



founded 1970

# THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club



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

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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 Bullsheat 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, October 12, 1990**. Thanks to the efforts of Jim, N5DC, this meeting will again be held at **Gabby's BBQ, 3101 North Shepherd**. This is located 1 block north of Loop 610 North on North Shepherd and is on the west side of the street. It is well marked by a large outside sign and has ample parking. It has "walk-thru" food service and the group will be seated together off to one side of the main dinning area. The gathering should begin sometime between 6:30 and 7:00 P.M. with the meeting starting sometime after 7:30 P.M. As this meeting will be another high point on our busy calendar of outstanding "social events", no formal program is scheduled (though Frank, W5JWM, will be hosting an informal question and answer period on the stock market and it's effects on high frequency propagation).

(Keep in mind that is meeting will be the last occasion for nominations for TDXS office. Polish up your nominating speeches and be sure to bring along the candidate of your choice! TDXS members are urged to turn out en masse for this one. The summer doldrums are over and now is the time to get back in high gear...ed)

Visitors are welcome to attend and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

**Bullsheat Mailing List** - TDXS wishes to provide the Bullsheat 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 Bullsheat for three months free of charge simply by signing the Attendance List and including their mailing address.

**DX Packet Cluster** - The TDXS sponsors the Waller County Contest and DX PacketCluster bulletin board located in Hempstead, TX operating on 144.990 MHz with the call KE5IV. A new 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, continues to be active under the call K5FP and is on 144.97 MHz. It is usually connected with KE5IV. Stations in the southern parts of Houston may find it easier to connect with this cluster. K5WA is often available as a digi on 144.97 MHz to assist in accessing the K5FP Cluster. (This Cluster's call will be changed from K5FP to KC5SC as soon as the new software arrives. Bobby, KC5SC, is taking over as SYSOP from Fred, K5FP, who had been looking after this Cluster.)

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.

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**The Prez Sez**

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de Ken, KESIV

For those members and the other club's who sent mail to the TDXS Post Office box...I am sorry. We were about two weeks late getting the annual payment for the next year to the USPS.

The TDXS now has a slate of nominees, two for each of the four elected officers, that was proposed by a Nominating Committee made up of the past TDXS Presidents. This does not mean that you, as a full member of TDXS, can't nominate another full member for any of the elected positions. Please do! Nominations will be accepted from the floor during the October meeting.

As I pointed out in my column last month, I am tired of the Board being the only one coming up with the nominations. It is time for the membership to voice their opinion. The older members of the Club can remember when there were at least three members running for each of the elected positions.

I must give K5RC a bunch of "Atta Boys" for his idea about brunch at the Hyatt while W6OAT, Rusty, was in town for the weekend. For those who missed it, the gathering was joined by Brad, W5ADZ and Dick, N5AA. Now for trivia, what have they both done that affects us? This is directed at the newer members!

I had hoped that by now there would have been several members of the Club who would have stepped forward to put on a TDXS program during the Houston ham convention coming up in November. I guess that's out and the only other option is for the Board to set new dues this month and have the Club vote on it the following month. The question I keep asking myself...is it burnout, or just plain apathy?

Hopefully, at the October meeting, there will be two prospects introduced to the membership as potential new members. We gained two new additions last month. Wes, AC5K is returning to the Club, and Don, KI3L enters as a new member. Don did get into N.A. Sprint, both modes. Thanks Don and to those others who took the time to get on for Sprint. I did forward the SSB Sprint logs from K5LZO/MM to Rick, K7GM.

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**DX Report**

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de Bob, AK5B

Maybe this month! **Albania, ZA.** Per the *Long Island DX Bulletin*, HA5WA and HA5WE have received the promised approval from the government of Albania. They are getting things ready to go, time off from work, etc. They plan to get there sometime in first half of October and then be on the air for about two weeks. Let's keep our fingers crossed...AGAIN!

**St. Paul Island, CY.** FP5DX and FP/VE1KM are planning on being there during October 20-30, and are hoping for either CY9SPI or CY9DX.

Seen in the *DX News Sheet*: OH2BH, Martti Lane has passed his U.S. license examination on Johnston Island and has been issued the call AH3D. That's a long way to go to get a 2x1 call!

Just one month left until the BIG Houston ham convention. Sure hope all of you are planning to be a part of the festivities in one form or another. Should be a lot of fun. Linda and I were looking forward to hosting Wayne, W4MPY and Lola for

the weekend, but just got a note the other day saying that they had to change their plans and won't be able to make it. They will surely be missed. Have to wait till Dayton to see them again.

