



founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET



Official News Bulletin of the
Texas DX Society
An ARRL Affiliated Club

June, 1987
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Number 6

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TDXS Field Day - 1987 (DE Bill, K2TNO)

Field Day is just about here! I hope you are planning to pitch in and participate with TDXS, this year's winner in class 4A.

The troops will begin to arrive on Friday, June 26 and the operation will begin in earnest that afternoon at 1300 local time. Come out whenever you can; we are saving the last two hour slot on each station for late arriving types who can help with the take-down.

When: Fri-Sat-Sun, last weekend of June.

Where: Bob Burns' W5SJS ranch, six miles South of Brenham.

How: Highway 290 west from Hempstead to Brenham, exit on Texas 36 southbound. Go six miles to a turnoff marked "Business 36", go right under the railroad track. Bear right just after the track on FM 2754. Go two miles to Bob's place. (Its the one with the 70' tower.) Turn into the drive and proceed through the pasture past the pond and windmill to the TDXS '87 site.

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!!

EQUATORIAL GUINEA --- 3C1CW, 3C2A, & 3C8CR
July 10 - July 19 ---- By Jacky, Jean-Louis, & Roland
Modes: MOSTLY CW -- Sunrise 05|25 - Sunset 17|37
QSL Via F6GXB, AK1E, & TR8CR

IRAN --- EP2DL By a West German
14243 @ 1800 -- 14247 @ 2000 -- WFWL.

JAN MAYEN --- JX9CAA -- By LA9CAA, Odd
Watch 75/80 after 2100Z. Also plans to operate from the Western
side for BETTER shot at U.S. Modes: MOSTLY SSB, - Freq: 3.799,
7,070, 14.220 21,220 -- CW up 20 ---- QSL Via LA9CAA

KAMPUCHEA --- XULSS -- 11:20 - Freq: 14165

LIBYA --- 5AOA
April 1 - June 30 ---- By Bert
This is last month in Libya, work him this month. Modes: BOTH -
Freq: 21.019 & 14.220 @ 04:00. QSL Via SP6BZ. (NO CALL ON ENVELOPE)

MALDIVES ISLANDS --- 8Q7CH
May 27 - June 30 -- 17:00 --- By SM5DQC
Modes: BOTH - Freq: 14.055 or 14.180 - QSL Via SM5DQC

NORTH COOK --- ZK1??
June 1 - July 15 ---- By Bing Crosby
Transporation is iffy to N. Cook, so listen for him from S. Cook
for details. Modes: MOSTLY SSB - Sunrise 17|00 - Sunset 04|30
QSL Via VK2BCH - 86/87 CBA

TAIWAN --- BVOAE
June 5 - June 10 ---- By Yoshi - JA1UT & Others
Modes: MOSTLY CW - Freq: 1.810, 3.505, 7.005, 14.005
Sunrise 21|10 - Sunset 10|40 -- QSL Via JA1UT

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES --- A61AB
Sked w/mgr WA3HUP on Tuesdays & Wednesdays 14243 @ 1500
Also 7043 @ 0100 -- 21227 @ 1830 -- 14226 @ 2230 w/W7PHO.
QSL Via WA3HUP

TDXS ANNOUNCEMENTS

BULLSHEET MAILING LIST- The Club provides the Bullsheet free of charge (how-
ever, donations to compensate for the mailing and printing expenses are greatly
appreciated!) to all amateurs with an interest in DX and/or Contests. To sub-
scribe, send your name and address to TDXS, P.O. Box 540291, Houston, Texas
77254-0291.

BULLSHEET ARTICLES- Articles and other newsworthy items are hereby solicited by
the editor. Please send them to Chuck Dietz, KE5FI, P.O. Box 460572, Houston,
Texas 77056. The Bullsheet is assembled on an IBM computer using the "Wordstar"
word processing program. If articles can be submitted on a disk it would be
greatly appreciated. (79 columns wide).

