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THE BULLSHEET

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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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mailing costs are appreciated. Visitors to our club meetings will receive the Bullsheet 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 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 February meeting will take place on Friday, February 8, 1991. The meeting will be held at the Briargrove Park Center. 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. North of 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 next to the tennis courts and pool. The name Briargrove Park Center is on the brick wall at the entrance. The parking lot is located between the tennis courts and the pool. The TDXS Board of Directors will get together at 6:30 P.M. The regular club meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. Those who are going on the XE trip should attend to get in on the final plans. 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 February program will be presented by Bob, N5DU, who will describe his efforts to develop the software necessary for remote control of a fully equipped contest station. Bob has written the basic software interface for computer control of the primary transceiver functions and for the switching and rotator control of multiple antennas via either a phone or VHF link. He will demonstrate this software in action, displaying the transceiver frequency, S-meter, mode, RIT/XIT, etc. readings on the computer screen and adjusting the remote rig's input/output, antenna selection and direction, and providing the audio to the operator. Don't miss this one! (Perhaps the TDXS answer to our local deed restrictions..ed)

Bullsheat 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

DX Packet Clusters - The Waller County Contest and DX PacketCluster Bulletin Board (PCBS) is located in Hempstead, Texas operating on 144.990 MHz with the call KE5IV. A local digipeater is operational on 144.990 MHz from the Greenway Plaza area to provide access to this PacketCluster. This Digi has the alias TDXS. The suggested procedure is to connect with KE5IV via TDXS (C KE5IV V TDXS). KE5IV may also be reached via IAH, IAH4 on 145.010 MHz. There is a second port operating on 144.91 MHz, also under KE5IV's call. This affords those with higher ERP, particularly on the west side of Houston, the option of connecting directly with Hempstead and gives somewhat faster response.

The Galveston County DX PacketCluster, located in La Marque, is active under the call KC5SC and is on 144.93 MHz. It is usually connected with KE5IV via the 446.100 MHz backbone link. Stations in the southern parts of Houston may find it easier to connect with this cluster. AB5A located in Dickinson, about 10 miles northwest of KC5SC, provides digis on both 144.930 and 144.970 MHz to assist in accessing the KC5SC PacketCluster. This Cluster also features a 40 Meter HF Gateway on the 144.930 MHz port.

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 Jim, N5DC

Our search for a permanent meeting site has thus far not been very successful. I still have several feelers out, and hope that we can find a spot to call "Home".

One of the problems is our traditional ice chest with the 807's. If any of you have any thoughts about the pros and cons of having our meetings without it, please let me know. I have no problem with an 807 myself, and feel that we, as a club have not had any "incidents", as they would relate to the aforementioned cooler being present. I really feel like we should have the cooler and its contents available, if we want it.

In any case as to finding a meeting site, please keep your eyes and ears open for a likely spot. I believe it should not be much (if any) outside the 610 loop. This gives us commuters a better shot at not having to leave a 4:00 P.M. on meeting day to attend. Any input you can give me, or any of the directors will be greatly appreciated.

I would like to call to your attention, the job that Joe, W5ASP, is doing as Editor of The Bullsheet. It not an easy job, and Joe is doing a bang up job; many thanks Joe! Along with this, a tip of the hat to Bill, K2TNO for his part in publishing the Bullsheet!

I also slighted Bob, AK5B at the Brady's Landing shindig. Bob has done a really outstanding job as DX Chairman for many months now. Many thanks Bob!

In closing, if you haven't been down the road with some of the super Contest or DX logging programs, crank up your computer and have a look. These programs are here to stay, and can certainly take much of the load off your shoulders in many ways.

How to Kill a Club

None of us likes to think that what we do, or don't do, will be the cause of the breakup of a group to which we belong. But a quick look at this list may remind us that our actions can have a very negative effect on the group and may sooner or later result in its going under.

1. Don't come to meetings. If you do come, be late.
2. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't even think of coming.
3. If you attend, find fault with the work of others.
4. Never accept an office or offer to help...it's easier to sit back and criticize.
5. If you're asked your opinion, say nothing. Afterward, tell everyone how things should have been done.
6. Avoid any effort on your part. While those few who work tirelessly for the benefit of the group carry on, complain loudly that the group it run by a small clique.
7. Don't bother to help bring in new members.
8. Don't offer your ideas, or accept and support the ideas of others. If things don't go your way, quite coming.
9. Agree to everything at the meeting...disagree afterwards.
10. Accept all the benefits of being a group memeber, but don't make personal contributions.
11. Talk about cooperation...don't practice it!
12. Avoid participation in group supported activities, then question why they were not more successful.

