THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

founded 1970

April 1995
Volume XIX
Number 4

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

Announcements

Meeting – The Texas DX Society meets the second Friday of each month, except when the date is changed by the Board of Directors. The April meeting will be **Friday April 21, 1995** ***(see the article below - Surf the Internet's World Wide Web!)*** Visitors are welcome to attend, and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

From the Editor – de Dave, WB5N

If any one sent out material for this Bullsheet by E-mail, my E-mail provider had a system problem that caused much of my E-mail to be lost. If anyone has anything that can still be used please resend it to me at **dsarkozi@phoenix.phoenix.net.**

The Secretary Sez – de Ron, KK5DK

Our fearless leader was under the weather and unable to complete his usual inspirational article by press time, so I'll take these couple inches to make an announcement. Of the voting members who returned their ballots to me by the deadline, by unanimous election, I hereby declare **Madison Jones (AB5TV), Earl Morse (KZ8E), John Godwin (KB5IUA),** and **Mike Hance (KB5YVT)** full members in the Texas DX Society. *Congratulations, guys!*

Surf the Internet's World Wide Web! de Bill (Tuna), K2TNO

The April 21 TDXS meeting is being moved to Friday evening, April 21 so that we can meet at Baylor College of Medicine's computer instruction laboratory and get some hands-on experience with the latest and greatest part of the Internet, the World Wide Web, or WWW. (No, 'LZO, that's not "WWV" with a broken call...). The club's own Dynamic Digital Dynamos of Dullness, KK5DK and K2TNO have arranged for them to use a computer classroom for WWW access. Come to Baylor's DeBakey Building Cell Biology Department Conference Room, M-616 at 7:00 p.m. for the regular (but brief) TDXS Meeting. Then we'll go off through the jungles of the building for the class. There are NINETEEN terminals, so we hope everyone will be able to get to "tune around". Follow the accompanying map. **(see the last page of the *Bullsheet*,** ed.)

QST QST QST: Parking at the meeting site - We have arranged for TDXS attendees to park in an uncovered outdoor parking lot adjacent to the DeBakey Building where the meeting will be. When you enter the campus according to the map, you'll be entering off of Fannin Street, and will pass underneath the University of Texas Health Science Center buildings (where WB5YJN's son trains to do punch biopsies on patients' wallets). You'll soon come to a stop sign at Bertner Street. Turn right, and then make an immediate left into a short driveway that has a barrier gate at both the first opening (that's the EXIT, Kenny... keep driving) and the second opening. The gate will be up from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; before or after that, you will need to park in Garage 4 and pay the Med. Center Parking Troll on your way out. The DeBakey Building is the 9-story sandy-colored building right next to the parking lot. There is a huge, ugly sculpture on the plaza next to the building.

Enter the DeBakey Building by pressing the security buzzer. Identify yourself to the security guard as being here to attend the Cell Biology Conference Room event in M-616. Go inside to the elevators and go upstairs to the sixth floor. As you face the double glass doors, go down the hallway to the left until you come to M616. (HINT: Don't make any wrong turns inside the Baylor Buildings; TRESPASSERS WILL BE EXPERIMENTED UPON!)

There is NO SMOKING permitted in Baylor; however, we will have the usual libations available during the meeting but NOT in the computer room.

One feature of the WWW is that you can easily send articles and files you see to an email address, so be sure you know your own address. We will have a list of sites on the Web for you to explore, but if you have seen any in magazines that intrigue you, write 'em down so you can try them. The addresses you need for the Web all have the general format of http://location/datafile. For example, http://pegasus.ssctr.bcm.tmc.edu/tdxs.html happens to be the TDXS Home Page. See you there...

tuna

Gleanings from the DX Bulletins
de Sharp, K5DX

5T, MAURETANIA. Plans to be to be on up to April 20th as 5T0AS on all bands CW/SSB.

8Q, MALDIVES. DL1IAI will be on April 12-27, 80-10 meters hopefully as 8Q7AI.

V73C. His new QSL manager is N4GAK, Bruce Smith, 15 Henderson Dr., Fayetteville, TN 37334.

FRANZ JOSEPH. RJ1FJL 14014 kHz and RX1OX/FJL 14237 kHz. Both may become silent because of budget constraints.

5R, MADAGASCAR. Qsl routes-5R8EH via DL5UF, 5R8EI via DL2GBT and 5R8EJ via DF5WA.

V3, BELIZE. V31VW will be active through April 24 on 12 and 17 meters; also 21370, 14230 and 28410 kHz. QSL to Vancouver Mountain Radio Club, P. O. Box 1622, Vancouver, WA 98668.

ET, ETHIOPIA. ET3KV on 18117 kHz at 1930z; ET3BT on 14226 kHz at 1915z; ET2AA at 21240 kHz at 1345z.
TJ, CAMEROON. TJ1JB (ex 5X1B) on 14027 kHz at 1930 to 2330z. QSL via KE9A.

