



founded 1970

# 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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## The Prez Sez - de Don, KI3L/5

The 1993 CQ World Wide Phone Contest has come and gone. I did my usual Single Op All-Band effort (packet assisted), and had a ball. Declining conditions made the going pretty tough, especially on ten meters. I had to settle for the search and pounce mode the majority of the time. I was able to generate a few meager Sunday afternoon runs on ten and fifteen, and even picked up some good multipliers in the process. The East Coast was definitely the place to be, and fifteen meters was the "THE BAND".

I heard, or picked up packet spots from several TDXSers during the contest, e.g. W5ASP, N5RP, KE5FI, K5GA, K5DX, KC5CP, AK5B, K5EC, K7WOC, NZ5I, W9AGH, WB5USV, etc. Most of the guys consistently whipped me in the pileups, too (including Billy and his W5WMU version of "The Gap").

If you were on at all during the contest, PLEASE don't forget to submit your logs, and list TDXS in the appropriate club box.

Speaking of contests, let's not forget Sweepstakes, CW on November 6-7 and Phone on November 20-21, followed by the CQ World Wide CW Contest on November 27-28. Make an effort to get on, and again be sure to make your log submissions as a TDXS club member.

Many thanks to those who participated in the October antenna maintenance party. We had a good turnout with a good number of members, as well as Dave, WQ5Y and Bob, K1TU. We were able to repair, assemble and test all of the major antennas. The N5RP barbecue was also excellent.

The November TDXS meeting will be held Friday, November 12th during the Houston Ham Com-Vention at the Adam's Mark Hotel in the TDXS Hospitality Suite. The room number will be put out over .36/.96 and Packet. The hospitality suite will open at approximately 5:00 PM Friday. John, K5EC has made all of the arrangements for a well stocked bar, and comfortable surroundings. Expect to hear from him regarding your contribution

to the bar. A computer CW pileup trainer will be operational, as well as a "video corner".

A brief club meeting will begin at approximately 8:00 PM, with the major business item being consideration and voting for the board's proposed dues increase, as well as the introduction of the 1994 TDXS officers. I hope to see you all at the meeting, and during the convention.

**PROPOSED TDXS DUES INCREASE** - Article VII of the TDXS Constitution directs the Board of Directors to consider and determine the annual dues each October, and present its recommendation to the club before voting for approval. The Board has recommended that dues for 1994 be increased to \$35 for full members and \$17.50 for associate members. This recommendation was presented and discussed at the October TDXS meeting. The vote for approval will be conducted at the November TDXS meeting (8:00 PM on Friday, November 12th at the Adams Mark Hotel.

## Announcements

**Meeting Notice** - The Texas DX Society meets on the second Friday of each month, except when the date is changed by the Board of Directors. The November meeting will take place on Friday, November 12, 1993. This month's meeting will be held during the 16th Annual Houston Com-Vention at the Adams Mark Hotel, 2900 Briarpark Drive. This is a new location for the Houston convention. It is just a half block south of Westheimer and 2 blocks east of the Beltway 8 (Sam Houston Tollway). The meeting will be held in the room hosting the renowned TDXS Hospitality Suite, and should get underway sometime around 8:00 P.M. Highlights of the meeting will be the introduction of the '94 officers and the '94 dues. There will be several visiting TDXSers joining us, notably George, K5KG and Andy, GM0ECO. 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.

## Upcoming Events

- November 12.....TDXS Monthly Meeting
- November 12.....Japan DX Contest Phone
- November 12.....Houston Com-Vention '93
- November 13.....European (WAE) DX RTTY
- November 20.....ARRL Phone Sweepstakes
- November 27.....CQ WW DX CW Contest
- December 03.....ARRL 160-Meter Contest
- December 10.....TDXS Annual Christmas Party
- December 11.....ARRL 10-Meter Contest

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**DX Report**


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de Jim, N5DC

By now the CQWW SSB will have come and gone. KE5FI, and W5ASP sure showed me the value of having lots of high aluminum on 10 meters. There were several stations I could hear, that I felt were "workable", but I couldn't touch!

**3V, Tunisia** - Bill Kennamer states that the last "good" Tunisian was 3V8PS. Bill has not seen anything on the recent 3V8AS operation, so WFWL.

**ZD9, Tristan da Cunha** - Roger (G3SXW) ZD9SXW is now QRT as of 10/21/93. Roger reports 23,197 QSOs, with CW the preferred mode. He reports he lost his GAP antenna, which blew off the planned 160 meter operation, and severely restricted his 80 meter operation. 27% of the total contacts were Stateside Qs. (So Jim, NN5O should count himself fortunate to be "in the Log".)

