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THE BULLSHEET



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The Prez Sez - de Bob, N5RP

From the N5 RADIO PULPIT ! - Hey, as if anyone needs reminding, temperatures are falling, and from what I can remember the QRN also falls this time of year. As soon as I can get back on the air, after my lost bout with the lightning, I am eagerly looking forward to another season of contest activity and low band happiness. I hope everyone in the TDXS will do the same. It's going to be FUN!

It is also the time of year to start focusing our thought processes on getting ready for **next year's TDXS agenda**. This year has been a good one in lots of ways. And now we gotta lay the groundwork for an even better year ahead.

In particular I urge each and every one of you to take a few moments and read that section of the TDXS bylaws that deals with the duties of elected **club officers**. Yes, **IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR**. We must decide now just how and by whom the club will be run during the coming year.

Please give some consideration to the question of "How can I help the club in 1995". If the answer suggests that you should, would, could consider holding an elective office, speak up and get out there, and run for a club officer's position. This next club meeting is the official "cards-on-the-table" time for determining "who's gonna run, and who's gonna stand in the wings" for 1995. Remember, **nominations END at the conclusion of the October meeting and ballots go out by November 1st**.

And speaking of official, "IT" is Official! **November 13** is the date for the "1994 Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Swapfest and Used Equipment Auction". Gather up all your old loot and those long forgotten "goodies", shine up that "good" used gear, and make your plans to participate in this full day of eyeball QSOs while taking part in all the swapping and auctioneering you can handle.

Hey man... you, me, all of us need to get behind this and Spread the Word! We gotta let everyone around these parts know about this fantastic event. Check into other NETs, other repeaters,

other clusters and make the Announcement. The get on the twisted pair and roust your buddies. We may not have a convention this year, but there's no reason we can't have FUN!

Remember, this is a TDXS idea. You, the TDXS, have got to get involved and support it. Don't just leave it to "Old Bob". Do your part, and insist that your fellow members do the same. And above all... **BE THERE...** and bring the rest of them.

Hey, I gotta swell idea. Maybe we could all just start at 7:00 A.M. with a club coffee hour before the actual beginning of the auction day. I know "me and the bug wagon" will be there. Let's just plan on it. TDXSers at 7:00 A.M. sharp for coffee and blarney on the 13th.

Now, as to some things we might discover at our next meeting! Rumor has it that:

- **Ken, NZ5I** has unloaded (\$\$) the GE repeater for us.
- The **Kenwood 2 Meter Repeater** has been taken off the ailing list; there are plans to refurbish the antenna system.
- Our VP (NZ5I) is doing a bang-up job of building interest among other clubs for next years renewal of the **Houston Ham Convention**.
- There is a **new TDXS member** entering our ranks.
- The gang is all fired up for the **Texas QSO Party**.
- The Tuesday night **TDXS DX and Contest Net** has become a "non-event".
- That a couple of our club members better get off their duff and repair the lightning damage to their stations or they are gonna miss out on the upcoming contest season.

Since I have been off the air for a few weeks now, I can only speak of these things as being rumors. I guess I will have to wait for confirmation of these topics at our next meeting. What a bummer to not have radio!

Finally, we have a lot of volunteer needs to be filled for the upcoming event of the 13th. As usual volunteers will be selected from those not present. I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Announcements

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 October meeting will take place on **Friday, October 14, 1994**, and will be held at the **Tracey Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive**. It is one block east of the Sam Houston Tollway (Beltway 8) between Richmond and Westpark. The meeting will begin at 7 P.M., as we must be out of the building by 9. Visitors are welcome, and may obtain help in getting there by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

Program - This month's program will focus on the nominations for 1995's TDXS Officers, the Texas QSO Party and the Swapfest/Auction.

Contest Corner

de Don, KI3L

Contest Season has arrived, and the next few weeks are "prime time". Look at the lineup: Texas QSO Party Oct. 22-23, CQWW Phone Oct. 29-30, CW Sweepstakes November 5-6, Phone Sweepstakes November 19-20, and CQWW CW November 26-27. These contests offer something for everyone (Contesters, DXers, casual ops, serious types, or new hams).

I still remember the 1979 CQWW Phone Contest. I was N3AUE back then, and had been licenced for just six months. I discovered the contest while tuning ten meters with my barefoot TS-520S, and before the weekend was over, I had worked 100+ new countries, and was "hooked" on contesting and DXing forever!

The **Texas QSO Party** is a great way to start things off. We have an ideal weekend. The weather is likely to be great, and hams everywhere will be "moving indoors" and back to their shacks for the winter. It is our responsibility to provide plenty of Texas stations for non-Texans to work. We need fixed stations with big signals to CQ and "market" the contest, working stations and moving them on to the Armadillos (i.e. Mobiles). We need Armadillos - roving from county to county to provide multipliers for the non-Texans. The more the merrier - it's as simple as that.

