



The Bullsheet

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Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

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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)356-212, kz8e@wt.net
Treasurer	Madison Jones, W5MJ (281)350-4330, w5mj@hal-pc.org
Contest Chairman	Joe Staples, W5ASP (713)974-749, w5asp@aol.com
Field Day Chairman	Bob Perring, N5RP (281)493-5780, perring@texas.net
Repeater Chairman	Jim Lane, N5DC (281)358-0051, jim.lane@mcione.com
DX Chairman	Buzz Jehel, N5UR (713)464-6023, dxer@orx.com
Bullsheets Editor	Jim Lane, N5DC (281)358-0051, jim.lane@mcione.com

Announcements

Meeting-

The September meeting will be at the Hickory Hollow, September 10th. The H.H. is located at 101 Heights Blvd. Dinner at 6:15 P.M., Meeting at 7:00 P.M.
713-869-6300

How to Reach Us

On the World Wide Web: <http://www.tdxs.org>

On 2 meters: 147.96/36

On 70 cm.: 447.00/442.00 (103.5 Hz.)

On Packet: Connect to TDXS95, then connect to K5LV

Reflector: Send to: majordomo@n5uh.tech.uh.edu

In the body of your message put only: subscribe tdxs-list do *not* include your email address as the reflector will pick it up automatically. To unsubscribe: same address as above in the body of the message put unsubscribe tdxs-list and your email address. Example: unsubscribe tdxs-list n5dc@abc.com

The Prez Sez-de Bob, N5ET

If you missed going to New Orleans for the DX Convention on the 14 and 15, you missed out big time. Just ask Mike, N5MT, the winner of the Grand Prize at the Saturday night banquet. Jim N5DC and Evie W5XYL even won, though they did their winning at Lake Charles on the way over. Plus Jim also won an hourly door prize. Sad to say, Linda, KE5TF and I not only didn't win any of the biggies, we missed out on the BIG show that took place just below the balcony of the hospitality suite on Bourbon Street. But we were close. Just outside in the hallway we heard the uproar from the multitudes. Oh well, maybe next year. We did hate to miss the August meeting though. So much so the Jim and I had to go there one day for lunch. Yes Henry, the Blue Agave is a good location and the food was excellent. Speaking of DX happenings, the next one to mark on your calendar is the 8th Annual W5 DX Bash. It will be held this year on the 2nd and 3rd on October. This is the get together held each October for the last 7 years at W5KFT's ranch on Lake Buchanan, just northwest of Austin. There is even a W5 DX Bash website at: <http://www.dxer.org/w5bash.html>. Check it out, you might even see a few faces you recognize. Well, it's now official. Temotu is our latest DX entity. The cards for Jim Smith's operation, H40AB came out within a few

PREZ SEZ Continued

just weeks of its conclusion and the H40AA QSL's are just now hitting the mailboxes. Cards will be accepted by the ARRL after the 1st of October. Still waiting to hear the outcome of the application from the two FO0's. Hang on to your cards. That's about it for this month. Remember elections are coming up. If you feel you'd like to help out the club in the upcoming year, be sure to toss your hat in the ring. Get with KZ5MM, N5RP, or N5LZ. CU on the 10th for our gala September meeting. Till then 73 es gud DX. Bob, N5ET

DX Report by Buzz, N5UR

The good news is the sunspots are back, the bad news is the A index has never been higher, but get ready. The A should be dropping and some fantastic times will be had on 10 12 and 15. The other morning I worked two different S21 stations on 15 at 10 AM local time!

There are no major expeditions planned this month, but some good stuff is still around. Tonight (9/2) N5ET AD5A and myself worked ZA0IS, the only Albanian IOTA! ROTUMA is available as 3D2DX until September 19th. Activity will be on SSB/RTTY on the following suggested frequencies: SSB - 1824.5, 3775, 7045, 14195, 18135, 21295, 24945 and 28395 RTTY - 14083 and 21083 kHz.

