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THE BULLSHEET

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Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club



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

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only make a big difference to us individually, but it also puts more TDXS callsigns on the air as a reminder that our club is still around. The TDXS membership has chosen NOT to be a force-to-be-reckoned-with for club competition honors (we gave that up some years ago to NTCC.ed), but the contest world recognizes the callsigns of many of our members nevertheless. This is embarrassing to some of us who remember what a terrific contest club we once were. However, the march of time and the winds of change tend to remedy such situations. We shall see what the future comes up with to rectify this problem. Speaking for one contester, myself, a change is coming. I personally will not be satisfied being a member of just a 2 meter club. How about you?

The Prez Sez - de Bill, K5GA

Announcements

Your president has great news! He did not lose ANOTHER amplifier while returning to Houston from the Cayman Island expedition. Many of you Bullsheat readers had predicted yet another loss. But your 'ol Prez came through successfully. Many thanks to Rob, W5VAH for the trust and confidence he displayed by loaning his amplifier to the expedition effort. It really walked and talked!

Speaking of which, the ZF8AA contest effort was a total success. With the imported help of Ken, W0LSD and Bob, N0BG along with our host Ron, ZF8AA; and Don, KI3L; Bob, N5DU; Joe, W5ASP and yours truly, we reached a final score of 11.4 Meg, a 12% increase over last year's effort. Conditions were excellent for the entire weekend, and all operators did a fantastic job. This score should beat our Zone 8 competition soundly!! Thanks to all those members who at least got on to give us a contact. Every contact helped!

Election results are being tallied with no surprises except for one. Don, KI3L will be our new el Presidente, with Wes, AC5K as Vice Prexy, and Mike, KC5CP handling the money. Dave, K5GN has asked not to be an officer. Therefore, a substitute candidate for Secretary has been found, Dave, WB5N. All will be introduced at the next meeting.

Oh yes, do try to remember that the November meeting will be held at the TDXS Hospitality Suite, Room 807 (naturally!) Friday nite of the convention.

And I'm sure the guys putting on the TDXS DX Forum would appreciate your dropping in. Dale, KG5U, Jim, N5DC and Mike, WB5USV will handle the morning assignments. Then Dick, K5RR, Sid, K5XI and Tom, K5RC will do the honors in the afternoon. And do be around to help out George, NR5M with the ticket sales. He does a fantastic job but you can make it even better!

Sweepstakes CW starts Saturday afternoon of the convention. All of the club's sweepstakes contestants are asking for club-wide support. Please give us all a contact!! These contacts not

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 November meeting will take place on **Friday, November 6, 1992**. This month's meeting will be held during the 15th Annual Houston Com-Vention at the **Sheraton Crown Hotel**, 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd. This is the same location used for the convention for the past four years, and is just north of the Beltway 8 exit into Houston Continental Airport. We will be in **Room 807**, site of the infamous TDXS Hospitality Suite. The meeting should get underway sometime after 7:00 P.M. Highlights of the meeting will be the introduction of the '93 officers and plans for the January banquet. Those of you on the "ragged edge" of your four meetings need to turn out for sure. Time is running out. As always, visitors are welcome to attend the meeting as guests of the TDXS.

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 encouraged and appreciated.** Visitors to our regular monthly club meetings will receive the Bullsheat for several 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 KB5NFN's Bulletin Board at 713-777-0821, or sent to the Editor. If necessary text may be sent to via FAX to the editor by prior arrangement. Files or other messages may be sent to the editor via CompuServe or Internet to 71045.2632@compuserve.com. 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.

DX Report

de Mike, AA5NK

A couple of nice surprises came on this month. First, VU7CVP surfaced for a rather brief operation of a few days from the Laccadives. Too brief for its fifth place in The DX Magazine's 1992 Most Wanted Survey! The Laccadives, like VU4, The Andamans, are controlled by India and next to impossible for a non-Indian to gain permission to operate. If you were so fortunate as to log them, QSL to VU2CVP.

Then S21A, Bangladesh also surfaced about the same time as VU7CVP...and for about the same, all too brief duration. However, this DXCC country should be more available now with the changes in thinking about Amateur Radio by their government. There are now several stations eligible to operate.