**ZD8, Ascension Island** - Jim, N6TJ will be active from November 9 to December 1. QSL VE3HO.

**8Q, Maldives** - Recently active; QSL to DL3AS

CQ WW CW is up for this month over the November 27-28 weekend, so oil up your "bugs", take the weight off, and lets see a big TDXS effort. It would appear that we had enough participation in SSB to have a "pretty good" club score, if everyone will turn in their logs.

Speaking of CQWW did anyone work 9L2CF Frosty? He told me, is a QSO I had with him on 10 M, about 3 or 4 weeks ago, that he would be on for CQWW, but I haven't heard of anyone working him.

Also due this month is the Czech contest with Nov. 13 being CW. And there is also the Japan International DX Phone contest on Nov. 12-14. If you need rules, send SASE to K4IIF.

That's about all from the Bulletins. Tnx to Bob, W5KNE for the above from QRZ DX. See you in the pileups!

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**The Ohio/Penn Dx Bulletin**


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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, DL7VEE & DXNL, OD5ZZ, W4VQ, VP2ML & DX Magazine and VE6KC for the following DX information.

**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE AWARD.** NODXA member Walid, OD5ZZ, informed OPDX that this award will be issued by the "President Karami Radio Society" (PKRS) for any amateur station who has worked 10 different PKRS members on two different bands between the period of November 15th and December 15th (1993). The same station can be worked on more than one band and one of the contacts must be with OD5ORAK. The station OD5ORAK will be active daily on 14308 kHz (time was not given). The GCR rules will apply for all stations. A special plaque will be available to any station that meets the above requirements but on five different bands on any mode. The fee for the basic award is 5 USD and fee for the plaque is 25 USD. Requests for the award can be sent to: OD5ZB, Bassem Sibai, P.O. Box 782, Tripoli, Lebanon, Asia. PKRS stations are: OD5ORAK, OD5JY, OD5KM, OD5LT, OD5PL, OD5RF, OD5SA, OD5SB, OD5SC, OD5SF, OD5SH, OD5SK, OD5QH, OD5QS, OD5WD, OD5XY, OD5YL, OD5YT, OD5YU, OD5ZB, OD5ZN, OD5ZM, OD5ZZ and AA3EI.

**8Q7, MALDIVES.** Andree, DL8LAS, will be active from November 1-15, on all bands both CW and SSB. He likes to

operate on 20 meters (check CW/14013 and SSB/14233). QSL via CBA or the DARC bureau.

**CH8MNP CARDS.** Larry, VE6KC, reports that the QSL cards for the Cameron Island IOTA DXpedition have not yet been printed, but should be in by the year's end. He asks that all who had contacted CH8MNP please be patient. The operation made about 6000 contacts, mostly Europe.

**EP, IRAN.** The DXNL reports that the planned EP DXpedition by EX0A and others had to be postponed because the border is closed due to several cholera cases.

**J2, DJIBOUTI.** Jean, J28JJ, who will be active from here the next 3 to 4 years, was heard operating RTTY on 21087 kHz around 1630z. QSL to Jean Jacques Chatelard, Box 1076, Republic of Djibouti.

**JY, JORDAN.** Bernd, DL1VJ, will be active as JY8VJ from November 20th to December 1st. He plans to take part in the CQ WW CW Contest as Single Op/Multi-band class. QSL via DL1VJ: Bernd Laenger, P.O. Box 1240, D-66273 Sulzbach/Saar, Germany. QSLs via the bureau are OK.

**MOST WANTED COUNTRIES.** The results of the "1993 Most Wanted Countries Survey" by Chod Harris (VP2ML) were announced in the Nov/Dec issue of the *DX Magazine*. Out of the top 100 here is the "Top Ten":

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Peter I Island - 3Y1 | 6) Tunisia - 3V        |
| 2) Bhutan - A5          | 7) Yemen - 4W          |
| 3) Libya - 5A           | 8) Tromelin - FR/T     |
| 4) Andaman - VU4        | 9) Macquarie Is. - VK0 |
| 5) Heard Island - VK0   | 10) Mount Athos - SV/A |

**ST0, SOUTHERN SUDAN.** A station signing ST0K was heard October 27th, on 18070 kHz around 1200z. No other information is known about this station, other than the operator stated to QSL via Box 617, Khartoum. (WFWL!)

**UPCOMING DXAC VOTES.** DXAC CHAIRMAN, Robert, W4VQ, has scheduled the following DXAC votes before the end of the year: RTTY Honor Roll, Revision of CW DXCC Start Date, DXAC Manual and the tabling of the Mount Athos Issues. "QSL Guidelines" will be voted on in Jan. 1994.

**VK9X, CHRISTMAS ISLAND.** A couple of operations will take place from here with one of them starting as early as the first part of November. Steve, VK6VZ, will be traveling to the island early in the month (November 6-13) mainly for a holiday with his wife, but will be active as VK9XZ. Activity will be mainly on 20 meters CW and SSB (with a possibility of 40 meter CW activity). Also look for him on the 14226 nets (Butterfly and Southern Cross). QSL via VK6VZ. Bob, W5KNE (editor of QRZ DX), will be active from November 27 to December 15 as VK9XN. He plans to be active on all bands CW/SSB but prefers 80/40/30 meters.

