



THE BULLSHEET

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Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club



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

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Field Day Chairman	Bob Perring, N5RP
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Repeater Chairman	Jim Lane, N5DC

Announcements

Meeting Notice - The Texas DX Society meets on the second Friday of each month, except when the date is changed by the Board of Directors.

This month the August meeting will take place on **Friday, August 10, 1990**. Thanks to efforts of Bob, AK5B, this meeting will be held at **Gabby's BBQ, 3101 North Shepherd**. This is located 1 block north of Loop 610 North on North Shepherd and is on the west side (on the left as you travel north, OK?) of the street. It is well marked by a large outside sign and has ample parking in front and on the sides. It has "walk-thru" food service and the group will be seated together off to one side of the main dining area. The gathering of the clan should begin around 7:00 P.M. with the meeting starting sometime after 7:30 P.M. As this meeting is expected to be mainly a "social event", no formal program is scheduled.

(This particular place was selected in an effort to provide a more centrally located meeting site for everyone's convenience. TDXS members are urged to turn out for this one; things have been pretty slim the past few months and it's high time to regroup guys!..ed)

Visitors are welcome to attend and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

Weekly DX and Contest Net - Each Tuesday night a 9:00 P.M. local time the Texas DX Society sponsors a net on 147.96/36 MHz. The purpose of this net is to exchange information of interest to DXers and contesters. The agenda includes current DX and contest information, QSL routings and related announcements. Stations checking-in are urged to report DX heard or worked locally, band openings, contest claimed scores, and any other information that might be of interest. Participation is not limited to members of TDXS, but is open to all and everyone is encouraged to join in.

DX Packet Cluster - TDXS sponsors the TDXS Contest and DX PacketCluster bulletin board located in Hempstead, TX operating on 144.950 MHz with the call KE5IV. The Cluster runs the AK1A software and uses AX25 Level 2 protocol. A new digipeater (TDXS) is soon to be operational on 144.990 MHz from the Greenway Plaza area to provide improved access to this PacketCluster. There is an alternative path on 144.91 MHz, also under KE5IV's call, with a high, multi-element 2 meter beam pointed towards Houston. This allows those on the west side of Houston the option of connecting directly with Hempstead and has the virtue of giving somewhat faster response. Fred, K5FP, operates the Galveston County PacketCluster, located in Santa Fe, TX which is quite active on 144.93 MHz. It is usually connected with KE5IV. Stations in the southern parts of Houston may find it easier to connect with this cluster. Both clusters are frequently linked into Austin and Dallas for added DX coverage, especially during contests. In addition to listing current DX spots, the system provides access to a wide variety of related information such as the W6GO QSL Manager list, Russian oblasts, WWV propagation, beam headings, etc. A complete list of the PacketCluster commands can be obtained by sending a S.A.S.E. to the TDXS at the address shown above.

Bullsbeet Mailing List - TDXS wishes to provide the Bullsbeet to all amateurs in the area with an active interest in DXing and contesting. Donations to help defray publication and mailing costs are appreciated. Visitors to our club meetings will receive the Bullsbeet for three months free of charge simply by signing the Attendance List and including their mailing address. Articles or other newsworthy items are hereby solicited by your editor. Articles should be submitted in the form of either ASCII files or as MS Word or WordPerfect word processor files. Files may be uploaded to the TDXS Bullsbeet area on K2TNO's Bulletin Board at 713-798-4955, or sent direct to the editor on either 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" diskette. Contact W5ASP at 713-974-3455 to arrange these file transfers. If necessary, files may be sent to "Dr. William Schrader" via FAX at 713-790-1275.

PSE QSL

If you are a TDXS member, past or present, we want your QSL card. And if you have ever operated as a DX station we want that card also. These cards will be assembled into a display for the traditional TDXS hospitality suite at this year's Houston Com-Vention '90. Send your cards to C. E. Sharp, K5DX, 216 Meyers Road, Highlands, Texas, 77562, or bring them to the TDXS meeting. Please do it now!

The Prez Sez

de Ken, KE5IV

The final score from Field Day totals out to be 12,266 points. It was apparent, from looking at the band break downs, that it was the lack of a good 10 Meter sporadic-E opening that left us short of our goal.