I hope that most of you have made definite plans for the QSO Party. Please make a commitment. 'Dillos should map a proposed route and submit a county list, preferably in the order they will be activated. Send me the list via PacketCluster or e-mail. Fixed stations need to fire the cobwebs out of their shacks, get on, and have some fun. I will compile a "master list", with call signs and counties, and post it on PacketCluster and the Internet.

Remember that TQP.ZIP can be downloaded from 'NFN's BBS, and contains multiplier files and template files for use with NA 9 as well as complete QSO party rules.

If local participation in the recent NAQPs and Sprints is an indication, I sense an increase in interest and activity that will carry on into the fall season. I hope I am right. Don't forget the contest dates - **GET ON THE AIR!**

Results of last year's major DX contests have now been published, and several TDXSers were among top scorers. CQ Magazine and QST now highlight outstanding efforts in the various geographical areas, so our guys are receiving well deserved recognition.

Special congratulations to **Dave, K5GN** (at K2UA), for finishing Number One SO/AB, Midwest Region in ARRL CW, and Number Two SO/AB, W5-0 in CQWW DX CW.

Kudos to:

Andy, GM0ECO for his #3 World 80 M finish in CQWW DX SSB,

Chuck, KE5FI for his #1 USA ten meter finish in ARRL DX Phone.

Richard, K5NA for his 3rd place, USA, SO/Assisted in CQWW DX CW.

Other TDXSers with top ten, single operator finishes in recent contests were **K5DX, K5LZO, W5WMU, and W5ASP.**

I counted eleven top ten finishes in the results listed below, which includes four major Multi-operator efforts (**V31KF, K5XI, and two at K5NA**). Congratulations to all, and keep up the good work.

Please remember to submit your logs (as a TDXS club member), no matter what your level of activity. NA Sprint log submission deadlines are near! 73 de Don, KI3L

Results:

1993 CQWW DX CW

K5GN (at K2UA) 2178 X 157 X 438 = 3,519,425 SO/AB
 K5DX 514 X 104 X 219 = 443,156 SO/AB
 K5LZO 152 X 25 X 67 = 34,316 SO/28MHZ
 K5NA/2 2089 X 169 X 582 = 4,490,980 SO/U
 V31KF (K5GA, K5WA, KI3L, N5DU, W5ASP)
 5600 X 145 X 454 = 8,023,006 M/S #6 WORLD
 K5EC 389 X 92 X 197 = 275,706 SO/U

1994 ARRL DX CW

K5GN (at K2UA) 1861 X 320 = 1,766,560 SO/AB
 K5DX 333 X 157 = 156,843
 K5NA (+KU2Q, KY2J, N2GQS, N2MCI, NG2X, K5GA, K5KG, K5MA, N5RP, W5ASP)
 2905 X 476 = 4,148,340 M/M #5 USA
 W5WMU 826 X 97 = 240,366 SO/7MHZ

1994 ARRL DX SSB

KE5FI 328 X 73 = 71,832 SO/28 MHZ #1 USA
 KB5YVT 75 X 33 = 7,425 SO/28 MHZ
 K5NA(+KU2Q, KY2J, N2MCI, JA9SSY)
 1858 X 439 = 2,446,986 M/S #4 USA
 K5XI(+KI3L, AB5EA, AB5EB, K5EC, K5GA, K5WA, KE5IV, KF5AA, N5EA, N5LFH, NN5O, NZ5I, WT5U, WY7U)
 1815 X 396 = 2,156,220 M/S #5 USA

January 1994 NAQP CW

KE4GY 300 X 110 = 33,000
 KN5H 239 X 114 = 27,246
 W5ASP 85 X 44 = 3,740

January 1994 NAQP SSB

W5ASP 848 X 177 = 150,096 #10
 KE4GY 250 X 124 = 31,000

Claimed Scores:

NA Sprint CW - September 1994

K5GN (@ K2UA) 308 X 48 = 14784 (2nd Place!)
 W5WMU (By K5GA) 304 X 43 = 13072
 K7UP (By KN5H) 293 X 42 = 12306
 KI3L 226 X 38 = 8588
 W5ASP 200 X 40 = 8000
 K5NA 212 X 37 = 7844
 KB5YVT 127 X 33 = 4191
 KZ8E 124 X 32 = 3968
 WY7U 105 X 34 = 3570
 N5DU 94 X 30 = 2820

NA Sprint SSB - September 1994

K7UP (By KN5H) 318 X 54 = 17172
 K5GA (@ K2UA) 334 X 49 = 16366
 W5ASP 253 X 45 = 11385
 K5NA 219 X 48 = 10512
 KI3L 228 X 45 = 10260
 AD5Q (By KB5YVT) 219 X 44 = 9636
 K5DX 185 X 47 = 8695
 NT5D 180 X 40 = 7200
 WY7U 168 X 40 = 6720
 KE4GY 165 X 40 = 6600
 K5RC 164 X 39 = 6396
 KZ8E 134 X 39 = 5226
 KB5NFN 50 X 21 = 1050

Propagation

de Roy, AD5Q

Conditions have changed substantially from a month ago. 15 has opened up, and on good days there is plenty of activity. We still have that coronal hole on the sun disrupting the bands on a monthly basis. This will certainly effect some major contests in the coming fall season.