**XU, KAMPUCHEA.** Mike, VS6WV, whose trip to XU-land was post-poned for a few days, is scheduled to be back in XU-land during the weekend of the CQ WW SSB Contest. As XU6WV, he will concentrate on those who need Zone 26 on 40/80 meters for 5BWAZ. QSLs for VS6WV and XU6WV go to K0TLM.

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**Due Dates**


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

- |                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| November 15..... | California QSO Party        |
| November 30..... | All Asian DX Contest SSB    |
| December 01..... | CQ WW DX Phone Contest      |
| December 22..... | ARRL Sweepstakes (CW & SSB) |

**TDXS Raffle Tickets**

de Bob, N5RP

A ticket sales mailing, requesting sales help, was made to all TDXS club members and to many of our friends. The response from our club's major players has been most rewarding. Indeed, some of you have responded to a very generous degree. I hope that we all can appreciate the fact that it is **SOLD** tickets that puts us in a position to adequately fund the club's activities for the forthcoming year.

Those members that have not taken a moment to respond to the mailing are urged to do so. *Even unsold tickets should be returned in the S.A.S.E. so that I, and others, might have a chance at selling them for you at the convention.*

Thanks for your support. Let's make this year's TDXS Raffle the best ever. That TS-50 needs a good home. Go to it **GANG!**

**DXAC News**

de Jim, N5DC

**Question...** What will probably be the next new or reinstated country? Well guys and gals, blow the dust off of your old ZC6, 4X1 Palestine cards! If the current Middle East peace process continues, I predict that we will see a revival of Palestine. DXAC are already taking a "look", and will be ready, when (and if) the time comes, be prepared to give me your thoughts on how to vote.

**Eritrea...** As you already know, this is the latest "new one". I was glad to see that there were enough votes in favor of the May 1991 date to influence the DXAC Chairman, Bob W4VQ, and the ARRL Awards Committee to decide that this earlier date should count.

I voted for that date myself, but was in a minority. There were 6 votes in favor of the earlier date, and 9 against. Though the number looks large for the "later" date, it was pointed out 9 votes is only one over a simple majority (there being 16 members on the DXAC).

So if you worked Carl and Martha Henson, you're in luck. Their operation will count for this "new" one. If you have already received credit for Eritrea, from "before", you are already "in business".

Good Luck, Good DX and Happy Thanksgiving!!

**DXCC Update**

de Dale, KG5U

(The following is the current status of the ARRL DXCC countries list. This information originally appeared in the March 1991 issue of the Northern California DX Club's newsletter *The DXer* as compiled by Jim, W6CF.)

Here are the changes to the DXCC countries list from 1980 to present:

- 1980 Deleted Okino-Tori-Shima
- 1981 New SMOM
- 1982 Deleted Kamaran Island
- 1982 Deleted Seranna Bank
- 1982 Deleted Bajo Nuevo
- 1982 Deleted Saudi/Iraq Neutral Zone
- 1985 New British Cyprus
- 1987 New Peter 1 Island (Note 1)
- 1988 New Aruba
- 1988 New Western Sahara (Note 2)
- 1989 New M-V Island

- 1989 New Rotuma Island
- 1989 New Conway Reef
- 1990 New Banaba Island
- 1990 New Walvis Bay
- 1990 Deleted East Germany
- 1990 Deleted Yemen Arab Republic (4W)
- 1990 Deleted PDR Yemen (70)
- 1990 New Yemen
- 1990 New Penguin Islands
- 1992 New Croatia (9A) As of June 26, 1991.
- 1992 New Slovenia (S5) As of June 26, 1991.
- 1992 New Bosnia (4N4) As of Oct. 15, 1991.
- 1993 Deleted Abu Ail. As of March 31, 1991
- 1993 New Macedonia (4N5-YU5) Effective Sept. 8, 1991
- 1993 Deleted Czechoslovakia (OK) Effective Jan 1, 1993
- 1993 New Czech Rep. (OK-OL) Effective Jan. 1, 1993
- 1993 New Slovak Republic (OM) Effective Jan. 1, 1993
- 1993 New Eritrea (E3) Effective May 24, 1991 (Note 3)

- Note 1: Peter I was approved for DXCC country status in 1983, but was not added to the list until its first operation in January 1987.
- Note 2: With regard to Western Sahara, this action was actually a reversal of the deletion of Rio de Oro which took place in 1978.
- Note 3: Eritrea is a reinstatement of a country that was deleted as of November 15, 1962. QSOs for ET2 contacts prior to this date will be removed from the deleted list and credited as a current country. QSL cards may be submitted for credit January 1, 1994. This action was by the ARRL Awards Committee on Sept. 29, 1993.