Saw the following note in the September issue of the "Telephone Pioneer DX Digest" and thought I'd pass it along. A free map of the Pacific Islands is available from the State of Hawaii's Department of Business and Economic Development. The map shows all major island groups and is a worthwhile addition to your DX reference library. Send request to: State of Hawaii, Department of Business and Economic Development, P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, HI 96804.

Also this month, I received a letter from Jan Perkins, N6AW. Seems they have put together a 350 page hardbound book describing the history of amateur radio, as experienced by Don Wallace, W6AM. This info was sent along with a few order forms, to pass along to any interested old timers (like maybe Frank, W5JWM, subject of last month's graphical insert...ed). The prepublication price is \$19.95 and can be ordered from: Wallace and Wallace, 11823 Slauson Ave., Suite 38, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. Get in touch with me and I'll see that you get an order form.

**Thailand, HS0.** For another YASME contact, look for K3ZO, Fred Laun to be QRV from October 4 thru 20. Should be mostly CW, and he will probably operate from either club station HS0AC or HS0AIT.

While on the subject on YASME, don't forget that Lloyd and Iris are out and about. Currently QRV from Malawi using the call 7Q7KG. Their next stop is still up in the air and depends on the licensing situation in other nearby countries.

Looking for IOTA contacts? Don't forget to monitor 14.260, 21.260 and 28.460 mHz for all the latest poop. PS7AB reports that on Oct. 5-15, ZX0CW (on CW) and ZX0DX (on SSB) will be on all bands from Sao Joao Island (SA-41). Also, mark your calendar for the first ever operation from Turneffe Island (NA-123) on Nov 21-25. The call will be V31TI, and is being aired by V31's SW, KX, and YL. (Turneffe Is. is just off the coast of Belize. Note that V31KF will be on from nearby Ambergis Caye (NA-73) October 25-29...ed)

Last but not least, let us not forget that this month is the first of the two big DX contests of the year...eagerly looked forward to by all. This month is the SSB portion of the CQ WW DX Contest on Oct. 27-28. Next month is the CW version on Nov. 24-25. Now's a good time to fill out your band/country count.

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**QSO**

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de Joe, W5ASP

A "mini" DXpedition is being mounted by K5GA, W5BN and W5ASP to V3 for the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest. We expect to put V31KF on the air during the October 25/30 period operating multi-single for the contest. Look for us on all bands and be sure to put it out on packet whenever you run across V31KF. We plan this to be a serious effort...tribander, amps, etc. Call early and call often! And tell your friends!

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## Repeater Report

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de Jim, N5DC

By the time you read this, I hope we will have moved the repeater antenna to the south side of the building. This will give us a chance to see if we can eliminate some of the dead spots in our present coverage. In addition, we should be operating with hardline rather than Belden 9913 coax that we installed as a "stopgap" measure to quickly get us on the air after the move.

I had reinstalled the GASFET preamp after it's return from being repaired. However, I am not convinced that it does much good. Several on-the-air checks failed to show any clear signs of improvement, and in fact, there were definite signs of an increase in the intermod. As a result, the preamp is no longer in the line.

The main concern for now is to carefully check out the coverage from the new antenna location. There's a good chance that if we do find improvement in some areas, it will probably fall off somewhat in others. But we won't know till we try.

Another option open to us is the use of a power divider with two antennas, one on the north side of the building and the other one on the south.

Again, the building management are breaking their backs to help out, and have given us a blank check (almost) to get the whole system running to our best advantage. I shall keep you advised as to our progress, as we get various things done. There is a need for your considered input as to whether or not the changes have helped or hurt the coverage in your particular area of interest.

I really feel that with the local PacketClusters going full blast, the philosophy of the TDXS Repeater is undergoing a basic change. It should no longer be regarded as the primary means of DX and Contest spotting. It has in fact become a more general purpose machine, one that is used by club members for day to day coverage, both mobile and fixed station. The fact that one only occasionally hears DX spots being put out on the repeater, just reinforces this feeling. This is in no way intended to discourage the use of the repeater for putting out DX. On the contrary I hope you will use the repeater as you see fit. We bought it, it's ours, and we can use it however we wish.

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## Visitors from the Hinterlands

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de Joe, W5ASP

On Sunday, September 23rd, a group of the locals gathered at the Hyatt out on I-10 West to fill their plates with food and the air with their chatter. The occasion was the presence in town of Rusty, W6OAT, just recently returned from the WRTC. In addition both Trey, WN4KKN and Rick, K7GM/5, from the Austin/College Station area, put in an appearance.

