



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 Bob, N5RP

As Tony the Tiger would say, the **Banquet** was **GRRRRREAT!** **Melanie**, Melanie! What a superb job you did. Does **K5GA** really know how lucky he is to have someone like you keep his life organized for him? ... Knowing Billy, I doubt it! The food was wonderful. The table settings were wonderful. The view was wonderful. The door prizes were wonderful. Do we really have to wait a whole year to do it again?

The only person that I can think might have had some trouble with the banquet would be **Sharp, K5DX**. He won so much, and received so much in the way of awards and prizes. He surely must feel somewhat ashamed of himself!

Speaking of feeling bad, has anyone bothered to tell ??? that his name was drawn for the grand prize and that it was returned because of his not being present? (By the way, **AA5NK**; I had TICKET # 052! #@&\$*%}+!)

The February meeting will be held at Moose's Restaurant over on Bellaire. See the Meeting announcement. Further information will be available, if needed, from the packet cluster, the Tuesday night net, or **N5RP-1** on 144.950 MHz.

I am hoping that we can have a good turnout so as to get some significant input from the membership on a host of topics that need to be dealt with. With just a little input and planning up front, we can go so much more smoothly the rest of the year.

Speaking of which, has everyone decided whether or not they are going to attend the **Dallas HAM-COM**? The Dallas gang has again asked us to co-sponsor a hospitality suite with them. **KE5FI** and I have both reserved our rooms for the weekend, hoping that our rooms might be within a short stumbling distance from the hospitality suite. Fellow members planning on attending this ARRL National Convention should lock up their rooms as soon as possible so as to make sure they have a well situated place to spend the night(s).

'Tis the season of contest, or at least the balance of contest season is upon us. More than just a rumor is **K5MA**, **K5GA**,

NM5M, **W5ASP**, **N5RP** going up to fellow member **K5NA**'s place for **ARRL CW**. The trip is my birthday present, by the way, so I am sure that I will be treated royally by all, if for no other reason that just that one simple fact. (Little does he suspect what's really in store for him..ed)

Speaking of members away from the nest ... Hey! Guess what? **Sammy**, **N5AF** has re-entered the fold as a dues paying member. First one to work him on the repeater should put him out on the cluster so that he can have a welcome back pile-up. Welcome home **Sammy**! Now, if we could just get **Tom**, **AA5Y** to check in every once in a while, if for no other reason than the fact that he always has a good Friday joke to share with the morning crowd.

Getting back to the year at hand, we need to go over so many, many things at our next meeting, I just feel like I can't emphasize enough how very important it is for all to attend. Issues involving organizational structure, finances, activities; you name it. If there is an issue that is especially important to any particular member I hope that person will contact me ahead of time so as to make sure that his issue gets on the agenda.

The **TDXS** will soon be 25 years old. Let's (that means you and I ... plural) lay the ground work right now so as to ensure that we enter into the 2nd quarter century of life as being **THE** radio club of Texas DX.

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, February 11, 1994**. The meeting will be held at **Moose's Restaurant** at **5423 Bellaire Blvd**. The restaurant is located on the south side of Bellaire just east of its intersection with Chimney Rock. It is in the middle of a small strip shopping center. There is ample parking along the front of the center. We will be using the room just off to the left of the main dining area as you enter. Our reservations start at 6:00

Upcoming Events

- February 11.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- February 12.....North American Sprint - SSB
- February 12.....PACC (Dutch) Contest
- February 19.....ARRL International DX - CW
- February 25.....CQ World-Wide 160 Meter - SSB
- February 26.....REF (French) Contest
- February 26.....RSGB 7 MHz CW Contest
- February 26.....U.B.A. (Belgium) Contest
- March 05.....ARRL International DX - SSB
- March 11.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- April 15.....International DX Convention, Visalia, CA
- April 29.....Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH
- June 10.....ARRL National Convention, Arlington, TX

DX News

de Sid, K5XI

The big news on the DX front is the operation from **Peter I Island**. Using the call sign **3Y0PI**, the group of brave and determined DXpeditioners showed up right on schedule. The eight operators are **K0IR, ON6TT, WA4JQS, W6MKB, KK6EK, XE1L, and HB9AHL**. Prior to this time, there had only been one operation from Peter I Island in the entire history of mankind. In January 1987, Peter I was activated by **LA1EE (3Y1EE)** and **LA2GV (3Y2GV)**.

