



THE BULLSHEET



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Texas DX Society

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signing the Attendance List and including their mailing address. Articles or other newsworthy items are hereby solicited by your editor. Articles should be submitted in the form of either ASCII files or as MS Word or WordPerfect word processor files. Files may be uploaded to the TDXS area on K2TNO's Bulletin Board at 713-798-4955, or sent to the Editor on either 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" diskette, either DS/DD or DS/HD. If necessary, text may be sent to "Dr. William Schrader" via FAX at 713-790-1275. Files or other messages may be sent via E-Mail to Schrader @ BCM.TMC.EDU. 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 July meeting will take place on Friday, July 12, 1991 at St. Johns School at the corner of Claremont and Westheimer Roads. Claremont is the name of Buffalo Speedway after it crosses to the north of Westheimer. There is a parking lot entrance just north of Westheimer. Park in the lot and follow the walkway to enter the school building. The general meeting will take place in the auditorium/lecture hall and will begin about 7:30 P.M. Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

TDXS Board of Directors Meeting - A meeting of the TDXS Board of Directors is set for 6:30 P.M. at the St. John's School on July 14, 1991 prior to the regular monthly TDXS meeting. TDXS President Jim, N5DC asks that all board members make arrangements to attend this important meeting.

Program - The July program will feature Dave, W5UN who just recently received the world's first DXCC certificate for contacting 100 countries on 2 Meter E.M.E. Dave, famous for his M.B.A., "mighty big antenna" array located in Manvel, TX had to do a major rebuild on the system after losing much of the array when a tornado struck in March 1990. The new MBA proved to be three-quarters of a decibel better than the old and enabled him to push his country total past the century mark. Dave is an alumnus of TDXS and has spoken to the group in the past. Don't miss this one, it promises to be the best yet!

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 Clusters - The Waller County Contest and DX PacketCluster Bulletin Board (PCBS) is located in Hempstead, Texas and operates on 144.990 MHz with the call KE5IV. A digipeater is operational on 144.990 MHz from Stafford with the antenna located at 600 feet to provide reliable access to this PacketCluster. This Digi has the alias HOU99. The preferred procedure is to first connect with the digipeater (C HOU99) and then connect to the PacketCluster (C KE5IV). Please leave the cluster with the command BYE. There is a second port operating on 144.910 MHz, also under KE5IV's call. This affords local stations with higher ERP, generally those 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 operates on 144.930 MHz and 144.970 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 operates another PacketCluster node regularly connected to the KC5SC PacketCluster via 446.100 MHz. This cluster features a 40 Meter HF Gateway on 7.089 MHz as well as limited access for local uses on the VHF port.

The local 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.

The Prez Sez

de Jim, N5DC

If you didn't make out to the TDXS Field Day, you missed a real good chance to get a piece of the action. Other than our Editor's inept encounter with the sharp edge of his trusty pocket knife, requiring a bit of needle work to repair damaged fingers, everything went very well.

I would like to thank all of those who were there to lend a hand. It was a good turn out of both members and nonmembers. Everyone seemed to have a great time. I would be very remiss if I didn't single out our Field Day Chairman, Bob, W5SJS, who again did an outstanding job. To him belongs most of the credit for a smooth and successful Field Day. Many thanks Bob!

We managed to rack up a total of about 3100 Qs, equally split between the CW and SSB stations with help from the Novice and Packet operations. We set out this year to have a "laid back" Field Day. I think we did just that, a good effort but not the major undertaking of years past. I would hope that next year, we once again get our RPMs up enough to go out and claim another Field Day record.

This was my introduction to computer, real time logging. Not being a contester, I had not found the need for computer support while operating. But with the Compaq LTE supplied by Frank, KE4GY and the K8CC contest software, Field Day was a breeze to operate. It took all of 10 minutes to get comfortable with the keyboard and NA program. From then on it was a blast! I really fell in love with this whole new way of contest operating. If you haven't tried it yet, give it a try during the next contest weekend. Bet you'll get hooked too!

If you haven't yet noticed the comments on the local PacketCluster, Kenny, KE5IV needs your support to keep the current system running. It has become a tremendous financial burden that he can no longer carry by himself. I urge all of you users to contact Kenny (by phone @ 409-826-6766), and discuss this situation. He has put in some awfully long hours, and many, many bucks and still has more to go. The Cluster has certainly become a way of life for all of the amateurs in the Houston area that chase DX and contest. We all need to help Kenny as much as we can. Please contact him and give him your direct support. This goes not only for TDXS members but for everyone else who uses the Cluster, so be sure to pass the word!

For now, 73 ... See you at the meeting!

Upcoming Events

July 12Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
 July 13IARU HF Championship
 July 20.....SEANET CW Contest
 August 02.....Austin Summerfest '91 Convention
 August 03.....Ten-Ten Phone QSO Party
 August 09.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
 August 10.....European DX (WAE) CW Contest
 September 08.....North American Sprint CW
 September 13.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
 September 14.....European DX (WAE) SSB Contest
 September 15.....North American Sprint SSB
 September ??.....All Asian Phone (Who Knows?)