The local group consisted of Sid, K5XI; Tom, K5RC & Midge; Dick, N5AA & Brad, W5ADZ; Barbara, W5RUS & Chuck Jr, N5IVF; KE5IV, N5RP, KE5FI, KG5U, N5DM, AK5B and W5ASP. Tom and Sid are to be credited with putting the idea forth and spreading the word to the troops...thanks!

It turned out to be quite a nice "Sunday afternoon social". Perhaps the TDXS should consider an occasional change from the usual Friday night meeting scenario. Perhaps it would allow some of the folks who can't break loose on Friday to stop by for a visit.

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## TDXS Election News

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At the September meeting the Nominating Committee submitted the following list of nominees for TDXS Officers for 1990. *President* - Jim, N5DC & Bill, K5GA; *Vice President* - John, K5JS & Phil, K5RVK; *Secretary* - Butch, K5GB & Jim, NN5O; *Treasurer* - Dale, KG5U & Dave, WB5N. Each of these nominees has agreed to have their names placed in nomination and to serve if elected.

Additional nominations from the floor will be accepted during the October meeting. (PLEASE check first to obtain the consent of anyone whose name is to be placed in nomination!) No further nominations can be accepted after the October meeting. Ballots will be mailed to each full member by November 1st. The results will be announced at the November meeting.

TDXS is fortunate to have this fine slate of candidates, and with the chance of additional nominees, this election should get everyone's close attention. Support the candidates of your choice and be sure your ballot gets in to be counted!

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## Packet Racket

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de Ken, KESIV

Hi Gang. Well TDXS (the new Digi) is cooking right along, though it still needs a few things tweaked up a bit. I know that in "Node" the RETRY is too short, and it is still seeing the nearby paging systems. There has been a change, as there are now as many as 10 to 15 users connected "via" or "thru" it.

In the next couple of weeks I will make a trip to the garden spot of the earth...Thrall, Texas. There we will put up another digi on 440 MHz to provide the backbone link. KG5ND will add the necessary radio to make it work. Trey, WN4KKN, will then really have it tough, I hope he can get into the Cluster from 200 feet away! That will put him in the same situation as W5JWM...with the antenna perched on the file cabinet.

The K5FP PacketCluster has been moved to the La Marque QTH of KC5SC and soon will change to Bobby's call. Would the TDXS like to buy my Cluster, so I can go fishing like Fred? Never mind... what with the money already allocated to the station in Mexico, to the Bullsheat, etc., the Club would only end up in the same place as the S & L and Banking folks around the country...called broke!

According to Tom, K5RC (who is the Editor and ought to know about such things), Jay, W6GO will start writing a column for the NCJ each issue on PacketCluster. I just don't understand how he does it. He has already become the main clearing house for the new databases from all the SYSOP's on the various Clusters. I'm sure you have all noted that the Cluster doesn't miss a lick while I download everything Jay needs to keep things current...thanks again to Jay.

Speaking of the W6GO/K6HHD QSL Manager List, remember the presence of this feature on the KE5IV Cluster it is still an experiment. If the subscriptions from the other users fall off, what drive is there for Jay and Jan to continue to do it. It takes a lot of time on their part to put it together. They turn out a quality product. They now have a lot more input each month with 57 Clusters as servers and another 80 Clusters connected, all gathering information. This gives Jay and Jan the means to verify the information. If you are not a subscriber to the W6GO/K6HHD QSL Manager List and you are chasing DX, you are really missing a great tool!

My next project will be to put up another digi at KSLZO's on the 20 M tower. This will help the path to Conroe, The

Woodlands, New Caney, Tomball, F.M.1960 and Kingwood. If you have problems or questions, drop me a note. Ken E. Grabenstein, KE5IV, P.O. Box 922, Hempstead, TX 77445-0922

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## It Helps to Know the Rules

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de G3SXW

(A lot has been said recently about operating practices relative to the pileups created by DXpeditions and the rash of new and/or rare countries coming on the air. One item that caught my eye was a set of guidelines set forth by G3SXW in the *RSGB's DX News Sheet* and later republished in the August QST How's DX column. To the DXer (or Contester) knowing the rules the other guy is playing by often makes logging the contact (or multiplier) a lot easier. Keep them in mind...they may help...ed)

**Pick out a call.** Pick out a signal and reply to it, even if it's only a partial call. Persist until a two-way contact is completed. If it's just a wall of noise, listen at the edge of the pileup.