XV, VIETNAM. XV5SW via K5ESW has log periodic on high bands but hopes to be active 1827, 3505 and 7012 kHz. soon.

PROPAGATION - de Roy AD5Q

APRIL 1995

As I write this, solar fluxes are in the low 70's as we look for seasonal improvement in the polar windows on 20. There is a big difference between a 70 and a 90 flux, and we can still anticipate periods each month when the numbers are closer to the 90 level. Eventually we will get used to them being in the low 70's most of the time. In any case, we look forward to 20 Meter conditions in late spring because they are the best we will get for the next few years. This is the peak season for night path work on higher frequencies. At the high end of the cycle, this is when 15 becomes an awesome night band. Now it is almost totally dead.

Late April and May is when the evening paths really open up. When fluxes are at rock bottom, the window into deep (southern) Asia is only about a half hour long. Paths to Russia and Siberia become quite reliable. Any improvement in flux will broaden the coverage of this band opening as well as its duration.

Since it is still early spring, 20 closes down soon after sunset unless we get some help from the solar flux. This means DX'ers move back to 40 and 80 for their prime time DX. Signals are weakening on 80, and the shorter nights are effecting the duration of northern latitude openings on 40. The sunrise sweep across Russia and Europe happens earlier in our evening and no longer occurs after midnight. This is when signals
peak.

In the morning we get the other end of the 20 Meter window. There is some day path activity to Europe with good polar conditions to Russia and Siberia. As the season progresses, the gray line will tilt increasingly toward the west and open a nice path to the Far East. Some Asian stations are already workable in the morning, but not in great quantity. We tune for the exotic stuff, ideally zone 26. During the summer, morning signals from BV and VS6 will become quite common.

There is still hope for 15 Meters, but only on days when flux levels rise above the 70's. Openings to Europe are usually marginal. A better day path band is 17 Meters, and many DX'ers are already moving there after the windows close on 20 in the morning. The 30 Meter WARC

band is good to check out for long haul openings in the evening, after 20 dies.

1994 Texas QSO Party Results

K5RC	195,150	TX	#1, #1 TX
KI3L	135,542	TX	#2, #2 TX
K5KG/2	102,195	NJ	#3, #1 NJ
W6UQF	99,004	CA	#4, #1 CA
N2AA	91,004	NJ	#5, #2 NJ
W3DYA	65,890	TX	#6, #3 TX
KB9AMG	59,400	WI	#7, #1 WI
N7JXS	53,631	AZ	#8, #1 AZ
KC5ALW	35,522	TX	#9, #4 TX
K6XO/7	34,850	UT	#10, #1 UT
K4BAI	33,920	GA	#1 GA
W7WMO	26,554	WA	#1 WA
K0YIP	19,278	MO	#1 MO
K9OM	15,888	IL	#1 IL
W7RGL	15,181	WA	
W9HR	14,018	WI	
K5HDU	12,688	TX	
VE9ST	10,251	NB	#1 NB
KC5CP	9135	TX	
K5EC	8174	TX	
KG7OR	7728	NV	#1 NV
KE4QWM	7658	FL	#1 FL
VA3TEE	7378	ON	#1 ON
WK5K	6552	TX	
WB5CRG	6188	TX	
WB5UDA	5412	TX	
W5NR	5280	TX	
K3WWP	5068	PA	#1 PA
W4TYU	4984	TN	#1 TN
K8QLK	4290	MI	#1 MI
AE2T	3528	NY	#1 NY
AE2N	3432	NJ	
N4UOH	2494	NC	#1 NC
WB4RUA	2460	GA	
K0FPM	2268	NE	#1 NE
WB5TPW	1254	LA	#1 LA
K8OV	877	MI	
KB5ZRV	682	TX	
WA3JXW	462	PA	
VE5BCS	416	SK	
AK7J	392	MN	
N5ZIS	266	TX	
KS4S	75	NC	
KB7IUS/5	36	TX	
N5ZR	12	CO	

80M ARRL DX Phone
de Andy GM0ECO

A few observations from this weekends Phone test on 80m - from Bonny Scotland de GM0ECO.

I started on single band 40m but as the Linear gave up after the first hour, I switched to 80m Low Power - that gave me plenty of time to listen to all of the East Coast big guns. Below is a review of how you all sounded.

My antennas were a 4 square (40ft elements, linear loaded) plus a 500ft beverage E/W. Reports are quoted from my S meter (Icom 761) which is a bit non linear (each S unit between 1 and 5 is about 2-3 dB, each one between S5 and S9 is about 4-5 dB).

The first night (Fri./sat) was loud. From 0100z to 0745z, signals were generally S9 from the loud east coast stations on the 4 square. Background noise was only S1 for the first 4 hours but then drifted up to S5 with some line noise towards our sunrise. At first the beverage didn't offer much advantage over the 4 square but came into its own with the line noise.

As I was trying to build a good score, I didn't take any notes the first night but got a good overall impression of the Multi Multis. For the second night (sat/sun) I made notes and the relative strengths seemed to agree with the night before.

