



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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members and \$12.50 for associate members who live more than fifty miles from Houston.

Banquet

Annual TDXS Banquet at Wyndham Warwick, 5701 Main Street Saturday, January 25, 1997. Cash bar at 6:30 dinner at 7:30ish. **Please get your reservations and \$15.00 per member and guest to Madison Jones (plus your dues) my pronto!**

From the Editor – de Dave, WB5N

Greetings and welcome to the start of my third year as editor of *The Bullsheet*. Starting with this edition I'm going to try something new. Electronic distribution. For sometime I've been sending out an e-mail edition of *The Bullsheet* known as the *E-Bullsheet*.

Starting with this edition I'm going to try and send out *The E-Bullsheet* early. If when you get it and your satisfied with just the electronic copy then reply to the message and tell me not to mail you a copy. If you want your hard copy by mail do nothing I'll mail it in about 3 days, most will get their hard copy about 4 days after the *E-Bullsheet*.

As always I want you contributions to the *Bullsheet*. I'm the editor not the author. The deadline is usually the first of the month but if you contact me before the deadline usually arrangements can be made to hold space for your contribution. My telephone number and e-mail address are on the masthead. I prefer to get contributions electronically but will take things in just about any format, mail, clipping, and fax.

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 January meeting will be annual TDXS Banquet. See the Announcement below.

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

Its That Time of the Year – DUES!

Its time to pay up! **All members need to pay their 1997 Dues to Madison, W5MJ.** 1997 Dues are \$25.00 for full

The Prez Sez – de Bob, N5ET

And I thought I could rest one more month. Here I was, thinking that my duties would start with the passing of The Jaw Bone, But little did I know that there was some space reserved for me in the January issue of the Bullsheet.

The TDXS Bullshead

First off, I would like to take this time to thank all who worked this past year to make our club one to be proud of. Let's all try to make this year, 1997, a banner one for the club.

I'd like to thank those that have stepped forward and volunteered their time and expertise to help in the coming year. As you know, we have been without a repeater chairman for a while. Other than a little bit of noise on windy days, the two repeaters have been acting good. For that we can give thanks to N5DC. Jim has been the guardian of the machines, and the one we all call on when there is a problem. So just to make it official, I was very pleased when Jim offered to be our Repeater Chairman for '97. Thanks Jim. A large thank you too is extended to W5ASP. Joe wants to help the club with his efforts and expertise in the contesting arena. He has already been active in that mode via the TDXS INTERNET reflector, getting the teams together for NAQP and stirring up some club interest. Welcome Joe as our new Contest Chairman. The third member of club to step forward is also our newest member. I can think of no one more qualified to take up the mantle of DX Chairman than N5UR, Buzz. With his input this coming year, who knows what interest you might develop. And no Henry and Madison, with all his activities, QRP isn't one. But I know we'll hear about IOTA, WABA, and just about anything else going on in the DX department. Thanks Buzz. The only blank spot in our masthead now is that of Field Day Chairman. What an opportunity! Just think, you could get your name up there for a year, and have the fun and excitement on getting our butts in gear come June for another fun filled and maybe record setting effort. Think about it. All in all, I'm looking forward to a great year. One with lots of fun, enjoyment, some improvements in the sunspots, moving up the ladder in the contest results, just a great '97..

Let's also keep our eyes and ears open for possible new members. I'm sure there are some out there with an interest in contesting and or DXing. Lets get em to some of our meetings and make them feel welcome. Be it on the repeaters or at one of our monthly meetings just remember, this person might just be the one who would LOVE to put up towers, (hand crank that is) on a hot afternoon in June, just outside of Brenham! Hey, they might even be younger than us. With that, let me wish all a very Happy New Year, and may you get that last one you need, to fill out whatever award you've been chasing. Hope to see you at the banquet on the 25th. It promises to be lots of fun. 73 and 72 (that's for the QRP'ers) See, we're already learning something new for '97..

Bob, N5ET

Tale of Woe – de Bob, W5SJS

Ace Ventura, Claims Manager
Reliable Insurance Companies
123 Main Street
New York, New York 10001

Re: My claim of September 31, 1996

Dear Mr. Ventura:

You inquired about my putting "poor planning" in Block 28 of the claim form as the cause of my accident. I am glad I now have the opportunity to more fully explain the incident, so that you will not reject my claim.

I am an amateur radio operator and was working on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools, equipment, and spare hardware. Rather than carry the materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items using a pulley which I had previously attached to the top of the tower to assist in raising these materials.

After securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools into a wooden barrel weighing about 20 pounds empty, but big enough to hold all the tools and equipment. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools.

