



# 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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As this is being written, some of the boys are going down to Laredo to fire up XE2 for the ARRL DX Contest. Not many of us went down. The weather was bad, some had just been down for the CW contest and some, like me, just had to work. I will be doing another single band ten meters effort. You may have heard me grinning on two meters about the poor conditions at this, the bottom of the sunspot cycle. In ARRL CW a couple of weeks ago, I only had a total of 25 QSOs! That's a rate of less than one per hour! If it had not been for the little Pacific run of ZL, VK and ZK toward the end of the contest, I probably would have hung up the single band ten idea until conditions are better. Hopefully, the guys at XE have a better time than that.

Our meeting this month will be in the back room at Antonio's Flying Pizza on Hillcroft between Westheimer and Richmond. We have to move the meeting night to Wednesday in order to get into almost any restaurant. Antonio's has great food, although some of it is a bit pricey. However, for those of us who are cheap, they have a great sandwich menu on the back page of the regular menu. We will be moving about to some extent until we decide on a location we like. Please let me know your comments about the location and the night.

We are reinstating the old custom of a doorprize at each meeting. In order to be eligible to win, you have to wear your TDXS name badge or your TDXS vest. This will also help to identify us to the newer members and the guests. Please don't forget.

Field day is coming up in a few months. I think we need a balls-to-the-wall, all out effort. Maybe two code stations and a SSB station plus the novice/tech and the other stuff. What do you think? Let your ideas be known at the next meeting.

73, Chuck (ke5fi@wt.net)

## 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 **Wednesday March 13 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 Prez Sez – de Chuck, KE5FI**

**INTERNET Goodies**

## The TDXS Bullsheet

The YCCC now has an 'official' www page:  
<http://yccc.ummed.edu/>

K5XI Home Page:  
<http://members.aol.com/k5xi/k5xi.html>

The 59(9) DX Report:  
<http://members.aol.com/the599rpt/dx.htm>

Contest Score Rumors:  
<http://www.akom.net/hamradio/3830>

New DX/Contest Loggin program for MSWindow:  
<http://www.erols.com/pvander>

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### Double Negative Thoughts – de Jim, NN5O

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I hope that '96 is remembered for something other than the presidential campaign, but with no big "spot" numbers and only LU6Z on for a DXpedition as of this typing, Double Negative is how a lot of folks feel about HF these days. Sailors call the equatorial regions the Doldrums when they are beset by calm seas and no wind. At least we have the new excitement of the Internet/WWW in the bad years of the sun's cycle.

So, enough bitchin' and moanin', let's have fun! To this end, your TDXS Board wants to entertain you this year and keep you coming regularly to meetings, not just to get your mandatory 4/year in the log! Soooo, we are planning what we think will be some interesting meeting programs, looking hard for a new meeting place, and considering meetings on nights other than Friday to open up locations and relieve some member conflicts with weekend night meetings. We cannot read minds, however. So your thoughts on program content and ESPECIALLY your interest in assisting with a program will make everyone happier. The Board met a few weeks ago and came up with the following tentative schedule:

#### March

Propagation Software Evaluation and Basics: Starring  
KE5FI

#### April

Field Day Plans and assignments

#### May

Dinner Meeting

#### June

Field Day Activities

#### July

Contest Skills/Contest University I: Starring N5RP et al.

#### August

ARRL/NCDXA videos

#### September

Satellite/SAREX Communications: Starring ??? with  
NN5O assist

#### October

Convention on October 13

#### November

Elections

#### December

Holiday Meeting/Party

### *Please give me feedback on this!*

Each of you should have received a list of all TDXS members with the last Bullsheet. If you are a member, please check your listing details and complete or correct as necessary. My listing was in need of a new e-mail address. We will make every effort, through better meeting programs, follow-up on prodigal members and other tricks to get an enthusiastic bunch at each monthly meeting. Expect the following from now on:

- Door prize for a member wearing a TDXS vest;
- Door prize for a member wearing an official TDXS name tag;
- Door prize to anyone else NN5O likes (maybe).

Winners of the debugging devices at the January meeting were: NN5O (no relation) and K2UA (Yankee go home).

