



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 Chuck, KE5FI

Look for an inspiring Prez Sez next month (.ed)

DX Gleanings – de Sharp, K5DX

3D2, ROTUMA ISLAND. 3D2AG is to be on 80-10 for one month centered around the month of August.

FT5, CROZET. FT5WF to be active during the IOTA contest.

KH0, SAIPAN. KH0N and KH0/JA6IP to be active July 14-17th 80-10 meters.

ZC4, UK SOVEREIGN BASE. ZC4EKY will be active July 2-20th with emphasis on 6 meters.

ZD8Z, ASCENSION ISLAND. ZD8Z will be active July 9-17th CW/SSB all bands.

9M6, EAST MALAYSIA. 9M6/G0OPB to be active July 25 thru August 4. QSL to the homecall.

CY0, SABLE ISLAND. CY0AA is active through July 3rd mainly 6 meters and the WARC bands.

HB0, LIECHTENSTEIN. HB0/PI4TUE active July 7-16th all bands including WARC and 6 meters all modes.

ZS8, MARION ISLAND. ZS8IR CQs around 1145Z, 14195 listening up long path. He has few takers.

J52, GUINEW-BISSAU. J52IM (KC9IM) to be active for the next 2 years 40-10 meters CW and SSB.

KH8, AMERICAN SAMOA. KH8/N50LS to be active CW/SSB for the next 3 years. QSL via AA5BL or direct to Box 8, Pago Pago, AS 96799, USA.

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 next meeting will be on **Thursday July 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Antonio's Flying Pizza at 2920 Hillcroft**, south of Westheimer on the west side of Hillcroft. It has a really big sign out front.

How to Reach Us

On the World Wide Web:

<http://wb5fnd.tech.uh.edu:80/~tdxs/>

On 2 Meters:

147.96/36 MHz

On Packet:

K5WA on 144.950MHz
or

Connect to TDXS95 (144.950MHz) and then connect to K5WA

The TDXS Bullsheet

Field Day, et al

After all these years as a member of TDXS, I finally made it to THE FD site. Enjoyed the 40 m CW and got my feet wet using NA logging. I don't think I lowered the hourly rate too much.

Henry W5HNS

Hi to all. I felt that this past Field Day was one of the best TDXS has ever put on. Yes I did manage to drag the TDXS image down with my feeble effort on 40 cw, but I enjoyed it. We owe a big thanks to NR5M for the motor home. I certainly did work out well, except for the bath I got when I lowered the awning! My TS950SDX handled the load with no protest. Sorry for the balloon flop, but the good news is I saved 3 of them, and we can try next year, but it appears that 75 is not a well populated band for FD. N5RP's vittles sure were good. I'm looking forward to KG5U working the 3am to 5am stint on phone next year!

Jim N5DC

Everyone who was out at the site can see what working together toward a common goal can do. We managed to get the aluminum in the air with plenty of time to solve the problems. The alternative to working together is working alone. Watching Ed WB5IQA put up his tent by himself reminded me of an old Jerry Lewis movie, watching Jerry in action with mechanical things - and I missed the part about the fire ants. It was all great fun. Too bad if you missed it.

Madison AB5TV

The most impressive turnout for any TDXS Field Day ever. Best set up ever too, thanks Butch for bringing out the windmill tripod. We've never had all stations up Friday night.

Dave, WB5N

TQP Final Results – de Henry W5HNS

Here is the way all us Texans fared in TQP96. Also club entry results.

TEXAS STATIONS

WA5DWX	169,538/48
N5DO	129,472/61
WA5DTK	93,370/30
K5RC	55,921/12
KZ8E	45,832/21
K5ZTY	31,878/21
KC5ALW	30,798/21
K0BCN/5	27,384/0
WA5SAJ	22378/31
W5HNS	19,708/21
K5XI	15,708/22

AJ4F	10,191/20
AC5CT	8,510
KB5Z XO	1,950
WB5CRG	1,850
W5NR	1,710
WA5REJ	600
K8CSG	288
KK5DO	275
N5NXS	32
K5WNO	18
KC5TBV	3
N5WIZ	1

TEXAS MOBILES

KI3L	69,160
WA1YIA	21,948
W3DYA	18,306
KG5U	12,852
KK5LO	3,648
N5BA	2,100

QRP

K3WWP/QRP	192/8
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CLUB SCORES

NARS	254,378
TDXS	186,621
WEEKEND WARRIORS	38,967
MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB	15,114
NTCC	8,510
CLEAR LAKE ARC	2,197
GULF COAST HAM CONV	3

Figures following the / sign indicate number of Texas counties worked. Here is how the rest of the world fared.

