



founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club



June 1992
Volume XVI
Number 6

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

President	Bill Bradford, K5GA
Vice President	Jim Carmody, NN5O
Secretary	Mike Bragassa, AA5NK
Treasurer	Don Butler, KI3L/5
Bullsheat Editor	Joe Staples, W5ASP
Contest Chairman	Bob Evans, N5DU
DX Chairman	Steve Smothers, WA9VLI
Field Day Chairman	Mike Davidson, KC5CP
Legal Chairman	Sid Leach, K5XI
Repeater Chairman	Jim Lane, N5DC

Weekly DX and Contest Net - Each Tuesday night at 2100 CST, the Texas DX Society sponsors a DX and contest net on 147.96/36 MHz. The purpose of this net is to exchange information of interest to DXers and contesters. The agenda includes general and club announcements, DX information, contest information, QSL routings, and related topics. Participation is not limited to members of TDXS, but is open to all and everyone is free to join in.

Monthly Swap Meet - Ron, KB5NFN reminds everyone that there is a monthly swap fest held on the **3rd Saturday** of each month starting at 6:30 A.M. and lasting until 9:30 A.M. in the large parking lot located on the northeast corner of the intersection of the Southwest Freeway and Murphy Road. It can be reached from the Southwest Freeway by exiting at Murphy Rd. Or coming from the Sam Houston Tollway, taking the Southwest Freeway outbound, exiting at West Airport Blvd., making the U-turn and going east on Murphy Rd.

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. **The June TDXS meeting will be held on Friday, June 12, 1992 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 to the right just north of Westheimer. Park in the lot and follow the walkway to enter the school building. The meeting will get underway around 7:15 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.

Program - This meeting will focus on final plans for Field Day. Members are encouraged to attend and get involved in the premier TDXS event of the year.

Bullsheat Mailing List - TDXS wishes to provide the Bullsheat to those amateurs in the Houston area with an active interest in DXing and contesting. Donations to help defray publication and mailing costs are appreciated. Visitors to our club meetings will receive the Bullsheat for three months free of charge simply by signing the Attendance List and including their mailing address. 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. Publication deadline is the first Friday of the month.

The Prez Sez - de Bill, K5GA

Hey guys, it is **FIELD DAY TIME!** Let's all get our camping gear in order and go out to our site to have some summertime fun. **Bob, W5SJS** has prepared for our onslaught, and with some good weather it could be a fun time for all. We do need an accurate count of participants by club meeting time this Friday night, so if there is anyone who plans to attend FIELD DAY but can not make the meeting, please inform someone who intends to be there. More information concerning this event can be found elsewhere in the Bullsheat.

We have received approximately 25 logs from out-of-state participants of the **Texas QSO Party**. Not a bad showing of interest from the world considering a short-fused announcement by QST and a non-announcement by CQ (John says he just forgot!). However, we have received **NO LOGS FROM THE ARMADILLOS!** How disgusting. (But come to think about it, my log is still on my desk at home!) We must have a bunch of "Eric's" in our midst. Anyway, we need to be sure that all the Armadillos get their logs turned in at the meeting. We need to get into the business of log-checking a.s.a.p. Melanie says that all **ARMADILLO AWARDS** will have to be returned otherwise. **Let's get those logs in...NOW!**

I did not know this, but apparently, the FCC has decided to allow valid licensed amateur radio operators to change their call signs to whatever they wish assuming that the call sign asked for is not issued. **Steve, WA9VLI** was the first to accomplish this. His new call is **WA9LVI**. Congratulations! May Steve work many more Spratly stations. While in QSO with Romeo the other day, he mentioned that Steve's new call is much more readable through the pileups!

Repeater Report

de Jim, N5DC

We are slowly, but surely, making real progress at the new **Greenway repeater site**. A Gasfet pre-amp has been installed on the **Spectrum** and has resulted in significant improvement in the receiver's performance.

Unfortunately there is an intermittent "crackling" noise that occasionally plagues the repeater. To combat this, the diode circulator will be removed from the G.E. unit and put into service on the **Spectrum**. We'll just have to wait and see whether or not this cures the "crackling" problem. If not, we'll try something else!

In the next week so the G.E. machine will be taken from the **downtown site** and subjected to a serious rehabilitation program. It will ultimately end up at Greenway as the primary repeater.

The **NT5D** 442.0 MHz machine continues to play flawlessly. You **TDXS** types need to give this repeater a lot more attention. Try it! You'll like it!