WEEKLY DX AND CONTEST NET- TDXS sponsors a weekly DX and Contest net on our
147.36/147.96 repeater each Thursday night at 9:00 P.M. The purpose of the net
is to exchange DX, contest and club information. Participation is solicited
from non-members as well as members. Your active support is welcomed.

CLUB MEETING- The Texas DX Society meets at 7:30 P.M. on the second Friday of
each month except when changed by the Bord. The current meeting site is up-
stairs at Demontrond Motorhomes at 6015 Hillcroft, just south of the Southwest
Freeway. "Talk in" directions to the meeting site (and to the before meeting
announcement) on 147.36.

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Icom IC735	849 00
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KDK FM 240 NT	279 00
Mirage Amps	15% OFF
Tokyo Hy Power HL 1K AMP, no 4CX250B	699 00
New Kenwood TM-221A, 45W, mobile	Call
VJ Amplifier, VHF, built in England, 1 in-100 out	
3 100, 5-100	(ea.) 269 00
10 in-100 out	229 00
25 in-160 out	319 00
All models include preamp	
Icom 2M4-10P	109 00

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Airco ELH 230D. Excellent buy	88 00
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Shure 444D	54 95
Ameco PT-3	Soon
New Tokyo HC 200A	115 00
Astatic Silver Eagle & Base	66 00
Ten-Tec Mobile Switch 3001	17 00

ANTENNAS	
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Butternut HF6V, 80-10 vertical	125 00
HF2V, 80 & 40 vertical	119 00
HF4B	189 00
Hustler G7-144	119 95
Hustler 6B1V	139 00
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Coax Seal	2 00/roll
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82-63 Inline Female N	4 00
82-98 N elbow	9 00
31-212 BNC RG59	1 50
31-216 UG201 A/U N Male-BNC Female	2 00
31-2 BNC RG58	1 50
34025 N Male, RG58	3 00
34125 N Female UHF male	9 00
3128 BNC Female-PL259	3 00
4400 N Male-S0 239	7 00



ICOM 28H/TTM 399 00

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Collins & Drake Replacement tubes	Stock
GE 6146B	12 95
3 500Z	109 95
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GE 6JS6C	12 95
GE 8950	16 00
12JB6 Sylvania	6 00
Hard to find Tubes 50-90% off list	
6JB6A	9 95
6JE6C/6L06	9 95
572B	69 00
6KD6	10 95

PACKET POWER	
AEA PK-232 with new WX FAX	299 00
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3/16" Guy Cable, 3700 #7 x 7 strand, import	15c/ft
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3/16" Wire Rope Clips	40
1/4" wire clips	50
1/4 Thimbles	45
Porcelain 500D Guy Insulator (3/16)	1 99
Porcelain 502 Guy Insulators (1/4)	3 39

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PROPAGATION FORECAST
(DE KE5FI)



We have had some more of the high flux levels we experienced in April. Have you noticed though, that the bands don't really sound that much better? The blame has been placed upon the magnetic index, but I'm not so sure that tells the whole story. Looking back over May, the planetary A-index (an average of the prior day's K-indices from around the planet) did not climb over 16 until May 24th. Remember, the A and K indices measure the Earth's magnetic activity. A high magnetic level can cause absorption, playing havoc with the lower bands and with the high latitude propagation paths which pass within 15 degrees or so of the poles.

According to Jacobs & Cohen, the inventors of the "Master Propagation Charts" which define "above normal, high normal" and so forth, an A-index of 3 will always register in the "high normal" range when the flux is over 80. Using the Master Charts, our propagation has been high or above normal almost every day in May. BEANS! It has been barely what one could consider average.

This is where semantics and psychology intersect with radio propagation forecasts. What do Jacobs & Cohen mean by "high normal?" Well, it seems that they mean high normal conditions for the current level of solar activity. In other words, a good day for this month but not as good as a high normal day two years from now. They supply different charts to define these terms for low, moderate, high, very high and intense solar flux levels. Needless to say, we are in the bottom half of the "low" chart.