You will note in Block 11 of the accident report that I weigh 155 pounds. Due to my surprise in being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forget to let go of the rope. I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level of the tower, I met the barrel coming down. The explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone which I listed in Block 23 of the report.

Slowed only slightly by the impact, I continued my rapid ascent up the tower, not stopping until the fingers of my right had were two knuckles deep in the pulley which I mentioned in the second paragraph of this letter.

At that point, I regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground, and the bottom popped out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools and equipment, the barrel now weighed 20 pounds (see paragraph three of this letter). I refer you again to my weight in Block 11 of the accident report.

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As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body shown in Block 23. The encounter with the barrel on this occasion slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and equipment such that I only cracked 3 vertebrae. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay on the tools in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel now approximately 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope.

Sincerely,

Mexico Bound – de Dave WB5N

Two trips to Mexico are being planned for ARRL DX, CW (February 15 and 16, 1997) and Phone (March 1 and 2, 1997). During the CW operation an emphasis will be placed on getting all the antennas into shape (although don't think we won't be operating to win!). Henry, W5HNS has donated a TH6 which Earl, W5TU is getting into shape. That will replace the old Wilson 33 that's there now at 50 feet. Bob has worked over the resonators on the 2 element 40 and we will get that back up in the air and rule 40 meters. There is some work we should do for 15 and 10 too, and better receive antennas need to be built for 80 and 160. Even if your not a CW op, we sure could use your help.

Why all the work? Well here's the best part...

The 1997 TDXS Reunion!

Yes you read that right, we're going to have a reunion of anyone who every was a part of TDXS in Mexico. Everyone is invited. March 1-2, 1997 during the phone contest. With luck all the antenna work will be done and all we will have to do is win the contest and hang with the guys from CRANTAC. Contact either myself (713-520-5906, dsarkozi@infocom.net) or Earl, W5TU (281-356-2128, kz8e@.WT.NET)

Let's make this BIG. If you want to fly into Larado we'll figure out to get you to the ranch. If lots of guys make it we will have to figure out better sleeping arrangements. There are beds for 5 there, I'm willing to sleep on the floor. I don't see why some couldn't stay on the US side of the border and drive into the ranch. It would be about a 30 minute drive I guess if there was no holdup at the bridge.

As usual for both operations the main group will leave Houston after work on Thursday night before the contest and make the drive down to Larado and stay the night in a motel there. Friday morning we'll cross the border and get

to work on the antennas and set up for the contest. We'll leave Monday morning and make a leisurely drive back to Houston.

DX – de Sharp, K5DX

From the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin:

9G, GHANA. 9G1BQ (PA3GBQ) will be active from February 1 through March 8 all bands. He will work the ARRL CW CONTEST possibly with a special contest call.

H4, SOLOMON ISLANDS. H44MS (DL2GAC on SSB) and **H44/DK9FN (DK9FN on CW)** will be active in February for at least two weeks.

PJ9, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES. PJ9JT (W1BIH) will be active mostly CW January 8 through March 30. Qsl via W1AX.

VK0, HEARD ISLAND. This expedition hopes to land on Heard Island January 12 and hope to be set up and operating for two weeks about two days after landing. They will try to operate one day from Kerguelen Island on the way back to Reunion Island. I hope every one who needs them works them.

Sharp, K5DX

More ARRL Contest Rules Changes de Jim, N5DC

First, the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee and the ARRL Awards Committee have voted in favor of a change in rules for the ARRL VHF and UHF contests. Rules have prohibited the use of repeaters or repeater frequencies on 2 meters, for the purpose of soliciting contacts. The change removes on 2 meters from the rules, thus prohibiting the use of all repeaters and repeater frequencies regardless of the band.

Second, club winner certificates for the five ARRL contests with Club Competition, will now be administered by the participating clubs. This allows the clubs to choose their own most valuable players. In the past, the certificates issued from ARRL HQ went only to top-finishing (unassisted - multiband) single operators for each club.

Third, the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee and the ARRL Awards Committee have voted in favor of no change in the ARRL 160-Meter Contest exchange. The votes defeated a proposal that would have added power level to the exchange.

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Contest Corner – de Joe, W5ASP

The 1997 contest season is here. For TDXSers I hope it will be prove to be a successful year, and provide a lot of fun for those of us who enjoy contesting.

As Contest Chairman I'll do what I can to keep everyone informed and active. First let's set some ground rules for TDXS contesting this year.

