



founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET



Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

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

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The Prez Sez - de Bob, N5RP

From the N5 RADIO PULPIT ! - Summer is nearly over and we can begin to sense the QRN dropping day by day as we get closer to the cooler more temperate 160, 80, and 40 Meter DX season. Well, that is not all that gets closer and closer.

Contests! ... W5 DX Bash! ... and a lot of TDXS plans and options that the TDXS membership needs to talk over and decide upon. I urge each and everyone of you to please, please attend this month's meeting. It's going to be important that we all get our heads together and settle some of the issues facing us.

The Board of Directors of the TDXS, that's YOUR club, had a serious, roll-up-the-sleeves and get-down-to-business meeting just last week. We thoroughly covered a lot of important topics, and managed to arrive at several ideas for your consideration.

I hope you will notice that I'm not going into a long, windy dissertation this month. I think it will suffice to say that the club needs to regroup after the long, slow summer months and sort out our plans for the future regarding such topics as the "non-convention", finances, new members, meeting sites, '95 officer nominations, dues, etc. etc. at this coming meeting. Please be there. Please be there sharply at start time. We got work to do guys!

There are four (4) TDXS regular meetings left for 1994. Please check with our Secretary Dave, WB5N to confirm your attendance status. Many of our members have been somewhat, and very noticeably, absent from our 1994 monthly meetings.

I hope every member read carefully the enclosure that came with last month's newsletter. We've got a good slate of prospective new members, i.e. Madison, AB5TV; Mike, KB5YVT; Earl, KZ8E and Chuck, WY7U. Get to know these guys, pronto. And you'll be doing me favor by re-reading my article from last month so as to refresh your mind on some concerns that I have about the club. The TDXS needs your full support. The other members need your participation.

See I'll next Friday !

Editor's Note

As it has several times over its history, the TDXS Weekly DX and Contest Net again appears to be slipping into obscurity. Though this is not in itself surprising considering the drop off in enthusiasm amongst local DXers, and a lack of active contesters, it is in effect closing down one of our traditional channels of intra-club communications. We all have 2-Meter gear. Check-in requires only a moment or so. Club announcements are first on the agenda. Why not get back in the habit of coming up on Tuesday nights at 2100 local time on 147.96/36 MHz? It's an easy way to keep up with your club and your friends. Try it, you'll like it!

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 September meeting will take place on **Friday, September 9, 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.

Convention - It appears that there will be no Houston Convention in November this year. The TDXS, along with other local groups, is exploring the possibility of holding a one day Auction/Swapfest event in early November. This would provide an interim activity for local area amateurs while plans for a full featured convention for 1995 are being developed. Further details will appear in this newsletter and on the local Packet-Clusters and packet BBS.

Upcoming Events

- September 09.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- September 10.....WAEDC European DX Contest Phone
- September 10.....ARRL VHF QSO Party
- September 11.....NCJ North American Sprint CW
- September 17.....Scandinavian Contest - CW
- September 18.....NCJ North American Sprint Phone
- September 24.....Washington State QSO Party
- September 24.....Scandinavian Contest - SSB
- October 01.....California QSO Party
- October 01.....4th Annual W5 DX Bash
- October 02.....RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest - SSB
- October 14.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- October 15.....Worked All Germany Contest
- October 16.....RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest - CW
- October 22.....Texas QSO Party & Armadillo Run

Contest Corner

de Don, KI3L

The 1994 running of the **Texas QSO Party** is approaching (**October 22-23**). Since TDXS is the sponsor of the contest, we have the responsibility to promote and support the QSO party. Success of the event is dependant upon the amount of activity. Please make plans to operate during the contest, and talk it up on the air, e.g. use packet or email to promote the contest. Contests are great fun when there are plenty of stations to work, but can be a drag if there is minimal activity. If we can get a reasonable number of Texas stations on the air (both fixed and mobile), it will provide the non-Texans with stations to work, and therefore contribute to the QSO party's success. **Please mark the weekend on your calendar and plan to be ACTIVE!**

NA version 9 contains a file, TE.EXE, which allows the user to define contest logging parameters and, therefore, customize the program for any contest (including our Texas QSO Party). Using NA version 9.03, I have written the necessary templates and multiplier files for Texas stations as well as non-Texas stations. Initial testing has checked out OK. I can't get the program to calculate the correct score, but it does do everything else (logging, duping, etc.) with no problem. I recommend NA version 9 for those of you who prefer computer logging. I have uploaded the above multiplier and template files into TQP.ZIP on the KB5NFN BBS for anyone who may be interested.

