



THE BULLSHEET

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Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

1998

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Meeting- Announcements

The November TDXS Meeting will be at the Hickory Hollow Resturant at 101 Heights Blvd. Dinner at 6:30

**Meeting at 7:00
Phone 713-869-6300**

How to Reach Us

On the World Wide Web: <http://www.tdxs.org>
 On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz
 On 70 Cm: 447.00/442.00 (103.5 Hz)
 On Packet: Connect to **TDXS95** on 144.95
 then connect to K5LV
 Reflector: Send to: majordomo@n5uh.tech.uh.edu
 In the body of your message only put: subscribe tdxs-list
 do *not* include your email address, as the reflector will pick
 it up automatically. Put nothing in the subject line.

The Prez Sez- de Bob, N5ET

Well the trick and treaters have gone and it must be November. I have really been busy. The company has had me out of town three of the last four weeks. I got in last night, Saturday, and am off again tonight for another week. At least the bands are good this weekend. Did work the E30HA this AM and the packet seems to be running full blast, like a contest weekend. Speaking of which it is back on .95 so if you haven't copied it lately, try 144.95. I'm sorry I had to miss the October meeting, but it looks like we have come up with great slate of officers for '99. The November meeting is when election results are announced, so lets be there to cheer on the candidates. (I hope I'll be able to make it.) Just wkd5H3US on 10. Chuck should be having a ball. These conditions on 10 should also get the juices flowing for the DX with the newer Hams just getting into the hobby. No wonder the pile up on .475 was so horrendous. Have a great month and remember it's almost Christmas. Time to start circling those ads in QST and CQ. Also don't forget the **BIG** event in November, not Thanksgiving. football, it's **CQWW, CW**. Should be great condix.
 73 Bob, N5ET

TDXS Nominees for Club Officers for 1999

President.....Earl Morse, N5TU
Vice President.....Madison Jones, W5MJ
Secretary.....Ed Gerber, W5GCX
Treasurer.....Mike Davidson, N5MT

Contest Corner de Joe, W5ASP

Some of you may have noticed that the results of the 1997 ARRL 10 Meter contest which first appeared in the July issue of QST were restated in the November issue. A unrecognized computer glitch led to the omission of quite a number of scores in the first printing. To his credit Bill Kenamer, K5FUV who is now Membership Services Manager, had the complete set of results revised and reprinted.

As I mentioned in this column at the time, the TDXS placed 6th in the Club standings. Certainly one of the better club finishes for TDXS in recent ARRL contests. But "what to my wondering eyes should appear" but a 4th place finish in the revised results. Now that's damn impressive, particularly as only 7 TDXSers turned in scores (vs. 36 for the 3rd place finisher.)

Brother Dietz, KZ5MM commented on this on the TDXS Reflector, suggesting that the club get its act together, and make a serious effort at the "gavel". i.e. 1st place in the Club Competition this year. Recognizing that a true leader had stepped forth, I climbed on the bandwagon and am now issuing a strident "call to the colors...)

It's been a while since I looked over the official roster, but usually there are some fifty or so on the rolls. Even with all the excuses, it would seem that something approaching half this number could manage a few hours on Ten during the contest. Simply tuning the band and answering CQs a half dozen times over the weekend could produce a significant score. And as most of us well know Ten is not at all demanding equipment wise, any vintage transceiver and some sort of minimum antenna can work wonder.

So there you have it. A chance to be a part of a major club effort other than Field Day. Why not plan to set aside some time the 2nd weekend in December and help out. Between now and then you'll be hearing more on this "biggie" from our 10 Meter Guru and Esteemed Leader, none other than Chuck, KZ5MM. Do pay attention, he knows how it's done.

Oh yeah... Sweepstakes and CQ World Wide CW will happen and might prove an interesting diversion. The few remaining TDXS hard core contesters will be active. Why not seek them out and give them a contact.