1. Anyone who has ever been a member of the TDXS is still a member when it comes to participating in contests. (For ARRL contests there are some variations on this theme, but that's my job to sort out.)
2. Any TDXSer who makes even a single contact during a contest should submit a log. And... CLEARLY MARK it as "TDXS" for the club affiliation. No log is too small to help out. If you need software for the contest, help in scoring your log, directions for submitting your entry, etc. let me know! I'll even send 'em in for you, it that will help.
3. Certain events, e.g. NAQP and Sprint, are "Team" events. If you are on a TDXS team (I will make sure you know what and when) you are expected to make a honest effort and to submit your log on time. If you can't operate, let me know, even if it's at the last minute. I'll try to get a replacement. (If you don't show up for the contest or fail to send in your log, I trust you will personally apologize the other team members for the harm you've done to their effort.)
4. There will be several "Club" efforts this year. Now that DXpedition scores can be included in the club totals we ought to be able to put together something interesting for ARRL DX. (As soon as the gang going down to XE get their plans set, we'll get the word out and get set up for a major effort.) Also, EVERYONE should count on operating SS this year... we're getting back in the "gavel grabbing" business!
5. Finally, we're going to resurrect an old "tradition". ALL TDXS members who are not actively contesting... are going to work those who are... Simple isn't it?

NAQP CW is Saturday, Jan. 11th, noon to midnight. NAQP phone is the next weekend. TDXS will have several 5 man teams entered. If I haven't contacted you and you want to be on a team, get hold of me ASAP. Sprint phone and CW (10 man teams) are the first and second weekend of Feb. (The same comments as for NAQP apply.) CQ WW 160 is probably out of reach for most, so we'll confine our Club effort to helping out those who do manage to get on... yeah, load up the feed line and work 'em!

I will try to keep in contact via E-mail (w5asp@aol.com), the TDXS Reflector (tdxs-list@wb5fnd.tech.uh.edu), the TDXS (K5WA) PacketCluster (via TDXS95 @ 144.950 MHz), and the Bullsheet... IN THAT ORDER! If you have an Email address, be sure it's up-to-date with Jim, N5DC (our current keeper of the "Book of Numbers"). I also have a phone/answering machine (713-974-7495). Don't hesitate to use it.

Some ARRL 10 Meter Contest Results

SOP/HP SSB

ZL1ANJ	29	109,076	737	1474	48	26
GW6J (GW0GEI)	34	10,880	170	340	0	32
GM0ECO	48	6,100	122	244	0	25
ZS9C	3	4,408	77	152	0	29

K5XI (KE5FI)	34	221,340	1302	2604	52	33
W5KU (WB5N)	22	96,968	713	1426	46	22
WA0ETC		78,202	641	1282	41	20
KQ4HC		75,126	659		41	16
K1AM	15	73,680	615	1228	46	14
W0SD		62,336	487		45	19
KQ4GC	10	56,700	525	1050	41	13
W8KKF	16	35,934	339	678	42	11
VE6JY	16	10,560	160	320	20	13
N9ITX/7	22	5,808	121		11	13
N5KB	3	2,040	51	102		20

Logging - Round 2, DX and some History de Ed, WD5IQA

Well here we all are again at a new year and coincidentally a new sun-spot cycle. Yes, anything is better than the last year or two. This is a second in my series of write-ups on logging programs. You-all might remember about a year plus ago I wrote about the use of Hyperlog, Well this is about another easy logging program I stumbled on a few weeks ago. First a bit of background.

As my om. W2GCX, ex /4, ZL0AAG and W2GCX/ZL has finally relocated permanently to W2GCX/6 in the desert; I was visiting up north last year and assisting to clean out before the big move. He was preceding to trash a pile of old log books. What ? the dxers say. I volunteered to recover them and in the process to computerize them for him. Also, to prove that he had worked in excess of 100 countries since 1938ish in college. P.S. I can't find any of his old QSL's including many KC4s from the fifties. I also have many recollections of my early years with the cackling from the radio with accents from Australia and other places as far back as 1955. Yes my OM was on SSB way back then... and even a quad constructed of

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bamboo in those days. So you can see how this hobby got into my blood !

Anyway, I needed a simple program to punch in all the contacts. Since I was going to have some surgery in December of '96 I knew I would have some "chair-time" at my disposal. Hyperlog is too complicated for this exercise. I only needed to be able to enter the contacts and have it count DXCC countries; no real interest in states, zones, IOTA or other awards was needed. So I took a look at all the files on the QRZ Ham Radio CDROM...the JAN 1996, Vol. 6 that I had been using for getting addresses, labels, etc.

