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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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DX Chairman	Jim Lane, N5DC
Field Day Chairman	Bob Burns, W5SJS
Legal Chairman	Sid Leach, K5XI
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## The Prez Sez - de Don, KI3L/5

The bands continue to abound with great DX. Marti Lane and company (9M0S) are currently on Spratly Island, and as usual, are skillfully working down the pileups. They have consistently maintained good signals and rates, and are providing DXers with the best opportunity to work Spratly in recent memory. Another group (LA6GV et al. of 3Y5X and 3Y1EE fame), is on the air from Eritrea, signing E35X. This is likely to be the first accepted operation from Eritrea since it recently became independent (scuttlebutt suggests that ET2, which was deleted in 1962 will now be reactivated). The fierce pileups are testimony to the fact that EVERYONE (except those who worked ET2 before 1962) wants to get into the E35X logs.

The 1993 running of the Texas QSO Party has passed. Participation, especially from TDXS membership, was disappointing, and conditions were less than ideal, but those who were active had a great time. This was my first experience as a roving Armadillo. Brent, NT5D, Dave, WB5N, and I, operating from my van, covered 32 counties and were active for 23 of the 24 hours. Bill, K2TNO and John, K5EC also made a major mobile multi-op effort. Logs have been trickling in very slowly, but we've received several logs from outside Texas. A full report will be forthcoming when all logs are received and tabulated. Thanks to all those who did participate.

The 1993 Dallas Ham-Com weekend is just over. As you know, TDXS and the North Texas Contest Club co-sponsored a Hospitality Suite at HamCom on Saturday night, June 5. I had been in contact with Steve, K5MR, in making arrangements, and we expected and got a good turnout from both groups. Glad to see many of you there.

Field Day is approaching fast. I am happy to report that TDXS will be joined by the Houston Area AMSAT group for a combined Field Day effort that should be mutually beneficial to both groups. Current plans call for operating the 2A Category, which will allow novice, VHF and satellite stations, in addition to the

two regular HF stations. I welcome the AMSAT group, and encourage all TDXS members to participate as well. It should provide many of us who are unfamiliar with satellite communications an excellent close-up look at that aspect of the hobby. Dave, WB5N, will lead a detailed discussion of Field Day plans at the TDXS meeting Friday, June 11. Please plan to attend, and to support Field Day 1993.

## 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, June 11, 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 focus on TDXS plans for the upcoming field day operating activity. This year we have invited the local AMSAT group to join us, and have invited them to attend the meeting.

**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 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 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.

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## DX Report

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de Jim, N5DC

**Spratley, 9M0S** is on the air as I write this. And **E3, Eritrea** is also on the air as I write. AND, possibly, **ZS8MI** may be on the air (QSL ZS5UND, but WFWL) Now that's what I call Good DX!

**Somalia, T5** - Two operations KN4NL/T5 (QSL KC4MJ) and T5HLL (QSL SM3HLL).

**South Sudan, ST0** - PA3CXC will be up on RTTY shortly; new op, so take it slow. He is also slow to QSL. If you work him on CW, give your call only once. He listens and makes a list of calls and then runs the list.

**Jim, VK9NS** and I had a good visit at Ham-Com in Arlington this past weekend. He is ready to go to **A51** at the drop of a hat. He says that some bureaucratic red tape is the only holdup. Jim will do **A51** again soon (I hope), as I know many need this one for a new country.

Jim says that **Heard Island** probably will NOT happen as far as he is concerned, as there has been little offered from the DX world in the way of financial support. Jim does not believe in trying to finance an expedition by getting "green stamps" with QSLs.

**Cambodia, XU** - VS6WV is XU6WV (QSL K0TLM), but he doesn't have the logs yet...so be patient.

**Wake Island, KH9** - Scheduled for 8/31 to 9/10. Contributions needed for the Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club. Send to W6BHZ, Box 53, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407.

That's about it from here, 73 and CU in the Pileups!

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## DX Advisory Committee

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de Jim, N5DC

By now you know that **Spratley 1S** has been on the air. Some people are questioning if it will count as a "new one", since Martti and company are only 180 miles from 9M8. The answer is YES. The reason being that though they are using a 9M call and are 180 miles from 9M8, they are a DIFFERENT country, than 9M8. It wouldn't make any difference, if they were 10 miles from 9M8. As long as they are NOT part of 9M8, they count as a different country.