DX Report

de Bob, AK5B

It certainly looks like the summer doldrums are upon us. Kind of between happenings DX wise. The D2 and the ET are QRT. FR5AI/T has returned to the house. (Where he is, we hope, dutifully sending out the /T QSLs). We still have the XZ operation by Romeo and the 3B7 by 3B8CF to look forward to in the coming months.

And it looks like we will have a new country to work real soon. The ARRL DX Advisory Committee has voted 16-0 for the addition of North Korea to the ARRL List of Countries. Final acceptance by the Awards Committee is expected soon with no start date yet mentioned. It will probably be the usual post-war date of Nov. 15, 1945. Has anyone in the club worked a North Korean station? This application was submitted by the Northern California DX folks. Wonder if they will be the first to put it on the air.

Speaking of the upcoming XZ operation, Ed Kritsky, NT2X took Romeo's licensing documentation for his trip to Myanmar (Burma) to the ARRL DXCC desk at Newington. The DXCC staff delivered the good news to Romeo "that his license appears to be valid and acceptable for DXCC". (Thanks to QRZ DX.) Romeo, his wife and Yuri, RW3AH are in the states doing some visiting, so stay tuned for further word as to dates for operation, etc.

Sorry Linda, KE5TF and I weren't able to make the June meeting, but due to demands at work (AT&T) involving minor disasters like a cut cable, my time was not my own. Will sure try to make it this month and bring the YASME awards for show and tell.

We did make it to Ham-Comm in Arlington a few weeks back, though it was sure a hectic weekend. I worked all day Friday and through Friday night till 2:30 Saturday morning. Got home about 3:30 and promptly woke up Linda with the bright idea of getting a nice early start for Dallas. It was either that or forget about the trip, cuz if I tried to sleep for even an hour or so and then make the drive ... well, no way! So by 5 we were on the road. Breakfast in Fairfield, then on to the convention.

Even getting there early, we still had to park out in east-bejesus. (Heard the final attendance was in excess of 8K.) Got to take a quick look around, though things were really jam-packed. Managed to visit with a few folks that we only get to see once a year. Then it was on to the Lone Star DX Association's DX luncheon, not at 11 A.M. as advertised, but at noon. Enjoyed (?) another chicken-fried steak w/cream gravy entree. (Luke warm this year ... maybe next year we'll get a hot one.) But we did enjoy the program. The folks with the Lone Star DX group who put it on are to be commended.

Congratulations to Kenny, KE5IV on winning the Icom 725 in the Grand Prize drawing. It is nice to see one of their major prizes find its way to the deserving down here in South Texas. When you get it Ken, it will be interesting to see how it stacks up against all those Kenwoods there at the NR5M shack. Should be able to find a place for it somewhere.

Remember the South Georgia & South Sandwich D-Expedition that was cancelled last year due to high fuel costs? Well the same group has come up with the right combination of ingredients for another go at it this year. They also commissioned another vessel for about half the \$100,000 cost of the first one. They plan to land on South Thulie Island, South Sandwich on December 6th for a two week stay. I don't know if they plan to include a South Georgia operation this time or not. We will just have to wait and see.

The TDXS Bullsheat

Also, stay tuned for the Italian operators that are to go to Afghanistan, YA, on July 12-29. Listen for YA0AS or T6AS. The reports say that they have amplifiers but will only use verticals and wire antennas. The call signs may change, so work any YA you hear!

Now for the last rumor this month. (Pay attention Mr. Prez!) Seems a Malaysian company has built a hotel on one of the islands in the Spratly group. They are now looking for guests to fill the rooms. Sounds like a great vacation spot. Any volunteers?

That's it for now, see you at the meeting ... 73 es gud DX!

Contest Corner

de Kenny, NZ5I

Now that Field Day is over it's slim pickin's fer a spell on the contest calendar. The TDXS version of a "laid back" field day effort still resulted in enough Qs to seriously concern at least one other 2A group out there. I understand that one of our club members got a phone call to inquire about our score (about 3100 Qs). I hope he told them "nearly 10K", just to make 'em sweat a while!

An interesting idea was passed on to me by Joe, W5ASP suggesting that a chronology of TDXS Sprint scores, standings, participants, etc. over the past years would make interesting reading. Anyone out there interested in helping put such a piece together? Back issues of the NCJ are essential to the project.

In the latest issue of CQ magazine, mention was made of a few rule changes for forthcoming CQ WW DX contests. One change was the addition of a low power category for 100 W or less entrants. Another change is the requirement that hard copy logs must accompany all entries, including those submitting computer diskettes for scoring and analysis.

Soapbox time. *I personally think this is moving backwards! I encourage you to write if you think this is dumb. In my opinion all contests should support log submission by diskette and summary sheet in a universal format. End of Soapbox.*

The remaining change is the expansion of available information on your uniques and associated statistics. To get such an analysis of your logs you must request this, supply a formatted diskette and a return, self-addressed disk mailer.

The contest calendar is going to be full in September with both NCJ sprints, the All Asian Phone (if we can figure out what date!), and the WAE SSB. Please try to book the appropriate dates now! You out-of-towners need to help us Houstonians out during the September sprints ... what say?