For Night 1 then, most east coast stations calling CQ were S9 down to S7. Very few any lower.

Strongest were N2RM, LPL, K1AR and K1RX, all around the S9 plus a little. Everyone else on the east coast was slightly down but no one anywhere near the noise level. Moving in-land, I could hear KS9K (WI) most of the night but only around S2 and also I think KW8N (OH) who spent night on 3805 mainly underneath other stations! (I may have mixed up this call with another OH station).

Surprisingly, K3LR and KC1XX were weaker than usual. LR sounded like they were transmitting from a fish tank - almost auroral but that was before the aurora started. Not the strong crisp audio you normally hear from them. XX sounded a bit mushy as if the compression was wound up too much and again not with the punch I usually hear.

Everyone seemed to change frequencies every 10 mins or so except the weak OH station and N2NU who never moved all night.

Being low power, I couldn't run a frequency (no one could hear me despite you all being 8 S units over the noise level) so it was search and call and call and call and call (whatever happened to pounce?). 40 Qs in 6 hours, that

is until the 35 mins around our sunrise (0702z) and hey presto - I was heard - 80 Qs in 35 mins. I got all the mults in areas 1,2,3,4,8 and 9 with the exemption of VT and DC. The only 5 was TX (two weak stations) and no one else except a few VEs. Whilst the East Coast was very loud, west of the Mississippi was none existent!! After calling KS9K about 100 times over 5 hours, they called me during the sunrise run. VO1MP appeared briefly around sunrise and blew everyone away - but then he's almost next door.

For the second night, the Aurora struck. Signals were very poor, S1-S2 before 0000z so I went to bed. Back on at 0500z and only a bit better. Over the next hour this is the pecking order:

S5 - W4PZV The loudest US station on the second night by at least 1 s unit, until later that is. Good audio. Florida is 280 degrees from here whereas W1,2,3 is more like 290. PJ0B and YW5P were S6 to S7 at this time (they are 265 degrees)

S3 to 4 - W3LPL, N2RM, K1RX, K1ZM. RMs audio great. LPL had a bit of an echo and lacked RMs punch. RX was a bit mushy (compression too high?). On balance RM and RX have it.

S2 to 3 - KC1XX, KQ3V, KM1H, K3LR. XXs audio still a bit mushy, LR slightly improved but still lacked punch, 3V lots of treble but OK. 1H perfect.

S1 to S2 N4ZC, N6BV. Both good audio

By 0600z, band had dropped dramatically with W4PZV and LPL now down to S1-S2 and just in the noise. PZV heard to say to a European he was having trouble with Conditions are quite good but lots of QRN. Here in GM it was no propagation but no noise!!

By 0625, it was still about the same with only the following to be heard.

W4PZV

RM. LPL, RX and K1AR now appearing (all about same). Good audio from AR.

KM1H, K3LR and KF2ET. (ET had a high treble audio but good punch- one of
the crispest signals around)

KQ3V

At 0650z (10 mins to local sunrise) signal rose (RM, LPL reaching S7). But then along came K1JKS. He was loud when he called me and ended up calling CQ at S9 - two S units louder than anyone else! KY1H joined the crowd on S6 with W9LT reaching the dizzy heights of S4. K1KI and K3ANS appeared around the S6 mark. Peak was at 0725z with signals dying away soon afterwards. Unlike the previous night, stations were not moving frequency so often.

Hope the above is of interest. K1JKS wins the award for the loudest signal followed by W4PZV - that was a turn up. I would be interested to find out what antennas everyone was using to try and make some sense out of it.

Turning to antennas, I was surprised how bad my 4 square (full size elements) on 40m played in the first hour. (Great on receive but no good on transmit). Even on 80m low power, I was surprised given how loud the east coast stations were on 80m that I couldn't run more outside of our sunrise period. Was this a function of the Aurora approaching?. I know K3LR was using a 4 square (I think) and was nowhere near as loud as normal. KC1XX was also well below par. We are on the 57th parallel so its difficult when the A index is above 20, but As and Ks of 18 and 2/3 don't usually give so much trouble. On Sunday, 20m was OK - just- with no 15m or 10m.

Roll on 1999. Low power 80m is a blast - for 35 mins a day.

Final score
122 * 28 = 10K SO 80m Low Power
(plus check logs for 160,40 and 20)

Andy
GM0ECO
burns_al@grpr21.dnet.bp.com

Contest DXpedition Register de WB2K, John

The Contest DXpedition Register is now available at **http://www.mordor.com/wb2k**
This will allow anyone instant access to view the planned DXpeditions for the next 12-18 months. I'll do my best to incorporate the information sent to Larry, K3TLX (keeper of the Email version), and any additional information gleaned from DX publications, bulletins, and packetcluster.

Please give it a look. Comments, feedback, suggestions are welcome.

73, John
John A. Ross, IV - WB2K / VE2TJA [Zone 2]
(wb2k@ritz.mordor.com)

Medical Center Map Showing Route to the Cell Biol. Conf. Room, M-616 DeBakey