Results:

1998 ARRL DX Phone

	Qs	Mlt	Pts	
K5MA	335	119	119,595	SO/AB Hi Pwr
N5LZ	717	240	516,240	"
W5ASP	552	186	308,016	"
KZ5MM	348	60	62,640	SO/10M Hi Pwr

Claimed Scores

CQ World Wide Phone

KC5AK	SO/AB	322 Qs	89 Zns	184 Ctry	233,961 Pts
W5ASP	SO/AB	854	87	241	757,680
KZ5MM	SO/10M	1575	34	147	659,564
K5NA	SO/AB	1065	150	454	1,730,460
W5GCX	SO/AB	662	91	240	603,082
K5MA					1.75 M
VO2WL	M/S	3600	105	340	3.898.645

(K5NZ, N5RP, et. al.)

DX Report by Buzz, N5UR

THREE MAJOR EXPEDITIONS

November should be great, not only conditions, but three major expeditions putting on Burma-XZ, Eritrea-E3, and Pratas-BQ9P, plus smaller operations from Ven Island IOTA EU 137 by SK7DX from the 6th to 11th, all four T3s by DL1KV, Vietnam, D6, FR, S9, ZL8RS Kermadac 9th-17th, and many more residents in rare places like S2. If you hear a Z4 that's Kosovo, another break away Yugoslav republic that someday will probably be a "new one".

First comes Eritrea, but recent iron man operations from Jackie F2CW/ZL3CW as E31AA and Zoli as E30HA should have taken the needed status off this country, especially on 10 15 20. I will be looking for them on 40 80 160! Anyway, the 20 operators have now been reduced to 10.

The Space A DX Group is on track with the plans for their trip to Eritrea. With the added \$500 dollars cost per operator for the license, and the recent activity from Eritrea, they have scaled down to ten operators: WD4NGB, KO4RR, N5VL, IV3FSG (YL), I8NHJ, EA8AFJ, OK1TN, N9NS, NF6S and DJ9ZB. Operations are confirmed to take place from (hopefully) 5 November until midday on 17 November. Individual call signs will be issued upon arrival starting at E30AA and up, but it is hoped the operators will be allowed to use only one call (however each operator may be using his/her own call for the last few hours: in this case QSL via home call). Plans are to operate THREE stations, 24 hours a day, on 160-6 metres (but probably not on 30 metres) SSB, CW and RTTY. QSL to Indexa (c/o K4JDJ, 556 Babbtown Rd., Suffolk, VA 33434, USA) or through the bureau via K4JPJ. Logs will be available at <http://qsl.net/eritrea>, <http://www.pagus.it/E31DX> and <http://members.xoom.com/eritrea>. E30HA will be on the air until after this operation starts, and also may be back for the CQWW CW!

The next biggie is PRATAS with a new prefix to spark interest and confuse the uninformed. BQ9P will replace the traditional BV9P call.
06:00Z 12TH NOV. -00:00Z 19TH NOV.1998

FREQUENCIES:	BANDS	CW	SSB	RTTY
		160M	1.885-1.905	—
		—		
	80/75	3.505-3.515	3.795	3.550
	40	7.005	7.055	7.030
	30	10.135	—	—
	20	14.055	14.195	14.080
	17	18.085	18.125	—
	15	21.055	21.295	21.080
	12	24.895	24.495	—
	10	28.055	28.495	28.080

OPERATORS: BV2KI BV2KS BV2VA BV4AS BV4FH BV4ME
BV4QA BV7FC JA1BK KU9C OH2BH XE1CI NELLIE *****

FIRST YL HAM ON PRATAS IS. IOTA NO.: AS-110 QSL MGR: KU9C
Finally the Central AZ DX Assn., is going back to XZ1N YANGON, MYANMAR
ASIA ZONE 26 160-10 METERS ALL MODES NOVEMBER 21 THRU DECEMBER 6,
1998 QSL VIA W1XT WEB SITE: [HTTP://nc7j.qrq.com/~xz1n](http://nc7j.qrq.com/~xz1n) Their FT-847
is also capable of 6 meter operation, so look for some activity on that
band. An array of over ten antennas will be in place on the Inya Lake
Hotel roof which is 100 feet above ground. (continued)

DX report by Buzz continued

Gladiator Antennas will be supplying a 80 meter vertical with tuned radials. A vastly improved beverage system will be utilized during this operation for reception on 160 meters.