Perhaps by avoiding these mistakes we can all make sure that our group is there when we need it.

DX Report

de Bob, AK5B

Didn't make it to the banquet? You missed a really fun time that was had by all. We were even able to get there and back without freezing weather and bad driving conditions. Thanks to Jim, N5DC, and Ken, K5YCP, for securing the many fine door prizes. Special thanks go to Evie, KF5MY, for the very nice women's prize that Linda, KE5TF (my wife) won. One thing that many of us may not have realized was that a significant part of the ticket price went toward these prizes. Next year we will very likely be trying a new location, so be sure to put on your calendar.

I got on during the NAQP this past weekend and really had a ball. To bad I had to work, as the activity was gone from 10 meters by the time I got on the air. Did have a few interesting DX stations give me a call though. Father Moran, 9N1MM and Martti Lane, OH2BH both called and we did pass more than just the contest report. A fun contest at not so hectic a pace. My first time to try that one, but definitely not my last.

Speaking of contests, don't forget to let Chuck, K5LZO know if you are going to be able to make it to Ole Mexico for the ARRL DX contests this February and March. The dates are Feb. 16/17 for CW and March 2/3 for phone. Usually we leave Houston the Wednesday prior and return on Monday after. If you haven't been there for a year or so, you'll be glad to know that the ranch now has electricity! Did talk to Wes, AC5K the other day and he is planning to make it for the CW weekend. So make your plans! The trip will definitely be a major topic on the agenda for the upcoming February meeting.

I received the following the other day from Bob, K5HUT. "Due to the civil unrest currently in Liberia, the logs for all 6Z prefixes and EL2CI are not available. Anyone wishing a QSL is asked to hold off for now, till further notice."

Much as I hate to report it, seems that no one in the club was able to work YA0RR. Signals were just too weak to this part of 5-land. Either that or the lids were going full force when I listened. One evening on 40 CW he had a decent signal, but just didn't hang in there long enough to get me in his log. Best YA shot now for us will be the fact that Jacky, F2CW is there with his equipment and in the process of getting the necessary permission to operate. Reportedly he will be there for about six months, working for the French Red Cross.

Bangladesh: Jim Smith, VK9JS has all the approvals for an operation from S2. He stated on his net (14.222 Mhz on Friday, January 4th at 0400Z) that he would be in S2 within 3 weeks. He has requested permission to operate CW, Phone, and RTTY. Also, he and his wife Kirsti, VK9NL are planning a return to A5, **Bhutan**. If it does come off, look for them in early May for 2-3 weeks.

I don't believe it, but the bulletins are saying the PA3CXC has finished mailing out all of his direct QSL requests for his ST0 operation, and now is working to get out the bureau cards. Since I only know of a few that have received the cards, I guess he requires more bucks. Oh well, it's just a hobby, right? So, I'll send again since it's a new one on CW.

Linda, KE5TF finally received her ZY0TW Trindade Island QSL yesterday after a second request. Attached to the card was a tacky note saying that one US dollar was not sufficient for postage from Brazil. Guess he was just waiting for second requests before mailing out the cards. So if you need or want that one, just send again, and note on the card that it's the second request. Good luck.

Looks like the Colvins may have opened the door at **Mozambique**. DF3EC has been quite active on CW as C9EC.

The TDXS Bullshead

Haven't heard a peep out of Lloyd or Iris since Walvis Bay. (See ARRL DX Bulletin elsewhere in this issue for the latest..ed) Heard they were trying for 5R or maybe some other rare African call. As far as I know, they are still over there, so keep tuning, you never know.

Look for three German hams to be active from the Pacific during the month of February. Ulmar, DK1CE, Claus, DL2GBT and Hilde, DL5UF will put three DX spots on the air. First will be **T2, Tavalu** from Jan. 29 thru Feb. 9. Next will be **T30, Western Kiribati** from Feb. 9-20. (Be sure to give Sharp, K5DX a call if you hear this one. It's one that he needs to resubmit. That is one that got caught up with the T33 new country business. His old T30 was an Ocean Island card.) For their last stop, the Germans will be in the **Marshall Islands, V7** from Feb. 20 to Mar. 1. They will try to have two stations on the air at same time, and will be in the usual spots on SSB and up 5 on CW.

