 to 10 Meters, SSB or CW. This does not include such things as 6 and 2 Meters, packet, the "birds", Novice, or the other bonus point goodies.

As you read this article, CQ WW WPX CW will have come and gone for another year. NSEA and W5ASP have been begging for operators at the Lumber Yard. And the only player at NR5M will be K5GA doing a single band 15 Meter effort. Something has gone definitely in the toilet! I realize we have had a few members move out of town, but where are those members who are still in town?

Where did SAREX come up with the choice of frequencies for the next shuttle mission? By now, there have to be at least 70 packetcluster nodes on 144.950 MHz in the U.S. alone. The SAREX backup frequencies are on 144.910, 144.930, and 144.970 MHz! I guess by now every cluster SYSOP in the country has been asked to shutdown during the mission. Our friends up in Newington are the QSL managers for SAREX! According to a note from W6GO, who checked the clusters carrying his QSL Manager List, there have been over 5,000 users since this past January and over 7,000 going back into 1989. Should be interesting!

Rather than write a separate packet column this month, I have used a software package written by N4TL to look at the KE5IV Packetcluster records. One of the results is a listing of the number of DX stations put out on the cluster, i.e. DX spots, by user call sign. The other is a breakdown of the DX spots by band. (These appear later in this issue...ed) The N4TL program does a lot more, and in the next several months I will show different breakdowns of the files by various fields.

Last weekend Dave Pruett, K8CC, was in Houston. Chuck, K5LZO, and I picked him up at the Holiday Inn. We had the chance to take a look at his logs from ARRL DX on the computer using the new multi-multi version of the K1EA software. Also we saw his Sprint logs which used his own K8CC software. Later we were joined at Ma Goodson's by Dave, K5GN, Dale, KG5U, Rich, K5WA and his XYL Mary. Dave is working on a Field Day package to add to the K8CC contest software. Enough of my ramblings, see you at the meeting!

Ham-Com '90 Contest and DX Program

For those of you who plan to attend Ham-Com in Arlington this year there will be a full schedule of DX and contesting activities.

John Dorr, K1AR, will handle the Contest Forum starting Saturday morning at 9 A.M. He will first discuss "East Coast" style contesting and then cover the 1989 TI1J CQ WW DX operation. (Should you miss this, John will repeat the presentation on Sunday morning.)

A DX Luncheon hosted by the Lone Star DX Association will be held Saturday, June 9th, starting at 11:00 A.M. in the Sheraton Hotel's Champion Ballroom. Chuck, K5LZO, will present the 1985 Desecheo DXpedition and a panel of experts

will conduct a DX panel discussion. Following this there will be a DX Program featuring three DXpeditions; Mellish Reef (VK9ZM) and Willis Island (VK9ZW), Sable Island (CY0DXX), and United Arab Emirates (A61AD).

During the convention Don, WB2DND, will have his computer resident logs from A61AD with him and will provide QSL cards upon request. Also Glen, KC1MM, from the ARRL DXCC Desk will be on hand to check DXCC Endorsements. Last, but far from least, NTCC can be expected to again provide a convenient watering hole for those still in need of further contact with the brethren.

Field Day News

At the May meeting of the Texas DX Society the overwhelming majority of members there assembled voted to observe the 1990 Annual TDXS Field Day on June 23rd. Fortunately this coincides with the scheduled date of the ARRL operating event of a similar nature. Field Day Chariman Bob, N5RP, exhibited obvious relief at the outcome, sensing that his task would be somewhat easier under these circumstances.

Having made this major decision, further discussion led to the selection of Class 2A as the preferred entry category. Whether or not this dual station format can be attributed to backlash from last year's frantic 23A Battery extravaganza isn't clear, but it certainly shows that a more conservative atmosphere prevails.

The Field Day site this year will again be Bob's, W5SJS, ranch just south of Brenham. Directions will be available via the 147.96/36 repeater from W5JWM. Give him a call if you need help in getting there.

Setup will begin around noon on Friday, June 22nd. Anyone who can possibly get there to help should try to do so. We don't anticipate as much hard labor this year as at times in the past, but there will be lots to do. And we'll also be observing our traditional Friday evening gathering at the local steak house!

Saturday there will be lots of last minute loose ends to tie up for those arriving before the 1800Z starting time. Plans are being hatched to get the Saturday evening barbeque lined up and SJS expects to have the stock tank ready for those in need of a cool respite from the heat. Also, the pond reportedly holds some rather large and hungry critters.

As always, anyone with an interest is invited to join in and help out. TDXS members should give serious thought to following the advice given in the article by Dave, K5GN, in this issue of the Bullshead.

