



THE BULL SHEET

OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF

THE TEXAS DX SOCIETY

an ARRL affiliated club

VOLUME VII, NO. 1

JANUARY, 1982

MEETING NOTICE: The January TDXS Meeting will be Friday, the 8th, at the Chimney Rock Medical Plaza, located at 6550 Mapleridge, which is near Bellaire General Hospital.

TDXS "ACTION LINE": The new TDXS Action Line Number will be (713)975-6600. This new Action Line will be available for comments, news, letters to the Editor, columns from Committee Chairman, "For Sale" listings, want ads, and all other items of general information to the club. Please read on for further information regarding the use of the action line.

CONTEST REPORT

Let me start off by saying how much of an honor it is for me to be approved as the Club's Contest Chairman for 1982. This Club has many of the heavy-weights of contesting and DXing in the West Gulf Region and I hope to draw upon their experience and knowledge of contesting for "how I did it" and "but how I should have done it" articles to be passed along to the club. Of course, what works for one station won't necessarily work for another, but it should be recognized that we never progress to a point in contesting that nothing is to be learned from the op down the street, be his score big or little. What I hope to achieve with my column is recognition of club members participating in contests, notice of upcoming major contest events and availability of the appropriate forms, and tips on how some of the big boys approach the contests.

It's only history now...

Not too much along the lines of contest results is published about now. The results of last year's CQ 160 test did come out, however, and showed only two TDXS members submitted logs but both were in the top ten. K52D operating K5RC finished number 6/single op/W-VE and the N5JJ team with N5CDO, K5WA, WB5WHR, and KN5H was number 2/multi op/world. If you missed this one... too bad. Conditions on 160 were the best I have ever heard. Start getting ready though, the next CQ 160 comes up the end of this month.

Recent Rumors...

Next, a brief recap of what has happened lately! Texas DX Society may very well have another medium category club gavel coming for our

outstanding sweepstakes effort. Rich K5WA, our team captains KA5GJO, N5WW, K5GN and KN5H, and our outgoing BULLSHEET Editor N5DKG are to be commended - win or lose - for coordinating a really fine group effort. Our member to the north, K5ZD appears to have steered N5AU's station to a first place finish on CW and a top-five finish on phone, while our cajun pal, W5WMV may again be in the top-ten for phone - congratulations Randy and Pat...

...Of the CW DX tests, the CQ test probably turns out the most activity and competitive scores. Mr. Bill, K5GA has again shown his skill at DX contesting with a fine 2.5 million point effort, likely being a top-five single op all band entry. Randy exercised the N5AU muscle for this one. Also, with a rumored 2.8 MEG score. A couple of club groups with fine efforts - the K5KG Gang and the W5RRR Rowdies - should also place high in the finals...

...Our new President, N5DU mopped up on us South Texas boys in the ARRL 160 test. A really quiet weekend with 17 JA's in one morning and G3's calling him on frequency has gotten Bob's respiration up for the next top-band test...

...The South Texas 10 meter king-K5RC ran over 1800 QSO's on CW in this year's test, probably a number one finish for the second year in a row. Tom has consistently placed high in this event and probably knows more about 10 meters than anyone else around these parts. Some other club entries were KB5FU-mixed mode, W5RRR-multi op, and N5JJ-CW only...

About to Happen...

The last weekend in January will be the CQ 160 CW Test. Although this one does not generate quite as many QSO's as the ARRL 160 test, the DX really turns out. Last year there were 65 countries active and all 50 states. The test will start at 2200 UTC Friday (4 PM Friday, January 29) and continue until 1600 UTC Sunday (10 AM Sunday, January 31).

The only real trick to this one is knowing where to call and listen. W's should transmit between 1800 to 1825 and 1830 to 1850. Some of the places to look for DX are:

KH6, Pacific	-	Lower 25, particularly the bottom 10 KCS.
JA	-	1907.5 to 1912.5 listening 1803 to 1810.
VK,ZL	-	Bottom 10
USSR	-	1850 to 1857
Europe	-	1825 to 1830 and 1850 to 1857
Carib, South Am.	-	1800 to 1810 and 1820 to 1830
VS6DO	-	1853 listening 1822-1825 around 1200-1230 UTC

In general, any DX station transmitting in the bottom 25 will be listening on his own frequency. Any station above 1825 will probably be listening down and give his "QSX" frequency. An example would be JA2GQO calling CQ Test 7 - this would mean he is listening on 1807.