The TDXS needs a volunteer or volunteers to put together a Contest and DX Forum for the Houston Com-Vention scheduled for the weekend of November 9th. The response, so far, has been real lack-luster. The convention is the source of the Club's "fun money" through the raffle ticket sales. As I see it, the TDXS has three choices: (1) Quit spending money for antennas, the repeater, the digi's, and on Field Day; (2) Raise the annual dues to \$50.00 for members living within and \$25 outside the 75 mile area; (3) Get involved with Houston ham convention and put a really first-class program together. Our annual dues manage to cover the costs of putting out the Bullsheet with very little left over.

I don't like the weekend being between Sweepstakes CW and Phone in November, which costs us the out-of-town people we like to see. Whatever the reason, be it the the economy, the particular weekend, the location, or whatever, our attitude toward the Houston ham convention has diminished during the past few years. However, we just have to go with the cards we were dealt or get out. If you are interested, please contact Joe, W5ASP, and he will put you in touch with the proper person. This will be my last word on this subject.

With the August meeting may come less problems with the repeater. The week of the meeting is also the planned move of the repeater to the new site at One Houston Center. N5DC, W5ASP, N5EA, N5DU and I will try to get the machine moved. At a later date K2TNO and N5DC will separate the two repeaters (i.e. the GE and the Spectrum).

Speaking of moving brings me to another point. At the 5 Greenway Plaza site a digi will take the place of the present repeater. Please note...the frequency will be 144.990 MHz! This new digi will be set up with call TDXS as digi and the KA-NODE will be GRNWAY. The radio will be a Kenwood TR-7800 and the modem a KPC-2 running V2.85.

The reason for moving away from 144.950 MHz is that Austin was there first, and from Hempstead, during inversions, it brings both the Houston and Austin PacketCluster to halt. A TNC will not transmit while it is seeing something on receive. IAH4 is back up, for which I thank Bob Moorman, K5VMX.

I have been working on another site for the backbone between K5FP and KE5IV. I have a radio ready to go to WN4KKN's on 440 MHz with his TNC. I will talk to KG5ND at Summerfest this weekend about his status.

While I have been learning about the DRSI boards, I have been playing with the DRSI driving a PAC-COMM external 9600 baud modem. This will make the backbone from K5GH in Dallas to K5FP in Santa Fe 9600 baud when it's finished. The only problem was adding a keying transistor for P.T.T. The DRSI board has no provision for an external modem using P.T.T. No big deal...this is just another part of the learning curve.

The other reason for going with DRSI is that they are the only TNC supplier trying to work with Dick, AK1A. The other group is the Software 2000 people, i.e. NETROM. They are rewriting the software so it will be compatible with PacketCluster.

For those members active on the PacketCluster please type SH/COM to see the databases which I have defined as SYSOP. You may find a couple you like. I also have means now to

look at them. If they are not used, I will delete them! I hope to see a lot of members at this month's meeting! 73...

DX Report

de Bob, AK5B

Looking for a way to perk up your otherwise drab, wretched evenings? Need a way to check propagation to the ET, 4W, 70 part of the world? Try 14.290 MHz at 02:30 GMT on any night of the week and chances are you'll stumble across our erstwhile contester & DX'er, Chuck Coleman, alias, K5LZO/MM Region 1. While on his first assignment as ship-board Radio Officer, he is able to get on the ham bands at 5:30 AM his time and give out propagation reports. (If you can believe Chuck!)

He is sailing in and out of Djibouti, J2. He had to learn to spell it to get the job. He's on the USNS Chauvenet, a 392' "research" ship assigned to the US Navy. They are in the Red Sea, within sight of 70, 4W, A15, ET and of course J2, cruising around mapping the floor of the sea with sonar.

As luck would have it, among the 69 antennas bristling from the ship is a 35' vertical mounted on the tall (?) mast. At the other end of the coax is a KW Harris. Since Chuck has mastered the thumb wheel combination for frequency selection, he has been QRV each evening. So, if you can stay up till 9:30 local, drop by and say Hi to Chuck. I'm sure he'd appreciate the Q. If the frequency is busy, or there's too much QRM, he may QSY down to 14.260 Mhz or so. The duration which was to be for 30 days may now turn into 120 days. Tune in to 14.290 MHz for the latest updates. CU there.