(The rules for the Texas QSO Party are also posted on the BBS under TQP-RULE.TXT.ed)

Don't forget the **North American Sprints - CW on Saturday the 10th (0000 - 0400 GMT 11th)** and **Phone on Saturday the 17th (0000-0400 GMT 18th)**. TDxS had great participation for the NAQP CW and SSB, which included some very good scores from several prospective TDxS members. By the time you read this, we should have our Sprint team rosters complete and ready to go.

Congratulations to **Andy, GM0ECO, Chuck, KE5FI**, and **Robert, WB5CRG**, for top ten finishes in their respective categories in the **1993 CQWW Phone Contest**.

Good luck on the sprints - be sure to send me your scores immediately after the contests via packet or email, and remember to submit your logs. (**NAQP deadlines are approaching rapidly**).

Results:**1993 CQWW Dx SSB CONTEST**

GM0ECO...1400x19x79 = 183,162 3.5 MHZ #3 WORLD
 KE5FI.....392x28x94 = 127,124 10M LOW PWR #2 USA
 WB5CRG...397x28x99 = 125,857 10M LOW PWR #3 USA

K5DX....723 x 111 x 323 = 852,376 SO/AB #2 W5
 K5MA....269 x 50 x 127 = 134,166 SO/AB
 AK5B.....163 x 50 x 114 = 69,044 SO/AB
 KE4GY..124 x 37 x 69 = 33,920 SO/AB
 K5LZO...224 x 24 x 87 = 68,708 28 MHZ HI PWR
 KI3L.....940 x 116 x 333 = 1,055,599 SO/A
 W5ASP...504 x 90 x 265 = 494,870 SO/A
 K5EC.....226 x 470 x 146 = 126,792 SO/A
 N5NMX..214 x 28 x 82 = 56,760 SO/A 14 MHZ

Claimed Scores**NAQP SSB August 1994**

K5NA/2....735 x 157 = 115,395
 AD5Q(KB5YVT)....500 x 114 = 57,000

KI3L.....452 x 118 = 53,336
 N5NMX.....435 x 110 = 47,850
 WB5CRG.....398 x 101 = 40,198
 AA5NK.....400 x 94 = 37,600
 N5RP.....350 x 100 = 35,000
 K5DX.....343 x 97 = 33,271
 WY7U.....230 x 91 = 20,930
 K1TU.....187 x 60 = 11,220
 K5RC/M.....183 x 59 = 10,797
 KG5U.....208 x 47 = 9,776
 K5EC.....176 x 52 = 9,152
 ZF2NE/9(W5ASP)....200 x 44 = 8,800 (14 MHz only)
 N5PJI.....115 x 50 = 5,750
 VP2MA(K5GN).....100 x 35 = 3,500
 NZ5I.....52 x 32 = 1,664
 KB5NFN.....32 x 16 = 512
 NT5D(+WB5N).....779 x 130 = 101,270 Multi-2

Teams:

TDXS #1 (K5NA,KI3L,WB5CRG,N5RP,KG5U) 253,705
 TDXS #2 (N5NMx,K5Dx,K5RC,ZF2NE,VP2MA) 104,218
 TDXS #3 (AA5NK,WY7U,N5PJI,NZ5I) 65,944
 TDXS #4 (K1TU) 11,220

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.

The TDXS Bullsheat

- **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. Entries are to be mailed to the TDXS, P.O. Box 540291, Houston, TX, 77254-0291.

When is it Time to Quit?

de Steve, W4/YV5DTA

You know you've reached the end of your string when:

... You're talking on the phone with a ham buddy, and you end the conversation and hang up the phone with a 'KD1HZ clear'. - Michael, KD1HZ

...At least you weren't saying grace over a meal with your family! N4TMI clear, er, I mean, Amen. - Michael, N4TMI

...You end a face-to-face chat with "dit dit". - Paul, N9FZX

...You spend 2 hours trying to crack a pile up on 20 meters to work a KJ2 station who is portable on Manhattan Island.