The psychology comes into play because we have short memories. We don't remember how bad it was. The solar flux levels increase so gradually that we don't notice the change. But wait! The levels have dramatically increased from the 75 average level which is expected to an 85 average level for April and 88 for May. And the magnetic indicators have been relatively low (K<3 & A<15). Why haven't we noticed a dramatic increase in DX? Why hasn't 10 been open? Why hasn't 15 been better?

Well, for one thing the magnetic levels have been high in short bursts which may not be long enough to run the A-index up, but which are long enough to cause lasting polar-cap and D layer absorption which may affect propagation for awhile. For example, there was a major storm on May 29th which did last long enough to run the A-index up to 42 and pretty well spoil propagation for the day. On the 30th there was a brief lull in magnetic activity until 0600Z, but after that the bursts increased reaching minor storm levels by 1630Z. The A-index only hit 16, barely what I would consider high. On the 31st of May the levels were not too bad for the first six hours, but reached minor storm levels between 1930-2230Z. The A-index, however, only registered 18 for the day. This, coupled with the rain and lightning, probably made the WPX CW contest really miserable!

The bottom line is reliance upon the A-index can be very misleading. Even the K-index, which is a measurement made within the last 3 hours, can be misleading. There is no agreement as to how long these bursts of magnetic activity will affect propagation. There are also the effects of x-rays emitted by flares which cause sudden ionospheric disturbances (SID's), protons emitted by flares which cause ionospheric storms some 18 to 36 hours after the flare. The polar absorption can occur at both times as a result of the x-rays and the aurora causing protons.

The SID's seem to affect the lower bands the most, while the storms affect the higher bands the most. Polar absorption is usually across all HF bands although the x-ray induced absorption will sometimes be less on higher frequencies.

Now for the forecast. First, June will not average as high flux levels as April and May registered. I think the average will be about 80-82. The flux will gradually rise during the the first part of June perhaps reaching 90 by the 9th Or 10th. It should bob about in the 80-90s until around the 22nd when it will gradually decline through the 80s. No specific magnetic storms are predicted, however there may be a rise in magnetic activity between June 19 and 22. (Just in time for All Asia!)

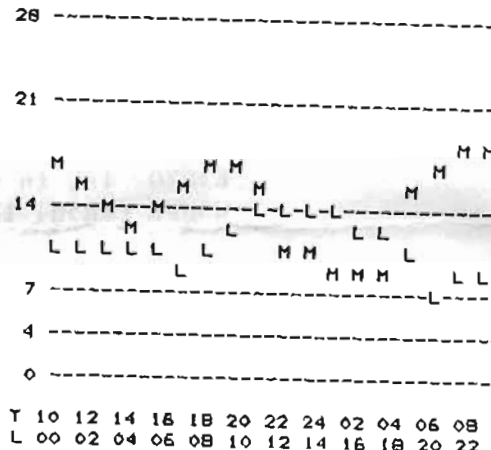
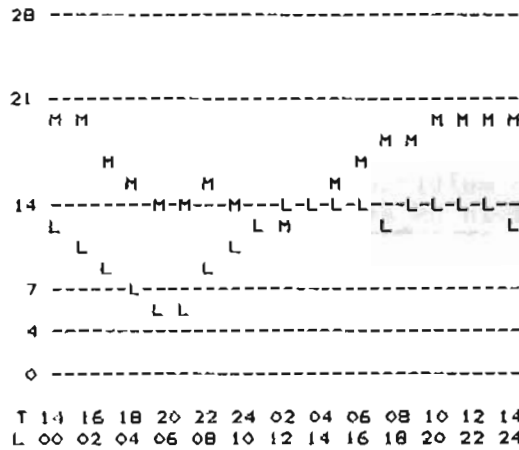
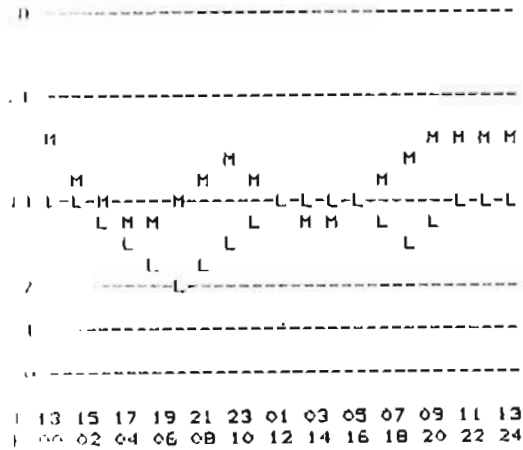
This month I will try to watch the K-indices, both current and prior, and try to correlate them with the good and bad conditions. The indications are for a tremendous month, propagation wise. Humm... maybe I could make a go of 10 for All Asia phone...

