



THE BULLSHEET

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Texas DX Society

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The Prez Sez-de Bob, N5ET

If you missed the July meeting, you missed a good one. Thanks again Henry for lining up the Hickory Hollow. I think everyone enjoyed the Bar-B-Q. How many of you were there that remembered Marshall Dues? It was good to see him again and hear about his latest hobby, experimental aircraft. He did build one and has been flying it for a year now. I'm sorry I won't be at the August meeting but like all True Dxers, Linda and I will be at the DX Convention in New Orleans. Mike and Margie plus Jim and Evie are also going to be there so the TDXS should have a good representation. We went last year and Linda got to see her first "mooning". I can't wait to see what will happen this year. Should be a great time. If you get a chance to go, do. Even if you just make a token appearance at the festivities, the glamour of the French Quarter will be worth it. Only ham activity that I know of that the XYL's are guaranteed to have a great time. Well it's about that time for the nomination of the '99 officers for the TDXS. Be thinking of any office that you might want to run for. I believe all positions are open. I know Jim will be leaving the Repeater Chairman position and will be assuming the Editor duties

Announcements

Meeting-The August 13th meeting will be at The Blue Agave at 1340 West Gray at Waugh. The restaurant is a Mexican one. There is a separate meeting room. Ordering will be from a menu.

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.

Prez Sez Continued

duties of the Bullsheet in earnest. So bring your raised hands, suggestions etc. to our nominating committee. They are the last 3 presidents of the Club. Chuck, KZ5MM, Bob, N5RP and Don, N5LZ. They will present their slate at the October meeting. Also at that time the floor will be open for nominations. So think about what YOU can do for the Club in '99.

Speaking of Jim and the Bullsheet, wasn't the July issue great? Even if the picture was of John, K5IUA instead of the Pres. It really turned out nice. I know Jim has been gathering information all month for future issues. If you have an article you would like to get in, be sure to get it to Jim. He is really making the Bullsheet a 1st class club newsletter. Let's all try to contribute.

DX Report By Buzz, N5UR

AUGUST DX

The band conditions are still improving, but there are no major activities planned in the next month, so now is the time to take a vacation. July ended with a bang if you hunt islands, over 70 different IOTAs were on in this years contest. There are numerous more common IOTA operations scheduled in August, watch 14260 and 21260. In August the following rare or new IOTAs are also scheduled:

AUG6-10	AS-105	HLØT on 40, 15 and 20 metres from
Yong-hung Island		
AUG18	EU-156	F/ON4BDS/P Tombelaine
AUG20-3	AS-NEW	BI7W Wei-Zhou Island
AUG29-SEP1	OC196	VK3AJJ (Paul) and VK3PGR (Norman) from Gabo Island

If you are looking on 20 for something different, special event station JU60MTZ is active until 31 August to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Mongolian Railway Board. QSL via JT1CJ (Sh.Gankhuyag, P.O. Box 100, Ulaanbaatar 44, Mongolia). Also, 9N1UD has been workable from here on both 17 and 20, QSL K4VUD

Some more announced IOTA/DXCC operations for August:

08/08-14/08	VK9CE: Cocos (Keeling) Isl (OC-003) by JE5WJM
11/08-19/08	9M0: Layang Layang, Spratly Is (AS-051) by DJ9HX

I would appreciate any suggestions for countries/islands/island-antarctic awards you might want me to cover. 20 has been open all night sometimes, offering some easy shots into rare areas. Good DX, Buzz N5UR
PS Our H75A QSLs will start going out in mid August

BEST CENTER INSULATOR FOR WIRE ANTENNAS

by Wes Spence AC5K

Many years ago, when I was just starting out in amateur radio, I was young and could not afford a lot of amateur equipment. I learned to improvise. One of the improvisations, a center insulator for wire antennas, turned out to be much more than a make do it is the best I have ever used or seen.

The advantages are:

1. It is poured in a mold, so it can be as large or as small as needed.
2. It has good resistance against ultra-violet (UV) light.
3. It is a good insulator.
4. A means of attaching a rope, such as an eye-bolt, can be molded in when the antenna is built.
5. It is absolutely water-proof if done correctly.
6. The insulator will stick to coax, wire (insulated or bare), hardware, or about anything else, so, it can be used for many different types of antennas.

