



THE BULLSHEET



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Field Day Chairman	Bob Burns, W5SJS
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The Prez Sez - de Bob, N5RP

From the N5 RADIO PULPIT! - I am told by everyone that we had a great time at **Field Day** this year! From what I recall, that is true, but enough, already, on my ability to completely recollect all aspects of the weekend.

Somehow the weather did not seem to be as hot as in years past, or was that my well lubricated imagination?

Well, of one thing I am sure. We had just one heck of a swell turnout from the troops. It was just absolutely wonderful to see the number of TDXSers that responded to the call for participation so as to adequately complement all of the hard work that **Bob, W5SJS**, our Field Day Chairman, put forth in order to make this year's event run smoothly.

I have it from good authority that next year the League has again decided to hold Field Day on the same weekend that we hold ours. Now is that a positive response to our fine TDXS effort, or what?

I want to go on record right now by giving a big thanks to our special guests who not only operated the modes and bands for us, but also went so far as to bring us good bottled refreshment, (again, as near as I can recall)

To try and thank any individual for their specific contribution would just serve to set me up for forgetting someone else, so I hope it will suffice to just say **THANK YOU GUYS ... YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE ... YOU KNOW WHAT YOU DID ... YOU WERE GREAT !!**

As for our next meeting, well I am hoping that we can have some good Field Day videos and pictures to use as show and tell. Also, **Rich, K5WA** will bring us up to speed on his findings concerning the possibility of plaque sponsorship by the TDXS for contest events. Did anyone take any pictures at the Dallas HAM-COM? If so, bring 'em along to the meeting.

I genuinely hope that our Field Day guests found us interesting enough so as to warrant their future attendance to our meetings

and activities. I assure you that we are very much interested in you. I hope that you will be interested in us.

I am still open to recommendations from the membership as to **alternate meeting location sites** that might better serve our people living in the outlying areas. Without any alternate selections being brought to my attention, I can only continue to presume that everyone is happy with what we have.

Well, after all of the Field Day chit-chat, I am afraid I don't have much to say, for a change. For those of you that could not make Field Day with the rest of us ... there is always next year. And, as for this year, I hope we can see your smiling face at the next meeting.

Right now, I really feel very proud of our membership. Thank you so very much, everyone. It is really nice to be your President.

NOTICE: The TDXS still has a lot of random lengths of Aluminum tubing, a variety of hardline, guy cable, coaxial cable, assorted wire, etc. available for sale at VERY reasonable prices. If you have any interest in looking over this material, contact Bob, N5RP (493-5780). **Anything not paid for and picked up by Monday, Aug. 1st will be sold for scrap.**

Meeting - The Texas DX Society meets on the second Friday of each month, except when the date is changed by the Board of Directors. The April meeting will take place on **Friday, July 15, 1994**, and will be held at the **Tracey Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive**. This location is one block east of the Sam Houston Tollway (Beltway 8) between Richmond and Westpark. It just a couple of blocks south and west of the Adams Mark Hotel where the Houston ham convention has held last November. The meeting will begin promptly at 7 P.M., as we must be out of the building by 9.

Visitors are welcome to attend, and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

Program - Now that Field Day has become somewhat blurred in the memories of those who survived, it is time to recall those glorious days in living color as captured on tape by our intrepid photo-journalists. Yeah...we're goin' see their damn home movies...oophs...videos. But then few of us realize how silly we really looked that weekend. It should be good for a couple of laughs.

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.

TDXS Field Day - 1994

de Mike, KC5CP

We had a big successful 1994 Field Day effort lead by **Bob Burns, W5SJS** at his ranch about 8 miles southwest of Brenham, TX. We put together a really top notch 3A effort accumulating 15,410 point, including the Novice and VHF stations. This would have won Class 3A last year. For this year ... well, we'll just have to wait and see.

We set up in three RVs plus the windmill shed on Bob's ranch. The Novice/Tech station was set up by **Ron Marosko, Jr., KB5NFN** with help from others. **David Hale, KASZPT** helped with the Novice operating position. Thanks to **Kenny Manchester, NZ5I** for bringing David out to operate with us. They stayed mostly on ten meter phone working Sporadic E skip with 473 Q's. In addition they picked up 15 Q's on fifteen cw and 24 Q's on forty cw. They had a total of 1104 points.

The Novice/Tech station was set up at the windmill where a lot of us went for a dip in the water tank to cool off from the 100 degree heat.

The 15/40 CW/SSB station was located in Bob Burns's RV at the south end of the FD site. The station captain was **Dale Martin, KG5U**, who along with **Dave McCarty, K5GN**, accumulated the highest score among the five stations with 4960 points. They used a crankup tower with a 2 element yagi for 40 Meter CW and a pair of 4 element yagis for 15 CW/SSB. They had 471 Q's on forty, 494 Q's on 15 CW and 550 Q's on 15 SSB.