The following charts were provided by Jim, NN50 from his "MUF-Plot" C-64 computer program. They plot the MUF and LUF for various Asian paths against time (CDT!) for the 20th of June. These may give an idea of when to look for JA and when to look for 4X4s.

TO: BY - CHINA-CHUNKING
 BEARING: 339 DATE: 6-20 TIME: CDT
 RANGE: 8060 FLUX: 90 PLOT: MUF

TO: JA - JAPAN (TOKYO)
 BEARING: 318 DATE: 6-20 TIME: CDT
 RANGE: 6650 FLUX: 90 PLOT: MUF

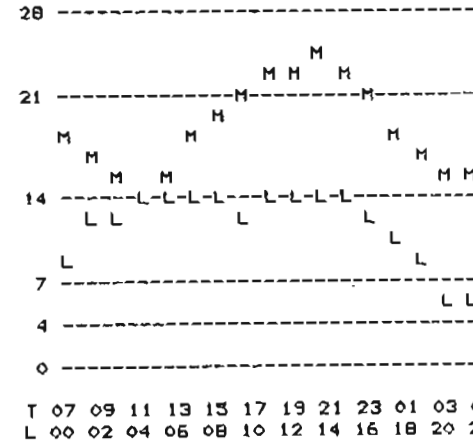
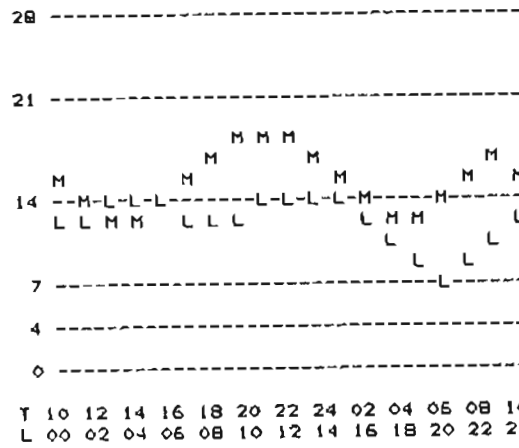
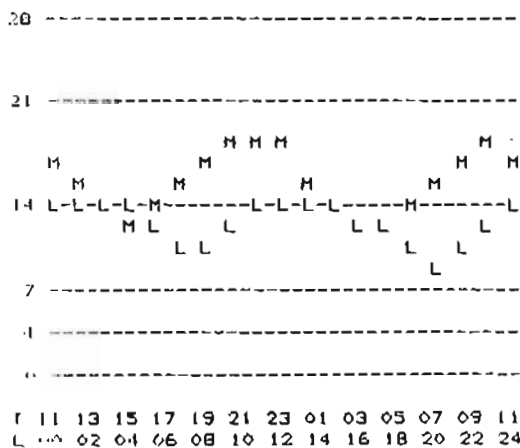
TO: UL - KAZAKH-ALMA ATA
 BEARING: 5 DATE: 6-20 TIME: CDT
 RANGE: 6682 FLUX: 90 PLOT: MUF