An article from a Virginia ham radio club's bulletin, SPARKGAP, send to us by Dr. Fred Grant, AA4NG, provides some interesting insight into how others see us...

Less is More

Last fall the Field Day results in QST showed that K5DX in Texas made the top 1989 score, an astounding 25,000 points. Moreover, K5DX used simultaneously twenty-three transmitters in the 300-meter circle. I wrote Clarence Sharp, K5DX, to discover how. (W4PRO scored about 6,000 points with three transmitters.) The answer is low power and saturated bands. They ran 5 watts battery power and occupied all bands from 1.6 to 1200 MHz. (I count 15 bands.) With eight of fifteen bands on both CW and SSB it's easy to count to twenty-three.

They had the usual extras: satellite, RTTY and packet. Satellite on 5 watts? From experience I know that reaching Oscar-13 near apogee with 5 watts takes a King Kong antenna.

The TDXS Bullsheat

With eight HF bands on both CW and SSB they had a lot of wire in the air.

Consider this: Their 23 five-watters put out 115 watts total which is 4db down on our 300 watts total. One of our three stations equals their total within a db. Truly more with less. de Fred, AA4NG

On the Enjoyment of Field Day

de Dave, K5GN

(This article is directed at the majority of TDXS members, i.e. those who are planning to participate in the 1990 TDXS Field Day operation...ed)

The phrase "Field Day" connotes good things to the average guy but even better things come to mind if you're a ham. There's the sense of adventure that comes from braving both Murphy and the weather. There's the smell of hot dogs and hamburgers over a charcoal fire, the excitement of the contest, and especially the feeling of accomplishment when it all comes together in a good score. The key to FD fun, to making it all come together, is the preparations made by the team leaders and the individual hams participating in the effort. When they all get prepared ahead of time and come prepared to the FD site, they become prepared also for other club activities such as DXpeditions (and, by the way, emergency communications too!). And they have a blast doing it.

Get prepared! The best FD efforts in which this author has participated were the TDXS (K5DX) 4A win in 1987 and the Wireless Institute of the Northeast (W2RO) 15A effort in 1981. Both were well organized. Both set records. Our current Field Day Chairman, N5RP, and others are working toward another well organized effort. This is essential because success is in seeing to the details. Things don't just fall into place automatically. What organization can not provide is the commitment of the other people in the team. Stand up and be a part of the solution, and do your best to fulfill your commitments to the effort, whether they be of your time, your equipment, or both.

Know what to expect when you arrive at the site. Start with a reading of the FD rules in the May issue of QST for they are the starting point for our plans. Keep in touch by listening to the repeater and joining in during the weekly net to get the details on what we hope to do and how we expect to do it. Discuss it with the other guys whenever possible. The you'll have an idea of the layout of the stations and what tasks are involved in setting up. You'll get a picture of how the operating will go. Most importantly, you will know who the station captains are. They are the leaders on-site.

Come prepared! Pack your bag with the essentials. See the accompanying list for the "musts." Make your arrangements ahead of time with the station captains and/or other participants for things like cooking and sleeping. It is, after all, a camping trip! Pack your radio gear. Whatever it is, bring it if it is expected. Bring a spare if you can. Experienced hams bring the unexpected treasures that fit the unplanned emergencies. Most importantly pack your hope chest with a positive attitude and reasonable expectations.

Expect to work. There will be quite a number of antennas to assemble and six crank-up towers to raise and lower. Expect to get hot. It is June in Texas, you know! Expect to see people lose their cool. There is always the possibility that someone who isn't quite as well prepared as you will drop the ball and pop a cork. Don't let it be you! And don't let it spoil your

weekend. Expect to have fun. Plan to enjoy the work and the play.

Field Day is supposed to be an exercise in emergency preparedness. Of course we think of it as a contest, but that part is only about 2/5 of the story. FD really boils down to a test of your "can-do" abilities. Can you help put together a complete multi-op station in one day from a pile of rope, aluminum, and coax? Can you cope with the lids on the air? Can you spend the weekend with the rest of the hard-boiled gang without losing your head or causing nervous breakdowns? Can you help get all that gear back into Bob's barn by sun-down on Sunday? Every one of us can, provided we each put in the effort it requires.

The TDXS has shown continuous improvement as a team over the years. Throwing your full weight into such an undertaking leads to your own improvement, as well. Do some new tasks. Find ways to help. You'll be learning with the best! Don't miss the fun! The TDXS has a happy history of Field Day "can-do." (Just check the record books.) That history has been made by can-do individuals who came to play. They got organized, they prepared themselves, and they put their full effort into each aspect of the activity. In the process, they enjoyed themselves hugely and now look back with satisfaction on their part in a shared effort. They didn't miss the fun. How about you?