The 20 CW station was set up in **Bob Cooney, K1TU**'s new trailer located in the grove of trees near the barn at the middle of the FD site. The station captain was **Kim Carr, K5TU**. They operated with a TH-5 tribander, a 4 element 20 meter beam and a 80 CW sloper off the top of a crank up tower. They gathered 4316 total points, all on CW, 938 Q's on twenty, 111 Q's on eighty and 30 Q's on ten.

The SSB station was put in the other RV loaned to us by **George DeMontrond, NR5M**. It was located at the north end of the FD site. The station captain was **Dave Sarkozi, WB5N**. He was assisted by **Jim Lane, N5DC** who handled the Packet station which set up in the same RV. This station also had a crankup tower (via NR5M) with a 4 element 20, a 2 element 40 beam, and a 75 sloper. On another tower was a TH-6 triband beam with an "armstrong" rotator. This station had a total of 3018 points broken out over five bands as follows: 20 Q's on eighty, 271 Q's on forty, 881 Q's on twenty, 6 Q's on fifteen and 331 Q's on ten. The SSB station had a total of 1509 Q's which was 6 less than the 40/15 station worked.

Led by **Ron Marosko, K5LLL** and aided by **John, KB5IUA**, the VHF gang set up their station in a pop-up trailer on the north side of the barn. They put up beams for 50, 144 and 432 MHz. plus satellite. They made a total of 8 satellite contacts, 246 Q's on six, and 68 Q's on two. Since The VHF station does not count as a "station" for the FD "Class", these were "freebees" ... good show!

The Packet station operated by Jim, N5DC used a beam set up on the back of the SSB station RV. They made a total of 65 contacts on two meters for 260 points ... Packet contacts count just like CW contacts and the station is not a "counter" towards.

The Bonus points we earned were put together by several different people. **Bob, N5NMX** helped out by making a video of our FD activities, adding some appropriate commentary and then had it shown on the local cable TV channel in Brenham. This qualified for part of the Public Relations Bonus. Bob also provided the liquid compliment to our Bar-B-Q. Thanks Bob!

The part requiring operation in a public place, and then telling the public about Amateur radio was not an option for us. (Traffic along FM2754 is pretty light this time of year..ed)

Other Bonus points were collected as follows: the three generators (emergency power); the annual FD message to our ARRL section manager, messages to various members that were not able to join us at FD, seven (7) natural power, i.e. solar cell, contacts, our satellite contacts, the official W1AW FD message, Jim's Packet station, and Ron's VHF station. All told we picked up a total of 1100 Bonus points.

We operated all the HF stations at less than 150 watts for the x2 multiplier. We made a total of 13,206 points with the 3A and VHF stations; the Novice/Tech station made 1,104 points and we had 1,100 bonus points for a total of 15,410 points (an average of 670 points per operator).

Rather than list the TDXS operators and visitors, I'll just extend the thanks of the TDXS to everyone who participated. We done good folks!w

Looking Down the Road

de Joe, W5ASP

With Visalia, Dayton and the ARRL National Convention already behind us, what's left on the convention/hamfest circuit? Lots, but you have to read the fine-print.

The first full weekend in August (5-7th) the **Austin** folks will hold their annual **Summerfest**. They're going to be dealing from a full deck, i.e. Dealers, Exhibits, DX and Technical Sessions, the Texas VHF-FM Society, etc. All this at the Wyndham Southpark Hotel. For details write Austin Summerfest, 8609 Tallwood Dr., Austin, TX 78759, or call 512-345-0800.

Then on Saturday/Sunday October 1st/2nd the West Texas DX Association will hold it's Fourth Annual **W5 DX Bash**. Once again it will be at W5KFT's ranch on Lake Buchanan northwest of Austin. This event has become a mainstay for Texas DXers with lots of good talk, good eats, and good folks. And there's lots to do locally for those not so intense about DX and the likes. Details via W5 DX Bash, 3801 68th Street, Lubbock, TX 79413, 806-745-3692 (Wk), 806-799-5783 (Res).

Going farther afield, there's the **Odessa Ham Convention** sponsored by the West Texas ARC on November 5-6th. Appears to be another full house event with lots going on. Get hold of Robert Jordan, N5RKN at 915-335-7980 (evenings).

And if your crave some real Cajun hospitality, try the 1994 **Greater New Orleans Hamfest** on Saturday, November 26th. You can get more information by writing Greater New Orleans Hamfest, P.O. Box 51822, New Orleans, LA 70152-1822.

Upcoming Events

- July 15.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- July 23.....Seanet World Wide DX Contest CW
- July 29.....Russian DX Contest
- July 30.....RSGB IOTA Contest
- August 05.....Austin Summerfest
- August 06.....North American QSO Party CW
- August 06.....ARRL UHF Contest
- August 06.....YO Romanian DX Contest
- August 12.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- August 13.....WAEDC European DX Contest CW
- August 20.....North American QSO Party Phone
- October 01.....W5 DX Bash - Lake Buchanan, TX
- November 5.....Odessa Ham Convection, Odessa, TX
- November 26.....New Orleans Hamfest, New Orleans, LA

Propagation

de Roy, AD5Q

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

The forecast for this month is dismal. Fluxes are in the 80's at best, but this is July and summer absorption is at its worst. This is a result of the atmosphere getting overheated. As it expands outward, it pushes the ionosphere higher and reduces its ion density. This means that the MUF is lower and the high bands are mostly dead.