In the seven years that have elapsed since then, Peter I has climbed to the **top of the most wanted list**. This DXpedition cost in excess of \$100,000. Work them now, because you are unlikely to see another operation from Peter I for many years.

The most important thing to know if you want to work them is the frequencies of operation. Here are the frequencies where they are operating. SSB: 1845, 3785, 7065, 14195, 18145, 21295, 24945, and 28475 kHz. CW: 1826, 3522, 7022, 14024, 18074, 21024, 24894, and 28024 kHz.

Special Note: Be sure and work them on 30 meters--their frequency is 10104 kHz. Why? If you ever want to go for the CQ WAZ (worked all zones) award, this may be your **only opportunity to get Zone 12 on 30 meters**. Chile does not allow its amateurs to operate on 30 meters. This makes it virtually impossible to get Zone 12. Only one person has ever succeeded in working all zones on 30 meters. He did it by working **KC4AAA** on 20 meters, and talking the operator into QSYing to 30 meters for a contact. Since **KC4AAA** is located at the South Pole, and since zones 12, 13, 29, 30, 32, 38 and 39 all converge to a point at the South Pole, you can count **KC4AAA** for any one of those zones that you choose. That station is sort of a wild card for WAZ.

For those who are into digital modes, Peter I will also be on RTTY on the following frequencies: 1825, 3680, 7070, 14080, 21080, and 28080 kHz. The operators have also selected certain frequencies for working Europe. When they are transmitting on 3507 and 7007, they are looking for Europe only. Similarly, they will use 3800 for Europe on 75 meters SSB. Do not try to work them when they are attempting to work Europe.

At this time of year, Peter I only has about four and 1/2 hours between sunset and sunrise. I'm not sure I would call it darkness. They are right on the grey line during the entire period. It should result in some decent signals on 40, 80 and maybe even 160 meters. The sunset and sunrise times will change during the 18 day operation.

A grey line program for your computer will be a big help in your efforts to determine which band they are probably on at any given time. If you have the popular Terminator program distributed by MFJ, one tip you can use to help you is to modify the display to show the location of Peter I island. Use an ASCII editor program to modify the file named **TERMINAT.PAR**. The **EDIT** program included with DOS 5.0 will work fine. In the listing of city names, add a line as follows: **Y ^3Y0PI S=68 45 W=90 40 T=MOUNTAIN**

Then when you run the program, it will display the location of 3Y0PI, and help you see when they have sunrise and sunset. By the way, I am not sure about the time zone, but that does not really matter - I assumed that Mountain time would be about right for their local time. The heading for Peter I from here is 178 degrees which is almost due South.

St. Peter & St. Paul Rocks are also supposed to be active from February 3-15. No reports from this area yet. If it goes as planned, they will be using the callsign **ZY0SP**.

During this same period of time, a couple of Russians have announced that they will be active from **Nepal 9N**, and **Jim Smith, VK9NS** will be active from **A35MR**. It should be a great time to be on the air chasing DX!

Speaking of Jim, I just received a couple of photos from him that he enclosed in the card he sent me to confirm our QSO on 75 meters SSB. He uses a big log periodic antenna from Norfolk island. So that is what accounts for the good signal he has.

Monk Apollo is reportedly active again. Hopefully, he has cooled off after the big rift over **Baldur's** operation from there without permission from the monks. **Baldur** had a valid license because of the reciprocity treaty with Germany, so he just signed his call/SY.

The **VK9MM** cards have been mailed. I received mine a few days ago. If you have not yet received yours, it may be time to have a talk with your postman. Good luck chasing 3Y0PI!