The first of the major contests for the '92-'93 Season is behind us, and should by now be history written to floppy disk. This year's CQ World Wide DX Phone was definitely a good one. Our own TDXS group operating ZF8AA from Little Cayman Island again this year as a multi-single came up with nearly 11.5 million. Chuck, KE5FI worked 136 countries on "HIS Band" 10 Meters.

I was only "searching and pouncing" on the low bands with a little activity on ten. Did pick up a few new ones on 160 and 10 Meters. Picked up TJ1GG amongst the QRM on 10 for a new band counter. Needed and still not confirmed was FR5DX on 40 meters...for about the fourth QSO with no paste board to prove it! What is the secret with that cat. I remember when he was at FP8; he was as good as gold. Guess he found another source of income! Still it is always nice to work that area on 40 Meters.

Another nice thing going this month was the operation of Carl and Martha Henson from Ethiopia as ET3BC and ET3YL. Best of all (to some!) was their appearance in a part of northern Ethiopia which has claimed independence and is now called Eritrea as 9ER1TA and 9ER1TB. The Hensons had tried to operate from 9ER1 last year. According to QRZ-DX this was their mystery destination for their trip. Eritrea is not an official DXCC country yet. So hold on to you QSLs until it goes before the board and is passed.

4J1FW, Malyj Vysotskij (MV is easier) was active during CQ WW DX SSB. QSL to OH2LVG.

There have been beau-coup 9As and S5s active on the bands lately. They say this is sorted out as:

YU2/YT2/4N2 = Croatia 9A1-9A0

YU3/YT4/4N3 = Slovenia S5

YU4/YT4/4N4 = Bosnia

YU5/YT5/4N5 = Macedonia

For ARRL DXCC purposes this has passed the DX Advisory Committee, and now has to go before the Awards Committee. Hang on to your QSLs. It is my understanding that the above is good for all CQ contests starting with the 1992 CQ World Wide SSB this October. YU1, YU6 and YU7 are still the 'old' Yugoslav DXCC country.

The long awaited YX0AI, Aves Island QSLs are supposed to be "in the mail". I wonder what happened to all of those "lost" cards. Oh well...

Jim Smith, VK9NS was active from Willis Island as VK9WW.

Coming up in November:

- Be looking for Ron, ZL1AMO on Chatham Island as ZL7AMO. He is a bit over due now. Remember to tune down as well as up.

- TI9, Cocos Island is to be activated as TI9JJP from November 1-11th. QSL to TI2AOC. This operation will be confined to 10, 15 and 20 meters, mostly SSB.
- HF0POL, South Shetlands has been somewhat active on 160 M after 0130Z.
- 5X5WR, Uganda is supposed to be coming up in late November. This certainly ought to draw a little crowd. Worthwhile QSLs received this month: (But they are all worthwhile, when you don't have them!)
 - OD5/SP7LSE on 40 Meters.
 - 9D0RR also for 40.
 - F6BLQ/D2 for 17 and 40.
 - OK1IAI/YA for 17 and 40 (Finally)
 - 9K2MV on 17 That is all for this month.

This issue caught me on my hitch at home. Will miss you next month. You can tell me about the DX I have missed!

Slovenija Prefix Change

de Iztok, YU3FK

The new prefix for Slovenija is now S5 (rather than YU3, etc.) The change of calls was effective October 24th, 1992. Old calls with one letter in suffix will be closed down [like YT3A, YU3L etc]. Single letter suffix calls [S53A, etc.] will be issued for temporary actions with NO permanent license. Two letter suffix calls [personal stations with full HF license] will be changed as follows:

S51AA-S51ZZ - YU3AA-YU3ZZ

S52AA-S52ZZ - YT3AA-YT3ZZ

S53AA-S53ZZ - YZ3AA-YZ3ZZ

S54AA-S54ZZ - 4N3AA-4N3ZZ

S55AA-S59ZZ - Full HF license

Any licensed amateur not satisfied with this system can request a different call in S51AA-S59ZZ. So, YU3FK expects to be S53FK, not S51FK.

Three letter suffix calls will be changed as follows:

S55AAA-S55ZZZ Repeaters, beacons, packet nodes

S56AAA-S56ZZZ VHF/UHF only licenses, now YT3AAA-YT3ZZZ

S57AAA-S57ZZZ HF novice license, (now YZ3AAA-YZ3ZZZ and 4N3AAA-4N3ZZZ)

S58AAA-S58ZZZ Radio clubs, now YU3AAA-YU3ZZZ

S50AA-S50ZZ and S50AAA-S50ZZZ are special calls for ham organization. For example YT3A BBS will be probably S50BOX, and YU3ZRS official ZRS station will be S50ZRS.

