



THE BULLSHEET



Official News Bulletin of the
Texas DX Society
An ARRL Affiliated Club

founded 1970

March 1994
Volume XVIII
Number 3

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

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Field Day Chairman	Bob Burns, W5SJS
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Repeater Chairman	Brent Levit, NT5D

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 March meeting will take place on **Friday, March 11, 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.

For Sale - TDXS has acquired several thousand feet of 1/4" EHS guywire (unused), 130' of Rohn 25G (used) w/ 5 sets of guy cables/hardware along with two 6 M antennas (one new in the box.) These items are for sale. The guy cable is priced at 10 cents a foot in 100' (minimum) lengths. The other items are available for sale by "sealed bid". Contact Bob, N5RP for further information.

Upcoming Events

- March 11.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- March 11.....Acadiana Hamfest, Lafayette, LA
- March 19.....Bermuda (W, VE, UK, DL, VP9) Contest
- March 26.....CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest
- April 02.....Polish SP-DX CW Contest
- April 08.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- April 08.....MARC County Hunters SSB Contest
- April 08.....Japan International DX CW Contest
- April 15.....International DX Convention, Visalia, CA
- April 18.....ARRL VHF/UHF Spring Sprints
- April 29.....Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH
- June 10.....ARRL National Convention, Arlington, TX

The Prez Sez - de Bob, N5RP

From the N5 Radio Pulpit! - I write this article the evening of February 25. The weather is wonderful, with bright stars out in our clear, crisp, ozone belt air. 160 meters is humming in the background from my rig across the room. The in-laws are visiting, and sit in the house having interesting chit-chat with my wife. So many choices for N5RP ... so little time! Actually, I'm just now beginning to regain my strength after the last week's ordeal of being personal porter to **Bill, K5GA** and **Joe, W5ASP**.

The weather that I feel, and the band conditions that I hear, seem rather strange by comparison to this same time last weekend when **K5NA, K5MA, K5KG, K5GA, W5ASP, N5RP**, and a gaggle of "2s" (NG2X, KY2J, W2/JA9SSY among others..ed) dedicated themselves to the ARRL CW contest from the **K5NA** home QTH way up in New York state.

Hey, I'm telling 'ya. Radio from the "East Coast" is different from what we experience down here in the heartland of America! We just don't hear Europe in any shape, form, or fashion, the same way that those Easterners hear things. Of course, we do seem to have a better opportunity to do antenna work, as the need might arise, throughout the winter months. When was the last time you needed snow shoes strapped to your feet in order to go check your antenna connections amid four feet of "the funny white stuff"?

As for that "porter" business. Lemme tell ya 'bout that! You haven't been "driven" until you've been horse whipped by the devilish duo of **K5GA** and **W5ASP**. I lugged radio gear and baggage for those two during the entire trip. Towards the end of the jaunt, when they finally developed some concern for my 47 year old polio wracked body, did they chip in to help out? You betcha! They got a cart to put everything on..... **AND LET ME PUSH THE CART!** With further consideration for my person, they even hired a lady with a wheel chair to follow along behind me, and scoop me up if I faltered during the final stages of the trek. All this, as we were forced to dash from one end of Chicago's O'Hare airport to the other end in order to make connections.

WHAT A SWELL COUPLE OF TDXS BROTHERS !

Well 'enuff of letting you know how great those two are. On with **TDXS business** and other Blarney!

Last month's meeting was a necessary business type with quite a bit of stuff to cover. To a certain degree we managed to get most of everything at least touched upon. At the next meeting we need to check **K2TNO's** chair for that hidden spring in the seat before we start... or was I the only one to notice his bouncing up with thought and comment on each and every issue presented to the floor? Truly, 'Tuna's is the kind of spirit that all we members need to always strive to maintain.

The TDXS Bullsheat

In this year of declining sun spots, now is the time to work on your country totals on the low bands. A lot of really good DX has been showing up on 80 and 160 meters. Recently I worked 3Y0P1, ZS9Z and ZS0X on 160 meters. I even worked KG4WP (Dave WQ5Y) on 160 meters, and he was only running 100 watts into a random wire antenna. I also got a Cuban station during the CQ 160 meter SSB contest and he said he was only running 40 watts into a vertical. Was the band in good shape or what? If you are not on 160, you should try it. Useable antennas are easier to put up than you may think.

One last trivia question before we close. What continent now has the most DXCC countries? All correct answers will receive an honorary amateur operator license for Scarborough Reef. Tune in the next issue of the Bullsheat for the answer. Well gang, that's it for this month. I will see you in the pile ups!

Propagation

de Roy, AD5Q

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

The lowband season is nearing its end, and it has been a very good one. With higher bands closed for nightpath work, activity has moved to the lower frequencies and provided a rich variety of workable DX amidst the QRN. The recent operation from Peter I had excellent lowband signals on most nights, and was worked by many. Higher bands are starting to open up at night.