ARRL DX Bulletin

ARRL Headquarters

Newington, CT February 3, 1994

The items in this week's bulletin are courtesy of Bob, **W5KNE**; **QRZ DX**; and the Ohio/Penn and Yankee Clipper Contest Club PacketCluster networks. Thanks.

PETER FIRST ISLAND. 3Y0PI has been active for several days. The last 100 PacketCluster spots show stations in the northeast US working them on all bands 40 through 10 meters. On CW try 1826, 3522, 7022, 10104, 14024, 18074, 21024, 24894 and 28024 kHz. Listen for their SSB on 1845, 3785, 7065, 14195, 18145, 21295, 24945 and 28475 kHz. For RTTY try 1825, 3680, 14080, 21080 and 28180 kHz; and satellite action on 145.890 MHz listening down on OSCAR 10 and 13. On HF the split windows are 5 to 10 kHz wide maximum on CW and 25 kHz on SSB. Stateside stations are being worked by call areas following propagation patterns, typically 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 0, 5, 7 and 6.

At around 1800z February 3, the DXpedition crew had some problems with their generators. The icebreaker that is to pick them up is running six days behind schedule, so the new pick up date is February 19.

MOUNT ATHOS. Monk Apollo, **SV2ASP/A**, has been heard on some of the WARC bands with a very strong signal, most notably on 17 meters. Also check between 3790 and 3795 kHz at 0530 and 1700z. He recently showed up on the 21335 DX Net around 1345z.

KERGUELEN ISLAND. New amateur Pierre, **FT5XJ**, will be on the island until July for a three month leave. When he returns his stay will be for a year. He has been on 14250 kHz at 0500z, 14191 kHz at 1420z and can sometimes be found on 14198 kHz. QSL via F5NLL.

TONGA. Jim, **VK9NS**, is on as **A35MR**. He was worked on 21260 kHz between 2100 and 2200z. **A35KB** has also been active. Nob, **JF2MBF**, ex **VR6JJ**, along with Yasu, **J11NJC**, will start a four week Pacific DXpedition from Tonga as **A35JJ** from February 12 to 20. This will be all band CW, SSB, RTTY and satellite operation. QSL **A35JJ** via **JR2KDN**.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS. Ed, **K9IMM**, and Carol, **NS9L**, will be on Provo from February 17 to 24. **K9IMM** will operate the ARRL CW DX Contest on 160 meters as **VP5B**. Before and after the contest Ed and Carol will operate as **VP5/** their own calls on 160 through 10 meters, some of which may be with QRP. QSL via **WB9NOV**.

Propagation

de Roy, AD5Q

(The following article is taken from the Northwest ARS Newsletter for February 1994..ed)

It is February, and all beams are focused on a remote island in the Antarctic. After spending about 2 days unloading the Russian icebreaker by helicopter and putting up antennas, the Peter 1st Island expedition fired up all four stations at once. As I write this, they have been on for less than 48 hours but will be active for 2 weeks. So far, they have been heard on all bands from 10 thru 40 (including WARC).

Because of their location, the lowband situation is unique. After the 3Y sunset, nighttime is less than 5 hours and it never really gets dark. During this time, they will enjoy continuous grey line propagation on an easterly path as sunrise sweeps from Russia completely across Europe. In the other direction, sunset moves across the Pacific, finishing the 3Y "night" with a pass across Japan. These areas should have excellent opportunities for contacts on 80 Meters, while North America will have a more conventional nighttime path into this greyline zone. Since it is winter here, higher bands close early at night - but the southerly direction is the last to close.

At the peak of the sunspot cycle, February is the month when 20 Meters re-opens for all-night DX propagation. At the bottom, evening windows to Russia and over the pole are much shorter, and are at their best in late spring. For the next few months, we will be in transition, with improving nighttime propagation on 20. This winter 20 has closed in the early evening, and so has the 30 Meter WARC band. The best evening path to Europe was therefore on 40. As we move into spring, watch for this European path to open on 30 Meters in advance of the seasonal opening on 20.