**Be brief.** Transmit only the call sign and RS(T), then confirm ("TU" on CW) each contact. If the call was wrong the first time, repeat the correct call before moving on. Give your own call every three to five contacts, depending on the QSO rate, or at least every one or two minutes. Exclude niceties. Ignore queries.

**Be regular.** Transmit consistently so the pileup quickly recognizes flow (text) and rhythm (gaps between transmissions). Transmit every few seconds, if only "?" or "QRX". Don't leave long gaps.

**Announcements.** Transmit a clear message every five minutes or so. Include your call, QSL route, DXCC country (if not self-evident), planned QSYs, etc.

**Be in charge.** You call the shots. Give clear and brief instructions and stick to them. Don't lecture. If frustrated with the pileup, shift your RX frequency.

**RX frequency.** If you are rare, always use split frequency, but aim to minimize band occupancy while maximizing QSO rate. Ask for "UP 2" (up 2 kHz) to start. When picking calls from the edge of the pileup, shift your RX frequency in a regular fashion and then the pileup will follow you. On SSB, use a maximum 20-kHz spread for RX.

**Directional calls.** Only use directional calls when call signs cannot be picked out of the pileup. Repeat your instructions (area, country, or call number) for EVERY QSO. Take a new direction every few minutes to prevent frustration. Don't miss short openings to US/VE, Europe and Japan.

**Speed.** Operate as fast as you can accurately manage, but a maximum of 35 WPM on CW.

**Close down.** Clearly announce and repeat QRT, QRX or QSY messages. Power cuts or military invasion are the only excuses for leaving the pileup hanging.

(Now that you know the rules, you're better prepared to play the game. Hope you're a winner! ...ed)

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## Operating Tips

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de Tom, N6BT

(With the peak of the 1990/91 contest season just around the corner here are some suggestions, courtesy of N6BT, for the "fine-tuned operator"...ed)

1. Look for Canadians in the Canadian portion(s) of the band (CW), or get as close as you can (SSB). Call nicely!

2. Call specific CQs for missing multipliers, especially when things get slow.

3. Realize that there is a FINITE number of multipliers calling CQ and running stations. The rest will only call you! (This is assuming that you do call CQ and are running stations.)

4. Especially under existing poor, marginal, spotty conditions, be ready to pounce on a band opening and run it for all it's worth (particularly JAs and EU).

5. Entice, solicit, induce - slow down, lower your voice, sound friendly.

6. As the run rate drops, longer transmission periods are necessary. This is especially true in stateside contests like SS where the majority of remaining, unworked stations are not "contest types". This contrasts a (high) rate situation where your transmissions need be as short as possible to maximize the available time. In this slow time your transmissions are more effective, taking up more of the time with less non-transmitting time.

7. Contrast operating techniques, like a "plodder" vs a "blitz", when the "plodder" come in ahead of the "blitz". Is this always the case?

8. Establish a "presence". As encroachers move in, slide your signal towards them, then back to you established "hole".

9. People congregate in band "sections". Be sure to move around and work all of them.

10. Test another band FIRST before giving up an established position.

11. Stay longer than you think on the band you are running. This is relative to mental rate vs actual rate.

12. Search and pounce the new band to get the feel of it and as you move up (down) the band there will be holes at which point you should call a CQ or two. Some operators search and pounce a band more than once before settling down and establishing their presence.

(Taken in part from N6BT's presentation at the 1987 International DX Convention, Visalia, CA...ed)

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## PSE QSL

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de Sharp, K5DX

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 C. E. Sharp, K5DX, 216 Meyers Road, Highlands, Texas, 77562, or bring them to the TDXS meeting. Please do it now!

## The TDXS Bullsheat

### Contest Corner

de Dale, KG5U

This month's column is going to be a bit different than my previous columns. Many of the contests coming up have been addressed in the previous editions of the Bullsheat, and the others are described in full detail in the current ham magazines. The key dates are listed in the Upcoming Events calendar found elsewhere in this newsletter. The next few months will provide plenty of "prime time" contests with something for everybody. Don't miss them!

This fall's North American Sprint contests (CW and SSB) were conducted with both members and non-members on the TDXS #1 team. A second team was put together at the last minute for the SSB Sprint, but the list didn't make the submission deadline, and hence couldn't be considered a legitimate (legal?) entry.