In the morning, the high bands open much more slowly. This also means that the 40 meter sunrise peak hangs in there longer. With the fluxes as low as they are, it is not reasonable to expect much 15 Meter DX propagation in the morning. If Europe opens at all, it will be in the afternoon. For the most part we will have only the east/west paths to Africa & the Pacific, and of course South America. A similar situation will exist on 17 meters, but conditions will be better. 15 is drier than a Texas drought. 10 Meter CW has been taken over by hispanic CB bootleggers, not to be reclaimed by DX'ers for another few years. 10 & 6 Meter SSB are hopping with Sporadic E short skip activity.

Though we still have disturbed activity for half of the month, the effect of the coronal hole is slowly diminishing. Last month, the hole reappeared in the middle of the WPX CW. This month it was during Field Day, however, the bands are still usable. If you like digging weak signals out of the low bands amid static crashes, 40 is in OK shape. The best time to play on 80 is during the IARU Contest, when several of the QRO stations in Europe are workable. 30 Meters is in great shape, though there really isn't that much activity. Most stations on this band do not have sophisticated antennas, myself included.

Europe is workable on 20 for much of the day, and is at its best in the late afternoon. These openings are not pipelines, so signals are never plentiful. We hear the stronger stations. At this time of the year there is a greyline path to Asia in the morning. Since MUF's rise so slowly, the opening lasts several hours. At the top of the cycle, this path was a daily pipeline and signals were loud. This year they are not. There is also a path to Asia in the evening, especially after Europe drops out. This will probably be the best time during the IARU test to run JA on this band.

Contest Corner

de KI3L

The **1993 ARRL 10-Meter Contest** was generally disappointing for most W5's. The good long haul DX skip was just not up to par; there were lots of good backscatter contacts out there for the big guns, but the little guys (like KI3L) just couldn't hear enough of the weak signals. TDXS made a respectable showing, however, with **KE5FI**, **NR5M**, and **K5XI** all finishing in the top ten of their respective categories.

Congratulations to **Ron, KB5NFN**, for the top West Gulf Division score in the **1994 Novice Roundup**. This was Ron's last NR. Although he passed the general exam a few days ago, he had put off taking the exam before now so he could captain and operate the novice/tech station at Field Day.

Speaking of **Field Day**, the entire club deserves congratulations for the 1994 TDXS effort. From my perspective, all went very well, without major problems. The participation level was

excellent; several non-members made significant contributions (**KB5IUA**, **KZ8E**, **WY7U**, **N5EY**, **N5NMX**, and **KA5ZPT**)

Each station performed to near its potential capacity. The antennas (which had been reconditioned last fall) all played well. Despite a few careless mistakes, we managed to avoid accidents or injuries (other than sunburn and fire ant bites). The final score (near 15,500) would have won the 3A category in 1993; we'll have to wait and see how it measures up this year. Thanks to field day chairman, **Bob, W5SJS**, the station captains (**KG5U**, **K5TU**, **WBSN**, **KB5NFN**, **K5LLL**), and the entire gang for a job well done.

The **North American QSO Parties** will be upon us before the August Bullsheet is distributed (CW August 6-7 and Phone August 20-21). I hope to assemble TDXS teams for both events, so expect to hear from me as the dates approach. If you plan to participate, please let me know. If you have a station available for a guest operator for either date, please give me a call.

Results:

1993 WAEDC Contest CW

ZF2NE (W5ASP) 1226 X 1223 X 265 = 648,985

KI3L 323 X 323 X 155 = 100,130

1993 WAEDC Contest SSB

GM0ECO 605 X 871 X 223 = 329,148 #10 Europe

W5ASP 160 X 155 X 88 = 27,720

1994 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

K5LLL 169 X 47 = 10,152

1994 Novice Roundup

KB5NFN 181 X 59 = 21,004 #1 West Gulf Division

1993 CQ WW RTTY DX Contest

K5EC 158 X 95 = 19,285 1993

1994 ARRL 10 Meter Contest

NR5M(w/K5LZO) 1582 X 214 = 841,020 M/S #9 USA,

KI3L 777 X 156 = 338,208 SO,Mixed,HI #4 MIDWEST

KE5FI 937 X 112 = 209,888 SO,Phone,LO #4 USA,

K5XI 875 X 118 = 206,500 SO,Phone,HI #10 USA,

KC5CP 338 X 130 = 120,640 SO,Mixed,HI #2 STX

W5ASP (w/ net) 126 X 52 = 26,416 M/S

WB5RUS 176 X 72 = 25,344 SO,Phone,LO

K5EC (w/ net) 117 X 54 = 18,468 M/S

Contest Notes

Bob, W5KNE in a recent QRZ DX points out that according to DX News Sheet, the dates for the **First Russian DX Contest** have been changed for a second time. There was a conflict between this event and the RSGB's IOTA Contest. The Russian and RSGB contest committees worked-out an arrangement where the Russian contest will be held for a 12-hour period before the IOTA contest. The dates are now July 29 (2100 Z) to July 30 (0900 Z). The RSGB IOTA contest then starts 3 hours later at 1200 Z July 30th.