Well, the Penguin Island ZS1 operation came and went, I think. Signals here at this QTH never got over a whisper the times that I listened, so they didn't capture me in their logs. A few of the nocturnal types in the club did manage to get through, so at least the 5's are represented. I've heard that they were using battery power and a mini beam, but don't know that for sure. If the League decides to make this one a new country, I'm sure (or hope anyway) that a real operation will take place.

The other candidate for new DXCC status, Grosse Ile., came on as planned. The group seemed to be having a good time and were doing a nice job running the pile-ups down. For direct QSL send \$1.00, or 2 IRCs, and a SAE to: Grosse Ile. DX Groupe, 88 Latouche, Beauport, PQ Canada G1E 6M8.

Documentation for both the 1S0XV and 701AA have been approved by the ARRL. The only question remaining is to what country the 70 contacts will be assigned. That determination will be made by the DXAC after it gets some more detailed information.

Still no Albania. Rumors are still flying but nothing from that part of the world. It doesn't appear that any operation took place around the 20th of July as was hoped. But don't give up hope. I'm sure this will be the next biggie on the bands.

Per the latest newsletters, the latest QSLs being accepted at Newington are the TY1DX and all operations from 7Q Malawi. Seems the documentation submitted by 7Q7JM and 7Q7RM have cleared up any doubt about that one.

Another one to watch for; the group that brought us 1S0XV is rumored to be trying to put on North Korea, P5. It may come off in the next week or two. If it's a "good" operation, it should to the DXCC count.

Remember how rare BV was? A quote from the DX NEWS SHEET: "Over 100 local enthusiasts were reported to have passed the recent amateur examinations." QRX for a flood of BV's!

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Looks like August may be a good month DX wise, if the first few days are any indicator. XU and 7O are both QRV, so get warmed up for the ZA.

Don't forget to be thinking about the upcoming Houston Com-vention on November 9-11. *How will you be getting involved?* CU there.

Contest Corner

de Dale, KG5U

The first World Radiosport Team Championship is now history. If you did not get involved in it, you missed a great contest. Everyone and their brother turned out for this one, or so it seemed to me. The contest ran from 1600 CDT Friday, to 0200 CDT Saturday morning...short and sweet. If a certain TDXS Contest Chairman had read the rules in fine enough detail, he might have done better...oh well...there's always next year...rather, next World Games. (This was so much fun, there is no way there cannot be another team contest.)

Despite a ten minute late start and a twenty-three minute time-out while I rewrote my old logging program and reentered the previous 30 QSO's, I had a great time. Conditions on 15 and 20 meters were great, while 40 and 80 meters were not so hot. Over the whole contest period, I averaged over 62 QSO's per hour.

Here are top ten finishers according to the official results of the World Games team competition as reported by the ARRL in a recent bulletin: 1. K1AR-K1DG, 2. W9RE-K7JA, 3. KR0Y-KQ2M, 4. VE7SV-VE7CC, 5. DL5XX-DJ7QT, 6. LZ2PO-LZ1MS, 7. G3YDV-G4BUO, 8. EA5BRA-EA9EO, 9. UW9AR-UA9AM, 10. WTEJ-AA4NCA (See K5XI's article elsewhere in this issue for the actual scores...ed)

According to the ARRL Bulletin, UW9AR and UA9AM received the Murphy award for having been plagued with noisy power lines for four hours of the contest. The top CW score went to DL5XX and DJ7QT. K7JA and W9RE took the top SSB score. The most accurate logs were by VE7CC for CW and I2FUY for SSB. It was a very exciting and challenging contest. I wish more TDXS members had made the effort to get into it and play a while. Maybe the next time it rolls around, we can form a team to challenge another club team somewhere.

Local WRTC Scores:

WSPWG - 297 Qs, 140 Ms, 404k points
W5ASP - 535 Qs, 135 Ms, 252k points
KG5U - 629 Qs, Unk Ms, Unk points
(I've gotta get a real great computer!!)