The XZ1N-1998 team members will arrive in two groups. The second group will arrive on November 27th just in time for the CQWW CW Contest. Operations on 160 meters will be throughout the operation with an entry in the ARRL 160 meter Contest. There may be an extension of the 160 meter operation for another week past our official end date of December 6th, if permitted. Frequencies for the XZ1N-1998 operation will be the usual DX frequencies. In addition, especially on the higher bands, an effort will be made to listen in the General Class portion.

Helping us keep informed about how we are doing during the operation will be

Dick Wolf, N6FF, who's email address is: n6ff@snowcrest.net Joining him from the East Coast will be Richard Briggs, WA7MTF, who's email address is: wa7mtf@intrepid.net These pilot stations will synthesize your comments and feedback and forward it to us so we can make the operation a success. Contact Person: Dan Brown NA7DB dann7wtu@dcaccess.com Phone: 520-645-8181 Fax: 520-645-3347

And don't forget the N1V Navassa operation should start up in early December. All bands 160-10 have been productive of new band countries for me, crossing 300 on 15, getting #330 of 331 on 20 (guess what I'm missing!), and breaking 200 on 12 this past month. Get active, the bands won't disappoint you. If you have any QSLing route problems, feel free to email me and I will check my lists.

IRC's by Joe, W5ASP

What's an IRC Worth ?
de Joe, W5ASP

That's easy... according to the International Postal Regulations an IRC is worth "one unit of first class airmail postage". Right ?

Well no... not always, just sometimes. In spite of what may be written in the "rule books", including the U.S.P.S. manual, and IRC is only worth "what you can get for it." And that will vary from local post office to local post office, and from postal clerk to postal clerk.

Fortunately, many (if not most) IRCs received by one guy are simply passed on to another as the usual postal currency for QSLing. Few if any are taken to the local post office and actually exchanged for stamps. So by and large it's not a problem.

But what if you were on the receiving end of a continual stream of incoming QSL cards and chose to turn the IRCs in for return postage. That's where it gets messy... fast.

As best I can tell, the U.S. Postal folks pretty well agree that IRC is "good" ONLY if it exhibits a dated cancellation in the lower "left hand box".

What's more the the date MUST BE READABLE. (continued)

IRC's by Joe, W5ASP Continued

Now the JAs simply print a currency value in the center box... nothing more.
That my friend is a worthless IRC.

The French (bless them) proudly declare to the world "Republiqvue Federale
D'Allenmagne" in the left box... no date... nothing else... WORHTLESS !

Variations on this theme are more prevalent than not. At times there is
nothing what-so-ever stamped or imprinted on the IRC... pure as the new
blown snow. USELESS !

But let's say you do get one with the cancellation and date clearly displayed.
That's worth a 60 cent U.S. airmail stamp... right ? Well not always. Depends
on the date. Our postal service has an internal document, unknown to most
postal employees, that lists the exchange value of an IRC according to its
date of issue. The older it is, the less it worth.

Hardly makes it worthwhile to mess with the darn things... assuming you have
deep pockets, and enjoy forking over six bucks or so a week to keep those pesky
JAs and jovial EUs happy. It's your choice.

What's the alternative. Well, You can put all the "good IRCs" and the
whatever greenstamps that turn up in the old cookie jar, and when it comes
time to send off a batch of replies, exchange the contents of the jar for
whatever stamps it'll buy, stamp as many envelopes you can, put the remainder
in the Outgoing Buro pile, and go work some more DX.

One little note to all this. Just remember when you drop a couple of "throw
down IRCs" in your outgoing QSL for the next rare one, you're short-changing
the guy on the other end. Be honest about it. If you want a card, use green
stamps.