There are now 328 countries on the active DXCC list and 55 deleted countries. As of June 1, 1993, when Macedonia, and the Czech and Slovak Republics cards were accepted by the DXCC desk, it takes 318 on the active list to qualify for Mixed or Phone Honor Roll and 318 for CW Honor Roll.

Updated by Bill Hellman, NA2M, ARRL Hudson Division DXAC Representative, October 4, 1993.

**Country Lists**

de Joe, W5ASP

At times one tends to forget that not everyone is well versed in the jargon of contesting and some of the subtle differences in terminology being used. The various "Country Lists" are an example.

The ARRL maintains the DXCC Countries List as the basis upon which the DXCC Awards Program is based. In addition, it is this list of countries that is used in scoring the several ARRL sponsored contests, e.g. ARRL International DX, 10-Meter, 160-Meter, etc.

In contrast there is a similar, but distinctly different, country list used for the contests sponsored by CQ Magazine and several other international contest sponsors. This list uses the WAEDC (European) Contest Committee's list of European countries rather than those on the DXCC Countries List. The differences are few but critical to the contester.

The WAEDC list includes these additional countries:

- 4U1V Vienna International Center
- GM/s Shetland Is.
- IT9 Sicily
- JW7 Bear I.
- UN1 Karelo-Finish Republic
- TA Turkey (Europe)

Fortunately, the current contest software takes care of this difference very nicely. However, it is important that both the serious and the "casual" contester keep these in mind, especially when "putting out" and "reading" packet spots. IT9 may not be "just another Italian" during CQ WW and Turkey can be a valid WAE contact.

For those of you who would like to look at a copy of the ARRL DXCC Countries list there is a file, DXCC.TXT, residing on the KB5NFN telephone BBS (713-777-0821) which was current as of June 1993. This "list" is complete with all the countries, past and present. It shows which countries are eligible for Field Checking, which ones may have QSLs handled by the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau, those with 3rd-Party traffic agreements, details about all of the Deleted Countries, and all the "Notes" pertaining thereto.

It truly is "all you ever wanted to know, but were afraid to ask" (or spend \$2 to get it from ARRL in the printed version).

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### FCC BBS

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de Steve, KK6RB

Here's the information we've all been waiting for... Just call the number, and make a selection. Easy as that! You don't even have to log on.

Federal Communications Commission  
 FCC Public Access Link (PAL)  
 Voice Number: 202-653-6288 or 202-632-0002  
 Data Number: 301-725-1072

Contains information on Federal Communications Commission rule making, including specific references to investigative dockets. Also contains telecommunication topics of special interest.

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### Contest Scores

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#### Results

1993 ARRL Field Day  
 Texas DX Society  
 #6 Class 2A - 3426 Qs 10.7K

#### Claimed

1993 CQ WPX SSB (High-Claimed)  
 WN4KKN #2 USA SO/AB 5.8M  
 KE5FI #1 USA SO/75M Lo-Pwr 36K  
 NZ5I (GM0ECO,W5ASP) #1 USA M/S 6.4M

1993 California QSO Party  
 KE4GY 417 Q (193 CW) x 57 Cty = 59K  
 W5ASP 342 Q (326 CW) x 55 Cty = 56K  
 K5EC 207 Q (54 CW) x 55 Cty = 25.7K

1993 CQ WW DX SSB  
 GM0ECO 1420 Q x 19 Z x 79 C = 184K SO/75M  
 KI3L 941 Q x 116 Z x 333 C = 1.1 M  
 K5DX 730 Q x 111 Z x 320 C = 830K  
 KE5FI 392 Q x 28 Z x 94 C = 27K SO/10M  
 W5ASP 504 Q x 90 Z x 262 C = 491K  
 K5EC 226 Q x 70 Z x 146 C = 126K  
 K7WOC 27 Q x 9 Z x 20 C = 1.8K SO/75M  
 AK5B 163 Q x 50 Z x 113 C = 68K  
 KB5NFN 2 Q x 1 Z x 1 C = 12 SO/10M  
 N5RP 500 Q x ? Z x ? C (His crayon broke...ed)

ARRL September VHF QSO Party  
 K5MA (w/K5NA, et.al.) 917 Q x 158 Grids = 178K

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### CW Sweepstakes with Two Radios

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de Tree, N6TR

About five years ago, I started using two radios in the Sweepstakes CW. I was not the first to do so, as many people were doing it before I finally tried it. However, I now believe it to be one of the most significant things I have changed to improve my scores over the years.

This article is intended to inspire you to try two radios. Okay, so you are not a big gun like Trey, Randy, Jeff or myself. However, I believe that the second radio can still have a significant impact on your score. In fact, I think a low power entry (A power) can actually generate more additional QSOs with a second radio than a high power (B power) entry.

