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Announcements

Meeting-
The December meeting will be held at the Hickory Hollow Restaurant at 101 Heights Blvd. Dinner at 6:30, Meeting after dinner. 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

Seasons Greetings. It seems early to say that, but the end of the year will be here before you know it. And it's been a good year for TDXS. A good field day effort and some good trips to Mexico for the contests. The bands have been better each month and there have been some super DX'peditions to those rare and exotic DX entities. Don't forget to circle a few items in your copy of QST or CQ. Santa may need a little help and we sure want to steer him/her in the right direction. If you really had your heart set on a new keyer, wouldn't you hate to get a nice new desk mike? Don't leave these things to chance. Christmas comes just once a year. (Sounds like a song title.) Seriously, I hope every one has a safe and happy Holiday Season. The "team" is out diligently seeking "the spot" for the Annual TDXS Dinner Meeting. Not sure yet of the date but be sure to come to the December meeting and get the latest info. I sure hate that I missed the last two meetings, but it was due to work and I couldn't avoid it. Besides, I t and Besides, I understand that the November meeting was just about washed out. I know we had high water that weekend. It brought back some bad memories of Oct. 94. If it had continued to rain through Saturday night we would have had some water in the house. Not 6', but enough to mess thingsup. So try to make the December meeting. I know there are lots of parties to go to.
73 and all the best for 1999. Bob, N5ET

Contest Corner, de Joe, W5ASP

On Friday evening, December 11th (that's the day after the club meeting) the 1998 running of the ARRL 10 Meter contest will get underway at 6:00 PM local time. It will last until 6:00 PM on Sunday evening. TDXS would like to make this a real club effort. If you haven't heard, 10 M is alive with lots of good DX from daylight to after dark. The European and JA activity will be the best it's been for years.

If you have a radio and some kind of wire, you are a player and can contribute to the club score. With the aid of Igor and Packet it will be quite possible to make DXCC over the weekend. TDXS was once considered to be a top notch DX and Contest club. Here's a chance to regain some of our statue and have a real blast doing it. Oh yeah... this is a Phone & CW event, either or both, so you really don't have any excuse not to join in this time. C ya on 10 !

Oh yeah, in case you're interested we got beat again in Field Day.

Scores

1997 CQWW DX 160 Meter

N5LZ	CW	259 Qs	47 W/Ve	3 DX	40,770 Pts
KZ5MM	CW	161	45	11	22,624
KZ5MM	SSB	468	49	10	61,596

Claimed Scores

ARRL Sweepstakes CW

N5KO	1458 Qs	79 Sec	230,364 Pts	
K5GN	1454	79	229,732	
K5GA	1394	79	220,252	
K5ZD	1318	79	208,244	24 Hrs
N5DU	1175	79	185,650	22
N5TU	1022	79	161,476	
W5ASP	1008	79	159,264	18
K5KG	899	79	142,042	
KG5U	783	78	121,992	
AC5K	655	78	102,180	23
N5LZ	600	75	90,000	9

ARRL Sweepstakes Phone

W5ASP	1225	79	191,494
N5RP	442	79	69,836
N5MT	325	79	51,350
KG5U	120	50	12,000
NJ1V	79	79	12,482

CQWW CW

	Qs	Mlt	Zn	Total	
KZ5MM (Op N5RP)	1091	114	30	421,632	SO/SB10 HP
N5LZ	293	66	25	72,982	SO/SB10 HP
ZF1A (Op W5ASP)	2816	149	58	1.4M	SO/HP 15&10M
ZW5B (Op K5ZD)	3869	1147	37	2.1M	SO/SB10 HP

DX Doings by Buzz, N5UR

Seems Bill Moore NC11 is trying to put his stamp on DXCC as its new dictator. If you go to the ARRL web site you will find lists of accredited operations. Seems Bill has a problem with 9U5DX 9U5CW 9U5/F5FHI and possibly others so he is jerking credit for these previously approved operations. You might want to check which cards you had credit for? What is really wierd is he is accepting 4U9U which was the same operator at the same station/QTH during the same time period. I can't wait to hear the new Official explanation. Guess he is taking lessons in "Clinton speak".

