



founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the
Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club



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The Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 540291, Houston, Texas 77254-0291

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Officers and Directors

President: NR5M, George DeMontrond Bullsheet Editor: K2TNO, B. Schrader
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Secretary: KE5IV, K. Grabenstein Repeater Chairman: N5DU, Bob Evans
Treasurer: KG5U, Dale Martin Field Day Chairman: K5GB, Butch Barber
Contest Chairman: K5GN, Dave McCarty Conv. Chairman: W5ASP, Joe Staples

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING NOTICE - The Texas DX Society meets the second Friday of each month except when changed by the Board of Directors. The July TDXS meeting will be held Friday, July 8, at 7:30 P.M. at DeMontrond Motor Homes, on Hillcroft just south of the Southwest Freeway. There will also be a board meeting beginning at 6:45 P.M.

WEEKLY DX & CONTEST NETS- Each Tuesday night at 9:00 p.m. the Club sponsors a net on 147.96/.36. Participation by non-members as well as members is welcomed. The purpose of the net is to facilitate the exchange of DX, contest, and Club information within the amateur community. A second, informal net operates on Thursday nights at 20:45 local time to go over DX bulletins. The Club's Packet Cluster DX bulletin board is currently up and running on 144.95 using the call NZ5I. Use AX25 level 2 protocol; it can be accessed via ALD or HEMP digipeaters if not direct. Your active support of these activities is encouraged.

BULLSHEET MAILING LIST - It is the club's desire to provide the Bullsheet free to all amateurs in the area with an interest in DXing and/or contesting. Donations to defray the publication and mailing costs are appreciated. If you would like to receive our newsletter, simply send your name, call, and mailing address to the Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 540291, Houston, Texas, 77254-0291. Visitors at the regular club meeting can request the monthly newsletter by providing their mailing address on the sign-in sheet. Articles or other newsworthy items from club members and other interested amateurs are hereby solicited by your editor. Send articles via FAX (713-790-1275) addressed to "Dr. William Schrader."

STOP PRESS! - Should be another TDXS Field Day win, this time class 5A with about 20,000 points.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER
(by George DeMontrond, NR5M)

Field Day 1988 was great! We had super conditions on the high bands, aided by almost non-stop daytime and early evening sporadic E propagation. 10M provided a 150 phone QSO rate in the Final Hour!

The weather was as nearly perfect as a late June Texas event can expect. Cloud cover provided welcome relief from the near 100 degree days before and after the event. The early morning rain Saturday left the field virtually fireproof for the weekend. (Sharp tested this on Sunday by burning a cardboard box of ants that he had rounded up near the 20M phone station.)

K5MA gets the award for most elaborate (and difficult to erect) station. When the last of the FD crew disappeared over the horizon headed home Sunday afternoon Jan could still be heard atop his 70-odd foot tower shouting salutations. Anyone heard if he made it back yet?

K5RC gets an award for the most attempts to erect the least number of antennas. Seems he found out that it really is important to have both sets of U-bolts in the rotator bracket. I'm just glad the antenna didn't fall on the horse stabled nearby...Might have disrupted the riding lessons KE5FI and his hun were giving.

Congratulations to K5LZO for not smoking a single cigar all weekend. No one recognized Chuck all weekend cause he smelled so different...And wasn't it nice not to have K2TNO in your hair all weekend? Seems his car was used as a guy anchor for the novice 10 meter quad-tower and Bill didn't want to stray too far from his 1974 Volvo. Never know when a thief will show up to purloin a yuppiemobile.

All told our venture into 5A was an unqualified success. Thanks to each and every member and guest who made FD 88 possible.

FIELD DAY 1988
(de Bill, K2TNO)

It looks like another win for TDXS, this time in class 5A. The final tally isn't available, but we had almost 8,000 QSO's. The breakdown (before duping) looks like this:

<u>Band</u>	<u>CW</u>	<u>QSO'S</u>	<u>Phone</u>
160			
80	79		47
40	500		400
20	816		1335
15	520		1102
10	145		1400
6&2	-		260
2M Packet	60		-
Satellite	22		22
Novice 80	0		Novice - TECH
			Call N5IZA

<u>Band</u>	<u>CW</u>	<u>Phone</u>
40	10	-
15	20	-
10	<u>0</u>	<u>1000</u>
TOTALS =	2172	5566

The low bands played much poorer this time, due to excellent sporadic E on 10M and 6M. Even 20 SSB was slower. We could be really surprised by a big CW effort in 5A out of another group, so keep your fingers crossed!