For now, there is plenty of nightpath activity on the low bands. Openings are predictable, with Europe and Africa (east) in the evening and Asia, the Pacific and Australia (west) opening after midnight and through to sunrise. Reliable daypath propagation is to be found on 15 and 17, with less than reliable openings on 12 & 10. Activity is very sparse on 10 CW, but east/west propagation is a daily occurrence. A good place to look for African contacts would be 10 SSB. 20 Meters goes through the most dramatic seasonal changes, propagating across nighttime paths in the late spring and summer, and across daytime paths in winter. 15 Meters goes through similar changes at the peak of the cycle. At this time of the year, 20 opens nicely to Europe, Russia and over the pole in the morning for a couple hours.

This monthly article begins its 7th year with this writing. It is hoped that I will be able to continue through to an 11th year to complete the cycle. A complete set of the first 6 years of this series (72 articles) has been uploaded to the KB5NFN (TDXS) BBS at (713) 777-0821 in the Ham Radio area under the filename NARS6.ZIP.

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. Participation is not limited to members of the TDXS, but is open to all and everyone is encouraged to join in.

DXAC Report

de Jim, N5DC

The DXAC will be voting on the deletion of Mt. Athos shortly, but it will take rather substantial input from the West Gulf troops in support of its removal to change my mind. I stand firmly against deleting Mt. Athos. I believe that Monk Apollo is acting like a 3 year old child having a temper tantrum. If we vote to delete it because of his attitude, I think we would set a precedent that could jeopardize ANY future DX operation. What if the operators decided that they didn't like the way the ARRL "parts their hair", and refused to QSL the operation for DXCC credit?

Pratus Island. I understand it was on the air for a short time. I still feel very uncomfortable as to who actually owns Pratus. I for one would have a pretty tough time voting for it as a new country until that issue has been "chiseled in stone".

As of January 13, 1994 the following DX Operations have been approved by the ARRL:

Call/Operations Beginning:

C53GK - 19 May 1992

D2SA - 15 September 1993

J5TUBA - 27 April 1993

JT1/KB9IBZ - 10 November 1992

T5/TU4EC - 10 December 1992

TR8YA - 8 April 1992

TU4EC - 30 April 1992

TU4EF - 7 July 1992

TU4AX - 25 November 1992

TU4BA - 11 December 1992

TU4BD - 11 December 1992

V26A - 28 October 1993

VP9/K8PYD - 22 November 1993

VP9/WB8YJF - 22 November 1993

XU5DX - 1 January 1993

XU5SE - 1 January 1993

YI1RJ - 22 October 1991

5R8DK - 17 March 1993

These operations have submitted documentation to ARRL, and their documentation has been accepted. See you in the pileups!

The Internet DX Mailing List

de Lyndon, VE7TCP/VE6BBM

(The following information prepared by Lyndon Nerenberg, VE7TCP/VE6BBM appeared recently on the Internet DX-Forum. It covers frequently asked questions (FAQ) about this activity and should be of interest to active DXers having access to Internet E-Mail..ed)

What is the Internet DX Mailing List?

It is an electronic mailing list dedicated to the discussion of Amateur Radio DXing. This is the place to exchange tips and techniques, discuss hardware (rigs, antennas, DSP daddoes), awards, announce upcoming DXpeditions, etc. Anything and everything pertaining to DX is fair game, with the following exceptions:

- Don't send requests for QSL info to the list. (If someone wants to coordinate a list of current QSL routes and post that on a periodic basis please get in touch with me.)
- Don't send lists of QSL routes to the list. (See above.)
- Discussion about contests and contesting should be kept to a minimum. The CQ-Contest list already provides an

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excellent forum for contest related discussions. (To subscribe to CQ-Contest, send an e-mail request to CQ-CONTEST-REQUEST@TGV.COM)

How do I join the list?