Items for Sale

Bill Eckenrode, W5SG has the following items for sale, please contact him at:
Bill C Eckenrode BECKENRO@danielind.com

I will listen to any reasonable offers on the gear.

ETO Alpha PA-78 Broadband HF 2kw amp. Price:\$1800

Yaesu FT-ONE HF Xcvr. Price: \$700

AEA CK-1 Keyer, \$40

Tri-Ex W51 crank up tower with 205 BA, DB10/15A, 2 mtr GP, Mast,
Rotor, & Coax Relay - Best offer

Motorized 6 position 24 vdc coax swithch \$65.00;

Osker 2kw power meter swr bridge \$45.00;

Kenwood BO-9 system base \$20.00;

Drake TV3300 LP filter 1kw \$25.00 [Bill C Eckenrode] tentatively sold

MFJ 752B Dual Tunable SSB/CW filter \$50.00

Review of the Kachina by Mike, K5NU

KACHINA

Michael L. Mauldin K5NU

The purpose of this review is to give "hands and ears on" types of insights into the 505 DSP from an operational standpoint. The technical numbers have been reviewed in numerous ham publications.

Transmit

I have had some unique experiences with the 505. I received numerous reports of distorted audio. Kachina was very helpful and sent me two new radios - even meeting me on the air to listen. However, eventually the problem was found to be loose threads on male center conductor of an L connector in the line between the radio and the amplifier. Once the offending connector was removed, excellent audio reports ensued. I must say that I have been impressed with the cooperation and assistance from Kachina. Very good.

The radio is fun to operate on cw. The keyer functions are all available for tailoring from the computer screen and can be done quite rapidly. The reports on the cw keying have been all complimentary.

On SSB, once the rf problem with the connector was solved, audio reports have been excellent. Two main complaints: No noise blanker - although the DSP noise filter does quite well. Monitor circuit - audio quality while listening to your own audio could be better.

The radio drives my Alpha 78 very nicely and power output graphs on the screen make operation very easy.

Receiver

The DSP filters - 3.5 KHz down to 100Hz - are surprisingly good. The preamp, if shift, and overall control of all receiver functions with the mouse make operation fast and somewhat like playing a video game. Your proficiency can increase to make control of receiver functions almost instantaneous.

Overall Impressions:

Favorable - Sound of receiver is good
Filtering is surprisingly good
Smith chart and band sweep graphs nice - especially band sweep to check for activity on 10 meters, etc.
Immediate visual availability of all radio functions
Computer, radio, and power supply can be located away from the main operating position leaving lots of
desktop room .

(continued)

Kachina review continued by Mike, K5NU

Unfavorable - Monitor needs improvement
Noise blanker would be nice
Logging program is not very useful
No knobs to caress - but easy to wean oneself from
No dual receive

Comparing the Kachina to my FT-1000D is a challenge. I like features of both, but I am hard pressed to like one over the other. The software and firmware upgrades which are and will be available in the future are a very nice feature of the Kachina - allowing future updating of the radio. Obviously, the computer control radio is the future. The recent remote control addition as well as other upgrades only increase the Kachina's versatility.

Cable TV Frequencies vs. Actual Frequencies

Thes are supplied by Kingwood Cablevision. ed.

Cable Channels vs. Actual Frequency

CH	Frequency
2	55.25
3	61.25
4	67.25
5	77.25
6	83.25
14	121.2625
15	127.2625
16	133.2625
17	139.2625
18	145.2625
19	151.2625
20	157.2625
21	163.2625
22	169.2625
7	175.25
8	181.25
9	187.25
10	193.25
11	199.25
12	205.25
13	211.25
23	217.2625
24	223.2625
25	229.2625
26	235.2625
27	241.2625
28	247.2625
29	253.2625
30	259.2625
31	265.2625
32	271.2625
33	277.2625
34	283.2625
35	289.2625
36	295.2625
37	301.2625

**I thought since we now have color, for the email version I would republish the Field Day
Picture now appearing in the November QST page 20.**



**Antennas up TDXS style
Featuring John, K5IUA**