Other Recent Scores:

IARU HF Championship

N5EA (w/ K5GA, W5ASP & NB9T)
with 1390 Qs, 83 Ms, 430k points
K5GN - Unavailable but VERY GOOD!

The *European DX Contest* is the next contest down the road. It begins on Saturday, August 11 at 1200z and runs through August 12 at 2400z. This one always has a good turnout and, given the propagation lately, it should be good for evening 20 meter runs into Europe. Exchange signal report, serial number and state. Work only European stations. Read July 1990 QST for detailed instructions on just exactly what a QTC is and why YU1EXY keeps pestering you for more QTCs after you sent him 6 an hour ago.

The *All Asian DX Contest (CW)* is due up at 0000Z August 25 through 2400Z August 26 (Note: this is a "shorter" version of the same contest I reported in last month's column...I figured having the contest run from the 25th through the 6th was not such a hot idea). Exchange signal report and operator's age (YL's lie like dogs and give their signal report and "00" for their age).

The fall season for the *North American Sprint* contests is fast approaching. I will have details at the next meeting and will be soliciting TDXS Sprint Team members.

TDXS Outgoing QSL Bureau Procedures

With the longtime TDXS Outgoing QSL Bureau Manager now out at sea somewhere evading Iraqi gunboats and keeping our seaways open, I have taken up the mantle as QSL handler for the TDXS. I will take your cards at each meeting, include them with others given to me, and ship them off to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau.

Please be sure that you do the following for me: 1. Pre-sort your QSL's alphabetically by call sign prefix. 2. Enclose the mailing label from your current QST Magazine. 3. Check the September 1989 issue of QST for the list of countries/prefixes not served by the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau, and don't include those cards!

Don't forget, TDXS pays the \$ 2.00 per pound handling fee as well as the postage...a bargain in this day and age. Get on the air, work someone special and then QSL.

Field Day 1990

de Bob, N5RP

Field Day '90 is now history. Sunburns have cured up, diets are recovered from excess baloney, cheese, beer, and soda pop. Tempers are back to normal; we all love each other, again. Dirty clothes are washed, or in some cases, burned. It has finally been realized that K5LZO didn't fix everyone breakfast, and we all survived the fact.

On the technical side of things, 40 meter yagi experimentation is finished, unusual dipole length experimentation is scrapped, rotor control cross wiring techniques are thoroughly determined to be inconsistent with good operating practice.

We barely missed an all time grand slam type of score this year (a mere 83 Qs less than the existing 2A record), but the results achieved should in the vicinity of an "up 'thar with the best of them" type showing. 1,550 CW contacts and 2,583 SSB contacts earned a total point/number of 11,399. Add 900 bonus points by properly carrying the 1 and floating the comma, and you should arrive at a final score of 12,266.

The perennial thank you to W5SJS for the use of his fine OTH es horse tank. A very personal thanks to Joe for his bail out of me as a result of my getting crunched between work es no room for play time.

Here are the highlights for those that just gotta know all the news, all the time, all the way through!

80 M.....	103 CW.....	12 SSB
40 M.....	181 CW.....	251 SSB
20 M.....	798 CW.....	1140 SSB
15 M.....	432 CW.....	730 SSB
10 M.....	0 CW.....	216 SSB
Satellite.....	19 CW.....	8 SSB
Packet.....	17 CW.....	
Novice.....	0 CW.....	223 SSB

- (1550 CW x 2) + (2583 SSB x 1) = 5683 QSO Pts
- 2 (150 Watt Power Class) x 5683 = 11,355 Pts
- 900 (BONUS Pts) + 11,355 = 12,266 FINAL SCORE!!

