



THE BULLSHEET

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The Prez Sez – de Bob, N5ET

Wow! How do I start my column this month.....

With this issue of the Bullsheet dedicated to the memory of Rich Keller, K5WA. In thinking and remembering past times with Rich, I have only fond memories. So many good times. XE2FU, Field Day and of course all the meetings. Remember the meetings at the Bellaire Med Center? We drove over from Beaumont back then.

I can still see the beer cooler at the back of the room. And who was gathered around it? The ROWDYs. Let's see, there was Rich of course, David, N5JJ; Bob, K5IY; Grady, NA5R; Tommy, KD5SP; Dennis, KZ5M; Chuck, K5LZO; Kenny, KE5IV; Phil, K5RVK; Ken, K5YCP; and Bob, N5DU. I'm sure there were others, but these names come to me now. And then, on the way to a meeting one might hear a Funny Boy Alert on 2 meters.

Yes, they were fun times. I'll miss these times with Rich. With his humor and personality he was always a pleasure to be with and enjoy. Linda, KE5TF will surely miss her good smoking buddy who would join her after our eating meetings for a quick smoke and visit. We're glad to have known Rich these many years and will surely miss him in the future.

Lafayette. What a bummer. Turns out I either had the flu or got food poisoning in Lake Charles on the way over. Spent the majority of the time in the motel room with a torn up stomach. I did get to say hi to a few folks but that's about it. No duck at Mulot's in Breaux Bridge! Oh well, maybe next time.

One good thing to come out of Lafayette though, Chuck, KE5FI's son Jesse took and passed two tests. His Novice and Tec. He is now KC5ZME. Be sure to look for him at Field Day. Get him out there Chuck, and after the weekend he will be ready to take his General..

I'm writing this just prior to my annual trip to the DX Convention in California. It used to be in Visalia, but this year the Northern Cal DX Club is the sponsor and is

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 date is Thursday April 10 7 pm at Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive.** This location is one block east of the Sam Houston Tollway (Beltway 8) between Richmond and Westpark.

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

holding it in Fresno. It's only about 30 or 40 miles north of Visalia so it won't be that different. So I should have all the latest DX poop for you at the April meeting. Maybe even get a QSL or two from the Heard Is. Bunch. I'm sure they will have a presentation on it.

See you at the meeting. I won't try to guess where it will be this month since I missed it last time.

CU there

73, Bob, N5ET

Meeting Programs

Henry, W5HNS is looking for video tapes and slides to use in future programs and at the convention. If you have anything or know where you can lay your hands on a program please let Henry know.

TDXS Vanity Callsign

The club call K5LV is available for special events. Sharp (K5DX) should be contacted before using it.

Contest Corner – de Joe, W5ASP

The past month has been a quiet one for TDXS testers. With the exception Richard, K5NA no one made even a modest effort in ARRL DX Phone. Richard did a SO/HP/Assisted logging 804 Qs with 280 Mlts for 658,476 Pts.

This past weekend in WPX Phone there was a bit more activity. Don, N5LZ made 353 Qs and 224 Prefixes for 95,872 Pts in the SO/AB/HP category, and Dale, KG5U, did 150 Qs, 108 Pfx for 46,168 as a SO/AB/LP. Mr. Bill, K5GA and I went up to Mass. to operate Randy, K5ZD's station, and ended up winning Multi Single with 2303 Qs and 773 Pfxs for 5.3 M. Randy's station is really astonishing in its relative simplicity and outstanding performance. You have to see his location to understand why it's a real "kick butt" setup.

April is usually considered a contest "non-event" month. Actually there are a number of really neat contests held in April. But they are "foreign sponsored" events and as such are very dependent upon the presence of good band conditions in order to be interesting stateside. Anyone interested can let me know and I'll bring you up-to-speed on the times, rules, etc.

However, there is the annual DX Convention in California (Fresno rather than Visalia this year). Just might be that the first presentation of the Heard Island DXpedition will be on the agenda. Bob, N5ET and I will do the honors on behalf of TDXS again this year. Perhaps Dennis, K7VB will show as well.

The big news is that the Texas QSO Party, which is sponsored by TDXS, is primed and ready to kick off.

Anyone who was involved in the old Armadillo runs of the mid '80s will tell you that it can be an absolute blast operating mobile (or fixed) during the MARC County Hunters CW weekend. Recent TQPs have been less well attended, but just as much fun for the participants. If you have any real interest in operating HF, you should plan on putting in some quality time during the TQP. The details should be elsewhere in this issue, and are on the TDXS Web Site.

73...

