



THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

January 1998

Volume XXI

Number 1

The Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 540291 Houston, TX 77254-0291

President	Bob Walworth, N5ET (281) 363-0209, walworth@worldnet.att.net
Vice President	Henry Schneider, W5HNS (713) 473-0097, W5HNS@aol.com
Secretary	Earl Morse, N5TU (281) 356-2128, kz8e@.WT.NET
Treasurer	Madison Jones, W5MJ (281) 350-4330, ab5tv@ix.netcom.com
Contest Chairman	Joe Staples, W5ASP (713) 974-3455, w5asp@aol.com
Field Day Chairman	Dale Martin, KG5U (281) 484-4465, kg5u@hal-pc.org
Repeater Chairman	Jin Lane, N5DC (281) 358-0051, n5dc@juno.com
Bullsheet Editor	Dave Sarkozi, WB5N (713) 520-5906, dsarkozi@infocom.net
DX Chairman	Buzz Jehle, N5UR (713) 464-6023 dxer@orx.com

The Prez Sez – de Bob, N5ET

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Well here we are starting 1998. It will be 2000 before we know it. It was so sad to end the year during the Holiday Season with the tragic loss of Ken Martin, KZ5KM (ex K5YCP). It was quite sudden and with no warning. Ken sat in his chair at home, and never woke up. I don't know what year Ken joined the club, but he had been in it for quite a few years, his member number being #60. Linda and I are nr. 94 and 95 and we joined in either the fall of '81 or '82. So Ken had been a member since the '70s at least. Ken wasn't able to be at the Convention last October so he asked me to get his Scarborough Reef card from Wayne, N7NG. I did, he was in the log, and I then took it to Bill Kennemer and had it checked for DXCC. With that, Ken had em all except the P5. Ken was the consummate DXer.

More often than not, Ken would be in the DX stations log before others in the area would even know it was on the air. Not a contester, but surely right on top among the DX chasers. We'll miss Ken, especially on the TDXS repeater. Our prayers go out to Charlotte, his wife of 36 years and family.

Speaking of '98, remember the club dues are due. If you haven't paid, keep a wary eye out for Madison, he knows where you live. Also the meeting this month will be our annual TDXS Banquet. It will be at the Wyndham Warwick which is south of down town on 5701 Main. We will have the cash bar starting around 6:30 with dinner to be at 7:30. If you haven't yet, be sure to get your reservations in to Madison, W5MJ.

I sure am sorry that I had to miss the Christmas party at Lon's house. From all reports a fine time was had by all that attended. I did enjoy my stay in Austin though. There was lots of work, 6-12s, but I did get to check out a few restaurants and the local brew pubs. It sure ended up a busy month. Almost didn't have any time to get any Christmas presents for Linda! (sure)..

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 the 1998 TDXS Banquet will be held at the Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main Street in Houston near the Medical Center on Saturday, January 17, 1998. See the article in this newsletter for more details.

How to Reach Us

On the World Wide Web:

<http://n5uh.tech.uh.edu:80/~tdxs/>

On 2 Meters:

147.96/36 MHz

On Packet:

**Connect TDXS on 144.950 MHz and
then Connect K5LV**

The TDXS Bullsheet

With that, Lets all look forward to a healthy and prosperous New Year.

CU at the Banquet.

73 es DX de Bob, N5ET

1998 TDXS BANQUET ANNOUNCED CROWDS GO CRAZY! de Madison, W5MJ

President Bob Walworth N5ET announced that the 1998 TDXS Banquet will be held at the Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main Street in Houston near the Medical Center on Saturday, January 17, 1998 commencing with a cash bar at 6:30 PM. That brought immediate praise from the drinkers of the group. Even though the affair conflicts with the NAQP-Phone contest, several well known phone contesters let it be known that they would forego continuing the unending quest for their Fifteen Minutes of Fame to go to the Warwick. Walworth, himself a well known denizen of the 3038 Contest Reflector, stated unequivocally that he "would be there" at the Banquet and would trade his bib overalls for a coat and tie, and temporarily sacrifice his chosen spot for the contest at 3861 MHz so he could attend. "It's the least I could do for the Society, considering all the amazing improvements in my operating technique since I was honored with membership in the Society," said the usually-taciturn President.

Equally delighted was George DiLetto KD0RW, owner of Houston Amateur Radio Supply, who shelves were stripped bare so that fabulous door prizes could be awarded to the attendees. DiLetto opined "It's like Christmas in January," as he looked over his remaining stock after the prizes were selected.

