



founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club



April 1993
Volume XVII
Number 4

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

President	Don Butler, KI3L
Vice President	Wes Spence, AC5K
Secretary	Dave Sarkozi, WB5N
Treasurer	Mike Davidson, KC5CP
Bullsheet Editor	Joe Staples, W5ASP
Contest Chairman	Chuck Dietz, KE5FI
DX Chairman	Jim Lane, N5DC
Field Day Chairman	Bob Burns, W5SJS
Legal Chairman	Sid Leach, K5XI
Repeater Chairman	Brent Levit, NT5D

The agenda for the April 9 meeting will include preliminary Field Day planning (by WB5N) and discussion of the 1993 Texas QSO Party. Following the meeting, Tom Comstock, N5TC, ARRL West Gulf Division Director, will present his "State of the League" address. I hope to see a great turnout at the meeting. 73 de Don, KI3L

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 meeting will take place on Friday, April 9, 1993. The meeting will be held at the Emergency Operations Center at 330 Rusk. This facility is located at the corner of Rusk and Bagby on the northeast corner of the Coliseum and Music Hall. There is parking available in the lot next to the entrance. The regular club meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on the 147.96/36 MHz repeater.

Program - Our program this month will feature Tom Comstock, N5TC who is our ARRL West Gulf Division Director. Tom has been with us on several occasions in the past and always provides interesting insights into current events in amateur radio. He is an accomplished DXer now standing at the top of the Honor Roll with 323/329. Join us for an a fine evening's chat with a really fine guy.

TDXS 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 various related topics. It should be noted that participation is not limited to members of the TDXS, but is open to all and everyone is encouraged to join in. (The net is currently being handled by Dale, KG5U who has managed to inject a new spark of life into this weekly gathering. Give him your support whenever possible by contributing any items of interest you may run across..ed)

Bullsheet Articles - Articles or other newsworthy items are hereby solicited by the editor. Articles should be submitted in the form of either ASCII files or as 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 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 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 Don, KI3L/5

This time of year has always been prime DX time at my station. The super propagation at equinox time, and the WPX Phone contest seem to bring a lot of great DX to the bands. Glancing over the most recent page in my logbook (which covers about 2 weeks), I've logged several countries that were on the top of most needed lists just a few years ago - S2, 5R8, C9, VR6, 3X, S0, 5X, 9G, FH5, KH5K, KH5, KP1. Not bad for a couple weeks of casual DXing. I'd have to look back a long way in the log to find a better string of contacts.

The DX is still out there, gang. Take the time to get on the air and work it. The Spring of 1993 will turn out to be a great one for me, if Romeo activates 5A as he has planned. (5A will be my "number last" if I ever get a chance to work it.)

April is also Visalia and Dayton time. I'm sure that many TDXSers plan to attend one or the other. I've missed Dayton the past two years, but have my tickets and reservations in hand for this year. I hope to see several of the locals while I'm there.

We're finally able to announce that the new ICOM Repeater is up and running. I was starting to run out of excuses for the delay. Early reports indicate that it has been worth the long wait. Even the guys out in the boonies seem to be well pleased with it's signal. Thanks again to all of those who made the contributions that made the purchase possible, and special thanks to Brent, NT5D and Jim, N5DC for their time and efforts in getting the repeater on the air.

We have a new addition to the TDXS Board of Directors. John, K5EC, will serve as convention chairman for 1993. He will coordinate TDXS activities at the Houston Com-Vent in November, and will also serve as a member of the Board. In addition to his duties as club Secretary, Dave, WB5N, has agreed to wear the hat of Field Day chairman. Thanks to both guys for accepting the additional responsibilities. Both activities will be major club efforts, and will require help from many individuals, so please be prepared to participate and lend a helping hand for both activities.

DX Report

de Jim, N5DC

My hat is off to the PA (Dutch) group operating from 9G, Ghana. I think they are doing a super job. They have kept the listening spread to minimum both on phone and CW. None of this listening 200-275, or up 025-075. I wish some of our other DX-peditioners would take a lesson from them.

I note that Jim Smith, VK9NS will be in Dallas for Ham Com the first weekend in June. Since many of us already met Jim here in Houston several years ago, let's get the whole gang rounded up to go and see him in Dallas. It will be a good opportunity to show the "Houston flag", and have a lot of fun as well. (Also, there will be a NTCC/TDXS hospitality suite at the hotel on Saturday eve..ed). I wonder what we can do come Houston convention time in November to put together another good "Drawing Card".

5X, Uganda. Bruno 5X1A and Jim 5X1B are both very active. QSL 5X1A via Box 3316, Kampala, Uganda and 5X1B to Jim H. Brandenburg, American Embassy, Kampala, Uganda, Dept. of State Washington, DC 20521. More activity is due with 5X1XB and 5X1XA. Both will be active all modes. QSL SSB to N3JCL and CW/RTTY to WF5T.