30 Meters is opening nicely over polar paths in the evening, and 20 doesn't shut down completely until after midnight. Still, nighttime MUFs are not high enough to open the evening pipeline into Europe and Russia. This will come later in the spring.

In the morning, the best path into Europe is on 15, making 20 a difficult band to play in contests. In the ARRL CW, we had several good openings limited to the northernmost parts of Europe and Russia. Openings to the remainder of the continent were marginal, so only the louder stations were workable. Japan was also marginal. Portions of the US closer to Europe had it better. For several hours after 15 closed to Europe, persistent begging by East coast Big Guns paid off with a 20 Meter contact for every 10 - 20 CQs. My own 20M single-band effort wasn't as successful. Those that had a choice filled their logs on 15 by day and 40 by night.

Seasonally, all this will change in the coming months. Evening pipelines to Europe and Russia will return, so the WPX CW (late May) should be its usual rate-fest. Good DX propagation on 40 will continue through the spring, with activity moving to 20 as nightpath conditions improve. The 80 Meter season is on its way out, but spring brings better opportunities to work parts of the world where it is summer in January. The same can be said for 160, but I do not have sufficient station capability or experience to speak for Top Band operators.

Springtime conditions should also improve propagation on 17, 15 and 12. 15 remains mostly a daypath band, but the region of daylight in the northern hemisphere is expanding. This provides us with broader openings (longer openings and wider coverage) over all northerly paths. A few Europeans are still coming through on 10, since solar fluxes above 100 are still fairly common. March is the final month of the 10 Meter season, even at the top of the cycle. Summer absorption starts to effect 10 right after the equinox, and works its way down to 15 Meters by July.

Bits & Bytes

de Ron, KB5NFN

As I write this column, I've just finished installing a new 300 Mb hard drive into the Cell Bio BBS computer. The 85 Mb was just getting too small. I fully expect to have that BBS back on line by the time you receive this Bullsheat.

Several questions have arisen on my speed policy on my home BBS. Allow me a few lines to clarify these items. Yes, I have configured the system to refuse any NEW 1200 or 2400 baud callers. People already on the system at either of those speeds are still welcome, and will see no differences in system privileges. I am NOT, however, completely disallowing those NEW users at low speeds.

I noticed in last month's Propagation column by Roy, AD5Q, that his six year propagation archive is available on my BBS. I would like to stress that anyone wanting that archive may still get it through one of two ways. First, I have copied the file to the Ham Radio file area on the Cell Bio BBS (798-4955). New 1200 and 2400 baud users may log into that system without any restrictions. Second, Radio Amateurs who would like access to my home BBS (Pegasus, 777-0821), but are limited to 1200 or 2400 baud, WILL NOT BE REFUSED access. Please contact me by voice (798-5832, days) and I will make the appropriate arrangements on the BBS. This merely requires that I create your login name and password on the BBS prior to your calling into the system. I have done this with several users already, and will continue to do so.

Why have I disallowed the new 1200/2400 users? Phrased simply, I'm trying to weed out the undesirables. Several younger kids who only have access to those lower speed modems like to download games. Unfortunately, these file transfers take, at minimum, 30 minutes, but usually closer to an hour. In Houston, there are over 200 computer BBS. Since I run one of only five BBS in Houston which cater to the Amateur Radio community, I would prefer passing those younger users over to any of the other 195 BBS, and keeping my system available to such an august clientele as the Amateur Radio users of Houston. I'd hope you'll understand my reasonings.

I've rambled enough this month. See this column next month for instructions on how to send mail to the internet from my BBS! 73 es DX.

TDXS DXCC

This list, compiled by Don, KI3L, includes stations with totals over 275. Be aware that the list is limited to those who have made submissions since October 1992. Many members need to submit current totals.

Mixed DXCC

K5DX - 367, W5GJ - 360, K5AAD - 357, K5NA - 348, K5RC - 346, K5YCP - 342, N5DC - 338, AK5B - 334, K5BZU - 334, AA5NK - 332, KI3L - 331, KF5MY - 330, W5SG - 327, KC5M - 325, W5LLU - 325, KE5TF - 321, W5ASP - 316, NN5O - 309

Phone DXCC

K5DX - 362, K5NA - 343, K5YCP - 342, AA5NK - 331, KI3L - 326, W5LLU - 326, KC5M - 323

CW DXCC

AK5B - 329, K5NA - 324, AA5NK - 322, KC5M - 320, KI3L - 310, W5ASP - 306, AC5K - 283

We have decided to join the North Texas (NTCC) group at the **ARRL National Convention** (a.k.a. Ham-Com..ed) in June by co-sponsoring a hospitality suite. Those members planning to attend need to jump in right now and reserve their motel rooms for the shindig. I shudder at the thought of **KE5FI** and I having to "socialize" on behalf of the entire TDXS, but if we 'gotta... we 'gotta!