...Your wife points out that all of your children were born during sunspot minimums. - Paul, WB8ZJL

...You're having a Saturday breakfast and you say "call please" so that you can interrupt a conversation to ask someone to pass the salt. - Dave Bushong, WZ1O

...You answer your phone, "QRZ?" - Mike Gauland, AA7JF

...And, after you find out who the calling party is, you say "you're 59 in Virginia..." - Ben, AC4XO

...Don't laugh, I know someone who did that with his telephone answering machine. - Kok, AA6TY

...When you say things like "QSO" and "73" in casual, face-to-face conversations. - Mike, N4PDY

...You go shopping, get to the check-out, write a check, and sign it KE3HO. - James, KE3HO

...You're talking on an EMS telemetry radio with a base hospital for medication orders and such, and sign out with your callsign... No, I didn't do this, but N5JXS swears he did, and that he got a callsign back... - Jay, K5ZC

...To get your ham buddies attention (who lives across the street), you yell 'CQ! CQ! CQ!' from your driveway.

...Your wife starts talking to you while your on the phone, and you tell the person on the other end you're getting intermod.

...You've named your brand new German Shepherd puppy 'Radio Flyer' to combine two of your hobbies... (this is true, this is my dog's name...)

...I forgot about our cat, named "CQ", who would think it was dinnertime whenever I operated 20m SSB. Dave, KZ1O

...You're talking to somebody face-to-face in a busy place and you say, "Let's QSY my office," and they know exactly what you mean! - Doug, N0YVW

...You find yourself typing in CW shorthand to fellow workers on internal E-Mail...(I have found myself doing this too many times)...

...When the kids get names related to radio. I'm Robert F. Casey, that's RF, or radio frequency, or go further, radio frequency choke.(my father's a ham, also) - Robert, WA2ISE

...You are in your car, and see somebody you know walking down the street. Instead of going beep-beep and waving, you pound out CQ on your car horn and wave. --Ed

Propagation

de Roy, AD5Q

September is a month of dramatic change. The stifling effects of summer absorption dissipate, bringing the high bands back to life. Nighttime MUF's start to trend lower, bringing improving conditions to the low bands as well. In summer, most of the action is on 20 Meters. Now we will have more options.

Flux levels are too low to expect anything out of 10 Meters this year, but openings on 15 will be common. With solar numbers ranging from the low 70's to around 90, the quality of 15 Meter openings will not be consistent. On some days we may find paths over the pole and to all of Europe. On others, only western Europe (and the QRO guys in East Europe) will be coming thru. The east coast will have better penetration into Russia, and everyone will have limited opportunities over the pole. Seasonally, the polar opportunities will be most common in the early part of the fall DX season. Later this month, the sun will set on the North Pole and high latitude paths will become increasingly difficult as the polar night expands.

DX openings should be more consistent on 17 Meters, since this is a lower frequency. This band will likely serve up the best DX propagation this fall season for day path work. It is a small band, and will easily get crowded when 15 Meters fails to open the European windows. Openings to remote parts of the world (e.g. southern Asia) will be more common on 17 than on 15. A beam on this band would be a real asset over the coming years.

The fall prognosis for 20 Meters is not promising. Nighttime MUF's are falling, and this will close the band in the evening. Night path DX activity will soon shift to the low bands. We may expect deterioration of DX conditions and declining activity through the fall, beginning this month. Watch for the nightly band closing to gradually move to earlier into the evening, shutting down many DX paths we have enjoyed all summer. One opening that should remain reliable is the morning grey line opening to Russia and Europe, with a similar opening to Asia at the end of the day. Paths to the southern hemisphere will also be good, because night paths to the south will be opening up.

The low band season will get off to an early start once evening activity on 20 dries up. 30 Meters will eventually close up at night like 20, but not until later in the season. 40 will become the primary band for night path work, but SSB ops will look for options on 75 because of the special problems of operating 40.

DX News

de Sid, K5XI

Trivia

Well, I have been getting ready for trial and have not had much time for amateur radio lately. It is nice to be back to the real world for a while.

My last trivia question was a good one. As you know, DX countries are added and deleted from the DXCC list all of the time. But what about the counties list? Can you name one county in the United States that no longer exists? Answer: When Mark White was governor of Texas, some of the TDXS club members got him to declare a new county in the State of Texas -- Armadillo County. After a year or so, the proclamation expired, and Armadillo County, Texas became a deleted county. Does anyone know of any other instance when a county ceased to exist?

DX News

This comes from the "never give up" department. I worked EP2MHB on March 2, 1992. I tried unsuccessfully for a couple of years to get a card from him. I did not have Iran confirmed on any band. Yes, he was a "brand spanking new one" for me. I sent cards with IRCs, I sent cards with green stamps. And I sent cards with self addressed stamped envelopes with mint Iranian postage stamps on the return envelope. I got some European size envelopes printed with my return address. I also got return envelopes with my address preprinted on them. The return envelopes are a little smaller, and fit like a glove inside.