3V, Tunisia. 3V8AS cards are NOT acceptable for DXCC Credit. No documents have been received by ARRL. Also reported on the air is 3V8CW with QSL route via JH7FTU. Who knows if this one is good? W.F.W.L.

ST0, Southern Sudan. The deteriorating situation in Southern Sudan will probably end up with Sudan and Southern Sudan becoming separate countries.

C9, Mozambique. I4LCK will be active from several islands late April through early May. Calling not settled yet, but possibly will be C9LCK. QSL via his CBA.

VU4, Andaman. Postponed till October.

ZP4, Paraguay. Radio Club Paraguay will activate Zone 3 April 8-10. The Calling will be ZP3AA. All bands, including 6 meters. QSL ZP5YV.

That's going to be it for this month. 73 es CU in the pileup.

The Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin

March 29, 1993

Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW

Provided by BARF-80 BBS Cleveland, Ohio

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, DF4RD, NI2C, KE2LJ, WA2UKA, KE2UV, 5B4WN, ON1AIG & ESDX, WF5T, WB5CRQ, RW5WA, K8BL, K8JP and K9JF for the following DX information.

5X, UGANDA. Paul, WF5T, who will be active as 5X1XB (April 27/28 thru May 12) informed OPDX that James Archer, who will be active as 5X1XA, had his call sign wrong in last week's bulletin (Should be N3JCL, not N3CJL). Also, Bruno, 5X1A, is now stating not to use DL0MAR for a QSL route, but instead use the direct route of: Bruno Goll, P.O. Box 3316, Kampala, Uganda.

9G, GHANA. The long awaited activity from this one has finally happened. In the beginning of the week there were announcements stating the Dutch group would be active as 9G5AA, but this is not the case. The station that showed was 9G1AA. The announcement also stated that there would be two stations operating from Dormaa, but the length of activity is unknown. Activity so far has been on 20 and 15 meters various times throughout the day on both CW and SSB. QSL via PA2FAS.

9M, EAST MALAYSIA. Arie (PA3FAC) will be active from here August and September. His call sign will be 9M8ACP. Arie also mentioned there may be a possible operation from Brunel (V8) too.

C49C, CYPRUS. Operators 5B4WN, 5B4LP and 5B4ADA were active in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest with this special call sign and using this prefix for the first time ever. This station counts for Cyprus and all QSLs should go to 5B4NC (The Nicosia Club).

GU6YB/P, GUERNSEY. Those who worked this station during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest might be wondering what they worked. This station was active from Alderney Island which is about 25 miles northeast of Guernsey and also counts for Guernsey. QSL via G3SWH.

N9NS/KH5K, KINGMAN REEF. QSL via N9NS. The first QSO was on March 11 at 0400z (20 meters SSB) with WL7BQ. The last QSO was on March 15 at 1935z (10 meters SSB) with KE0DZ. The operation lasted 4 days and 15 1/2 hours with 6 operators, except the last 6 hours (they had 10 operators). They made 23,500 QSOs: Only one 160 meter QSO with a VE7 station and 85 satellite QSOs (first satellite QSOs ever from KH5K). No 6 meter contacts were made.

N0AFW/KH5, PALMYRA ISLAND. QSL via WA2FJ. The first QSO was on March 16 at 2248z (10 meters SSB) with NH6XD. The operation lasted 3 days and 14 hours. Most of the operating was done by 2 operators making 8800 QSOs. They had the first satellite operation ever on Palmyra, but there was no 6, 80 and 160 meters operations. The DXpedition group experienced heavy rain downpours, coral cuts and puncture wounds from sea urchins. Their delayed departure from Honolulu really cut their operations short.

KP1, NAVASSA ISLAND. Operators W5JU, NF6S, KH2S, VE1AOE and possibly others are now active until April 3rd. Activity will be on 160-10 meters (including the WARC bands) using CW/SSB/RTTY and packet. VE1AOE will be active on the satellite station. QSL via W5JU.

S2, BANGLADESH. As of 2400z, March 16th, the first FAIRS DXpedition (Foundation for Amateur International Radio Service, Ltd) is finished. Activity was on CW, SSB and AMTOR on 24, 21, 18, 14 and 7 MHz. The call signs used were: S21ZH, S21ZJ, S21ZK, S21ZL and S21ZM. Operators were: Dave Larsen (KK4WW), Director of Operations FAIRS, Gaynell Larsen (KD4GMV), Vice Director FAIRS, Victor Goncharsky (UB5WE) FAIRS Soviet Operations Director, FAIRS members: Helen (RB5WA), Larry (N4VA), Yuri (UA4LCQ) and Serge (UA4LLO). QSL info: for ex USSR via RB5WA P.O. Box 41 Lvov, Ukraine, 290000. For all amateurs via SP5TUL, Hanna Osuch, ul Lowiecka, 14, 05-400 Otwock, Poland.