We are now past the equinox and into the peak of the high band season. October conditions will be better than in November, because polar regions get more exposure to the sun. Due to the lower fluxes this year, we cannot expect daily propagation to all of the European continent on 15. The 17 Meter band opens earlier, and often has more activity than 15. East-to-west paths are fine, so 15 remains a good band to watch for African contacts. On days when conditions are disturbed, very little will be coming through from Europe (only the western portions). With so little activity to tune through, the African DX is easy to find. This is little consolation to the DX contesteer, who does not have the option of moving to 17 meters, and needs the 100+ rates of a European opening to get the adrenalin flowing. Mister Coronal Hole may clobber the CQWW this year (both SSB & CW).

Conditions on 20 are starting to suffer from plummeting nighttime MUFs. Early band closing in the evening are moving DX activity to lower frequencies. 40 Meters is very active, and plenty of good DX is workable in the evening. Since we are still near the equinox, conditions are also good in the southern hemisphere. With the low solar flux, this means we have worldwide propagation on low bands. African contacts can usually be made with wire antennas (and a kilowatt). Effective penetration into Europe requires something higher and bigger, since most European stations cannot be heard with wires.

20 Meter operators should watch for marginal daytime openings to Europe, and work the grey line paths to remote parts of the world. After dark, the band remains open into the southern hemisphere, and to Africa and the Pacific. Most activity will be on other bands, since they will have better propagation. The best daytime bands are higher in frequency, while the best nighttime bands are lower. 30 Meters should be in good shape for a couple of months, and then it too will close in the early evening.

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 & DX NEWS Letter, K4CEF & Southeastern Cluster Group, AC4NJ, K4MZU, K5ESW, N4AR, N4VZ, KG4ML/WB6VGI, KA3DBN, WD8NSD, KF8VW, AA9D, AH0W/OH2LVG, 5Z4FO and SV1CEC for the following DX information.

3A, MONACO. 3A/IK4WVG will be active from Monaco from October 21-24. He will work in CW on 40 to 10 meters. QSL via IK4PKZ. Meanwhile, Scott, WD8NSD, reports he received his card back from F6FYP for the station 3A/F6EEM (who was active on September 22nd). This station was a pirate, so do not bother to send for the cards.

3B8, MAURITIUS. Begin looking for several JA operators to be active over the next couple of weeks. It will start this

week with JA10EM who will be there from October 14-22nd (After this he is off to Reunion Island). A group with JA1ELY, JA1ETQ, JA1IDY and JL1UXH will be active from October 23-24th.

3DA, SWAZILAND. Adam, SP2JYX, is currently signing 3DA/SP2JYX and has been quite active on 15 and 20 meters, mainly SSB. His length of stay is unknown at this time. QSL via CBA.

5X, UGANDA. Look for Lynn/5Z4DU, Paul/5Z4FO and Dan/W5AHC to operate as 5X1HR during the CQWW DX SSB Contest. They will operate all bands 80-10 meters. QSL to KF7E.

9X5HG IN RWANDA (UPDATE). Hartmut, 9X5HG, was overheard taking to SV1CRY on October 1st stating the following: "I have been in Rwanda for 2 weeks and it has taken 2 weeks to clean up the house enough to get back in. I have been living in the guest house, using a sleeping bag. My yagi was left intact (he was using it during the contact). I will be there until about October 22 and then (as he put it) 'my time in Africa is over'." Hartmut does have his laptop computer with all his logs in it. He was heard recently on 7001 kHz around 0300z and 14025 kHz around 2030z on CW. He says to QSL thru the DL bureau to his home call, DK2SC.

HC8, GALAPAGOS ISLANDS. Stefan, DL5XX, will be active during the CQWW DX CW Contest in November. He may have a HC8 callsign during the contest, if not, he will be using DL5XX/HC8. He will operate before and after the contest, mainly on CW along with activity on the WARC bands. QSL via DL5XX.

HS, THAILAND. Reiner, DL2VK, will be in Nakhon Phanom for about 6 months. He will be signing HS0/DL2VK and will operate mainly on CW, but may also be active on Packet, AMTOR, Pactor and SSB. He did not mention what bands he will be active.