Repeater Report

de Jim, N5DC

As those of you who use the repeater know, our intermod has become worse the past week or two. I have not tightened the squelch any further, as I feel we can live with the noise for another week or two. My plan is to install the new repeater antenna at the One Houston Center site on Tuesday, August 7th. (We may have recovered the Decibel antenna from the Jersey Village tower by that date, in which case it will go up.) The feedline will also be run while we're there. Wednesday, August 8th., will be moving day for the repeater. W5ASP, N5EA, N5DU, and KE5IV have all "volunteered" to assist in the move. If Murphy does not place his hand on our shoulders, we should be operational from One Houston Center by meeting time Friday. At a later date the GE and the Spectrum units will be separated, and one of them will be moved to Summit Tower West as the alternate repeater. Should the One Houston Center site not be as "good", we can then operate Summit Tower West as the primary site. If we stick with the split site plan, we will have to acquire another duplexer which can be purchased for \$500.00. It's too bad that the present Greenway Plaza site is no longer acceptable for the repeater, but I believe it can still serve us quite well as a TDXS digi site.

Operating the WRTC

de Sid, K5XI

The advertisements for the World Radio Team Championship contest urged us to "be a part of history" by participating in the contest. Well, the WRTC contest is now history, and we were indeed part of it.

Tom, K5RC, Rick Niswander, K7GM and I got together for a multi-single operation from my station. We had a great time, largely thanks to Midge, Maria and Debbie, who took care of the food. Debbie also helped log stuff into the computer, which was especially useful when we were working them fast and furiously. What a deal, a ten hour multi-single contest with three operators, and three very sweet young ladies to take care of us. And who said contesting was supposed to be hard?

Ten meters was basically dead (i.e., not the place to be) between 2100Z and 0700Z. Since that happened to be the period of the contest too, it goes without saying that we did not spend a whole lot of time on 10 meters. We did manage to work three people on 10 meter SSB for new mults.

The bulk of the activity turned out to be on 20 meter CW, and to a lesser extent, on 20 meter SSB. We started the contest with Rick, K7GM, operating the multiplier station, and with me operating the run station. We initially started with the idea that we would try running stations on 20 meter SSB, with Rick hunting for mults on 15 meter CW. Rick also picked up a few good ones on 15 meter phone, (including TI9US). After an hour Rick moved to 20 CW. Within a few minutes, it seemed that Rick was working new mults on CW faster than the main station was running them on phone. So ... it did not take a genius to figure out that we should be running them on CW. In this contest CW contacts counted twice as much as phone QSO's. So we turned Rick loose on the unsuspecting masses, and he proceeded to put them in the log as fast as Debbie could type

them. The pin diodes blew out in my Alpha. As a result, it became difficult to use my rig to run stations.

After a ton of Europeans had been put in the log, mostly on CW, reinforcements arrived in the form of that lean, mean contesting machine K5RC. We did not want to strain poor Tom too much, so we let him arrive a couple of hours after the contest started. Actually, he was the only operator who has to work at a real job for a living, and due to some great stroke of genius, someone decided that this contest should start at 4:00 P.M. local time Friday.

At the end of the first three hours of the contest (0000Z), I had managed to put 9 /WG stations in the log on 20 SSB, and Rick had nailed a like number on CW (at 100 points a pop)! Unfortunately, we then went five and a half hours without working another /WG station. Where were those guys?

Around 0300Z we got Tom going on 40 CW, where he is down right dangerous. He still remembers how to rip 'em up on CW. I did the honors typing stuff into the computer.

Tom did great, considering that I never did successfully wire up his paddle. One of the highlights of the contest came when Tom first tried to plug in the keyer that I had quickly attempted to wire up. It started sending a long string of "dits". Tom asked how I had hooked up the third wire to get the keyer to go crazy like that. It was at that point that I asked, "what third wire?" I now have the right kind of connector, so next time we won't have that problem. Tom also had to throw the "operate/standby" switch on the amplifier every time he switched from transmit to receive (remember the blown pin diodes?).

At 0421Z, Rick worked VE4PN for a new mult on 20 SSB. We received a 001 serial number, so it was obvious that the VE4 was just giving out contacts. I noticed that by this time, Tom was tuning around on 80 SSB looking for mults. I grabbed Rick and told him to see if the VE4 was still on frequency so we could move him down to 80, where we had almost no mults. It worked - just like the multi/multi's do it!