Herewith, I kindly ask all packet SYSOPs world wide, to adjust routing tables for Slovenija, so that no mail addresses @S5 is lost. Exact calls of nodes and BBSs will be reported when new licenses are issued.

Please note, that DXCC status of Slovenija is obvious, the only question still discussed in ARRL DXAC is starting date in 1991! So, if you have worked any Slovenian station, you already have Slovenija worked. Also, Slovenija is separate WAE entity, thus valid as multiplier in CQ WW contest.

Best regards de Iztok, YU3FK @ YT3A.SLO.EU

Due Dates

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

December 1, 1992.....CQ World-Wide DX Phone

2nd Annual W5 DX Bash

de Ken, KE5IV

The **2nd Annual W5 DX Bash** sponsored by the **West Texas DX Association** was again a great success. The professionals that guess at the weather once again missed the "Bull's Eye", in fact they missed the board and hit the wall.

Bryan Edwards and Barbara Smith made everyone feel at home. I don't know if the unseasonably warm weather was the case, but we missed the "monarch butterflies" in the great numbers that were around last year. There was ample time to move around and meet new people, talk to old friends, and tell a bigger story than the last person.

Of particular interest were Bill, AA6TT's slides of N0XX, the next generation of the VLS (Very Large Station) featuring the new antennas from DX Engineering along with his discussion of the antennas and matching systems, and K5IU's description of the actual wind loading forces at work on an real antenna.

The Bash served as an informal Cluster SYSOP meeting with AB5A, K5WA, K9MK, N5HRG, WA5YKO, WC5P, WF5E, and myself all joining in. WF5E, WA5YKO, and N5F decided I should put up satellite link and be the database server for the whole system because I have so much free time. (George will be simply delighted with this..ed)

Some time was spent walking along the shore of the lake looking for flint. The area is the site of early Indian camps. Several pieces of arrowhead were found and Barbara, WB5RUS, found the blade portion to a knife.

Saturday afternoon K5WA, N5RP, WB5RUS and I took time off to visit the Falls Creek Winery. It was an interesting tour. They presently have 65 acres in vineyard growing yearly, with 8,000 more for expansion..W6 look out...just kidding. They are growing slowly and turning out a premium product. Two hundred awards since 1988 will give you an idea of their accomplishments.

The evening dinner at Big John's BBQ was a fun and just as crazy as last year. Good company, poor manners, good food, and telling more lies is good for the digestion.

The trip up the Colorado River on Sunday morning was great fun. The scenery was pretty and the pace slow enough you could chat, take a picture from the tour boat and even learn something. (I am not sure if KE5FI has purchased the houseboat of his dreams yet?)

Sunday morning was special for me. WB5RUS, W5KFT, AB5A and I went driving around other parts of the ranch. We saw 12 doe in one group, some really different rock formations and had a lot more time to just look around and chat about things.

I think the TDXS had a full quorum of members in attendance. For those of you who were not sure about attending, this is 2 years now that you have missed out on a weekend of fun. Mark it on your calendar for next year. Believe me, it is good for your state of mind!

Contest Scores

Claimed

1992 CW World-Wide DX SSB

GM0ECO...3377 Q x 112 Z x 350 C - 3.9 M SO/AB
 KE5FI..688 Q x 33 Z x 135 C - 325K SO/10 M Low Pwr.
 ZF8AA(ZF8AA,KI3L,K5GA,N5DU,N0BG,W5ASP and
 W0LSD)...7072 Q x 148 Z x 510 C - 11.4M MS

Results

1991 CQ World-Wide DX CW

TDXS 17.7 M #11 USA
 W5WMU..393 Q x 26 Z x 78 C - 115K #5 USA SO/7 MHz
 K5NA/2...2960 Q x 179 Z x 611 C - 6.7M #1 USA MS
 K5MA/1..1652 Q x 138 Z x 387 C - 2.5M
 K5GN.....1584 Q x 163 Z x 427 C - 2.6M #2 W5 SO/AB
 K5DX.....395 Q x 112 Z x 217 C - 351K SO/AB
 N5EA(W5ASP).906 Q x 142 Z x 362 C - 1.2M #2 W5 MS

Digital Voice Keyers - Use with Care!

de Andy, GM0ECO

I've been impressed with DVKs ever since my first experience with them back in 1988 at the W5SJS's Lumberyard (with the old TDXS crew). Last year I took the plunge and bought a W2IHY keyer...the best \$300 I ever spent! For CQing in CQWW and ARRL it has been wonderful. However, in this summer's IARU Radiosport contest, I saw a new face to voice keyers.