KG4, GUANTANAMO BAY. Larry, WB6VGI, will be active from here until October 21st, as KG4ML. Activity will be mainly on 17 meters, but he has been heard on 30 and 40 meters. QSL via CBA.

MORE ON SY1MF (by John Caradimas, SV1CEC). The SY1MF is definitely not in Mt. Athos, as you very correctly stated already in your bulletin. SY1MF is a special callsign, issued to a special DXpedition to Salamis Island, on the occasion of the Naval Battle between Greeks and Persians. Salamis Island is located very close to the coast of Piraeus, which in turn is the port of Athens. There is a very narrow passage between Salamis and the mainland coastline, and it was in this passage that the battle took place. As for Apollo (SV2ASP/A), he is not the only ham monk on Mt Athos, since a friend of mine worked another monk on VHF during the summer, however, he doesn't seem to be active in HF.

NEW QSL ROUTE FOR 5W1GC. Cliff, AC4NJ, informed OPDX that Cliff, 5W1GC, will be leaving Western Samoa, October 31st. His new QSL route is KE5GC via bureau or Cliff Luxion, P.O. Box 1808, Aurora, IL 60507. Cliff has been heard on 3508 kHz at 1115z, 14010 kHz at 0230z, 18070 kHz at 1915z, 21305 kHz at 2300z, 21027 kHz at 220z and 28480 kHz at 0045z.

SPECIAL "VE" PREFIXES. Later this month, VE stations will be using the following prefixes in commemoration of the UN's "International Year of the Family": Look for VB, XG, XO and XN.

XF4 CORRECT SPELLING (WE STAND CORRECTED!). Frank Smith, AH0W/OH2LV, one of the operators in the upcoming XF4M operation (see OPDX.177), informed OPDX that the correct name of XF4 is Revillagigedos and not

Revilla Gigedos. It is one word that represents a cluster of approx 4 islands in that group.

The international team of operators for XF4M will be active from Socorro Island, which is the larger of the four islands. The team will be on the island from October 23rd through November 1st, when the team will be a Multi/Single entry in the CQWW/SSB Contest. This will be the first contest ever that XF4 will be on the air which means a rare and new multiplier for the contest.

The XF4M team will have to depart from LaPaz, Mexico by boat travelling through the Sea of Cortez to Socorro Island because aircraft is now impossible since the runway on the island has recently been severely damaged by hurricanes.

Meanwhile, Frank has announced the XF4M DXpedition is now considering invitations for four more experienced operators to join this international group. If you have an interest in joining this group, please contact Frank Smith at (602) 938-8000 or (602) 876-2718 to discuss dates, details, expenses, etc.. A decision will be made early next week.

XX9, MACAO. Roger, G3SXW, and Nigel, G3TXF, are going to XX9 on the 19th of October for a week of CW operation and special attention to LF bands and the WARC bands.

YK, SYRIA. Mike, VE3UWC, is currently signing VE3UWC/4U and will be in Syria with the UN Peacekeeping forces until they move out in about 3 months. It appears Mike is just getting started with his operation and no information is available on what bands he will work or if he works any CW. He was last heard on October 5th, on 14220 kHz between 2130 and 2200z.

IARU Considers 40 M Band Changes

(The following article which appeared in the October issue of WNYDXA Report, the official bulletin of the Western New York DX Association was written by Peter, KB2NMV..ed)

The International Amateur Radio Union, (IARU), met in Singapore during the September 10th through 12th weekend for the Region 3 Conference. After the end of this conference, the Administrative Council of the IARU met to discuss the possibility of an enhanced global 40 meter band free from commercial broadcast interference, and where CW and SSB segments would be the same for all nations. This would mean that the current system which puts DX SSB stations out of band for most Region 2 station would end. The new system would expand the international allocation of CW only transmissions.

An ad-hoc committee discussed the IARU policy which seeks a 300-kHz allocation around 7-MHz. The council agreed to speed pursuit of this allocation through member countries governmental agencies that control the airwaves.

It is a distinct possibility by the next World Amateur Radio Conference, we will have a new and reworked 40-meter band. It appears likely that this new band would extend from 6.800 MHz to 7.100 MHz. If this were to materialize, gone would be the days of hunting out weak signals amongst the AM carriers.

(Makes one almost nostalgic, doesn't? Sorta takes the fun out of 40 meter SSB DXing, huh?)

Also on the IARU agenda was a proposal cum petition to drop CW requirements for licensing on bands below 30 MHz. The IARU, in keeping with its policy, the body will neither pursue or support any such movement at this time. Looks like HF is safe, for now.

DXAC News

The Awards Committee has voted 5 to 2 against a DXAC recommendation that would set a minimum size for new DXCC countries. Those voting against shared the feeling that a "minimum size" rule was not needed.