In this contest each U.S. call area counted as a mult. Late in the contest, I went down to 80 and 40 SSB to make sure that we worked one station in each call area for a multiplier. On 80 SSB, I resorted to begging for contacts. I dug up a lot of guys who did not even know there was a contest, but they gave us a 59 001 after I explained the required exchange to them. In short order, we had logged a QSO with each call area. I even managed to do this without once transmitting into the beverages.

In the last 15 minutes of the contest, we caught four /WG stations on 40 CW, and another one showed up on 40 SSB. This contest was unusual in that 8 out of the last 9 QSO's that we made were new mults for us. I love the frantic last few moments of a contest.

We did not have a way to get on packet, and our score undoubtedly suffered as a result. I heard that K5YCP put out a bunch of /WG stations on the packet cluster. I have since fixed this problem, so next time we will have packet.

After the dust settled, our total score worked out to be 909,414. We had 494 CW QSO's with 97 mults. Our phone operation netted 193 QSO's and 101 mults. We scored 3828 points on CW, the bulk of which was on 20 meters (3318 points). The 40 meter CW effort yielded 488 points; the other 22 CW points were made on 15 meters. We scored 765 points on phone, again mostly on 20 meters (646 points).

The scoring was interesting because the /WG stations were worth 50 points each on SSB and 100 points each on CW. This meant that one could tune around looking only for /WG stations, and if he worked 4 of them in an hour, he would score as

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much as someone who worked his tail off for an hour running everyone else as fast as possible.

In case you have not heard the official results, the U.S. teams swept the metals in the team competition. The gold medal was won by the team consisting of K1AR and K1DG. During the contest, they signed the call N7MJZ/WG. The silver medal went to K7JA and W9RE, who used the call W7WKR/WG. The bronze medal was won by the team of KR0Y and KQ2M, using W7TSQ/WG.

This was the most heavily scrutinized contest ever held. All of the /WG station logs were put into a computerized format. The Judging and Scoring Committee, headed by Rusty W6OAT and Marti OH2BH, spent over 100 hours analyzing and scoring the logs. The Committee locked themselves in a hotel room for the whole weekend. Each team station had an audio cassette recorder which recorded the entire contest. The Committee listened to the tapes of several stations for almost the whole ten hour duration of the contest in order to verify logging accuracy and adherence to the rules. A "unique + 1" analysis was also run against the logs. This close checking of the logs resulted in some significant score reductions in some cases.

The WRTC teams' scores were determined by assigning 100 points to (1) the team who had the most QSO's on CW, (2) the team who had the most QSO's on SSB, and (3) the team who had the most "counters" which were similar to our mults. The other teams then received points based upon the percentage of their score as compared with the highest score in a category. The highest possible score for a /WG team was 300 points.

Different strategies were employed by the different teams. John, K1AR and Doug, K1DG, concentrated on running stations, and letting the "counters" come to them. They had a low counter total, but their team had a very good CW score. Chip, K7JA and Mike, W9RE, concentrated on SSB to score the best SSB effort, but finished down in the pack for counters. Bob, KQ2M and Jeff, KR0Y, found counters that no one else worked and walked away with the top honors for counters. According to W2GD, as reported by QRZ DX, the best CW score was turned in by DJ6QT AND DL5XX.

The complete official standings after all logs were carefully checked were as follows:

K1AR/K1DG.....263.35	K7JA/W9RE.....255.39
KQ2M/KR0Y.....254.30	E7CC/VE7SV.....247.44
DL5XX/DJ6QT.....247.11	LZ1MS/LZ2PO.....244.86
G3YDV/G4BUO....239.21	EA5BRA/EA9EO...237.56
UA9AM/UW9AR...236.45	AA4NC/W7EJ.....235.12
UA1DZ/RB5IM.....232.78	I2UTY/IK2DVG.....229.06
OH1XX/OH8PF.....228.06	OK1RI/OK2FD.....225.38
YU1RL/YT3AA.....220.55	HA6NY/HA0MM...219.85
UW3AA/UA9SA....209.91	UW0CA/UW0CN...209.59
JE1CKA/JE1JKL....195.64	PY4OD/PY5EG.....193.06
FD1NYQ/F2CW.....177.43	JA3UHS/JM3JOW..172.45

I had a chance to talk with Rusty, W6OAT, after the contest. Rusty was one of the people who performed the task of entering log information into the computer for teams during the contest. He gave me some first hand information about the team competition, and certain preliminary results. I understand that the LZ team had a claimed score that would have placed them in third place, but the judges reduced their score based upon incorrectly copied exchanges.

