



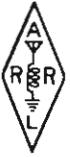
founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club



November 1990
Volume XIV
Number 11

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

President	Ken Grabenstein, KE5IV
Vice President	Jim Lane, N5DC
Secretary	Barbara Coleman, WB5RUS
Treasurer	Chuck Coleman, K5LZO
Bullsheet Editor	Joe Staples, W5ASP
Contest Chairman	Dale Martin, KG5U
DX Chairman	Bob Walworth, AK5B
Field Day Chairman	Bob Perring, N5RP
Legal Chairman	
Repeater Chairman	Jim Lane, N5DC

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 Bullsheet 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, either DS/DD or DS/HD. If necessary, files may be sent to "Dr. William Schrader" via FAX at 713-790-1275. For those with VHF Packet and having access to any of the local Digipeaters, or able connect directly, ASCII text can be sent directly to the Editor. Contact W5ASP at (713) 974-3455 to arrange such file transfers.

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 will take place on **Friday, November 9, 1990**. As this date coincides with the opening of Houston Com-Vention '90, the meeting will be held at the Sheraton Crown Hotel, 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd. This is the same location used for the convention for the past two years and is just north of the Beltway 8 exit into Houston's Intercontinental Airport. Dale, KG5U, and Kenny, KE5IV, have taken a room at the Hotel that will be used to host the TDXS meeting and also serve as a "watering hole" for TDXS during the convention. (The perennial TDXS Hospitality Suite will not be held this year.) The room number will be announced over the repeater Friday afternoon and will be known at the Hotel registration desk. The gathering should begin sometime after 7:00 P.M. with the meeting starting around 7:30 P.M. Our Prez has called a meeting of the TDXS Board of Directors to tussle with such issues as the '91 dues, the January banquet and prospective new members. (This session should get underway no later than 6:30 P.M.) TDXS members are encouraged to attend the club meeting to voice their views on these issues and to hear the election results first hand. Visitors are welcome to attend and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

Bullsheet Mailing List - TDXS wishes to provide the Bullsheet to those amateurs in the Houston area with an active interest in DXing and contesting. Donations to help defray publication and mailing costs are appreciated. Visitors to our club meetings will receive the Bullsheet for three months free of charge simply by

DX Packet Cluster - The TDXS sponsors the TDXS Contest and DX PacketCluster Bulletin Board (PCBS) located in Hempstead, TX operating on 144.990 MHz with the call KE5IV. A local digipeater is now operational on 144.990 MHz from the Greenway Plaza area to provide convenient access to this PacketCluster. This Digi has the "alias" TDXS. The suggested procedure is to connect with TDXS first (C TDXS) and then, when the prompt (?) appears, connect to KE5IV (C KE5IV). There is an alternative path on 144.91 MHz, also under KE5IV's call, with a high, multi-element 2 meter beam pointed towards Houston. This allows those on the west side of Houston the option of connecting directly with Hempstead and has the virtue of giving somewhat faster response. The Galveston County DX PacketCluster, now located in La Marque, is now active under the call KC5SC and is 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. (For more information on this system see the note by Bobby, KC5SC, in this issue.) Both clusters are frequently linked into Austin, Dallas and beyond for added DX coverage, especially during contests. In addition to listing current DX spots, the system provides access to a wide variety of DX related information such as the W6GO QSL Manager list, Russian oblasts, WWV propagation, beam headings, etc. Users are requested to limit their use of these "databases" to off-peak hours so as to minimize the side effects on others. A quick check of the status shown in the opening message which appears upon connection will indicate the number of nodes/users active at the time. Otherwise all users are encouraged to query the various data banks and make full use of their many features. A complete list of the PacketCluster commands can be obtained by sending a S.A.S.E. to the TDXS at the address shown above.

The Prez Sez

de Ken, KE5IV

It is hard for me to believe that we are in the month of November and the another year is almost behind us. The ballots for the 1991 TDXS officers are in the mail. Please make your choice for each elected position and mail the ballot back to our Secretary, Barbara, WB5RUS, a.s.a.p. If you are running late and/or don't trust the U.S. Postal Service, bring your ballot to the November meeting.