Awards Committee Chairman, Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH, shared the results with DXAC Chairman, Bob Beatty, W4VQ, immediately after the vote. Standard Operating Procedure for the committees allows the DXAC to resubmit a recommendation (with or without changes) on appeal, and Chairman Beatty has announced his intention to do that.

Individuals may send comments to ARRL HQ. Comments addressed to the DXAC will be read by members of both committees. DXAC Chairman Beatty has declared a moratorium on new DXCC country petitions that may be affected by a minimum size rule. This moratorium will continue until such time as the deliberations on this issue are complete.

Phased Verticals

(This part of a collection of comments regarding phased vertical antennas was posted to the Internet Contest Reflector by Rod Greene, W7ZRCI. It provides an interesting insight into the practical experiences of several of the phased vertical crowd, not the least of whom is our own GM0ECO..ed)

de Andy, GM0ECO - Rod, couldn't resist replying to your note on phasing arrays. I now have two 4 square phased arrays, one for 40m and one for 80m and have a few years experience of them.

All mine use the Collins hybrid coupler technique to phase the power properly (as per ON4UN's book-an absolute must if you are doing this).

On 80m I started last year with a 2 el array, each vertical being only 38' high (linear loaded to resonate on 3.750). The phase box was a copy of the circuit in ON4UN's book using 50 ohm cables. Providing you can measure capacitance and inductance it is very easy to build it all yourself. I used the Amidon cores suggested in the book.

With this system and only 10 radials I had about 2 S-units f/b or about 10db. It was orientated E/W so I could work the US without all the 'crud' from Europe off the back. The two S-units reduction in EU noise helped dramatically in picking up lots more US signals - but I could still receive more on the beverage.

With this, I came in #3 world in CQWW SSB last year which I was pleased with. So this summer I converted it to a 4-square. Again all elements are 38' high with 10 radials each. Used the same phase box but a few more relays as per ON4UN's book. I then saw the new ON4UN's book which has a few more hints and hence I have just added the circuit to measure power reflected to the dummy load and am adding relays to the bottom of each element to enable them to resonate on 3.5 or 3.65 meq.

Some observations. I now get between 2 to 4 S-units, about 10 - 20 db front to back. I doubt if I will need the beverage now to the US. I will let you know in November! Super directivity to 4 points with good rejection off the sides. Actually one of the 4 elements is 50' which I think is causing some degradation of the f/b. Elnec shows this up quite well. All my elements are wires hung from overhead ropes between trees. SWR bandwidth is very wide, 3.5 to 3.8 MHz, no problem! (As

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described in the book.) But more than 100 KHz away from the design freq. you lose power to the dummy load. At 3.5 MHz I lose 75% of the power hence the need to switch each antenna. Well worth building the power meter mod in the book. I used 50 ohm cable in the system despite ON4UN's view that 75 is best (to match better). I find it doesn't seem to matter. If you have lots of money then buy the commercial unit, but it will only take you 10 hours to build it. (and about 3,789 hours to put the 4 verticals up, trim the phasing lines, put down the ground, etc. etc.)

On 40m I started 4 years ago with a 2 el quad spaced 1/4 wave using this type of phasing design with wires again almost on the ground. Super signal but only good for 2 directions (not a good idea from hear). I managed #8 in ARRLDX SSB a few years back with this antenna against CT1BOP, ON4UN and G3FXB all with big beams. This summer again I have converted it into a 4 square vertical array exactly as for the 80 M but this time with fullsize elements. I swear it works as well as a 3 ele yagi at 80' except I can switch it in seconds to beam other ways. F/B is often 5 S-units on the strong Eu signals or 25 db and sometimes more. I put the improvement in F/B down to the symmetry of the antenna (compared to the 80M) again believing the Elnec programme. If you can get a full size 4 square for 80M then you should get the same.

As for transmitting power on both arrays, I will have to wait and see what reports I get in CQWW SSB. I know I am usually loud but will I still be? I hope so. My problem is usually hearing stations through the noise so this should help me. I'll be on single band 80 or 40 in CQWW so see you then. Let me know if you want clarification on anything

de Jim, WG8M - Rod, I have been using the Comtek box for two years now. I have a 40 meter 4 square array and it seems to work well.

I did experience a situation last year where the box at the antennas burned up. I was able to repair it and everything appears OK now. I am not totally sure why it burned up but I did notice one of the direction indicating LED's was not working on the control box about the same time. The LED's on the control box must be operating for the switching box at the antennas to work properly. They are more than just an 'indicator'! Overall the system works well and it does work with 2 antennas per the instructions (I have never tried it with 2 antennas).

de Frank, K0JPJ - Rod, my earliest experience was with three ten meter verticals and a crude but effect switching system. This was in 1958. Very effective for DXing. Later in the mid sixties I was a Hy-Gain dealer (owned a ham store) and sold a lot of their verticals. I have had three 18HT Hytowers myself and still have one I use regularly. Quite a few people experimented with phasing three 14AVQ verticals, later 14AVS models. They worked pretty well. Hy-gain had a good pamphlet they provided those who requested it on systems that had been experimented with in their test grounds and ideas submitted by others. I don't think I still have a copy in my files.