Also in the Pacific, look for Kiyoko who is now QRV from **Central Kiribati** as **T31KY**. Mostly on the SSB nets, but also some freestyle.

Another group of Germans will be active during the month of February. It includes, DK7UY, DJ4UJ, and DJ4OI. They will be on first from **9M8, Eastern Malaysia** from Feb. 10-15. Then on to **Brunei, V85** on Feb. 15-20. Last will be from **Christmas Island, VK9X** Feb. 21-26 and then again Mar. 6-7 using the calls, VK9XC, VK9XE, and VK9XA.

Keep your fingers crossed for the ZA, the YA, and anything else you may need.

One final reminder. If you are looking for a QSL route and cannot find it in a Callbook or the W6GO List on KE5IV's node on PacketCluster, put your request in a "Mail to All" message on the PCBBS. I'll keep reminding our readers to check this mail regularly and answer whenever they can help out with a route. Also remember to update the W6GO list whenever you find a new one! 73 es gud DX

Contest Corner

de Ken, NZ5I

Being Contest Chairman is actually my first real job as a member of the TDXS. I have to say that I was almost as proud to be considered for the job as I was to be nominated for membership a few short years back. I hope that the members will look upon my performance favorably once 1991 is history.

It is quite clear to me that the club is in a transition stage. The relocation of many of our club members is presenting a real challenge in assembling team efforts with the level of enthusiasm I remember so well. Communications are more difficult, time zones are different, and there aren't as many healthy stations. Many other commitments with work or home exist. We have new babies, spouses, and significant others too. That's ok. We can handle it.

If you don't mind I'd like to share something with you. I have to think back to what gave me the bug in '85 when I showed up at K5LZO's place for CQ-M, my first true contest experience. I was impressed with the technology, 930's and Alpha's for everyone. Chuck's professionalism really stood out too (emission standards were lower then as I remember). And I was damned impressed with WB5RUS's cooking, always a treat (in fact, the high point of any multi up there..ed).

The antenna system was awesome. I got to call CQ on 10 Meters at 0400Z and boy was I pumped about it. NM5M would toss a joke. Chuck would bang the bell on a new mult. KE5IV would keep the machines tuned constantly like a mother watching her young. The door would open and in

comes more new faces, K5TU, K5GN, K5WA, NR5M, N5EA, N5RP, K5GN, K5RC, K2TNO, KD5SP, KG5U, KN5H, KZ5M, N5DU, WA9VLI, W5ASP, K5DX, N5JJ, WB5N, NT5D and on and on. Some of the best operators in the country! Strokey dudes! Contesting studs! I was impressed.

As impressive as all this was, there is one thing that really stands out in my memory: It was FUN! It was fun to be a part of the team. We all did the best we could and had fun. That's what I remember most. Good scores seem to follow automatically. "Fun first" will be my theme for the remainder of the year.

I intend to encourage activity and communication between our members, both local and long distance, in any way I can. I would really like to see TDXS once again hang in there with "best efforts" in the contest team categories. Lots of little numbers translate to big numbers for the club. If you think you'll be on even for a little while in a contest be sure to let me know so you can be recognized.

I really want to get back to TDXS teams, with real TDXS club members, regardless of geography, or how much aluminum you've got up, or how long it's been since... Quit making excuses! Put one of or two of these dates down in your calendar, negotiate with your spouse for the time, negotiate for a station if necessary, let me know what you're doing and JUST DO IT!

One final note. And above all, do send in your log! You deserve to be recognized as an individual, and we all need you as a member of the TDXS. Please make an effort to get your scores to me. Directly if at all possible, or via packet mail. And finally, try to have mercy on me if I fail to recognize your efforts in some contest, for it's likely out of ignorance.