SATELLITE NEWS. The European Satellite DX-Fund Bulletin reports that Bertrand, HB9SLO, will be active on the satellites from three different countries. Look for FG/HB9SLO in Guadeloupe, from March 28 thru 30 and again April 2 thru 4. Also, look for FJ/HB9SLO from St. Barthelemy for two days, March 31st and April 1st. Martinique will be the last stop from April 4 thru 8 as FM/HB9SLO. QSL to: Bertrand Bladi, Av. du Stade 11, CH-1530 Payerne, Switzerland.

XQ0X, SAN FELIX. John as been very active on 20 and 15 meters CW lately. Activity seems to start around 2330z and last until 0400z. QSL via CE3ESS.

ZK1, SOUTH COOK ISLAND & ZK2 NIUE ISLAND. Be looking for Hans (DL8NBE) traveling and operating from the South Pacific from April 10th thru May 5th. He will be active from Rarotonga Island (IOTA OC-013) in the South Cook group from April 10th to 17th. Then from April 19th to 29th, he will be on the island of Niue (IOTA OC-040). He will

The TDXS Bullshead

then return to the South Cook group and be active from Aitutaki (IOTA OC-083). Activity will be on 160-10 meters (including the WARC bands) on CW and SSB. The call signs will be ZK1NB and ZK2NB. QSL via DL8NBE.

DXCC BACKLOG CONTINUES TO SHRINK. Several stations have informed OPDX that they have received their last submissions in under 2 1/2 months.

QSLs REJECTED BY THE DXCC. OPDX was informed the following cards are still being rejected by the DXCC Desk: 3V7X5ST and A35SB (For no documentation), and 5X5WR/A and 5R8JS (Unauthorized operator).

FAX YOUR DX INFORMATION NOW! Faxing is available Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 0430 to 2330z only. The number is 216-237-8208 and operates Group 3 FAX Service Class 2 (EIA/TIA 592) only. Use only the dates and times specified. FAX Service Class 1 (EIA/TIA 578) is available upon request by leaving a message to the Sysop on BARF-80 BBS. The FAX card is sharing the same phone line as BARF-80 BBS using a data/fax/phone switch.

Excerpts and distribution of The OPDX Bulletin are granted as long as OPDX/BARF80 receive credit. To contribute DX info, call BARF-80 BBS online at 216-237-8208 14400/9600/2400/1200/300 and leave a message with the Sysop or send InterNet Mail to: aq474@cleveland.freenet.edu or send BitNet Mail to: aq474@cleveland.freenet@curiymv or send PRODIGY Mail to: DFJH48A or send a message via packet to KB8NW @ WA8BXN.OH.U.S.A.N.A

ARRL DX Bulletin

FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT APRIL 2, 1993
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

THANKS TO BOB, W5KNE QRZ DX MARIANO, LU4EJ AND THE RADIO CLUB DEL SUR, LW3DSR, FOR THE ITEMS IN THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN.

UGANDA, 5X. BRUNO, 5X1A, AND JIM, 5X1B, HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE OVER THE PAST WEEK. 5X1A REQUESTS CARDS BE SENT DIRECTLY TO BOX 3316, KAMPALA, UGANDA. DO NOT QSL VIA DL0MAR. CARDS FOR 5X1B GO TO JIM H. BRANDENBURG, AMERICAN EMBASSY KAMPALA, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, DC 20521 USA. AND THAT'S NOT ALL. PAUL, WF5T, AND JAMES, N3JCL, WILL BE OPERATING AS 5X1XB AND 5X1XA, RESPECTIVELY, FROM APRIL 27 THROUGH MAY 12. THEY WILL BE ACTIVE ON CW, SSB AND RTTY. QSL SSB CONTACTS VIA N3JCL AND CW/RTTY QSOS VIA WF5T.

GHANA, 9G. THE DUTCH DAGOE FOUNDATION OPERATION IS NOW ACTIVE SIGNING 9G1AA. LOOK FOR THEIR CW ON 1832, 3505, 7005, 10105, 14020, 18075, 21020, 24900 AND 28020 KHZ. FOR SSB, CHECK 1840, 3645/3775/3795, 7045/7080, 14195, 18125, 21295, 24940 AND 28395 KHZ. READ THEIR RTTY ON 14090, 21090 AND 28090 KHZ. THE GROUP WILL LISTEN FOR USA STATIONS ON 75 AND 40 METERS ON 3800/3810 AND 7175/7200 KHZ. QSL TO WIM FAASEN, PA2FAS, WEESKINDERENDIJK 81, 3314 CM DORDRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS.