TO: VD - INDIA-NEW DELHI
 BEARING: 8 DATE: 6-20 TIME: CDT
 RANGE: 8400 FLUX: 90 PLOT: MUF

TO: UH - TURKMAN-ASHKABAD
 BEARING: 22 DATE: 6-20 TIME: CDT
 RANGE: 7438 FLUX: 90 PLOT: MUF

TO: 4X - ISRAEL
 BEARING: 41 DATE: 6-20 TIME: CDT
 RANGE: 7063 FLUX: 90 PLOT: MUF



CONTESTS
(DE Brent, NT5D)

OFFICIAL RESULTS

1986 All Asia CW

NR5H 5th in US multi

1986 CQ WW WPX CW

NM5M 1st in US multi-multi (7th worldwide)

NZ5I 10th in US multi-sing

K5HA/1 5th in US 15 meters

TDXS placed 5th in the club aggregate competition

1986 North American QSO Party CW

K5LZO 1st in US multi-multi (1068 Qs X 249)

KN5H 3rd in 5th dist sing op (481 Qs X 166)

K2TNO 4th in 5th dist sing op (511 Qs X 155)

N5JJ 6th in 5th dist sing op (332 Qs X 138)

1986 North American QSO Party Phone

K5LZO 1st in US multi-multi (1601 Qs X 233)

W5RRR (KN5H) 1st in US sing op (866 Qs X 119)

RUMORS AND CLAIMS

1986 CQ WW DX CW

NR5H 2nd in US multi-multi

K5KG/LU (+K5TU) 13th in World multi-sing

1986 CQ WW DX Phone

NR5H 5th in US multi-multi

KE5FI 2nd in US 10 meters (K4 who?? ed)

73 Mag SSB Championships (Qs X states/prov X countries)

10 meters: K5LZO 3rd in World multi (572 X 73 X 7)

20 meters: NR5H 2nd in World sing. (1328 X 56 X 97)

40 meters: NT5D 3rd in World multi (847 X 55 X 8)

75 meters: KE5FI 3rd in World sing. (680 X 56 X 37)

160 meters: KE5FI 2nd in World sing. (1010 X 58 X 25)

1987 CQ WPX CW

WX4S multi-multi 1850 Qs

NR5H multi-sing. 1500 Qs

K2TNO/C10 sing. op 1254 Qs X 331

KG5H sing. op 892 Qs X 440

NT5D sing. op 630 Qs X 250

1987 CQ WPX Phone

NR5M multi-sing. 2418 Qs X 755
KE5FI sing. op 1234 Qs X 556
KG5U sing. op 1058 Qs X 510

CONTEST CALENDAR

June 20-21 All Asia Phone Rules In June QST p. 84 and June CQ p. 75, but the date is wrong in CQ: 48 hour contest work Asia only, give report + age (XYL=00) qs=1 pt on 10-40, 2 pts on 75 & 3 pts on 160 mults are Asian prefixes (WPX rules)

June 27-28 Field Day

July 11-12 IARU World Champ (radiosport) Rules in April QST p 88 1200Z. Sat-1200Z. Sun no single band, CW, phone or mixed send report +ITU zone. work everybody

DEADLINES

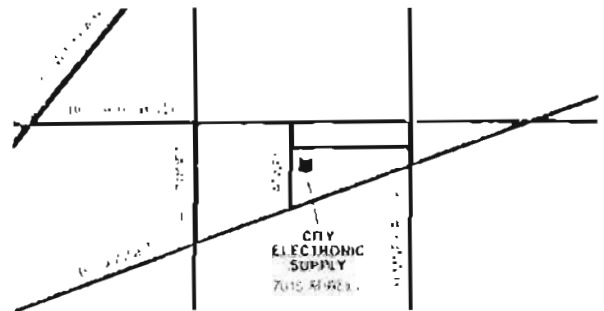
WPX CW logs due July 10 to CQ Mag address. (Put "CW" on envelope.)