APRIL DX – de Buzz N5UR

Look APR 5-6 for a new IOTA by I1SLY IK1FLF & S21AM Kutubdia Island Bangladesh. Then in early April AE4MK, Jay will do many new FL islands via boat/canoe. Also look for T33 BANABA ISLAND by Ron, ZL1AMO. From APR4-17 an all time new IOTA in Senegal by F6BUM Karabane Island, QSL home call. Then APR13-20 I'll be looking for OC-126 DU1: Lubang Isl. by JG0HZE & DU team. T22MS is currently active on both 75 phone and 20 RTTY by DL2GAC. On April 4 WQ4RP will activate Portsmouth Isl. (NA-067) by The Knight Lites which will be a new US island, 08/04-15/04 V2 by AI5P & WB5JHK, 09/04-30/04 V47XC by G0IXC, 10/04-10/05 TS40A: special event station from Tunesia 3V8, 11/04-13/04 W5: Grand Isl. (USI LA-003S), 16/04-23/04 KH4/K1NT by JA3IG, and don't forget Scarborough Reef should kick off April 30!

During these low sunspot days and after working all those pesky DXCC countries, try some islands. Sure there are lots of US, Canadian, and European islands, but for some real fun try the Brazilian Islands. Why Brasil, well its Spring, and I will always remember walking very very slowly down the beach in Rio de Janeiro looking at the islands, and now back to DX. Several Brazilian islands count for DXCC like Fernando de Noronha and St Peter & Paul Rocks. Others like Abrolhos were once touted for DXCC status but never made the grade. Currently there are 68 acceptable Brazilian Islands, and many come with special prefixes to boot. Some count for IOTA, but more than half don't. Wonderful Brazilian Island and DX info is available from The Brasil Home Page http://www.digi.com.br/users/brazil/capa_i.htm and at <http://fordx.ampr.org/> The Brasil Home Page needs updating, but contains tons of island, award, QSL manager and address information from Brasil. The Fortelaza DX Group has the logs from the recent St Peter & Paul Rocks expedition and lots of other information, much in English. Here are the brief rules for my favorite Brazilian Awards:

DIB (Brazilian Islands) AWARD: Contacts or SWL reports with Brazilian islands, no time restrictions, all bands/modes, from the same country. Basic award: 20

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Brazilian Is. Endorsements: each 10 new Is. Honour Trophy for working 65 Isl.

DFB (Brazilian Lighthouses) AWARD: Contacts stations operating from Brazilian Lighthouse, since 27.oct.92, all bands/modes, from the same country. Basic award: 20 Lighthouse; Endorsements: each 10 new; Honour Trophy for working 65 lighthouses.

AWARD MANAGER: PP5SZ - Rua Padre Roma 194/704, Florianopolis, SC, 88010-090 BRASIL

I have 29 islands so far, and all but the most recent three are confirmed, but those light houses are tough. These frequent 14260, but also the Brazil DX NET: mon/fri, 09:00/10:00 UTC, 14240 Khz; sat/sun, 19:00/21:00 UTC, 14222 Khz. In April look for:

APR18-21 IOTA SA 028 S. SEBASTIAO Island ZY2IB DIB 016 SSB AND CW QSL manager PY2AE and also 17/04-22/04 Mel Isl. (IOTA SA-047; DIB 24) by PY5AA & PQ5L

The bad news, \$1 will not pay the postage from Brasil to the US, so try \$2 or a \$ plus IRC.

CU in the pileups, Buzz N5UR

For Sale

Icom IC-738 HF transceiver, 500 Hz filter, 160-10 internal tuner, passband tuning, one year old. \$975

Cushcraft rotatable 40 dipole, tuned for CW. \$100

Bob Evans, N5DU
(713) 937-0899 or bevans@americanmro.com

Note: In the Bullsheet's relentless quest to provide its readers with an ever-widening circle of articles to tweak the intellect, we are starting a new service. As the saying goes, there can never be too much talk about food and feeders. . .

TDXS Fearless Restaurant Review de Madison, W5MJ

The Lafayette Hamfest provided an excellent opportunity to sample the best and worst of Arcadia. We found one of the restaurants in the vicinity to be so bad that we decided to forego anything which might be considered worse. On the other hand, we also found another one which, if not the best, was excellent of the kind.

But first the worst: Montana's Ironworks Restaurant, Lake Charles, Louisiana. Though highly recommended by N5ET and KE5TF, our visit was one to remember for all the wrong reasons. When we arrived about 5 p.m., we were sullenly greeted by a phalanx of waiters standing around, always a bad sign. Though the place has a rustic look, the thing which grabs your attention is a life size picture of Elvis Presley in his salad days, thrusting his pelvis out, apparently as a gesture of how we would find the food and service. There was also a picture of Rush Limbaugh over the door to another dining room, named in his honor. There were photographs of many celebrities on the walls, suggesting that most or all would stop there if only they had the time.

