



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

I am writing this just after the CQWW SSB contest. I did a single band 10 meter entry as K5XI from Sid's place. Boy, that 8 element beam at 240 feet plays well! I worked 15 JAs on long path Sunday morning from 1348 to 1400. I had Marion Island (which I have never before worked) dupe me! Overall, conditions were not as good as last year, but I ended up with 58 countries which was a higher total than last year. I got no Europe though.

Please try to enter as many of the contests as possible and turn in a log marked "Texas DX Society." There are club aggregate categories in almost all the big contests now.

I will see you at Antonio's Thursday evening. Please try to bring a friend.

Chuck, KE5FI
(The Ten Meter Man)

Contest Time – de Rich, K5WA

Yes folks it's officially fall, and the 96-97 contest season is upon us. No teams were submitted for TDXS in either the CW or SSB sprints Why? Because only 3 people seemed to have any feelings about a team. 1 no, 1 inquiry yes, and 1 late yes. To get 5 member teams for the NAQP events in August was akin to pulling teeth, and I'm not the member licensed to do that, so don't expect it. The next few events don't require pre-registration, all you have to do is get on, have fun and send your log in with the club affiliation filled in with TDXS. Simple enough for all of us. The key is your wanting to see the club aggregate score for TDXS and wanting to contribute to it. This score is a club score, and as such all members scores are needed, the big guns as well as the 'lil pistols. This is what got us a few gavels in the past, not just the big boys, but the whole club contributing. The major contests are as follows:

CQWW-Phone	October 26-27	0000Z-2359Z
Sweepstakes-CW	November 2-4	2100Z-0300Z

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 November meeting will be on **Thursday November 14, 1996 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

Sweepstakes-SSB November 16-18 2100Z-0300Z
CQWW-CW November 23-24 0000Z-2359Z
ARRL 160 December 6-8 2200Z-1600Z
ARRL 10 December 14-15 0000Z-2359Z

The DX contests are a good way for those of us that don't have them all worked, on all bands, to pick up a few new band countries being realistic, our location is not the best for winning a DX contest, but you can still have fun. There is an assisted category, that will let you stay connected to the cluster and utilize it for getting yours and the club's score higher.

Have fun in CQWW-Phone, but don't burn yourself out cause SS-CW is the following weekend, and you can do a lot better with a modest station in sweepstakes. The 3 gavel TDXS has won were all done in SS. You operate 24 out of 30 hours and only have to work people in the 78 (yes 78 this year) ARRL/CRL sections, so your antennas do not need aircraft warning beacons to be effective.

So please support your club's aggregate score for SS by keeping the first and third weekends in November free for some SS fun. Check out the rules in the October QST, and choose which contest logging software to use (they all do SS nowadays). If I get the feeling that more than a handful of testers are left in TDXS, I'll talk about the rest of 1996 in the November Bullsheet and the November meeting.

DX Gleanings – de Sharp, K5DX

5T5, MAURETANIA. JA1UT/5T5 along with JA1UPA and JR0CGJ to be active one week starting November 6th. Qsl JA1UT.

FH, MAYOTTE. FH/F6HWU to be active 11/9 to 11/27 mostly on CW.

OX, GREENLAND. OX3IPA is active through 11/16 mostly on CW. Qsl via OZ5AAH.

XZ, MYANMAR. XZ1N expedition is to be active 11/15 through 11/25 good antennas all bands. Their web site is: <http://www.getnet.com/~kf7ay/myanmar.html>

ZK3, TOKELAU. ZK3YA (F3YA) will be active for the next 3 years. Yvette will be on as much as 6 hours a day.

5V5, TOGO. 5V5A (Voodoo Contest Group) will be active on all bands in the contest (WWDX CW) 11/24-25.

JD, OGASAWARA. JQ1SUO/JD1 to be active on Japanese frequencies all bands CW and SSB 12/16 through 1/3/97. QSL to CBA.

7P, LESOTHO. 7P8/G4FUI is on CW/SSB until 12/1. QSL home call.

Credit OP/DX bulletin for most of these.
73, K5DX.

Callsign Changes – de Dave, WB5N

Several TDXS members have new callsigns. Here is a summary of those I knew of at press time.

Dennis, K7VB was AA7VB, KZ5M

Earl, N5TU was KZ8E

Mike N5MT was KC5CP

Madison W5MJ was AB5TV

Mike K5UO was NS7Z, AA5NK

Hi from lotus land... – de Tuna, K2TNO

Life going OK here; I am extremely QRL. Finally have a house and the back yard is done... I unpacked the first of the radios the other day, and now must find a time to put up the shelving for them in the downstairs "TNO fun-room". I got my shop constructed out in the garage, so I also now have a place where I can do a few odd jobs when needed.