Coming events:

Feb 10.....NA Sprint SSB
Feb 16..... ARRL DX CW (TDXS Dxpediton to Mexico)
Feb 22-24 ...CQ WW 160 SSB
Mar 2-3ARRL DX SSB (Back to Mexico)
Mar 30-31....CQ WW WPX SSB
May 25-26....CQ WW WPX CW

Scores:

IARU HF World Championships

K5GN 1154 x 167 SO/CW 8th World, 5th W/VE
KI3L/5 568 x 64 SO/CW
N5EA (K5GA, W5s ASP,PWG,NB9T) 1394 x 82 MO 11th W/VE

NA QSO Party SSB

TDXS 1 - NR5M 986 x 233 = 230K; KI3L 535 x 198 = 106K; W5ASP 626 x 165 = 103K; KG5U 610 x 186 = 113K; K5XI (Op. K5RC) 250 x ?? Total 575K
TDXS 2 - NZ5I 307 x 110= 34 K; KE4GY 576 x 166 = 96 K; AK5B 314 x 130 = 41 K; WB5BIR 200 x 45 = 9 K; K5WA 158 x 71=11 K Total 191 K

Get your Logs in! Remember these due dates for your contest logs...

Feb 06 RTTY Roundup
Feb 12 NAQP CW Feb 19 NAQP SSB
Feb 28 CQWW 160M
Mar 03 Novice Roundup; NA Sprint CW; 1010
Mar 10 NA Sprint SSB
Mar 17 ARRL DX CW

From the Rumor Net...

Tommy, **KD5SP** is QRV and ready for guest ops with big aluminum on 10 thru 40. Looks like he may get some serious competition once Ralph, **N5RZ** moves to West Tejas. **WN4KKN** now resides in the Bay Area of 6-land. **NM5M** is a daddy!. **K5TU** confirmed alive and well, and will be operating in CW Sprint. Would you believe...George, **NR5M** says 100 Watts really is kinda fun! According to Kenny, **KE5IV**, all human knowledge should be available on his cluster shortly. Tom, **N5EA** is still living with the threat of being "GAPless". Steve, **WA9VLI** is still in there, quiet but breathing! Frank, **KE4GY** says the good news is that the solar flux is 300 plus, and the bad news is that you can't hear anything. Jim, **N5DC** is now QRV in new custom van, VHF and HF (DC to light?). Steve, **KN5H** can found on 15 Meters every Sunday at 4:00 P.M. local time talking to Dale, **KG5U**. Mr. Bill, **K5GA** reported working far too hard these days, but will join in Sprint. Bob, **N5DU** is scheming to sign 3Y from Peter I Island while in the comfort of his home using his new remote operating software. (Was it really **N5DU** that was seen driving on I-45 South wearing a propeller hat?)

Club Competition Rules

(Each January the ARRL Competition Rules and Contest Disqualification Criteria are published in QST. Here is a brief summary of these rules. The complete text appears on page 78, January 1991 QST.)

- There are three ARRL-sponsored contests with club competition each year, ARRL DX, Sweepstakes and VHF SS.
- Only ARRL-affiliated clubs can enter the club competition.
- A club member's score must appear in the regular list of scores, if it is to be counted for the club score.
- At least three different members must submit scores.
- The club name must be shown on the summary sheet of each entry. (Computer generated summary sheets often omit the club name...check carefully and add it if necessary.)
- A list of all club members eligible to compete for the club score must be submitted prior to each contest. The level of club entry (Unlimited, Medium, Local) must be stated. (The TDXS Contest Chairman usually takes care of this task!)
- All stations and all operators must reside within 175 miles of the club's center.
- A club member must attend two club meetings per year to be eligible to submit an entry.
- Multioperator stations must have 2/3 of the operators as eligible club members.

The CQ WW DX and WPX contests have pretty much the same rules, though they do allow DXpedition scores to count toward the club total. The NCJ Sprint and QSO Party team competition rules do not have geographical or membership restrictions, but do require a list of team members to be submitted prior to the contest.

South of the Border

de Chuck, **K5LZO**

The TDXS will be going on mini-DXpedition to our home-away-from-home at Rancho Hinojosa outside of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Once again the ARRL International DX Contest will be the focus of the effort with operations set for both the CW and the SSB weekends (February 16/17 CW; March 2/3 SSB).

The first group is planning to get away the afternoon of Wednesday, February 13th. They will stay overnight in Laredo and cross into Mexico early Thursday to get started on the set-up activities. Although several towers and antennas are already in place, past experience indicates that there will be plenty of work needed before "key down" time on Friday.

Two weeks later on Thursday, February 28th, the gang will again head south for the phone weekend. In both instances the return is planned for Monday after the contest.