We were led to our table on the glassed in porch, which had a swell view of the parking lot and building next door, but otherwise pleasant, after declining to be seated right in the middle of the foot traffic between the door and the rest of the place. The waiter seemed shocked that we would not want to be instantly visible to Elvis and the other notables when they arrived. We ordered drinks. They did not arrive within a reasonable time, which should have been our clue to flee. We ignored the obvious and proceeded to read the menu. When the waiter reappeared and offered the day's specials (there were none, as I recall, but he did advise that the Soup de Jour was vegetable, he thought. After touring the steam table, Chuck KE5FI and Madison W5MJ opted for the salad bar with the Bottomless Gumbo bowl, while Jesse ordered the grilled ham and cheese sandwich. Chuck ordered Cajun Alligator as an appetizer. We declined the BarBQ and catfish ("Any way you like it, as long as it's fried!").

The salad bar was probably the poorest selection we have ever seen, and the lettuce looked like it had been chopped with a lawn mower. Thinking it was just the bottom of the tub, I asked the cashier if someone could scrounge up some more, since there were no waiters to be found. The new tub was merely a continuation of the old. Apparently the cook had perfected his technique to the point he was unwilling to invest the time to learn to prepare lettuce. Even more disappointing was that there were only 2 types of dressing - Thousand Island and Ranch - to disguise the miserable selection of things to put on the mown lettuce. There was some crumbled Blue cheese, however, to put with the Ranch to make it bearable.

Moving on to the gumbo, we knew we were in for a new experience when we could still see the spoon on the bottom of the container after the gumbo was inserted. This was, no doubt, the weakest gumbo in Louisiana, more fitting for the restaurant in Spring, Texas that states "Do-nuts and Cajun Seafood" to the prospective diners, if any. It proved to be little more than hot water with a look of something brown in suspension. The crackers were

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adequate, probably because they were purchased from an outside vendor.

After Chuck and I had eaten our meal, we notice that Jesse had yet to be served. We summoned the waiter, who had again disappeared. He told us that the sandwich was "up" and that the appetizer would also be "up" momentarily. The waiter then asked us whether we wanted him to bring the food. The concept of bringing the appetizer long after the diner has dined was foreign to us, though many would let you believe the entire state of Louisiana is foreign. Jesse, who was famished, overruled our suggestion that we depart without the sandwich, though Chuck declined the appetizer at this point. The waiter seemed to have difficulty comprehending why one would want to turn down the alligator, since it was almost "up," and brought it anyway. He announced that it would be removed from the bill even though he would bring it to our table. He lied about the bill, even though he did bring the alligator. By this time Jesse had eaten enough of the sandwich to take the edge off his hunger. We left, went to the nearest gas station, and bought a six pack to take the place of the fine dinner which we thought we were to have received.

Your reporters assign Montana's the following symbol, which is appropriate to your review: Actually, after due consideration, we reconsidered, and will assign it two of those: You, dear reader, can let your imaginations run amok in deciding what the symbols are.

Now on the other hand, we had an outstanding lunch in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, at Mulate Cajun Cafe. There are signs about which lead you to this place, definitely off the main road but worth the trip in every way. The parking lot was nearly full at 1 p.m. Saturday. We were greeted by a genuine Zydeco 9 piece band (1 squeeze box, 1 guitar, 1 fiddle and a six pack) which kept us well entertained the whole time. The food was heavenly, the waitress ever present, the decor truly in bayou-chic and not one, not two, but THREE bottles of Tabasco sauce on every table.. No Elvis on the wall, only millions of business cards tacked to the ceiling and photographs of local musicians who doubtless entertained there nonstop. There were two pictures of Robert Duvall there, but I would not have recognized them had I not seen them before.

We dined on the best gumbo around, full of indescribable things which absolutely belonged in it. It made a meal by itself, but we courageously had ordered crawfish etouffe, fried oysters, and other local treats. We topped this off with several plates of garlic bread that melted in our mouths, washed the whole meal down with Mulate's Beer. The beer, which is probably a bock, went very well with the meal. Since it is not available elsewhere, you must go

to Breaux Bridge to sample it. It is a fine complement to the meal.

The Mulate experience was superb. The only flaw we could find with the operation was that the emergency exit, complete with bleating, airport-style door alarm, was located adjacent to the men's room. Patrons who quaff an excessive number of Mulate's Beer often push the handle to the wrong door, which is annoying to the other diners. I am sure that the alarm prevents the departure of those patrons who wish to "dine and dance," as that term is used in restaurant circles.