Field Day is going to be either a 2A or 3A effort. Who among the group is gonna jump into the middle of things and become a team captain?

K5YCP and I are doing the BBQ for Saturday night Field Day and I think it is safe to say that our feelings are 'gonna be hurt if there is not a good turn-out for our cuisine!

The **Houston Com-Vention** is a "real biggie" in on our '94 schedule. We expect to handle the **Friday Night Auction** with a new and fresh approach, and then "keep-on-rollin'" from there on throughout the entire weekend.

There **WILL** be a **Texas QSO Party**. Everyone in the club wants one. Now all we need is for "everyone" to participate. Who's going to be the first to "sign on the dotted line"? I'll get back to ya with more on this later!

Wait.. there's more... there's more!

By way of packet message I learned that the guys out near the **Tom, K5RC's** Austin county QTH are about to have their repeater up and running on a tower of their own. Tom tells me that they are all very much appreciative of our loaning the TDXS crank-up Field Day tower to them. They even added hardware to the crank-up so that it can now be raised with the use of a power drill.

An "active" membership roster will be available at the next meeting. This listing will be a shortened version of the extensive "historical" edition included in last month's Bullsheets mailing. As only a very few corrections to the historical roster were fed back to me, the end result will be generated from what I have to work with.

Several **new candidates** for membership in the TDXS are scheduled for an upcoming vote. If you do not personally know the candidates, an effort on your part such as a few repeater Qs, or even a simple telephone call will correct that void. Not voting, or abstaining, seem to be a little on the short sighted side of things, in my opinion. But, to each his own as far as expressing an interest in your club.

The TDXS **no longer has a regular meeting place**. Too many folks found the EOC not to their liking. We need help in the form of a confirmed site. If you happen to know of one, check it out, get the details, and then give me a "hoot on the horn"!

And don't forget the Tuesday nite net. Be there and get all the latest scoop.

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, **DL7VEE & DXNL, DF4RD, OH2BH, N3II, K3ZO, K4CEF & Southeastern Cluster Group, KJ4VH, WA4MCZ, WB4IUX, PI4KGL and IK5AAX** for the following DX information.

3Y0PI, PETER I ISLAND (UPDATE). Last week OPDX forgot to list one of the 3Y0PI operators; Luis, **XE1L**, should have been included in the list. Thanks to Bill, **WA4MCZ**, for bringing it to our attention. As this bulletin was being prepared, information from Tony, **WA4JQS**, by telephone to Ada

(Tony's mom), indicated that the 3Y team is now on South Shetland. The team, as of February 25th, are unable to fly out of South Shetlands at the moment due to fog and blizzard. (ed. GEEEE! How much can these guys endure?)

ACTIVITY ON THE SATELLITE (AO13). Look for the following stations on AO13:

- 5T5JC** - 145.919/2100z,
- 8P6SM** - 145.900/2242z,
- 9K2WA** - 145.891/1602z
- 9Y4DG** - 145.908/2339z,
- PY5BYE** - 145.915/2310z,
- UN7CY** - 145.937/1527z,
- VK4ABW** - 145.889/0840z,
- VU2TS** - 145.855/1708z
- Z21HJ** - 145.833/1445Z.

BV9P, PRATAS ISLAND. Word from **Martti, OH2BH**, is that preparations are proceeding just fine with no problems so far for the upcoming DXpedition. The targeted date is March 16 for 10-days. There are 14 operators scheduled to go, and the group may include limited foreign participation as well. Some detailed information may be released after Martti's visit to Taipei during this coming week.

MORE ON THE VOA STORY ABOUT "BY" OPS. **Fred, K3ZO**, who has just recently returned from Thailand where he operated as **HS0ZAR**, had doubts about the Voice of America (VOA) report that all BY hams have been rounded up and sent to labor camps. Fred stated he heard and worked plenty of BAs, BYs and BZs while in Thailand, so he decided to investigate the Voice of America broadcast and found the following information:

Here is the exact VOA text, which was based on a news item that was on the REUTERS news wire on February 16th: *"Police in China have cracked down on the country's largest group of amateur radio operators, and have sent three of the group's leaders to labor camps. The "Official China Business Times Today" (Wed. Feb. 16th) Identified the group as "Radio-Air-Salon", based in Henan Province (BY6). It said police have caught 61 members of the group -- which had effectively taken over some 27 radio channels. The report said Radio-Air-Salon members often interrupted regular broadcasts with their own conversations and illegally listened in on restricted frequencies. It said the use of technical equipment to create chaos in the airwaves is a new type of illegal activity....."*

Fred comments he has tried to work as many different Chinese stations as possible while he was in Thailand, but he never heard BY6. The ARRL reports that their information shows only one licensed amateur radio station in PRC, club station **BY6SRA**, licensed to the Shanxi Branch of the China Radio Sports Association (CRSA). CRSA is the IARU member society for China. Fred points out that the VOA broadcast only mentions that three members of one club were sent to "re-education camps", this is a far cry from "ALL BY's".