The November meeting will be held at the Sheraton Crown Hotel at IAH during the Houston Ham Convention. The room number will be announced later, as Dale, KG5U, and I won't know what it is until we sign in on Friday. The "mini" hospitality suite will be informal, much like we had at the convention in Dallas earlier this year. I am sure there will be a gathering for the meal before the meeting at some lucky establishment.

I want to thank all those who put DX announcements out on the PacketCluster during CQ WW SSB. There were 1170 spots put out during the 48 hour period (or should I say 36 hour...it gets really quiet between 12 A.M. and 6 A.M.!).

For CQ WW SSB the TDXS had a fair showing with KSGA, W5ASP and WB5N operating from Belize as V31K. K5RVK and crew were active from the Lumberyard. NR5M may have fallen just short of a new U.S.A. 10M record. KE5FI was toughing it out with the QRN and QRM on 75M. K5LZO/MM was noted working people from Zone 14. PLEASE put down clearly the Club affiliation as TDXS when sending in your entry. (We have had a sad showing recently due to this omission.)

The November QST is out with the results of Field Day. We can add 2A to the other categories in which the Texas DX Society has been credited with 1st Place. Even if we fell short of a new record, we came out on top. Thanks to all the members at the site and those in Houston whose efforts made this happen.

If you participate in ARRL Sweepstakes SSB or CW, be sure to show Texas DX Society for the Club score.

The Board of Directors needs to have a short meeting before the start of the regular monthly meeting this month. There are several items of business we really need to discuss. Those involved...be there! See you then.

DX Report

de Bob, AK5B

Houston Com-Vention '90 happens November 9-11. I'm looking forward to seeing lots of folks this week-end. If you haven't seen Dr. Tuna's (K2TNO) receiver clinic, don't miss it this time. Other members of the club who are participating include Mike, KC5CP, who will talk about DXing on 10 Meters and Chuck, KE5FI, talking on the design and construction of antennas for DX and contesting. So, CU there. It should be a fun weekend.

Got QSL cards or DXCC paperwork submitted to the League that you are waiting to hear back from? Take heart. On the 20th of October I got back my paperwork that I'd turned in at Visalia on April 7. Just 6 1/2 months. So don't give up hope, the system does work.

Didn't get to work T33JS, Banaba Is., when Jim Smith was there? According to the ARRL DX Bulletin, a major expedi-

tion is planned for November 7 to 21 by an all-star team including OH2BH, OH1RY, SM7PKK, JG2BRI and TF3CL. Using 5 complete stations, their calls will be T33T on CW and T33R on SSB. QSL chores will be handled by OH3GZ.

The following notice concerning Callbooks is from the DX Bulletin. Duane Heise, AA6EE, is offering pre-publication prices on the 1991 Callbooks. Either edition for \$24.95, or both for \$48.95, postpaid in the US and possessions. Send your check by November 23 to Duane Heise, 16832 Whirlwind, Ramona Cal. 92065.

Well the bad news is that it looks like the DXpedition to VP8 South Georgia and VP8 South Sandwich Islands has been postponed but not cancelled. Seems the current cost of fuel has put the price of the ship out of sight. An additional \$40,000 plus. Tony, WA4JQS, the leader of the DXpedition, says that all equipment and supplies on hand will be stored until the DXpedition becomes reality. All expenses have been paid by the team members themselves and all donations are safe in a bank account. Tony also noted that other possibilities are being investigated.

Yes, the "NNQ" you've been hearing on the bands is indeed Lloyd Colvin, W6KG. Seems Lloyd and Iris did get the license and are now operating from Mozambique as C9QL. I even heard that Iris showed up this last weekend during the CQ WW Phone contest. Bet that was pile-up deluxe! Rumor has it that the next stop on the tour will be 5R. No license yet, but they didn't have one for C9 till they got there either. If it can be done, look for them on the bands towards the end of the month.

Congratulations to Don, K5AAD. Look in the November QST for the latest Honor Roll listings. Don is in there with ALL of them! 323/351. Get out the old magnifying glass and look over the listing. No, I didn't get my cards into the league in time, so it will have to be the next listing before you see my call, but there are quite a few TDXSers in there. Congratulations to all.