Packing Your Bag - Essentials for Field Day

- Sizzle - Hat, sunglasses, sunscreen cream, gloves (steel gets hot!)
- Buzz - Insect repellent (some skin softeners work well)
- Stumble - Flashlight; spare flashlight batteries
- Snore - Sleeping bag, tent, cot, whatever arrangements you care to make
- Drip - Rain gear, boots, dry clothes
- Chomp - Bring your own food supplies and make your cooking plans ahead of time.
- Slurp - At least 1 gallon of water each day
- CQ FD - Bring the gear you promised to bring and a little more

Contest News

de Dale, KG5U

(The upcoming SAREX mission is taking up all of Dale's time. We'll have to wait till next month's issue to catch up on contesting. See the schedule below for the near term...ed)

Upcoming Events

- June 1.....TDXS Monthly Meeting
- June 8-10...Ham-Com '90 Arlington, Texas
- June 9.....ARRL VHF QSO Party
- June 16.....All Asian Phone Contest
- June 23.....ARRL Field Day
- July 14.....IARU HF World Championship
- July 14.....CQ WW VHF WPX Contest

DX Report

de Bob, AK5B

Hi, seems like I just finished typing one of these columns and our esteemed editor has the nerve to ask for another one. Oh well, why not. Things are getting started a little earlier this month cuz of Ham-Com in Dallas being the second weekend of June. All because the locals there want to use the convention center for graduations! Where are the priorities?

First, I hope everyone got to work the 3D2AM, on Conway Reef. It appeared that they were on all bands with good signals. Conditions seemed to be good, though I still haven't heard them on 80. Maybe before they QRT our time schedules will coincide. Remember the QSL'S go via YASME.

Well, the big rumor on the air these days, is the pending (?) operation by the 9K2 Kuwaiti ops from 70, Yemen. Also in the papers is the story of 4W and 70 uniting! So now what country or government has the licensing authority, what is the name of the country, and will the 9K2's be on the air? Stay tuned, and if you hear a big pile up, or flurry of activity on your favorite SSB net, work em!

Starting around the 1st of June, for a two month stay, the Natal DX Group will be on the air, (QRV for those on CW) from Trindade. The calls listed in The DX Bulletin are ZY0TP on CW and ZY0TK on SSB. It says to QSL via the home calls, but the Long Island DX Bulletin has them going to "Natal DX Group, P.O. Box 597, 59021 Natal RN, Brazil". Might want to listen when they start up and find out for sure.

The VK9 Cocos-Keeling DXpedition has been delayed because of transportation problems. They should be on by the end of May and then maybe for two weeks. Those calls will be VK9EW and VK9WB.

For those of you who are planning on making it up to Dallas for the Ham-Com remember that the ARRL will have Glenn Norton, KC1MM, from the DXCC Desk available to check endorsements for your DXCC award. Keep in mind, endorsements only!

Also the Walvis Bay cards are acceptable as of June 1st. I'm taking it and my 3Y Bouvet so I can join the multitudes who will be joining the Honor Roll this year. Sure has been some FB DX on the air!

Software Review: Radio Sidekick

de Jim, N5DC

Pat Bouldin, KMSL, has written what is in my opinion one of the best logging programs I have seen for a dedicated DX'er. Though the program is very simple to operate, it has many bells, lights, and whistles.

For openers he recognizes that many, if not most, of us are on packet. To that end he has made provision for packet by leaving one of the options blank in the main menu. From within his program you can access packet with only a few keystrokes. I would recommend that you first start up his program, then exit to load your packet program. You can then return to Radio Sidekick with packet enabled. One bit of advice...be sure that your packet program resides in the same sub-directory as the Radio Sidekick program. For some reason Pat's program will not recognize a directory change.

As to the program itself, right off the bat you are given the ability to add any new DX countries yourself, no updates have to be purchased! It is quite fast and will find any country by

entering that callsign. It will give you the country name, range, beam heading, continent, and on what bands and modes you have worked that country. This assumes that you have previously input the appropriate QSO data into the database.

If you input "Jap" for example, it will find Japan, and give you the above information. The program will display or print contacts either by date, QSL status, country, or even output your entire logbook!

Pat has simplified the data entry process by having the computer enter the current date and time. He provides room for comments such as QSL Manager or any other data you may care to enter. Updating the country status is as simple as changing a "No" to a "Yes". The program does the rest. You can then send your DXCC status to the screen or printer showing country, band(s), mode(s), confirmed status (worked but not confirmed), or an asterisk for "not worked". You can show or print total country confirmation for each band.

There are more of these "bells, lights and whistles" that I will not bore you with, but I believe that Pat has probably given you the ability to do more with the program than needs to be done.