Even Giancarlo D'Argento, the catering manager at the Warwick in charge of the affair commented on how the hotel was putting on the dog for the Society. According to D'Argento, "the hotel ees verra delighted weez the menu" of the dinner, and promised to deliver hot food for a cool price.

CU there.

MEXICO, ARRL DX PROMISE GOOD OPERATING ENVIRONMENT ONCE AGAIN de Madison, W5MJ

TDXS members are already well along in the planning stages for the ARRL DX Contest to operate a multi-single contest station at Enrique XE5FU's Radio Ranch. Earl N5TU recently got the thumbs-up from Juan, Rene and the CRANTACs to operate, and has a commitment for the CW weekend, February 21-22, 1998. The Phone contest will be March 7-8.

Last year, as XA5T, the CW team improved on their performance from 1996, ending up in 4th place world wide. We were frustrated by the inter-station between the 80 and 160 wires with the 402CD mono, and were unable to get on the air on 160 the first night. After moving the various antennas to different towers, we did produce a strong 160 presence on Saturday.

We anticipate a strong showing once again. We expect to leave Houston after work Thursday night, February 19, and be on scene early Friday to begin antenna work bright and early. There are lots of beds available, and probably will be at least two vehicles going. Anyone interested in being part of this excellent team please contact Earl N5TU or Madison W5MJ to get your name on the list.

Contest Corner – de Joe, W5ASP

(December's column didn't make it into the Bullsheet. Here it is...)

Last month I had only a few early TDXS scores from Sweepstakes CW to report. As you can see from the list below we did have an excellent turnout. Unfortunately, only about half of the scores listed will not count for the Club. Actually there are more non-resident TDXSers who are active CW ops than there are locals... sad but true. But if you put the CW and Phone activity together we did have more logs towards the Club aggregate than we've had in a long time.

While SS Phone weekend didn't bring out quite as many club entries, it was pretty well attended. Chuck, KZ5MM apparently found enough activity on 10 M to hang around for a while this year, and with some selective S&Ping on the other bands managed a sweep. Don, N5LZ, John, NJ1V and Earl, N5TU also got their sweeps without excessive expenditures of time and vocal effort, though John did it the hard way... only 79 Qs. Shows what can be done with a modest effort. Apparently Bob, N5DU and I were the only ones putting in the long hours... and perhaps having the most fun?

Haven't seen everyone's scores from CQ WW CW yet, but I did stumble across one surprise. Apparently Bob, N5RP got stuck at Dietz's place (rumor has it that Chuck hid his car keys...) and was forced to do a single band 10 M effort. That ought to learn the boy to stay out of harm's way in the future. Our ZF1A Multi Single effort was a real blast. The bands were great. Stuff was rollin' in from every point of the compass and rates were big time serious.

And it's not over yet. ARRL 160M (CW only) is the 1st full weekend of this month and then ARRL 10M (Phone, CW and Mixed) come up the very next weekend. Although you may think there's no way you can get in this one, it's amazing just how well you can get out just loading up your coaxes center conductor.

The TDXS Bullsheat

The 10 Meter contest is a DON'T MISS this year. The band is definitely back with lots of activity and good DX. There's also a Club competition now. Sure would be interesting to see TDXS with a healthy score in the listings.

Finally, with the New Year comes another pair of NAQP contest, CW the second weekend of January and phone the third. Remember this is a short affair, with only ten of twelve hours to operate, noon to midnight Saturday. If you've been looking for a "starter" contest this is it... good activity, relaxed pace, lots of easy mults and it is a team event. Let me know if you want to be included.

Claimed Scores

ARRL SS CW

K5GN	1410 x 79 =	222,780	HP
K5GA	1405 x 79 =	221,990	HP
N5DU	1165 x 78 =	184,070	HP
W5ASP	1160 x 78 =	182,490	HP
N5TU	1009 x 76 =	153,368	LP
N5LZ	850 x 79 =	134,300	HP
KG5U	724 x 76 =	110,048	QP
K5NZ	668 x 78 =	104,208	LP
N5RP	724 x 77 =	111,496	HP
AC5K	676 x 77 =	104,104	LP
K5DX	208 x 72 =	29,959	HP
NJ1V	1023 x 77 =	157,542	HP
NM5M	1419 x 79 =	224,202	HP
KN5H	1383 x 79 =	218,514	HP
K5MA	836 x 79 =	132,088	HP
K5NA	1256 x 79 =	198,448	HP
N5KO	1383 x 79 =	218,514	HP
K5ZD	1334 x 79 =	210,772	HP