Now that there is commercial power at the hacienda things are a bit more convenient and will support either a multi-one or multi-two operation depending on the operator turnout. There is plenty of operating opportunity for anyone who wants to join the fun. However, if you are able to come, please speak up as early as possible so we set our plans.

As always we will be guests of our good friends with CRANTAC, and the usual festivities can be expected.

There is a need for a 4-element 20 Meter monobander and several screw anchors to finish off the permanent installation. Give me a shout if you can help. Those with a itch to do some serious contesting from a great QTH and have fun in the process should let me know when they can show up to help. Final plans will be discussed at this month's regular TDXS meeting.

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.

Upcoming Events

- February 08.....Texas DX Society Meeting
- February 10.....North American SSB Sprint
- February 16.....ARRL International DX CW Contest
- February 22.....CQ WW 160 Meter SSB Contest
- March 02.....ARRL International DX SSB Contest
- March 08.....Texas DX Society Meeting
- March 09.....31st Annual Lafayette Hamfest

Updating the K1EA Country Files

de Sid, K5XI

The K1EA contest program is designed to examine the call sign of each station entered into the contest log and to automatically determine the country of that station. This information is used to calculate the current score, and to update the list of needed multipliers. If the country is incorrectly determined, the score will be wrong. You may also miss a much needed multiplier.

The program may erroneously credit you with a multiplier that you have not in fact worked. If this happens, and if you later find or receive a packet spot for a station which actually counts for that multiplier, the following consequences will occur: (1) the program will not "beep" to alert you that it is a needed multiplier, (2) you will not be able to automatically jump to the frequency of the spot (assuming you have a computer controlled rig), and (3) the spot will not appear on your list of announcements. (The list of announcements appears when you hit the ALT-A keys.)

How do you guard against incorrect country determinations? The K1EA program uses country (.CTY) files to determine the country of a call sign. If you change the country files, the K1EA program will change the way that it scores a call sign. Thus, if you maintain good, up-to-date country files, the K1EA program will always score accurately.

How do you change the country files? It's easy. You will find three country files stored on your hard disk (or floppy disk) with the K1EA program. They are: (1) CQWW.CTY, (2) ARRL.CTY, and (3) WAE.CTY. The reason that the K1EA program has three country files is that the program can be used for the CQ World Wide contest, the ARRL DX contest, and the Worked All Europe contest (as well as several other contests). These contests have different rules about what is counted as a country. For example, the CQ World Wide contest rules count 4U1VIC, the Shetlands (GM), the Karelo-Finnish Republic (UN1), and Sicily (IT) as countries, whereas the ARRL DX contest does not. The WAE file contains only the allowed European countries.

The .CTY files are stored in ASCII format. You can edit them with a text editor program. Do not use a word processing program to edit these files, because a word processing program often will insert various control codes which will screw up the way that the K1EA program uses the file to generate its country tables. (If you do not have a text editor, let me know because I have a program that you can use.) Do not ever try to use the DOS EDLIN program!

O.K. So you have a good text editor and you are ready to go. Let's use the CQWW.CTY file as an example. First, make sure that you have the latest version of the CQWW.CTY file. How do you know? Check the calls listed for the South Shetlands. If HF0POL is listed there, then you probably have the latest version. If the countries "United Nations HB" and "United Nations NY" are separated by a line that begins with "&", then you have the latest version. If not, get the latest version from KE5IV. Kenny gets the latest version through the W6GO List updates to the packet network and distributes them to registered users. If you are not a registered user, shame on you! Send \$25 to KC1EO and you will be.

Now let's get back to business. You will find a line for the country of East Germany that looks like this: East Germany: 14: Y2: Y2,Y3,Y4,Y5,Y6,Y7,Y8,Y9; Delete East Germany as a country by removing this line from the list. Piece of cake, right? You also need to delete Yemen (4W). Now, you must add the following prefixes to the list for the Federal Republic

of Germany: Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6, Y7, Y8, Y9, DM. Change the "People's Democratic Republic of Yemen" to the "Republic of Yemen" and add 4W to the list of prefixes. Go to Georgia (UF) and add the prefix 4J1F. Go to Guam (KH2) and delete KG6SL. This is Bert, and he told me a few weeks ago when I talked to him that he is in the Mariana Islands (KH0). So add his call to the Mariana Islands list. Go to Antarctica and add KK6KO to the list. (Old versions of the K1EA CQWW country file had the KC4 prefix listed for Antarctica. It must be deleted, because now there are a lot of stateside KC4's in 4-land.)