I spent almost the entire contest CQing, logging around 1800 Qs in the 24 hours. When the runs came I was pushing the rate as hard as the bands would let me. And then it happened. I was called by a computer!

I can't remember the callsign, but I'm sure it was one of the more active contest stations. You know, one of the ones that I'll work on all 5 bands in every contest. There I was, trying to push 200 plus an hour and the computer comes-back to me at a speed equivalent to about 10 wpm of CW; you know...kindda...slow...y...o...u...r...r...e...p...o...r...t...5..9..0..0..3.... 'Whiskey...Five...Alpha...Sugar...Papa (and I though we were mates..ed).

Once in a while this is OK . You always get the odd station who wants a chat. It's the hazard of the job. But this happened again and again! Sometimes they even put my call sign in as well...and all were stations I'm sure I've worked many times.

I suspect these stations (all Ws) were running the new K1EA DVP. Forgive me Ken if I'm wrong, but I can't figure out what else it could be. Everyone must have been trying out their new voice keyers (...toys?).

The difference between this DVK and its predecessors, is that the K1EA DVP can record many individual pieces of voice and string them together. In an average contest I will record my full CQs into 4 memories (each one slightly different and maybe at a slightly different speed). On average I re-record the messages, changing the speed of my voice to suit the changing conditions, every three hours or so. With the K1EA DVP I assume that stations will record the phonetics only once at the beginning with an nominal speed.

Whilst this may be OK if you are running the pile up, it may well be too slow to answer someone's CQ. Additionally, breaking pile ups can require a little emphasis on certain call letters. This can make it difficult to get though. At least twice, I was called by a voice keyer which I just couldn't copy. When the station used his own voice there was no problem. Again, time wasted.

The K1EA DVP certainly sounds like a major breakthrough in DVK technology, but it does need to be handled with care. I only use my DVK for calling CQ. If I were to use it for S&P, then I would make sure it was at the speed the CQing station was using. This is why I don't use it for S&P, because everyone goes at different speeds. I recommend anyone wanting to use it for answering CQs to think twice and then either

turn up the speed control or record your phonetics at different speeds.

And please Ken, PLEASE...don't link the DVP with the QTC reports in Worked All Europe. Being on the receiving end, I'll either be waiting 5 minutes for each set of 10 QTCs or totally loose the reports after the first two because they are too fast to copy by hand (although, come to think of it, that's how some of the stations send them these days anyway!)

I hope these comments will help anyone who is using one of these voice keyers, as I'm sure they will become more and more common in the forthcoming contests. Regardless of what I've just said above, remember first and foremost to keep the calls coming lads! I'll be looking for you in the next one. And as for K1EA's CT, it's the second best amount of money I've ever spent on ham radio!

Keyer Paddle Survey

de John, N6HI

I am currently writing a magazine article on Iambic Keyer Paddles. As part of the research for the article, and in an effort to try to determine which models are the most popular, I have conducted a survey via packet radio, where I asked respondents to simply state what brand of keyer paddle they are using, and to include any comments that they would care to make about it.

Thanks a million to all that responded. The results are quite interesting, but do vary somewhat from the results of a similar survey that I have been conducting "in parallel" on the CW bands! There are some interesting reasons for this, which I will not have room to go into here, but will be discussed when the article is published in a couple of months or so. Again, THANK YOU to all that responded! Here are the results:

Brand.....Quantity

Bencher.....	66
Vibroplex.....	30
Brown Brothers.....	7
Nye Viking.....	3
Heath.....	2
Kent.....	2
Ten-Tec.....	2
Autronics.....	1
Ham Key.....	1
Hi-Mound.....	1
Kenpro.....	1
Trac.....	1
HomeMade.....	1
Total # of paddles.....	118
Total # of respondents.....	104

Please note that the total number of paddles does not equal the total number of respondents due to the fact that many who responded own more than one paddle! Also, keep in mind the fact that this survey only shows what paddles are used by packet radio operators who also happen to own paddles! The results of my parallel survey of ACTIVE CW OPERATORS is somewhat different!