To subscribe, send an e-mail request to DX-REQUEST@UNBC.EDU asking to be added. If you are not directly connected to the Internet you must provide an address relative to an Internet site. (We are not connected to BITNET or the UUCP network.) If you are not sure if you are an Internet site, ask your local system administrator.

Requests to be dropped from the list, change of address requests, or any other administrative mail should also be sent to the above address. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should administrative requests be sent to the general submission address!

Is the mailing list archived?

In a word, no.

How do I send a message to the list?

It's easy! Just send an e-mail message to:DX@UNBC.EDU. Your message will be automatically resent to all the mailing list subscribers. Depending on the load on our mail system this could take anywhere from a few minutes to several hours. If you don't see your message within a day or so, send a message to the request address above (NOT the general submission address) and we will look into the problem.

Here are a few things to keep in mind when sending a message to the list. If everyone follows these guidelines it will help the list operate smoothly.

- Make sure your subject line is appropriate. If a conversation wanders off the original topic, change the subject line to reflect the new line of discussion.
- Proofread your message before sending it! Spelling mistakes and poor formatting do nothing to help you get your message across.
- Keep it short! Many subscribers pay for their e-mail access. Don't include 100 lines of the message you're replying to and then add a three line contribution. Only include as much text as is necessary to establish the context for your reply.
- Watch your language! This list is gatewayed onto packet radio. Don't say anything that you wouldn't (or shouldn't) say over the air. Anyone violating this rule will be dropped from the list *immediately*!
- If someone asks a question, send your answer to them directly. The person asking the question should collect the responses, then send a summary to the list. This helps cut down on unnecessary list traffic.
- Eschew flamage. If someone sends a flame to the list and you can't bite your tongue, send your flaming reply directly back to the flaming individual, not back to the list. No one wants to pay \$1.00 to read these messages (the original flame + your reply). Treat flamers the way you would two meter repeater jammers - ignore them.

Make sure there is something of value in each message you send to the list. When I reply to a message using my mailer's REPLY command I never see a copy of the message come back from the list. Why? There are two possible causes. One is that your mailer sends the reply only to the originator of the message. In this case you will have to manually CC the mailing list. The second possibility is that your mail reader is so ancient and broken that it sends replies to the 'envelope' from address instead of the From: or Reply-To: header values. If

your mailer sends replies to dx-request@unbc.edu you are running broken software.

If you are in the att.com or microsoft.com domains you want to double check for this second problem. Note that replies sent to dx-request get filed in the bit bucket.

Where can I obtain back issues of the various DX bulletins?

An archive of various Amateur Radio related bulletins is available via anonymous FTP from unbc.edu:/ampr/bulletins/. I add back issues as I come across them - feel free to contact me if you can help fill in the holes. Some time this fall I will be setting up a WAIS server that will include all the online bulletin files. WWW and Gopher interfaces to this data are also in the works.

If you have any suggestions or additions for this document, please e-mail them to: LYNDON@UNBC.EDU

CIS Prefixes

(Here is an extract of a series of E-Mail comments about the prefix situation in the CIS that appeared on the Internet reflector recently. It may help you sort out some of the "new Russian" call signs. Good luck..ed)

de Willy, UW9AR

Since I have been getting many requests on new CIS prefixes I decided to publish it here, so that everybody could see. This information is not official and not full. I got it from unofficial source at CRC of Russia (even there they don't have official listing as yet).

The new system is supposed to be put in force since the 1st of Jan. 1994. Country prefixes:

Armeniya EK,4J

Beloruss EU,EW,EV

Georgia 4L

Moldova ER

Kirgiz EX

Kazakh UN,UO,UP,UQ

Russia UA,UB,UC,UD,UE,UF,UG,UH,UI

Ukraine UR,US,UT,UU,UX,UY,UZ Uzbekh UJ,UM

Pse note, that my source skipped UV & UW series. Is it gonna be retained w/Russia? Supposedly it went to Ukraine. Am I gonna stay with my lovely UW9AR? Will see in a while. In the listing above I missed UD - formerly Azerbaijan cuz my source forgot to tell me and I forgot to ask. It is Jan.04.94 only one day after NY celebrations and two days before orthodox church XMAS. In Russia we are all off till Jan.10.94.