The **1994 California QSO Party** is again set for the first weekend in October. This year in addition to the usual awards, including bottles of NCCC private reserve wine, there will be CQP Tee Shirts going for 100 Qs (plus \$8). Now that the major contest software programs support the CQP, it's even easier to join the fun. They even take the logs on disk! Pencil this one in for sure.

And, surprise, surprise, it appears that there will be a **Texas QSO Party** this year. Rumor has it that Billy, K5GA is focused on the weekend of October 22-23 to schedule this elusive event. Might just be cooler weather for mobiling about the state, and a chance for the fixed stations to check out their

DXAC Report

de Jim, N5DC

The vote on **Aldabra** is in. It was rejected for re-enstatment by a wide margin. Still to come are the votes on **Pratas** and **Northern Cyprus**.

The petitioner withdrew the application for **Scarborough Reef** to become a "new one". We will just have to wait and see who decides to speak-up next in it's behalf. I guess Martti Laine and company wanted to prove that it was possible to put it on the air.

I would very much like to see some pictures of their operation, and get an idea of how much of the reef is really above water. I still believe that we need some sort of definition as to what is, or is not, a new country, that covers the various "rocks, reefs, etc." and either qualifies (or disqualifies) them as new ones. I'm not sure that setting a minimum surface area (above high tide?) will do the job. I don't think operating from a hump back whale should count for a "new country" either. I asked for input on the subject last month, but have not heard from anyone so far.

The DXAC is attempting to set forth guidelines for calling by call-areas. I doubt that it will do much, if any good, but should WA9VLI/5 call in from the 5th area or the 9th? Comments anyone?

Knights of Malta - History

(This information was provided by Roy, AD5Q who extracted it from *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia*..ed)

The KNIGHTS OF MALTA was an example of the kind of orders into which knights gathered for the purpose of doing some special work or rendering some particular benefaction to society. They started in 1040 AD with the objective of maintaining hospitals in Palestine to care for ill and wounded knights and pilgrims, purely a work of mercy. Later, in 1118, they assumed a more warlike attitude and the name of KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, in lieu of their original name KNIGHTS OF HOSPITALLERS.

For about the next 100 years, they engaged in a death struggle with the Saracens, finally becoming so weakened that they went to Cyprus and resumed more charitable occupations, ultimately moving to Rhodes in 1310. They remained there for about 200 years, during which period, their rivals, the Knights Templar, were suppressed by the Pope and King Philip of France, to the great satisfaction and enrichment of KNIGHTS OF RHODES, as they were then known. They were given what property of the despoiled Templars was not seized by the Church or State.

In 1530, the Order took possession of the Island of Malta with the consent of Charles V of Germany and remained there 268 years, becoming known as the KNIGHTS OF MALTA. In 1798, the KNIGHTS OF MALTA surrendered the Island to Napoleon and, with that, the prosperous career of the order virtually came to an end, though a remnant of them was received in Russia by Czar Paul I, who became their Grand Master. The Order was abolished in England and France; the King of Spain took over the two divisions of it in that country, so that only the two branches in Germany and Italy remained in modern times, though traces are found elsewhere.

The Order of Malta was always inimical to Freemasonry and was twice used as a tool in efforts to destroy the Fraternity. It had become a known military ally of the Popes before the first Papal Bull against the Freemasons in 1738. It is said to

have been instrumental in driving Freemasonry out of Russia about 1800, and Metternich, who, after 1815, was one of the most powerful enemies, used the KNIGHTS OF MALTA to oppose the Society.

After the first dissolution of the KNIGHTS OF MALTA, an attempt was made to revive it in France for the purpose of helping the Greeks against the Turks and even the English branch of the Order was reestablished. In 1888 Queen Victoria issued a new charter to the KNIGHTS OF MALTA, their previous one, granted by the Queen Mary, being of somewhat doubtful validity. By the new charter the Sovereign of England became the Grand Master of the Order, and the Duke of Connaught was the Grand Prior from 1910 until his death, being at the same time the Grand Master of the Freemasons.

The Order maintains the St. John Ambulance Association and Ambulance Brigade with some 11,000 men and 3,000 nurses, including representatives from beyond seas. In World War I, it furnished 17,000 hospital orderlies and carried on extensive war work in World War II. A number of books have been published on the subject.

CN2JF - CQ Contest from Morocco

de Jack, WA0RJY/CN2JF

(The following article by Jack Fleming, WA0RJY was originally published in the Western Washington DX Club's *TOTEM TABLOID* newsletter..ed)

Well, I THOUGHT I was the only station in Morocco! But when I returned to Seattle I found several QSL cards for "CN2JR" for 40 meter contest QSOs in my mailbox. I assumed that they were the work of some slim, because I never heard about another contest operator while I was in Morocco. But maybe not. We'll have to wait and see.

