



founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET



Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

December, 1987

Volume XI

Number 12

=====

Officers

President: K5TU Kim Carr
V. Pres.: K5GN Dave McCarty Bullsheet Ed: KE5FI Chuck Dietz
Secretary: KE5IV Ken Grabenstein Legal Chairman: KN5A Al Vacek
Treasurer: KG5U Dale Martin Field Day: K2TNO Bill Schrader
Contests: NT5D Brent Levit DX Chairman: WI5P Bill Wibker

=====

THE ANNUAL TDXS BANQUET (By Tom, K5RC)

For about the last 14 years, the TDXS Winter Banquet has been the social event of the year for the Club. It is the time for the spouses and girlfriends to meet your fraternity brothers and for them to compare notes on just exactly where you were when you said you were going to Field Day. It is a fun evening, with hard-core radio kept to a minimum.

This year, the soiree will be held on Saturday, January 9, 1988, at Las Alamedas Restaurant, 8615 Katy Freeway. Cocktail hour will begin at 7PM, followed by dinner at 8PM. After dinner, there will be the ceremonial induction of the 1988 Club Officers and a program of awards and honors (?) presented to the most deserving of our membership. (if you've never witnessed one of these events, you haven't lived).

We will have a private dining room with a cash bar. Seating will be at tables of eight. You will have a choice of one of three entrees; Blackened Redfish, Pollo Mesquite (mesquite broiled chicken) or Veal Oscar. Dinner includes the usual dinner fare with the entree, plus coffee or tea.

The price is \$16.00 per person and must be paid by January 2. We have to guarantee the number to the restaurant, so, please don't show up at the door without having paid. Please use the enclosed SAE to mail your check (While you're at it, you might as well pay your 1988 dues!) Spouses, girlfriends, dates, mother-in-laws and guests are welcome. Y'all come!

IT SEEMS TO ME (de K5TU) Are we having fun yet? Good question ... You want my view? Read on.

My perception of 1987 in the TDXS is that we experienced a year of convalescence. For several years, a lot of hard work went into building a very popular contest: The TDXS Armadillo Run. We had some block-buster field days and a hard run at regaining the SS gavel. We put a lot of effort into the Houston Com-vention. But what happened to the momentum?

While moving my equipment and preparing my new shack this month, I ran across some Armadillo run logs, a Bullsheet with 5 super articles about various Armadillo Run experiences and a couple of personal letters I received from some of the real CHC guys. One in particular hit a nerve. In summary, the letter questioned whether the TDXS could sustain the Armadillo Run at its then 'fevered pace' or would it just die, killing future activity in the County Hunter's Contest? Is that what we planned, or did it really just die?

The crippled Houston oil economy took its toll also. We saw several members change jobs or get transferred. The threat of a bad local economy or getting laid off is a very real source of stress. Enter Maslow's heirarchy and exit TDXS.

Low sunspot activity gave us a bit of a rest from chasing DX and the opportunity to re-think the station or rebuild some antennas. We saw one potential multi-op contest station reduced back to single op status (radio Magnolia), and two existing multi-op stations building (Hempstead and the lumberyard).

A "slack" year was just what we needed. But slack is relative... Slack for the TDXS is a blockbuster Field Day, construction of stacked arrays on 40 thru 10 at NR5M, and a ho-hum Houston Convention. Most of us are beginning breathe easier with the current economy. We may not like it, but we can handle it.

The momentum has changed. I see renewed activity as we enter the fall contest season. We're looking up and looking forward. I'm glad to see George, NR5M, as President in 1988. George is action oriented, and will no doubt really stir up some fun for us. Give George and the other officers (KB5FU, KE5IV and KG5U) the support they need. And above all, remember: It's only a hobby!

So, are we having fun yet? I think the fun is just beginning. So peak the wattmeter and hold on to your coax. You're in for a ride!

THANKS FOR THE HARD WORK (de K5TU) A quick word of thanks to the 1987 officers and board members for their support this year. In particular, KE5IV deserves a couple of "atta-boys". Ken was always prompt with the board and regular meeting minutes and handled the club's outside correspondence in a first class manner. Without his extra effort, the board would have bogged down in administrative matters.

To you all, my sincere thanks and Merry Christmas!

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS - TDXS STYLE

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house,
Everyone was stirring, including the mouse.
The kids were screaming, the dog's under the tree,
Why is all this happening to me?

The '930 was on 40, a VK9 hoping to hear,
My last shot at Honor Roll maybe QRV this year!
The beam was out west, yep..all's QRV.
But will he be able to hear 'lil ole me?

Tuning...listening...CW then fone.
Where is this guy, doesn't he know I'm at home?
Then I heard it. The pile-up was huge.
Who is it? Where's he listening? Gee I'm confused!