The only negative I can find, and it is a minor one, is that if you are after the ARRL 5-Band DXCC award the program prints out all of the WARC bands as well and takes a fair amount of time to do so. It is a personal thing, but I would like to see just the basic five bands listed. However I realize that many out there will want to keep their totals for the WARC bands as well.

The best news is the price. At the time I purchased my copy from Pat the price was \$29.95. I have not contacted him to verify if that is current, but to my mind it is a very, very good program at a very reasonable price.

Recent DX QSL Info

XU8DX KAMPUCHEA

F2YS/W2 Jacques

Box 1384

Millbrook, NY 12545

S21U BANGLADESH

Yasuo "Zorro" Miyazawa, JH1AJT

P. O. Box 8 Asahi

Yokohama, 241 Japan

IS0XV SPRATLY

Bra Ven Kong

Box 308

Moscow 103009 Russia

AH3C/KH5J JARVIS ISLAND

Jarmo Jaakola, OH2BN

Killetie 5 C 30

SF-00710

Helsinki 71 Finland

PA3CXC/ST0 SOUTH SUDAN

John H. Fung Loy, PA3CXC

Straussin 4

NL-2551 Nm S Gravehage

Netherlands

IA0KM S.M.O.M.

Antonio Privitera, IOIJ

Via Ceresio 34

1-00199 Roma Italy

(Courtesy of *The Southern California DX Club Bulletin...*ed)

Number of DX Spots Reported by User Call Sign (10 or more)

730	N5NMX	649	W5PWG	622	K5XI	441	WI5A
425	K5YCP	343	KC5SC	272	KC5CP	241	WD5GXB
212	N5FJY	201	KG5YA	197	WB5RUS	194	KC5M
165	NT5C	164	KG5U	163	KR0Y	162	K5FP
135	ND5D	134	W5EHM	120	KE5FI	118	W5RK
108	KE5IV	103	NR5M	103	WA9VLI	94	N5RP
90	WD5N	90	N5NMY	88	NN5O	87	K5RVK
86	KF5PE	76	KA5W	70	K5/G3WQO	67	K5EWJ
66	AA5ME	65	WB5BIR	59	N5GM	58	AK5B
53	WB5HJV	51	K5RW	50	WD5F	50	W5USM
48	W5HTG	48	WB5UUK	44	W5ASP	42	KI3L
41	K9MK	39	AA5DX	39	K2TNO	39	WC5Q
36	N5RZ	36	WK5I	31	AB5A	30	KS1G
29	N5TP	28	K5KJ	28	KG5NA	28	KG5DK
27	N5TC	26	K5WA	26	N5CHI	25	KG5QG
25	KG5ND	24	W5RAN	24	N5HD	23	W5XJ
22	W5BOS	22	N5AR	20	W5TCX	19	N3BB
19	KB5RF	18	W0VX	18	KG5VK	17	WN4KKN
16	K09Y	16	K5AQ	16	NY5L	16	KD5GD
16	K5LP	15	K5PC	15	W5XD	14	NI5M
14	KA5BJY	14	W5BKK	14	KA5DNP	13	WA5CMI
13	WA5YKO	13	N5HRG	13	AA5KI	12	WS5E
12	W5AC	12	KA5ZZE	12	WB5NXH	11	NJ5N
11	K5BZU	11	WD5N/M	11	N5DC	10	WD5CHM
10	K5NW	10	K5GKC	10	W5KNE	10	KF5AR
10	WQ5J	10	KM5X				

Number of DX Spots per Band

Band	Frequency Range	Number	% total	
160	1800 - 2000	99	1.1%	
80	3500 - 3775	213	2.4%	
75 SSB	3775 - 4000	407	4.6%	80 M Band total = 7.0%
40	7000 - 7150	679	7.6%	
40 SSB	7150 - 7300	28	0.3%	40 M Band total = 8.0%
30	10100 - 10150	10	0.1%	
20	14000 - 14150	1242	14.0%	
20 SSB	14150 - 14350	2210	24.9%	20 M Band total = 38.8%
17	18068 - 18110	25	0.3%	
17 SSB	18110 - 18168	30	0.3%	
15	21000 - 21250	808	9.1%	
15 SSB	21250 - 21450	725	8.2%	15 M band total = 17.2%
12	24890 - 24930	10	0.1%	
12 SSB	24930 - 24990	27	0.3%	
10	28000 - 28300	454	5.1%	
10 SSB	28300 - 29700	1775	20.0%	10 M band total = 25.1%
6	50000 - 54000	83	0.9%	
2	144000 - 148000	14	0.2%	

The most active day was 3-Mar-1990, i.e. ARRL DX Phone, with 560 DX spots.