



# THE BULLSHEET



Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

founded 1970

September 1991  
Volume XV  
Number 9

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

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## The Prez Sez - de Jim, N5DC

I note from the latest Mad River Radio Club newsletter, that they lost money on their Hospitality Suite at the Dayton Convention. That's really tough, especially since Dayton is a real "biggie" with lots of folks attending. However, it does point out that TDXS will have to get into high gear if we intend to resume our record of success with our own hospitality suite at this year's **Houston convention**.

I recall addressing my column in last month's Bullsheet to the subject of the upcoming convention, and our plans for participating. To date I have only had a single member (naturally one of the "old guard") offer his services to help with this year's **TDXS hospitality suite**. I hate to think that TDXSers are sitting on their collective hands, but that's the way it looks from here. Even more disturbing is the apparent lack of interest evidenced by some of our newer members.

As you all know, **Jim, NN5O** has put forth a monumental effort to bring us a featured program that is second to none for any ham radio convention in the country. I'll take bets, that nobody, repeat nobody, can match our program for this year. And all I have heard from our membership is... NOTHING!

This is your club, and we are talking about your convention, here in Houston, not too many weeks from now! I can see no reason, with the drawing power of **Musa, U2MIR** and **Boris, UW3AX**, why we cannot attract a lot of visitors to our suite anxious to meet these two guys. We're going to need help to handle the suite both nights. Come on guys (and gals), we need you. Everyone seems to find ample time for DXing (and even some contesting) these days. Why not set aside several hours over the Convention weekend and join in the fun of helping to run our suite. The time has arrived when I need to put your name on the dotted line. I need to hear **NOW** from those of you who are prepared to help. Any takers?

I don't believe that we can afford to sustain a loss from our hospitality suite. Let's show the ham world what TDXS, a premier Contest and DX club, can do when we really get into high gear!

## 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 September meeting will take place on **Friday, September 13, 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. If necessary, a meeting of the TDXS Board of Directors will be held following the close of the regular meeting. Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

**Bullsheet Mailing List** - TDXS wishes to provide the Bullsheet to those amateurs in the Houston area with an active interest in DXing and contesting. Donations to help defray publication and mailing costs are appreciated. Visitors to our club meetings will receive the Bullsheet for three months free of charge simply by 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 via FAX to the editor at the number listed below. 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 for either fax or packet transfers.

**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.

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## DX Report

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de Bob, AK5B

Looks like it will be a short column this month. Seems like all of the hot DX news is already out there in the open. Guess I'll not be able to dazzle you with the latest "scoop" on the XZ, or even the ZA that's supposed to be coming up on the 15 of this month.

Romeo, operating from Myanmar (Burma) as XY0RR, showed up here on the Thursday before Labor Day with weak signals, reported to be the product of 100 watts to a wire antenna. What happened to all the donated equipment, e.g. amps, beams, etc., that was to be used on this operation? Maybe that's why things were kind of slow on the bands over the long week-end. They must have been putting all the antennas together and firing up the big generators. Let's hope for a better signal this week.

A few of the more fortunate locals worked Romeo on the first Thursday evening. He was just a whisper here at my QTH. Steve, WA9VLI suggested I take down the TH-6 and steel-wool it! If I don't hear Romeo any better this week, maybe I'll try to get an antenna party together next week-end and give it a try!

Linda and I had a super vacation. Spent a week touring the nice green, cool state of Michigan. We finished off the week by attending the **ARRL National Convention** in Saginaw. They had an excellent location in the downtown section of the city. Easy to get to and lots of room. On the radio the convention promoters were forecasting crowds in the six thousand range. If they actually had two thousand, I'd be surprised.

On the plus side, there was plenty of room to get around and see everything. You could even get up to the tables and talk to the folks at the booths. (Unlike Ham-Com in Arlington.) To bad the convention folks didn't have their act together, as there were a few things that went astray. For instance, one of the major exhibitors folded up his tent around 10:30 Saturday morning and departed for good.

At the DX Forum on Saturday Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH, who is ARRL Membership Services Manager, read a copy of the IARU press release that had been read in Tokyo at the Tokyo Ham Convention by Mr. Agim Muco, Secretary General of the Albanian PTT. It announced the formation of the **Albanian Radio Transmitters Society**. It appears certain now that ZA will finally get underway from the capital city of Tirana on **September 15th**.