First off, let me say that Paula and I had a great trip to Europe and Morocco. We would recommend it to anyone. If you are a contester and have never operated "from the other side" you are missing the best contest experience of your life. Check out the Sunday newspaper - it's not that expensive to go to some relatively rare DX locations - often with local operators who are willing to loan their rig for a weekend or a club station with a rig and antenna waiting for an op.

We flew to Madrid and after a couple weeks of sightseeing in Segovia, Avila, Salamanca, and points in-between, we grabbed an overnight train to Portugal. In September I had a QSO with Jose, CT1EEB on 20 meters. When I mentioned that we would be in Spain and possibly Portugal in October, Jose said, "Great! Here's my phone number!" I love ham radio.

So we went and visited him. Jose and his wife Lina (CT1YRV) were fantastic hosts. Jose helped get a reciprocal license for Portugal, and I was on the air as CT1/WA0RJY. About 100 calls went into the log in an hour of 15 meters SSB (including several Seattle friends thanks to the DX Packetcluster).

Paula and I spent two days in Estarreja and enjoyed some of the famous Portuguese Hospitality. We also came face-to-face (or should it be face-to-plate?) with the Portuguese portions in restaurants. Never order an item off the menu if you are alone in Portugal - order a half order. If there are two or three of you, maybe try a whole order. Food comes on huge platters. One order is enough to feed a family. We took a trip to the beach on the Atlantic Ocean with Jose, Lina, and Cisco, CT1EDY one afternoon. As is the usual custom in Portugal, we ended up in a seafood restaurant. Large bowls full of shrimp (small ones where you bite off everything but the head and

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chew it - shell and all), clams (in a delicious spicy tomato broth), and snails (!) covered the table along with bread and beer. It was fantastic and after an hour we had mounds of shells and residue from this feast covering our plates - then Cisco called over the waiter and ordered the main course! I love Portugal!

After a couple days in Estarreja, we hopped on another train for the trip to Lisboa and onward back to Spain. We were several pounds heavier (and not just in souvenirs!). We visited the tourist sites of Spain and then caught the ferry across the Straits of Gibraltar to Morocco. From Tarifa in southern Spain to Tanger in Morocco the ferry trip is only 55 minutes. In cultural time, it's like traveling a thousand years. Instead of sandwiches and beer, there's couscous and mint tea. Instead of volvo trucks, there's donkeys and horse drawn carts. Instead of cathedrals, there's mosques and calls to prayer over loudspeakers.

In Tanger we had to catch a train to Rabat and arrived there at about 7 pm on Thursday evening. The CQWW SSB contest started on Friday evening at midnight (GMT and Morocco time are the same). Paula had never been to Morocco, so the first evening was spent wandering through the old part of town (inside the ancient city walls) in the market. Friday morning we had breakfast and I tried to call the number for the radio club. No answer. We walked around town some more. Visited the ancient fortress. Bought some postcards. Called again - no answer. Had lunch in a typical Moroccan restaurant. Called again - no answer.

Since it was the afternoon, I was starting to get a little anxious about this telephone situation... Time to take action. We headed for a taxi stand and started showing the drivers the piece of paper with the club's address. None of them knew where the place was! Finally one of them agreed to give it a shot for an agreed-in-advance fee of 20 dirhams (\$2.50). We hopped in. After about a half hour of wandering in generally the right direction and the cab driver stopping a few times to ask people if they had ever heard of the street, we miraculously ended up at the Association Royale Des Radioamateurs Du Maroc headquarters!

On arrival it turned out that Mustapha (CN8MK) who is the head of amateur radio in Morocco was out of the office until the afternoon. That's why his phone hadn't been answered. It also turned out that the log periodic antenna had a serious problem on 20 meters with an SWR of 6:1. Closer inspection also showed that there was no antenna for 80 meters. Or 160. So my intentions for the contest suddenly switched from an all-band low power effort to a single band low power effort. Of the three options, 40, 15, and 10 meters; I chose 15 meters. Mustapha arrived after I had added 20 QSOs to the log as CN2JF. We had a cup of mint tea and I caught up on what had happened in Morocco since my visit in 1990. I decided to come back on Saturday morning to start The Contest.

On Saturday I arrived at around 6:30 am and found 15 meters just opening up with some African and Pacific stations on the band. My first contact at 0640 was with C91AI in zone 37. That seemed to be an auspicious beginning. Only 10 calls made it into the log before 0700, but then people started waking up in Europe and the pileups began. I ended the contest with an overall 100/hour rate. Some hours were bigger, some smaller. With just 100 watts and a log periodic at about 40 feet, I wasn't one of the big signals on the band.