If that isn't bad enough, the RSGB is doing the same thing with IOTA. They have taken away credits for in excess of 20 operations and are reviewing many more. They want all the cards resubmitted to see where the operations took place from. Seems they have a place for the island name on their official application, but that they have either ignored it or are too lazy to check individual awards. Over Thanksgiving I lost 2 IOTAs and 4 band countries and I wasn't even home.

Currently there are two major operations, XZ1N and FT5ZH, which from Houston you will be lucky to work on any band but 20. The XZ is a 160 operation, and as of today not a single 5 is in their logs. They have made no attempt to work the midwest on 75/80, nor on 10 or 12. Their focus is East and West Coast, one long path the other short, and they ignore the middle. This is a repeat of the operating and propagation skills they showed their last trip to XZ. They are scheduled to be there at least through mid month. Maybe we will get some Top Band openings!

The FT5 is likewise workable on 20, and has put many a new operator on the Honor Roll. However, they too seem to ignore the midwest openings on other bands and they are staying mainly on SSB. The two operators will be there until Dec 23, so we can hope they will finish with 20 and move to the other bands.

The Navassa Expedition planned for December as N1V seems to be delayed again due to problems with getting landing permission from the Clinton administration. Don't want to upset the HH boys or the environmentalists do we!

Over the Christmas holidays look for W8UVZ and company from VK9 Christmas and Cocos. TL5A continues to operate all bands, and many Antarctic operations are starting up during their summer months. DL1VU may show this month from T30 and T33. He cancelled T31 due to lack of transportation. Seems to be lots of activity from XV HS YB and that whole area. XV300S has been very active working this area on 15 and 20. Good openings on 15 and occasionally on 10 and 12.

Lots of band countries out there for the taking, and conditions continue to improve. Don't forget to bring your buro cards to the December meeting. The ARRL is raising rates 50% January first to \$6 per pound!

The World's Toughest Radio Contest
by: Chuck Dietz, KZ5MM
(Reprinted from the November-December issue of the NCJ)

I believe the Ten Meter Contest is the world's toughest radio contest. Instead of being able to run contacts on the best band for the propagation and antennas at your station, you are forced to slug it out on only one band, Ten Meters. Since it is a single band contest, there is not much advantage to being a multi-op. With some judicious tuning every hour anyone can see what is on the band and how propagation is without the need for packet or spotting nets. The DX is not just going to pop on to the band to work a few multipliers and go back to a different band. There is a tremendous amount of competition in the single-op categories because you will see single op entries from the big stations which usually multi-op like W3LPL and previously, N5AU with all their great aluminum. You don't have an advantage that you happened to be on the right band at the right time and had a better run than someone else. The "right" band is Ten Meters. The only band is Ten Meters!

So what can one do to win this toughest radio contest? Well first, you must burn incense to the propagation gods continuously for the three days and three nights just before the contest. Without propagation favorable to your area and antenna heights, you are sunk. Since you can work anyone, anywhere for points and the states as well as countries count for multipliers, in addition to good f-layer skip for DX, you need sporadic-e skip for the close in stuff. What this really means is an antenna at every height and direction. In the Central U.S. I use a 75 foot high rotary antenna for the "bread and butter" antenna. It works the best into Europe most of the time from here. It would be too high on the East Coast where 50 feet would probably be better. While I have never had the luxury of any antennas higher than 75 feet at my QTH, I have used them at "Super Stations" like NR5M and K5XI. The higher antennas work a bit better into Asia (I have heard 105 feet is good from the Central U.S. to JA) and would certainly pull in a lot more JA contacts in that short morning long path opening that happens occasionally. However, for the money and effort, I feel lower antennas will pay off with far more contest points. (Thank goodness for the pocketbook!).