Quite a few dignitaries from all over the world will be in attendance. Representing the IARU will be Dick Baldwin, W1RU.

There will also be four instructors there for a month teaching radio to a select group of Albanians. One of the teachers is to be Marti Lane, OH2BH who will be there for the entire period.

Initial plans call for two stations operating three bands (10/15/20) each running 500 watts, 24 hours a day. Sounds like another BY in the making! Bring it on!

Since the whole world will be listening, let's hope that the use of some watts plus several world class operators will keep the frequencies somewhat cleaned up and not a disgrace to the ham community.

Last but not least, let us not forget that the **Houston Ham Com-Venton** is just around the corner. I understand that the TDXS prize tickets are hot off the press, so be on the lookout and have your cash handy. Let's all try to get behind the TDXS convention effort and make this a good one.

Rumor also has it that Tuna (a.k.a. Bill, K2TNO) was the first to volunteer for hospitality suite duty. Sounds like the perfect place for a return appearance of the "Dr. Tuna" talking box. Who knows what else may be in the making for this festive event. Be sure to allot enough time in your plans to help out a while in the suite and join in the fun.

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## DX Packet Clusters

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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 node operating on 144.990 MHz with the alias **HOU99** is located at Stafford to provide access to this PacketCluster for users in the southern part of the greater Houston area. A second node with the alias **MAG99**, also operating on 144.990 MHz, is located near Magnolia and gives better access to those users in the northern part of Houston. The preferred procedure is to first connect with the digipeater node (C **HOU99** or C **MAG99**) 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 southeastern 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 as far as Midland, TX, Oklahoma City, OK and Little Rock, AR 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.

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## Kenwood's Bulletin Board System

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The *Kenwood Newsletter*, Vol 1, Issues No. 1 & 2 describe the Kenwood 24 Hour Bulletin Board System. The system was placed in operation in June 1989.

It contains a complete listing of all Kenwood Service Bulletins and Application Notes, and provides technical assistance. In addition it contains both a general files section and a message section. Apparently it is configured to function along the lines of most computer based BBS.

Two nodes are operating: #1 (213) 761-8284, and #2 (213) 761-8292. Connect at 300, 1200 or 2400, 8, N, 1. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

(This is NOT a paid advertisement by Kenwood, just a word to the wise..ed)

**Contest Corner**

de Kenny, NZ5I

Now that the NCJ's North American QSO Party SSB has passed us by, I would like to sincerely thank all of you brave souls who stuck it out! This was a very slow event to say the least. Billy, K5GA said it would be... and boy was he ever right. For those of you who entered this contest for the first time, believe me, the January version was really a lot more fun.

I wonder how the general lack of consistent advertising prior to the contest affected participation. This, in addition to poor conditions, had to be a big negative. Looks like we may have done well despite all the elements!

Some of the known scores are included elsewhere in this issue. If we missed you, my apologies. Remember, send in your log! All NAQP logs should be sent to: Dave Pruett, K8CC, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198.

By the time that you read this I will have submitted our team entry for Sprint CW. I'm amazed at the difficulty I'm having catching up with folks. Confirmed so far:

- K5LZO...Chuck...TX
- K5GA.....Bill.....LA (W5WMU)
- KG5U....Dale.....TX
- K5TU....Kim.....KS
- KN5H....Steve.....MD
- NM5M....Eric.....TX
- KI3L.....Don.....TX
- NZ5I.....Ken.....TX

That's only eight guys so far. I will surely have a full team by test time, but it sure is gonna be tricky! Thank goodness Trey, WN4KKN accepts fax team registration! I'm hoping to catch up with a few more of our "Strokey Dudes" for some help.

If you want an interesting time and the chance to make contacts in no less than three contests at once, consider getting on the air the weekend of September 14th! The All Asian SSB, WAE SSB, and Sprint SSB tests will all be underway during what may prove to be an exceptionally active weekend. Actually, the date for All Asia SSB is still up for grabs. If it doesn't happen September 7th, try the 14th. If not then, try the following weekend. You can be sure that the JAs will be on in force, sooner or later!