de Jim, AD1C

According to December 1993 QST, page 110, the following prefixes which formerly belonged to Russia but are now in the Ukraine block will change to:

UN becomes RN UV becomes RX UW becomes RU UZ becomes RK

We have already seen PacketCluster spots for RU0LL (ex-UW0LL) and RK10WZ (ex-UZ10WZ). So, Willy, I suspect your new callsign will be RU9AR.

According to the same QST list:

UD (Azerbaijan) becomes 4J,4K

UG (Armenia) becomes EK.

Now, a number of stations in Azerbaijan were using the 4K prefix in the CQWW CW contest. Furthermore, Armenians have been using the 4J prefix (i.e. 4J4GAT). I guess we have to wait and see how this all works out.

Here is my first cut at the new prefixes for CIS. The number in parenthesis after some of the prefixes is the CQ zone. Some things I'm not sure of:

The TDXS Bullsheat

1. What is new prefix for Malyj Vysotskij I., since 4J is supposed to be assigned to either Armenia (ex-UG) or Azerbaijan (ex-UD)? I have put 4J in prefix list for Armenia, since that seems to be the prefix that those people are using.

2. What about 4K - does this prefix belong to Russian Arctic and Antarctic islands (hey, maybe MV Island will get a 4K prefix), or to Azerbaijan? Azerbaijanis were using the 4K prefix in the CQWW CW contest last November. Willy, UW9AR says 4K is Russia, which seems more logical to me.

Please send me comments and corrections - I hope to get a new release of the CTY files out before the next contest (CQWW 160?). I specially welcome reports of "I heard a new prefix being used, and you got it right" (I have already heard most of the new Ukraine prefixes) or "I heard a new prefix and couldn't figure out where it was - what's your best guess?" Thanks.

In case you were wondering what the old prefixes were:

Malyj Vysotskij I.: 4J1

Franz Josef Land: 4K2

European Russia: UA etc.

Kaliningrad: UA2

Asiatic Russia: UA9

Ukraine: UB

Belarus: UC

Azerbaijan: UD

Georgia: UF

Armenia: UG

Turkmenistan: UH

Uzbekistan: UI

Tajikistan: UJ

Kazakhstan: UL

Kyrgyzstan: UM

Moldova: UO

Saw UK8AA (ex-RI8AA) and UK9AA (ex-UI8AA) spotted this morning. So I guess that implies: RI8 was UK8 and UI8 was UK9. Also, saw UC2LFT spotted last night, from Belarus. Guess they have not changed over to new prefixes yet.

de Willy, UW9AR

I finally saw the official document regarding CIS prefix distribution. The document I saw was a letter from Russian Department of Communications to its Chelyabinsk branch.

Here's what I saw:

UD - 4JA-4KZ

UG - EKA-EKZ

UC - EUA-EWZ

UF - 4LA-4LZ

UL - UNA-UQZ

UM - EXA-EXZ

UO - ERA-ERZ

UA - RAA-RZZ, UAA-UIZ

UJ - EYA-EYZ

UH - EZA-EZZ

UI - UJA-UMZ

UB - URA-UZZ, EMA-EOZ

Due Dates

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

January 31.....1994 Texas DX Society Annual Dues
February 15.....North American QSO Party - Phone
February 28.....CQ World-Wide 160 Meter CW
March 8.....North American Sprint CW (*)
March 15.....North American Sprint SSB (*)

Internet Mail Address

(With the increasing use of Internet for the exchange of E-Mail the "network address" of individual TDXS members is growing in its importance. Below is a first pass at an "Address List". If yours is missing, let me know..ed)