Special thanks go to W5SJS and his neighbor for again hosting the shindig. Guest op Ross, N5HHS, ran the hell out of 10M SSB on the Novice station. He's a VHF contester, no stranger to big rates and QRM. He and his XYL N5IZA provided the luxury of 1,000 QSO's to our aggregate. Kudos too go to Don Busick of Madison Electronics for coughing up spare Butternut parts to put the Novice station QRV. Also to Jody of Radio Shack for his coax donation (did you know R'Shack handles RG-8X?). Finally, thanks to all the participants who put on another outstanding show.

The score (assuming 10% phone dupes) will be about 19.5K points.

Eternal Optimist, Cape Cod Division -

To K5MA for putting up a 22-el yagi at 50 ft. on 2M. Both QSO's reported he was very loud.

Jack Paar Award - To KB5FU for coolness under fire.

Not My Chob Award, Equestrian event -

To KE5FI who left in a cloud of dust and hearty hi-yo Silver and made someone else drive the RV back.

Kamikaze Award - To KC5CP for bringing a bugzapping SPARK GENERATOR and plugging it in right alongside the 40 CW station.

Graf Zeppelin Award - To NR5M for renting a leaky helium ballon which crashed Saturday evening.

HISTORY OF THE TEXAS DX SOCIETY
(by Richard King - K5NA)

Editor's Note: This is the last installment of Richard's fascinating saga. I know from many comments I have received that the series has been widely read and awaited each month. Thanks to Richard for a job well done.

The TDXS Gets Its First Big Win

The 1974 TDXS Field Day effort was one to remember. We operated at the Demney site near New Waverly, Texas in the 3 transmitter category. The hay in the pasture had not yet been mowed and we were forced to relocate to a nearby ridge on the property. The weather was rainy right up until 1:00 PM on Friday. Then, the sun came out and stayed for the rest of the weekend. It was an omen and a good one at that. We won 3A that year for our first big contest win as a club under N5WW's Field Day Chairmanship. It sure felt good.

1975 was also the year that WA5LES (now K5RC) brought a single-op national championship to the TDXS in the CW Sweepstakes. The Texas DX Society was certainly starting to make a name for itself. There were a total of three TDXS members in the SS top ten that year for Phone and CW.

The Challenge For Best Contester in Texas

A Richardson Wireless Klub's newsletter article in their December 1974 edition of "The Chawed Rag" about the Texas DX Society started a war of words between the two clubs. Much of it was tongue-in-check as they referred to the lesser operating skills of "Richard's Raiders" from that contest club in the southern half of the state. We pretended to be very indignant about it and formally challenged them to a head-to-head Field Day competition in the 1975 Field Day effort. We requested that the competition be in the 4A category because that was a category that neither club was experienced in. The RWK responded and only wanted to compete with us in the 2A category. We certainly didn't want to tangle with them in 2A so no intra-Texas competition happened in 1975. The shoot-out was delayed. I might add that we won 3A and the RWK was 2nd in 2A that year.

The next year, there was more discussion between the Texas DX Society and the Richardson Wireless Klub about the head-to-head Field Day competition to determine the best contest club in the state of Texas. We had been operating 3A for over 5 years at that point and felt pretty confident in that category. However, the RWK's strength was in the 2A category. Again the TDXS and RWK couldn't agree which category to compete in and no competition occurred in 1976. We finished 2nd that year in the 3A competition and 1976 started what came to be known in the TDXS as the "even year jinx".

Finally, in 1977, a challenge was accepted between the TDXS and the RWK for Field Day. The RWK agreed to compete with us in 3A where we felt our strength lay. Even though the RWK usually competed in 2A, we knew that they would be tough in any category they chose. The TDXS members really came through. We put up 9 towers including 3 (count em) 40 meter beams, one for SSB, one for CW and one for the novice band. Our top novice operator had 3 or 4 years experience as a novice and he was comfortable at 35 wpm. As a result, the novice station made over 500 QSOs. We were prepared for 6 meters and it rewarded us with several hours of 100+ QSOs/hour runs. We ran 3 generators and had 3 back-ups available. At the end of Field Day we were using all the back-ups because of failures (real good planning).