The SS has some interesting characteristics that make the two radio concept really work; long exchanges and slow rates on Sunday. It is possible for a good operator (being helped with good software) to locate 3 stations calling CQ and determine if they have already been worked, during the time an exchange is being sent. Certainly just finding one new station to work every 10 minutes, and being able to work them without losing your "run" frequency would make a significant improvement in anyone's score.

So, your station is modest? A tribander and wires perhaps? Hopefully you have two radios. (I haven't thought of a way to do it with one radio yet.) Maybe you can borrow one from a friend for the weekend. Since most of your second radio QSOs will be "search and pounce" QSOs, you don't need to have the loudest signal on the band (save that for your run frequency). Low power (even QRP!) and your wire antennas will allow you to work most anyone you can find CQing on Sunday.

There are two things you need to practice ahead of time. First, is looking around for someone to work. You can do this during a CQ and when you are sending an exchange. If your software allows you to do a dupecheck while a CQ or exchange is being sent, then that will help. For those of you who still use a paper dupesheet, you need to be good at it. The other thing to practice is listening to the other station while you are CQing and making QSOs on your run frequency.

If you have just called CQ or QRZ and no one came back, and the station you have found has just finished a CQ where he is getting no answers, call him on the second radio. Then, as soon as you are done calling, start another CQ on your run frequency. If he doesn't come back, you haven't lost anything. If he does, wait for his exchange to be done, stop the CQ on your run frequency (if it isn't already over) and send him an exchange. As soon as he gets your info, go back to CQing on your run frequency.

This technique will have little impact to your run rate. If someone answers the "bogus" CQ you made, experience has shown that they will call again the second time. Last SS, I made about 80 QSOs on the second radio, and I can remember three times this happened, and all three times, the station called me again.

I hope you will consider giving it a try. It is a great way to get more out of our station by using operator ability instead of more bucks. It is ideal for the A power station who isn't capable of saturating the bands with a big signal. It is also a great way to improve your multiplier as you always have one ear looking out for the VY1 who is on the odd band CQing away.

If I can answer any specific questions, please don't hesitate to ask via E-Mail at tree@cmicro.com.

## Contest Operating Strategies

de Dave, K5GN

HF conditions this fall have an appearance similar to 1987 in terms of solar flux levels and potential band openings. I have been looking through my collection of contest logs from 1987 to develop operating strategies for this year. One caveat to this method is the less predictable nature of the decline of a cycle versus the rise of a cycle as in 1987. There is a higher likelihood of disturbed conditions this year.

### Part I: CW Sweepstakes

(You won't be reading this in time for CW SS, but it's good medicine for Phone SS as well..ed)

*"Rate is EVERYTHING"* - *Danny, K7SS* The name of the game in the ARRL Sweepstakes is rate. Your overall strategy should be to avoid thinking about multipliers until Sunday afternoon. Operate on the highest band on which you can keep the rate up to a satisfactory level. Here are some specifics for South Texas.

#### Band Plan (Times in UTC)

**2100-2230** Start on 15M. You may hear signals on 10M, but its coverage of population will be smaller and less productive. Don't miss the start of the contest; you can never catch up.

**2230-0000** Begin using 20M after 2230 if you can. Follow the East Coast stations down the bands, not the West Coast.

**0000-0130** If you have a big signal on 40M, go there after 0000Z. If not, hang in on 20M until you have to leave.

**0130-0600** From South Texas in the SS, 40M is your band at night. Think positively (act loud), and go for it! Do not go to 80M.

**0600-1300** Continue to avoid 80M. It is not your band. Go there to keep the rate up, but do it with the intention of going back to 40M ASAP.

**1300-1500** Once the sun comes up, you have to start moving back and forth between at least two bands. Don't be in a hurry to get up to 15M. The East Coast hangs out on 40M all morning. With the lower absorption levels this year, 40M and 20M will be good in the early morning. Migrate to 15 as the 40M signals fade.

**1500-2300** BOUNCE from band to band and around in the band. 15M and 20M will be the most productive. 10M may be spotty at best, but may pay off with the missing VE multipliers.

**2300-0300** Add 40M to the mix and drop 15/10. Keep bouncing!

#### Using Two Radios

The best way to keep bouncing is to have two rigs with separate antennas if possible. CQ on one and search for new stations on the other. Be careful to obey the rule which allows only one transmitted signal at a time. This means that only one rig can be transmitting at once.

#### Off-Time Plan

The worst rate Saturday night is always far better than the slow times on Sunday afternoon, so avoid taking any off time before 0800Z. Take 3-4 hours between 0830 and 1330 for a nap and a shower.

Plan to take the rest of your off time in 30-minute (minimum length) segments during the afternoon and evening. Try to work it out so that you're on the air during NFL halftimes and between games.

The period around sunset has been troublesome for me in the past, so I usually plan at least one half hour off time for then.