Another sad note. Due to a 16-0 vote by the DXAC, Grosse Ile. C10GI will not be accepted as a new country. Oh well, the ops had fun anyway.

And for a final note. On the up side of things, rumor has it via the INDXA Net on 14.236 Mhz, that there will be an operation this month from San Felix Is. using the call XQ0X. Reported to be one operator to show up around the 15th to 20th of November and be QRV for a couple of weeks. QSL Via CE3ESS. Best bet would be to keep an ear on the INDXA Net frequency for the latest.

That's about it for this month. Hope everyone got their ballots in for club officers. We have a good slate of eager candidates, so be sure to vote. 73 es DX.

Upcoming Events

- November 09.....TDXS Monthly Meeting
- November 09.....Houston Com-Vention '90
- November 17.....ARRL Sweepstakes SSB
- November 24.....CQ World Wide CW DX Contest
- November 30.....ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- December 08.....ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- December 14.....TDXS Monthly Meeting

The TDXS Bullsheat

DXCC News

ARRL BULLETIN 44
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT
NOVEMBER 2, 1990
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

The ARRL Awards Committee has accepted the following recommendations of the DX Advisory Committee.

Germany - Effective October 3, 1990, the German Democratic Republic, Y2 through Y9, is deleted, because that country was absorbed by the Federal Republic of Germany on that date. Contacts with Y2 through Y9 stations on or after October 3, 1990, and contacts with DA through DL stations on or after September 17, 1973, will be credited as the Federal Republic of Germany.

Yemen - Effective May 22, 1990, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, 7O, and the Yemen Arab Republic, 4W, are deleted. In their place, a new country, Yemen, 7O, is added effective the same date. March 1, 1991, has been set as the earliest date for submission of cards for credit for the new Yemen listing. Honor Roll members who have made contact with Yemen since May 22, 1990, will be able to update their credits during the month of March 1991, prior to publication of the next Honor Roll listing.

Satellite DXCC - Texas Style

Among the multitude of DXCC awards sponsored by the ARRL there is one that's still quite rare. It's the Satellite DXCC Award for working and confirming 100 DXCC countries via earth orbiting satellite. Keeping with the tradition of other Texas DXers, local AMSAT coordinator Jack Douglas, KA5DNP, recently received DXCC Satellite Certificate Number 30. (Some of you may recall that Jack made quite a fine presentation on satellite operations at one of the TDXS meeting several years ago.) Although there is a small devoted CW group active on the "birds", Jack's contacts were exclusively SSB.

Of the first thirty Satellite DXCC certificates awarded, slightly more than half (19) were issued to stateside hams, with Nikki, K5ADQ, a long term HF DXer from New Mexico, being the only other Fifth District ham to receive this award.

As with any relatively new mode, the difficulty in attaining the award lies in the limited number of countries that have active satellite operators. Considerably less than 200 DXCC countries have ever been heard. However, there is widespread activity for among those that Jack collected were 4J1FS, XX9, OH0, P29, FO0XX (Clipperton), TF, OX, 5N3, DP0 (Antarctica), and VP8. Some new ones coming up this winter are VQ9, D6, S79, T32, and for the second time CE0 (Juan Fernandez).

If you've worked them all and are looking for a real challenge, try something different and set your sights on Satellite DXCC. Or, and this is also a tough one, have a go at WAS via OSCAR!

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 con-

testers. 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.

Contest Corner

de Dale, KG5U

The 1990 CQ World Wide SSB and the ARRL CW Sweepstakes Contests are history. Logs are being completed and prepared for submission as this is written. I hope a lot of you got a chance to get on and get in on the fun. I spent little, if any, time in either one, but what little time I was able to spend with them was fun. Get your logs in, no matter how puny your score. **REMEMBER** to claim Texas DX Society affiliation on your summary sheet.

