

THE BULL SHEET

OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF THE TEXAS DX SOCIETY

an ARRL affiliated club



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MEETING NOTICE: If you missed the last meeting, you missed an opportunity to dip into the Rowdy's beer cooler and help the club cash box. Seems the boys have been picking up a few six packs before the meeting and selling them for a buck a can - - with all proceeds going into the TDXS treasury (sometimes referred to as Butch's vacation fund). Seems to spice up the meeting a bit and now that Chuck doesn't drink anymore, the ladies can stay.

The September meeting will be Friday, the 12th at the Chimney Rock Medical Plaza located at 6550 Mapleridge wich is near Bellaire General Hospital. The exact program for the night is not known but I feel a Sweepstakes coming on..... This may be the night of the big draft to form up the four teams for this years intra-club competition. (the way my health has been running lately, I'll be lucky to get picked for the injured reserves)

6,000,000 POINTS: Does the above figure make you shutter, or say "that's impossible"? Well, if you answer YES then maybe you're still in the old TDXS. Certainly not the winning Texas DX Society that emerged from last years SS and continued through Field Day of this year.

I may not be Contest Chairman anymore, but I'm still strongly interested in our club continuing as a winning group in the aggregate competition. The ARRL, with its three levels of club competition is ideally suited to the TDXS structure when compared to the CQWW competition where smaller groups cannot compete with the larger member clubs. No, we shouldn't blow off CQWW, but let's be practical and not give 150% in it. But rather, lets have fun, work some new ones, practice spotting on the repeater and learn some DX contest techniques for use in the spring..

For Sweepstakes 150% effort or better is definitely in order.

Last years 5.37 meg. score was outstanding and hopefully not a fluke. This year with last years experience, plus FD, plus our new members, plus new antennas the beating of last years score should be a piece of cake!

Last year we ended up with 25 CW entries and 23 SSB entries. The average CW entry was 91K, while the average SSB entry was 133K. As you all can see and realized already anyway, a SSB score is naturally bigger than a CW score, So now if you are all thinking the way I am, you can see why it would benefit the club if we concentrated on SSB and let CW be lower entry-wisw. There are those of us that are going to operate both modes no matter what, so even though 50 entries all-SSB X 130K(avg) would give us 6.65 meg, its not realistic. What I think is realistic is about 15 CW and 35 SSB. The average for the top 15 CW entries of last year gives us a figure of 116K, which is noticably up from the overall CW average of 91K.

If we then assume a slight drop in SSB average (which probably won't be the case) down to 130K/SSB entry and even being conservative with the CW average and call it 110K/CW entry with the ratio of 15CW/35SSB our 50 entry medium club category would tally a whoopping 6.2 meg.

So you can see that we can hit 6,000,000 + points even using conservative estimates and some members get out of CW if it isn't their favorite mode

Also, beware if you work three different fives/2 in ENY as the hindquarters considered that a no-no even though you were legitimately working all three.

Enclosed with the Bull Sheet is a two sided form (SS Summary Sheet) which I'd like filled out by the majority of last years operators. All will be available to club members to help them in choosing bands, off times, etc. in this years SS. Whatever contacts are made in the opening hour (2100-2159Z) go on the horizontal line marked 2100. If in the first hour you spent half on 10 and half on 15 you'd enter 30 under MIN of 15. Then you'd put the number of QSO's for each band in the QSO column for that band. If you then add all the QSO cloumns horizontally you put the total contacts in the right hand Total column and the same with the MIN column. Those will be your hourly rate. Totalling vertically will give you your band totals and how much time you spent on each band.

With the brief station description at the bottom you'll be able to compare with a similarly equipped station.

In order to have a booklet of all members available for the October meeting, please return them to me at the September meeting, the convention or by mail. SO, remember, Keep Thinking 6 MEG cause it's easier than you think.

73 de K5WA, Rich

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE AS PROPOSED BY RANDY THOMPSON, K5ZD:

ARTICLE VII

SECTION 3. Any member who has not paid his annual dues by midnight, March 1, will be dropped from the membership by the Board of Directors.

Randy adds, "This will solve the problem of letting people drag on who have not paid. A similar rule is in effect for the FOC and is quite effective in bring in the dues on time. There should be no excuses accepted for late payment. No company could stay in business if it did not collect its due money. "

This proposed change was read to the membership present at the August meeting.