Adolph

Alex VASJDI

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QUICK PC BOARD PREPARATION
(DE Bill, K2TNO)

I've found a method for drawing circuits on PC boards which permits very fast preparation of an etched circuit. The secret is a paint pen, sold in office supply stores for about \$2.50 under the name "Faber-Castell Uni-Paint Markers." They are available in two tip widths and numerous colors. This paint is quick drying and resists the ferric chloride etching solution indefinitely. Good, clean patterns are obtained. Once etching is completed, the paint can be easily removed using emery cloth or steel wool. These pens are vastly superior to the usual "magic marker" variety of etch-resistant ink sold in electronics shops. For fast, hand drawn circuits these pens are great. They speed up the process so much that its quicker to paint and etch a board than to wire a circuit using perf board and flea clips. The only word of caution is to be sure the copper has been completely cleaned to a bright shine before painting so that the paint adheres well.

RUSSIANS MAY ORBIT A HAM
(DE Jim, NN50)

The latest satellite news predicts the Russians will orbit a ham in their manned space station in the next few weeks. There is no word as to whether he will be on HF or 2 meters. Their MIR satellite downlink operates on 143.625, so keep listening for Russian language transmissions there.

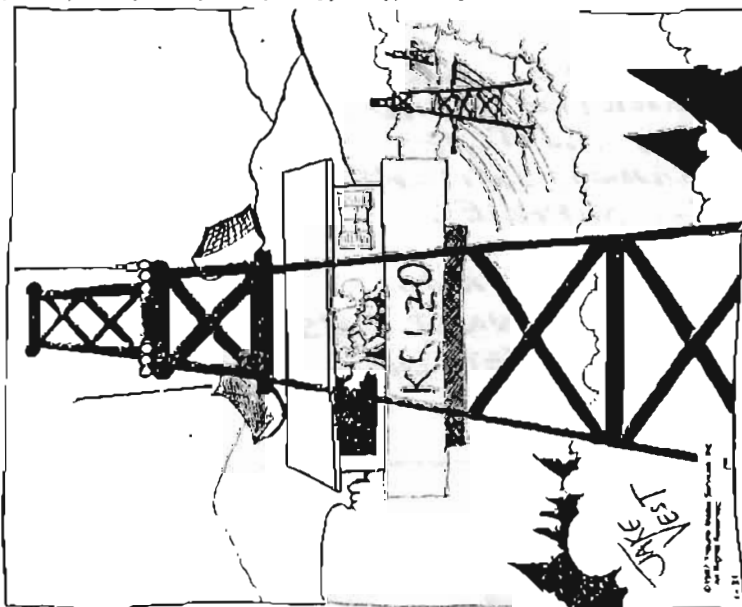
TDXS OUTGOING QSL SERVICE
(DE Ken, KE5IV)

For those TDXS members who may have forgotten, the club sponsors an outgoing QSL service. During each regular monthly meeting your cards should be given to K5LZ0.

The requirements are:

1. Presort your QSLs alphabetically by call sign prefix.
2. Enclose the label from your current QST.

The countries not served are: A5, A6, A7, BV, C9, D6, ET, HZ, J5, KC4, KC6, KH1, KH3, KH5, KH9, KP1, KP5, P5, SU, T2, T3, T5, TJ, TL, TN, TT, TY, TZ, V4, VP2E, VR6, XT, XU, XW, XX9, XZ, YA, ZA, ZD7, ZD9, ZK2, ZK3, 3C, 3V, 3W, 3X, 4W, 5A, 5H, 5R, 5U, 5X, 7O, 7Q, 8Q, 9C, 9N AND 9U.



"The rent's cheap and radio reception is great... but you don't want to be sittin' on this front porch during a lightning storm."

FD '87: THE OPERATING SLOT

by
K5GN

The 24-hour operating period defined for pre-set-up stations is divided into twelve two-hour operating slots for TDXS club efforts. Each active participant gets to choose one or two time slots at whichever station(s) he prefers. Picking order is randomly determined by a drawing. For 4A, with about 25 participating members, almost everybody gets two slots, plus time on the satellite station and the packet station.