An important factor to keep in mind will be sunset times when skip can be very long and sunrise times when the QRN takes a dip. On this particular weekend our sunset will be approximately at 2355 UTC and

sunrise at 1313 UTC. If you have a DX EDGE now is your chance to practice. Try following the sunrise of DX stations to the east of you and the sunset of the stations west of you - these times will provide the optimum path for a long-haul QSO. If you don't have a sunrise/sunset chart, K5WA provides a few times (UTC) to look for:

	<u>Sunrise</u>	<u>Sunset</u>
ZS	0358	1300
5A	0529	
UA - Moscow	0552	1300
SP	0633	
EL	0706	
EA8	0754	
G	0757	
PY-R10	0835	
5Z4	0843	
ZL		0758
VK (Brisbane)		0840
VK (Perth)		1114
JA		0753

This doesn't mean to say that QSO's will only be made at these times. This was merely to suggest an optimum time frame. It obviously would not pay to look for JA before about 0730 for instance.

With most of the 160 restrictions lifted and W5's now allowed to run 1 KW input, our biggest problem will probably be hearing the weak ones. If you have 1000 meter beverages in all directions then you are set. But if the antenna you are listening on seems noisy, be creative... try listening on your 75M dipole or 40M vertical. Unscrewing the PL259 and just letting it hang by the center conductor may improve things. Even if this makes the signals drop, if the noise drops more you are better off.

The exchange for this test will be signal report, serial number, and state or province. DX (which by the way counts 5 times the point value of a W/VE QSO) will send RST and a serial number.

Even if you don't have any 160 antenna at all you can probably find something to load so you can work all the loud N5J stations south of Houston you hear. For something to throw up fast that does work, try a 130 foot wire, end-fed and supported near its 1/3 point as high up your tower as possible. N5EA managed 10 JA's last year with this. If a little more room is available, try a quarter sloper off the top of your tower.

Well enough of this about that... also coming is the February Sprint. Please be thinking of whether you can participate and try to let me know either at the meeting or on the repeater. I'll get back to you...

A few closing comments:

I may have been a bit wordy this month but hope to settle down to more of a brief pattern in the future.

You may notice a lack of a title for this column. In trying to choose one, I have found all the snappy titles such as "Tom's Shorts" or "from the low end of twenty" to have been previously used. I am considering a combination title such as "from the short end of twenty" or "Tom's Low Shorts" but will give this matter further study.

Next Month:

Final pep talk for Sprint (if in time) and ARRL DX contests.

Summary sheet and log sheet for ARRL tests.

Hopefully, results from the 1981 CQ WPX SSB Test.

Until then, CU in the piles,
Dave, N5JJ

CQDX CQDX CQDX DE KB5FU

As the new DX Chairman for the coming year, I'm looking forward to bringing good news and many countries to your wall. I guess the biggest new news is all you guys that have worked them all have a new challenge... The new ARRL country count is 319 with the addition of 1A- The Sovereign Military Order of Malta... QSL is via IØMGM...

Through Lee's courtesy I have a copy of the club need list (for those of you that take advantage of that) and a cursory glance reveals that at least sixty countries that are needed are on the air every week... Someone isn't helping by a quick phone call... You can't work them all until you get the easy ones...

"DX LISTS and NETS. Are you for or against them? Do you think DXCC-credit should be disallowed for contacts made via a list or a net? Comments, pro and con, on the recent letter of WB4ZNH are pouring into ARRL HQ directly and thru DXAC channels. It's important that YOUR feelings be known. If you believe that "lists" detract from the competitive spirit of DXing, speak up! If you think that the name of the game is to work the "rare one" by whatever fair means are available, say so! Take a moment now to express your opinion in a letter to K1XX. Do your part in providing the DX Advisory Committee with a truly representative majority opinion".

Several months ago the club received a letter from Carl Henson (WB4ZNH) concerning the operation of nets, M.C.'s and list takers in the DX world. We read the letter at the meeting and because of it's lack of substance we immediately round filed it... Well, unfortunately the letter has reached the ARRL DXAC and they in their infinite wisdom have decided that it holds merit and needs some immediate action. The DXAC through K1XX is soliciting comments on the matter. To refresh your memory the letter asks the DXAC to change DXCC rules to ban any contact made through an MC, net or list taker from DXCC credit!!! No suggestions are made for enforcement or what truly constitutes violation of this principle. That's what scares me!!! It could reach the point that say,

Orville, with his fine contacts in Russia, could ask a station to please call or stand by for several members of the Club for a new country... Now by some connotations that could be considered an MC operation-- should this then be considered not valid for DXCC????