Results

1990 ARRL 10 Meter

GM0ECO.....1834 Q..149 C.....547K...#1 Scotland SSB
K5MA/1.....401 Q...54 C.....128K.....#3 EMA Mixed
K5NA/2.....1798 Q..130 C.....937K...#1 W/VE CW
W5WMU.....2765 Q..254 C...1,872K.....#5 W/VE Multi
K13L.....1427 Q..186 C....764K.....#1 STX Mixed
KC5CP.....1049 Q...183 C....466K.....#2 STX Mixed
NR5M.....3258 Q..172 C..1,121K...#1 W/VE Phone
W5ASP.....701 Q..101 C....283K.....#2 STX CW
NZ5I.....370 Q...71 C.....108K.....#3 STX CW

1990 European DX (WAE)

NR5M.....1054 Q..219 M....462K.....#6 USA CW
W5ASP.....375 Q..154 M....115K.....#22 USA CW
K13L.....160 Q...93 M....30K.....#48 USA CW
ZF2NE/ZF8..447 Q..142 M....127K.....#1 ZF SSB

Callsign Trivia Revisited

de Dave, K5GN

The reprinted article by Fred Laun, K3ZO which appeared in the June 1991 issue of the TDXS Bullsheat was instructive. The kind of information that is invaluable to the W5 DX con-tester. When the DX stations are weak and the Gulf weather is multiplying QRN, it helps to know a few rules of thumb for deciding if what you copied makes sense. This helps in the quest for higher accuracy. As Fred's article was written in 1989, here is some new information that has become available from recent logs.

"C": Of the special CT prefixes, CQ, CR, and CS, numbers 3 and 9 generally mean CT3.

"D": a) Note that 2 letter DH suffixes do exist, though they are rare. b) The exception to the two letter rule for DF suffixes is DF1IAR in my log. Maybe there are two of them. c) In the three letter suffixes for DL's the middle letter is the "most significant digit", starting with A and now down at least to E. (Example - DL2MBW) The exception to this is DL7 in which the first letter is most significant. (Example - DL7ARV)

"F": F0 is a rare prefix; I have worked a few 1 by 3's.

"G": a) The only way to tell if a GM is in Shetland Islands is to ask him. K1EA's CQWW.CTY has a list; it is best to ask anyway. b) GB stations are usually in England, but may be elsewhere (Scotland, for example). CQWW.CTY and ARRL.CTY also contain some of the known deviations. c) No three letter suffixes start with Q.

"H": a) Most of the HG stations other than the contest stations with single letter suffixes will have three letter suffixes. b) HA calls with three letter suffixes typically start with K. The new exceptions are: HA5A, HA5B, HA8L, HA9B, HA0N.

"J": a) From ARRL SSB '91 the following data appear for Japanese call signs:

- 1: JA,H,R,E,F,G,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,Q,S;7J,K,L,M
- 2: JA,H,R,E,F,G,I,J,K,L,M,N,O
- 3: JA,H,R,E,F,G,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,Q,S
- 4: JA,H,R,E,F,G,I,J
- 5: JA,H,R,E,F
- 6: JA,H,R,E,F,G,I,J,K,L,M,....,S
- 7: JA,H,R,E,F,G,I
- 8: JA,H,R,E,F,G
- 9: JA,H,R
- 0: JA,H,R,E,F

b) Two letter suffixes for Japanese call signs are currently only in JA (1-0) and JR6. I have not yet worked a JS6, so I'm not sure whether the newer Okinawa stations are getting one or two letter suffixes. c) The only way to tell if a JW station is on Bear Island is to ask him.

"K": a) KA2 call signs with two letter suffixes are American military in Japan (not recognized in the All Asia contests). My incomplete list: KA2CC, KA2DX, KA2EX, KA2GS & KA2RC. b) Similarly, KA2IJ is listed in CQWW.CTY as being on Ogasawara Isl. c) I think KG6DX and KG6SL are the only stations left in their islands (Guam and Saipan, respectively) with old style calls. All others there are AH, KH, NH or WH (2 or 0, respectively). The other KG6's are in California.

"L": LZ3 stations now exist (so far, LZ3MM and YY).

"O": a) Three letter OH suffixes: OH1 and 2 start with B, M, and N (and L, though this may be a broken call). OH3-0 start with M or N. b) OK three letter suffixes start with different subsets of the alphabet: i) OK1-A,C,D,F,J,K,M,O,V; ii) OK2-B,K,P,S; iii) OK3- C,F,K,T,Z; iv) OK5-T. c) Another notable exception to the OK call sign number system is OK8AID. d) Fred notes there are no ON1,2 or 0's. I've never heard an

ON3, either. e) So far, I have only found three letter suffixes in OZ1, 2 and 4; I can't remember ever working an OZ9 or OZ0.

"P": a) A notable exception to the PA numbers game is PA6DX. b) Two letter suffixes occur only in PA0. c) The only PI calls (same as PA) I can remember are PI1PT and PI4's COM and DEC.