ARRL SS SSB

N5DU	1435 x 79 =	226,720	HP
W5ASP	1421 x 79 =	224,518	HP
K5DX	833 x 77 =	128,262	HP
KZ5MM	800 x 79 =	126,400	HP
N5LZ	731 x 79 =	115,498	HP
N5RP	456 x 76 =	69,616	HP
NJ1V	79 x 79 =	12,482	HP
N5TU	469 x 79 =	74,102	M/S
K5MA	1051 x 78 =	163,956	HP

WA9VLI (Log rcv'd but not scored yet)

CQ WW DX Phone

K5MA 1262 x 107 x 350 = 1,618,694

CQ WW DX CW

N5LZ	787 x 110 x 268 =	805,518
K5DX	576 x 108 x 244 =	608,256
KG5U	350 x 79 x 186 =	236,380
N5RP	401 x 30 x 85 =	107,065

(SO/10M)

ZF1A	7132 x 167 x 554 =	12,802,076
	(M/S W5ASP et. al.)	
K5NA	1710 x 141 x 372 =	2,321,838
K5ZD	1249 x 112 x 338 =	1,622,700

ARRL 160 Meter

W5ASP	101,352	605	74	SO/HP
K5DX	77,040	471	80	SO/HP
N5DU	66,000	403	79	
N5LZ	8,712	99	44	SO/HP
KZ5MM	100	30		
NX5M	210,672	986	75/24	M/S
	(NE5M, N5TU, et. al.)			

ARRL 10 Meter

		CW/SSB	MLT	CTY	
KZ5MM	554,180	2290	61	60	SO/HP/SSB
N5LZ	668,656	680/756	52/54	23/29	SO/HP/Mixed
K5NZ	551,368	419/841	49/54	28/33	"
W5ASP	368,768	422/534	48/44	21/21	"
K5DX	135,632	167/358	44/58		"

As a matter of note, January is the month for the North American QSO Party, both CW and Phone. TDXS Teams have been formed and sent in to the sponsors. In February there will be the CW and Phone Sprints. Anyone interested in being on a team should let me know.

DX – de Buzz, N5UR

FT5-W-X-Z SPRATLEY XW 8Q7

1998 looks to be great for DX, and with this line up so far, many should make it onto the honor roll!

As you read this, the LAOS Dxpediton should be underway. XW3ØA (SSB/RTTY/FM) and XW3Ø (CW) January 5-14th. Look for them on the usual 20/15/10 meter DX frequencies (025 and .95). Suggested frequencies for 80 and 40 will be around 7007 and 3507 kHz for CW; 3797 and 7047 kHz for SSB (depending on QRM). RTTY activity will be around 14083 kHz listening up 3-5 kHz, and occasionally they will try 21083 kHz. On 160 meters, they will try to concentrate on 1823 kHz. On the WARC bands: CW - 18075 and 24895; SSB - 18145 and 24945; and on 30 meters they will be around 10103-10108 kHz, but as the QRM level rises they will try to find clear spots up around 10115 kHz. As a general rule, they will always try to work split listening up or even down with announced listening frequency. All QSLs will be handled by SMOAGD, Erik Sjolund, Vestag.27, SE-19556 Marsta, Sweden.

Then comes 8Q7AA. Plans are to be QRV beginning 19 January, with four stations operating 24 hours a day on 160-10 meters through 28 January 1998. The team

The TDXS Bullsheat

includes SSB operators NP3BY, KP4RF, KM5EP, K7ZV & NA7DB and CW operators N6NT (who will also run HF RTTY as operating time permits), AF7O, K7WX, N7TX & NN7X. A concentrated effort will be made on the low bands with adequate power and antennas. 8Q7AA will participate in the CQ 160-meter CW DX Contest (23-25 January) Log Checks for contact made with 8Q7AA (19-28 January 1998) will be welcome at n7tx@cadxa.org (send an e-mail message with 8Q7AA LOG CHECK in the SUBJECT line and give Your call sign, Date, Time in UTC, Band in the BODY of the message). QSLs should go to N7TX (Steve Thompson, 119 E. Jasmine St., Mesa, AZ 85201-1811, USA). Bureau QSLs can be also requested by sending e-mail to n7tx@cadxa.org (the SUBJECT line should read: 8Q7AA QSL REQUEST; the BODY of the message should list the following for each QSO: Your call sign, Date, Time in UTC, Band).