With patience I listened. Is it him? I can't tell!
Too many policemen! Who's a LID? Why don't YOU go to hell!
It's the VK9, and workable, too.
Like ducks in a barrel...one call, maybe two.

I might need the watts. To the Alpha..tally ho!
I pushed in the switch. The panel lamps glow.
'Have to wait 60 seconds, seems like days.
High voltage...Green lite...this baby really plays!

My killer instinct is really boiling now.
Into the pileup...Big watts...I'll show 'em how!
Unkey. Listen. OH NO! This can't be real!
He answered KC5CP! Dale, I know how you feel!

When over the repeater came a clear QST.
"VK9YE 7097...listening one ninety-three."
Soon the whole world will be on his freq.
Better work him fast, my Honor Roll's incomplete.

More watts...That's the answer. Crank up the drive.
This Alpha Two-Holer will eat them alive!
Back to the pile-up. Three calls again.
I'm sweating this now. Did he hear me then?

No answer this time. Two more times with my call.
Silence. Agony. I'm climbing the wall,
Then clear as a bell....Horray, he's calling me!
You're 59 in Texas. Log it. Whew, what a relief!

I slumped in my chair, worn out from the fight.
What a way to spend your Christmas Eve night.
Boasting my triumph, I go back to the den.
When over the repeater I hear..."HEY, HE'S A SLIM!"

UNNECESSARY SOPHISTICATION..(OR, AM I JUST GETTING OLD?)

Have you noticed these days that there is absolutely nothing simple and reasonable that one can operate? For some reason, our technologists have concluded that we all must have their support in order to perform anything, and have gone out of their way to insure that we use their gadgets. Also, I think they have colluded with our capitalist marketeers to enter a progressive planned obsolescence of anything.

This little article was triggered because I just tried to operate a 440Mhz repeater in the Houston area (any repeater will do - I just wanted to see if my HT would work). What did I find? All the repeaters on UHF are PL squelched! Good grief! On 440, where there is practically no activity much less interference? Mercy sakes - why?

Recently I purchased this new HT; gee whiz, it is a Super Duper Belchfire Eight model with all sorts of stuff (except a PL card). The darn thing works 2 bands (so the advertisements say). Unfortunately, in order to get it to do anything one must be a computer expert, and memorize a whole bag full of instructions. There's more digital/automated circuitry in the thing by far than communication hardware. After trying to interpret the English-translated Japanese (including incomplete instructions), and playing with the gadget in trial and error fashion, I finally got it to come on to operate a local repeater on 2 meters. Hurray, genius at work!! Unfortunately, that's probably going to be the only time, because I can't remember the combination again! This thing sure makes my old 2-a look good; if you are an oldtimer, you may remember that the 2-a is just a radio. To operate it, one simply turns it on, and sets the frequency manually. What a pleasure!

Well, that's only one example of what's happening to us in Ham Radio. Similarly, I talked my self into acquiring a TS-440 last year. What a beautiful piece of modern technology. It walks, but does it talk? Well, not easily! It's got the microprocessor syndrome, also. Like the HT, one cannot simply turn it on and operate - one must be computer whiz! And one might wonder why something like the TS-120 is still popular? In fact, just this week I had the pleasure (for these days,) of working on a Swan 270 transceiver. Pardon the blasphemy, but it DID NOT have a microprocessor in it. Not only that, but it uses VACUUM TUBES. (You remember - those old bottle looking things seen in museums?) Heavens, how did it ever work? Frankly, very well, thank you, without the help of our computer and marketing society. Although I've been directing this little piece toward Ham Radio, I find the same phenomenon wherever I turn. Have you taken a look at your car lately? With my venerable age, I can actually remember cars that were designed to get people from place to place, that worked pretty well, and that even I could troubleshoot and do some repair. "quoth the raven, "nevermore."" Now we have the microprocessor. Have you looked at your microwave oven lately? Microprocessor controlled! Even the sewing machine has one of the miserable gadgets in it. Oh well, such is the price of "progress."

Anyway, I think I'm about as sophisticated as I'll get, and I'd sure appreciate it if those Wall Street oriented technologists would find something else to do. It may turn out that old Daniel Boone had the right idea; the only solution is to resign!

Good old Henry F. had the right idea with the Model A. Have you looked at your microwave oven lately? Microprocessor controlled! Even the sewing machine has one of the miserable gadgets in it. Oh well, such is the price of 'progress.'

Anyway, I think I'm about as sophisticated as I'll get, and I'd sure appreciate it if those Wall Street oriented technologists would find something else to do. It may turn out that old Daniel Boone had the right idea; the only solution is to resign!