We attacked the bands with the aggressiveness of a hungry wolf pack and it paid off. We took advantage of every bonus point available and capitalized on our

club strength of CW (2 points per CW QSO). After Field Day, a phone call to Dallas confirmed that we had won the head-to-head competition with the Richardson Wireless Klub. Many felt that was our finest hour. Our total 3A point score that year was only beaten by only two other groups in all transmitter categories, K2AA in 8A and W3AU in 16A.

Since winning our Field Day category (3A) in 1975 and 1977, the TDXS continued its winning ways in 3A by winning Field Day in 1979, 1981, 1982 (broke the even year jinx), 1984, 1986. In 1987 the TDXS tried 4A and won that category for the first time. All together the TDXS has had 8 Field Day wins in the last 13 years. Not a bad record.

The BULLSHEET

Since the club's unofficial beginning in 1968, I had been the only Secretary/Treasurer that the TDXS had ever known. For personal reasons at the first of 1976, I declined to being an officer of the Texas DX Society. Until that time, I had written hundreds of letters for club business meeting announcements, etc. I was naturally worried that my discontinuance of that activity would cause a loss of communication within the TDXS. Boy was I ever wrong.

The first copy of the BULLSHEET appeared in the member's hands in February 1976. Back in those days, we met every other month. The BULLSHEET was to be published six times a year as a club newsletter and also provided meeting announcement information. Kim, WA5WCT (now K5TU) stepped forward and agreed to be the first editor. He did a fine job and initiated standards of quality that continue to be synonymous with the TDXS BULLSHEET. After 5 issues of the BULLSHEET, Kim's job took him to PY1-land and he had to give up the Editorship. Luckily we had Tom, WA5LES (now K5RC), to step in for the last issue of 1976 and take over as editor. Tom continued as Editor for the next 5 years and showed us all how to turn out a classy newsletter. Tom really had a flair for it. To this day, the BULLSHEET continues to be one of the top club newsletters in the country.

The TACO Attack

During the 1970's one thing kept bothering many of us. With the League's single category of club competition, we know that the TDXS would never have a chance to win the club competition in any contest. We just were not big enough. Not only that, there was NO possibility that we could ever become big enough to compete.

In the spring of 1976, the president of the TDXS (K5RC) met with the president of the Richardson Wireless Club and came up with a plan to compete with the big contest clubs on the east and west coasts. The plan was well thought out. They wanted to organize the Texas DX Society, Richardson Wireless Klub, Alamo DX Amigos, etc., into a single contest club centered on the heart of Texas. They named this contest club TACO (Texas Association of Contest Operators).

In the Fall of 1976, a Texas Contesters Convention (TACO Convention) was held near NASA in Houston to solidify the agreement and kick off membership. However, there appeared to be a stumbling block ahead for TACO. Many members of the TDXS were worried about the impact of TACO on the future of the Texas DX Society. We (mainly K5MA and I) were afraid that the TDXS would suffer a loss to its fraternal make-up when the members began competing under another name. Jan, K5MA, and I found that there were a few RWK members who felt the same way and that increased our stubbornness. In spite of the pressure, Jan and I stuck to our TDXS guns and an agreement for consolidation of Texas contest scores was lost.

TACO struggled for another year trying to bolster support for a centralized contest club in Texas. Then at the end of 1977 it gracefully bowed out. I guess we will never know what kind of impact we could have had on club contesting back then if there had been only one Texas contest club. However, with the 3-tiered club competition that the ARRL has now, the pressure is no longer there to organize as a large geographic area club.

The Convention Connection

The TDXS was invited to participate in the Texas VHF-FM Society Summer Convention to be held in Houston in August of 1978. The TDXS membership thought about it and decided that it might be interesting to bring a DX/Contesting perspective to the gathering. As it turned out, the TDXS became the hit of the convention over-shadowing the VHF-FM theme.

Jan (K5MA) took up a collection before the convention to buy film for the PY1RO/O DXpedition to St. Peter and Paul Rock. A deal was struck with PY1RO that if the TDXS supplied the film we would get first shot at presenting the show. Actually, the DXpedition returned to Rio only one week before our convention and Jan (and other TDXS members) spent a frantic week getting the films, sending them to Dallas for processing, getting them back, editing and then presenting the show at the convention. It was a good example of the TDXS 'can-do' attitude.