I will never start a contest on Ten Meters again without a low antenna fixed on South America. If you only have two antennas, your rotary beam will certainly be pointed either northeast, northwest or southwest most of the time and South America will be off the side or back of the beam. Also, in the afternoon when South America and little else is coming through, the 75 foot high "bread and butter" antenna falls on its face because it is too high for the propagation at that time of day. When I first put up a dedicated antenna on South America at 40 feet, I got many raves from there that I was "the loudest station on the band." If you will go to the trouble to match everything so that multiple antennas can be used at the same time, you can leave the low one in line while CQing toward Europe or the Pacific and pick up a few South Americans at the same time.

If you have the luxury of being able to mount more than two Ten Meter antennas, you get into a quandary about which way to point the next one after the "required" low South American antenna. Africa seems to be open all day long, but there are not very many stations there and you can usually pick them up a little off to the side of the beam while working Europe. It is nice to have a beam pointed northeast for any Europe that is still coming through after the band opens to Asia and the Pacific and your "big" antenna is occupied toward the west. There is an exciting late afternoon over the North Pole opening to Scandinavia with all the flutter of long path that few ever hear because they are pointed west. However, if I wanted to maximize points and could only have three antennas, I think southwest would be the direction. You would be surprised at how early in the afternoon that Ten opens to ZL/VK. Many times I have heard the loud ZLs like ZL1ANJ between 1900 and 2000. Since there are more contacts down under than toward the east or northeast, the point count would be maximized. This also keeps you from fretting in the evenings between JA and VK/ZL and wearing out your rotor. You will have an antenna fixed southwest and the "big" antenna to put on JA.

People ask "When do you CQ and when do you tune for multipliers?" The answer, the biggest secret of all contesters is, dum diddy dum: "It all depends!" The answer is a little different for the Ten Meter Contest than when you are working single band in the ARRL DX and CQWW contests. When you are single band in one of the big contests, many juicy multipliers will show up for only a short time on Ten. In those contests you must force yourself to tune at least every half hour. In the Ten Meter Contest, however, stopping to tune is dependant on the rate. When the rate is really slow you can tune almost continuously if you have one of the newer rigs with two VFOs. The other extreme is when the rate is really great and you feel like you are working everything in the world. At those times I might not tune at all. Since it is a single band contest the multipliers except for a few will probably find you. My saying is "Be loud and they will come." If you look at the rate meter and it says a new multiplier is only worth a few minutes, you are -

10 Meter Contest Continued

maximizing points by continuing to run contacts. Isn't it great how the computer contest logging programs have added the "computer game" aspect to contesting where you race against the rate meter!

Another time you need to be continuously tuning for multipliers and stations you have not yet worked is early in the morning, especially if you are not on the East Coast. When the band first opens in the Central U.S., the Right Coast has been working stations for more than an hour. Your pitifully weak CQs will be lost in the din. Try CQing about an hour after the first station you work. If the rate is low after about five minutes go back to hunting and pouncing. This is a good time to create a "band map." I used to do this on a legal pad with the frequencies down the left side and the stations' calls. Now you can do this on the computer in most of the popular contest logging programs. This saves you from waiting for the call of the same station each time you tune by his frequency. I use the band map in the middle of the day when you find a pileup whether you have worked the station or not. If you cannot break a pileup, put the station in the band map and go back later. If the propagation has improved, you may work him with one call.

The following are the Continental U.S. record scores for the Ten Meter Contest since its inception in 1973. Hopefully, I will be able to create a more comprehensive record list before the 1999 Ten Meter Contest that will include the record scores for VE, DX and each U.S. Call Area. Good luck in the World's Toughest Contest!