This is a prime example of how RUMORS can spread like wildfires and blow things out of proportion Also, the press has often referred to all manners of radio hobbyists as "AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS." The group of hobbyists mentioned in the broadcast may be engaging in SWL and CB type activities rather than actual amateur operations. Fred states such activities are widespread in Asia and has experienced pirate "CB" operations on the 40 meter band while operating from HS-land. So in summary, amateur radio is alive and well in PRC. Reports of activity this week by **BY1QH** on both 40 and 80 meters is proof.

Also, **Martti, OH2BH**, was in Beijing recently and visited the operators and station of **BY1PK**. Martti stated things were just fine and no one is rounded up in the labor camps. As mat-

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ter of fact, foreign operators may be licensed in PRC soon. (TNX to K3ZO, N8II and OH2BH)

P5, NORTH KOREA. During Marti's (OH2BH) recent visit to Beijing, where he was involved in some tennis tournament, he was able to communicate with some high level individuals not only from PRC administration but also from P5-land. "We are getting there, sooner or later," states Marti. (Keep Your Fingers Crossed!)

PACIFIC DXPELITION (KC6/KH2/V63). JR6IQI and JK6UER are spending their honeymoon at various places in the Pacific, and will operate all bands both CW and SSB. Their itinerary is as follows: Belau - March 13-16 as KC6KT and KC6UA; Micronesia (V63) - March 16-18, call unknown; Guam (KH2) - March 18-20, KH2/JK6UER.

SU, EGYPT. The operation by SU2MT in the ARRL CW DX contest was by a West Coast DXer who is presently working in Egypt. More operations are planned for both CW and on the lower bands in order to make Zone 34 more accessible. Activity is also being planned for the ARRL SSB DX Contest on an all band operation for March 5-6.

TM50DAY CANCELLED. Willem, PA3BIZ, informs OPDX that the special event station in Normandy, France to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-DAY as been cancelled. The two Dutch groups who have been planning the operation for more than a year were to be active from June 6-9, 1995. The group was issued the special call sign in July 1993. But since then the French license authorities have withdrawn the call sign stating they made a mistake by giving the group a two digit prefix. Meanwhile, there is word that the French operators might be organizing a special event station.

Contest Corner

de Don, KI3L

Several TDXS members were winners in the 1993 CQWW WPX SSB Contest and the 1993 IARU HF World Championship. We have seven top ten finishers in the two contests, including three winners and two second places!

Using **K5XI's** super station for '93 WPX SSB (call **NZ5I**), **W5ASP**, **GM0ECO**, and **NM5M** were the top multi-single team in the USA. Unfortunately, the published results fail to recognize the **K5XI** station as the winner. I've always viewed that as an injustice, and believe that operators AND station should be listed in all contest results. Anyone else agree? **KE5FI** was also a winner, topping the 3.7 MHz low power category. Congratulations, Sid, Joe, Andy, Eric and Chuck.

We also had a great showing in the 1993 IARU Championship. Dave, **K5GN**, and Dennis, **K2UA** deserve congratulations for their #1 effort. **K5GN**, operating at **K2UA**, was the Single-Op W/VE CW winner (the **K2UA** station is not mentioned those results, either). Other top finishers included Sid, **K5XI** (#2 Phone, W/VE), the **W5WMU** crew (#2 Multiop, W/VE), the **K5NA** gang (#3 Multiop, W/VE), and Andy, **GM0ECO** (#9 SO Phone, World). Congratulations, guys! The results appear elsewhere in this issue.

The February Sprints have come and gone. We managed to assemble a full team for the CW event, but fell short for the Phone sprint. Several good scores were turned in. Thanks for those who participated, and for those who got on the air for a few short contacts. Please remember to submit CW logs to **N6TR**, and Phone logs to **K7GM**.

Several locals traveled northeast to **K5NA** for a multi-multi effort in the ARRL CW DX contest. Operators included **K5GA**, **K5KG**, **K5NA**, **K5MA**, **N5RP**, and **W5ASP**. I under-

stand that a good time was had by all, and a very respectable score will be submitted. Unfortunately, I was traveling, and missed the entire contest.