If memory serves me Mosley (sold them too) also had a single page info on how to phase theirs. Their vertical was very inferior to the Hy-Gains though. They built a good beam but never got it together in some other areas.

On ten meters I found approx 6 db gain in the favored direction. The front to back ratio was not that great as compared to a beam.

de Marc, KN6SO - Rod, W6REC Duane Ausherman has 4 phased 80 meter verticals in Galt, CA. He may be able to help you with this. You will be very pleased with the results of the antennas and the way they work.

de Steve, KC7EM - Rod, I have been using one of the Comtek boxes for about 5 years now. It is installed as part of a 4-square array for 75/80m. I have never had any trouble with the switchbox. I believe the units currently being built by Comtek use much heavier components (torroids etc.) than the ones in mine.

I only know of a few of the DX Engineering boxes in use and believe they are just as rugged if not more so, compared to the Comtek. I consistently get fb/fs of 20 to 30dB depending on the angle of arrival. I homebrewed my vertical elements using 40 feet of 4" irrigation tubing and 24 feet of 3" tubing (total height 64'). The SWR on my system which has 90 1/4 wave radials under each element is less than 1.4:1 across the entire band.

More important is the amount of power being dissipated in the 50 ohm dummy load. In my case its about 8% at 3.500 and less than 1% at 3.800. I recently measured the feedpoint impedance of each of the radiating elements with an Autek RF-1 analyzer and found them to be 38 ohms at the resonant point (3.575).

de Ken, K6PU - When I was in England as G5CFJ in the early 80's our club station had a 4 vertical phased array on 40. It was built from an article in QST and the ARRL handbook of the late 70's as I recall. It used relays and phasing lines. It was a tremendous ant! I ran a number of tests with W6-land and it would consistently show 20-30 db front to back and 40-50 front to side. These were S-meter readings on both ends so not too scientific. The main thing is the antenna really played. I could hold my own with most of Europe in contests (it's tough to compete with some of the Italian boys). Took first on both modes in 82 CQWW for England using it. I might add though, the array was in an open field with no buildings, etc close by. Also we had 120 buried radials under each element.

Emily Post on Inter-Netiquette

de Trey, WN4KKW

(This is a terrific article from the net that pokes fun at common practices in online forums such as rec.radio.amateur.misc. Although the article specifically refers to netnews, much of what is said to email distribution lists such as cq-contest@tgv.com and dx@unbc.edu. I have edited out the bits that are applicable only to netnews. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.)

NOTE: this is intended to be satirical. If you do not recognize it as such, consult a doctor or professional comedian. The recommendations in this article should be recognized for what they are -- admonitions about what NOT to do.

Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette

"Dear Emily Postnews"

Emily Postnews, foremost authority on proper net behaviour, gives her advice on how to act on the net.

Q: Dear Miss Postnews: How long should my signature be? -- verbose@noisy

A: Dear Verbose: Please try and make your signature as long as you can. It's much more important than your article, of course, so try to have more lines of signature than actual text.

Try to include a large graphic made of ASCII characters, plus lots of cute quotes and slogans. People will never tire of reading these pearls of wisdom again and again, and you will soon become personally associated with the joy each reader feels at seeing yet another delightful repeat of your signature.

Be sure as well to include a complete map of USENET with each signature, to show how anybody can get mail to you from any site in the world. Be sure to include Internet gateways as well. Also tell people on your own site how to mail to you. Give independent addresses for Internet, UUCP, and BITNET, even if they're all the same.

Aside from your reply address, include your full name, company and organization. It's just common courtesy -- after all, in some newsreaders people have to type an *entire* keystroke to go back to the top of your article to see this information in the header.

By all means include your phone number and street address in every single article. People are always responding to usenet articles with phone calls and letters. It would be silly to go to the extra trouble of including this information only in articles that need a response by conventional channels!

Q: Dear Emily: Today I posted an article and forgot to include my signature. What should I do? -- forgetful@myvax

A: Dear Forgetful: Rush to your terminal right away and post an article that says, "Oops, I forgot to post my signature with that last article. Here it is."

Since most people will have forgotten your earlier article, (particularly since it dared to be so boring as to not have a nice, juicy signature) this will remind them of it. Besides, people care much more about the signature anyway. See the previous letter for more important details.

Also, be sure to include your signature TWICE in each article. That way you're sure people will read it.