The considerable effort that goes into planning, organizing, procuring equipment, setting up on Friday and Saturday, taking down on Sunday, and cleaning up and putting everything away is very great. But all it does is enable a good score to be made and keep alive the possibility for next year's effort. The score is really made during the operating period. Specifically, the score is really the cumulative result of each operator's individual effort during his operating slots.

Choosing your slot. Your choice of slot depends on your preference and your ability. (If you like phone, choose phone. If you like twenty, choose twenty. If you like twenty phone, you're sick.) Try not to choose a slot which is over your head--save the sink or swim learning process for a multi-op effort in a less-than-major contest. Instead, try to choose slots in which you can do the most to advance the score, keeping in mind that other operators have abilities which vary above and below your own level of skill.

Using your slot. Each operating slot should be viewed as your chance with the ball--your chance to advance the point total as best you can.

THE HAND-OFF: Get into position--be there early. Get a running start--find out how the bands are, where the beam is pointed, what's coming in. Be sure you're ready for the ball.

THE RUN: Your chance to move the point total forward. The point total: QSOs are all that count; there are no multipliers to chase. Hints: treat every new Q as a multiplier (especially on Sunday); go slow for the lids and the hesitant ones. Whether it is an open-field run or four yards in a cloud of dust at 4 AM on 80 meters, give it your best.

Concentrate on your technique. The fundamental part of contesting is making contacts. In this way it is much like competitive swimming. Johnny Weissmuller found that strength and effort helped his times very little--the real gains were made in smoothness and perfection of form. Higher level decisions will be set for you--it will be obvious which band to be on, the station layout is fixed, the dupesheet is in progress, etc. Concentrate on smooth, perfect form as you solicit, initiate, and complete your contacts.

THE SECOND HAND-OFF: Give the next guy the best possible shot. **KEEP YOUR DUPESHEET!** As much as possible, tell him what's going on before he sits down. Let him hear what the band and the freq. sounds like, who's QRMing you, what is coming in. Give him the ball with a full head of steam already behind him by avoiding losing continuity or, worse, the frequency as you change chairs.

Remember that the club name goes on the entry sheet. And the club effort is what produces a good overall score. And the objective is to see K5DX/TDXS at the top of the 4A listings when the results come out in QST. So, when choosing and using your operating slots, choose ones that are a good match for you and the overall effort, and use each slot to the best of your ability.

See you at Bob's place.

THEM RUSSIANS SURE WERE LOUD! BY ABOX

Monday evening just after the ARRL CW DX Contest WD0SRI dropped by my QTH for one of his unannounced visits. As we headed for the shack I picked up a couple of 807's for the almost certain long evening ahead. As usual he took the soft chair in front of the rig and left me the broken wicker chair usually reserved for the family cat. Elmer seemed to be in high spirits as he turned the conversation to his contest effort almost immediately.

"I just had to come by and tell you about my 160 Meter effort in the test," Elmer began enthusiastically. "Wow, I worked some really good stuff on 160!" he exclaimed.

Being a Low Band DX'er myself I had to ask "What did you work?" I should have known better.

"Well, I worked some routine Caribbean stuff such as VP2's and VP9, etc. But what was really exciting was who called me," he said as he tipped his 807 and belched profoundly. Of course, I asked "Who?"

"You see, I was calling this KP4 when UP2KHZ began calling me! I couldn't believe how loud he was. I worked him and started calling the KP4 again. That's when UP2LID called me. Of course, I worked him too. Boy, them Russians were loud!" he exclaimed, "they sounded like locals."

"Well," was all I could get out before he took over again. "I figured if I was getting out so good why not just call CQ Contest," he explained, "so I parked on 1827 and hit the magic button on my KC Keyer. Sure enough it wasn't long before I worked another new country. It wasn't a Russian but it was just as good. CO0RS called me. He said to QSL to 'ole Dean, WA0TKJ. He didn't go to Cuba for the contest did he?" he asked.

"I think you worked Slim," I said softly trying not to fracture his delicate neophyte character. "Well, I didn't get his name," he continued, "Next R68X called me. I did get his name as Belden tho. Then my old friend UF0DL called me. You know I seem to work him in every contest!"