The TDXS also arranged one of the early showings of the Clipperton Island Dxpediton of 1978 for the convention. In addition to that, I presented a "Primer For Beginning DXers" targeted to help the newcomer to DXing. And finally, there was the first Texas DX Society Hospitality Suite. It was the hit of the after-hours of the convention and the bench mark of many other hospitality suites to come in following years.

K5NA Goes North

In the late summer of 1980, I left Houston and moved to New York. It was with great sadness that I left many of my TDXS friends behind. The fraternal atmosphere of the TDXS is something that I really miss. It is unusual to find that in a radio club of its size.

I was pleased that the TDXS has continued its superior efforts in many different activities since my departure. I like to feel that my involvement in the club was valuable for all those early years. However, it is obvious that no one person is indispensable in a group like the TDXS.

Any narration of club history beyond 1980 will be prepared by someone other than myself. I hope you have enjoyed what you have read to this point. It has been my pleasure to sit back and reflect on the rich history of the Texas DX Society.

73 and 88 from Box DX, Radio-Cottekill, New York.

DX ROUND UP

(by Jim Lane, N5DC)

WHERE IS THE 4W??????? I keep hearing he will be up Monday, or Tuesday, delayed with paperwork, but as I write this on Tuesday 6/28 no 4W. I hope that he shows as many of you need this one. I continue to be concerned about the SORASD very lackadaisical approach to QSLing. I have sent 3 cards over with green stamps and as of today do not have that one in the locker. The old sun sure has been kicking up its' heels, however, the bands still support good long haul DX. From what the gang says about Field Day, it looks like sporadic E certainly helped on 10 meters. First look at our score seems to indicate another new record (ho hum). I was pleased to see as many turn out as did, altho we could have used about 2 more operators. I think we had some blank spots on 20 in the early morning hours. I can tell you for sure that Packet was a grind, but thanks to a heroic effort by Tom, AA5Y, we were able to get the FD messages exchanged. Also a tip of my hat to Ken, K5YCP, for helping to get the messages from the FD site. I really can't say enough about how Tom Lay hung in there with lots of problems and stayed with it till we got all 10 messages in the locker. Thanks again Tom.

By now you all know that I have the Packet Cluster at the home QTH. I am going to wait for the new software before I get into why we can't access the Oblast File. We should have the new software shortly so be patient. Other user file such as needlist, club roster, etc. can be put into the cluster and accessed by you the user, so give me some input at the meeting as to what you would like to see, but please KISS. Bob Moreman has ALD purring right along, and Evie knows how to reboot the system, so hopefully the down times will be few and short. Call us at 358-0051 if the beast is down, and we will awake the sleeping monster.

From ARRL Letter of June 21, 1988

GOT THE TIME?

For those of you in need of computer access to accurate time in UTC for use in setting computer clocks, a "time-by-modem" service is available from 2 sources.

National Bureau of Standards provides this service at either 300 or 1200 band. For information on the service just hit the question mark right after connecting. The phone number for this service is 303-494-4774.

The U.S. Naval Observatory also provides such a service, and its number is 202-653-0351.

Bulletin Browsing

Kure-KH7 by KH6LW End of July QSL KH6JEB.

Tokelaus by VK2BCH Now for 2 weeks QSL CBA.

Uganda 5X5SP by DK2RZ next 3 weeks QSL CBA.

Ogasawara JD1 Late July QSL KB1BE.

Flash!! Apolo, the Month (sound like the Maffia to me). Now SY2A Mt. Athos.

Remember Australia Hams signing AX and VI88 for Australian BiCentennial.

J52US Dave given permission to operate 6 meters. Looking for gear. QSL to WA8JOC.

A92EM Look for him to second op A61SB.

I have been waiting for a response from ZS6LW to my second letter (hopefully with my ZS2MI Card), but also with a comment on the future possibility for another operation from Marion, but I will have to put it off as no response from Walt yet.

See you in the Pileups!

From ARRL Letter of June 21, 1988

GOT THE TIMES

For those of you in need of computer access to accurate time in UTC for use in setting computer clocks, a "time-by-mode" service is available from 2 sources. National Bureau of Standards provides this service at either 300 or 1200 baud. For information on the service just hit the question mark right after connecting. The phone number for this service is 301-434-4774. The U.S. Naval Observatory also provides such a service, and its number is 301-623-0321.

Walter J. Browning

Walt KX1 by W6LW Ed of July QSL KX1E