As a result of the WRTC, an organization tentatively called the World Radiosport Federation was formed. The original sug-

gestion for such an organization had been put forth by K5RC in the NCJ. The World Radiosport Federation is intended to act as a central contesting body to help establish new standards for judging, scoring and contest coordination throughout the world. This organization is intended to take an active role in defining contesting as we enter a new decade of activity which should see greater application of new technology, like packet, computers, and who knows what else.

Rusty spent a great deal of time talking to the head of the U.S.S.R. Central Radio Club. I understand that the Soviets are very interested in seeing another competition like this in 1992, to be held in connection with the Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

I enjoyed this contest a lot, and hope we will see this become a regular event.

Some Antenna Questions

de Tom, N6BT

Try your antenna know-how in answering these questions.

1. A low VSWR across the band means the antenna is working well. (Yes/No)
2. A high VSWR means that the antenna is not working well at all. (Yes/No)
3. A single driven element in a Yagi-type antenna is as good as a dual-driven system. (Yes/No)
4. The radiation pattern from a Yagi-type antenna is the same for a single driver as for a dual (multiple) driver system. (Yes/No)
5. The length of the driven element in a Yagi-type antenna is critical for antenna performance (gain and front/back ratio). (Yes/No)

Now let's see how well your did.

1. No - all it means is that the VSWR is low across the band. If the VSWR is extremely flat, it probably means the system has large losses in the antenna (traps, etc.) or in the feed line. The best example is a dummy load - it is flat across the entire band, but does not radiate very well! Using more than one driven element (properly done) will tend to make a flatter VSWR across the band.
2. No - all it means is that the antenna is not properly matched to the feed line. If the antenna is operated in this condition, provided that the exciter/amplifier can drive the line, there will be losses in the feedline. These losses might not even be too great, depending on the feed line type (open-wire is the best).
3. Yes - depending upon the meaning of the term "good". The purpose of the driver is to excite the antenna. The single driver does this just fine. The only difference is that the dual-driven (multiple-driven) can maintain a flatter VSWR across the band. This is usually not a problem, however, because the VSWR with a single driver can be tuned for a VSWR of under 2:1 across most bands.
4. No - the single driver will have deeper side nulls, whereas a dual-driven will have "ears" off the sides (towards the back of the pattern).
5. No - the only real purpose of the driver is to put power into the array. The length (within reason) is only important to the type of matching system used.

(Taken in part from N6BT's presentation at the 1987 International DX Convention, Visalia, CA...ed)

Upcoming Events

August 15.....IARU HF Logs Postmarked
 August 20.....WRTC Logs Postmarked
 August 03.....ARRL West Gulf Convention, Austin
 August 04.....ARRL UHF Contest
 August 04.....Ten-Ten International Phone
 August 10.....TDXS Monthly Meeting
 August 11.....Worked All Europe CW
 August 25.....All Asian DX Contest CW
 September 08...Worked All Europe SSB
 September 08...ARRL VHF QSO Party
 September 09...N.A. Sprint CW
 September 14...TDXS Monthly Meeting
 September 15...Scandinavia CW Contest
 September 16...N.A. Sprint SSB

Incoming QSL Cards

The ARRL DX QSL Bureau consists of a number of separate call area bureaus that handle the incoming QSLs arriving from foreign countries. This service is free of charge and does not require ARRL membership. For the Fifth Call Area the address is: ARRL Fifth (5th) District DX QSL Bureau, P. O. Box 44246, Oklahoma City, OK 73144.

To claim cards ARRL recommends sending the bureau a number of 5 x 7 1/2 in. SASEs. To assist TDXS members in this Bob, AK5B, has obtained a supply of envelopes. He will provide 10 of the 5 x 7 1/2 envelopes along with a single 6 x 9 in which to mail them to the bureau for \$1.00. If you are interested, catch him on the repeater or call a day or so before the monthly meetings.