GM0ECO, Andy - BURNS_AL@GRRD04.DNET.BP.COM

K5GN, Dave - DKMC@CHEVRON.COM

K5NA, Richard - RKING@SESCVA.ESC.EDU

K5RC, Tom - 72610.17@COMPUSERVE.COM

K5TU, Kim - 72067.56@COMPUSERVE.COM

KE4GY, Frank - FHMOORE@NEMED.B11.INGR.COM

NZ5I, Ken - 71077.634@COMPUSERVE.COM

W5ASP, Joe - 71045.2632@COMPUSERVE.COM

WN4KKN, Trey - GARLOUGH@TGV.COM

TDXS Golf Tournament

de Ken, NZ5I

The First Annual Texas DX Society Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 1994. The "rain" date is the following Saturday, April 16, 1994. Any and all TDXSers interested in dimpled balls should pencil this date in on their calendars. Further details will be published in the March issue.

Dispatches from the Pacific NW

(The following is a portion of a note received from Dennis, AA7VB, a.k.a. KZ5M..ed)

"How goes the food life my friends? Well, I'm sure. Financial recovery continues and life is good here. Very little time for radio right now unfortunately. ... We now own fire protection companies in Portland, OR and Denver, CO. Next acquisition are Reno and Seattle. Life is indeed good again.

Call me sometime when you guys are putting together one the those deals down south. I'm planning a little Pacific jaunt in November around CQ WW CW, but other than that I'm game."

(And ... Dennis is once again a "due paying" member! Maybe this will start a trend with some of our other TDXS outlanders. Note that his and others' addresses now appear in the new List included in this issue..ed)

TDXS NA Sprint CW

de Don, KI3L

K5GN - 341 Q X 43 M = 14,663

W5WMU (K5GA) - 331 Q X 39 M = 12,909

AD5Q - 287 Q X 42 M = 12,054

K5TU - 258 Q X 41 M = 10,578

W5ASP - 240 Q X 43 M = 10,320

KI3L - 239 Q X 40 M = 9,560

KE4GY - 195 Q X 41 M = 7,995

NT5D - 176 Q X 40 M = 7,040

K5RC - 176 Q X 36 M = 6,336

K5DX - 122 Q X 35 M = 4,270

NZ5I - 45 Q X 24 M = 1,080

TDXS Team Score (Claimed) 88,810

Max Busick, W5GJ - Silent Key

de Tom, K5RC

Sure, We've Got Lots of Them.....C'mon Down!

Anyone who telephoned Madison Electronics more than once, over the last 40 years, heard that familiar refrain from Max Busick. It was his response to the old timer looking for a 117L7M7GT tube or the antenna experimenter looking for a rotating coaxial joint from a radar antenna, or the builder looking for a 14 pole, alternate action, 24 volt DC relay. Those who were in the know, showed up and challenged him to find whatever rare piece of electronics treasure that they sought. He would spend endless hours rummaging through the warehouse, or one of his hiding places at home or through the store until he uncovered the exact part that you thought you would never see again. He would then, with stoic face, set a price that was about double what you were expecting. If you were a tourist, you might balk and walk away. If you knew Max the way most of us did, you knew the price was based on sentimental value and where it came from, not on its intrinsic worth. If you had any sense, you would pay the asking price, because the next time you were in the market for a rare radio treasure, it would be priced about half of what you expected. If you walked away before Max had an opportunity to tell you the history of the part, or tell you the joke of the week, you were forever barred from acquiring rare radio commodities and you were stripped of the "loyal-customer discount."

That is just one "Max" story. There are hundreds of them. Perhaps you might muse at a selection from the exploits of Don Miller, W9WNV. In the height of Don's DXpedition days, he would come into the store and set up shop on the second floor. Max had an "S" Line set up for Don to use to talk with his followers. Don held court in front of the radio, filling out personalized QSL cards and squeezing donations from "the deserving" for his next trip. One time Max commissioned me to build two waterproof portable amplifiers for Don to take on his trips. I built them in old oil-field equipment cases. The power supply was in one and the RF deck in another. They were built with all surplus parts, including a pair of 813's in each (I wasn't allowed to use any new parts). As Don was getting ready to leave, he loaded his amplifiers and then grabbed an empty cardboard box. He walked up and down the aisles of the store filling the box with goodies for his trip. It was an experience to watch Max twitch and perspire as Don helped himself to whatever he fancied. Max never said anything about Don's brazen antics, until Don went to jail. Then Max summed it up in one, non-emotional sentence: "I always knew he was a crook!"