ARIZONA	
N7JXS	9204/52
CALIFORNIA	
N6MU	63,860/155
W6UQF	57,998/117
IOWA	
WD0EVR	1944/27
KANSAS	
WI0R	560
LOUISIANA	
WA5T WL	6808
MICHIGAN	
AA8AV	15,114
MISSOURI	
AA0NB	84/7
NEBRASKA	
K0OAL	577/16
NEW JERSEY	
AE2N	816
NEW YORK	
VE2EM	2106/54
NORTH CAROLINA	
N4UOH	8379/49

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OHIO	
K8CW	33,669/87
K8MR	10,300/103
PENNSYLVANIA	
WA3HAE	38,967/93
K3WWP/QRP	192/8
W3CSL	152/8
TENNESSEE	
W4TYU	506/22
VIRGINIA	
K4UK	2125/25
MEXICO	
XE3LMV	950/19

Putting the fun back in contesting de Dave Clemons K1VUT

A couple months ago there was a discussion on what it takes to be a top-notch contester. Quite a few of the top ops made some good suggestions, not the least of which was "practice, practice, practice". But what do you do when there are long periods in which no contest interests you whatsoever? For me, this period has often been from the beginning of May through the end of September. During that time period, I usually would rather spend my time working in my very large (and ever increasing) perennial flower garden, or work on the constantly necessary home repairs. But you can imagine what a 5 month layoff does to one's code speed. So, every fall I would have to take a crash course in W1AW practice sessions to get it back. I sometimes wondered how I could avoid this cycle.

Also, I often wondered if I might like to try QRP operation. In the end, I never tried it because I didn't want to buy a QRP rig with a crummy receiver (my TS930s spoiled me) and I didn't want to go through the hassle of using an attenuator with the possibility of stray RF running around my house.

Well, after hearing a few good reports about the new QRP PLUS, I took a chance and bought one. I tried it out for a few QSOs and liked it. So, I decided to try it on the CQ WPX CW contest. I had an absolutely great time! It's been a long time since I've been excited about an average QSO rate of 20 per hour, but doing it with 5 watts and breaking small pileups from time to time certainly brought back some of that old excitement. I had so much fun that I set up a 1B-Battery station all by myself for this Field Day. Now that's a first!

So, I would like to offer this as a possible way to break out of the doldrums for those of you who have been in similar situations. It also can be a way to sharpen some of your contest operating skills. For example, if you've been using an amplifier and big antennas for awhile, you may have gotten a little sloppy in zero beating stations. I know this

was something I noticed when I switched from the high power category to the 100 watt category awhile ago. Again, with the new rig, I noticed that as fatigue was setting in, I was becoming sloppy again. What does QRP have to do with it? Well, don't plan on working anybody with 5 watts in a contest if you're very far off his listening frequency.

Last, but not least, my thoughts on this rig. It cost \$695.00 and my opinion is that it's worth every penny. It has QSK, RIT, XIT, adjustable filters, and a built in keyer. It is not overly sensitive to SWR's over 2:1, although it would normally be good to avoid them with any rig. There are also memories (I don't remember how many) which I use to switch bands. (There are no band switches.) And, best of all, the receiver is not crummy. I found that I could hear many weak stations (i.e., HZ1AB in the middle of the night on 20, YB and JA over the pole just at dawn, etc.). The only complaint I have is that the AGC has problems with adjacent strong signals - not an unusual situation in contests, of course. However, there is a 20 dB attenuator which in almost all cases handled this problem. Now, while I am not normally interested in attenuators in contests, anybody who I can't hear with the 20 dB attenuator on with this receiver is not going to hear my 5 watts anyway.

I will probably not become a hard core QRP contester like AA2U, but I think that using this little rig in some of my less favorite contests will have a positive effect on my serious contesting. So, I offer it to the general contest population as something from which some of the rest of you may also benefit.

73, Dave Clemons

DSP Boxes Summary - de Lee Buller, K0WA

(...from the Contest Reflector)

Ladies and Gentlemen....