Local CQ WW SSB Scores

NR5M - 2093 QSOs, 152 Countries, 36 Zones, 1.13 Meg
GM0ECO - 4065 QSOs, 320 Countries, 100 Zones, 4.25 Meg
V31K (K5GA, W5ASP, WB5N) 6146 QSOs, 435 Countries, 130 Zones, 9.6 Meg
K5BDA (K5BDA, W5P, W5PWG) - M/S - 697 QSOs, 260 Countries, 101 Zones, 702 K
KE5FI - S/B 75M - 314 QSOs, 72 Countries, 26 Zones, 85,000 Pts
W9AGH - S/O AB - 250 QSOs, 80 Countries, 25 Zones, 73,000 Pts

Also to be noted is GM0ECO's score in the RSGB 21/28 Mhz Contest of 888 QSOs with 130 Mults. for 335 K.

Next up is the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contest the weekend of November 17-19. Always a fun one and a good way to pick up on 5BWAS.

For those not going to the Houston Com-Vention the weekend of November 9, here's how to spend your time.

Japan International DX Contest: 9/2300-11/2300z. JA works the world; 10-80m (no WARC), SSB-only. RS+3digit QSO number. See November 1990 CQ Magazine for details.

European RTTY Contest: 10/1200-11/2400z; RST+progressive QSO number. See November 1990 CQ Magazine for details.

Czechoslovakian Contest (is this an OK contest?): 10/1200-11/1200z. CW/SSB, RS(T) and ITU Zone. See November 1990 CQ Magazine for details.

Other upcoming contests:

CQ World-Wide DX Contest - CW - 24/0000z-25/2400z Exchange signal report and CQ zone number. Details in Sep QST and Sep CQ.

ARRL 160M Contest - 30/2200z-02/1600z; CW only; RST & ARRL Section. See Nov 1990 QST, p. 85.

ARRL 10M Contest - 8/0000-9/2400z; RS(T) and State; note a new power level category: QRP! See Nov 1990 QST, p. 84

CQ WW 160M CW Contest - Feb 16-17

ARRL DX CW Contest - Feb 22-24

CQ WW 160M SSB Contest - Mar 2-3

ARRL DX SSB Contest - Mar 16-17

Deadlines

Dec 1 - CQ WW DX SSB

Dec 31 - ARRL Sweepstakes CW & SSB

Jan 15 - CQ WW DX CW

KUDO's

KF5MY for DXCC Mixed endorsement number 310
 KC5M for DXCC CW endorsement number 308
 W5LLU for DXCC 10Meters endorsement number 257

DXCC Honor Roll

Mixed

K5AAD - 351/323
 K5DX - 359/318
 K5RC - 339/317
 K5YCP - 331/317
 K5BZU - 329/316
 N5EA - 332/316
 W5UN - 355/316
 KC5M - 318/315

SSB

K5DX - 354/318
 K5YCP - 331/317
 W5JWM - 351/316
 KC5M - 316/314

QSL Notes

Here is a list of countries not served by the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau: A5, A6, A7, BV, C9, D6, ET, HZ, J5, KC4, KC6, KH1, KH3, KH5, KH7, KH9, KP1, KP5, P5, SU, T2, T3, T5, TJ, TL, TN, TT, TY, TZ, V4, VP3E, VR6, XT, XU, XW, XX9, XZ, YA, ZA, ZD7, ZD9, ZK3, 3C, 3V, 3W, 3X, 42, 5A, 5H, 5R, 5U, 5X, 7O, 7Q, 8Q, 9G, 9N, and 9U.

The last bunch of cards processed contained a couple of the above listed countries. These will be returned at the next meeting. Also, be sure that when you include a CURRENT QST address label, not one a year and a half old.

For Sale - Kenwood TL-922A, HF Amplifier - \$800
 Toshiba T-1000 Laptop Computer, 1.3M RAM, modem, \$700
 Santronics UTU-XT RTTY/AMTOR/CW w/CompRTTY
 Software \$100 Contact Larry, W9AGH, 483-2656 (W), 326-1971 (H)

Packet Racket

de Ken, KE5IV

The CQ WW Phone Contest was a good test for the Cluster, even if we were "stand alone" most of the contest. With about 1200 spots made locally, it was a thorough test. Talk, announcements, and databases queries were held to a minimum. Again thanks!