Please do not forget that the DX contests are ARRL Club competition events. How about more participation from the entire club for SSB? Most of us have time to get on the air for awhile, tune around, and put out a few spots even on an otherwise busy weekend. If you have packet, and have either **K1EA's** CT or **K8CC's** NA, you can participate in the single op/assisted category, and contribute to the overall TDXS score with minimal effort. Don't just put out the spots - work them, log them, and submit your log for TDXS! ARRL accepts contest logs on diskette, so submission is a breeze. Just remember to enter as a TDXS member, and submit before the deadline.

As the 1994 Contest Chairman, I'd like to keep tabs on all TDXS contest activity, scores, etc., and print complete results in the Bullsheat. Please send me your scores and comments via packet mail as soon as possible after each contest.

(For those of you who enjoy the NCJ Sprint contest there is a new event known as the "Internet Sprint" scheduled for Sunday, April 3rd from 6 to 8 P.M. This is CW only, two hours duration, 20 and 40 M. Details are available from **K5GN** or **W5ASP**..ed)

1993 CQ Worldwide WPX Phone Contest

NZ5I (@K5XI; Ops. W5ASP, GM0ECO, NM5M)
3363 X 939 = 6,423,699, Winner, #1 Multi-Single, USA!
KE5FI - 185 X 147 = 35,868, Winner, #1 75M, Low Power, USA!
KI3L/5 - 156 X 127 = 30,226 SO/AB

1993 IARU HF World Championship

K5GN (@K2UA) - 1221 X 148 = 622,636, Winner #1, CW, W/VE!
K5XI - 804 X 137 = 387,436 #2 Phone, W/VE
W5WMU - 1647 X 145 = 766,035 #2 MultiOp, W/VE (+WU3V, W5XZ, W0MJ)
K5NA - 1480 x 128 = 666,624 #3 MultiOp, W/VE (+KU2Q, KY2JJA9SSY)
GM0ECO - 1643 X 144 = 734,544 #9 Phone, World
W5ASP - 377 x 50 = 63,050 CW
NZ5I - 257 x 48 = 34,608 CW
N5RP - 103 x 38 = 33,478 Phone
NT5D - 178 X 29 = 16,124 Phone
K5EC - 120 X 19 = 8,018 CW

North American CW Sprint, September 1993

K5GN (@K2UA) - 271 X 43 = 11,653
K5TU - 228 X 40 = 9120
KI3L - 185 X 39 = 7215
W5ASP - 174 X 40 = 6960
KE4GY - 173 X 37 = 6401
K5RC - 154 X 40 = 6160
NT5D - 182 X 33 = 6006
NZ5I - 81 X 24 = 1944
TDXS #1 Team - Fifth Place

North American Phone Sprint, September 1993

W5ASP - 256 X 45 = 11520
NT5D - 259 X 43 = 11137
KI3L - 238 X 41 = 9758
K5DX - 193 X 43 = 8299
K5RC - 156 X 43 = 6708
NZ5I - 50 X 27 = 1350
TDXS Team - Fourth Place

North American Phone Sprint, February 1994

W5ASP - 268 X 46 = 12328
N5RP - 256 X 45 = 11520
K13L - 252 X 44 = 11088
K5DX - 205 X 45 = 9225
KE4GY - 203 X 44 = 8526
K5LZO - 131 X 42 = 5502
NZ5I - 78 X 29 = 2262

ARRL DX CW

K5NA - 3013 X 476 = 4.3 M M/M
K5GN - 1911 X 318 = 1.83 M SO/AB
K5EC - 204 X 117 = 70,200 SO/U

CQ 160 Meter SSB Contest

K5XI - 473 X 69 = 76590
K5DX - 543 X 58 = 67222
KE5FI - 480 X 57 = 58653
W5ASP - 275 X 43 = 25370
K13L - 117 X 34 = 8840
K5LLL - 56 X 22 = 2530

TDXS Texas Club Challenge

de Bob, N5RP

Now for a new subject! What about a "Club Compete"? Here's the idea.

- Pick one major contest (CQ World Wide perhaps). - Designate six stations to represent the club on each of the six HF bands, i.e. one station per band.
- Stations/operators to be from the active club membership, i.e. no "hired guns".
- Station sites to be within the State of Texas, no further than 150 miles of the club's postal address.
- Allow each station its choice of category, bands, operators, etc. within the contest rules, e.g. a station may chose to run as a Single or Multi Operator/Band. However two of the six band-stations MUST run low power.
- All station calls by band to be final 24 hours prior to the start of the contest.
- Final club score to be the total of the six single band scores.
- Competition open to any established ARRL affiliated Texas club.
- Winner take all! ("All" to be defined..ed)

Maybe we modulate the theme by requiring one band-station to use equipment all of which is "classic", i.e. over 20 years old, or homebrew, or low power. Maybe, at an operator's option, he could make QRP contacts for bonus points. (Maybe polio victims could get a special multiplier to their score, or attorneys be required to have their logs notarized.) Whatever makes for an interesting wager while allowing maximum participation in the festivities!