**E3 Eritrea.** The DXAC have not yet voted on this one, but I'm sure it will be a new/old one. In talking with Bill Kenner at Ham-Com, there is some feeling, that the "original" country should NOT be reactivated, as was Western Sahara, because there are some distinct differences between the old and the new. There are some thoughts about a 1991 date for counting it, since they declared their independence from Ethiopia in that time frame. **ALL OF THIS IS SPECULATION AT THIS TIME, I AM JUST WAITING LIKE YOU!**

I was given a few moments to speak to the huddled masses at the Lone Star DX Association's luncheon at Ham-Comm. I once again asked for input from the West Gulf DX gang concerning ANY matters pertaining to DX. Since I was appointed to the DXAC in December, I have had a **TOTAL OF ONE, REPEAT, ONE** letter from you DXers. Don't blame me, if I vote on a matter that affects you, and I haven't heard from you!

Operations Recently Accredited for DXCC The following documentation has been received and approved for operations beginning as noted.

**S21ZK** - 6 MARCH, 1993  
**T53UN** - 20 MARCH, 1992  
**60/G3KOX** - 14 DECEMBER, 1992  
**T5/KF6BL** - 26 DECEMBER, 1992  
**T55FO** - 6 JANUARY, 1993

**T5CB** - 31 JANUARY, 1993  
**T5/K3OQF** - 21 FEBRUARY, 1993  
**YI9CW** - JULY, 1992  
**5X1A** - 4 MARCH, 1993  
**5X1B** - 12 MARCH, 1993  
**5X1C** - 29 APRIL, 1993  
**5X1XT** - APRIL, 1993  
**9G1AA** - MARCH, 1993

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## New Orleans 1993 Convention

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The New Orleans International DX Convention Executive Committee invites all Radio Amateurs to attend the **New Orleans International DX Convention** to be held in August 1993. The second annual New Orleans International DX Convention will be held on **Friday, August 27th, 1993 through Sunday, August 29th, 1993** in the heart of the French Quarter in New Orleans, Louisiana.

It will be DXing and DXing only, featuring presentations by participants in several recent major DXpeditions. No dealers and no flea market tables. Just plenty of brushing elbows with other DXers and listening to the intriguing tales of getting there and working the pile-ups.

**Fantastic Vacation for Everyone** - Bring a friend, XYL or junior ops and see the many outstanding New Orleans attractions. Visit the French Quarter, Aquarium of the Americas, Audubon Zoo, Mississippi paddle wheel cruise; ride old fashion Street Cars, tours galore, and if you like to eat this is the place to come. World famous restaurants and much much more.

Headquarters for the convention will be at the Royal Sonesta Hotel on Bourbon Street in the heart of the French Quarter. Talk about a good time. We'll have it. Ya'll Come. Complete information on the Schedule of Events will be forthcoming.

**Pre-registration Information** - Advance Registration - Advance registration is \$50.00 which includes all DX Sessions, Commemorative Cloth Patch, Banquet, plus 5 chances on the Convention Grand Prize. Late Registration - Registration is \$60.00 and includes all of the preceding except only one chance on the Convention Grand Prize. Non-Ham Admission for the banquet is \$30.00.

Enclose check or money order payable to: New Orleans International DX Convention Inc., C/O Mike Mayer W5ZPA, 5836 Marcia Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70124.

Advance Registration Deadline is August 15th, 1993.

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## Upcoming Events

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June 11.....	Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
June 19.....	All Asian CW DX Contest
June 26.....	ARRL Field Day
July 09.....	Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
July 10.....	IARU HF World Championship

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## Due Dates

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

July 10 ..... CQ WW WPX CW Contest

**Propagation**

de Roy, AD5Q

(The following article is taken from the Northwest ARS Newsletter for June 1993..ed)

Spring conditions haven't been too bad - considering the decline in solar activity. April was awful though, because there were geomagnetic disturbances during much of the month. The seasonal peak in 15 meter propagation is in May, and we have had many nice openings despite the, lower flux levels. The band has remained open during the evening for both us and the DX, and this opened paths to remote parts of the world, at unusual times. Paths to Asia have been opening beginning in late morning. Paths to Europe have remained open late into the afternoon. Conditions in late May (during the WPX CW contest) were especially good, since fluxes were around their monthly peak of 140.

Whereas the best month of the year for 15 meters is May, the worst is July. June is a month of rapid deterioration. Summer absorption took 10 meters out of the picture over a month ago, and now it will begin to effect 15. There will still be openings to remote parts of the world on 15 meters, but as the month progresses, signals will be weaker. With solar fluxes varying from the low 90s to 140; conditions will of course be better when the solar numbers are higher. By mid-July most daytime paths will be difficult regardless of the flux, and most DX activity will move to 20. An excellent article by N4KG on the subject of summer absorption appeared in the May/June issue of DX Magazine.