8Q, LOHIFUSHI ISLAND (Maldives) will be active from September 15-23rd 8Q7LI, 8Q7US, 8Q7CC, 8Q7HA and 8Q7BB. Activity will be on CW/SSB/RTTY on 160-6 meters. 160m - 1822 QSX 1830 and up (QX 1908 and up for JA)

10m - 28022 (CW) and 28480 (SSB)

6m - 50105 (Beacon) QX 50135 and up (6m beacon will be sending

“CQ CQ CQ DE 8Q7BB QX 135 ES UP K”.

Even though activity will be on all bands, there will be an emphasis on 10 meters for West Coast (NA) via both Long Path and Short Path. ALL QSLs are via JR2KDN (Bureau or direct with a SAE+IRC or GS to: Yuu Yoshida, 4th Floor Kato Bldg, 529 Rokugaike, Kita-ku, Nagoya, 462-0002 Japan). They will have satellite equipment for AO-10. Listen for them on 145.890 +/-.

Steve/G3VMW and Andy/G4ZVJ will now be active September 16-30th, and also Alan/G3XAQ from September 19-30th from the British School club station, ET3AA, at Addis Ababa. It is possible that they may use their own call sign ET3MW, ET3VJ and ET3XA. They are planning to use “big LF antennas”. For more information, check the G3VMW Web site at: <http://www.bramham.demon.co.uk> My first ET was in the 60s cross mode 15 meters with ET3GB/m, he was AM and I was CW. Sure hope we can hear them on the low bands.

Newington has finally accepted H40 as a new one, but they won't accept QSLs until after the October 1 deadline for Honor Role. Guess this is good as the Finns still haven't gotten the H40AA QSLs out, at least to the N5s! ARRL is moving at glacial speed on the two FO new ones, so I'd hold my cards to see if

DX REport Continued by Buzz, N5UR

they accept all three. No sense paying the leaches in Newington an extra \$20 for that second submission during a calendar year up to 100 QSOs! The first submission is \$10 for 1 to 120 QSOs (not QSLs). There is no one free honor roll submission each year, its now \$10 plus postage. Additional QSOs cost 15¢ each. The latest DXCC rules can be found at <http://WWW.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/rules.html#si> At least they don't charge to access the web site yet.

The CQWW is coming and with the greatly improving band conditions, these should be fantastic opportunities to add to your DXCC and band totals. I'll have details of many upcoming CQWW expeditiond next month. Please let me know about any countries, prefixes, islands you are looking for and I will report if I see them announced

Contest Corner de Joe, W5ASP

The results of the 1997 CQ World Wide Phone contest appeared in the September issue of CQ Magazine. In 1st place for the Fifth District was Don, N5LZ operating as NN5ZZ in the Single Op, Hi Power, All Band catagory. Sharp turned in another fine effort taking 3rd. A bit further from home Jan, K5MA/1 was 4th in the First District standings. And Chuck, KZ5MM again did his 10 Meter thing winding up on top of the heap in the states.

With the CW Sprint now history and the Phone nearly so, the TDXS continues to come up short in gathering enough team members to successfully carry the now tattered and soiled banner. However, there is still the spectre of SS and CQWW on the horizon. Perhaps some of you will fire up the rigs and help out when the time comes. With 10 Meters showing signs of a full revival this December's 10 M Contest should be a blast. Anyone interested in a serious run for the Club gavel ?