We had a good showing on CW with fine scores from KROY, N5RZ, K7GM/5, K5GN/5, KI3L, K5RC (who?), and others. Even KN5H/3 was in it for a bit. Wish he could have stayed longer. NM5M and ZF2NE/ZF8 were also on and put in fine scores. Unfortunately neither of them could be on the team.

The SSB version fared about as well. We had some fine scores, and we had some not so fine scores. After all was said and done, the final score was not too bad, but then it was not that great either. But everyone, I think, had FUN.

And that, having FUN, is what this contest business is really all about for most of us. Aside from the usual "it increases your operating skills" or "it extracts the ultimate from your station", the bottom line is that it is supposed to be fun.

I know a lot of us derive a lot of enjoyment out of contesting for a variety of reasons beyond the generic "operating skills" statement. I like to sit and run stations when I am QRO and conditions are good. I also enjoy the search and pounce that is needed when running QRP in a contest (how much pounce can there be at 5 watts?). I get a kick out of the changes that take place over the span of the contest period, e.g. watching the JA's start to come on 10 M on Saturday afternoon after seeing the Euro's fade away; working Europe, Africa, South Pacific, JA's, UAO's on 20 M all in there together at 0800 Z; the frenzied, but for the most part, controlled nature of NA Sprint operators and operating.

I know there are many of us who are deadly serious about our contests and how we finish in the standings. Yet it's important that we not lose sight of the fact that we got into this hobby because it was fun, and that contesting can often be the greatest fun of all.

For the past couple of years the TDXS as a group has been in the doldrums when it comes to contest participation. The loss of several of our more avid contesters during the last couple of years is unfortunate but not the disaster that some would make it out to be. We have new members who are actively getting cranked up (no pun intended) with new antennas, towers, stations, etc. Though some of our longer term members have had to turn their attention to other things for the time being, there are still quite a few of us willing and able to enter the fray. Perhaps we just need a little encouragement (i.e. push) to get started again. How about you? Isn't it time you got going again and became a part of the club effort?

There have been reports in the National Contest Journal that contest participation nationwide is suffering the same malady

that we see locally. Efforts are being made to analyze the situation and determine what steps can be taken to make the contesting aspect of the hobby a more attractive alternative. Things like expansion of the number of competitive classes and the creation of part-time participation categories are beginning to have a hearing. I hope they work.

Meanwhile, back on our home court, we also need to look at what our club can do to attract other hams into contesting. Maybe we need to go through the contest results for the 5th Call District and then personally invite those entrants living nearby to attend our meetings. I am not sure what else we can do to further the cause of contesting. I do know however, that as TDXS Contest Chairman I need your help in finding ways and means to do it. Let me know how you feel and what your ideas are...between us we ought to be able to get things back on track!

### Contest Scores

#### 1990 ARRL DX CW

WN4KKN/5 - 964 Q, 104 M, 300,768 Pts  
#1 W/VE Single Band 15 M  
K5NA/2 - 3458 Q, 505 M, 5,238,870 Pts  
#3 W/VE Multi-Multi  
N5EA(+W5s ASP,PWG,VAH,VWN) - 1105 Q, 263 M,  
871,845 Pts. #2 W/VE 5th District Multi-Single

#### 1990 ARRL DX SSB

ZF2NE/ZF8 (W5ASP) 3832 Q, 226 M, 2,598,096 Pts  
#10 DX Single Op - All Band  
GM0ECO, 3251 Q, 227 M, 2,213,931 Pts  
K5NA/2, 4482 Q, 584 M, 7,852,464 Pts  
#5 W/VE Multi-Multi  
WN4KKN/5, 653 Q, 201 M, 393,759 Pts

#### 1989 CQ WW DX CW

NR5M(+K2s TNO,UA;K5s DX,GA,GN,LZO,WA;  
KE5IV,KI3L,WB5BIR)  
5613 Q, 181 Z, 570 C, 12,302,131 Pts  
#4 USA Multi-Multi  
K5NA/2 - 5266 Q, 180 Z, 565 C, 11,350,820 Pts  
#6 USA Multi-Multi  
KI3L/5 - 304 Q, 41 Z, 83 C, 109,492 Pts.  
K5BZU - 303 Q, 34 Z, 85 C, 103,887 Pts. Single Band 15  
N5EA (K5s CJQ, RVK; W5ASP) - 1225 Q, 126 Z, 332 C,  
1,619,488 Pts  
KG5U - 395 Q, 31 Z, 84 C, 132,595 Pts  
#3 QRP 28 MHz

(Note: The TDXS club score of 3 M was 34th...wouldn't it have been nice to have another 12 M to boost it a bit...ed)