I thought it quite interesting that 7 of the respondents own Brown Bros. paddles, which have not been available for years!

Comments that were submitted by respondents clearly indicated that 99% of those responding were firmly convinced that whatever paddle they own is the very best! I suspect that a large percentage of those that responded have only tried one or two different models and might be quite surprised to find that if they tried several they would likely find one they like much

better! (There are over 20 different model paddles available today, and they vary significantly!).

A couple of conclusions CAN be drawn from the survey results, though: Clearly, Bencher "owns the market". Vibroplex also places very well, and NO other currently available model even comes close!

Although the packet survey was not limited to the subject of IAMBIC keyer paddles, my magazine article WILL be. The reasons for this are twofold: (1) Iambic paddles are the most popular of all keying devices in use today. (2) I personally feel that iambic type keying offers very significant advantages over other methods, a belief that I will attempt to substantiate in the magazine article!

Thanks again to the 104 of you that responded to the survey! I have a keen interest in CW telegraphy and I am always interested in hearing from others with a similar interest! I am active daily on 20 and 30 meters CW bands from my mobile. I hope to meet you on the bands soon, or hear from you via packet! 73 de John N6HI

Packet: N6HI@KB7TV.AZ.USA.NA
 CompuServe: 76327,444
 Voice: (602) 759-8019 Fax: (602) 759-9084
 U.S. Snail: 4035 E. Lavender Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85044

Computer Comments

de Ron, KB5NFN

This month, I'm going to stray from my traditional BBS related column to talk about something everyone with a computer has probably thought about recently. Namely, Stacker (as well as those other "disk doublers".)

Let's talk first about the concept of the program. As advertised, these programs allow you to increase the conventional size of your hard drive by employing an on-the-fly type of data compression. This means that whenever you read/write to your hard drive, the compression program either reads the compressed data on the drive, decompresses it, and makes it available for you to use, or, conversely, compresses the data you are currently using, then writes it to the disk. In theory, it's a sound idea. Depending on what type of compression ratios you obtain, is it possible to see anywhere between a 50 to 100 percent increase in apparent disk capacity.

That's the theory. Now, how does it really work? The compression programs cannot directly write to and from the hard disk in a compressed format. In order to get around this, these programs create one large file on the hard disk, and with the use of a special device driver, do all the reads and writes to that specific file. Actually, they dupe the computer into thinking there are two hard drives. One being the physical drive, the other being the "device driven" Stacker drive, with all of the reads and writes taking place on the Stacker drive.

What does it do to system performance? The benefit of such a program is the increased disk capacity, without the expense of a second physical drive. In exchange, you have to load the device driver into memory, taking about 40K. Actual read/write speed is decreased due to the additional processor time needed to compress or uncompress the data. On at 386/486 level computer this isn't critical, since you can load the device driver into high memory, and with the number of clock ticks, the processor handles the compression quickly.

What about 286 and XT class computers? No help there. The device driver eats up the 40K of your base memory, and guess what, some of your programs will not run because there's not enough free memory. Of course, the 8 to 12 MHz clock speed doesn't help all that much either.

DX News

Now that I've said all that, you'll say no problem, I'm running a 386-25, or 486-50, or whatever. To that, I reply, you must have a LOT of faith in your hard drive. What happens when you get a bad sector or cluster on the drive? Tragedy!

That's what happened to me a week ago. I got some bad clusters on the physical drive where I had the Stacker data file. In this case even good old Norton Disk Doctor couldn't help, especially when I got the error message, "Not enough disk space to write free clusters. Delete some files and try again". Just how am I supposed to do that when there's only one file on the disk, the Stacker data file?

Needless to say, all because of a couple of bad sectors on the hard disk, the Stacker Allocation Table got scrambled, and when the smoke cleared, I was able to recover only about 1 Megabyte of information out of 100+ Megabytes of original files. Everything else, !!poof!!, it was gone.