Results

1997 CW World Wide Phone

K5MA/1	1238	Qs	x	108	Zns	x	351	Ctry	=	1,492,164
NN5ZZ	1111		x	108		x	307		=	1,066,965
K5DX	824		x	110		x	304		=	833,382
N5RP	251		x	38		x	86		=	77,872
KZ5MM	638		x	29		x	105		=	208,102 28 MHz
W5WMU	1158		x	34		x	136		=	471,580 21 MHz
W5ASP	465		x	29		x	111		=	171,640 21 MHz

Contest Corner Continued by Joe, W5ASP

Claimed Scores

NAQP Phone

K5NZ 822 Qs x 213 Mlts = 175,086

W5ASP 503 x 93 = 46,779

K5RC 339 x 95 = 32,205

NAQP CW

K5DX 302 Qs x 123 Mlts = 37,146

KG5U 350 x 131 = 45,850

IARU CW

KG5U 418 x 107 = 157,930

WAE CW

KG5U 237 x 58 = 56,974

W5ASP 238 x 52 = 49,504

Yes, the IRC situation is quite a mess. I've tried to get clarification from my local postal people but the nearby "sub-station" folks don't even agree with the main branch downtown nor another sub-station. Within the same building different postal clerks handle them differently.

But several things are clear... at least as far as my experience goes. There **MUST** be a "dated, cancellation stamp in the left hand box" **AND IT MUST BE** readable !

The JAs print a value in the center box.... nothing else.... **WORTHLESS !**

The French, bless them :- (, print "Republiqvue Federale D'Allenmagne" in the left box.... no date at all.... **WORHTLESS !**

I even get some that have **NOTHING**, anywhere...

I make it a practice to try to answer **EVERY** incoming QSL that has a S.A.E. Many send a green stamp (U.S. \$1) and I use the extra forty cents to cover the guys who send either nothing or a useless IRC. When the incoming \$1 and valid IRCs don't cover postage costs, the "worthless IRC" cards go into the "BURO BOX". Twice a year I try to answer all incomng Buro cards for my non-US operations. All in all, maybe 7 to 8 hundred cards a year.

Contest Corner Continued by Joe, W5ASP

I've made up my mind that after next year, i.e. Y2000 and on I am going to answer ONLY valid incoming S.A.S.E. cards... no Buro stuff at all ! The only exception will be if I go to a new DX QTH, then I will answer all cards for that operation for two years.

This is probably more than you expected to get in return, but figured you might be interested in the viewpoint.

Later,,

Joe, W5ASP

Thoughts on the FT-1000MP, By Ed, W5GCX

My new toy since May of '98 is a Yaesu FT-1000MP. The OM and I had been investigating various radios for about a year. (Gene is W2GCX). We compared the specs on the ICOM and Yaesu radios. Of course since we had an S-Line some years ago when I had more hair and was WB2PWU in NY we had a liking for mechanical filters.

The 6/60 dB points for the ICOM and Yaesu are very close. However, the skirt of the Collins Mechanical filter appears to be sharper than the filters in the 756 or the new 746. The Yaesu allows setting up the radio with many bells and whistles. The MP also has two receivers, displays and the ability to receive two signals simultaneously with dual af gain controls. Of course confusion sets in when ICOM brought out the 746 ; and now Yaesu with the 847 all the way up to 432mhz.

But we were both interested in an HF radio with a selective receiver. The receiver is nice and selective especially with the extra 2.0 khz filter on top of the 2.4 collins. I also put in a 500 khz mech filter for CW.

Switching bands is easy as pushing a button on the radio or over to the other vfo. There are many memories that can be programmed, also.

The audio out of the radio is very good. If the band is not too crowded you can switch to the direct 6khz bandwidth and the signal approaches broadcast quality. The AGC has positions for fast, slow or auto.

The radio has two noise blankers both adjustable. The DSP is put at the level before the audio. The autonotch knocks out carriers. The shift and width controls allow narrowing the bandwidth of the selected filter. There are a multitude of other features which you all have no doubt read about in the adverts and releases. So if you hear either myself or W2GCX (/6) on the air you will know which new toy we are both using

73 dx

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W5GCX

Telephone Interference and
How to Deal With It.
(By John Gagen - W2YR)

Problems with telephone pickup of radio signals has been around for as long as radio and telephone Systems have tried to co-exist. Within the past decade this situation has become worse than ever and a down right problem for those of us who live in densely populated areas. We all know the FCC regulations on this issue and it is that the telephone device is operating improperly if it picks up radio transmissions. Therefore it is the responsibility of the owner of the telephone set and the manufacturer! provider to correct the problem. However, most of us amateurs try to be good neighbors and help those individuals who are experiencing telephone interference. The following tips may help those of you who are or have been inconvenienced by this problem.