That set up finally got through to Mohammad in Iran. Yes, believe it or not, I actually received a return card from him! However, he included his return address, and it is slightly different from the published address in the GO-List and elsewhere. This may have caused some of my problems. I pass along his address for those who still have not "scored" a card from him. This is the authoritative address for him, obtained directly from him printed return address sticker that he put on my envelope: Mohammad H. Bahrololoom, P.O. Box 154, Tehran 16765, Islamic Rep. of Iran. I really like the preprinted envelopes. If you are interested, I got them from William J. Plum, 12 Glenn Road, Flemington, N.J. 08822-3322. The preprinted envelopes make QSLing easy, and you never have to worry about receiving oversized cards that had to be folded to fit into a standard size envelope.

We are about to emerge from the doldrums of summer. The conditions should improve soon. You have a few weeks to get your antenna projects done so you will be ready for the fall. The CQ World Wide DX contest in October will provide opportunities to work DX. Expect V29Y as a single op, all band entry in the contest. Nambia will be put on by N0AFW, NH6UY, and W5/AH9B. V7X will be a multi-op entry from the Marshall Islands. Expect 9G5TL to be active from Ghana. 9G5NN will be on during CQWW CW. KC6SS and KC6OK will be active from **Belau**.

After the contest, the same guys who operated from KC6 will be on from **Yap Island** as V63SH and V63OH. They will give you a good chance to get this one on CW, the low bands, and the WARC bands, if you need it.

If you need **Cocos-Keeling Island**, look for VK9IG/C on Sept. 7-10. QSL via JA3IG. For IOTA fans, this is OC-003. 9X/F5PGP is now active with 500 watts into a three-element beam. QSL via F5PYI. 9G1JB should be active from **Ghana** for a couple of years. QSL via G4XTA.

N1JAC/SV2 will operate from Greece during September 22-28. QSL via Wally Teto, P.O. Box 118, Templeton, MA.

01468. His callbook address is not correct. He will be active in the CQWW RTTY contest on Sept. 24-25. Speaking of RTTY, SV2ASP/A is on RTTY now.

If you need the **Marianas Islands** on CW or the WARC bands, KH0/KR4VN will be on from September 10-13. He will be operating from **Saipan Island**. QSL via JA6CNL, Kunihiko Kokal, P.O. Box 11, Yahata, Kitakyushu, 805 Japan. Via the JARL bureau is O.K. too. KH0/JH1UUT was active from Rota Island (IOTA number OC-086) during the All Asia contest.

K8LA was scheduled to be on from El Salvador as YS1ZTM between Sept. 2-6. If you worked him, QSL to Tom Beaudry, P.O. Box 1946, Dunedin, FL. 34697. His callbook address is no good.

YA/RW6AC has been reported on from Afghanistan. If you are lucky enough to work this one, the QSL information is Box 16, Armavir, Russia. S61ARU is scheduled to be active Sept. 5-9.

Remember that even at the very bottom of the sun spot cycle, we will still get very good conditions from time to time. Keep the faith. The conditions at the low end of the sun spot cycle make it more of a challenge when there is marginal propagation. In other respects, it makes finding DX easier. When conditions are good, you have to scan the 10 meter, 12 meter, 15 meter, and 17 meter bands, as well as 20 meters. You can miss a new one, if he comes up on a band other than the one you are listening on. Under the current conditions, it is easy. Everybody is on 20 meters! Well, that's about it for this month. See you next time!

DXAC Vote Results

de Jim, N5DC

The DXAC (DX Advisory Committee) has voted 8 to 7 to reject a proposed revision to Section I. 10 of the DXCC Rules to reinforce rules against the unethical action of making a contact for DXCC purposes with a call sign other than that issued to the operator. The majority felt that this could adversely affect club and other multi-operator stations--including D-Xpeditions. The minority felt that this rule change was necessary to prevent observed abuses.

The DXAC also rejected (by a 14 to 1 vote) a petition for new DXCC country status for the --Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus-- (TRNC). DXAC members stated that the TRNC did not meet DXCC Criteria Point 1, Government.

In a third matter, the DXAC voted 11 to 4 to set a minimum size for new DXCC countries. The DXAC recommendation says, "A DXCC country shall be a natural land mass of a size adequate to support a reasonable Amateur Radio operation. In the case of islands, the surface shall be dry at all times during high tide, and the physical characteristics may not be changed or modified. This includes the use of man-made operating structures. Each case will be judged on its own merits." Implicit in the recommendation is that operation from an island must take place from the surface of that island. The minimum-size recommendation now goes to the Awards Committee for action.