#### NA Sprint, February Phone

K5LZO - 307 Q, 45 M, 13,815 Pts; 2nd Place  
W5ASP - 242 Q, 42 M, 10,164 Pts  
K5RC - 67 Q, 31 M, 2,077 Pts

### Upcoming Events

October 06.....California QSO Party  
 October 06.....VK/ZL/Oceania DX SSB Contest  
 October 12.....TDXS Monthly Meeting  
 October 13.....VK/ZL/Oceania DX CW Contest  
 October 13.....Pennsylvania QSO Party  
 October 14.....RSGB 21/28 MHz SSB Contest  
 October 19.....AMSAT Annual Meeting - JSC  
 October 21.....RSGB 21 MHz CW Contest  
 October 21.....OMARC Midnight Special  
 October 27.....CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest  
 November 03.....ARRL Sweepstakes CW  
 November 09.....TDXS Monthly Meeting  
 November 09.....Houston Com-Vention '90  
 November 17.....ARRL Sweepstakes SSB  
 November 24.....CQ World Wide CW DX Contest

### It's T-Shirt Time!

de Joe, W5ASP

From Richard, K5NA (TDXS member #1...for the uninformed) comes his semiannual announcement of the **OMARC Midnight Special**. The big news, however, is that this fall's event marks the 25th anniversary of OMARC and there will "official" OMARC T-Shirts for the big winners. This event is set for October 21st and lasts only two hours, 0300 Z to 0500 Z with the first hour on 40 M CW and the second on 75 M SSB.

Richard has suggested on several occasions that TDXS field a team and attempt to upset the perennial winners (OMARC...of course!). If there are any contesters left out there willing to take up the challenge, get in touch with Dale, KG5U, and let's see if we still have the "right stuff".

### Incoming QSL Cards

The ARRL DX QSL Bureau consists of a number of separate call area bureaus that handle the incoming QSLs arriving from foreign countries. This service is free of charge and does not require ARRL membership. For the Fifth Call Area the address is: **ARRL Fifth (5th) District DX QSL Bureau, P. O. Box 44246, Oklahoma City, OK 73144.**

To claim cards ARRL recommends sending the bureau a number of 5 x 7 1/2 in. SASEs. To assist TDXS members in this Bob, AK5B, has obtained a supply of envelopes. He will provide 10 of the 5 x 7 1/2 envelopes along with a single 6 x 9 in which to mail them to the bureau for \$1.00. If you are interested, catch him on the repeater or call a day or so before the monthly meetings.

Full details about this ARRL service appeared in the June 1989 QST on page 72 under the heading "QSL Corner".

For those who expect to receive large quantities of cards here are a couple of suggestions. (1) Place \$1.00 postage on each 5x7 self-addressed envelope, (2) Have the post office stamp "THIRD CLASS" in the lower left, (3) Attach a label "50 Cards Minimum" beneath the "THIRD CLASS", (4) Put your call in the upper left and (5) Number the envelopes consecutively (so you will know where you stand as you receive them back from the bureau).

This approach will save a lot of agony with postage due and avoid small mailings which use up envelopes needlessly. The time delay in using Third Class won't be noticeable.

### 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 KG5U, 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 non-residents, 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 his QST address label with each group of cards submitted. Contact KG5U if you have any questions (before you drop the cards on him!).

### Grounding Checklist

de Mike, K3RL

(A two-part article, As the Lightning Strikes, by Mike, K3RL, appeared recently in *The Frankford Radio Club Newsletter*. Here is Mike's checklist. With the recent rash of problems some TDXS members have experienced, we all might do well to go over it carefully...ed)

An overview of the tasks to be performed is outlined below.

1. Install ground kits on coax and other transmission lines.
2. Install a bulkhead panel for coax cables entering the equipment shack to give mechanical support, electrical grounding and lightning protection.
3. Install an Internal Ground Bus (IGB).
4. Install an earth ground array (driving ground rods, laying radials, etc.)
5. Connect outside metal structures (towers, metal fences, metal buildings, and guy anchor points) to the earth ground array.
6. Connect power line ground to array.
7. Connect bulkhead panel to ground array.
8. Install a vertical ground bus on the equipment rack (EGB) to interconnect to each piece of equipment.
9. Connect power line surge protectors and telephone line protectors to the ground bus.
10. Connect the Equipment Ground Bus (EGB) to the Internal Ground Bus (IGB) run.

It may sound like a lot of tasks to perform, but the more precautions you take now, the safer you'll be (and feel).