SOUTHERN SUDAN, ST0. A DETERIORATING SITUATION HERE MAY END UP IN SEPARATE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS. A CONFERENCE IS PLANNED FOR SOMETIME IN APRIL OR MAY TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS OF THE TRANSITION. JOHN, PA3CXC, WILL BE MONITORING THE SITUATION AND WILL BE AC-

TIVE AGAIN ON ALL BANDS IF HIS WORK SCHEDULE PERMITS.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. A GROUP OF FINNISH OPERATORS WILL ACTIVATE BRANDO ISLAND (IOTA EU-002) FROM APRIL 3 THROUGH 10. THE OPS ON THIS EFFORT ARE PETE, OH3NE AS OH0/OH3NE PERTTL, OH3LQK AS OH0LQK JUKKA, OH3NLP AS OH0NLP PETE, OH3MEP AS OH0MEP ALPO, OH3MFP AS OH0MFP AND MARKO, OH3MYD AS OH0MYD. QSL VIA EACH OPERATOR'S HOME CALL SIGN OR TO BOX 179, 33101 TAMPERE, FINLAND, WITH CARDS FOR DIFFERENT OPERATORS IN THE SAME ENVELOPE.

AN ELITE GROUP GAINS A NEW MEMBER. CONGRATS TO SM7BAE FOR QUALIFYING FOR TWO METER DXCC NUMBER 3.

AN IOTA FIRST. MEMBERS OF THE RADIO CLUB DEL SUR WILL BE SIGNING L1DSR FROM BERMEJO ISLAND, IOTA SA-021, FROM APRIL 2 THROUGH 4. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME THIS ISLAND HAS BEEN ACTIVATED BY RADIO AMATEURS. FOR CW, CHECK 10 KHZ UP FROM THE BAND EDGE. FOR SSB, TRY 3690, 7090, 14190, 21290, 28590 AND 50110 KHZ. THERE MAY BE SOME 6 METER CW WORK AND FM ON 29000 KHZ. THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.

THE KICK OFF FOR THE ARRL VHF/UHF SPRING SPRINTS IS MONDAY NIGHT, APRIL 5, FROM 7 TO 11PM LOCAL TIME ON 144 MHZ. MORE INFORMATION ON ALL THREE ACTIVITIES CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 110 OF MARCH 1993 QST. SEE YOU IN THE TEST.

DX Advisory Committee

de Jim, N5DC

Things are a bit quiet right now. Monk Apollo is still throwing his weight around. In a letter to DF4RD, he outlines his objection to ARRL allowing the DJ6SI operation. I will quote the reason from a copy of his letter:

"I have stopped broadcasting 15 months ago from Mt. Athos, because ARRL has officially recognized illegal broadcasts of German ham Drobница Baldur DJ6SI. I have in my hands all the legal documents which prove the fraudand (his spelling) of the recognition of the illegal broadcasts of said ham. The fact has caused a lot of upheaval here on Mt. Athos, as well as disgust, because it is against the articles of the Charter on the basis of which (the Monastic Community) is governed, and which has been respected for over 1000 years, and which (Charter) has been respected by all, even the most cruel invaders."

Monk Apollo goes on to say that the ARRL Members are spreading rumors that Mt. Athos will be removed from the countries list. He further states that rumors to the contrary, Mt. Athos will not go on the air so that many "decent" hams can obtain the "coveted" QSL.

He concludes "I truly regret, dear friends, the way things have developed, but as a rationalist Orthodox Monk living on Mount Athos, this locus of prayer and meditation, I cannot accept what has happened and what the ARRL continues embrace with its official support."

Due Dates

(Contest Logs must be postmarked by the dates listed..Get Your Logs In and marked TDXS!)

April 07.....ARRL DX SSB Contest

May 10.....CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

1993 Texas QSO Party

de Bill, K5GA

(Here are the rules for the 1993 Texas QSO Party sponsored again this year by the Texas DX Society. These rules have appeared in the April issues of QST and CQ. Clubs receiving this newsletter are requested to pass on to their members our invitation to join the party and keep the Texas Armadillos busy. Texas club stations and individuals are encouraged to fire up their rigs and help put Texas "back-on-the-air"!