IGOR continues to "do-his-thing". I have kept up a constant flow of comments from our users going to his "master" who continues to promise new and better software...**SOON. One note for all. PLEASE.. BE SURE TO IDENTIFY WITH YOUR CALL WHEN YOU SEND TOUCHTONE COMMANDS TO IGOR. IT IS A VIOLATION OF PART 97, FCC REGULATIONS, TO SEND ANY TRANSMISSION WITHOUT PROPER IDENTIFICATION.**

TDXS BBS News

de Ron, KB5NFN

I'm pleased to report that the new 286 computer which is now home for the **TDXS BBS** was placed into operation on the 13th of May. Save for one small crash I (inadvertently) caused, it has been operating wonderfully ever since!

This month, I'd like to mention some of the new features we have on-line, and how they can help you work your way around the system. First and foremost, I feel it necessary to mention that all new users **MUST** fill out the questionnaire before receiving an access level upgrade. I'd noted comments from one new user who was a little irritated because he couldn't upload a file on his first call. I must emphasize that this is for you, the user's, protection. There are actually people out there who enjoy uploading virus files, trojan horses, and the like, and seek to cause harm to other computers. By limiting upload (and download) privileges until the user provides information such that we might contact them if a questionable file arises, we are able to cut down on the number of possible security breaches. I'll admit that it is a minor inconvenience, but it serves a necessary purpose, and the precautions are justified.

On a lighter note now, there are a couple new features at the Main Menu. The Change Setup option has now been split into a second feature, the History option. Both options allow you to configure the system more specifically to your needs and system requirements. Bulletins have been moved to a separate menu, available as the Bulletin Menu option at the main prompt. For information purposes as well, is the Top Ten Users display. This shows the top callers, uploaders, and downloaders on the system. Kudos to Doug Payne (K5OIT) for 1,482k uploads, and shames to Bob Perring (N5RP) for 1,275k downloads. Think he'll start uploading now? grin Just kidding, Bob.

Over to the message areas, let's do a rundown of all those available. Area 1 is for all local messages for users on the BBS. These messages exist only on Cell Bio and are echoed out only to my own computer. This allows me to edit message replies at home and then upload them to the BBS, spending a lot less time on-line. Area 3 is the Houston Area Sale/Swap echo. Messages entered here are sent to all network BBSs in the Houston/Galveston area. Subject matter consists of any items for sale or swap, ranging from cars to computer parts to furniture. You name it, it can probably be found here. Area 4 is a Role Playing Game based on Star Trek, for all the Trek-type fans. Since I doubt many of you have an interest in this area, I'll skip over it, and suggest that anyone interested should contact me directly for more information. Finally, Area 5 is the Houston Area Hams echo, routed amongst the Ham radio related BBSs in Houston. It's linked with Bill Potter's (N5MBM) Far Point BBS, amongst others. Message traffic in this area is slow right now, but with a little help, maybe we can get some more activity there.

Two specific features that should be mentioned about the Message Menu. One is the QFind Mail for You! option, which scans the current message area for messages addressed to you. I recall this request from some time ago, and this will make it a lot easier to find your mail. Second is the Inquire option, which will scan message headers for a certain text string. This is nice for finding messages addressed to "All" in the Swapshop.

Over in the files areas, things are more or less the same as on the old BBS. Area 1 is for all unclassified files that don't seem to fit in any of the other categories and areas. Area 3 are all the BBS specific files. Got ideas of starting your own BBS? All the files used to make the Cell Bio BBS are found here. Of course, I do provide assistance as well. Area 4 is for all general Amateur Radio related files, with the exception of **TDXS** specific files, which are found in Area 5, and Satellite Tracking files, which are found in Area 6. Finally, in keeping with the old system, the St. Johns School files are in Area 7.

Previously, there was a problem with upgrading a new user in a relatively short time after getting the completed questionnaire. That has since been solved, and I am now able to upgrade users while on-line, and I check at least once every two days for new users.

Additionally, with this capability, I can also check forgotten passwords. If you do happen to forget your password, I will be able to get it for you. Due to the possible security risks, I will only give passwords out via a voice phone call, and will verify the user first. I'll not mention any names, but one **TDXS** member apparently has forgotten his password, and if he will call me, I'll pass it on to him.

As a side note on passwords, I really want to emphasize this: Amateur Operators should **NOT** use their call sign as a password. Aside from being extremely predictable, it is a security risk. Users may change their password in the Change Setup menu. Please consider changing your password often.

Enough of my waxing ineloquently for this month. I would like to remind everyone that I am always available to answer any questions about the BBS, and I do appreciate any bug reports, etc., about same. 73 es CU at Field Day!