Meg and I are going deer hunting Nov 22-26, and then coming to Houston for Wed-Thu-Fri-Sat and Sun of turkeytime week. Will be staying at the Marriott down by the Galleria (I think) and will try to remember this trip to bring the HT so I can yak at you guys and perhaps arrange an eyeball QSO.

I miss the TDXS gang a lot; have never even installed my two-meter rig in the car since never heard anyone worthwhile on Two with my HT anyway!

Phyllis took the bar exam in August, and should know by Thanksgiving if she passed so she can become a breadwinner again.

Meg is a freshman at Vanderbilt, doing very well in her courses and enjoying the time a lot. Her biggest problem turns out to be a "wild" room mate. So, Meg is getting to see the seamier side of university life early in the year.

California is fun, now it is burning up... we live on the edge of a canyon in LaJolla. I keep watering the area around our place. It is fairly humid from fogs at our place near the coast, so we are hopeful that the land won't get torched.

Congratulations

Larry Vehorn has received his 160M DXCC certificate

Just in Time for Christmas – de, Bob N5ET

If you're looking for the perfect gift, just note the big circle around this add that your OM has left on the coffee table. TDXS Club Vests, lovingly hand made by the sister of KE5TF, Linda. Just \$30.00 Call 363-0209

TDXS Outgoing QSL Service – de Dale, KG5U

The Texas DX Society offers an outgoing QSL service to TDXS'ers who are also ARRL members. Simply sort (per the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service instructions elsewhere in this issue) and bundle your outgoing cards, attach a recent QST mailing label, and bring them to the next TDXS meeting, deliver to me, or make arrangements to drop them off on me on my next trip to/through Houston. This service saves members the shipping cost and \$3/lb fee the ARRL charges.

73,
Dale, KG5U

THE ARRL OUTGOING QSL SERVICE

Note: The ARRL QSL Service should not be used to exchange QSL cards within the 48 contiguous states.

One of the greatest bargains of League membership is being able to use the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service to conveniently send your DX QSL cards overseas to foreign QSL Bureaus. Your ticket for using this service is proof of ARRL Membership and just \$3.00 per pound. For those not quite so DX active (sending 10 cards or fewer), enclose \$1.00. You can't even get a deal like that at your local warehouse supermarket! And the potential savings over the substantial cost of individual QSLing is equal to many times the price of your annual dues. Your cards are sorted promptly by the Outgoing Service staff, and cards are on their way overseas usually within a week of arrival at HQ. Approximately two million cards are handled by the Service each year!

QSL cards are shipped to QSL Bureaus throughout the world, which are typically maintained by the national Amateur Radio Society of each country. While no cards are sent to individuals or individual QSL managers, keep in mind that what you might lose in speed is more than made up in the convenience and savings of not having to address and mail QSL cards separately. (In the case of DXpeditions and/or active DX stations that use US QSL managers, a better approach is to QSL directly to the QSL manager. The various DX newsletters, the GOLIST QSL manager directory, and other publications, are good sources of up-to-date QSL manager information.)

As postage costs become increasingly prohibitive, don't go broke before you're even halfway towards making

DXCC. There's a better and cheaper way -- "QSL VIA BURO" through the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service!

How To Use The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service

1) Presort your DX QSLs alphabetically by parent call-sign prefix (AP, C6, CE, DL, ES, EZ, F, G, JA, LY, PY, UN, YL, 5N, 9Y and so on). NOTE: Some countries have a parent prefix and use additional prefixes, i.e., CE (parent prefix) = XQ, 3G,.... When sorting countries that have multiple prefixes, keep that country's prefixes grouped together in your alphabetical stack. Addresses are not required. DO NOT separate the country prefix by use of paper clips, rubber bands, slips of paper or envelopes.

2) Enclose proof of current ARRL Membership. This can be in the form of a photocopy of the white address label from your current copy of QST. You can also write on a slip of paper the information from the label, and use that as proof of Membership. A copy of your current Membership card is also acceptable.

3) Members (including foreign, QSL Managers, or managers for DXpeditions) should enclose payment of \$3.00 per each pound of cards or portion thereof--approximately 150 cards weigh one pound. A package of only ten (10) cards or fewer sent in a single shipment costs only \$1.00. Please pay by check (or money order) and write your callsign on the check. Send "green stamps" (cash) at your own risk. DO NOT send postage stamps or IRCs. (DXCC credit CANNOT be used towards the QSL Service fee.)

4) Include only the cards, proof of Membership, and fee in the package. Wrap the package securely and address it to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service, 225 Main Street, Newington CT 06111.