- **Contest Period:** From 1600Z Sat. May 1st thru 2400Z Sun. May 2nd. Operate max. 24 hours with min. time-off periods of 30 min.
- **Object:** Non-Texas stations work as many Texas stations in as many Texas counties as possible; Texas stations work all.
- **Entry Classification:** I.) Single-Op/Fixed; II.) Single-Op/Mobile; III.) Multi-Op/Fixed(1 Xmtr.); IV.) Multi-Op/Mobile. Texas mobiles only.
- **Exchange:** Texas Stations send Serial Number, Name and County. Stations outside of Texas send serial number, name and state (VE and DX stations send name only).
- **Mode & Bands:** CW and/or SSB. Use 80 - 10 Meters, excluding WARC. Suggested frequencies: CW - 50 KHz up; SSB - 3850, 7230, 14250, 21350, and 28450. Novice - 3710, 7110, 21110, 28110 CW and 28350 SSB.:
- **Points:** Non-Texas stations score each Texas contact: 1 point per QSO on SSB, 2 points on CW, except that Texas mobiles are 5 points on SSB and 7 points on CW. Texas stations score 1 point per QSO on SSB, 2 points on CW. Stations can be worked on each band and each mode. Texas stations may work other Texas stations for QSO and Multiplier credit.
- **Multipliers:** Texans use Texas counties (254), states (50), Canadian call areas (12), DXCC countries. Non-Texas stations use Texas counties for a possible total of 254. Multipliers once per band.
- **Score:** The total score is the number of QSO points times the total number of multipliers.
- **Reporting:** Entries consist of: 1) Summary sheet listing Entry Class, QSOs and Multipliers by band and mode, total contacts and multipliers, claimed score, name, call, mailing address, phone/FAX, and a written, signed statement of "Fair and Ethical Operation"; 2) Separate check (dupe) sheet for each band; 3) List of all claimed multipliers by band. Logs may be requested for entries qualifying for awards.
- **Awards:** Non-Texas stations will compete for awards separately from Texas stations. Awards will be made to the top ten scores in each Class. A minimum of 100 QSOs is required to qualify for an award. Awards will be made only when a Class has 5 or more entrants. First Place in each class will receive a Texas Armadillo plaque. All top ten scores in each class will receive certificates. Special awards will be made to stations working all 254 Texas counties.
- **Deadline:** All entries must be postmarked by June 1, 1992. Entries are to mailed to the TDXS, P.O.Box 540291, Houston, TX, 77254-0291.

In Search of the Super Small HF Rig

de Jim, NN5O

(I'm sure many of you are aware of the arrival of the new Kenwood TS-50 at the QTH of Jim, NN5O...assuming you've listened to the TDXS repeater over the past few weeks. Here's the whole story, all you ever wanted to know...and more!..ed)

I have always had a penchant for small things: being 5'8" makes it almost normal. I also like mobile HF and DXpeditioning also. When I saw the TS-50 sitting on top of that tire on the back of QST, it frankly looked like a lonely puppy in need of a home (in Jersey Village). So long as that wasn't a tractor tire, it was lust at first sight.

My unit came from HRO in Anaheim in the second wave to invade, and the price was reasonable. Natch, the store folks knew precious little more than I about the rig. The external matching tuners had not arrived, and the only accessory was a YK-107C 500 Hz CW filter with a center frequency of 10.695 Mhz. While the installation of that filter was not daunting, it sure looked big around all of that surface mounted stuff!

The unit weighs 6.4 lbs., is 7.5" wide, 2.25" high and 10" deep. A mobile mike is standard with up/down and four user programmable buttons. Power cord is industry standard. A sturdy mobile mounting bracket is included, but N5DC does not like it. Modes are SSB, CW, FM, AM and special info to operate the digital modes.

Output is 100/50/10 w SSB, CW and FM and 25 w AM. Receive is general coverage from 30 KHz to 30 Mhz with 6 KHz filter on AM and 2.4 on SSB. Of course, if you like CW (shut up LZO and GA) you will install the 500 Hz CW filter. Memories number 100 and can remember splits and modes, scan between memories, etc. Two VFOs and the TF set device for spot listening on your own frequency in split ops. The receiver is enhanced by the IF Shift and an RIT, and you can switch sidebands on receive of CW signals. Of course, there is a noise blanker, and it works fine.

The most unusual (for me) feature is the ability to program in a number of other features listed on two (A/B) menus which pop up when you hold down F.LOCK for more than 2 seconds. The A Menu covers 17 items including power levels, dial light intensity, AGC, CW keying delay, offset, reverse sideband, FM sub-audible tone, etc. The B Menu covers beep vs. CW button alert (for code practice), peak meter hold (nice feature), memory protect, auto power off, mike gain, etc. for a total of 22 additional items. There are an additional 27 microprocessor controllable functions which can be installed on your 4 mike buttons, including: antenna tune, NB, RIT, TF-SET, AF Mute and access to the A/B additional menu items. There are 10 menu numbers not mentioned, but I am sure they do some pretty neat secret stuff.

But the meat of it is operation. I am a long time, dyed in the wool Icom guy born in Missouri, so I did not expect too much from a Kenwood receiver; this one impresses the hell out of me. Not only is the receiver sensitive on all bands, it is very resistant to strong adjacent signals on both SSB and CW (shut up). Even though the unit is smaller than my rotor control box and my RF meter, it seems every bit the equal of my Icom 735 and may be close to the much larger new Yaesu FT-890.

The reports on SSB audio have been superlative in every case. I have converted my Heil mike and headset to work with the TS-50, and it works very well. The unit has a large heatsink and a quiet fan which comes on fairly often, but the rig NEVER gets hot. CW is accomplished with a MFJ memory

The TDXS Bullsheets

keyer, although I think you could install something inside, because it is not outrageously crowded.