"S": a) SM suffixes are now into the T's. b) SP's are still in the S's, except for SP9ZHR. c) There are several active SV1's and 3's with three letter suffixes.

"T": June '91 CQ Magazine reports that the Costa Rican government has decided that TE prefixes are illegal for amateurs (no more TE5T).

"U": Note that the UA9S and UA9W stations in Zone 16 are likely to tell you they are in Zone 17 in the CQ contests.

"X": Remember that XF1, 2, and 3 are standard prefixes for various Mexican island groups other than Revillagigedo (XF4).

"4B": Callsigns with this or other special XE prefixes won't necessarily have another number in them. For example, we had 4BIPAZ last November (that's an i, "India", not the numeral one).

Another interesting consideration in sorting out callsigns is whether a number is required when signing portable in another country. Here is a partial list. Perhaps some other readers could add to it, i.e.-of known rules.

No number required: DL/ ES/ FG/ FY/ G/ 6W/ /LU /PA /TF

Number required: C53/ C6A/ EA7/ RO6/ SV2/ CT1/ /DU1 /JA1 /KG4 /KL7 /SB4

Number obviously required: CT3/ EA6/ SV5/ VP2V/ ZS9/ /KH1-0. /KP1-5 /VP9

Be careful how you use this information. I wouldn't put it on the operating table during a contest for reference, just study it and check it out on the air. The idea is that if what you get out of the noise and QRM doesn't fit these rules, you should get confirmation. **DO** ask for repeats and confirmation if what you hear doesn't seem quite right. After the contest, you can also apply them to your logs to identify possible broken calls. A common practice is to highlight those calls for the log-checker, acknowledging the possibility of error. **DON'T** remove a QSO just because the call doesn't fit these rules!

Radio Telegraphy High Speed Club

de Wes, AC5K

Have you ever heard of DJ6SI, DK7PE, F2CW or OH2BH? If you have, then you know that they are all popular DX-peditioners and top-notch CW operators. They are also all members of the Radio Telegraphy High Speed Club (known as the "HSC").

One of the things that brought me back into the TDXS was the desire to again be associated with other hams that favor CW operation. That interest also sent me in search of a quality CW group. With the old TOPS CW club apparently now defunct and the FOC somewhat out of my reach, I set my sights on the HSC.

Membership in the HSC requires nominations from five members of the HSC. There are over 1,600 members, but the great majority of them are Europeans. In order to have a member nominate you the HSC, the member will offer you a "test QSO" at or above 25 WPM lasting at least 30 minutes. Some members prefer several such test QSOs before nominating someone new. The HSC member will then send you his QSL

card with his nomination written on the back. One you have collected five such cards, the cards along with 8 IRCs can be sent to the HSC secretary. Your certificate and HSC Number (mine is No. 1614) will then be sent back to you.

HSC and FOC members share the same "calling" frequencies (up 25 KHz). Sometime a "CQ HSC" will pay off, but my suggestion is that you write directly to the HSC secretary (see address below), including two IRCs, and request a membership list. Then you can set out to track down potential sponsors as you hear them on the air. Note: In my experience HSC members may not always be responsive to requests for "skeds", so be patient and keep at it! Good Hunting es cul ...

Radio Telegraphy High Speed Club
Ernst Manske, DL1PM, Secretary HSC
Ansgarstr. 14, D-2105, Seevetal 11, Germany

Call Letter License Plates

de Tom, K5RC

Remember those pads of orange forms that we used to pass around to order Texas Radio Operator license tags? Well, they are finally gone. Familiar with the hassle of transferring tags every time you trade cars? I've found a way to reduce it. How about the dreaded task of replacing worn out call-letter tags? Bring chills to your spine?

Radio tags are unlike any other special plate and, historically, the rules of how they are handled varied with each tax office and with each clerk you talked with. It appears as though the Texas State Department of Motor Vehicles finally has reckoned with the inconsistencies in the issuance and renewal of our special plates. The Special Plates Office has revised the form, set firm policies and enhanced the services available to Texas hams.

I'd heard that you can now get your call letters for more than one vehicle. That seems inconsistent with everything we hold dear and true about license plates, so I wandered into the local tax office annex and found a brand new form! It is actually a full-size sheet of white paper with very clear and concise instructions (Form 53, Revised 12-89).

#1. If you have never had Radio Operator tags (or they are long since expired), you fill out the first part of the form, enclose a copy of your ham license, a check for \$2.00 and send it off to the address on the back of the form. When the tags are ready, they will be delivered to your county tax office and you will be notified to pick them up. You then remove the existing tags and surrender them for your call letter tags.

#2. You may request your call letter tags for EACH VEHICLE THAT YOU OWN! The form allows you to list the make, model and motor number (VIN) for each car or light truck. You fill out that information and proceed as #1 above. Note: Their interpretation of "ownership" is fairly liberal.

#3. If you need replacement plates, for any reason, you must surrender your current radio operator tags (or what's left of them) and obtain regular tags. You must then send a copy of the replacement receipt along with the form and proceed as #1 above.