Don Wiseman, K5CA

(Reprinted with permission of the Johnson Space Center ARC Monthly Newsletter and Don Wiseman)

Note: Lest anyone think K5CA is just another of the portion of the population (Ham or otherwise) being physically dragged kicking and screaming into the 20th century, he is a longtime employee of NASA, is Deputy Chief of the Life Sciences Project Division (the people who work on the Spacelab and Shuttle science operations and projects), longtime member of the JSC-ARC (W5RRR), and has, virtually, singlehandedly redesigned and rebuilt the Emergency Operating Center in Dickinson, Texas. KG5U

TDXS ANNOUNCEMENTS

BULLSHEET MAILING LIST- The Club provides the Bullsheet free of charge (however, donations to compensate for the mailing and printing expenses are greatly appreciated!) to all amateurs with an interest in DX and/or Contests. To subscribe, 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.

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.

DX Report (de WI5P)

Angola --- YU2NA/D2
YU2NA in Angola till March and has been promised a license.

Christmas Island --- VK9YD/VK9X
December 19 - 22 and December 29 - Jan 1 -- By OH5VD
QSL Via OH5VD

Cocos-Keeling Island --- VK9YD
December 22 - December 28 -- By OH5VD
Sunrise 23100 - Sunset 11150 -- QSL Via OH5VD

East Malaysia --- 9M6ZR
12:00 - Freq: 3,506 -- QSL Via WA2HZR

Heard Island --- VK0HI
September 1 - March 1 -- 04:00 -- By Dave, VK3DHF
Freq: 14,250 List @ 0330 Also 7010, 14052, 14220 -- 1600-1800Z.
QSL: VK3EVN, Noel Shaw, 64 Orona Drive, Watsonia,
Victoria 3087, Australia (Dave's Dad)

Jan Mayen --- JX8XY
December 1 - March 1

Mozambique --- C9MKT
December 6 -- 19:00 - 21:00 -- By Ron
Two week operation has ended, but will be in Mozambique for
two more years. Will continue to try for permission to operate.
Freq: 14,160-183-333 & 21,380 -- QSL Via SM5KDM

Nepal --- 9N1 - YASME
December 25 - ??? -- By Lloyd & Iris
Sunrise 01110 - Sunset 11130 -- QSL Via YASME

Nepal --- 9N5YDY
December 21 - December 29 -- By Japan UNICEF Ham Club
Freq: 7043,14188,21238,28,448 plus 7008, 14028, 21028, & 28028
RTTY - 14091 -- Sunrise 01110 - Sunset 11130
QSL Via JA8RUZ, Toshi Kawanishi, Box 166, Asahikawa 070-91, Japan

Niger --- TU4BR/5U7
Counts for DXCC Credit.
QSL: KN4F

Sri Lanka --- 4S7YLR & DK1ZN/4S7
December 28 - January 28 ---- By Hubert, DK1ZN & Nanda, DJ0CP
Mainly 20-10 but will try 40 & 80
Modes: CW,SSB,RTTY, & PACKET - QSL Via CBA

Vatican City --- HV1CN
11:00 - 12:00 -- By Dominico -- Freq: 14,265 -- QSL Via CBA

CONTEST CORNER

de NT5D

Even though conditions were only fair during the CQ WW CW CONTEST, a great time was had by all out at NR5M. As you will see in the rumors, there were a lot of countries on the air despite conditions. Lots of Africans and even XU1SS were worked over the weekend. Thirty-three to thirty-eight different zones worked per band was common. If this is any indication of things to come, the ARRL DX tests in '88 should be a blast. Rumors of a DX-pedition by the club to Mexico for the ARRL DX tests are floating around so keep your ears open for further developments.

If you have not heard yet, K5ZD/3 Randy, reports that the National Contest Journal will be 8½" x 11" with a glossy cover and a new format for '88 -- sounds interesting.

RUMORS....

CQ WW PHONE

KN5X/J3 Multi-single 3996 Q's/ 92 zones/ 249 countries
(ops: NT5D, WB5N, KN5X)

CQ WW CW

NR5M Multi-multi 4008 Q's/ 183 zones/ 512 countries
(new record for W5 call area)

SWEEPSTAKES PHONE

NR5M High power-single op 1741 Q's x 75 sections

W5WMU High power-single op 1740 Q's x 75 sections

W5ASP " " " " ? ?

K5LZO High power-multi op 2600 Q's x 75 sections

COMING ATTRACTIONS....