Whatever we come up with should feature one basic theme: the opportunity for a club's entire membership to work together as operators and/or station owners without any member being left out, or overshadowed by the "Big Tower & Power Boys". Everyone should be able to contribute without anyone being held slave to a full 48 hour marathon, or in danger of TVI infuriated neighbors due to the need to run QRO.

I wonder how we would stack up against such proven talent as our friends up in the metroplex area? Might we even consider a little "side bet" involving sponsorship of hospitality suites at each other's respective '95 ham conventions. Maybe the losing club should also have to throw in an obligatory staff of servants to assist in hosting the suite, just for one final blow of indignation. (I'm sure we can each come with a fellow member whom we'd like to relegate to servant's status, but then that should be no reason to "throw" the contest.)

Who else around the state might be provoked into competing with us? Austin, San Antonio, West Texas all have strong operators and the necessary steel and aluminum. Maybe even, we think about going "out-of-state" in '96?

Surely we have six good club member stations that perform especially well on at least one band. Even those of us in suburbia with neighbors that force us to live in the realm of "Happy Neighbor" TVI compromise have a contributory shot in one of the two low power assignments.

Huh? Whadda 'ya say ? Let's think about this "Club Compete" concept and its possibilities, come up with a final variation on the contest theme, as we see fit with our brain storming, and modify the rules, or better define the parameters. Finally, let's commit to a belief in our membership, their stations, their operating abilities. **PUFF OURSELVES UP, AND GO FOR IT !**

CT-User

de Jim, AD1C

(CT-User is a "feature" available to Internet E-Mail users specializing in the contest software created by Ken, K1EA. As CT holds the distinction of being the acknowledged "standard" of the contesting fraternity, this reflector can be a useful resource to know about..ed)

This FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) list is posted at the start of each month and covers the following topics

- What is CT-USER?
- How do I join CT-USER?
- What are the "operating practices" for CT-USER?
- How do I obtain CT?
- How do I obtain updates for the country (CTY) files?

What is CT-USER?

CT-USER is an electronic mail reflector for discussions relating to the CT contest logging software and DVP (Digital Voice Processor) by Ken Wolff, K1EA. This is the place to ask questions, report bugs and suggest new features. In addition, updates to CT are often announced here, and I regularly post updated countries lists ("CTY" files). Ken himself even reads these messages, and might just reply to you once in a while. This list was started to off-load some of the CT-specific traffic from the CQ-CONTEST@TGV.COM reflector run by Trey Garlough, WN4KKN.

Each message you send to CT-USER@MLO.DEC.COM will be sent out to all the other subscribers. Therefore, it's important to think about what you're going to say, and how you're going to say it, before you send the message.

Also remember that many subscribers receive their email through commercial services such as CompuServe and MCI mail. In essence, many people are paying for each byte of every message sent to CT-USER. In order to minimize spurious messages, please follow the operating hints detailed below.

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How do I join CT-USER?

There is no charge or fee for being on the mailing list, apart from any charges your particular system might impose for reading and/or sending Internet mail. Subscription management is handled automatically by a program ("Major-Domo") that answers mail sent to:

MajorDomo@STTNG.MLO.DEC.COM

To join the group, send a message to **MajorDomo@STTNG.MLO.DEC.COM** with the following text in the BODY of the mail message:

subscribe CT-USER

To remove yourself from the list, send a message to **MajorDomo@STTNG.MLO.DEC.COM** with the following text in the BODY of the mail message:

unsubscribe CT-USER

The Subject: line is ignored. Please do not send "SUBSCRIBE" requests to CT-USER!

MajorDomo provides other functions like getting a list of subscribers, or an archive of past messages. To find out about these features, send a message to

MajorDomo@STTNG.MLO.DEC.COM

with the following text in the BODY of the mail message:
HELP

Finally, if you are unsure how to subscribe or how to get help, you can send an empty message to "**CT-USER-REQUEST@MLO.DEC.COM**" and it will send you some hints.

What are the "operating practices" for CT-USER?