### Adapting to SSB

First of all, let me state that I don't adapt well to SSB. However, one must be fair and give some instructions for the alternative mode. Ten meters is far more important on SSB due to the potential quantity of Novices. Pray for sporadic E to light up a larger portion of the country for us than will ordinarily be open. The high bands in general will be more productive. Shift your off time and band choice strategy a little to take advantage of 10M, if it opens, and the high bands in general. At night, 40M is tougher and 75M is very important. Spend more time on 75M, but recognize that it will still be difficult.

### PART II: CQ World Wide DX CW

By the time this issue of the Bullsheat reaches you, the CQ WW SSB test will have come and gone. Hope you had fun! Conditions in the CW test will be similar to the SSB test, with more wintertime flavor.

The largest changes this year will be that 10M is not as good as any of the last few years and that 20M will not open to Europe at night. This reduces the QSO potential drastically, but not the multiplier potential, because the openings will be there, just shorter and weaker. The discussion below is based on 1987 logs with a small contest/DX station with a 50' tower, tribander, wires and a KW.

#### 1992 vs 1993

Last year 10M was terrific to JA and Europe. This year it will be spotty or not open at all. Compensate by focusing on 15M and 20M rate, while making frequent short forays to 10M, so you don't miss the openings.

Last year, 15M was great nearly all day and well into the night. This year, it will be the best DX band, but will have a slack time in the early afternoon and will not stay open very late. Compensate by bouncing to 20M when the rate falls.

Last year 20M was very, very good at night. This year it will not open up to Europe or JA over the darkness path to the north, though it will be open to strange places all night. Rate openings on 20M will coincide with openings on 15M, so compensate by sharing time with 15M, digging it out during the afternoon, and not missing the peak of the JA opening after sunset. Don't miss the LP to Europe after sunrise! Expect to rely on 40M for nighttime rate.

Last year, 40M was quite good to Europe and JA during the hours of darkness. This year 40M will open sooner and stay open later. Use 40M as an alternative to the high bands during late afternoon and early morning, and plan to duke it out all night here with the coasters. Expect to work JA and EU together between 0400 and 0900.

Last year 80M was so-so, with a few short openings. This year, signals will be stronger and openings will be longer. Make up for fewer mults on 10M by working a few more on 80M. The openings may peak before sunrise.

Remember that 160M is rarely very good for South Texas in the fall. Work what you can and move on back to more productive bands.

#### Band Plan (Times in UTC)

**0000-0200** Go for rate on 20M and 15M to JA. 10M may be open in the first hour.

**0200-0500** Work whatever is on 20M; work as many stations as you can on 40M (mostly Europe and close in stuff).

**0500-0800** Concentrate on working as many Europeans and Eu countries as you can on 80 and 40M. 40M will be the most productive band. Don't forget the odd paths on 20M.

**0800-1200** Sleep here, if necessary, especially if you can't run JA's on 40. Otherwise, work as many as you can on 40 and



at least one on 80. Keep checking 20M, especially as you get closer to sunrise.

**1200-1300** The sunrise transition... all bands open at once. Watch for the start of 20M long path to Europe and western Asia. Watch for the beginning of the 15M European opening. Keep the rate up. Focus on working people you won't be able to work later (e.g., eschew the early Africans on 15M).

**1300-1500** The best rate of the contest is in this time period on 15M short path and 20M long path. Maybe 10M will open, too, but don't let it fool you.

**1500-1700** 20M switches to short path for Europe by about 1500, which is tougher, so concentrate on 15M and 10M Europeans.

**1700-1900** 10M turns to pileup mode. 15M is reduced to western Europeans and 20M is still tough: Bounce!

**1900-2130** "The Pits." Nasty pileups on 15M and 10M. Slugging it out with the East Coast on 20M. Stick with the three-calls-and-move-on rule.

**2130-2300** Relief... JA's on 15M for rate. Also on 20M, maybe on 10M, but best on 15M (Saturday). On Sunday, more "Pits"!

**2300-0000** Add 40M Europe to the mix as a place to search and pounce, maybe even call CQ high in the band, especially on Sunday.

#### Meals

Two hours before the start; snack around 0200; another at 0800 (or sleep); breakfast around 1130; lunch 18-1900; snack again at 2100.

Good luck and don't forget to work the TDXS group (K13L, K5GA, K5WA, N5DU, W5ASP) in V31 on all bands.

### Increasing Your CW Transmission Efficiency

de Slim, K5/RG8U

The computer industry has used data compression techniques for a long time to reduce data transmission times and to reduce the disk space required to store information. Often savings of 50% and more are possible using such techniques. Although the actual compression techniques are different, contesters can use similar methods to cut back the time required for CW contest exchanges.

I remember the first time I heard someone send 5NN as an abbreviation to the longer Morse 599. What a neat way to save a bit of time, not to mention the wrist (keyers were rare back then), I thought.