Due Dates

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

North American QSO Party SSB.....September 12, 1994
 WAEDC European DX Contest CW...October 15, 1994
 All Asian Contest SSB.....October 15, 1994 (*)

The TDXS Bullsheets

Fourth Annual W5 DX BASH

The 4th Annual W5 DX Bash sponsored by the West Texas DX Association will be held on Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2

This is an open invitation to all DXers, Contesters, True Believers, QRPers, DX Cluster Users, Antenna Nuts, Big Guns, Little Pistols to come join us. Bring your XYLS, the gals had a great time together the last couple of years. Read info below about special tours/trips. This is a FUN weekend!

Location: W5KFT's ranch on Lake Buchanan northwest of Austin. Repeater frequency is 146.06-146.66.

Special Features and Discussions: Towers - DX Packet-Cluster - Contesting - Antennas - Contest Stations - Great DX Feats

Les Bannon, WF5E, the **W5 QSL Bureau Mgr.**, will be on hand. Some of the Bureau Sorters will be on hand to personally deliver QSL cards.

XYLs & YLs - Great Things to do in the Immediate Area: Vanishing Texas River Cruise - Fall Creek Winery - Enchanted Rock Park - Shopping in Fredericksburg - Buchanan Dam/Lake - Longhorn Caverns - Confederate Air Force Museum - Austin Steam Train - LBJ Ranch

Schedule

Saturday, October 1

08:30 - 10:00 - Coffee and Donuts
09:00 - 12:30 - Lots of DX, Contest, and Antenna Talk
12:30 - 13:30 - Lunch at ranch (Included in Registration)
13:30 - 18:30 - More DX, Contest, Antenna, Misc. BS
19:00 - 20:30 - Bar-B-Que at Big John's (Dutch Treat)
20:30 - Till? - Back to the ranch for more DX or BS

Sunday, October 2

08:30 - 10:00 - Coffee and Donuts
09:00 - 13:30 - More talk about DX, Contests, Cluster, etc.
14:00 - We all go home to get ready for Texas QSO Party.

Motel Accommodations

Airy Mount, Bed & Breakfast, Hwy 29E, Burnet, 512-756-4149

Hojo Inn, 908 Buchanan Drive, Burnet, 512-756-4747, 800-634-3464

The Sunday House, Bed & Breakfast, 308 S. Pierce, Burnet, 512-756-2935

Buchanan Yacht Club, Hwy 261, (West side of Lake Buchanan), 512-793-2568

Crystal Cove Resort, Hwy 261, (West side of Lake Buchanan), 512-793-6861

Driftwood Shores Resort, West side of Lake Buchanan, 915-379-2405

The Edgewater, Cabins & RV Hookups, Lakeshore Dr & Hwy 261, 512-793-2818

Hi-Line Lake Resort, RR3014, (West side of Lake Buchanan), 915-379-1065

Badu House, Bed & Breakfast, 601 Bessemer, Llano, 915-247-4304

Chaparral Motor Lodge, 700 W. Young, Hwy 29 West, Llano, 915-247-4111

Classic Inn, 901 W. Young, Hwy 29 West, Llano, 915-247-4101, 800-346-1578

Fraser House Inn, Bed & Breakfast, 207 E. Main, Llano, 915-247-5183

Pecan Tree Inn, Bed & Breakfast, 1119 Ford, Llano, 915-247-3502

Comfort Inn, 1206 Hwy 281, Marble Falls, 210-693-7531, 800-228-5150

Directions

From Burnet go 13 miles west on Hwy 29 (past Inks Lake/Colorado River Bridge) to Hwy 261. Sign reads Lone Grove, Tow, Bluffton. Take a right on Hwy 261 and go 6.7 miles to the ranch entrance. Sign at gate reads EDWARDS-FULGHAM RANCH. Go 2 miles on pasture road to the ranch house.

From Llano go 2.2 miles east of Llano to FM Road 2241. Take FM 2241 to Bluffton. At Bluffton, continue east on Hwy 261 for 1.9 miles to ranch entrance. Sign reads EDWARDS-FULGHAM RANCH. Take pasture road for 2 miles to the ranch house.

Cost

Registration is \$20.00 per person which includes cost of continental breakfast both days, lunch on Saturday, free coffee, free soft drinks, and free snacks for both days. The DX Dinner Saturday night is dutch treat.