#4. When you sell or trade one of the vehicles, you must go to the tax office and request a "corrected vehicle registration." I've found it easier, albeit expensive, to just let your dealer do it (it is part of their "service with a smile"). If you get hassled, refer to the back of form 53. It has the directions.

To try out the new service, I sent in an application for a second set of tags for my wife's new van. A week later, I got a phone call from an extremely friendly gentleman in the Special

Plates Office. He wanted to know if it was okay for him to change the renewal dates so that they were the same for both vehicles. That way, was easier for them to track and easier for me at renewal time. He was eager to tell me what they were doing and why the changes. Here are some interesting tidbits.

You may have noticed that your \$1.00 renewal fee hasn't been collected in about 8 years. It cost more to collect it than it was worth, so they didn't do it. The Legislature has dictated that the fee be collected, regardless of the cost. Starting 6/1/91, you will receive a renewal notice asking for your \$1.00. When you send in your fee, you will receive a confirmation which you must take with you when it is time for your annual sticker renewal. When you pay your regular renewal fee, you will receive the white stickers, like the personalized plates have.

Hams have always been searching for a way to have their call on "the other car" but vanity plates are expensive and the State computer just can't handle more than one vehicle per tag number. We must have a friend in Austin, because the Special Plates office is manually bookkeeping our tags so that we can have them on several vehicles! The computer can't handle it, so they went to a lot of trouble to accommodate us off-line. When a peace officer checks your tag number on the computer, he will be referred to the Special Plate Office! If you have any questions, give them a call at 512-465-7662.

"MIRly" Listening

de Jim, NN50

As most of you know, U2MIR, Musa Manerov was relieved on the 25th of May by a new crew composed of Sergey, U5MIR and Anatoly, U7MIR. Both of them are even more active than Musa on 145.55 MHz packet using two Packcom TNCs and three Icom 2-Meter rigs. Each of the 2-Meter rigs is running 25 watts out and they are loud ... even on a hand-held during a good pass. Lately, since Field Day, they have occasionally been on FM voice, as well as packet on the same pass.

To connect with MIR on packet open up all TNC parameters and connect to U5MIR-1 for the automatic BBS, or connect to U5MIR for the second packet setup which is usually unattended. LISTEN to a few passes before you jump in with a lot of packet bursts and you will have much more success. Carefully review the activity from prior passes that have been saved in buffer or as print outs and you will get going faster. If seriously confused ... call me!

Here are some recent messages I have copied coming down from the MIR space station:

6/30/91 NEWS FROM MIR: YESTERDAY (29-06) NIGHT WE AGAIN WORKED OUTSIDE STATION. 2ND EVA WAS SUCCESSFUL: 1. WE INSTALL DETECTORS FOR REGISTER HEAVY NUCLEUS IN SPACE RAYS, 2. INSTALL TV CAMERA ON SOLAR PANEL AND TEST CAMERA, 3. DEVELOP CRANE (BIG ARM) TEST IT AND PREPARE IT FOR NEXT WORKS NOW WE RETURN TO NORMAL DAYTIME (FOR SLEEP AT NIGHT AND WORK AT DAY) 73, U5MIR

7/4/91 U5MIRCQ INDEPENDENCE DAY! CONGRATULATION FROM SPACE! 73! SERGEY, ANATILY.

(Both of the above are unedited)

With all the space walks these two guys are taking, the amount of ham activity is really amazing. Keep tuned, you all!

Operating the IARU Championship

de Dave, K8CC

(This article by Dave Pruett, K8CC, appeared in a recent issue of the Mad River Radio Club's newsletter. Dave is the author of the well known and highly regarded NA Contest Logging Program which many of us will be using in the IARU HF Championship contest this month...ed)

Quite a few contesters seem to have no interest in operating the IARU HF Championship contest. It's not hard to see why - the contest occurs in mid-July, when most rational people have lots better things to do than sit in the basement and operate their radios. (Considering the July weather here on the Gulf Coast, I can think of nothing better than sitting under the air conditioning and operating radio...ed) However, for those contesters who can fit it into their busy schedules, the IARU HF Championship offers some unique challenges and lots of fun.

The contest used to be called IARU Radiosport, which I personally feel was a much better name than "HF Championship". The rules are somewhat unique - the scoring is based on ITU zones. No, not CQWW zones (of which there are 40) but ITU zones (of which there are 90). Score one point for a QSO in your ITU zone, three points for a QSO outside your zone but on your continent, and five points otherwise. Multipliers are ITU zones worked on each band. 160 thru 10 (no WARC), with additional multipliers for any ITU Headquarters Club station worked (ex. W1AW for ARRL). The contest period is 24 hours, from 1200Z Saturday to 1200Z Sunday, with no off times. There are four entry categories: single-op CW only, single-op SSB only, single-op mixed mode, and multi-operator single transmitter.

The rules have a lot of positive aspects. Most contesters can go the 24 hour period without sleep, and it occurs at a pretty convenient time for us W8s - 8 AM on Saturday to 8 AM on Sunday. The point structure encourages the operator to chase DX, but if conditions are punk, you can still work statesiders to pile up the points. Multipliers are crucially important - consider this, in a typical CQWW, the ratio of QSOs to mults might be five or six to one while a good IARU score might be more than ten to one!