TDXS BBS - (713) 798-4955

@ 2400or1200 Baud, No Parity, 8 bits, 1 stop bit

PROPAGATION

de Roy, AD5Q

(The following article will appear in the June 1992 NARS Newsletter. Roy, AD5Q was kind enough to provide the Bullsheat with a copy for the this edition..ed)

We have had some fine conditions on 15. Paths have been open to all parts of Asia during the day, with excellent openings into the late evening. These conditions are seasonal and we have enjoyed them through the sunspot peak, but how now?

For the first time in several years, the solar flux has dipped below 100. This occurred during the WPX CW contest. 15 Meter paths to Europe and Japan were marginal throughout the event, mostly because of the lower MUF's. Morning daypath propagation to Europe shifted to a lower frequency, and 20 Meters was found in excellent shape.

At this stage in the solar cycle we can usually expect fluxes to range between 100 and 150. Flux swings effect our HF bands more dramatically here than at higher levels. 15 will be less reliable, and fall conditions on 10 this year will remind many Novice & Tech DX'ers why they should work on their code and upgrade.

We still have plenty of good propagation left on 10 and 15, and when fluxes are low, a corresponding DX path can be found on a lower frequency band. Summer absorption starts to effect 15 during June as the spring DX season comes off its peak. Daytime absorption will be a noticeable factor by end of month (Field Day).

With fluxes at the higher end of our range good daypath conditions are still possible, but the late afternoon and evening paths will be better. There are no reliable daypath bands in July, because summer absorption is at its worst. Most of the nightpath stuff is on 20, but 40 is also pretty good.

After sunrise (on 20) we get our usual summer pipeline to the Pacific and far east, with long path to Africa and the Indian Ocean. LP to VU and EU is difficult when fluxes are low. Watch for especially good short path instead, with morning high latitude paths broadly open from the NW to NE.

Upcoming Events

- June 12.....Texas DX Society Meeting
- June 13.....ARRL VHF QSO Party
- June 20.....All Asia CW DX Contest
- June 27.....ARRL Field Day
- July 04.....Venezuela SSB DX Contest
- July 10.....Texas DX Society Meeting
- July 11.....IARU HF World Championsh
- July 11.....CQ WW VHF WPX Contest
- August 28.....New Orleans DX Convention
- October 10.....W5 DX Bash, Lake Buchanan, TX

For Sale

Kenwood TS-930S with 400 Cycle CW filters. High serial number. Mint condition. Joe, W5ASP (713)974-3455

TDXS Field Day 1992

The Field Day site this year will again be at Bob's, W5SJS, ranch just south of Brenham. If you haven't been there, or don't remember the way, directions will be available via the 147.96/36 repeater. Just put out a distress call. Someone will help, if you're lucky! By the way, this year field day is the weekend of **June 27-28th**.

Setup should begin mid to late afternoon on Friday. Anyone who can possibly get there to help should try to do so. We don't anticipate as much hard labor this year as at times in the past, but there will be lots to do. And we'll also be observing our traditional Friday evening gathering at the local steak house!

Saturday there will be lots of last minute loose ends to tie up for those arriving before the 1800Z starting time. SJS expects to have the stock tank ready for those in need of a cool respite from the heat. Also, the pond reportedly holds some rather large and hungry critters.

Every TDXS member should give serious thought to joining in this year's effort. After all, TDXS originated as a "field day group". And it does count as a "regular" club meeting!

As always, anyone with an interest is invited to join in and help out. In fact, it's a great time to bring out someone who might like to see what it's all about.

Contest Scores

Claimed

1991 CQ WW DX CW
 K5GN.....2.57M SO/AB 14th USA
 K5MA/1.....2.51M SO/AB 16th USA
 KN5H/3......77K SO/10 9th USA
 W5WMU.....114K SO/40 5th USA
 K5NA/2.....6.72M MS 1st USA

1991 CQ WW DX SSB
 GM0ECO.1.78M SO/AB World
 ZF8AA (K5GA,N5DU,W5ASP,W5VAH)....10.3 MS
 10th World
 K5MA/1.....1.38M SO/AB USA
 NR5M......479K SO/10 1st USA
 K5NA/2.....4.1M SO/AB 6th USA
 W5WMU.....3.2M SO/AB 9th USA

1992 Novice Round-Up
 KB5NFN/T...683 Q x 100 M - 2nd STX, 8th USA

CQ WPX DX CW
 KI3L/5......554 Q x 341 Pfx - 283,030 SO/AB
 K5GA......375 Q x 350 Pfx - 208,000 SO/AB
 N5EA (w/ W5ASP).....688 Q x 403 Pfx - 481,988 MS

Due Dates

(Contest Logs must either be postmarked (*) or received (r) by the dates listed...**Get Your Logs In!**)

July 10CQ WW WPX CW

Dispatches from the Plains

Kim, K5TU sends greetings from "rural Kansas"! He reports that he has recently found a small group of kindred spirits amongst the locals, and is guiding an effort to organize a local DX/Contest club. First efforts are being directed towards a PacketCluster node and a BBS. Kim appears to be back in the repeater business! Also, he mentions a Field Day effort in the works. Looks serious. Hope it plays Kim!