Another popular abbreviation is using a "T" instead of a zero. This, of course, has roots back to the Continental Code, where a long dash was the symbol for zero. A few years ago the Europeans started using an "A" instead of sending a "1" in their CQ zone.

The use of these abbreviations can save quite a bit of time over the course of a contest. An HC8 contest operation sending at 25 words per minute and sending 5NNAT would save almost 45 minutes over the local competition sending the full 59910 after 1,000 QSO's.

During a slow period in the CQ WW contest last November I started wondering if there were some other tricks that could be used to speed things up. After a while the JA's started coming in and the increased QSO rate put the thought out of my mind until I ran across a JA sending 5C25. I don't know if this was just bad sending, or the start of a new wave. Compressing NN into C will save 2.4 minutes after 1,000 QSO's at 25 wpm.

Let's take a look at our exchange from W5 land to see what we can do to speed it up. Since we are in Zone 4, our exchange

would be RST plus 04. Of course with modern receivers and antennas every signal is 599. This means we will be sending 59904. As mentioned before this will normally be abbreviated to 5NNT4.

Since 04 and 4 are numerically equivalent, 5NN04 can be replaced by 5NN4. Using a cue from our JA friend with the faulty keyer, we could further shorten this to 5C4.

When you start to think about it, the 5 is really redundant. If you make 1,000 QSO's you will probably get less than 10 signal reports less than S9. How often will you get a readability other than 5? In all likelihood, never.

Considering all of this, we should be able to drop at least two dits from the 5. Besides, with typical handwriting after a few hundred QSO's, who can really tell the difference between a "5" and an "S" anyway?

Our 59904 has now been compressed to 5C4. We have reduced the time needed to send the signal report by 61%! This is pretty significant in a 48 hour contest.

I am so convinced that this will improve my score, that I have already patched the K1EA software to send 5C4 instead of the usual exchange. My next project will be developing methods to compress my call. Anyone have any ideas on further compressing 5C TEX for the ARRL DX test?

### Announcements

The Austin County Repeater Association is now operating on 145.410 MHz. (The JSC Club decided they didn't want us on .64 with them.) Coverage area is from Hwy 6/Hwy 290 to Navasota to Carmine to Schulenburg to Rosenberg to Katy. The repeater is at K5RC's "mountain top" QTH. The antenna is presently at 80' (on top of a TDXS Field Day crank-up tower/trailer). Thanks to the generosity of George, NR5M it will soon be at 140' on top of some AB-105 tower. TDXS members are welcome to use the repeater.

**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.

**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 using the TDXS97 packet node by first connecting to the TDXS97 node, and then connecting to K5DX, i.e. **C TDXS97**, then **C K5DX**, all running on 144.970 MHz. The TDXS97 node has been upgraded and will now handle 26 users. It will not function as a digi. The Brazos Valley Contest and DX PacketCluster Bulletin Board is located in Hempstead, Texas and operates on 144.990 MHz with the call **KE5IV**. This node is accessible either directly or by connecting through any of several local packet nodes. The **MAGBPQ** node on 144.990 near Magnolia provides access to users on the north side of Houston. The **KE5IV** node provides a wealth of information and features of interest to DXers.

The Galveston County DX PacketCluster, located in La Marque, is active under the call **KC5SC** and operates on 144.930 MHz. It is usually connected with K5DX and KE5IV via the 446.100 MHz backbone link.

Propagation

de Roy, AD5Q

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

October has given us an indication of what to expect from 10 Meters this season. Europeans aren't out of the picture entirely. Sometimes there are a lot of signals on the band, but usually there are only a few. CW activity is sparse. The primary day path band this fall is 15.

Solar fluxes down in the 90s don't seem to bother 15 much at this time of the year, though openings are shorter. We can still get into most of Russia and the Middle East, and Europeans are coming through in quantity. Moving into winter the area of darkness over the pole will grow to make the polar paths more difficult.

20 is closing in the early evening, moving most activity to 40 and 80. European signals can be heard on 20 for much of the day, with polar openings in the morning and around sunset. DXing is good for several hours of the morning and in late afternoon to early evening. The band stays open longer in the southern hemisphere and around the equator, so it is not uncommon to find the band open to Africa late in the day here. After sunset we get an opening to South America where many loud signals have a ring distinctively different from the echo we hear from over the pole. If you tune carefully across the band during this period, stations in the Antarctic can be worked with an occasional long path signal from Asia. As 20 closes, the last few signals on the band are often rare DX, and can come from any direction.

During the evening the activity moves to 40 and 80, but there is usually not much activity out of Europe during our prime time. This is because it is too early sunrise in Europe occurs later in the evening, and the peak in activity occurs after most in the USA have packed it in for the night. The 40 Meter perspective is certainly much different for those with high beams, and the evening would be a good time to work Russians. Most of the pileups on 40 in the evening are either Caribbean stations or Africans.