I was forced to call CQ more often than we had in 1990 at CN0A (where a KW and monobander meant one CQ resulting in a two hour pileup...) and I was bumped from my calling frequency on several occasions. But no complaints. During the day CN hams arrived at the club and I took time out to shake

hands and say hello. Plus more mint tea. One time I had to read the English instructions for a Yaesu handheld 2 meter rig to fix it so when you press the talk button it didn't shift frequency (no repeaters in Morocco). And then of course I stopped for lunch each day - we don't want to get too serious about this contesting stuff.

It was a great time. I love Morocco! I managed to catch some of the WWDXC members (again thanks to Packetcluster) and had a fun time in the pileups. High points included running into Paolo, I2UIY and Chico, CT1EDY. Also memorable was AH0K who surprised me at 0850 on the first day. They must have some great antennas out there to hear me. Then on the second day 9V1ZM broke through the seemingly endless run of DL/I/G stations at 1410.

The biggest surprise was when I found AP5N calling CQ with no takers. I called him several times before he got the call. When he did, he came back with "59921, Jack?" It was Jacky, F2CW, who is now (apparently!) in Pakistan! I had tried to find him before the trip, but my letters had gone unanswered - he had disappeared. Here was the answer. Jacky and his daughter Celene had stayed with my family in 1990 during the WRTC here in Seattle and he was also a member of the CN0A expedition in 1990 - so he recognized the CN2JF call. After asking the European stations to standby we had a short chat (his real RST was closer to 33 than 59 though). Two days of pileups from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm resulted in a final tally that looked like: 1,937 QSOs - 30 Zones - 105 Countries for 779,085 Points

I had more than 2,000 QSOs in the log (paper logging) but 100 dupes dropped that total... I have always believed in setting goals for contests. For this trip I had the contest goal written at the bottom of my bandplan. It was simply two words: HAVE FUN. I definitely reached this goal.

TDXS DXCC Honor Roll

de Don, KI3L

TDXS continues to be well represented on the DXCC Honor Roll (15 members), but changes in the DXCC countries list have taken their toll. Several TDXSers have either dropped in the standings (K5DX, K5NA, K5RC), or have been removed from the Honor Roll (K5BZU, N5EA, W5JWM, K5MA, KC5CP). The changes are the result of failure to make the required regular DXCC submissions, or general inactivity while the countries list has continued to change. Most of the new additions to the countries list are active, and can be easily worked (OK, OM, S5, YU5, 4N4, 9A, etc.). Now is a good time to work the easy ones, get QSL cards in order and update DXCC records. It may put several TDXSers back on the Honor Roll. Card submission deadline for the 1995 listing is March 31, 1995.

I scanned the July 1994 Honor Roll listing with my magnifying glass and found the following TDXS members. (Sorry if I missed anyone...it is difficult reading!)

328 Mixed: K5AAD (361) K5YCP (346) AK5B (335)
Phone: K5YCP (346)

327 Mixed: KI3L (331) 326 Mixed: AA5NK (334)

325 Phone: AA5NK (333) CW: AK5B (330)

324 Mixed: W5LLU (327) Phone: W5LLU (327)

323 Phone: KI3L (327)

322 Mixed: K5DX (367) K5NA (348) KE5TF (326)

Phone: K5DX (362) CW: AA5NK (328)

321 Mixed: N5DC (338) W5ASP (324) Phone: K5NA (343)

319 Mixed: K5RC (346) KC5M (326) Phone: WA9VLI (327) CW: K5NA (324)

Nicad Batteries -- The Official Word

de Alan Bloom, N1AL

I recently acquired an engineering handbook published by Sanyo, maker of "Cadnica" brand nickel-cadmium rechargeable batteries. It lays to rest some myths dear to the hearts of radio amateurs. In the following, the quoted material is from Sanyo's book.

Note: "C" is the amp-hour capacity of the battery. For example, if you have a 5 A-hr battery, a charging rate of "0.1C" is 0.5A.

The memory effect:

"Nickel-cadmium batteries have a "memory effect" in which the voltage drops by 2 levels during discharge after shallow charge/discharge cycles. In application when discharge end voltage is highly established, apparent decreases in capacity and operating voltage are shown."

A graph shows a series of discharge curves (voltage versus time) for a battery under the following conditions: (1) Fresh battery, (2) First discharge after 100 cycles, (2) Second discharge after 100 cycles, (3) Third discharge after 100 cycles. The "cycles" consist of a 0.1 C charge for 10 hours followed by a 1C discharge for 10 minutes. The "discharge curve" is measured after a final 0.1C charge for 16 hours followed by a discharge rate of 1C.

The four curves are almost identical. As near as I can read the graph, the first discharge after 100 memory cycles drops to 1V after about 63 minutes, compared with about 66 minutes for the fresh battery. The second and third discharges show an even smaller difference.

Bottom line: Yes there is a memory effect, but it is very small and not worth worrying about.

Charging:

"As long as a Cadnica battery is charged at an input rate below the specified value [typically 0.1C] internal gas pressure remains at a low level. However, heat generated by gas recombination causes a rise in cell temperature. When overcharging is repeated often, heat deteriorates the cell and shortens its service life."