And congratulations are in order. Kim has recently been elevated to Vice President of Operations. Looks like the boy has the whole bundle of monkeys now. With the parent company offices now located in Houston (as well as both sets of families) maybe we'll see more of him in the days ahead.

Kim is now tied in with WF0A Packet BBS in Goddard, KS. Anyone interested in giving it a try should address their packet mail to **K5TU@WF0A-1.KS.USA** and see if it plays.

Kim and the clan will be traveling in early July, Disney World no less, so don't list it slip too long. (If manage to make a "round trip" packet message exchange, be sure to put out the word.) Other than that, Kim reports all is well with the family and that he is expecting.....a 486-33 no less. Sounds serious.

Dispatches From the Mid East

de Jim, N5DC

Rumors to the effect that our correspondent, Mike (a.k.a. AA5NK) might soon be QRV signing /SU appear to be somewhat premature. In talking with Mike's wife, Sharon, she passed on the following information about Mike. He has been fighting one kind of minor illness after another ever since arriving. He did comment, however, that the Hughes equipment was performing very well in the drilling operations, and that, as a result, he would be there at least through the end of July.

Nothing definite had yet been worked relative to the possibility of his getting on the air. Not to worry though, we can be sure that Mike will be setting up to get in contact with a local ham and set himself up to operate /SU if at all possible.

DX Packet Clusters

The TDXS Contest and DX PacketCluster operates on 144.930 MHz with the call **K5DX**. This recently added node is currently being operated by Rich, K5WA from his home in southwest Houston. It is linked to the Texas PacketCluster DX network. This is a "no-frills" packet node intended primarily for DX spotting. It lacks the powerful features of the KE5IV node, but does provide many local Houston stations with a more direct path into the system. Relocation of the site and a change in frequency will possibly occur sometime in the coming months. (Check the system for announcements regarding these changes.)

The Waller County Contest and DX PacketCluster Bulletin Board 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 **MAG99** is located near Magnolia and gives access to those users in the northern part of Houston. The preferred procedure is to first connect with the digipeater node and then connect to the PacketCluster. Please leave the cluster with the command **BYE**. There is another 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 getting somewhat better 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 the Texas Gulf Coast DX PacketCluster. This node is regularly connected to the KC5SC PacketCluster via 446.100 MHz. This cluster features a 40 Meter HF Gateway on 7.089 MHz which runs 600 watts into a 2 element yagi at 80 feet. Local users may also access the node via ports on 145.017/03 MHz.

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, US Amateur Call Book listings, 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.

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 current ARRL DXCC Country List. This means that the prefixes 4N, YT, and YZ go with the Yugoslavians, XQ and 3G with Chile, AZ and L2 to Argentina, etc. **Keep in mind recent changes. ES, LY and YL are no longer included with the "Russians".** The "East" Germans now go with the DL's. However, it is not necessary to sort within a given country, i.e. all Russian Republics in their new "Commonwealth" may be lumped together; don't sort RA, UT, 4K, etc. separately.