Full details about this ARRL service appeared in the June 1989 QST on page 72 under the heading "QSL Corner".

For those who expect to receive large quantities of cards here are a couple of suggestions. (1) Place \$1.00 postage on each 5x7 self-addressed envelope, (2) Have the post office stamp "THIRD CLASS" in the lower left, (3) Attach a label "50 Cards Minimum" beneath the "THIRD CLASS", (4) Put your call in the upper left and (5) Number the envelopes consecutively (so you will know where you stand as you receive them back from the bureau). This approach will save a lot of agony with postage due and avoid small mailings which use up envelopes needlessly. The time delay in using Third Class won't be noticeable.

Outgoing QSL Cards

The ARRL provides a service to its members which allows them to send DX QSL cards to foreign countries at minimum cost and effort. TDXS members can take advantage of this service by getting their cards to KG5U, who will in turn forward them to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service. TDXS pays the nominal service fee of \$2 per pound as well as the postage.

Those wishing to use this route for their cards must sort their DX QSL cards alphabetically by country as shown on the ARRL DXCC Country List. This means that the prefix ES or LY goes with the Russians, XQ and 3G with Chile, AZ and L2 to Argentina, etc. However, it is not necessary to sort within a given country, i.e. all Russians may be lumped together, don't sort RA, UT, LY separately.

Keep in mind that QSL's for DXpedition operations usually go the country of the operator, e.g. JW9XG via LA9XG, 3D2XR via SM7PKK, etc. Many foreign stations have stateside QSL managers. These cards may be included with the "K's". By the way, most caribbean stations turn out to be non-residents, so send such QSL's to the operator's home country.

There are number of DXCC countries not served, e.g. many U.S. territories (KH3, KH7, KH9, etc.) and countries such as Taiwan, Egypt, Nepal, etc. A complete list currently appears in September 1989 QST, page 65.

Finally, each TDXS member must include their QST address label with each group of cards submitted. Contact KG5U if you have any questions (before you drop the cards on him!).

(NOTE: Dale, KG5U, has agreed to take over this task now that Chuck, K5LZO, is off on the high seas. Our sincere thanks go to Chuck (and Barbara) for handling this job so well over the past few years.)

HAM GEAR FOR SALE

Chet B. Opal, K3CU, Austin, TX (512) 346-7441(home) or 471-6428(work)

- 1. Heath SB301 receiver with CW filter, \$75.2
 - 2. Henry 3K plate xfmr and choke, Hypersil (Dahl). Includes chassis, misc parts for Texas-size KW amp power supply. \$199 FOB Austin.
 - 3. Homebrew KW amp, (B&W tank, vacuum variable, sockets fit 3-500z's but no chimneys). Uses RK65's. \$150; worked when last turned on in the late 1970's.
 - 4. Back issues QST, Ham Radio, MacUser 1984 on.
- (Will Deliver Items 2 and 3 to Houston)

Bill Schrader, K2TNO, Houston, TX (713) 665-6298 (home); 798-6231 (work)

- 1. 50-foot crankup tower, Telex/Hygain 5 yrs old, on ground at K2TNO/Houston \$800.
- 2. Gem Quad 2 el. boomless tribander, \$100.
- 3. Butternut HF6V all-band vertical, mint cdx, \$100.
- 4. Televideo dumb terminal, TV914, perfect for VHF packet, incl. photocopy of manual, \$100.
- 5. Butternut HF2V 80/40 vertical, excellent cdx, \$75.

DXer's Toolbox

The well known YASME Foundation provides a very attractive award to those submitting QSLs for contacts with any 30 calls held by operators on the official list of YASME sponsored DXpeditions or by YASME officials, past or present. The award is free. In addition, the Yasme Award Supreme, a really super YASME boat model, is awarded free for submitting QSLs from 60 different YASME calls. A recent version of this list is presented on the next page of this issue of the Bullshead. Have a look, you may already qualify. Dick, WOMLY, is the YASME Awards Manager at Box 7, Rippey, IA 50235. He counts the cards and keeps the list.