Most modern telephones have multiple electronic devices within them and these sets are completely un-shielded. This makes an easy target for RF/EMI. The trick is to try and keep RF energy from entering the telephone set and causing problems. Several manufacturers make modular in-line filters that can be placed in series with the telephone set. The quality and effectiveness of these filters varies widely. ATT has marketed an in-line modular filter at their phone stores that is effective only for the AM broadcast band and offers little or no filtering for the HF amateur bands. Radio Shack offers a somewhat better filter (some swear it is a re-packaged K-Corn filter) but I have had minimal success with it, except in cases where the problem was several houses away from me. The modular filter I have had very good luck with is the K-COM (model RE-i) filter. This filter is available from

Amateur Electronic Supply (1-800-558-0411) for \$16.95 each. I always keep a few on hand to give away' to neighbors who are experiencing problems. These filters are not a cure all and no matter what you do the cheap trash 5 & dime telephone sets are basically unfix-able. I also keep on hand copies of the FCC Bulletin Cm-b. This Bulletin explains to the consumer what is happening and has a mail in attachment that is to be filled out and sent in to the manufacturer of the telephone set, requesting resolution of the problem. You can order copies of this bulletin free of charge by calling the FCC forms distribution office at: 800-322-117

In severe telephone RF instances you can opt to purchase a "Radio-Proof" telephone set (about \$79.95) from:

Pro-Distributors
281 74th St., suite B
Lubbock, TX 79423
(telephone 800-658-2027)

An additional telephone set that has proven reliable in a moderate RF environment is The Radio Shack Model 43-591 telephone This phone is resistant to RH and is priced at \$19.99. A point of interest here is that Radio Shack (TANDY) is one of the few if any telephone set distributors that has an RE susceptibility standard.

In keeping with my above statement that the key to resolving telephone RFI is to keep RF energy from entering the telephone set, you may have to take a look at your house telephone wiring itself. Unfortunately, most of today's household telephone wiring is 2 pair (4 wire) station wire. This wire acts as a great antenna and if you are unlucky enough to have a quarter wave resonant piece of it, on a freq. you are operating on, then he prepared for all hell to beak loose. My first cure when encountering this stuff is to ground the unused pair at the telephone entrance box. This sometimes solves the problem, but what I like to do is to run twisted pair wire to my various telephone sets. The twisted pair helps cancel out RF/EM pick-up on the telephone wire. When wiring up your house for

Telephone Interference Continued, by John, W2YR

telephone service be sure to wire from one telephone set to another and not make several independent runs. If you determine that you are receiving RFI via the outside line (very rare), then your best bet is call your local telephone service provider for assistance. However, if you wish to purchase a "whole house" type filter (I.C.E. model 340), you can order one of these &r \$58.00 from:

I.C.E.

P.O. Box 18495

Indianapolis, IN 46218-0495

(telephone 800-423-2666)

The I.C.E. 340 filter should be an adjunct to the above REI cures and not a first step. This filter also provides voltage protection with gas discharge devices as well as RF filtering and is installed at the telephone entrance to your house. I use one in my house along with shielded twisted pair wiring and "Radio Proof" telephones. With this combination I have no problems with RP pickup on the telephones.

Just as in any RFI/EMI resolution, a lot depends on the individual installation. The above tips should help you. Hopefully, no FRC'er will be interrupted during a good contest run by a neighbor complaining about telephone interference.

Reprinted from The Franklin Radio Club August 1998 Club newsletter

News Flash!

Congratulations to Chuck, KZ5MM

Chuck took First Place U.S.A. in: CQ World Wide, on 10 Meters

10 Meter Contest

ARRL DX Contest