Drawbacks? No VOX (yet). No RF processor (may not be needed). No internal keyer (but delay T/R works like VOX). Tuner is external, but that shouldn't bother those with good antennas! Small buttons (comes with the territory).

In conclusion, I am wildly enthusiastic about the TS-50 and have heard a lot of people talking about mods (universal transmit, "tweaking" up to 140 watts out) and using the thing mobile and at home. The audio on general coverage is great enough to buy it as a shortwave radio alone! No glitches so far, so fear not the low serial numbers unless they are stamped on model helicopters. Price range: less than \$1100 with CW filter delivered.

Random Signals

de Joe, W5ASP

A card from Kim, K5TU tells of his recent trip to New York City (NEW YORK CITY ??) to see George, K5KG and interview with Merrill Lynch. While awaiting the outcome, Kim is going ahead with his plan to relocate to Houston early this month. The new QTH is at 15710 Pinyon Creek Dr., 77095; 463-2931. Looks like we just may get one of the good ones back. (I just now heard him on the repeater!)

Frank, KC5M proudly announces that he finally made the CW Honor Roll earlier this year. He is well on the road to recovery from a very serious nerve disorder which inflicted severe facial pain over the past several years. He passes on his regards to the entire TDXS.

A while back I got a note from an old friend - John, NT5C. An Austinite (and ex-Brit), many of you may recognize his call from the PackerCluster, or have chanced across him one place or another. John and I go way back. For years I urged him to make the conversion from SWL to licensed operator to no avail. Then he took the plunge...from unlicensed to Extra in a straight shot. He went after SSB Honor Roll and pulled it off in just a bit more than 61 months after his very first HF QSO. His secret weapon was simple...a 37-year apprenticeship as a serious amateur-band SWL.

Finally, keep in mind that *any wire cut to length will be too short!*

THE ARRL OUTGOING QSL SERVICE

Note: The ARRL QSL Service should not be used to exchange QSL cards within the 48 contiguous states.

One of the greatest bargains of League membership is being able to use the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service to conveniently send your DX QSL cards overseas to foreign QSL Bureaus. Your ticket for using this service is your QST address label and just \$2.00 per pound. For the not quite so DX active (sending 10 cards or less), enclose \$1.00. You can't even get a deal like that at your local warehouse supermarket! And the potential savings over the substantial cost of individual QSLing is equal to many times the price of your annual dues. Your cards are sorted promptly by the Outgoing Service staff, and cards are on their way overseas usually within a week of arrival at ARRL Hq. Approximately two million cards are handled by the Service each year!

QSL cards are shipped to QSL Bureaus throughout the world, which are typically maintained by the national Amateur Radio Society of each country. While no cards are sent to individuals or individual QSL managers, keep in mind that what you might lose in speed is more than made up in the convenience and savings of not having to address and mail QSL cards

separately. (In the case of DXpeditions and/or active DX stations that use U.S. QSL managers, a better approach is to QSL directly to the QSL manager. The various DX newsletters, the W6GO QSL manager directory, and other publications, are good sources of up-to-date QSL manager information.) As postage costs become increasingly prohibitive, don't go broke before you're even halfway towards making DXCC. There's a better and cheaper way, "QSL VIA BURO" through the ARRL outgoing QSL Service!

How To Use The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service

1) Presort your DX QSLs alphabetically by parent call-sign prefix (AP, C6, CE, DL, F, G, JA, LU, PY, 5N, 9Y and so on). NOTE: Some countries have a parent prefix and use additional prefixes, i.e., U (parent prefix) = ES, R, YL, 4K, etc. When sorting countries that have multiple prefixes, keep that country's prefixes grouped together in your alphabetical stack. Addresses are not required. DO NOT separate the country prefix by use of paper clips, rubber bands, slips of paper or envelopes.

2) Enclose the address label from your current copy of QST. The label shows that you are a current ARRL member.

3) Enclose payment of \$2.00 per each pound of cards, approximately 150 cards weigh one pound. A package of ten (10) cards or less costs only \$1.00. Please pay by check (or money order) and write your call sign on the check. Send "green stamps" (cash) at your own risk.

4) Include only the cards, address label and check in the package. Wrap the package securely and address it to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service, 225 Main Street, Newington CT 06111.

5) Family members may also use the service by enclosing their QSLs with those of the primary member. Include the appropriate fee with each individual's cards and indicate "family membership" on the primary member's QST address label.

6) Blind member who do not receive QST need only include the appropriate fee along with a note indicating the cards are from a blind member.

7) ARRL affiliated-club stations may use the service when submitting club QSLs by indicating the club name. Club secretaries should check affiliation papers ensue that affiliation is current. In addition to sending club station QSLs through this service, affiliated clubs may also "pool" their members' individual QSL cards to effect an even greater savings. Each club member using this service must also be a League member. Cards should be sorted "en masse" by prefix, and a QST label enclosed for each ARRL member.