There is more activity on 80 this year, though signals from Europe don't seem any stronger. Judging by the packet spots, most of the activity is up in the SSB portion. Down on CW, there are usually only 1 or 2 DX stations on the band at a time (with everybody in there calling.) In the course of an evening, stations from several countries will come on and can be worked if the band is checked frequently.

ARRL DX Bulletin

Thanks to Steve, W9NUF; the Northern Illinois DX Association; Bob, W5KNE; QRZ DX; Chod, VP2ML; The DX Bulletin; Tedd, KB8NW; the Ohio/Penn DX PacketCluster Network; and Doug, N3ADL; for the items in this week's bulletin.

**MALDIVES.** A two week operation by Andree, DL8LAS is expected to begin next Tuesday. Watch 14013 and 14233 kHz in particular. QSL via his CBA or the DARC bureau.

**ALAND ISLAND.** OH0AM and OH0DX will activate the island for the contest weekend. OH0DX will be by OH1EH. QSL via OH2BAD.

**SEYCHELLES.** Listen around 14050 and 21050 kHz for S79MX/A. QSL via HB9MX.

**SOUTH GEORGIA ISLANDS.** VP8GAV was worked Wednesday on 7018 kHz at 2350z.

**GUADELOUPE.** FG5BG is a good catch on 160 meters. Listen on or near 1832 kHz around 0200z.

**MAURITIUS.** Jacky, 3B8CF, has been quite active on 40 meters lately. Try 7005 kHz at 0130 and 0230z.

**MONACO.** 3A/I1RBJ will operate multi-single in the DX contest.

**ZONE 2.** W0MHK, K2OQA and K2TRY will be on from near Sept-Iles, Quebec. QSL via W0MHK. AH9B will sign his call /VO2. QSL via OKDXA, Box 88, Wellston OK 74881. Multi-multi VX9DH will be by K2NJ, NR2H and others.

**WALVIS BAY.** ZS9DX is an operation by ZS6WPX and ZS6BRZ.

**MALTA.** Deryck, G3LVX, is signing 9H3AM until November 5. QSL via his CBA.

*(Though the CW WW DX SSB Contest is over, this information should be of interest to those wishing to QSL new band-countries worked over the weekend..ed)*

The following operations have been planned for this contest.

**MOROCCO,** CN2JF in Rabat by Jack, WA0RJK. QSL via WA0RJK, 1992 or 1993 CBA only.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS,** multi-multi ZF2JI will be by KG6AR, KJ6HO, W9NQ and K6GXO. QSL via KG6AR.

**CURACAO.** PJ9U will be by OH1VR. QSL home call.

**MARIANA ISLANDS.** Multi-multi AH0K will be by a large group of Japanese operators. QSL via the bureau to JF2PZH.

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.** A61AD will be by Don, WB2DND.

**CEUTA.** Multi-multi by a multi-national team. QSL via EA9LZ.

**JERSEY.** GJ0SLY by G0SLY. QSL via WA3CGE.

**BELIZE.** Multi-single V31DX by WA9L, N6YRU and KA6IM.

**TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.** Multi-multi VP5L by the North Florida DX Team. QSL via K4UTE.

**LORD HOWE ISLAND.** Multi-multi by a group led by N6AA.

**AMERICAN SAMOA.** Want Samoa? Multi-multi WK6V/KH8 will be by KF6HI and KA6NAL. QSL their home calls.

**MARKET REEF.** OH0M will be by the OH1AF Club. QSL via OH1NOA.

The following are DXpeditions planned by members of the Frankford Radio Club.

**N3ADL** will be active on all bands from **Martinique Island.** Possible call signs are TO5MM or TO5MI. QSL via N3ADL with SASE.

**K3IPK,** will be on from Senegal as 6V6U. QSL via K3IPK with SASE.

**W2GD,** will be on Aruba as P40W with an all band single op effort. QSL via N2MM with SASE.

**AA2U** will be active on all bands with QRP from Aruba. Possible calls are P40C, P40Z, or P40QRP.

**WT3Q** will lead a multi-multi effort as V29Z with KA2AEV, N3BNA, and NM2Y.

**N2VW** will operate multi-multi as VP5N with WB2YOF and K2TD from **Turks and Caicos Island.**

**WB2P** will journey to the **Mariana Islands** and multi with KE2PF from Saipan. Call sign is WB2P/KH0.

**K2NJ,** will be north of the border with NR2M as VX9DH.

**N3ED** will lead a multi-multi effort at PJ1B with W3UM, WA3LRO, KB2XZ, and others.

**WA2VUY** will be QRV from the Virgin Islands as VP2V/WA2VUY.

**K2DOX** will be active from Saint Kitts as V47KP. QSL via CBA.