The biggest difference to operating in the IARU is due to the July contest date. Summer propagation is usually very different from fall, which means that 28 MHz is not likely to produce any European runs. However there are opportunities for unusual paths, such as LP JA in the morning and often quite a bit of dual EU/JA openings (thank goodness for split-beam stacks!). Also, sunrise/sunset times are drastically different from the fall (go out now and buy a DX-Edge if you don't own one already).

Having done reasonably well in IARU for the past three years in the CW-only category, I would like to pass along some operating tips that should help improve your IARU HF Championship score.

First, since multipliers are so important, try to be QRV on all six contest bands. Even a mediocre antenna for the low bands will help build your score. There are six ITU zones to be worked just in the USA and Canada - add a couple of DX zones and voila!

Second, if you plan to seriously operate the contest, decide ahead of time to operate all 24 hours. There is always people to work so there is no really good time to take off. If you only want to operate part time, hit the Saturday morning EU (and maybe JA) runs, then skip the afternoon if desired. Start again before sunset and stay up at least thru EU sunrise at ap-

proximately 0400Z. Try to get up around 1000Z for the Pacific and then finish the contest running EU again until 1200Z.

I usually start the contest on 14 MHz, because there always seems to be some Southeast Asians to work that are never heard from again. In 1989 my first QSO at 1200Z was a LP JA on 28 MHz CW. This is a good time for Africa and skew path EU, so check 28 MHz at the start. It is very tempting to start on 21 MHz since EU is likely to be coming in well, but don't miss the opportunities on 14 and 28 MHz.

Around 1300Z you will probably want to start hammering 21 MHz. After a while you will start to think you are doing a single band contest, as there will not be much to work on 14 MHz once absorption kicks in during the day. 28 MHz must be watched for multipliers, and this is where a second radio can be an immense help. Most QSOs on 28 MHz will be south Americans, but you need every one of them to build your mult total on that band. Get into a rhythm - run 21 MHz, then sweep 28 MHz (preferably both at the same time!).

By late afternoon you will have flogged 21 MHz to death, and it is not uncommon to have 500+ QSOs on that band and fewer than 100 on the other bands combined! As sunset approaches, the absorption will start to dissipate and allow 14 MHz to be useful. Some really terrific hours are available during this period so take advantage of it. You might also check 7 MHz prior to our sunset.

In July W8 sunset occurs roughly at 0200Z. This is the BEST time to work EU on 3.5 MHz. For the past two years, I have been able to CQ Europeans on 3.5 MHz using simple wire antennas (that means dipoles, fellas). Hearing the DX during the summer can be a real challenge - RX antennas such as beverages and loops are a big help. There are usually at least a couple of big HQ Club stations running multi-multi that have good sigs and can be worked with reasonable effort. Don't miss this chance on 3.5 MHz.

After sunset you gotta make serious hay on 7 MHz. European sunrise occurs around approximately 0400Z, so we only have a couple of hours of mutual darkness to rack up EU QSOs on 7 MHz. Again, hearing the DX can be a problem when thunderstorms are nearby, however a good run on this band can result in lots of multipliers, particularly out of Africa.

Once past EU sunrise, it's time to hammer 14 MHz. Most years, this band is open all night and there are scads of Russians to work. (This might have something to do with the old "RADIOSPORT" name - lets hope they never discover the name change.) In 1989 even 21 MHz was open to EU most of the evening, but it's probably not really runnable, and you need to build your 14 MHz QSO total (and the mults that go with it). Don't forget to sweep the low bands every hour or so - it's a good idea to check 1.8 MHz on the hour, but don't waste time there without working anybody.

Around 1000Z things start to get interesting out to the west. In 1990 I went to 1.8 MHz to help out N6TV who needed my zone, and the first sig I heard was ZL3GQ, S8 on the meter! I snagged Peter with one call (alright, I admit that there were no others calling), then QSY'd down to work N6TV on 1823. A couple of CQs netted no response, so I went back up to 3.5 MHz. The first CQ on the 90' high dipole netted ZL2UW, FK8FU and then KL7Y who said that I "was real loud on 160". We moved back to 1.8 MHz but a cockpit error at K8CC caused the fuses in the Titan amp to blow. I never heard KL7Y and he told me later on 3.5 that he never heard me again - oh well!

The last hour of the contest can be quite interesting. In 1988 the last 30 minutes produced 30 JAs on 7 MHz, which was the only time I was ever able to CQ JAs on the old 2L yagi. In

1989 (the year my first QSO was a 28 MHz LP JA) the Japs were workable again on that band in the final hour, along with a big surprise - straight path Europeans! Conditions in 1990 were not quite so super, but again it is a good opportunity to work South Pacific and Asia on 14 MHz, or run a few more Europeans on 21 MHz.

One more thing. IARU HF was the contest that motivated me to write my NA Logging Program. Running any version of NA on a PC clone will make the contest lots more fun and ease the pain of contest paperwork (scoring all of those QSO points is a drag). For more details contact K8CC or the LTA advertisements in the National Contest Journal.