Recommended QSL-Card Dimensions

The efficient operation of the worldwide system of QSL Bureau requires that cards be easy to handle and sort. Cards of unusual dimensions, either much larger or much smaller than normal, slow the work of the Bureaus, most of which is done by unpaid volunteers. A review of the cards received by the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service indicates that most fall in the following range: Height = 2-3/4 to 4-1/4 in. (70 to 110 mm), Width = 4-3/4 to 6-1/4 in. (120 to 160 mm). Cards in this range can be easily sorted, stacked and packaged. Cards outside this range create problems; in particular, the larger cards often cannot be handled without folding or otherwise damaging them. In the interest of efficient operation of the worldwide QSL Bureau system, it is recommended that cards entering the system be limited to the range of dimensions given. Note: IARU Region 2 has suggested the following dimensions as optimum: Height 3 1/2 in. (90 mm), Width 5 in.

Countries Not Served By The Outgoing QSL Service

Approximately 260 DXCC countries are served by the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service, as detailed in the ARRL DXCC

Countries List. This includes nearly every active country. As noted previously, cards are forwarded from the ARRL Outgoing Service to a counterpart Bureau in each of these countries. In some cases, there is no Incoming Bureau in a particular country and cards therefore cannot be forwarded. However, QSL cards can be forwarded to a QSL manager, i.e.; 3C1MB via (EA7K).

For this reason, the ARRL Outgoing Service cannot forward cards to the following countries: A5 Bhutan, A6 United Arab Emirates, A7 Qatar, C9 Mozambique, D2 Angola, EP Iran, ET Ethiopia, J5 Guinea-Bissau, K4 U.S. bases in Antarctica, KC6 Belau, KH0 Mariana Is., KH1 Baker and Howland Is., KH4 Midway Is., KH5 Palmyra and Jarvis Is., KH7 Kure Is., KH8 Am. Samoa, KH9 Wake Is., KH0 Mariana Is., KP1 Navassa Is., KP5 Desecheo Is., OD Lebanon, P5 North Korea, S2 Bangladesh, T2 Tuvalu, T3 Kiribati, T5 Somalia, TJ Cameroon, TL Central African Republic, TN Congo, TT Chad, TY Benin, TZ Mali, V4 (VP2K) St. Kitts & Nevis, V6 (KC6) Micronesia, VP2E Anguilla, VP2M Montserrat, VR6 Pitcairn, XT Burkina Faso, XU Kampuchea, XW Laos, XX9 Macao, XZ (1Z) Myanmar (Burma), YA Afghanistan, YI Iraq, ZA Albania, ZD7 St. Helena, ZD9 Tristan da Cunha, ZK3 Tokelau, 3C0 Pagalu, 3V Tunisia, 3W, XV Vietnam, 3X Guinea, 5A Libya, 5H Tanzania, 5R Madagascar, 5T Mauritania, 5U Niger, 5X Uganda, 70 4W Yemen, 7Q Malawi, 8Q Maldives, 9G Ghana, 9N Nepal, 9Q Zaire, 9U Burundi.

NOTES: SWL cards can be forwarded through the QSL Service. We no longer hold cards for countries with no Incoming Bureau. Only cards indicating a QSL manager for a station in these particular countries will be forwarded.

IRCs - An Update

de Joe, W5ASP

After my comments on IRCs appeared in the February issue of the Bullshead, I received a note from Chod, VP2ML. He had put the question of the redemption price of IRCs to Sandy, N7PQP, who is a Communications Specialist with the United States Postal Service in Phoenix, AZ. Sandy's reply was unequivocal. There is no proration of the redemption price depending upon the date of issue. All IRCs are worth 50 cents in U.S. postage. Great!

However, I contacted the main Houston post office and after several "hand-offs" was connected with a "supervisor". Despite all my efforts to convey the findings of his compatriot in Phoenix, this gentleman persisted in supporting the redemption rate schedule which appeared in the original article. He was truly convinced that he was right.

So where does all this leave us? Simply put, you'll get whatever your local postal person wants to give you. IRCs are worth no more, no less. Good "redempting"!

Upcoming Events

- April 09.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- April 09.....JA International CW (High Bands)
- April 11.....Gagarin Cup CW Contest (Russian)
- April 17.....MARC Country Hunters SSB Contest
- April 24.....Helvetia (Swiss) CW & Phone Contest
- May 01.....Texas QSO Party (TDXS Armadillo Run)
- May 01.....MARAC County Hunters CW Contest
- May 07.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- May 08.....CQ-M Contest (Russian)
- May 29.....CQ WW WPX CW Contest
- June 26.....ARRL Field Day

Contest Scores

Claimed

CQ WW WPX SSB
 KI3L/5 - 156 Q x 127 Pfx = 30,226
 NZ5I (GM0ECO, W5ASP; NM5M, K5XI, K5RC, NZ5I)
 3363 Q x 939 Pfx = 6.4 M
 KESFI