I also hear that Joe, W5ASP and Andy, GM0ECO will be giving these a whirl from Andy's QTH overseas...Good luck guys!

That's it for this month folks. 73 and good luck!

**Upcoming Events**

- September 13.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- September 14.....European DX (WAE) SSB Contest
- September 14.....All Asian Phone (??)
- September 15.....North American Sprint SSB
- September 21.....Scandinavian CW Contest
- September 28.....Scandinavian SSB Contest
- October 05.....California QSO Party
- October 11.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- November 08.....Houston Com-Vention '91

**Contest News**

**Results**

**1990 CQ WW DX SSB**

- GM0ECO...4057Q...97Z...317C...4.25M...SO/AB...#7EU
  - K5MA/1...1138Q...63Z...207C...886K...SO/AB
  - NR5M.....2093Q...37Z...150C...1.12M...SO/28...#1US
  - KC5CP.....440Q...32Z...115C...187K...SO/28
  - W5WMU...1070Q...37Z...130C...487K...SO/21...#1US
  - KE5FI.....314Q...26Z...72C...59K...SO/3.5...#6US
  - K5NA/2...2715Q...166Z...637C...6.19M...MO/ST...#4US
  - V31K.....6146Q...131Z...434C...8.28M...MO/ST
- (K5GA, W5ASP & WB5N)

**Claimed**

**1991 CQ WPX SSB**

- ZF2NE/ZF8.....6.18 M...SO/AB...#11 DX

**NCJ NA QSO PARTY**

**CW**

- KI3L.....387 Q...135 M...52 K
- W5ASP.....300 Q...105 M...32 K
- AA5NK...179 Q...81 M...15 K
- NZ5I.....178 Q...68 M...12 K

**SSB**

- K5LZO...505 Q...142 M...72 K
- KI3L.....428 Q...126 M...54 K
- W5ASP...453 Q...103 M...47 K
- K5WA.....327 Q...114 M...37 K
- AA5NK...254 Q...103 M...26 K
- NZ5I.....251 Q...79 M...20 K
- AK5B.....120 Q...59 M...7 K

**DXCC Update**

(The August & September 1991 QST list the credits given to DXCC members through February 1990. Here are some local calls that appeared..ed)

**2 Meters**

- W5UN - 102

**Mixed**

- NN5O - 294
- N5TC - 322

**CW**

- KC5M - 311
- N5TC - 290
- AA5NK - 303

**Annual Listing Reminder** - Those who wish to update their totals for the 1991 DXCC Annual Listing must submit confirmations during September. They must reach HQ on or before **Sept. 30, 1991** to be included in the listing.

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## Contesting Notes

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de Fred, K3ZO

(The following article appeared in the *PVRC Newsletter* for July 1991. Those contesters among our readers should find it particularly interesting, especially with **All Asia Phone** coming up in September. In the interest of brevity, I have omitted the first and last paragraphs of Fred's original article..ed)

I had barely recovered from basking in the glow of being North American champion all-band single operator entry in the 1990 All Asia Phone DX Contest when I got an anguished letter from Sid, K5XI, who showed up in second place in the official contest results. Sid, it seems, had used the WPX option for K1EA's CT program and had not realized that in the All Asia, while multipliers are prefixes as in the WPX, they count on each band and not just once. Had he figured his multipliers correctly, Sid noted, he would have been North American champion by a wide margin.

This brings up the matter of use of the CT and NA programs in contests they do not specifically support. Once you have gotten used to computer contesting, there is no desire to go back to paper logging, and no good reason to do so. Though there are many contests that CT and NA do not specifically support, the programs can be used with such contests, with the operator reaping most of the benefits of computer logging even though the contest in question is not specifically supported.