Hoping to hear from you with an idea for a program or with an interest in helping with a program, I remain you ever humble servant

Double Negative 5 Over  
Jim Carmody/nn5o@aol.com  
569 0551

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### DX Quiz – de Jim, N5DC

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Her is a little "pop" quiz for all you rabid DXer's, to kill some time till the sunspot cycle gives you something else to do:

- 1 How many TOTAL countries have appeared on the ARRL Countries list ?
- 2 Of those countries, how many have been deleted? Withdrawn?
- 3 What would your Country count be if you worked them all after April 1, 1996?
- 4 What is the current Countries total, after April 1, 1996

Drop me an answer on email, and I'll see that the winner is recognized in the Bullsheet, and in addition you will receive a pair of 811's, with burned out filaments!

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## The QRPer – de Paul, VE1UK

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We were sitting in the shack, contemplating the Mysteries of the Ages and, if anyone had asked, we were admiring our BS7H QSL. Now that the league had added Scarborough Reef to the DXCC country total, we had to admit to ourselves that the card was a bit brighter looking. We found the colors a bit deeper, the artwork a bit better. It simply was a nicer looking card than it had been a month ago! Son of a Gun! We were pretty sure the card hadn't changed, but it did look different. It almost had taken on a mystical look, capturing our attention for hours at a time. We were starting to think of some of Stephen King's novels when the door burst open and in stomped one of the Local QRPer's!

"Put that card away", the QRPer said, "and stop gloating about it too. There are more serious problems in this world of DX than that! It counts. Now we have to move on to something that's more important." We looked at the QRPer for a moment, then glanced back at the BS7H QSL . . . and to be quite honest, we would rather have looked at the QSL that the QRPer! But, we remembered what our mother taught us about being polite, so we put the BS7H QSL back in the file and turned our attention to the QRPer.

"What's up now?", we asked, "the controversy has settled and it's a great time to be a DXer!" The QRPer drew himself up to his full five and a half feet and glared at us. "No, it isn't", he replied, "it isn't all. The 5A1A problem is far more serious than the BS7H. Where are the QSLs? Why hasn't the league made a decision? I had to pound away for a week just to get a single CW QSO on 20-metres. My cousin, East-Coast Bob, has it worked from 160 through 10-metres! Bob and I need Libya for a new one. Why all the waiting? You, of all people, should see how serious this is. What if it never counts?"

What could we say to such a barrage of questions? We decided to try them one at a time. We knew East-Coast Bob was in a far better location to work 5A than us suffering-sixes. We also knew East-Coast Bob had a tendency to exaggerate his DX successes. So, we simply said "Well, Bob is at least 4000 miles closer to 5A than we are, so don't feel bad that he has it on a few more bands than you do. You've got both JD1s on the low bands and we are willing to bet Bob doesn't. It all balances out." The QRPer looked a little happier, but his scowl soon returned. "OK, so he has better propagation, and I do have it worked, so I guess that's OK, but where are the QSLs?"

This was one we weren't ready to answer so we did a side-step and simply said, "If they don't count it doesn't matter, does it?" The QRPer looked at us for a moment, then replied. "I guess not. But that brings us to the real question! Why doesn't it count? Why hasn't the league

accepted it? You guys who claim to be True-Blue DXers should know these things!", he said, raising his voice and glaring at us with his beady little eyes. "What's the hold up, Buster?!"

At this point we did the only thing we could do. We took the QRPer up the hill to see the Old Timer. He got right to the point and said, "Why doesn't the 5A1A operation count for DXCC?" The Old Timer didn't even turn from tuning his rig. "Because the DXCC desk says it doesn't. And when they say it does, it will." And, with that, he checked in with W2MIG and joined the morning get together on 20-metres. It was clear this was all he was going to say. So we walked back down the hill with the QRPer. "What kind of answer was that?", he asked us. We looked at the QRPer for a moment and said. "Just about the way it is. It one of the Inevitable Truths of DXing. When you understand this, you will know the meaning of DX IS! and become one of the Deserving."

The QRPer looked at us for a moment, then shrugged and walked off, clearly more confused than when he'd dropped by an hour ago. What could we do? There are some who are slow at grasping the true meaning of DX IS! and there are those who never gain full enlightenment. It was hard to tell where this QRPer stood on the road to true understanding. So we went back to the shack and dug out our BS7H QSL again. Somehow it looked even bigger and brighter than before and we were sure Marti was standing in a different spot that he had been an hour ago. Maybe Stephen King is a HAM . . . and maybe he was part of the BS7H team! DX IS!

Best Regards, Paul  
pdunphy@atcon.com

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## DX-PEDITION TO YN2 – de Ed, WB5IQA

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Back about four months ago my wife decided that we should take our next vacation to visit her homeland which she had not visited in 16 years since the fall of the Somoza regime. (Yes that's Nicaragua. I know all you Dxers new where YN was !!) Since the family still owns a small plot of land next to the beach on the Pacific side of the country my brain was in a state of calculation of a potential contest score. Now, many of you might not consider YN that rare but, I cannot remember hearing YN that often during a DX contest.