The 'magic ingredient' to this system is polyester resin. It is sold in the US in quart



The 'magic ingredient'.

container with a small tube of hardener in the lid. It is sold as the resin to use when working with fiberglass on boats and such.

As can be seen in the photographs, this insulator is quite simple to make. It is best to start with new

wire and feedline. This is to be sure that there are not contaminants on the wires that could keep the resin from sticking to them.

For a mold, I use clean empty cups from *Jello Pudding* or similar. Styrofoam cups will not work. If you choose the wrong type of plastic, it will melt when the resin is poured in, so build this outside to avoid the mess.



The antenna (and eyebolt for the rope) is assembled in the mould.

I make small holes in the cup for the wires, coax, eye-bolts, etc and force them through for a tight leak-proof seal. The most

important thing is to be sure you mix the resin and hardener in a separate cup. Otherwise, bubbles and poor adhesive to the wires is likely. If you mix it well in a separate cup, it will look like that in the photograph below.



After mixing the resin in a separate cup it is poured into the mould.

In an hour or so the insulator should be set-up and hard. You may or may not be able to get the mould off. It really doesn't matter. If you cut the mold off with a knife, be sure not to cut the wires or coax insulation or water may still be able to get in.

Larger antennas such as 80 metre dipoles will require slightly larger moulds so that there is enough area to hold the wire inside



The finished product.

the insulator. Small pieces of fiberglass may be added to the inside of the mold before pouring if it is perceived that more mechanical strength is needed. As in all antenna work, the key is to experiment. I am going to use this method this fall to make waterproof matching networks for EWE antennas for 80 and 160 meters. I hope this helps everyone make better antennas.

Let me know how it turns out. I don't know how long these insulators will last, but I have had them up for years and I think the wire will rot off and break before the insulators!

Contest Corner de Joe, W5ASP

For those among us who follow the contest trail the easy part is pretty much behind us and the more challenging stuff is just ahead. The first three weekends of August are good ones. NAQP CW, next WAE CW and then NAQP Phone. Anyone interested in being on a TDXS team for NAQP SSB needs to speak up now. We do need help.

September will host the Sprints and the SAC (Scandinavian contests). In October there's the CQP and CQ WW DX Phone, and then November will sort the men from the boys with SS CW and Phone and CQ WW DX CW. December winds up the year with the 160 and 10 Meter events.

Whether or not you like to contest, you should plan to spend some serious time on the air. The "diehards" will be out there trying to keep TDXS right up there with the rest of the "big dogs". They will need your help.

Claimed Scores

June VHF QSO Party

Ron, Jr. NN5DX/0 & Ron Sr. K5LLL

BAND	QSO	PTS	GRIDS	
50	299	299	127	
144	42	42	11	
220	10	20	5	
432	15	30	4	
902	2	6	2	
TOTALS	368	397	149	= 59,153 Pts

IARU Championship

K5ZD	2,099,097	CW	HP	2,257	9,087	130	101
N5DU	443,828	CW	LP	878	3,388	87	44
K5XR (W5ASP)	412,827	CW	HP	1,130		<93>	
K5DX	411,942	MX	HP	353	CW-392	SSB	<142>
K5NZ	1,113,000	MX	HP	1,708	6,360	119	56

(Ops: AD5Q, W5BAK, N5RP, K5NZ)

NAQP CW

	Qs	Mlt	Pts	
NM5M	611	193	117,923	
K7BV	517	167	86,339	
K5GN	478	170	82,960	
W5ASP	517	146	74,480	
W5NN	793	207	164,151	M/S

By Ward Silver, NOAX

The successful DXer owes a lot to his or her knowledge of these important little slices of spectrum frequencies to tune to or away from, and where to listen for who.