I've been on both sides of the fence in this controversy... I also ran a SWAN-500 and 15 meter dipole for 18 months, and had it not been for the Africana Net and the Family Hour I would have never been interested in DX. But now that I have a monobander on all bands, several transceivers, separate VFO's, and a KW, sure I'd like to work one on one or a good split pile-up, that way I don't have to sit around for hours waiting on my turn. I can make four or five calls, work him, and be on my merry way. I can feel satisfied that I did well but what about the guys that don't have the big station, that are running barefoot, that don't have split capability, that don't have the KW???? Should they be effectively locked out of rarer DX???? Or pushed so low that what little chance they have now is diminished even further... Think about when you started DXing, do you have any credited contacts that could become "invalid or unacceptable" because they were on a net or list...

Please, make a comment to K1XX, either for or against this letter... his address is:

Charles J. Carroll Jr. K1XX
RFD 2 Box 291D
Rindge, NH 03461

Oh yes, in conclusion all the rumors and flak out of PY and CE land concerning DXCC acceptance the 'CE ØX' operation by KF10 is as follows, "the officially-certified documentation of Bob Read's operation is on hand at ARRL Hq., including the logs which are stamped and signed by the Commandant of San Felix".

TNXdeKB5FU

EDITORIAL

For over two years I have kept all my Bull Sheets because they have always contained some very interesting and valuable information. The only problem with that is that if you become Bull Sheet Editor and you go back and look at the old copies you realize that you have one heck of an act to follow. When you consider the fantastic job done in the past by Dennis, Tom, and Kim, you get a little heart burn thinking about the high standards you have to meet which have been set by your predecessors. Well, armed with my Roloids and back issues of the Bull Sheet, here we go!

You can count on some really fantastic columns from the various Committee Chairmen in the future. I have had a chance to talk to most of them and I'm really impressed by their ideas and their plans for their columns in the Sheet in the future editions.

Some of the other items that you can count on in the future will be the customary Meeting Notice, a "Contest Corner" (setting forth an activities list for testers), a propagation column, a "personal notes" column, "For Sale" lists and want ads.

I would really appreciate your assistance in order to make the Bull Sheet a particularly informative tool to the members. In that regard, we have set up an "Action Line" for the purpose of receiving your calls, where you have information of interest to the club. We would like to hear from you regarding comments about the club or club activities, letters to the Editor, Want Ads, For Sale lists, and any other information which you would like to see in the Bull Sheet. I know a lot of people don't like to sit down and write a letter and with the current problems with the U.S. mail, it would be a lot easier for you to call the Action Line number and just read whatever you have into the recorder. The recorder will be on after business hours, however, if you should call through business hours, we can still record your comments (the lady who will answer the phone is named "Andrea" and please be gentle - she's not a Ham).

It you call in when the recorder is functioning just ignore the introductory blurb and wait for the tone, when you hear the tone "bleep", please advise that you have some information for the Bull Sheet, give your full name, call, phone number, and then read your comment as you wish it to appear in the Bull Sheet. We may have to edit your comment somewhat as space permits. When the machine is functioning properly (sometimes it doesn't), you should be able to dictate up to about two minutes safely. If the machine hangs up on you just call back and start from where you left off. I hope that this procedure will make it a lot easier for you to make your comments known to the club. In addition, I hope that it will make it easier for the respective Committee Chairmen to call in their reports for each edition of the Sheet. If you have any difficulty with the Action Line, please call me at home. The number there is 493-6298.

The deadline for comments for an upcoming edition of the Bull Sheet will be on or about the 25th of the month. Please let me hear from you.

CU at the next meeting, 73's

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 Al, KN5A

FOR SALE

30/S1	\$1,600
312B5	350
75S3/C with 800 and 200 Hertz filters	850
32S3/A with DX Engineering processor	700
Collins P1 Crystal Pack	175
Yaesu FT 901DM with CW Filter	850
Yaesu FT 901DM with CW Filter	850
FV 901 DM Scanning VFO	275
Two 4CX 1000A Tubes	225 ea.
Johnson Ranger (2)	100

W5SG - 469-6929