In conclusion the IARU HF Championship contest can be a lot of fun. The DX participation appears to outnumber the USA contingent, so there is a lot of DX to be worked. Propagation can be strange and wonderful during the month of July. So fire up the shack air conditioner, and plan to be QRV this July - you'll be sure to see K8CC in the pileups (at least if I get my 7 MHz rotator fixed...).

(Obviously times and band openings will vary somewhat for W5 land, but Dave's article should give you a running start. CU in the piles...ed)

The TDXS Bulletin Board System

de Ron, KB5NFN

As many of you may have heard by now, Tuna's BBS (a.k.a. Bill, K2TNO) has been modernized with new software and is once again open for business.

What changes have been made? The first priority was to rid ourselves of the old software, Genesis Deluxe, inherited by Dr. Bill from a now departed graduate student. The primary reason was that Genesis was both antiquated and hardly user-friendly.

Enter a new software package called Opus. Written by a group of sysops in Dallas and elsewhere, Opus offers an unlimited message base and file area capability. File transfer protocols for uploading and downloading of files are much more advanced, including some of the fastest ones available. In addition Opus provides the ability to handle netmail and echomail.

Netmail is somewhat akin to the local mail service, albeit much more rapid. Through netmail it is possible to send messages to people anywhere in the world, so long as they have access to the same network. The address format is much simpler having a specific node address for each system in the network.

For an example, our BBS was just assigned the address 1:106/9636. Specifically, 1 stands for Zone 1, the United States. There are other zones 2 through 6, each representing another specific part of the world. Next is 106. This designates the local network to which the system belongs, in this case, Houston. Austin for example is net 382. Finally, there is the node number 9636. This number is specific to our BBS in the Houston Net; it is our node number.

Echomail is a variation upon the netmail principle. Rather than just having a single message travel out to one specific destination, the message is echoed to a great number of destinations, all those participating in that particular echo area. On the BBS, I have included the Amateur Radio echo, thereby allowing users to communicate with other operators all across the nation. To name a few people that participate in this echo are Tad Cook, KT7H, writer of the ARRL propagation bulletin, and Luck Hurder, KY1T, the ARRL Public Service Director.

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The echo serves as a medium to pass information about, as well as to ask questions when an answer cannot seem to be found locally.

Of course, we still have the usual BBS features, a local message area and a general files area. In addition, we have added a file area specifically for TDXS files, as well as for satellite tracking and related programs.

The BBS is accessed via the same phone number, (713) 798-4955, and will accept 2400, 1200 and 300 baud callers. However, note that users must be at 1200 baud or higher in order to make file transfers.

Finally, the BBS will accept human callers 22 hours of the day. Please do not attempt to call between 0300 and 0500 local time, as you will not be accepted. This provides a time slot for the purpose of net and echomail transfer.

We welcome your questions, comments, etc. about the BBS. Please don't hesitate to get hold of either Tuna or myself, Ron Jr., on the board, on the voice repeater, or the Cluster.

The Farm and Ranch Column

(Many of you who have visited Bob, W5SJS's place up in Austin county for Field Day may have wondered just what goes on there after the aluminum and steel have been stowed away in the barn for another year. The following correspondence may suggest the thinking behind Bob's activities...ed)

The Honorable Secretary of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

My friend Ed Peters over at Wells, Iowa received a check for \$1,000 from the government for not raising hogs. So I want to go into the "not raising hogs" business next year.

What I want to know is, in your opinion, what is the best breed of hogs not to raise? I want to be sure that I approach this endeavor in keeping with all governmental regulations and policies. I would prefer not to raise razorbacks, but if that is not a good breed not to raisethen I will just as gladly not raise Yorkshires or Durocs.

As I see it, the hardest part of this program will be an accurate inventory of how many hogs I haven't raised. My friend Peters is very joyful about the future of the business. He has been raising hogs for twenty years or so, and the best he ever made on them was \$422.00 in 1968 until this year when he got your check for \$1,000.00 for not raising hogs.

If I get \$1,000.00 for not raising 50 hogs, will I get \$2,000.00 for not raising 100 hogs? I plan to operate on a small scale at first, holding myself down to about 4,000 hogs not raised, which will mean about \$80,000.00 the first year. Then I can afford my airplane.

Now another thing, these hogs I will not raise will not eat 100,000 bushels of corn. I understand that you also pay farmers for not raising corn and wheat. Will I qualify for payments for not raising wheat and corn not to feed the 4,000 hogs I am not going to raise? I want to get started as soon as possible, as this seems to be a good time of the year not to raise hogs and grain.

Also, I am considering the "not milking cows" business, so send me any information on that, too. In view of these circumstances, you understand that I will be totally unemployed and plan to file for unemployment and food stamps.

Be assured you will have my vote in the coming election.

Patriotically yours,

Bob Burns
Kenney, Texas

P.S. Would you please notify me when you plan to distribute more free cheese?