We need to know if you are attending so we can plan for food. Please register early with W5KFT so he can see that you get fed. If you have questions, contact W5KFT via DX Cluster or 806-745-3692 (office) or 806-799-5783 (home). Mail registration to 3801 68th Street, Lubbock, TX 79413. Telephone number at the ranch in 915-379-2501 but this will be answered during the DX Bash. All other calls should be directed to the Lubbock numbers until then.

Special Notes About Tours

A number of the gals are planning a major shopping expedition to nearby Marble Falls on Saturday. Come join them. Another group is planning on attacking the shops in Fredericksburg. It is a one hour drive to Fredericksburg, one of the neatest towns in Texas. It is great place to shop, visit, and browse. Lots of small shops there cater to the Texas shoppers in the Hill Country of Texas. We have made arrangements for a special tour/tasting at the Falls Creek Winery near the ranch on Saturday.

The Ranch is located on the migration path of the Monarch Butterfly as it travels to Brazil for the winter. At the 1991 Bash, we had perfect timing to see millions of the butterflies cover the oak trees in the area. Bring your camera. If the timing is right, this is a once in a lifetime experience.

The WPX CW Curse

de Ward, N0AX

(This article by Ward Silver, N0AX was first published in the June 1994 Western Washington DX Club's *Totem Tabloid*.ed)

After suffering through yet another set of disastrous conditions for the CW weekend of the WPX contest, I began to wonder. Why does this one weekend of the year attract so many flares, coronal holes, and magnetic storms?

Just to be sure I wasn't just mis-remembering, I checked into an Internet data base of solar conditions and scanned it for the dates of the past five WPX CW contests. Sure enough, conditions always seemed to take a dive on Thursday or Friday, just before the contest, sometimes even blacking out part of the contest.

There's a lot of data available via the electronic web of the Internet. If you know how to browse, or "surf", you can find many unpublicized lists and references, just for the looking. In this case, I began to browse around in the files at the agency with the solar data.

The flare and satellite proton event logs were interesting, but gave no other information other than confirming that the timing of the late-May disturbances seemed closely linked to

one particular weekend. I was about ready to chalk it up to Murphy's work and let it go.

I moved back out a couple of directory layers just to see what else was available before I logged off the system. There were listings for infra-red and ultraviolet data, gamma ray pulse logs, planetary Ap estimates from other observatories, and other esoterica of solar astronomy. There at the end of the list, though, was one called "sounding".

Ionospheric sounding is sort of like using radar on the various layers to see how high they are and how strong. The transmitters are powerful; in the megawatts of effective power. They beam pretty much straight up. Having done some acoustic sounding consulting work, I decided to check it out.

The files were pretty much what you'd expect, with logs of the various findings on a day-by-day basis. There were a couple of descriptions of ongoing activities. Then I noticed a file called "special_experiments". Quick as you can type "cat", I was scrolling through a list of titles and dates.

Well, it was easy to find all of the late-May entries and there were several that fell in the time frame of Wednesday or Thursday before WPX. Not only that, but the investigator in charge of the experiment was always "STAFF". Hmmm. All the other experiments had an individual's name listed.

It was easy to find the equipment list and usage reports for these suspicious events. A light began to go on for me as I read about "8-hour CW emission at MUF" in each report.

Apparently, someone at the agency was beaming about 10 million watts of power straight into the F-layer for eight straight hours, just hours before contest time! Given that it takes a day or so for effects in the ionosphere to become global, the timing seemed too close to ignore.

How could I find out who was running these things? I paused in my typing for long minutes. This person may be deliberately trying to remain invisible by using the "STAFF" label as cover. There weren't going to be any papers generated by this type of testing, so I couldn't find him or her in the journals, either.

Aha! Government agencies are nothing if not red-tape-bound. There's no way this person could just fire up the big sounders without some sort of authorization. In particular, the big transmitters would require regular maintenance, and some equipment would have to be reserved well in advance. Yes, that's it! I frantically began to look for the equipment reservation list.

There it was and open to public inspection, too. I didn't have writing privileges, but I only wanted a look-see. Hmmm, late May, 1995. Yes! An entry for a CW-only power output test on late Thursday night requested by a Mr. Wilf Hong! His name also turned up on similar tests at similar times. This had to be the answer.

It was late on Saturday afternoon, so I logged off the big system and turned to the packet cluster. Thank goodness for the on-line callsign directory! A search for "Hong" turned up 50 or so calls, two of which had the first initial of "W". One lived far away from the solar observatory, but the other...right down the road in a nearby town, AWONK, licensed since 1978.