The first question is, what contest option do you use to run your non-supported contest? The primary consideration here is what type of serial number is exchanged. With NA, if you type a figure in the exchange field which NA is not expecting, it will usually crash and put you back at the DOS prompt. With CT, it will usually not let you go to the next line. So it is very important to choose a contest option which will give the program the kind of number it expects to see in the exchange field. The second-most-important consideration is what the contest uses for multipliers, so that you can get CT or NA to flag your multipliers for you correctly if at all possible. Therefore Sid was correct to choose CT's WPX option to run his All Asia Contest entry. As far as CT is concerned, the age is just another serial number, and, like AA, the multipliers are prefixes. The only difference is that AA counts multipliers on each band, while WPX counts them only once per contest. What Sid should have done is use a different file for each band. In other words, if he is making 20 meter contacts, he should go to the prompt and say something like "CT aadx-20" whereas if he is going to make 15 meter contacts, he should say something like "CT aadx-15". That way CT will accurately flag the multipliers on each band.

While it may seem a waste of time to exit and re-enter CT each time you change bands, it doesn't really take that much time if you use the -now switch that Ken has provided in his latest versions. By using separate files for each band in this case, you save A LOT of postcontest editing time. It IS important, however, to set up the correct information sheets for each file well prior to the beginning of the contest.

If you like to file your paper logs in chronological order after the contest, as I do, no problem. Just use CT's merge feature and you will have everything nicely in order. Before merging the files, however, make sure you have edited, scored and printed the entry logs to send to JARL along with and edited version of the summary sheet.

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## Texas DX Society NA Sprint Results

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(Listed below are the results of the TDXS Team entries in the NCJ North American Sprints for the past five years. the number of team members is noted as (#)..ed)

### CW

Feb. '87.....(9).....83,586.....2nd  
 Sep. '87.....(9).....94,043.....3rd  
 Feb. '88.....(8).....59,858.....5th  
 Sep. '88.....(10).....99,975.....4th  
 Feb. '89.....(3).....31,919.....7th  
 Sep. '89.....(\*)..128,337.....2nd (\* 5 TDXS, 5 NTCC)  
 Feb. '90.....NO ENTRY  
 Sep. '90.....(9).....93,633.....4th  
 Feb. '91.....(7).....54,504.....8th

### Phone

Feb. '87.....(7).....38,852.....2nd  
 Sep. '87.....(9).....84,729.....2nd  
 Feb. '88.....(10).....92,429.....1st  
 Sep. '88.....(8).....66,194.....3rd  
 Feb. '89.....(8).....88,078.....2nd  
 Sep. '89.....(5).....47,304.....4th  
 Feb. '90.....NO ENTRY  
 Sep. '90.....(6).....42,284.....5th  
 Feb. '91.....(6).....43,231.....4th

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## Book Review

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de Jack, WA0RJY

(Jack Fleming, WA0RJY's review of *Where Do We Go Next*, by Martti Laine, OH2BH, appeared in the June 1991 issue of the *Totem Tabloid*..ed)

Anyone who met Martti at last year's WRTC extravaganza will recognize his style, and many of the participants, in *Where Do We Go Next* (published by KTE Publications, approx. \$25). The book isn't Martti's autobiography and it isn't a how-to book on DXpeditioning - but it includes a little of both.

Martti recounts his adventures at Annobon (3COAN), Revillagigedo (XF4L), and Western Sahara (S0RASD). He has several guest authors describe other DXpeditions including Market Reef, OJ2AM (by Dave Heil, K8MN), M-V Island, 4J1FS (by Chip Margelli, K7JA and Boris Stepanov, UW3AX), Jarvis Island, AH3C/KH5J (by Pete Grillo, AH3C), and Penguin Island, ZS9Z/ZS1 (by Wayne Mills, N7NG) The planning, travel, cultures, and operating are all described along with many excellent photographs.

The book also contains features of interest on DX operating practices, hints on working expeditions in pile-ups, and some excellent insight by James Maxwell, W6CF, when he reviews the current DXCC rules, and Wayne Mills, N7NG, discussing tailending. The Northwest is represented in the book when WRTC, Guemes Island, and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians are all mentioned (maybe not prominently, but mentioned).

With the small number of publications on DXing available, this is a must for the library of any DXer. I can't wait for the movie version...

## 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 W5 QSL Bureau, P. O. Box 50625, Midland, Texas 79710.** Full details about this ARRL service appeared in the **September 1991 QST on page 64.**

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.

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.

## 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 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!).