1. The allocation for Japan on 160 meters is _____ to _____
2. The SSB IOTA calling frequency on 20 meters is:
 - a. 14.195MHz
 - b. 14.220MHz
 - c. 14.250 MHz
 - d. 14.260MHz
3. The "DX Window" on 75 meter phone is _____ to _____
4. The SSTV calling frequency on 20 meters is:
 - a. 14.247MHz
 - b. 14.2265 MHz
 - c. 14.230 MHz
 - d. 14.260 MHz
5. Amateurs have a worldwide allocation on 40 meters from:
 - a. 7000-7300kHz
 - b. 7000-7100kHz
 - c. 7100-7150kHz
 - d. No part of the 40 meter band is primary worldwide for amateur radio.
6. WVVV does NOT transmit on what frequency:
 - a. 2.5 MHz
 - b. 5.0MHz
 - c. 15.0 MHz
 - d. 25.0MHz
7. The NCDXF beacon networks operate at:
 - a. 14.010MHz
 - b. 14.100MHz
 - e. 14.110MHz
 - d. 14.150MHz
8. The Canadian time-and-frequency station operates on:
 - a. 5.335 MHz
 - b. 7.335 MHz
 - c. 7.5 MHz
 - d. 10MHz
9. The RTTY calling frequency on 40 meters is:
 - a. 7.030MHz
 - b. 7.040 MHz
 - c. 7.060MHz
 - d. 7.080 MHz
10. The 160 meter "DX Window" is _____ to _____

BONUS QUESTION:

By convention SSB above 10 MHz uses USB and below 10 MHz LSB due to the use of what common component?

Reprinted from The DX Magazine

Contest	Date/Time	Mode	QSO points	Multiplicator	Exchange	Entry Categories	Prizes
NA QSO Party CW (WJZ)	1800s 1 Aug 0800s 2 Aug	180-10M CW	1pt/QSO	Canadian Call areas, US States, other NA countries	Home Prev	Single Op Multi-op, two tx All stations must run 180W or less	1st: \$500
ARRL QWP	1800s 1 Aug 1800s 2 Aug	SSB/CW +	3pt/200, 425M/7h 3pt/100, 230M/3h 13pt/200M/3h +	Grid squares worked on each band	Grid square	Single op	1st: ARRL
YO DX (Grenada)	2000s 1 Aug 1400s 2 Aug	80-10M CW & SSB	3pt/YO 3pt/DX 3pt/NA	YO Countries, YO States on each band	RST ITU Zone	Single op: all bands, single band Multi-op, single tx	1st: \$500 2-5: \$250 6-10: \$100
European DX CW (Germany)	0800s 8 Aug 2300s 9 Aug	80-10M CW	1pt/8hr 1pt/47hr QTC: reports of previous QSOs Time/CallSign	WAE Countries worked on each band ct on 10/15/30 ct on 40m ct on 80m	RST Rpt	Single Op: All bands, Single band Multi-op: Single or multi-tx All stations may use Packet/Celestar	1st \$50 2nd \$150 3-5 \$200 6-10 \$300 Germany
Maryland-DC QSO Party	1800s 8 Aug 2300s 9 Aug	80-10M CW, SSB and RTTY	1pt/Club area 3pt/Multi-Op 3pt/QRP 3pt/CW, RTTY 1pt/SSB, FM Work MD, DC only	Total of Maryland stations, city of Baltimore and DC regardless of band	Previous or Territory	The rules are simple: If you are the top-working station from outside MD-DC, you will win a match (D)	1st \$50 2nd \$25 3-10 \$100 11-20 \$200 21-30 \$300
BARTO RTTY (Sweden)	00-06h 8 Aug 18-24h 9 Aug 06-18h 9 Aug	80-10M RTTY	3pt/VE 10pt/NA 13pt/XX	DXCC Countries + Australia/Canada/USA Call areas	RST Rpt	Single Op: All bands, Single band Multi-op, single tx	1st \$100 2nd \$50
South-East Asia Net SSB	0000s 18 Aug 2300s 18 Aug	180-10M SSB	1pt/QSO	3 multi pts for SHANET countries: Ad AS AR AT AS AP BV BY BU DP EL EL AS AA JDI JY KHZ PU SY YK WQP YBS YU VS XU XV XW XZB YB ZK ZL ZM ZLS ZLH ZM/P ZSN ZSN AS ZX ZY ZL M33 M446 W YV		Single Op: All bands, Single band Multi-op, single tx	1st \$100 2nd \$50 3-10 \$200 11-20 \$300 21-30 \$400
Examiner's Club of Japan Contest	1200s 18 Aug 1300s 18 Aug	180-10M CW	1pt/QSO	Japanese stations SSB on each band Japanese sites will need a two-letter station identifier in the exchange.	RST and 2-letter country Multiplier On NAJ	Single Op all bands only	1st \$50 2nd \$25 3-10 \$100 11-20 \$200 21-30 \$300
Canada and American Islands Contest	1700s 18 Aug 2300s 18 Aug	Radio Unicom, probably 80-10M CW & SSB	3pt/Island site 1pt/continental	Previous, Territory and US States (contest, but probably count once regardless of band)	RST Prev or CISAT	Island stations: Island "errors", non-island stations: SSB. (Note: Stations not on islands may only work island sites for multi. SWLs may only log island stations.)	1st \$50 2nd \$25
New Jersey QSO Party	2000s 18 Aug 0500s 17 Aug 0700-1300s off time for all	180-20M CW & SSB	3pt/QSO	NJ stations (21) count once, regardless of band	RST Rpt QTH	Single Operator Home/Portable Mobile 0781-8838	1st \$50 2nd \$25 3-10 \$100 11-20 \$200
NA QSO Party SSB (WJZ)	1800s 23 Aug 0800s 23 Aug	180-10M SSB	1pt/QSO	Canadian Call areas, US States, other NA countries	Home Prev	Single Op Multi-op, two tx All stations must run 180W or less	1st: \$500
YONC Field Contest CW (Sweden)	1300s 23 Aug 1300s 23 Aug	180-10M CW	1pt/NA 3pt/DX 3pt/any mobile	Total of Maidenhead "Field" stations. The first two letters of your grid square are your "Field".	RST + Grid square (On F200)	Single Op: All band, Low power, Single band Multi-op: Single or multi-tx Single ops may not use Packet/Celestar	1st: \$500, \$-500 2nd 3-10: \$200
Island QSO Party	1400s 23 Aug 2300s 23 Aug	180-Multi-Op CW & SSB	1pt/SSB QSO 3pt/CW QSO	For stations outside Hawaii: 10 countries (S) For HI stations: US states, Canadian provinces, DXCC countries Multi count once regardless of band.	RST QTH	Single Op: CW only, SSB only, mixed mode Single Op QRP: CW only, SSB only, mixed mode Multi-op Single Tx: CW only SSB only, mixed mode Multi-Multi: mixed mode only	1st \$50 2nd \$25 3-10 \$100 11-20 \$200 21-30 \$300