Here are some of the comments received concerning my question about DSP boxes:

This is just my opinion, and not worth much, I'm sure! I bought a Timewave, the most expensive one about a year ago, and used it with my OMNI-V. I found that there was no time on CW that the DSP made any difference in copy. The automatic notch worked well on SSB, however. Maybe my situation is different than others, so the response from theirs may be different. I used the Timewave a couple of weeks, then sold it to a satellite buff, where he claims it is terrific. I now have the OMNI-6, and the internal DSP is about as good. Can't see any value in HF operation. If we actually get IF DSP (not at the

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demod level, as in the TS-970), then we can expect a great amount of value, but until then, I'll depend on the old tried & true methods.

Good Luck - de KL7HF

I used the original W9GR DSP (from QST article) for several years, and Dave even programmed a ROM to preferred center frequencies. But now I have the new NIR-12 from JPS. About 3-4 filters working at once, noise reduction, bandpass peak and high/low cutoff. Works great. I recommend it.

73, Larry N6AZE

DSP Blaster(TM)

K6STI's new \$100 DSP Blaster(TM) provides DSP filtering without DSP hardware. DSP Blaster is software that uses your PC and a 16-bit Creative Labs sound card to replace DSP boxes costing hundreds of dollars. DSP Blaster provides high- and low-pass SSB filters, CW/DATA bandpass filters, CW peaking filters, adaptive noise reduction, automatic notch filtering, and automatic gain control. The DSP filters provide sharp cutoffs and low stop bands to eliminate adjacent-frequency QRM. Adaptive LMS noise reduction minimizes background hiss, power-line noise, and audio distortion to make listening much more pleasant.

DSP Blaster displays the received-audio spectrum. Use the display to select filter cutoffs and to obtain insight about the signals you're hearing. It's fascinating to correlate spectral features with the sound of a voice. Use the scope-like waveform display to investigate audio-distortion problems. DSP Blaster draws a system block diagram. Move the mouse cursor over a filter block to display its properties. Click to alter them or to activate the filter.

You can run DSP Blaster by itself, pop it up over another application like a logging program, or hot-key a new filter configuration without switching to it. DSP Blaster requires a 486 or better, math coprocessor, VGA, mouse, and Creative Labs Sound Blaster 16, Vibra 16, or AWE32 sound card ("compatible" cards won't work). The faster your computer, the more filters you can cascade, the sharper their cutoffs, and the lower their stopbands. But even a 486/33 can provide highly effective filtering.

DSP Blaster is \$100. Add \$5 overseas. I accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, U.S. checks, cash, and money orders. E-mail your order to k6sti@n2.net and I'll e-mail a copy of DSP Blaster right back using uuencode, MIME, or BinHex.

Brian Beezley, K6STI
3532 Linda Vista, San Marcos, CA 92069
(619) 599-4962, 0700-1800 PT

k6sti@n2.net

73--Brian, K6STI k6sti@n2.net

I have a timewave 9+ and like it. However, a friend of mine had a timewave 9 and recently purchased the nir-12. He immediately sold the 9 and says the nir unit is far superior. He is using his with an icom 765 with all of the filters and says it is a huge improvement.

73 Wayne KC5DVT ehayes@vnet.ibm.com

I am using the Timewave 59+ and find it to be more useful on CW than on Phone. There are times when the Timewave "lifts" CW signals out of the noise floor that I absolutely would not be able to copy otherwise. I wish I could tell you what it is about the SSB side that makes it less effective. I find that in phone contests I use the DSP much less often than in the CW contests -- usually only for "zeroing in" on a signal which is in the middle of heavy QRM.

Bottom line: Is it worth it? You bet.

Hope this helps. - Jay/K4OGG

I have a Timewave DSP 9+ which I think the world of. There have been many times when the dsp unit will make someone that was marginal, readable. This is especially true when there is a lot of noise. From what I have heard the 9+ is better than the DSP 9 because of agc. Provides slightly more selectivity on cw than my built-in filters but you probably wont want to tune with them selected or call CQ for that matter (not everyone is going to be on freq). They are sharp.

73 de Dave, N0IT

I only have experience with the DSP 9. I bought one a couple years ago. It does get rid of heterodynes well, but it didn't really reduce the noise (QRN). That may be due to the fact that the TS-930s is a relatively quiet receiver already, and my QTH is not all that noisy. I do have occasional high noise on 80 meters, especially in the summer, but I'm not sure any DSP would help with that. The filtering seems to cut out quite a bit, but I found that I preferred my 500 Hz filter in conjunction with the adjustable filter knob on TS-930s over the DSP.