FT5W/FT5X/FT5Z, CROZET, KERGUELEN, AMSTERDAM ISLANDS expect FR5HR on Crozet for 5 days, then Kerguelen for 5 days and then Amsterdam for 10 days starting January 1st and ending January 22nd. Jean Paul, F5BU, leaves Strasbourg on January 14th to Reunion Island, and he will arrive at Crozet Island on January 21st. He will be active as FT5WG until March 18th, with operations mostly on SSB. QSL via F6APU. Also, keep an eye open for Helios, F6IHY, signing FT5XN on Kerguelen. He will be active until June. He is usually active on 20 meters but plans to be active on other bands in the future. He was spotted in Europe on 15 the other morning at 900Z calling CQ with no takers. Sure hope he starts calling during our hours of propagation!

Finally, a full bore Spratley 9MØC expedition is on the boards for February, the equipment already having been shipped. The first main group plans to arrive on Pulau Layang Layang on Tuesday 10th February giving them three full days to set up the very extensive antenna farm and the five stations. The second group arrives on Friday 13th February. They will be fully operational for at least nine full days including two complete week-ends. More details next month.

See you in the pileups, 73 Buzz

IK2VYX Packet Software – de Jim, N5DC

I saw a demonstration of the IK2VYX at the New Orleans DX Convention last summer, and came away impressed, for the first time, that there was a better piece of software out there. I have been using Packcom for many years, and it still remains a great piece of Software, but I believe the torch has been passed on.

For openers, the IK4VYX Software runs under Windows 3.1 or 95. Not just in a DOS window, but actually runs under them.

It presents you with 3 screens, split horizontally, which you can size to suit your own fancy. The bottom one is anything that you type from your keyboard. The middle one anything that the Packet Cluster puts out, such as announcements, DX spots, etc. The top screen shows only DX spots.

One of the absolute best features is the ability to set filters, both for origin of spots, and frequencies. If you have listened to Igor on 442.00 you will note that only Stateside spots are being put out, and that is also all I see on my screen, in the top window, because I have set the filter(s) that way. It certainly take the Internet spots out of the picture.

There are many other "toys", such as automatic connects, when you boot up, and reconnects, when you are disconnected. It has scroll back, color can be set to your own taste, and many, many other features.

The software is supported, by email by Fabrizio, and he is very prompt to reply. You can download a "trial" copy from the Web site of WD4NGB. It will run for 1/2 an hour, and then shut down. If you email Fab, as he calls himself, and tell him you want to "authorize" the software, he will send you a group of numbers, that you can input, that will let the software continue to run. These numbers are good for 30 days. In that 30 day period, you need to follow Fab's instructions, as to mailing him \$35.00, for the final set of numbers, which makes you a full blown user. That subscription entitles you to all future upgrades, at no charge.

I am very satisfied with the software, and as I am writing this, my soundboard is announcing, in the room ,any DX spots that come out on packet!

Drop by our home any time, and I will be glad to give you a guided tour.

From the Editor – de Dave, WB5N

This issue of *The Bullsheat* marks the end of my third year as editor of *The Bullsheat*. That makes me one of the longest running editors, although I've got a long way to go to catch up with my predecessor, Joe W5ASP, who did it for at least 5 years.

I can't say I completely pleased with *The Bullsheat* right now. It's been pretty slim on content. I'd like suggestions on where to find more articles for the Bullsheat. I would really like to see more stuff from TDXS in it. Please consider contributing one of these type articles when you can.

Equipment/Software Reviews. Was Santa good to you this year? Did you find something really neat under your tree? Let the rest of us in on it. Big things and little things would be appreciated.

The TDXS Bullsheat

Contest Expeditions. Lots of TDXSers travel and contest. Consider writing a few words on your experience.

Contest Narratives. Participated in a contest that was lots of fun lately? Tell us the story.

TDXS Honor Roll. How about listing the club country totals, would someone be interested in gathering this up and perhaps updating it a couple of times a year. If someone would do this I'll leave the format up to them.

Contester contest. The idea occurred to me several years ago to come up with a competitive ranking for testers. For each contest you enter you accumulate points. The points you get are based the percentage of the highest claimed score turned in for TDXS. If your score is the highest you get 100 points. If your score is 99% of that you get 99 points. You get the idea.

1998 DXer Five Band Competition. The idea is simple. Everyone starts at zero counties worked. Whoever works the most band countries (80, 40, 20, 15, 10) during 1998 wins.

Anyone who would like to contribute by compiling one of these projects or writing an article let me know.

I'm going to have to be firm on the deadline in 1998. Please send in articles by the first of the month unless I expressly move the deadline. If you have something interesting and timely but you need a little more time contact me *before* the deadline. **Remember if you don't hear from me the deadline is always the first of the month.**

January 1998
The Bullsheet
Official Publication of the Texas DX Society
Editor
David Sarkozi, WB5N
111B Welch
Houston, TX 77006