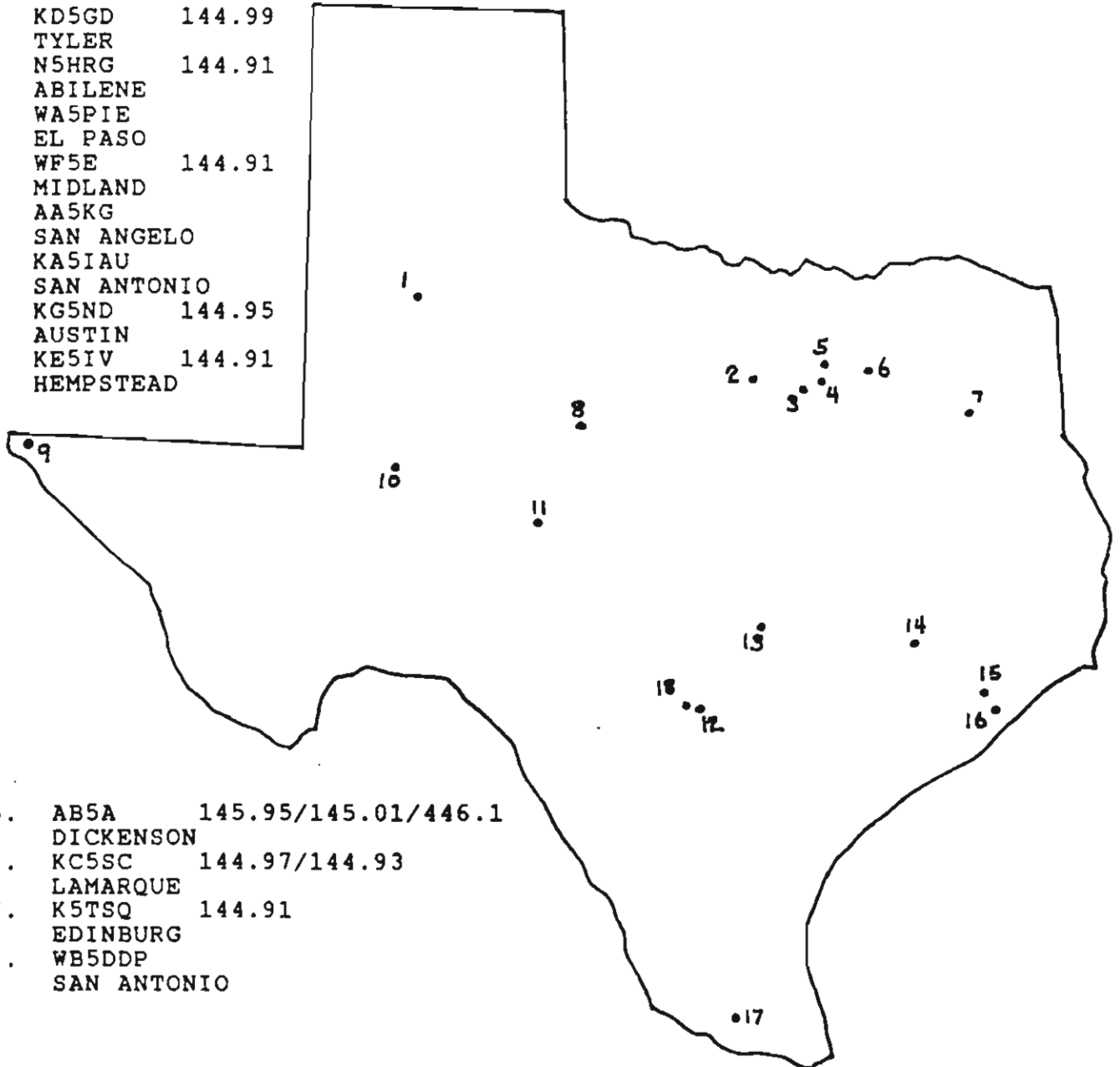
Also remember that QSL's for DXpedition operations usually go the country of the operator, e.g. XU1NQ via OK1NQ, 9L1SL via DJ6QT, etc. Many foreign stations have stateside QSL managers. These cards may be included with the "K's".

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 (KH0, KH4, KH9, etc.) and countries such as Qatar, Montserrat, Nepal, etc. A complete list currently appears in the **January 1992 QST, page 59** along with additional information about the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service.

Finally, each TDXS member must include a current QST address label with each group of cards he wants sent to the bureau. Contact **Dale, KG5U** if you have any questions (before you drop the cards on him!).

TEXAS DX PACKET CLUSTER NODES

1. KA5EJX 145.01/145.05
LUBBOCK
2. WC5P 144.95
WEATHERFORD
3. K9MK 144.91
HASLETT
4. W5AH 145.73/446.025
IRVING
5. WA5YKO 144.97
CARROLLTON
6. W5XJ 144.93/446.95
ROCKWALL
7. KD5GD 144.99
TYLER
8. N5HRG 144.91
ABILENE
9. WA5PIE
EL PASO
10. WF5E 144.91
MIDLAND
11. AA5KG
SAN ANGELO
12. KA5IAU
SAN ANTONIO
13. KG5ND 144.95
AUSTIN
14. KE5IV 144.91
HEMPSTEAD



15. AB5A 145.95/145.01/446.1
DICKENSON
16. KC5SC 144.97/144.93
LAMARQUE
17. K5TSQ 144.91
EDINBURG
18. WB5DDP
SAN ANTONIO