So don't overcharge excessively. It's OK to leave your battery on the charger overnight (depending on the charger design, up to 18 hours or so if the battery was well-discharged) but don't hook it up to the charger and go away for a week.

Discharging:

"The number of cycles Cadnica batteries can withstand depends on the depth of discharge... When the cell is discharged to a greater depth, the number of cycles decreases."

Some folks have recommended that occasionally you intentionally completely discharge your nicads to eliminate the memory effect. The above implies that that's a bad idea.

Storage:

"Cadnica batteries can be stored at temperatures ranging from -30 degC to 50 degC without essential deterioration in performance. The organic materials, such as gasket or separator, may deteriorate or become deformed at high temperatures during prolonged storage. Thus it is recommended that Cadnica batteries be stored at temperatures below 35 degC if there is a possibility of prolonged storage surpassing 3 months." [35 degC = 95 degF]

"Either charged or discharged Cadnica batteries may be stored indefinitely. ... Though the capacity is recovered with a couple of charge/discharge cycles in either case, the capacity of a discharged battery is more quickly achieved."

Unlike lead-acid batteries, nicads are perfectly happy being stored in a discharged state. In fact, they prefer it.

"Batteries should be recharged prior to use after prolonged storage."

The reason for that is that various cells in the battery can lose their charge at different rates. If you then use the battery without recharging, the weakest cell can become reverse-charged by the other stronger cells. That can kill a battery.

Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin

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, JH2PDS, SM0TXT, WB2RAJ, K4CEF, NW8F, VE1CBK and ZL2TT for the following DX information.

1A, SMOM. (The following is information excerpted from reports on Internet, and heavily editorialized by K4CEF.) There appears to be some sort of feud going on over the recent **1A0KM** operation between the operators who went this past week, and those ops who have gone on all the previous operations and who were NOT present for this one. The problem seems to stem mostly from the fact that none of the latter group were invited to participate, and those in the latter group seem to be having a tough time understanding how the new group got permission to operate 24 hours a day without them etc etc. They have posted letters on Internet casting disparaging remarks about the integrity, friendship and honesty of the new group, and apparently trying to discredit them. It all appears that the old group just wants to keep the operation of **1A0KM** to themselves, and to keep it on the rare list in order to have "their own country". I would imagine the primary aim here is to assure the continued flow of American dollars to the proper hands.-- de K4CEF

7Q, MALAWI. Peter, ON6TT, who is currently signing D2TT from Angola, will be active next weekend possibly signing **7Q7XT**. He is scheduled to be there from July 17th through August 5th. Activity will be on all bands, but mainly on the WARC bands and the lower bands. QSL via ON5NT.

8P, BARBADOS. Mark, ex-J5UAI, is now active as **8P9HB**. He plans to be active on all bands, CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via NW8F.

A3, KINGDOM OF TONGA. Masa, JE1DXC, will be active from Tongatapu Island (IOTA OC-049), July 14-27th. His call sign has not been issued as of yet, but he plans to be active on CW/SSB on 40-10 meters, including the WARC bands. There may be some 75-80 meters. Masa would like to put an emphasis on 30 and 20 meters for the East coast and European operators. QSL via CBA or the JARL Bureau.

CY0, SABLE ISLAND. Wayne, VE1CBK, informed OPDX that there will be a 50/50 chance he will be active as **CY0SAB** from July 18-22nd. Wayne will probably be active on all bands and he is hoping to take 6 meter gear with him. QSL to VE1CBK new address: Wayne King, 63 Brook St., Lake Fletcher, N.S., Canada B2T 1A5. (This is not in the Call-Book!)

FR/T, TROMELIN. There was one report over the weekend that Jacques, FR5ZU, was heard on RTTY signing **FR5ZU/T** on 14084 kHz around 1630z. WFWL!

FT5, KERGUELEN ISLAND. Pierre, **FT5XJ**, was heard around 14085 kHz on RTTY between 1215 and 1245z. He is expected to leave the island sometime this month. Pierre will be gone for 3 months and then return. QSL via F5NLL or FINLL in the callbook.

KH0, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLAND. Tosy, JA6VZB, is planning to be active as **AH0T**, from July 14-17th. His activity will actually be from Rota Island (IOTA OC-046). Look for him on all bands in CW/SSB and with a possibility of some RTTY operations. QSLs only via JA6BSM.

OH2C (SPECIAL CALL). The Radioclub of the Helsinki Telephone Company (OH2AQ) used this special call at Finnish Amateur Radio League station during the IARU HF Championship Contest this past weekend. The operators were OH2BCI, OH2BQW, OH2BVF and OH2NRV. QSL via OH1NRV.

S2, BANGLADESH. There was a rare appearance on July 5th, by both **S21A** and **S21B**. S21A was heard on 14168 kHz around 1430z and S21B was heard on 14196 kHz around 1450z. QSL both W4FRU.