ARRL DX SSB
 GM0ECO - 2738 Q x 227 M = 1.86 M

1992 CQ WW DX CW Claimed Standings
 K5GN - #11 SO/AB
 K5NA - #3 SO/Assisted

Results

ARRL 160 Meter
 K5DX - 374 Q x 73 M = 57,013 #1 STX
 KI3L/5 - 306 Q x 64 M = 39,360
 W5ASP - 138 Q x 55 M = 15,345
 AC5K - 135 Q x 48 M = 12,960
 K5XI - 45 Q x 26 M = 2,808

1992 ARRL Sweepstakes Top Scores

de Billy Lurt, KR1R - Contest Manager, ARRL

The following listings show the top-score boxes for the ARRL November Sweepstakes. Official results will appear in 1993 May QST.

Top Ten, Single Operator, High Power, CW
 N4RJ (KM9P,op) 220,836 N5AU (WN4KKN,op) 215,600
 WM5G (KR0Y,op) 213,906 W5WMU (K5GA,op) 209,440
 N6TR/7 208,054 VE3EJ (K5ZD,op) 206,822 K0RF
 (W0UA,op) 202,202 VE7SZ (VE7NTT,op) 202,048 K3LR
 198,660 K6LL 197,736

Top Ten, Single Operator, Low Power, CW
 N5RZ 182,182 N4ZZ 173,558 K0EU 172,326 N6OP/NP2
 170,696 NP4Z 166,744 W2TZ 164,312 W2GD 160,776 KY7M
 159,236 KN6M/5 158,004 WC4E 157,388

Top Ten, Single Operator, High Power, Phone
 WM5G (KR0Y,op) 374,682 N5RZ 364,672 K6LL 334,796
 KI3V/7 332,486 WA7NIN (N6KT,op) 326,942 N5AU
 (WB5VZL,op) 325,864 K4XS 323,554 KA5W (KS1G,op)
 316,470 WTWA 307,076 N6UR (KR6X,op) 303,842

Top Ten, Single Operator, Low Power, Phone
 VE4GV 254,870 NA5S (KE5CV,op) 248,864 K0KR
 239,400 AJ9C 233,618 VE5MX 226,380 KY7M 219,296
 KESFI 218,218 K0SCM 215,840 W1FEA 211,442 AA4RX
 207,130

DX PacketClusters -

The TDXS Contest and DX PacketCluster operates on 144.970 MHz with the call K5DX. This cluster node is operated by Rich, K5WA from his home in southwest Houston, and is sponsored by the Texas DX Society. It is regularly linked to the Texas PacketCluster DX network. K5DX may be accessed directly, or via the TDXS digipeater, i.e. C K5DX VIA TDXS97, or by connecting to the TDXS97 node and then to K5DX, i.e. C TDXS97, then C K5DX, all running on 144.970 MHz.

The Brazos Valley Contest and DX PacketCluster Bulletin Board is located in Hempstead, Texas and operates on 144.990 MHz with the call KESIV.

Clinton Administration Extends Belt-Tightening To Hams

Washington, D.C. April 1, (from a correspondent). - The Administration revealed today the latest in its attempts to downsize the federal deficit. The FCC asked the Federal Power Commission to determine what impact a few percent reduction in amplifier output power would have upon the federal power grid.

Rod Ham, the new member of the FCC charged with cleaning up the mess in amateur radio, was asked for details of the plan. "We've concluded that the power output has gone up every year since the early 1980's," he said. "This escalation of power must stop if we're to be able to protect the ether from total destruction by the year 2000. What is left of 75 meters should be preserved for our children to see. Sure, there aren't many untouched kilohertz left that still have the natural beauty of thirty years ago, but we can at least stop the continued erosion. Excess power has caused this problem and now hams will just have to tighten their belts and take their lumps like everyone else," he said while petting his spotted owl at his home in the Ozarks. "So we convened a committee of experts in Washington who know

exactly what is best for everyone on the planet. They met for days on this issue, took testimony from folks like WA4D and concluded that you hams have had a free ride for too long. From now on the output power allowed below 30 MHz will be reduced by an average of 2.65% per annum, until the average power consumption falls below the level it was in 1981." A reporter asked him, "R. H., will the administration at least plan to distribute the cuts in power equally for all hams?" "Everyone on the bands is affected by power overuse, but it's well-known that the only real abusers of power are the DXers and contesters," he replied. "A compromise was struck so that the farmers and other legitimate interests such as the Arkansas Porcine Agriculture and Xenophobia Preservation Net can continue to operate unaffected by these loonies who only operate on the weekends and don't say anything except swap numbers. DXers and contesters have so much power that they can easily afford to give up a greater share than the rest of hamdom. The final numbers haven't been reported out of the subcommittee yet, but it looks like DXers will lose 87% of their power privileges, and contesters will leave 55%. That ought to allow us to give away free about 400 to 500 watts to every new licensee."

de Bill, K2TNO