Directory information gave me a number and I punched it in on the telephone keypad. While I was waiting for the call to go through, my mind was racing. What would I say? How could I get him to give me the information I was after? Was I about to make a genuine fool of myself? The phone began to ring on the other end.

"Hello?"

"Is this Wilf Hong, AWONK?", I asked. "Yes, who's calling?" I gave my name and call and said I was interested in

work being done at the solar observatory. Did he work there in the sounding department?

"Yes, I've worked there for the past ten years", he replied. I knew enough about the sounding process to string him along, asking questions about the transmitters they used and the antenna arrays. We casually joked about being able to use them in the Ten Meter contest some time. Then I off-handedly mentioned the WPX contest. Wilf didn't reply.

It was funny how conditions changed so suddenly for the CW WPX contest this past weekend, wasn't it? Did the observatory notice anything unusual? The line clicked and went dead. He'd hung up abruptly. I had my man!

I called back but the phone wasn't answered. Satisfied that I'd identified the source of the disturbances, I went off to do some errands, wondering all the while about why he would do such a thing. Why would he disrupt the contest, and why that one?

The next day, on a hunch, I checked out the CQ magazines with the WPX results. I didn't see Wilf's call anywhere. Then I recalled that AWONK couldn't have been his original call when licensed ten years back. Luckily, as a pack rat, I had saved my old Callbooks.

It was a bit of a chore to scan all of the tenth area calls, and it took two passes to find it, but, sure enough, there was Wilf as KA0QRN. That call sounded vaguely familiar as I closed the book and leaned back in the big shack chair. Where had I seen it?

I couldn't quite place it, but it nagged at me all day as I cut the grass and watered the garden. It was just out of reach in my mind during dinner and through the ball game. But, as so often happens to me in the shower, Epiphany came again! WPX CW, 1989, a big midwest QRP score was disqualified for running high power. Quickly I dried off and flipped through the pile of old CQs.

The May 1990 issue was located and there were the results. Back to end of the scores, through the check logs, to the scores in disgrace. Hmmm, a K1, a W5, and, sure enough, KA0QRN. It all began to fall into place. Happily, I fell asleep thinking of the interesting phone call I was going to place to the observatory in the morning.

At eight o'clock sharp I was on the horn to the receptionist at the observatory. No, Mr. Hong had not yet come in, but she expected him at any time. Calls at noon and three o'clock also failed to turn up Mr. Hong. This was apparently quite unusual as he was a very punctual and reliable man.

Back to Internet and I was soon scanning the experiment sign-up sheet in the sounder department directory. Wilf's requests were gone, including the one for next year! The special experiment log had been altered, too. There was no record of any significant activity on any of the dates I'd seen before. Uh-oh!

I called Wilf's house. The number was disconnected. I called the observatory again and was transferred to Wilf's supervisor. He politely informed me that Wilf had suddenly left the observatory with no word on why or as to his plans. It was very unusual and most regretful.

The week that passed turned up no sign of Mr. Wilf Hong at the observatory. Messages to his email went unread and unanswered. His phone number remained disconnected and without any other listing in the same area code. He was gone with a capital G. So I guess I found the answer to the riddle of the CW WPX curse. One frustrated and bitter man with the tools at his disposal to exact revenge. I can just see the slight smile on his face as he fired up those big transmitters in the night. I imagine he stepped outside to look up into the stars, feeling the spreading cloud of disruption high above the desert

plains, knowing the havoc it would wreak in a few hours. There was some satisfaction in knowing that he wouldn't be back to cause trouble at the observatory. But I remained troubled. Where did he go? Would he find another way to punch his way to the F-layer? He knew my name and call, would he be visiting me?

I knew that I would be waiting for next year's contest, watching the conditions nervously. I also knew that I'd be watching for Wilf and wondering if he was behind that sudden burst of line noise or dip in the MUF on contest weekends.

I've never forgotten AWONK. I watch the contest result postings and occasionally scan the callsign lists for a Mr. W. Hong. He's never shown up anywhere since our conversation. Is the curse really dead? Or has it just been transferred...to me?

Internet FTP Sites With Amateur Radio Data

de Mike, KF5PX

(The following is an extract of a listing which recently appeared on the local packet cluster. The full text is available from the source noted below..ed)

Updated versions of this list are available by anonymous ftp as: ftp://netcom.com/pub/VE3SUN/ham_ftp.zip. If you notice any change in this information, or wish to add to this list, please send email to peterj@netcom.com. There is no restriction on reproduction of this list.