December 27 Canada Day Contest

January 2-3 "73" 10 meter SSB Championship

" 9-10 "73" 15 and 20 meter SSB Championships

" 16-17 "73" 160 meter SSB Championship

" " " Texas QSO Party

" 23-25 ARRL VHF Sweepstakes

" 23-24 "73" 40 and 75 meter SSB Championships

" 29-31 CQ WW 160 meter CW contest

February 20-21 ARRL DX CW Contest

" 26-28 CQ WW SSB Contest

March 5-6 ARRL DX Phone Contest

DEADLINES AND SPECIAL DATES....

Sweepstakes logs: both modes must be postmarked by December 23, 1987.

ARRL 10meter contest: mailing deadline for all entries is January 18, 1988.

*send the above to: ARRL Communications Dept., 225 Main St., Newington, CT
06111

73 Magazine SSB Championships: mail separate entries to the individual directors (details December '87 CQ magazine, page 118) postmarked no later than February 18, 1988.

CQ WW CW logs: all entries must be postmarked by January 15, 1988. Indicate CW on envelope. Mail to: 76 North Broadway, Hicksville, NY
11801

North American Sprint: 1988 dates have been chosen by the NCJ:
CW - February 7, September 11
SSB - February 14, September 18

FINALLY....

Well I am sorry to say that this is my last column. Even though I went through a job change, moved, and recently married, the time I have spent writing a column has been fun. It is tough to be a "contest pusher" during sunspot minimum. However, I did enjoy my appointment as contest chairman. Thanks to those of you who gave me their support.

Have a happy holiday season and see you in the contests.

THE DEVIL'S TARGET RANGE
(by Chuck, KE5FI)

The Devil smiled as he watched
The good weather spread across the land,
For he knew that new and even larger
Lightning rods would be erected
Adjacent to the cursed ham operator's shacks.

He was especially happy to see
The large new target at Smith Point.
"Even Beelzebubba should be able
To hit this one with ease!"
He chuckled to himself.

"If only I could think of a way
To divert Bubba's attention
Away from his favorite place...
The one that's just out side the limits
Of the town of Magnolia... ."

MERRY CHRISTMAS THE WORLD OVER

Bulgarian - Tchestito Rjodestvo Hristoo. Tchestita Nova Godina
Chinese-Cantonese - Gun Tso Sun Tan'Gung Haw Sun.
Chinese-Mandarin - Kung Ho Hsin Hsi. Ching Chi Shen Tan.
Czech - Prejeme Vam Vesele Vanoce a stastny Novy Rok.
Dutch - Zalig Kerstfeest es een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar.
English - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Estonian - Roomsaid Joulu Phui ja Uut Aastat.
Finnish - Hyvaa joula. Onnellista Uutta Vuotta.
French - Joyeux Noel et Heureuse Anne.
German - Forhliche Weihnachten und ein Glueckliches Neus
jahr.
Greek - Kala Khristougena kai Eftikhes to Neon Ethos
Hebrew - Mo'adim Lesimkha Hungarian - Boldog Karacsonyl es
Ujevi Unnepeker.
Icelandic - Gledlig jol og Nyar Indonesian - Selamat Tahun
Baru
Italian - Buon Natalie e felice Capo d'Anno.
Japanese - Shinnen Omedeto. Kurisumasu Omedeto
Korean - Sung Tan Chuk Ha.
Lithuanian - Linksmu sventu Kalendu ir Laimingu Nauju Metu
Latvian - Priecigus Ziemas Svetkus un Laimigu Jauno Gadu
Norse-Danish - Gledlig jul og godt Nytt aar.
Polish - Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia i szczesliwego
Nowego Roku
Portuguese - Feliz Natal e prospero Ano Novo.
Romanian - Sarbatori Fericite. La Multi Ani.
Russian - Pozdrevly ayu vas sprazdnikom Rozhdestva Khristova
is Novim Godom
Spanish - Feliz Navidad y prospero Ano Nuevo.
Swedish - Glad jul och ett gott nytt Ar.
Ukrainian - Veselykh Svyat i scaslivohe Novoho Roku.

DXCC
(By Sharp, K5DX)

According to DEC. QST, the following TDXS members
have reached the following levels confirmed with DXCC

Over 200 Countries CW Only:

KC5M - 256 W5ASP - 240 K5ZD/3 - 202

Over 300 Countries Phone Only:

K5DX - 353 W5JWM - 351 K5YCP - 320 KC5M - 303

Over 300 Countries Phone - CW Mixed:

K5DX - 358 K5AAD - 344 K5RC - 337 K5BZU - 325

N5EA - 324 K5YC - 323 W5DOZ - 319 (Deceased)

KB5FU - 309 N5DC - 307 KC5M - 305 AK5B - 302

This may not be totally accurate. Some of us may
not be maintaining our correct levels with the DVCC Desk