A Recipe for Winning Sweepstakes

by

Randy Thompson, K5ZD

There is little question that the premier USA domestic contest is the ARRL's November Sweepstakes. It is the contest by which operators, stations, and contest clubs are judged. To do well in SS takes a good station, operating skill, smart strategy, perseverance, and a little luck. An effective game plan can do much to improve your chances against unprepared competition.

The phone and CW sections of SS are two very different contests. While the basic strategy is the same for each, there are a few differences. I will present a sample band plan for the CW contest (my favorite) and discuss some of the changes for phone afterwards.

Lets assume your station is located in Texas, consists of one or two rigs, a KW, a tribander at 50-70', and dipoles for 40 and 80. Your strength is on the higher bands since that is where you are most likely to have a good signal into the Northeast.

With the 'average' station in mind, here is how I would approach CW Sweepstakes (all times are approximate):

- 2100z Start on the highest band which is open. This should be 10 again this year. If things don't seem to be going as well as expected, don't hesitate to QSY or change bands. Move down with the MUF and keep the beam Northeast.
- 0000z Time for 20M! Stay on 20 as long as you can. As the band swings west, go with it. Now is the time to work the sixes.
- 0300z On to the pits- 40M. It will be rough at first, but should improve as the skip lengthens. Don't forget to check 20 periodically for VE8, KL7, and KH6.
- 0500z Start taking short trips to 80. Band change often to keep the rate up! 40M should be your main band with the trips to 80 to pick up the close sections and work the loud locals.
- 0830z Now is the time for your first off time. You have already completed some of the most important hours of the contest and should have over half of your final QSO total in the log. QSOs given up in this initial operating period are very difficult to recoup.

0900z Get back on for a big push. Move around a lot. The rate may seem slow but it will be better than what you will find Sunday afternoon.

1000z Sleep!

1200z Rise and shine. Check 80 and get on 40M. This is your best chance to grab some of the east coast not-in-the-contest types. Take what you can get and then take an off time (30-45 minutes) when the rate drops.

1400z 20M opens! Be there. ~~You~~ are king of the band at this time. When 15 opens be one of the first ones there. For a short time, ~~WB~~¹⁵ are all the Northeast is hearing on 15.

1600z Think about another off time here.

1700z 10M open? Note: 1700z is 1200 EST. People will be getting home from church and making some QSOs while waiting for lunch or football games to start.

1800z Keep pushing! This begins the most difficult hours of the contest. The rate starts to crash. Alternate calling CQ and hunting.

1900z I took a one hour off time at this point last year. Be on the air during half time of football games!

2000z This is where the winners win. Lots of band changes help keep the rate up. A second rig will pay for itself now. Keep very close track of your off times. Use your off time wisely by taking 30 minute breaks.

0100z Decision time!

A. Operate until your time runs out and finish the contest early. Remember, your strength is on the high bands- not 40!

B. Take the remainder of your off time so that you are off during the next to last hour of the contest. This lets the Sunday evening contesters build up for your last big push.

0200z Last hour. Don't call many CQs. Tune, tune, tune! The last minute guys are all calling CQ so you have to find them. Make lots of band changes between 20 and 40.

0300z Wasn't that fun?

Phone SS differs from CW in that phone is more of a brute force contest and there is a larger number of stations to work. This means you must stick to your strengths more and call more CQs. At a small station, stay on the least crowded band which you can still keep the rate up. It is still important to work the first 10 hours of the contest. Take more of your off time at night. Unfortunately, this forces you to work for longer stretches on Sunday but it will help your score. Choose option 'A' at 0100z.

In both contests it is very important to keep a dupe sheet

from the very beginning of the contest. Don't wait and try to dupe on Sunday morning after you wake up. It is better to get into the rythm early. From a smaller station you will be doing a lot of calling and the dupe sheet will save time by preventing needless QSOs.

A recipe can only describe what goes into a pot and how long it is to be cooked. It is up to the chef whether to follow the recipe exactly or to substitute with what is available. My recipe has worked for me. I leave it up to you to create your own masterpiece à la Sweepstakes.

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FROM THE CHIEF: Joe handed me packet of information received from Sally O'Dell, KB10, ARRL Club Program Manager. Seems she has been following our discussions in the Bull Sheet regarding the Outgoing QSL Bureau. Sally sent along an advance copy of the latest issue of Radio Club News which the League sends to affiliated clubs. Page four talks about a program very similar to that proposed by the TDXS! Below are the rules that Joe will have to work with. Looks like we got everything we recommended except the labels will be required. It certainly gives one a good feeling to see an idea taken to heart and impliments to the benefit of all.