- Include your name and callsign with every message you send. We don't all know everyone by just a call or a nickname. Furthermore, some usernames (part of your electronic mail address) make it almost impossible to identify the sender, especially those from CompuServe, MCImail and Prodigy.
- Use a subject line that accurately indicates the content of your message. If you are asking a question, end the subject line with a "?". If you are reporting a bug, use the word BUG somewhere in the subject line. It makes it easier to find these messages later.
- When answering someone's question, reply to the asker directly, rather than to the whole list, unless you *know* the answer will benefit everyone. Users are encouraged to solicit answers, then post a *summary* of the received replies back to the reflector.
- Many people pay \$\$\$ when they receive messages. Some people pay per message, some per byte. Therefore, please take this into consideration when writing a response. Ask yourself if you would have paid \$0.50 to read the message that you just wrote.
- Praise in public, criticize in private. If someone posts something objectionable, respond to the poster directly, not to the whole list. If, however, someone does something especially wonderful, feel free to tell everyone about it!
- Make sure there is something of value in each message you send to the reflector. Avoid messages that are a complete reprint of someone else's message, with nothing but "I agree" or "Me too" added to the bottom -- not much value there.
- Some people pay by the byte, so when following up to someone else's message, be sure to include only the es-

sential pieces or thread of the note. Don't include those 20 extra header lines that your mail gateway tacked onto the original message.

How do I obtain CT?

The current version of CT is 8.52. It is available from K1EA Software:

K1EA Software

A Division of Harvard Radio, Inc. 5

Mount Royal Avenue Marlborough, MA 01752-1935

Orders: 508-779-5054

FAX: 508-460-6211

Support: 508-460-8873

BBS: 508-460-8877

There is also a shareware version of CT available by anonymous FTP from:

oak.oakland.edu/pub/msdos/hamradio/ct626.zip

Note that this version is three years old and has little in the way of documentation.

How do I get updates for the country files?

I update the files regularly, usually starting a month before each major contest (CQWW, ARRL DX, WPX, IARU, WAE). The updated files are posted to CT-USER, the CT BBS (508-460-8877) and the W6GO BBS (916-992-0923). The files are also available on the Internet via anonymous FTP from the following site:

gatekeeper.dec.com/pub/misc/hamradio/cty.zip

Users who download CT updates from the CT BBS will automatically receive the latest CTY files posted there.

Finally, please be gentle with me. I'm a hardware engineer - software is just a hobby, and list maintenance is something new altogether. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me directly. My address is **REISERT@MLO.DEC.COM**

- CT is a copyright of K1EA Software, a division of Harvard Radio

CW Sprint - Down to the Wire!

de Dave, K5GN

Mr. Bill (a.k.a Billy, K5GA) went to Dr. Pat's, W5WMU station over in Louisiana for the CW Sprint. I went to Dennis', K2UA/5 station located west of Houston in Austin county. We were really neck and neck right to the tape. Thought the gang might like to see some details of this close one.

During the contest:

00:59z GN 94 GA 89 (I'm thinking big things here.)
02:09z GN 187 GA 188 (Uh, oh, where did I go wrong?)
02:53z GN 246 GA 248 (Yikes, he'll eat me up on 80)

Analysis of 75M:

10m Period - K5GA - K5GN - Difference - Note
0230-0239.....227.....227.....+0.....GN 2nd rig on 80
0240-0249.....245.....241.....-4.....GA goes to 80
0250-0259.....258.....256.....-2.....GN 2nd rig on 40
0300-0309.....272.....271.....-1.....GN goes to 80
0310-0319.....284.....288.....+4.....GN ends 40
0320-0329.....298.....303.....+5
0330-0339.....310.....315.....+5
0340-0349.....325.....329.....+4
0350-0359.....331.....341.....10.....Ooops!

And it ended up that way. Mr. Bill needed 5 multipliers to overcome the difference.

DX News

de Sid, K5XI

This month I will start with a quiz to test your DX knowledge. KC4AAA is located at the south pole. What is the beam heading from KC4AAA for Texas? Zero degrees, i.e., due north, right? Okay, what is the heading for France? Zero degrees (due north). Alright, what is the heading for India? That's right, zero degrees (due north). You're getting the hang of this. What's the beam heading for Australia? You guessed it .. zero degrees. So if you are operating from the south pole, you do not need a rotator! Everything is in the same direction! Some food for thought.

If you have not worked Walvis Bay or the Penguin Islands, it is too late now to do it! Namibia has now taken over that territory. Since the reason for their separate DXCC status no longer exists, they will surely become deleted countries. ZS9Z and ZS0X were very active to give all of the faithful one last chance to work these two. After the Namibia take over, the group at ZS9Z in Walvis Bay was heard operating as V51Z. They will now count as Namibia.

A petition was recently submitted to the DX Advisory Committee for DXCC country status for Scarborough Reef. Reports are that the submission is very comprehensive and detailed, and shows that (1) it is an island, (2) it is a possession of the People's Republic of China, (3) it is not claimed by the Philippines or Taiwan, (4) it is more than 225 miles from the nearest point of the PRC, and (5) there is nothing above water between it and the mainland. Well, it seems that someone will always find a reason to oppose an application for a new one. Rumor has it that the reef is very small and there is some opposition to the petition based upon the contention that it will not be possible to operate from this postage stamp size "island."