For these reasons I would say that the DSP 9 is probably a good product, but I found that I liked the 930s as is. (By the way, if you really want a DSP 9, maybe we can make a deal...) There are, of course, fancier models out there like the DSP9+.

73, Dave Clemons, K1VUT

I have the Timewave 9+ and used it very much with my TS-830. It really helps to dig around especially on 160/80 for the weak ones. Many times it was the difference

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between copy and no copy. I have since bought a 1000mp and it has superb dsp built in. I am now using the Timewave on vhf for weak signal stuff. For my money the Timewave 9+ is the way to go. The higher end models have too many adjustments but the 9+ is easy to configure and you soon settle on a few good settings. This is what Yaesu did in the mp. You have several choices of filter slopes and peaks and you optimize and then with a touch of a button-BAM it's DSPed!!

Good luck

73 Dan W8CAR

I built the W9GR DSP unit and it works great, I have the Timewave 9+ with the FT-990 and it works wonderful.
Bil AA8GL

I just picked up a JPS NIR-10 DSP Box at a Garage Sale and of course had no paperwork or manual. I have "fiddled" with the knobs but I am not impressed. Would anybody out there have a manual that could tell me the basic settings for this thing and how to tune it etc. Thanks

73 Gary k7ox@usa.pipeline.com

I'm surprised no one has mentioned the DSP kits that are available thru W9GR. I've been using the ten function model for three years now and wouldn't be without it. It is not a cure all but it DOES make operating on noisy bands and in contest situations much more comfortable. One drawback is you gotta put it together yourself, but the price is right (about half of a dsp-9).

73, Bob NW6N

I tried a Rat Shak DSP unit that was on sale a few months ago with my TS-930. To make a long story short, I could find no reason to keep it, so took it back for a refund. It was worse than useless.

Walt, KK6NR

(P.S., for some reason QST liked the Rat Shak unit. I can't figure out why.)

An added advantage of the W9GR model is that it is backed by a nice, honest guy.

Dale E. Long - N3BNA dale.long@internetMCI.com

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Dale E. Long- N3BNA (dale.long@internetMCI.com) 73 Lee Buller

INTERNET Goodies

Contest Software:

<http://www.berkshire.net/~robbins/software.html> DXpeditions: <http://www.algonet.se/~sm7pkk/> PolyPhaser home page:

<http://www.polyphaser.com/> QRO Technologies, Inc.: <http://brutus.bright.net/~qrotec> QSL's (outbound): buro@arrl.org Sun Spots:

http://www.alpes-net.fr/~jL_p_desm/sun.html

Contest Calendar

July, 1996

RAC Canada Day Contest 0000Z-2400Z, Jul 1

World Radiosport Team Champ. 1200Z, Jul 13 to 0600Z, Jul 14

IARU HF World Championship 1200Z, Jul 13 to 1200Z, Jul 14

CQ Worldwide VHF Contest 1800Z, Jul 13 to 2100Z, Jul 14

DIE Contest 0500Z-1300Z, Jul 14

RGSB Low Power Field Day, CW 0900Z-1200Z and 1300Z-1600Z, Jul 14

SEANET WW DX Contest, CW 0001Z Jul 20 to 2359Z, Jul 21

North Amer. QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Jul 20 to 0600Z, Jul 21

RGSB IOTA Contest 1200Z, Jul 27 to 1200Z, Jul 28

August, 1996

European HF Championship 1000-2200Z, Aug 3

ARRL UHF Contest 1800Z, Aug 3 to 1800Z, Aug 4

North Amer. QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Aug 3 to 0600Z, Aug 4

WAE DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Aug 10 to 2400Z, Aug 11

SARTG WW RTTY Contest 0000Z, Aug 17 to 1600Z, Aug 18

SEANET WW DX Contest, SSB 0001Z, Aug 17 to 2359Z, Aug 18

ARRL 10 GHz Cumul. Contest 0800-2000 local time, Aug 17 and Aug 18

North Amer. QSO Party, Phone 1800Z, Aug 17 to 0600Z, Aug 18

WSWSS VHF and Above Sprint 1900-2300 local time, Aug 21

TOEC WW Grid Contest, CW 1200Z, Aug 24 to 1200Z, Aug 25

Utah Centennial QSO Party 1500Z, Aug 24 to 2100Z, Aug 25