20 meters is in great shape for night path work. Flux levels in the 90s aren't much of a problem in the summer, and are enough to keep the band open most (if not all) of the night. Night paths can be worked from areas where it is day for 3 or 4 hours before sunset and after sunrise. In mid-morning, look for openings to southern Asia via the north-northwest. In late afternoon, look for activity from the Middle-East and Africa. Most of the activity will be in the evening, however, as this will be prime time into Europe and Russia.

20 long path isn't much of a factor nowadays. The morning path around the south pole is not in season during the summer, even at the peak of the cycle. When this path is in season (fall thru spring), it will not be very reliable due to the lower fluxes.

Summer is normally the peak season for the westerly path to Africa and the Indian Ocean, and at the peak of the spot cycle (and probably not this year) we get a northwest path to several rare island countries (ZS8, FT/X, FT/Z, FT/W, 3Y, VK0H, ZD9). In the afternoon, look for long path to the east to VK (during the opening to Africa).

**Field Day 1993**

de Dave, WB5N

Field Day is starting to come together. For those who tuned in late, field day will again be at **Bob Burns, W5SJS's** ranch south of Brenham. (See the directions elsewhere in this issue..ed) We have extended an invitation to the **Houston AMSAT** group to join us this year. They have accepted, and I'm looking forward having their expertise and their operators help make this an outstanding effort.

At the April meeting it was decided that we would enter as **2A club portable** (two transmitters). While this sounds like an easy class to enter there are some new things in the rules that make things more difficult this year. As usual we need to have an active Novice/Technician station to be competitive. And this

year we may also operate a VHF/UHF station without affecting our entry classification. This means that we really need to operate 4 transmitters simultaneously for the duration of the contest to maximize our score. If the sporadic E is good on 10 and 6 meters and we get a little tropo for 144 and 423 MHz these stations could account for several hundred free QSOs.

Bill, K2TNO is once again heading up the novice/tech station and Ron, KB5NFN will be there Saturday to operate. But they can't do it alone. If you know a novice or technician who would like to operate, PLEASE invite them.

I have asked my old VHF contest friend Paul, KE5CO to help out with the VHF/UHF station. He will help in the set-up and operation of the station along with providing some radios and antennas. Paul is a first class technician, a good operator, and really knows the VHF/UHF bands. Once again I'm hoping several others can take a turn at the mike/key on these bands.

**What We Still Need for Field Day** - The biggest problem is operating space. Bob, W5SJS will have his motor home at field day. I am working on getting another one. I can get a pop-up camper, if I can find someone to tow it. There is also the small building down by the windmill, if we need it. (If someone has a window unit we could use it there. It would make an excellent operating shack, but it can get quite HOT!)

There are several generators available and I think we have it covered. We need at least three and as always we should have a couple of spares.

I would like to computer log the contest. If you can bring a laptop for logging I need to know. It looks like we need at least three. More, especially for the VHF/UHF station, would be nice.

Packet is also a free station, I still need someone to oversee and set up a packet operation. This station can snag a hundred QSOs easily in a good year. I'm assuming that our AMSAT guest operators will handle the entire satellite operation this year.

And as always, we need bodies! Bodies to setup, operate and take down. If you plan to attend please attend the June meeting or contact myself or one of the station captains, **Don, KI3L** or **Bob, N5RP**. Guest are welcome and encouraged!

**TDXS Field Day Directions**

Bob Burns, W5SJS's ranch is about **6 miles south of Brenham** and about 12 miles north of Bellville off Hwy 36, near Kenney, Texas. Take Hwy 290 to Brenham or I-10 to Sealy. Look for a **turnoff to the West marked Business 36**. Go under the railroad bridge and immediately make a sharp right turn onto **FM 2754**. Bob's place is **two miles** further down the road. It is well marked by a 130 ft tower beside the house fronting on the road. Just to the west of the house is a road leading into the ranch, over the dam and up the hill to the

**Contest Scores**

Claimed

CQ WW WPX CW

- K5XI (w/K5RC,K7GM,WT5U,K5TU)...2324 Q x 817 Pfx = 4,828,470 M/S
- K5GN.....2007 Q x 666 Pfx = 3,868,126 SO/AB
- ZF2NE/ZF8 (W5ASP)....1752 Q x 596 Pfx = 2,661,140 SO/20 M
- K5GA.....283 Q x 283 Pfx
- K5EC.....189 Q x 148 Pfx = 53,872
- KI3L.....77 Q x 62 Pfx = 9,362