Q: Dear Ms. Postnews: I couldn't get mail through to somebody on another site. What should I do? -- eager@beaver.dam

A: Dear Eager: No problem, just post your message to a group that a lot of people read. Say, "This is for John Smith. I couldn't get mail through so I'm posting it. All others please ignore."

This way tens of thousands of people will spend a few seconds scanning over and ignoring your article, using up over 16 man-hours their collective time, but you will be saved the terrible trouble of checking through Usenet maps or looking for alternate routes. Just think, if you couldn't distribute your message to 30,000 other computers, you might actually have to (gasp) call directory assistance for 60 cents, or even phone the person. This can cost as much as a few DOLLARS (!) for a 5 minute call!

And certainly it's better to spend 10 to 20 dollars of other people's money distributing the message than for you to have to waste \$9 on an overnight letter, or even 29 cents on a stamp!

Don't forget. The world will end if your message doesn't get through, so post it as many places as you can.

Q: What about a test message?

A: It is important, when testing, to test the entire net. Never test merely a subnet distribution when the whole net can be done. Also put "please ignore" on your test messages, since we all know that everybody always skips a message with a line like that. Don't use a subject like "My sex is female but I demand to be addressed as male." because such articles are read in depth by all USENETers.

Q: Somebody just posted that Roman Polanski directed Star Wars. What should I do? - smartaleck@some.site

A: Post the correct answer at once! We can't have people go on believing that! Very good of you to spot this. You'll probably be the only one to make the correction, so post as soon as you can. No time to lose, so certainly don't wait a day, or check to see if somebody else has made the correction.

And it's not good enough to send the message by mail. Since you're the only one who really knows that it was Francis Coppola, you have to inform the whole net right away!

Using the most confrontational and impolite language you can, don't forget to point out the folly of the error made by the person.

Q: I read an article that said, "reply by mail, I'll summarize." What should I do?

A: Post your response to the whole net. That request applies only to dumb people who don't have something interesting to say. Your postings are much more worthwhile than other people's, so it would be a waste to reply by mail.

Q: I collected replies to an article I wrote, and now it's time to summarize. What should I do?

A: Simply concatenate all the articles together into a big file and post that. On USENET, this is known as a summary. It lets people read all the replies without annoying newsreaders getting in the way. Do the same when summarizing a vote.

Q: I saw a long article that I wish to rebut carefully, what should I do?

A: Include the entire text with your article, particularly the signature, and include your comments closely packed between the lines. Be sure to post, and not mail, even though your article looks like a reply to the original. Everybody *loves* to read those long point-by-point debates, especially when they evolve into name-calling and lots of "Is too!" -- "Is not!" -- "Is too, twizot!" exchanges.

Be sure to follow-up everything, and never let another person get in the last word on a net debate. Why, if people let other people have the last word, then discussions would actually stop! Remember, other net readers aren't nearly as clever as you, and if somebody posts something wrong, the readers can't possibly realize that on their own without your elucidations. If somebody gets insulting in their net postings, the best response is to get right down to their level and fire a return salvo. When I read one net person make an insulting attack on another, I always immediately take it as gospel unless a rebuttal is posted. It never makes me think less of the insulter, so it's your duty to respond.

Q: I can't spell worth a dam. I hope your going too tell me what to do?

A: Don't worry about how your articles look. Remember it's the message that counts, not the way it's presented. Ignore the fact that sloppy spelling in a purely written forum sends out the same silent messages that soiled clothing would when addressing an audience.

Q: How should I pick a subject for my articles?

A: Keep it short and meaningless. That way people will be forced to actually read your article to find out what's in it. This means a bigger audience for you, and we all know that's what the net is for. If you do a followup, be sure and keep the same subject, even if it's totally meaningless and not part of the same discussion. If you don't, you won't catch all the people who are looking for stuff on the original topic, and that means less audience for you.

Q: What sort of tone should I take in my article?

A: Be as outrageous as possible. If you don't say outlandish things, and fill your article with libelous insults of net people, you may not stick out enough in the flood of articles to get a response. The more insane your posting looks, the more likely it is that you'll get lots of followups. The net is here, after all, so that you can get lots of attention.

If your article is polite, reasoned and to the point, you may only get mailed replies. Yuck!

Q: The posting software suggested I had too long a signature and too many lines of included text in my article. What's the best course?

A: Such restrictions were put in the software for no reason at all, so don't even try to figure out why they might apply to your article. Turns out most people search the net to find nice articles that consist of the complete text of an earlier article plus a few lines.

In order to help these people, fill your article with dummy original lines to get past the restrictions. Everybody will thank you for it.

For your signature, I know it's tough, but you will have to read it in with the editor. Do this twice to make sure it's firmly in there. By the way, to show your support for the free distribution of information, be sure to include a copyright message forbidding transmission of your article to sites whose USENET politics you don't like.