There are a few things I need to modify here at Hempstead with regard to the antennas. I noticed a couple of things I need to change also at the TDXS digi. The changes here and at the Digi will solve about six user problems.

Now comes the Quiz.

My first question is: How many of you are using a stub or tuned filter to keep HF or near channel RF out of your 2 Meter rig?

1. The stub is easy to build. All that is needed is a piece of RG-213/U 13.5" long with a PL-259 on one end with the center conductor and shield shorted together and soldered. Use a UHF "Tee" connector on your 2 Meter radio antenna connector, with one side going to stub and the other side attached your regular 2 Meter antenna. For the perfectionists in the group, the actual length is 13.44132459". Close enough?

2. A better method can be found in the chapter on Interference in the ARRL Handbook. The description is given under Filters for VHF Transmitters. (Page 40-10 in the 1987 edition) This method uses a tuned strip-line filter providing a level of rejection far beyond that of the simple coaxial stub. K2TNO has used this with his IC2-AT to keep local Medical Center

paging transmitter RF out of the receiver's front end. I have used it during contests at NR5M to keep near field RF out of the PacketCluster, and lately, I have added it to the system to keep the paging amplifiers out of the TDXS digi.

My second question is: At what level is your volume control set, and are you using a speaker in along with your TNC?

1. Very few of the radios that I have seen need to have the volume advanced past the 9 to 9:30 position (as if it were a clock or watch). The best approach to this that I know of is to turn off the squelch and turn down the volume. Then bring the volume up just past the point where the DCD or RCVE light comes on. Now increase the squelch level to where the DCD or RCVE light is off without faulting on noise.

2. Remember that your TNC has an audio preamp in it. If you don't load the circuit by using an external speaker in parallel, then use a 2 watt 8 ohm resistor in parallel. If you run just the TNC into the speaker jack you are asking for problems. Plain and simple, you are going to flat-top the audio in the TNC.

My third question is: Do you know if your radio is on frequency? What is the deviation setting? How about the input level of the audio from TNC?

1. I can tell you that one of the radios on the Cluster was off just 800 cycles one afternoon when Bob, K5VMX, checked it for me. Does'n't sound like much, but once it was corrected, it sure made a difference in the number of retries for the Cluster and the users.

2. Unlike FM on a voice repeater, you will find a deviation setting of 3.5 KHZ is superior to the standard setting of 5 KHZ. People more knowledgable than I say it will improve the Bit Error Rate. 3. The TNC's have provisions to set the audio output to the mike input on your radio. For example the GE MVP needs about 100 mv into the input. The Kenwood TM-231A needs about 50 mv, and the Kenwood TR-7800 about 35 mv. As you will notice, there is no real all purpose set-up. Read the manual on your TNC and your 2 Meter radio.

During periods of high activity, like CQ WW or ARRL DX, if you are having a problem staying connected and you are not putting out DX announcements, just configure your TNC to monitor just packets from the Cluster. You will still have the same information.

Galveston County DX PacketCluster

de Bobby, KC5SC

The Galveston County DX PacketCluster has been moved from its original site at Santa Fe, TX to a new location in La Marque, TX. The call has been changed from K5FP to KC5SC. The 144.93 Mhz antenna is presently at 95 feet. Within the next few weeks it will be moved to its planned height of 115 feet. The transmitter operating on the 144.93 Mhz port is running 150 watts to a vertical antenna. This vertical will be replaced by a 14 element vertically polarized yagi at the new 115 ft height. At this time the 144.97 Mhz port is running 50 watts to a vertical antenna located at 45 feet and is intended to serve local users. At some later date the antenna for this port will be moved to a new 100 ft tower which will be erected just for this purpose. The 450 Mhz link to the KE5IV PacketCluster in Hempstead, TX is somewhat marginal now due to the 60 ft antenna height. This link will be moved to the 144.93 Mhz tower with a transmitted power of 35 watts. Transfer of equipment from K5FP's location to the new site continues and should be completed shortly. We'll keep folks posted as this work progresses.