Address: CQ - 78 N Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 USA; ARRL - 235 Main St, Norwalk, CT 06811 USA; Call sign - Callbook Address; Bands: The 80, 17 and 12M bands are never used in any contest. Official forms and complete rules may be available from me. Please send SASE for details. For more listings check the contest page on the Worldradio web site: www.wr0vr.com

Contest Calendar reprinted from World Radio
DX QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1907.5 - 1912.5 kHz
- d (an IOTA net meets regularly on this frequency at 1300Z)
- 3790-3800 kHz
- c
- b
- d
- b
- b
- b (Same as the QRP calling frequency; not a good combination).
- 1830 - 1835kHz

BONUS:

The crystal filter used to extract an SSB signal from AM or DSB signals in receivers and transmitters.

The following article appeared in it January 1991 Bullsheat. It was written by Kenny Grabenstein, KE5IV (now KZ5KG). Kenny's parameters still apply today. If you are having a disconnect problem, have a look at your packet parameters, listed below. (ed.)

After working with several of the club members and other users on my cluster, I have found out bow SLOW some of the PLL in these new radios are! If you are being routinely disconnected, and are using a synthesized radio, please change some of the following parameters in your TNC.

TXD (try 40-50)
AXD (try ~10)
AXH 3
FRack (try 3-12)
RESPrime (try ~31)
SLOT 4 (absolute)
RETRY (7 max)
RELink or CONPERM OFF (absolute)
PARITY 4 or None (absolute)
CMSG OFF
DIGI OFF
BEACON OFF
UNPROTO NONE
(As I have asked before, please when using the KE5IV
Packet Cluster, make sure UNPROTO is set to None...
Thanks!)
CHECK 0 (I repeat CHECK 0!).

Nothing is better than a little power and a good antenna. With all the momentary power failures here I plan to add a U.P.S. system to the Cluster. It will keep the computer on approximately 15 minutes after a power failure and also protect against a brown out. Hope to see most of you at the Banquet!

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