"I bet you do," was all I could get out without choking.

"But it wasn't easy holding frequency. 1827 is a very busy spot," WD0SRI explained, "several times I heard people send "QSY! QSY!" after I'd call CQ. Guess they wanted a chance at that good frequency!"

"Probably so," was all I could say before he began again. "5U4GB answered my CQ next, followed by 6LQ6 for new countries in Africa. I worked UR2DUM next. Boy, them Russians sure were loud!"

I got Elmer another cold 807 and began explaining as carefully as possible that he had been tricked. I even explained who Slim is to this naive newcomer to the world of DX contesting. Actually he took it pretty well.

As he headed to the door to leave he looked down at his feet and said, "You don't think any of those guys who called me were from the DX club, do you?"

"Of course not," I reassured him, "none of our guys would ever do anything like that." Half smiling he said, "Good, because I've kind of suspected some of them since that night they called me around midnight on 2 Meters to work EP2TY on 10 Meters."

"Well, it must have been exceptional band conditions," I said trying to keep a straight face after this revelation. As he went out the door he mumbled "It's a shame, 'cause them Russians sure were loud!"

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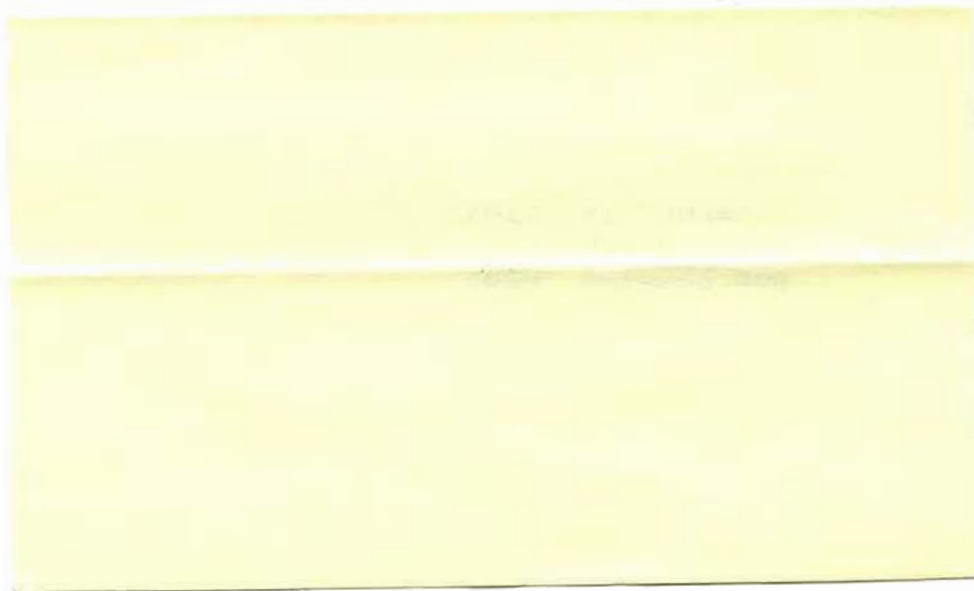


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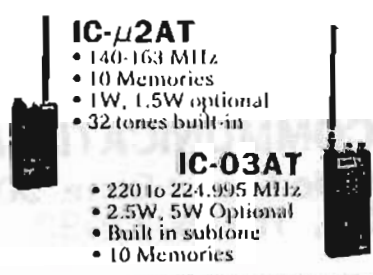
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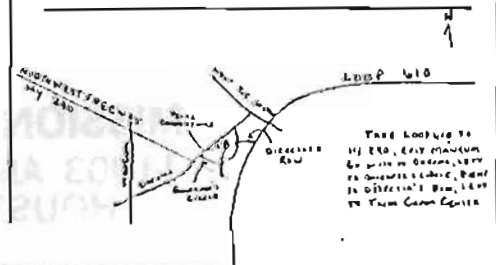
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