(Just at press time Bob passed on the following reply to his letter...ed)

Dear Mr. Burns:

We are in receipt of a copy of your recent mailing regarding the Department of Agriculture's current Non Hog Production Plan (NHPP). We have consulted at considerable length, and our conclusion is that this is potentially a very, very dangerous plan. Our consulting tells us that "non" hog raising could quickly reach an all time high resulting in a massive reduction of the National Cholesterol Level (NCL) as released by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, GA.

This would be due, of course, to the sudden lack of high cholesterol foods available to, and consumed by, millions of non-working entitlementists through the Department of Agriculture (DOA) Free Food Distribution Program (FFDP). The excess pork, bacon, lard, ham and eggs presently consumed by these freeloaders results in an abnormally high cholesterol level among the group.

THEREFORE: Our consulting tells us that if the DOA's NHPP becomes popular then their FFDP could abruptly cease due to the lack of excess pork, bacon, lard, ham and eggs. At this point two things could occur:

1. DOA would have to buy imported "excess hogs" from Mexico under the Free Trade Program (FTP), and then give the "free food" to the disadvantaged who keep our nation's pawn shops and hubcap dealers in business. This would result in business as usual and we then could all rest assured that the sustained growth in the National Debt (ND) would not be jeopardized. **OR**

2. The DOA could simply go afoul of the Congressional Mandate (CM) to feed the "entitled electorate" and not give away the nonexistent excess hog products. At this point the cholesterol level of this group would drop, resulting in a tremendous decrease in the death rate from heart and circulatory disease. Our City/County/State/Federal tax-supported hospitals then would be in jeopardy of operating in the black, causing our "entitled electorate" elected politicians to suffer from apoplexy and other related things. They would, of course, perk up since the "entitled electorate" would then live longer thereby easing the need for tombstone registration.

It is our recommendation that the policy letter outlining the NHPP payment scale not be given general implementation.

We are reluctant to have to tell you that we have never before had a request from an individual for our consulting service. Therefore we are forced to deal with you in the same manner as we do our regular clients. Our rates are exorbitant since, like all consultants, we are set up mainly to gouge political entities. The law says we cannot charge individuals a fair fee and governments our usual fee. We will recommend that when you receive our IUSC (invoice under separate cover - not to be confused with IUD) you assume you are fortunate to get off so easy and keep your stupid questions to yourself in the future!

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.

Outgoing QSL Cards

The ARRL provides a service to its 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 D-Xpedition operations usually go the country of the operator, e.g. JW9XG via LA9XG, 3D2XR via SM7PKK, etc. Many foreign stations have stateside QSL managers. These cards may be included with the "K's". By the way, most caribbean stations turn out to be nonresidents, so send such QSL's to the operator's home country. There are number of DXCC countries not served, e.g. many U.S. territories (KH3, KH7, KH9, etc.) and countries such as Taiwan, Egypt, Nepal, etc. A complete list currently appears in September 1989 QST, page 65.

Finally, each TDXS member must include his QST address label with each group of cards submitted. Contact KG5U if you have any questions (before you drop the cards on him!).

QST

de Bob, W5SJS

The TDXS is looking for a triband beam to add to the Field Day antenna inventory. We are presently well set with mono banders, but do need a good tribander to fill out the list.

Also, we are looking for a rotator in the Ham-M, Ham-IV, etc. category. While a rotator in working condition at a reasonable price would do nicely, even a defunct "shell" would be helpful. If you have either of these items, or know of a possible source, get in touch with Jim, N5DC or Bob, W5SJS.

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 \$1.25 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.

Field Day



Field Day 1991 was held on the Burns and Goeke ranches in Austin County, Texas. This year's 2-A effort was a relatively laid-back, unstructured affair, with a CW and a phone station offering plenty of operating time for everyone who came out.

A respectable number of the club's beams were erected on the two trailer mounted crank-up towers, with a dipole for 80 CW. A 2-meter beam was put up for the Packet operation. Also, a pole-mounted 10 meter beam was erected for the novice station, which was operated by Ron, KBSNFN.

The turn-out was only moderate, with approximately 12 to 18 members making an appearance. This number was adequate for setting up the stations, but was not adequate for filling all of the operating slots. An additional ten to fifteen members would have been ideal.

A group went into Brenham on Friday night and had the traditional late dinner at the local steak house. A fine time was had by everyone.

Saturday brought a mid-day rain storm which slowed the set-up. However, the rain did not last long and the remainder of the day was much cooler.

Both stations operated all night and did surprisingly well considering the small operator 'pool'. Sunday was a hot day, with the usual frequent trips to cool off in the stock tank at the windmill. The operators found a problem with many of the available stations having been already worked.

By one o'clock Sunday, the tally was quite respectable, especially considering the laid-back approach set out for this year. Results were as follows:

Total CW QSO's	1541 x 2 =	3082
Total Phone QSO's	1568 x 1 =	<u>1568</u>
Total QSO Points		4650
100 Watt Mult		<u> 2</u>
		9300

plus Bonus Points A) 100% emergency pwr.
B) Packet Radio

These scores are certainly fine for a year in which the club has agreed not to go for a national win. However, it would have made it much easier for the guys participating to have had a dozen or so more members come out to give a hand. Next year, more members should plan ahead to come out to Field Day and be active!