We have organized local contesters who have used the K1EA program in a collective effort to exchange information necessary to keep these files up to date. If you discover call signs that do not score correctly in the K1EA program, let us know so we can all update our files. (Leave a mail message to "All" on the PacletCluater BBS with the information...ed) This will be one less thing that you will have to worry about in the next contest.

By the way, if you encounter a call during a contest that causes the program to stumble, you can fix it on the fly. Just hang a correctly recognized prefix onto the call as a portable designator (i.e add /...) and the program will function correctly. For example, in a recent contest 4J1FS operated from Georgia (UF), but the K1EA program scored it as M-V Island. To score it correctly, all you had to do was log the call as 4J1FS/UF. You can go back after the contest and fix your country file, then change the log entry to delete the portable designator, and the K1EA program will score it correctly when the log file is reloaded. Good luck in the contests!

Review: N6RJ 2nd OP, Version V3.0

de Jim, N5DC

In the May 1990 issue of the Bullsheat (also see errata in July 1990..ed) I reviewed the DX logging program, N6RJ 2nd OP, which is marketed by Ham Radio Outlet on the West Coast. I recently obtained Version 3.0. It is a significantly improved and enhanced program from the earlier versions! It still does the same basic logging functions that I described earlier. However, there are some major changes in this new version that really put the program in a class by itself.

Specifically, there are four main areas of interest. First, Fast Log is a great new feature for real-time logging. It really does just exactly what the name implies. It is a pleasure to use the Fast Log function. The second addition is the use of the "N" key, or the Need function, that allows you to see for each country which modes and bands you have worked and which ones you still need. It considerably simplifies your tracking for 5 Band DXCC. The third major improvement lies in fact that it is almost impossible to throw a callsign at it, and not have the program correctly identify the country.

Last, and by no means least, is the conversion program supplied that will convert K1EA logs to the 2nd OP format. If you are into contesting, and want to include put your contest logs in your 2nd OP records, this feature will solve your problem. With as many contesters as we have using K1EA, I think this makes ownership of 2nd OP almost mandatory for anyone who also chases DX.

I might note in closing, that data files from previous versions are not directly compatible with the new program, but the authors have taken care of that with a suitable conversion program. My installation, and the data file conversion, came off without a hitch! As usual, you are cautioned and begged to "BACK UP YOUR FILES". I stated in my previous articles that 2nd OP was a winner then, and it is even better now.

Packet Racket

de Ken, KE5IV

Last October's CQ WW DX Phone test netted about 1200 DX spot announcements on the PacketCluster during the 48 hour contest period. In November the CQ WW DX CW test produced nearly 700 spots over the weekend, down somewhat as this was pretty much a stand alone effort on our part.

Now that the spring contest season is upon us again, with the ARRL DX tests coming up in the next few weeks, I have several favors to ask of our PacketCluster users during these periods.

1. If you are not going to actively put out DX spots and are having trouble staying connected, don't connect during the contest period. Turn the MONITOR command ON or use the MALL command to follow the traffic on KE5IV.

2. Please keep Talk and Announce use to a minimum.

3. Don't use SH/USERS and SH/CLUSTER just out of curiosity, it just wastes everyone's time.

4. If you want to use one of the many databases, wait until after 7 P.M. Sunday night to use it.

(Better yet, connect when you can and chase DX with the rest of us..ed)

The equipment is all in place for the new Digi/KA-NODE at the KSLZO/WB5RUS QTH in Magnolia. Once this site is QRV it should take some of the load off the Greenway site (TDXS) and offer a much better route for KE5IV PacketCluster users in the N.W. Houston area, the Woodlands, Conroe, Kingwood, and Cleveland. Now all I have to do is to find a day to get the new system on the air. (Not that Ken doesn't have his hands full what with the toy store up on I-45 north and the cow convention just around the corner..ed)

I am still trying to bring all the little problems at the TDXS Digi under control. There is a lot of R.F. floating around that place with ever changing signal strength. All I can say is I really am working on problem, attacking one thing at a time. My learning curve still has a vertical slope!