Amateurs with access to Internet have access to an incredible wealth of technical information and shareware programs via anonymous ftp. The following ftp sites contain amateur radio files. The topics listed with each site give an indication of the kind of information that is stored there, but it is far from complete, and it is recommended that you do some exploring on your own. Many gems are hidden in subdirectories on these and other sites.

- [rtfm.mit.edu/pub/usenet/news.answers/radio/ham-radio](ftp://rtfm.mit.edu/pub/usenet/news.answers/radio/ham-radio)

Ham radio FAQs (frequently asked questions) gathered from the usenet news groups.

- <ftp://cs.buffalo.edu/pub/ham-radio>

Radio mods; Callsign databases; Exam questions; FCC regulations; Technical information; Clubs; Introductory information; Repeater information.

- <ftp://ucsd.edu/hamradio/ampr.org>

Technical Information Archives; Slow Scan TV; Satellite Information UoSats, Arsene; ARRL; DSP; NEC; RTTY

- <ftp://fidonet.org/pub/fidonet/ham>

- <ftp://halcyon.com/pub/fidonet/ham>

Archive of the Fidonet Ham Distribution Network files; Shareware; Regulations; Information.

- [oak.oakland.edu/pub/msdos/hamradio](ftp://oak.oakland.edu/pub/msdos/hamradio)

SimTel primary site; A huge collection of DOS and Windows shareware.

- <ftp://fcc.gov/pub>

FCC information for public distribution, such as: Daily Digest, News Releases, Public Notices, Reports, Speeches; A complete index is in the file

- <index.txt.think.com/pub/radio/ham>

FCC regs; Repeater info; QRP archives [major site for information, plans, FAQs]

- <nic.funet.fi/pub/ham>

SimTel ham radio files mirror; Technical information; Amiga shareware; Macintosh shareware; Radio modifications information; VHF technical information

- <nic.funet.fi/pub/dx>

SWL information, SW broadcast schedules; Archives of many newsletters; Mac, Amiga and PC software for DXers.

World Radiosport Team Championship 1995

de Eric, K3NA

(Here is an portion of Informatin Release #1 regarding the 1995 WRTC. For those interested there is an ongoing discussion on the Internet Contest Reflector of the WRTC. .ed)

NOTE: This Information Release provides preliminary information about the second World Radiosport Team Championship. Planning is in a preliminary stage. Some details may be adjusted based on further review.

1. **Time** - The World Radiosport Team Championship 1995 ("WRTC-95") shall be conducted within the 1995 IARU World HF Radio Championship contest ("IARU Contest"). All rules of the IARU contest shall apply to WRTC-95 unless otherwise stated below.

2. **Location**- WRTC-95 shall be conducted in the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area.

3. **Administration, Hosting Organization & Dedication** - At the invitation of the organizers of the first WRTC-90, the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) shall lead the organization of WRTC-95. It is expected that PVRC will include many other clubs and individuals in the organization of WRTC-95.

4. **Competitors** - The competitors shall be two-person teams. Both members of a team shall reside in the same IARU zone.

5. **Special Rules of Competition**

5.1 **Operator class** - Each team shall enter the multi-single mixed mode class of the IARU contest.

5.2 **Stations**

5.2.1 **Radios and antennas** - The Administration expects that the WRTC QTH stations will have similar equipment and antennas. A uniform transmitter power level shall be chosen for all stations. At present an output power within the range of 500-750W is planned, depending on availability of equipment.

5.2.2 **Computers** - Computer logging shall be available at all WRTC QTHs.

5.2.3 **Station assignment** - Each team shall be assigned at random to a WRTC QTH. Assignments shall be made simultaneously for all teams, not less than one week before the start of the contest. Operators shall have access to their assigned station at reasonable hours once assignments have been completed. The Administration shall set uniform hours of access for all stations, taking into consideration the needs of QTH owners and their families.

5.2.4 **Callsigns** - Tests and other operations prior to and after the contest shall use any callsign assigned to the operators and station owner(s) which complies with FCC regulations. Shortly before the start of the contest, each team shall be randomly assigned a callsign for use only during the contest.

5.3 **Logging** - Computer logging during the contest shall be required. The log submission deadline is one hour after the end of the IARU contest period. All teams shall submit their log on a diskette to a referee prior to the log submission deadline.

5.4 **Contest operating period** - It is planned that each team may use the entire permitted operating period of the contest as defined by the contest rules for multi-single stations.

5.5 **Scoring** for WRTC-95 awards purposes - The score of each team shall be calculated in accordance with the contest rules...

6. **Awards** - The top three teams shall receive awards. The Administration may choose to provide additional forms of recognition.