Of course, things turned out a bit differently. The vacation was scheduled around Christmas time....no contests then. And, the operation was to be from her cousin's house in the City of Granada which is located 45 km of the capital, Managua. A bit of history for y'all. Granada was founded in the 1500's by the Spanish. It is actually the oldest city in the western hemisphere. It was destroyed a number of

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times during various wars, etc. It is still a colonial Spanish town and much slower moving than the capital.

Since we have relatives in the country I started to ask a few questions about obtaining Auna licencia de radioaficionado@. I spoke to my cousin, Luis and made it clear that I preferred to get a callsign from Nicaragua and not a reciprocal call. He obtained information from TELCOR (the licensing authority in Nicaragua for all communication devices mail, etc.). Eventually I was assured that this would be no problem and, sent me a bunch of papers to fill out and return. Most of the information required was as expected. The most unusual requirement was a copy of the bill of sale for the radio to be used. After, getting all the papers sent in the planning really began.

The easiest radio to take was something small and compact. My dad, W2GCX, had a TENTE SCOUT with a few band modules. Then, I purchased the small compact switching power supply to go with it. The biggest problem was an antenna. It turned out that I would operate from the work location which was on a plot of land 35M square. I requested a breakdown of the site to see if I must bring a vertical antenna or not. After reviewing the diagram I decided that I would erect a long wire antenna. Of course I did not know how I would get it up in the air but; as all of the hams I know are creative, I took a big gamble that we could find some bamboo in a tropical country like this.

A trip to the back room at EPO yielded a 1000 ft. roll of # 20 gauge hook-up wire for less than the cost of a lunch in Houston. My old MFJ antenna tuner also went on the list. In the closet I found a small plastic case that was given on one of the overseas airline flights in business class. This held my soldering iron, solder, pliers, and Radio Shack's small, portable digital multimeter. The real missing item was a computer, for logging.

Of course, I needed a case to carry all the goodies as inconspicuously as possible. I was aware that the ARRL recommends NOT taking a radio into any other country unless you FIRST have the license. Well, all the Agiveaways@ in the department stores yielded a plastic carrying case as long as I purchase some cologne. No problem there. After some worrying, and some phone calls and faxes to YN the license was received 10 days before we left. I was faxed a copy and kept it with me. The radio arrived from W2GCX/6 early in December. Now the test. I checked out the rig on the air. With the mini-power supply. No problems. Let's see how this stuff fits in the bag.....Perfect.

On December 18th off we went via Continental direct to Managua. After collecting all the bags, we went through Immigration and to the final inspection point. Uh-oh, they were opening everyone's bags. (I also had thoughts as to whether the wire in the suitcase would raise any flags). By the time we got to unlock the suitcases the personnel were disinterested. How nice, no one even made me open the carry-on so nicely tucked under my arm.

Now the fun really began. I set up the rig in the office building and strung the wire out the window into a tree maybe 50 feet away at an earth-shattering height of 6 feet. I worked a W3 on 20 CW with a 569...not too bad for 50 watts. Then I started to ask the workers about the availability of bamboo. One carpenter said something about some bamboo on a road on the way to the apoyo (that's a water filled lagoon in an old volcano crater). Of course we had to talk to the owner of the land. Off we went the next afternoon to look for the bamboo. Why did I think that the bamboo was for sale in the market? Boy was I off base. We all drove in the pick-up on the main road and turned off towards the lagoon. After about 15 minutes more one of the locals said over there. We parked and sure enough in the distant was a grove of bamboo up the side of a hill. We all walked up there and had them cut down 5 of the tallest stalks we could find.

These were real hefty ones some 2 to 2-1/2 inches in diameter at the base all from 5-6 barras tall (3 feet per barra). After some fancy lashing to the top of the camper we headed back to the office hoping to hit the main road before dark. We made it!

The next day I, with the help of a few locals installed about 200 feet of the wire on the top of the bamboos lashing each one to the concrete fence posts surrounding the property on two sides. Now the fun would begin, I hoped.