What does all this mean to you? If you are running Stacker, or some equivalent, or considering it, think about what happened here. Hard drives do get errors occasionally, and if one just happens to pop up on the drive where you're running Stacker...well the consequences could be quite severe.

My opinion? If you don't have a compression program already, don't get it. Save and get a second hard drive instead, the reliability factor increases tenfold! If you're running a compression program now, invest in a good back-up system like a tape drive, or perhaps get a second drive. These compression programs are nice, but when you need reliability, don't trust them any further than you can throw them. You're not getting reliability, you're getting a potential liability.

Standard Disclaimer: The views expressed in this column are those of the author alone, and do not reflect the views of this publication or the Texas DX Society (none of whom understand much about all this anyway..ed)

Of Mice and Men

(Honest, this is no joke, although you may find it amusing. This is an actual alert to IBM Field Engineers that went out to all IBM offices. Or at least so the story goes..ed.)

Abstract: Mouse Balls Available at FRU (Field Replacement Unit)

Mouse balls are now available to FRU. Therefore, if a mouse fails to operate or should it perform erratically, it may need a ball replacement. Because of the delicate nature of this procedure, replacement of mouse balls should only be attempted by properly trained personnel.

Before proceeding, determine the type of mouse balls by examining the underside of the mouse. Domestic balls will be larger and harder than foreign balls. Ball removal procedures differ depending upon the manufacturer of the mouse. Foreign balls can be replaced using the pop-off method. Domestic balls are replaced using the twist-off method.

Mouse balls are not usually static sensitive. However, excessive handling can result in sudden discharge. Upon completion of ball replacement, the mouse can be used immediately.

It is recommended that each replacer have a pair of spare balls for maintaining optimum customer satisfaction, and that any customer missing his balls should suspect local personnel of removing these necessary items.

(Just a reminder, this refers specifically to *COMPUTER* mice. Any other interpretation is the responsibility of the reader. Please send any comments to your local IBM Customer Service Center..ed.)

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Provided by BARF-80 BBS Cleveland, Ohio
Online at 216-237-8208 14400/9600/2400/1200/300 8/N/1

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, DXNL, DF4RD, K4CEF & Southeastern Cluster Group, OD5ZZ, ON1AIG & ESDX, VE3BW and VE3CDX for the following DX information.

4U1 - I.T.U. GENEVA. Be looking for Juergen, DL1IAI, and Christian, DLIUW, signing **4U1ITU** from October 30 to November 1. Activity will be SSB on all bands with some 10 meters FM, but there will be no operations on the WARC bands.

5J - PROVIDENCIA ISLAND. Peter, **5J0J**, is active from this Colombian island that has an IOTA number of NA-049. For DXCC this island counts for HK0. Check 14256 kHz between 2300 and 0230z (Net operation). He has also been heard on 7179 kHz around 0615z and 21290 kHz around 2145z. QSL via IK2HTW.

5X - UGANDA. It was reported by the DXNL, that Mario, who was signing **5X5WR/A**, is now active signing **5X5MB**. There are no QSN reports on the Ohio/Penn Network as of yet and no word on his DXCC status. QSL via DJ5RT. Remember, Dr. Ruppert, DJ5RT, will be returning in late November using the call **5X5WR**.

7X - ALGERIA (Special Event Stations). There will be two special event stations active to commemorate and honor the start of the "Algerian Revolution" of November 1, 1954. One of the stations will be **7X2VFK** and the other will be a special three letter suffix which will be issued and announced later. The duration of the special event will be November 1 thru 10 and the activity will be on 10-160 meters. There will be a special award available for making a QSO with the two special event stations.

9ER - ERITREA. By the time you read this, Carl and Martha Henson will be QRT from Asmara, Eritrea as **9ER1TB** and **9ER1TA**. They were there for a one week operation. Eritrea had separate country status until November 15, 1962 when it became part of Ethiopia. It is again a separate entity and Carl will be petitioning the DXAC for separate country status when he and his wife return to stateside. QSL **9ER1TA** via N4NX and **9ER1TB** via K4PHE.

CE0 - EASTER ISLAND. Begin looking for Erik, **SM0AGD**, signing **/CE0Y** from October 28 thru November 5. Activity will be mostly CW on the WARC bands and the LF-bands. Erik's wife Eva, **SM0OTG**, and Thor, **LA7XB**, will be with him, but no word on whether they will be doing any operating. QSL to their home calls.