Also, if you do have a lot of free time and want to trim down the text in your article, be sure to delete some of the attribution lines so that it looks like the original author of -- say -- a plea for world peace actually wrote the followup calling for the nuking of Bermuda.

Q: Somebody just posted a query to the net, and I want to get the answer too. What should I do?

A: Immediately post a following, including the complete text of the query. At the bottom add, "Me too!" If somebody else has done this, follow up their article and add "Me three," or whatever number is appropriate. Don't forget your full signature. After all, if you just mail the original poster and ask for a copy of the answers, you will simply clutter the poster's mailbox, and save people who do answer the question the joyful duty of noting all the "me (n)s" and sending off all the multiple copies.

Q: What does foobar stand for?

A: It stands for you, dear.

Editor's Note

Several years ago the Texas DX Society took over the task of running the annual **Texas QSO Party**. Although we've had moderate success, it hasn't really made much progress in terms of the number of participants, both in and out of state.

This year, with the change in date to the fall contest season, there is the opportunity for us to attract a bigger crowd. Plans for putting the Armadillos "on-the-road-again" are well under way. What is needed are fixed stations here in Texas.

If you've got a rig and an antenna, of ANY description, you need to plan on operating, even if only for a while. More importantly, don't just "tune the bands"... CALL CQ, and keep calling. You'll be heard, even on 20 M phone. CQing is our best means of advertising. Folks will get caught up in the event ONLY if they hear activity! And, we must spark that activity. Get on the air... you'll have blast!

Upcoming Events

October 14.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
 October 15.....DARC Worked All Germany Contest
 October 16.....RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest - CW
 October 22.....Texas QSO Party & Armadillo Run
 October 29.....CQ World Wide DX Contest - Phone
 November 05.....ARRL Sweepstakes - CW
 November 05.....Ukrainian DX Contest
 November 11.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
 November 12.....OK/OM DX Contest
 November 13.....Gulf Coast Swapfest & Auction
 November 19.....ARRL Sweepstakes - Phone

1994 Texas QSO Party

Sponsored by the Texas DX Society

- **Contest Period:** From 1400 UTC Saturday, October 22, 1994 until 2200 UTC Sunday, October 23, 1994. Stations operate maximum of 24 hours with minimum time off periods of 30 minutes.
- **Object:** Non-Texas stations work as many Texas stations in as many Texas counties as possible; Texas stations work all.
- **Entry Classification:**
 Class I. Single Operator, fixed station
 Class II. Multi Operator-Single Transmitter, fixed
 Class III. Texas Mobile Station
- **Exchange:** Texas Stations send Name and County. Stations outside of Texas send name and state (VE and DX stations send name only).
- **Mode & Bands:** CW and/or SSB. Use 80 - 10 Meters, excluding WARC. Suggested frequencies: CW - 50 KHz up; SSB - 3850, 7230, 14250, 21350, and 28450. Novice - 3710, 7110, 21110, 28110 CW and 28450 SSB.
- **Scoring:** Non-Texas stations score contacts with Texas stations as follows: 1 point per QSO on SSB, 2 points on CW, except that Texas mobiles are 5 points on-SSB and 7 points on CW. Texas stations score 1 point per QSO on SSB, 2 points on CW, fixed or mobile. Stations can be worked on each band and each mode. Texas stations may work other Texas stations for QSO and Multiplier credit.
- **Multiplier:** Texans use Texas counties (254), states (50), Canadian call areas (12), DXCC countries. Non-Texas stations use Texas counties. Multipliers count once for each mode on each band.
- **Total Score:** The total score is the number of QSO points times the total number of multipliers.
- **Reporting:** Entries consist of: 1) Summary sheet listing Entry Class, QSOs and Multipliers by band and mode, total contacts and multipliers, claimed score, name, call, mailing address, phone/FAX, and a written, signed statement of "Fair and Ethical Operation"; 2) Separate check (dupe) sheet for each band; 3) List of all claimed multipliers by band and mode. Logs may be requested for entries qualifying for awards.
- **Awards:** Non-Texas stations will compete for awards separately from Texas stations. Awards will be made to the top ten scores in each Class. A minimum of 50 QSOs is required to qualify for an award. Awards will be made only when a Class has 5 or more entrants. First Place in each class will receive a Texas Armadillo plaque. All top ten scores in each class will receive certificates. Special awards will be made to stations working all 254 Texas counties.
- **Deadline:** All entries must be postmarked by November 30, 1994.

Due Dates

European DX Contest CW.....October 15, 1994
 All Asian Contest SSB.....October 15, 1994 (*)
 NCJ NA Sprint - Phone.....October 18, 1994
 California QSO Party.....November 15, 1994