5) Family members may also use the service by enclosing their QSLs with those of the primary member. Include the appropriate fee with each individual's cards and indicate "family membership" on the primary member's proof of Membership.

6) Blind members who do not receive QST need only include the appropriate fee along with a note indicating the cards are from a blind member.

7) ARRL affiliated-club stations may use the service when submitting club QSLs by indicating the club name. Club secretaries should check affiliation papers to ensure that affiliation is current. In addition to sending club station QSLs through this service, affiliated clubs may also "pool" their members' individual QSL cards to effect an even greater savings. Each club member using this service must also be a League member. Cards should be sorted "en masse" by prefix, and proof of Membership enclosed for each ARRL member

MSD-235 (0596)

Recommended QSL Card Dimensions

The efficient operation of the worldwide system of QSL Bureau requires that cards be easy to handle and sort. Cards of unusual dimensions, either much larger or much smaller than normal, slow the work of the Bureaus, most of which is done by unpaid volunteers. A review of the cards received by the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service indicates that most fall in the following range: Height = 2-3/4 to 4-1/4 in. (70 to 110 mm), Width = 4-3/4 to 6-1/4 in. (120 to 160 mm). Cards in this range can be easily sorted, stacked and packaged. Cards outside this range create problems; in particular, the larger cards often cannot be handled without folding or otherwise damaging them. In the interest of efficient operation of the worldwide QSL Bureau system, it is recommended that cards entering the system be limited to the range of dimensions given. [Note: IARU Region 2 has suggested the following dimensions as optimum: Height 3 1/2 in. (90 mm), Width 5 1/2 in. (140 mm).]

Additional Information

When sending cards to Foreign QSL Managers, make sure to sort these cards using the Manager's callsign, rather than the station's callsign.

SWL cards can be forwarded through the QSL Service.

(Questions or comments about the QSL Service may be directed to Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, (860) 594-0724, or via email: buro@arrl.org.)

Packet Cluster Update – de Rich K5WA

Thought it was a good time for the club to get an update on the cluster system and the club's node. In the Houston area we still have KE5IV - Hempstead, KC5SC - LaMarque, and K5WA - SW Houston as nodes. We are trying to keep the nodes linked without using any third parties and we are getting there, but with limited support by users and TDXS it is a slow process. Over the summer one node was down for several weeks due to lack of user support, both financially and spot wise, and some burnout. The TCAPS group (formerly HAPRS) also has had it's share of both burnout and lack of support. Their changes have made KE5IV a hard node to stay linked to. KC5SC has revamped his node to 1 VHF users port, an INTERNET link to WU3V (and beyond), and a UHF port to link to me. TDXSU has been added as a digi to hopefully help Kenny, Bobby, and myself stay linked. This digi is basically compliments of N5DC, as is TDXS95, and I feel we need to change that. The club needs to be the responsible body for both digis and those users that are not club members should not be getting a free ride. It's been the free ride syndrome that has caused the TCAPS

reorganization and site changes, as well as the demise of HAPRS before them. The cluster software does have the capability to be a subscribers only node, but I'm not sure we're quite ready for that. The "pass the hat" method of financing has some merit, but is not really the solution. We as a club need to sponsor the nodes that are TDXS nodes and digis, and even think about some support to KC5SC, cause without his INTERNET link it would be real slowwww.

The system is functioning, and hopefully getting away from any dependence on third parties. The KC5SC to K5WA link has been moved off of the TCAPS UHF frequency, and is working as either a direct link or through TDXSU. The 144.95 users port has TDXS95 at almost 700 ft. downtown, to aid you're getting in. If you feel you get dropped excessively, it may be time to get rid of the rubber duck and aim a 3-4 el. yagi at TDXS95. (HINT-if you have entered your location i.e. your lat/long you can do a "SH/STA WB2UFG" and the cluster will tell you where to aim your yagi and how far you are from TDXS95. Use my current call and you can aim direct). My mast climbing volunteer hasn't made it yet so omni directional we're not, and the tower sections, that were voted on by the club, to be used to help the node/my antennas got sold last year, so-we're not quite there yet. The most current revision of the packetcluster software has let us filter out spots from nodes in selected countries. If individual users are connected to a US node, their spots will still come through, but we have trimmed the amount of DX spots from the DX to what I feel is a better level. So there is some food for thought for all of you, and hopefully our 3 local sysops will get a chance to all be in the same room during the convention and talk about the cluster system or retirement.

INTERNET Goodies

Current Solar Flux and a values

<http://www.sel.noaa.gov/forecast.html>

Current K index along with plots of X-ray flux and geomagnetic field activity

<http://www.sel.noaa.gov/today.html>

Telnet Access to DX Packets Clusters

<http://cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/Misc/cluster.html>