KP5 - DESECHEO. The same group that was active from Navassa Island (KP1) last year will be active from KP5 December 28 thru January 4. Operations will be on 10-160 meters, CW/SSB and RTTY.

OD5 - LEBANON. NODXA member Walid, OD5ZZ, informs OPDX that the cards for the special event station **OD5RAK** are about done at the printers and he hopes the long wait will be worth it. He also mentioned that in Lebanon there will be about 150 new amateurs who will be issued OD5 calls this week.

TL - CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. Gene, **TL8NG**, has been quite active on both 40 and 80 meters, primarily on

CW. He can be found between 7025 to 7027 kHz around 0330 to 0400z and also between 2030 to 2100z. Check between 3523 to 3527 kHz after 0400z. Gene has been heard a few sometimes on SSB on these bands. Check 7050 kHz around 2315z listening at 7185 kHz and 3795 kHz around 0430z. QSL via WA1ECA.

V2 - ANTIGUA. Joe, VE3BW, will be active from January 1 thru 28 as V2/VE3BW. Activity will be all bands primarily CW, and he hopes to be active in the CQ WW 160 CW Contest. QSL will go to his old callsign address of VE3CPU.

VU7 - LACCADIVE ISLANDS. By the time you read this the VU7 operation will be over. Ranked 12th on the 1991 OPDX/NODXA Most Wanted List, VU7CVP, a YL, made many happy. Also active was her husband Vidi, VU7DVP, on the satellites. QSLs for VU7CVP go to VU2CVP. QSLs for VU7DVP go to OZ1KYM: Henning Hansen, Noerregade 78, DK-5610 Assens, Denmark.

XQ - SAN FELIX. John, XQ0X, is back on Ambrosio Island and was heard operating RTTY on 14088 kHz around 0150z. QSL via CE3ESS.

XU - KAMPUCHEA. According to the European Satellite DX news (ESDX), John, PA3BTQ, a telecommunications officer working for the Dutch Red Cross and assigned to the International Red Cross, is helping to install a number of HF AMTOR stations in XU-land. John has picked up satellite equipment at the "ESDX-headquarters" and left for XU-land on October 23. He is expected to be on the air around the end of October. Activity will be on the satellites, HF and especially from his mobile. QSLs for satellite contacts go to: ESDX, P.O. BOX 26, B-2550 Kontich, Belgium.

Greatest Radio Lies

de Pete, KZ1Z

I'm from the FCC and I'm here to help you.
 Me? I've never run excessive power.
 My NTS messages always arrive within 24 hours.
 I fixed it right the first time. It must have failed for other reasons.

- Your RST is 5 by 9, please repeat my report.
- We shipped the part yesterday.
- All you have to do is follow the book.
- No need to look that up, I've got it all memorized.
- Sure I can tune it! It has transistors, doesn't it?
- It's a quick job, we'll be home by lunch time.
- I thought YOU brought the connectors!
- I NEVER work DX on a net!
- My packet callsign really is PK232.
- I have a 100% QSL rate.
- Sure you can test high voltage, just grab the wire fast with one hand.

Upcoming Events

- November 06.....Houston Com-Vention '92
- November 06.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- November 07.....ARRL Sweepstakes CW Contest
- November 14.....WAE RTTY Contest
- November 21.....ARRL Sweepstakes SSB Contest
- November 28.....CQ World-Wide DX CW Contest
- December 04.....ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- December 11.....Texas DX Society Meeting
- December 12.....ARRL 10 Meter Contest

ARRL Contest Advisory Committee Report

de Jim, K5RX

(The following article appeared in the North Texas Contest Club's newsletter, *The NTCC News*, in the October 1992 issue. Jim Eppright, K5RC is the CAC West Gulf Division Representative..ed)

The following items are currently being considered by the CAC:

1. Changes to Field Day scoring (a perennial issue)
2. Modification of the Rover category in VHF contests to prevent operation from home stations (seems certain, only wording needs formulation)
3. Addition of Assisted categories in the 10 Meter, 160 Meter and SS contests
4. Review of the ARRL Contest plaque program
5. Ways to encourage activity by no-code licensees in Field Day and other contests
6. Change in club score calculation for multi-op entries
7. Establishment of School competition with an existing contest

I understand through the grapevine that the ARRL has decided without input from the CAC (which has been very slow to address the issue) that plaques will be available for SS division winners in QRP, low power and QRO categories, as well as multi-op. With so many possible plaques, I strongly feel the majority will not be sponsored. (See page 123, QST October 1992..ed) I do not believe the ARRL will pay for any plaques that are not sponsored. Eight plaques per division is just too many. Awarding plaques by call area would help some, but perhaps not enough. I especially invite comments and suggestions on the contest plaque program.