Mixed Mode:

High Power:	WM5G	2,409,462	1990
Low Power:	K2SG	931,572	1992
QRP:	AA2U	593,880	1990

Phone Only:

High Power:	K4XS	1,151,580	1991
Low Power:	KE5FI	623,100	1992
QRP:	AA5GY	198,372	1991

CW Only:

High Power:	NX1H	1,172,080	1991
Low Power:	N4ZZ	742,896	1990
QRP:	N0AX	302,976	1991
Multi Op:	AA5B	2,591,058	1990

FCC Levies Hefty Fine on Jersey Ham

WASHINGTON, DC, Nov 10, 1998—The FCC has levied a \$7500 fine on a New Jersey ham who allegedly interfered with a net operation on 40 meter SSB. James C. Thompson, KA2YBP, of Waretown also was ordered off 40 meters until further notice after the October 18 incident. The case against Thompson, 58, stemmed from interference complaints from other amateurs, including the Association of North American Radio Clubs (ANARC), which conducts a Sunday morning net on 7240 kHz.

The FCC charged Thompson with illegally retransmitting programs from a Standard Broadcast (AM) station on 40 meters and willfully interfering with the net. The FCC also said Thompson failed to properly identify.

FCC personnel used a combination of long-range and local monitoring and tracking to zero in on Thompson's QTH as the source of the interfering signal. FCC representatives conducted an inspection of Thompson's station on the morning of October 18. "From approximately 9:39 to 10:00 AM EDT, the licensee of station KA2YBP retransmitted programs from Standard Broadcast station, broadcasting on 1450 kHz, to Amateur Radio Service frequency 7.240 MHz," the inspectors' report said. FCC officials found an AM receiver "positioned adjacent to the Amateur station's microphone and tuned to 1450 kHz," the FCC said.

FCC Continued

The FCC issued an Official Notice of Violation October 21. In replying to the NOV, Thompson admitted the violations, the FCC said November 9 when it issued the Notice of Apparent Liability. "Applying the Forfeiture Policy Statement and statutory factors to the instant case, we have determined that a monetary forfeiture in the amount of \$7,500 is warranted," the FCC's notice said. Thompson has 30 days to pay the fine or appeal it.

The Thompson case marked the Commission's first amateur enforcement action since the FCC announced it would consolidate amateur enforcement within the Compliance and Information Bureau. The CIB's legal advisor for enforcement, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says he's spoken with nearly 100 individuals about enforcement complaints or issues since the FCC's latest enforcement initiative began.

The FCC expects additional amateur enforcement cases to develop as a result of calls to the Amateur Enforcement Line, 202-418-1184.

ARRL 1999 DX Contest by N5RP

ARRL DX **CW** Contest; Feb. 21-22, 1999.

ARRL DX **SSB** Contest; Mar. 07-08, 1999.

I am wanting to discover who among the membership might have an interest in going South of the border and participating in either of the above two contests.

Here is the proposed deal, and I offer it here for consideration so as to allow for discussion at the meeting.

We would operate multi operator, **single** transmitter if the interest level is low.
We would operate multi operator, **two** transmitter if the interest level is high.

You sign up no later than January 15, 1999 by putting up \$20.00, non-refundable, for each contest. The \$20.00 pays for BBQ and all the fixings on Sunday night at the close of each contest. Past years' Sunday night BBQ's have been major events. Any money left over, after covering BBQ expenses, goes into the TDXS club treasury.

Now then, some understandings.

This is not to be a training exercise for new operators or non-contesters.

The station needs some up front work in the form of antenna erection.

Some antennas have been re-built here in Houston for erection. Towers are already erected. Some antennas down there are already in acceptable condition.

So as to cover unforeseen job drag always, I need a volunteer to serve as backup for logistics on both the SSB event and the CW event. Beyond that, the effort just needs interested and good operators.

The past two years' efforts have been fun, but have met with less than admirable contest results due to Murphy, Weather, Band Conditions. This can be a good year for the contest. Give the game some thought, and let's discuss it at the meeting.

I will have a preliminary list of players that are showing a keen interest at the next meeting.