At the first of this year, I did unload the DX.DAT file, saved the most recent 1500 announcements to reload, and ran all of it against a utility program by N4TL. From the 1st of September to the 1st of January, there were 8124 DX announcements. The most announcements were put out the 1st day of CQ WW DX SSB with 624 in 24 hours.

Thanks for the support and input! I hope to see you at the meeting Friday.

DXer's Toolbox

Included in this issue of the TDXS Bullsheat is a copy of the latest DXCC Awards Application form. Note the schedule of Fees and the various phones numbers for the DXCC desk. The reverse side of this form is simply a list of the QSL cards being submitted. The calls are to be sorted first by band, then, within each band, by mode. For each call give the Mode, Band, QSO Year and DXCC Country.

A recent conversation with Don Search, W3AZD of the DXCC Desk brought to light a potential problem with the QSL labels generated by some of the popular contest software programs, e.g. K1EA. These labels may not clearly indicate the "Band" on which the contact took place. For example, K1EA simply prints a "10" for the 10 Meter band. However, from the standpoint of a potential DXCC credit such a QSL card is not specific as to whether or not the contact took place on 10 Mhz

DXCC Award

Honor Roll

Mixed - AK5B /320 (CONGRATULATIONS!!!)

New Memebers

Mixed - K5NA /342

Phone - K5NA /332

CW - K5NA /314

40 M - W5LLU

Endorsements

Mixed - K5DX /362; K5BZU /331

Phone - K5DX /357; K5XI /276; W5LLU /306

CW - AK5B /305

DX BULLETIN

FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT
JANUARY 31, 1991 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

THANKS TO STEVE, W9NUF, WITH THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DX ASSOCIATION AND PAUL, KB1BE, WITH THE CONNECTICUT DX ASSOCIATION FOR THE FOLLOWING DX INFORMATION.

DXCC DESK. A REMINDER THAT THE DOCUMENTATION FOR 708AA HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED. 708AA AND 701AA CARDS FOR THE NEW YEMEN REPUBLIC WILL BE ACCEPTED STARTING MARCH 1, 1991. DO NOT SEND CARDS IN PRIOR TO MARCH 1, 1991, OR THEY WILL BE RETURNED.

BANGLADESH. JIM, VK9NS, IS PLANNING AN ALL MODE OPERATION TO BEGIN AS EARLY AS MID-FEBRUARY.

BURUNDI. IRIS AND LLOYD COLVIN ARE NOW ACTIVE AS 9U5QL. THE FIRST DAY OF OPERATION ON THE 30TH FOUND THEM ACTIVE ON BOTH 15 METER CW AND SSB FROM 1600 UTC. QSL TO THE YASME FOUNDATION.

CENTRAL KIRIBATI. KIYOKO CONTINUES TO BE QRV FROM CANTON ISLAND AS T31KY. QSL VIA KIYOKO YAMAKAMI, BOX 3, TOKAIMURA, 31911

MARION ISLAND. ZS8MI HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE DURING THE PAST WEEK ON 14 MHZ CW BETWEEN 0100 AND 0200 UTC. WATCH AROUND 14025 KHZ.

MOZAMBIQUE. C9EC WAS ON CW DURING THE PAST WEEK BUT IS NOW QRT. QSLS VIA DF3EC.

NIUE. ELI, HA9RE, AND MIKI, HA8XX, ARE QRV AND SIGNING ZK2XA AND ZK2XB. THEIR PREVIOUS STOP WAS CHATHAM ISLAND AS ZL0AAD/ZL7 AND ZL0ADN/ZL7. EASTERN EUROPE AND USSR SHOULD QSL VIA HA8XX. ALL OTHERS SHOULD QSL VIA DJIND.

TUVALU. ULMAR, DK1CE, CLAUS, DL2GBT, AND HILDE, DL5UF, WILL BM (sic) THE PACIFIC. THE FIRST STOP IS TUVALU FROM JANUARY 29 TO FEBRUARY 9. SUGGESTED FREQUENCIES ON SSB ARE 7075, 14195, 18125, 21245, 24945 AND 28495 KHZ. CHECK 5 KHZ UP FOR CW. NEXT STOP IS WEST KIRIBATI FROM FEBRUARY 9 TO 20. THEY WILL CONCLUDE THE PACIFIC ISLAND DXPEDITION FROM THE MARSHALL ISLANDS FROM FEBRAURY 20 TO MARCH 1ST.