The only other area of consideration in which I am particularly interested is the encouraging of activity by declines in Field Day. The general idea is to allow a free VHF/UHF station.

Am I the only one aghast at the proposal to add assisted categories in the 10 Meter, 160 Meter and SS contests?

Because *The NTCC News* is distributed to a number of other radio clubs, I encourage newsletter editors to feel free to reprint these reports, and I invite comments from interested contesters anywhere in the division. (Jim's address: 3123 Tower Trail, Dallas TX 75229..ed)

DX PacketClusters

The TDXS Contest and DX PacketCluster operates on 144.930 MHz with the call K5DX. This node is operated by Rich, K5WA from his home in southwest Houston and is sponsored by the Texas DX Society. It is linked to the Texas PacketCluster DX network. This is a "no-frills" packet node intended primarily for DX spotting. While it lacks some of the more powerful features of several of the other southeast Texas PacketCluster nodes, it is intended to provide stations in the immediate Houston area with a convenient and reliable path into the system.

The Brazos Valley 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 MAGBPQ is located near Magnolia and gives access to those users in the northern part of Houston. 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

The TDXS Bullsheat

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 145.01/03 MHz.

In addition to listing current DX spots, the system provides access to a wide variety of DX related information such as WWV propagation, the W6GO QSL Manager list, the US, VE and Foreign 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.

The 1992 Most Wanted Countries

de Chod, VP2ML

(*The DX Magazine*, published and edited by Chod Harris, VP2ML has just released in the November 1992 issue its annual survey of the most wanted countries among DXers. This is a very thorough survey and is recommended reading for all DXers, even those who "have worked 'em all" .edj)

The ten countries that now top the list of most needed by DXers are:

1. 3Y Peter I Island
2. A5 Bhutan
3. 5A Libya
4. VU4 Andaman
5. VU7 Laccadive Island
6. VK0 Heard Island
7. 3V Tunisia
8. 5X Uganda
9. 1S Spratly Island
10. 5R Madagascar

Albania, ZA dropped from #1 all the way to the #100, i.e. "least wanted spot!" The survey only includes the 100 most needed countries.

Note that with the recent accreditation of 5R8JD and 5R8GW by the DXCC desk Madagascar has probably dropped out of the top ten admitting Yemen, 7O to tenth place. The recent VU7 operation may or may not have altered its standing.

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 current ARRL DXCC Country List. This means that the prefixes XQ and 3G with Chile CE, AZ and L2 to Argentina LU, etc. Keep in mind recent changes. ES, LY and YL are no

longer included with the "Russians". The "East" Germans Y## now go with the DL's. What to do with the Yugoslavians remains a mystery. For now, separate YU2 and 9A (Croatia), YU3 and S5 (Slovenia), and YU4 (Bosnia) from the rest of the YUs. It also makes good sense to sort the CIS, i.e. the "Russian Commonwealth", cards according to the individual Republics as per the DXCC List. It is generally not necessary to sort within a given country, e.g. it is not necessary to sort by DF, DJ, DL, or by RB, UT, EX separately. Also, remember that QSLs for DXpedition operations usually go the country of the operator, e.g. D2CW via DK7PE, YI1RJ via G0MMI, etc. Many foreign stations have stateside QSL managers. These cards may be included with the "Ks".

By the way, most Caribbean stations turn out to be nonresidents, so send such QSLs 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!).

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 **January 1992 QST** on page 58.

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 were 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.

With the shift in the W5 Bureau to Midland, there has been a tremendous effort to clear up the backlog of cards. Lots of 5th District hams have cards waiting on them. Please at the bureau. Please pick them up soon.

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, propagation forecasts and related topics. Participation is not limited to members of TDXS, but is open to all and everyone is free to join in.