I first looked at logeqf60. This was version 6.0 of the N3EQF program. Unfortunately, the copy on the CD was a demo only. I looked at a few others; but they required Windows to operate. Yes, I have windows on the machine being used to write this article. But remember, I was going to be laid up and would use my logging laptop which is a 386SX (with coprocessor thanks to EPO). Heaven forbid a 386...old technology, ancient history. Well, for just running CT and other DOS software and being portable it's just fine.

I finally settled on OH1AA which was stored as OH1AA640.ZIP. This program is written by OH1MIE and distributed and used by the OH1AA club in Finland and distributed as shareware (They ask for a \$10 donation which isn't bad considering the amount the program can accomplish). I loaded this down to the computer, unzipped it and gave it a whirl. It's a simple program with windows showing only basic needed information such as call sign, frequency, mode, time, date signal reports and a spot for notes. You can turn on and off automatic time and date entry which is certainly useful when adding older QSOs. Changing mode and frequency is accomplished with function keys F3 and F4. They also have subsidiary programs to handle qsling and a larger system for QSL managers. A neat item included is a setup string to define your own QSL label. When looking at the total log entries you can review it in either the alphabetic or by date sort; that's real handy. They include instructions in Finnish and of course English.

OH1TOOLS.EXE is file manager which reads files from other common formats such as ASCII, CT, NA and, *DBF (for W2DND's log format).

To make a long story short, I began with logs in 1938 and am now up to 1973 and the OM's current country total is in the 120s for current countries. Yes I know this is now big deal but interesting based on the old prefixes worked and change of modes leading up to the current use of SSB. Does any one remember the use of NBFM on 20 meters. Around 1953 ? Well I found a bunch of those contacts.

Then, SSB appeared. GCX went on SSB on 4/6/1956. Yeah, I know I was only 5 back then.

I also found a whole bunch of deleted prefixes for countries that the program (or DXCC) won't count such as, KT1 and CN2 -Tangier zone, VS4-Sarawak, KG1 - Greenland, lots of /VO1s, VO2s and VO6s, KZ5 - Canal Zone, how about an NY4 in 1940 (unknown to this writer), OE13 in '54 & '55, VP5 in '55 - could be 6Y5, VP6 and VP7, VQ4 - probably 5Z4. Does anyone remember the KAs, KR6s, KX6s, KZ5s ? Hopefully, I can figure out how to modify the data base to count these deleted countries as I am trying to determine how many he worked.

If anyone is interested I'll bring copy of the software to the next meeting. Hope y'all had a good holidays. 73

Ed, WD5IQA

37th LAFAYETTE HAMFEST **March 7 - 8 - 9, 1997** **Holidome - Holiday Inn Central** **Lafayette, Louisiana**

The 37th Annual AARA Lafayette Hamfest will be held at the Holidome just south of I-10 & I-49. There will be commercial dealers, a flea market, technical forums, QSL checking for WAS & VUCC, VE testing, the famous AARA Fox Hunt, and plenty of Cajun Hospitality. There will be a special activity area just for the ladies with activities Saturday and Sunday.

HAMFEST REGISTRATION

The hamfest registration fee is \$3 per person until March 3, 1997. After that date and at the door the fee will be \$4 per person (children under 12 years of age free when accompanied by a registered adult). Please use the Hamfest PRE-REGISTRATION FORM provided. Your packets will be available at the PRE-REGISTRATION DESK. For confirmation of PRE-REGISTRATION send an SASE. The REGISTRATION DESK Opens Friday at 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 7 a.m.

HOLIDOME RESERVATIONS

Make your reservations directly with the Holiday Inn Central P.O. Box 91807, Lafayette, LA 70509. Fax 318-233-1964, Voice 318-233-6815. RATES: Rooms opening to the outside \$55 per night and rooms opening to the inside the dome \$64 per night. Deadline for reservations is February 17, 1997. BE SURE YOU INDICATE THE LAFAYETTE HAMFEST WHEN MAKING YOUR

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RESERVATIONS. Each Holidome room PRE-REGISTRATION will receive 5 FREE prize tickets.

Orange ARC Hamfest and Flea Market.

The Orange Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring its 12th annual Hamfest and Flea Market. No charge for admission. Saturday, 22 Feb 97 VFW Hall, Hwy 87, 1 mi N of I-10 in Orange. 8am to 4pm. Talk-in 147.180

They will have VE testing starting at 730AM. ARRL/VEC. For testing, send completed 610 form and check for \$6.25 payable to ARRL/VEC to PO BOX 232, Orange TX 77630. As usual, bring original and copy of current FCC license and any CSCEs.

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The Bullsheet

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