Well guys, I have an opinion on this point. There is no size requirement in the rules. (By the way, have you ever seen Kingman Reef at high tide?) The DXAC should not try to decide that point. If this tiny reef otherwise meets the requirements, then it should be designated as a new one. Of course, just like North Korea, it would not be added to the list until the first accredited operation takes place from there. Thus, if it is not possible to set up a station on this reef before high tide gets your feet wet, then it will never be added to the list. But since this reef apparently will have some unique logistical problems to be solved in order to successfully put on an operation from there, anyone would attempt such an operation should have some assurance in advance that this one will qualify if they can pull it off. I am told that Peter I Island was approved several years before anyone was able to mount an expedition to that remote island.

The Peter I Island DXpedition has come and gone. If you did not work this one you should kick yourself. It will be many years before this one appears on the air again. They were on every band. They were easy to work. Okay, that's easy for me to say. My antennas do give me a little of an advantage. But if you did not work them somewhere, you just did not try. They had several stations on the air simultaneously, constantly working down the pileups. And the operators were good too.

This operation cost many kilobucks. I have never been more impressed with a DXpedition. Those guys overcame major difficulties to put the most rare country in the world on the air right on time. The March/April issue of The DX Magazine has an article written by K0IR and ON6TT (obviously written before they left) recounting how the DXpedition came SO CLOSE to being cancelled. On December 4, the Russian An-

tartic Research Institute pulled out of the deal and said they could not pick up the operators and give them transportation off of the island. The remote island is out of the way for virtually any vessel, even those sailing the Antarctic waters in the Antarctic summer season. For every 100 vessels that may sail those waters, maybe 10 are capable of breaking through the ice that surrounds the island. Of those, only 4 had helicopters on board.

In an effort to save the operation and avert a financial and moral disaster, the three main coordinators for the expedition started to fax and phone all over the world looking for alternative transportation. They called the Belgian Polar Explorers Institute, members of the De Gerlache expedition, the Alfred Wegner Institute, the British Antarctic Survey, the Scott Polar Institute, the Chilean Polar Institute, the Brazilian Polar Institute, the Argentine Polar Institute, and several charter companies in the UK, Germany, Holland and here in the U.S.A. They even explored the idea of chartering twin otter planes, but were turned down because they had too much equipment and no one had ever landed a plane on Peter I. The organizers spent well over \$2000 just on phone calls during this period! No luck. Things looked pretty bad.

Five days before the deadline for cancelling the whole trip, their last hope was that the Russians would somehow change their minds, but all efforts to get through were unsuccessful. Just when things looked hopeless, something caused the Russians to reverse their decision. When ON6TT finally got through to the director of the Institute, the director said "I have good news...I see the importance of your expedition and the international visibility of radio amateurs...We will guarantee the pick up." Few people realize how close this one came to being cancelled.

That wasn't the last challenge the team had to face and overcome. They were knocked off of the air by a major blizzard. Some of the antennas were blown down and generators were buried in 4-5 feet of snow. The wind howled so loud that it made copy difficult. The passage from the sleeping and operating tents was very hazardous at times due to the weather. Some of the equipment was damaged in transit. Nevertheless, the team made 61,000 contacts even though they were hampered somewhat by poor propagation. When the Russian vessel arrived to pick them up, only two operators made it to the ship before the weather deteriorated and it became unsafe to fly the helicopter. Two of the operators were stranded on the island for two more days.

These guys should definitely get the award for DXpedition of the year. I hope everyone will include a significant contribution with your QSL cards to help defray the costs of the expedition. I did. If you go to the HAM-COM convention in Dallas this year, one of the team members will be there making a presentation on the expedition. It should be interesting.

According to QRZ DX, the DXCC desk has approved the 3V8W operation in July-August, 1993. Those contacts will count for DXCC. Too bad I did not work him. Did anyone in this part of the world get him? I would like to hear if anyone did. I need that one. I have a card from 3V8AS, but he does not have a license at the moment. You never know, though. I had the same problem with 5R8JD, but he eventually got documentation and counted. It could happen.

The ARRL DXCC Yearbook 1993 looks great. All active DXCC members should have received a copy. I thought AHIA received well deserved recognition as DXpedition of the year. That was a great operation. The list of top 100 most needed countries based upon the ARRL records was very interesting. I only need 4 countries from the top 15. The ranking is different from Chod's annual survey.

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The flux is low and contest season is over so...

Let's Play Golf!



Announcing the First Annual
Texas DX Society
Golf Outing
(serious golfers not allowed)

Join the fun at Kingwood Cove Golf
Course on Saturday April 9, 1994 at 2:00.
\$24.95 per golfer includes practice range

Reserve your spot by calling Kenny, NZ5I at 713-379-1913
Deadline to register is Thursday Mar 31st so call today!
(Rain date is following Saturday)

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