We give Mulate's the highest rating which TDXS offers - four Golden Yagis: . We highly recommend you stop there next time you are visiting Dr. Pat's antenna farm, since it's just down the road. Maybe it's the high wattage that makes Mulate's such an outstanding stop on the way. Who knows?

In Memory of Rich Keller

This is a collection of memories if Rich that went out over the TDXS Reflector upon the news of his death. I was not dry-eyed putting this together, Dave WB5N.

A call from KG5U this evening informed me of the loss of one of our fellow contesters, Rich Keller. I thank Dale for sharing this news with me because it means that there is still a bond between the group, no matter how far apart we travel or how much time elapses.

I shall miss you Rich and all the great times we used to have as the Rowdies. de KN5H

As will I. In the times of fighting the cluster, the friendly little operating tips whence I was but a novice, and the big yellow school bus club. Ron KK5DK

Godspeed Rich, You graced us with your friendship far too short of a time. 73 . . Mike K5NZ

I am fairly new to the TDXS group, but I also share the sense of loss with Mary Ann and all of you at TDXS over the loss of our good friend.

When I was preparing to move from Oklahoma City to the Houston area, Rich was one of the first answering my e-mail inquiry, inviting me to attend TDXS meetings and offering his help and information. Rich was also my TDXS membership sponsor. The news of his passing is a terrible shock. As KG5U said, this is a tragic loss, and Rich will certainly be missed. 73, John NJ1V

You know the quality of friends not so much by the passage of time, but rather how much pain you feel when they move on. I feel a lot a pain, Rich, but thanks for the

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hand of friendship while you were here. See you on the far shore someday, and good DX, pal. Regards, Madison W5MJ

Last night when I saw the post from "Hose" I thought that he was joking about Rich being gone from the ranks of contesters because he missed the last one. For some reason, I got Dale's sad news-delayed-several hours later on the reflector.

Boy, it really makes you think! Last week, I talked to Rich a bunch of times. What a really fine guy and loyal TDXS member! I will miss him, but I am sure he can contest and scuba at the same time in the new environment. 73 Rich, NN5O

I am shocked and very saddened at the sudden passing of Rich. He has been a steadfast friend to us all. I am so very sorry and will miss him. Time and the miles shall never diminish my feelings for all my TDXS friends and all the fun times. 73/88 Rich. I'm sure there was a place of peace and honor waiting for you. John K5JS

It sure was a shock to hear about Rich. You could of knocked me over with a feather.

Rich was always a gentleman. He was a wonderful example of how an amateur radio operator should act. I never heard him say a foul word about anyone. His sense of humor in the morning and evening runs to/from work were uplifting. He was great to be around at club events. I just cannot think of enough things to say about him. I wish Mary Anne the very best. We will all miss you Rich. God bless you. Dennis W5KU

Dear Mary Anne:

I am not too good at type-written condolences so if I ramble a bit, please forgive me.

I am not sure if you remember me. I cannot remember exactly when the last time was that we saw each other. Perhaps it was when we all drove down to Monterrey, Mexico for that radio contest.

I do know when I last saw Rich. It was a couple of summers ago when a lot of the Houston guys drove up to Dallas for a ham-convention. I remember how much fun it was to be with everyone again. Rich, Dale, Chuck, Barabara, Kenny, Joe and more. I remember Rich and I would stroll through the flea market area looking at all of the junk for sale and we would say 'boy, would our wives love it if we brought all this neat stuff home'. I told Rich that Mary Anne needed a new computer and the one we were looking at was just for her. Actually it was an old peice of junk that only a goofy ham would want and we

both laughed at the thought of you or my wife Karen actually using this clunker. I remember sitting around the happy hour table laughing so hard that we would choke on our drinks and have all the other customers scowling and frowning at us. The bartender and waitress had also had their fill of our antics and they were very glad to see 'happy hour' end becuae we were too cheap to pay for drinks. I would borrow Rich's room key, go up to the bar a get another free round, and I wasn't even staying at the hotel!

It is hard to explain ham radio to some people. There is a certain 'knack' to it. Whatever that 'knack' is, Rich had it. He had the skills to design, build, implement, test, troubleshoot and operate a highly sophisticated, complicated station. All those towers and wires all over your property werent there just to drive you crazy! He then had the 'knack' to put his station to the test. Operating contests is what I mean. Rich succeeded in radio contests and dont you ever forget it.

I have learned that as long as we have memories of a friend or loved one, somehow that person is still with us. I know my memories of Rich shall never fade. I know he shall always be with me, in one way or another. I wish there was something more I could do or say but please understand that I am truly very sorry for your loss and I hope that maybe someday Karen and I can visit with you and talk about the old times.

Sincerely,

Steven, KN5H and Karen Nace

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