Hon.Ed. is a little embarrassed to state that I was going to really cut loose a zinger editorial about the League killing a good idea. But, Joe kept telling me sit tight until the League folks have had sufficient time to study the issue. Thank goodness my fingers were tied because Joe also received a letter from Harold M. Steiman, K1FHN, Manager, Membership Services Department. Hal writes,

"Sally O'dell has sent you a copy of the Radio Club News which contains information about our outgoing QSL bureau. I just want you to know that I had not forgotten that this idea originated with your proposal.

See, the League does recognize a good idea when it sees one (sometimes)."

ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau Offers New Service to ARRL-Affiliated Clubs

Since the inception of the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau, affiliated clubs have been able to utilize the service when submitting club QSLs simply by indicating the club name. Now affiliated clubs and their members may earn an even greater savings by "pooling" the QSL cards of individual members for mailing to ARRL Hq. Each club member utilizing this service must also be a League member. The current fee for using the Bureau is \$1.00 per pound of cards or portion thereof (there are approximately 155 cards in a pound). If ten ARRL members use the Bureau, each submitting under a pound of cards, the total fee is \$10.00. But it is likely that the cards of the ten persons, taken together, do not weigh the full ten pounds. "Pooling" would effect a savings.

Here is how it works. If 25 members of your club wish to send cards to the Outgoing QSL Bureau during a particular month, and each has less than a pound of cards, the fee would be \$1 each, or \$25, if each member sent his or her cards individually. Each member would have to pay postage, also. Alternatively, these club members, who are League members also, can send their cards through the club, and the club would pay a fee based on the total weight of the cards (which would no doubt be considerably less than \$25). The club would then charge each member on a pro rata basis, or reimburse itself from club dues, or whatever it chooses. Cards should be sorted "en masse" by prefix, and **QST labels enclosed for each ARRL member sending cards.** ARRL Hq. is able to offer this discount as a benefit to affiliated clubs because it reduces the amount of time spent opening mail and sorting QSL cards by the QSL Bureau.

K1ET

CGM:- VENTION '81 IS HERE:

And...the TDXS will be there again in a big way. Bob, WD5CHY, is going to serve the booze again. Contributions being accepted at this very moment. Grady, N5CDO, will be running a TDXS flea market table for the benefit of the club cash box. Hopefully, he will have some ground rules for us at the September meeting. For sure, though, he will be accepting donations of equipment, ants, meters, etc., etc., at the meeting. The proceeds go 100% into the TDXS box. Also heard him say something about taking your good rigs and pushing them--- with 10% of the take going to the TDXS.

Sharp and Lee will again be collecting QSL cards for the outstanding display they always offer. They ask that every member bring some cards from their DXCC collection. Remember, someone has to bring a VE, too, so lets not all bring our 3W8 card.

The club again will raffle off a 2M FM Handie Talkie. This activity always brings in big bucks for the club and all are hoping that each member will help push the tickets at the Suite and around town. The tickets are being published at this time under the careful eye of Al, K5BZU.

OTHER:

Orville, K5VWA, the club DX Chairman says that if you need a DX report this month, you just haven't put any juice to the RX lately! There are big expeditions on the horizon for the contest season and he will report on a few at the meeting.

Hon.Ed. has been off work with a nasty case of ? for about a week. Fortunately, the two tempy 200 ft longwires @ 12 ft. went up first. The bands have offered the following on 20M 1130Z long path; 9V1, 9M02, VQ9, 3B9, CW, for all, of course. During the day, I've kept a close eye on 20, 15, and 10 CW and managed the following juicias; 5W1, FR/J, S9, F6, VK9N, 8R1, 9J2, VU, CN, JW, DU and last not but least, my pride and joy 3CLMM on 10.

So you fellers with even the low TA33 can surely do better than this which was done with radiation straight up off the cooper.

I forgot to get after Dave to stop with girls and write me a Contest column so we used some stuff from his buddies, K5WA and K5ZD.

Holly will bring her materials to the next meeting to notorize those applications for call letter license plates. Look for her if ya need the stamp of approval.(?)

73

Dave
N5DKG