I hooked up the antenna to the match-box, grounded everything and tried to load up on 20. Hooray...the SWR was 1.1/1. Each day of the remaining 8 of the vacation I worked about 25-30 stations. Most of the contacts and the best propagation was on 40 CW. 20 meters was tough with only 50 watts and a long wire. Unfortunately the location was very noisy with a power line surrounding the back of the property and one along the main road. The noise blanker in the SCOUT knocked out a little of the noise, but not enough. The noise level was around s 6-7 most of the time. On 40 CW the JONES filter in the scout was fantastic for CW use. Also, with the filter at its narrowest position most of the noise was cut out.

All in all, it was a good starting point for planning another trip with a computer and maybe a vertical antenna to load against the tin roof in the office. The furthest contacts were to JA and one contact to 9K2.

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So, if you guys here YN2EJG during one of the next contests you=ll know its me, WD5IQA. 73 & DX !

EA7KW	263,730	1490	4470	59
O18BQT	45,717	311	933	49
GM0IIO	12,006	138	29	
K8GL	335,160	1176	95	

Scores

SSB January Sprint, collected from 3830 by WX3N

- Top 10 -			
K6LL/7	14,805	315 x 47	
VE7NTT	13,662	297 x 46	
K4VX/0	13,554	251 x 54	WX3N
AA5RB	12,784	272 x 47	
N8SR/6	11,684	254 x 46	
W0UA	11,610	258 x 45	
K7UP/5	11,438	266 x 43	
KW8N	10,604	241 x 44	
KJ6HO	10,578	246 x 43	
A17B	10,191	237 x 43	
W5ASP	10,105	215 x 47	
- some calls deleted -			
W5NN	9,576	228 x 42	KB5YVT
NM5M	8,979	219 x 41	low pwr
KZ8E/5	5,236	154 x 34	

February CW Sprint, collected from 3830 by WX3N

High Power - Top 10			
N6TR/7	16,309	347 x 47	
K5GN	15,386	314 x 49	
KR0Y/5	15,300	306 x 50	
K5GA	15,141	309 x 49	
WN4KKN/6	14,993	319 x 47	
K6LL/7	14,592	304 x 48	
N2IC/0	14,490	315 x 46	
K4VX/0	14,400	300 x 48	WX3N
N8SR/6	14,208	296 x 48	
K1KI	14,050	281 x 50	
- other scores -			
AD5Q	12,878	274 x 47	
K7UP/5	11,025	245 x 45	KN5H
K5ZD/1	9,541	203 x 41	
W5ASP	9,348	228 x 41	

LOW POWER - Top 10

NM5M	13,230	270 x 49	
N0AX/7	11,500	250 x 48	
K7SS	10,215	227 x 45	KH6. Cliff
K6XO/7	9,890	215 x 46	
WX9E	9,328	212 x 44	
W9WII/4	9,234	160 x 57	57?!!!
WQ5L	9,116	212 x 43	
WA2SRQ	8,820	196 x 45	
KB8N/5	8,610	210 x 41	
AB4RX	8,241	201 x 41	
KZ8E/5	7,503	183 x 41	
- other scores -			
W5NN	2,560	80 x 32	KB5YVT

ARRL DX CW CONTEST 1996  
RAW SCORES Compiled by WA4ZXA

CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	PTS	DX
SINGLE BAND - 20M				
ZF2NE	432,411	2443	7329	59 (op W5ASP)

MULTI/SINGLE

VP2EN	3,580,000	4255	281
V31EV	3,533,904	4268	12804
XE2KB	2,983,725	3725	11175
TM9C	1,822,464	2688	226
G0VZ	1,129,956	1972	5916
			191

Contest Calendar

- ARRL International. DX Contest, Phone  
0000Z, March 2 to 2400Z, March 3
- RGSB Commonwealth Contest, CW 1  
200Z, March 9 to 1200Z, March 10
- Bermuda Contest  
0001Z, March 16 to 2400Z, March 17
- BARTG WW RTTY Contest  
0200Z, March 16 to 0200Z, March 18
- Russian DX Contest  
1200Z, March 16 to 1200Z, March 17
- CQWW WPX Contest, Phone  
0000Z, March 30 to 2400Z, March 31
- EA WW RTTY Contest  
1600Z, April 6 to 1600Z, April 7
- Japan International DX Contest, 20-10m  
2300Z, April 12 to 2300Z, April 14 Int.
- HF GridLoc Contest  
1200Z, April 13 to 1200Z, April 14
- ARRL 144 MHz Spring Sprint  
1900-2300 local time, April 15
- EU Spring Sprint, SSB  
1500Z-1859Z, April 20
- SP DX RTTY Contest  
1200Z, April 20 to 2400Z, April 21
- ARRL 222 MHz Spring Sprint  
1900-2300 local time, April 23