S9, SAO TOME. Charlie, **S92SS**, continues to be very active. He has been heard lately on some of the WARC bands. Check 18087 or 10109 kHz around 2245z. If he is not there check 20 meters SSB between 2100 and 2300z. **S92YL** has also been active on 15 and 20 meters between 2030 and 2130z.

ST, SUDAN. Lou, **ST0K**, has been heard on 20 meters (around 14019) CW between 2230 and 0030z. He reports that his QSL Manager is Richard (WB2RAJ). Richard informs OPDX that he has not yet received the logs and is unsure (or clear) whether or not he is Lou's QSL Manager. Richard has heard from others sources that Lou wants him to be just a "mail drop". Richard has stated he will return all the cards to Lou and explain to Lou he will not be just a mail drop. As soon as Richard receives a correspondence (or logs) from **ST0K** or **ST2AA**, he will inform all of the situation.

ZK3, TOKELAU. Steve, AA6LF, who is currently active from **North Cook Islands** as **ZK1ALF**, will be active from **ZK3-land**, July 13-18. Most of his current activity has been on 20 meters between 0300 and 0700z. QSL via AA6LF.

ZL8, KERMADEC ISLAND (PIRATE!). Ron, ZL2TT (NZART DX Editor), informed OPDX that ZLs and VKs have been hearing activity by a station signing **ZL8BX** on 80 meters. There have also been reports of 40 meter activity on the Ohio/Penn Network. This station states his home call is **VK1QQ** and that he is going to be on the island for 3 years. Ron was told by the New Zealand Radio Licencing, that they have not issued a **ZL8BX** call and that no one would ever spend three years on the island. The maximum stay on the island is one year. This is the second rare ZL call that has been used on CW in the last couple months. The last was **ZL9RV** on Campbell Island and this was also not genuine.

DX PacketCluster

The TDXS Contest and DX PacketCluster operates on 144.950 MHz with the call **K5WA** (recently changed from **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. **K5WA** may be accessed directly, or using the TDXS95 packet node by first connecting to the TDXS95 node, and then connecting to **K5WA**, i.e. **C TDXS95**, then **C K5WA**, all running on 144.950 MHz. The TDXS95 node has been upgraded and will now handle 26 users. It will not function as a digi.

Due Dates

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

JARL All Asian DX Contest CW.....July 30, 1994

RAC Canada Day Contest.....July 31, 1994

Outgoing QSL Cards

The ARRL provides a service to it's members which allows them to send DX QSL cards to foreign countries at minimum cost and effort. TDXS members can take advantage of this service by getting their cards to **KG5U**, who will in turn forward them to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service. TDXS pays the nominal service fee of \$2 per pound as well as the postage.

Those wishing to use this route for their cards must sort their DX QSL cards alphabetically by country as shown on the current ARRL DXCC Country List.

The new Yugoslavian countries are now separate, i.e. 9A, S5, T9, Z3. Sort the CIS, i.e. the "Russian Commonwealth", cards according to the individual Republics as per the DXCC List. Also, remember that most QSLs for DXpedition operations usually go the home country of the operator, e.g. **D2CW** via **DK7PE**, etc.

Many foreign stations have stateside QSL managers. These cards may be included with the "Ks". Most Caribbean stations turn out to be nonresidents, so send such QSLs to the operator's home country.

There are number of DXCC countries not served, e.g. many U.S. territories (**KH0**, **KH4**, **KH9**, etc.) and countries such as Qatar, Montserrat, Nepal, etc. A complete list currently appears in the current ARRL DXCC Country List, along with additional information about the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service.

Finally, each TDXS member must include a current QST address label with each group of cards he wants sent to the bureau. Contact **Dale, KG5U** if you have any questions (before you drop the cards on him!).

Incoming QSL Cards

The ARRL DX QSL Bureau consists of a number of separate call area bureaus that handle the incoming QSLs arriving from foreign countries. This service is free of charge and does not require ARRL membership. For the Fifth Call Area the address is: **ARRL W5 QSL Bureau, P. O. Box 50625, Midland, Texas 79710**. Full details about this ARRL service appears in the **January 1994 QST on page 98**.

To claim cards ARRL recommends sending the bureau a number of 5 x 7 1/2 in. SASEs. To assist TDXS members in this **Bob, AK5B**, has obtained a supply of envelopes. He will provide 10 of the 5 x 7 1/2 envelopes along with a single 6 x 9 in which to mail them to the bureau for \$1.00. If you are interested, catch him on the repeater or call a day or so before the monthly meetings.

For those who expect to receive large quantities of cards here are a couple of suggestions. (1) Place \$1.25 postage on each 5x7 self-addressed envelope, (2) Have the post office stamp "THIRD CLASS" in the lower left, (3) Attach a label "50 Cards Minimum" beneath the "THIRD CLASS", (4) Put your call in the upper left and (5) Number the envelopes consecutively (so you will know were you stand as you receive them back from the bureau). This approach will save a lot of agony with postage due and avoid small mailings which use up envelopes needlessly. The time delay in using Third Class won't be noticeable.

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