I have more stories about Max than most. When I moved to Houston, nearly 30 years ago, Max gave me my first job. I worked at Madison while I went to the University of Houston. I was one of many young men that Max and Mary took under their wings and "adopted." Max let me live in a vacant apartment around the corner from their warehouse on Holman Street that was called "The School." I couldn't afford the deposit for gas and electric, so Max had me string cables across the courtyard from the school so that I had lights and a hot plate. Max also had me take two complete stations from the store. I had a bed, two chairs and a hot plate, but I also had two "S" Lines, two amplifiers and a combination 20/40 meter beam on top of the school. There were nights I left the radios on to keep warm. The only repayment Max required was that I watched the bands at night for Don Miller and Gus Browning and call him on the phone if either of them came from a new country.

In a time when legends are few and far between, Max Busick was one of Houston's and Ham Radio's most well known. Anyone who came in contact with him had a Max story to tell. Anyone whose life he touched in his nearly 50 years in the electronics business, can tell you about his weak coffee, his sense of humor and his ability to wheel and deal. Anyone who has been on CW since World War II, has probably run across W5GJ (or W5EZE) on the low end of 20, working Europeans early in the morning.

Max was taken by cancer on January 10, 1994. He was 80 years old.

73 and DX W5GJ de K5RC, SK.

Bits and Bytes

de Ron, KB5NFN

Well, I've finally discovered CW contesting with a computer. How did I ever go so long without it? As the Bullshead goes to press, I'm just finishing up the 1994 Novice Roundup. I can happily say that I haven't made a single sideband contact in the test, all contacts have been on CW. I've even amazed Ron, K5LLL with my sitting in front of the rig running contacts on 80CW. If I keep this up, I've already got a notebook computer available for the Novice/Tech station on Field Day.

Down to the nitty gritty on the computer side of things. I'm sure many of you have been wondering what happened to the Bulletin Board down at Bill, K2FNO's office. We pulled that down for a move to a new office, and we're still waiting for the move to be completed. Also at press time, I'm looking into a new alternative that could have the BBS back up again as soon as next week, depending on how soon I can get a phone line hooked up. Stay tuned to the Tuesday night net on the 147.36 machine for latest details.

Big things have been happening on the other BBS. I've now got a CD-ROM installed and on-line with a couple hundred megabytes of files of interest to any and all radio amateurs. Drop in and have a look at it sometime. Other changes, I have configured the home BBS to refuse any new 1200 or 2400 baud users, meaning all new users have to be at 9600 baud or higher. I *DO* make exceptions. Radio amateurs who wish access should contact me during the day at 798-5832, and we'll discuss what needs to be done to allow you to get logged in.

Also as I write this column, I've read a couple of the other submissions being sent to the editor via my BBS. Specifically I note our Contest Chairman, Don, KI3L, mentioning about submitting your contest log files to the bureau. I will note there is an electronic alternative! Contest logs may now be submitted via the Internet to contest@arrl.org.

I have used this route several times for submission of K5LLL's VHF contest logs, and it's really quick. Billy, KR1R, even reply-mails submitters with confirmation of receipt. Anyone with logs to submit may contact me by any of the standard means (voice, radio, BBS, packet) and I'll see what I can do about submitting your logs electronically! One final note, Tree, K6TR allows Sprint team submissions by Internet as well. I'm sure KI3L will be interested to hear that. Yes, the Information Superhighway is just about here.

That's all for this month. Watch out for those free electrons whizzing around the computer.

STOP PRESS

'94 Novice Roundup

KB5NFN/T 181 Qs x 59 mults 21,004pts