



# THE BULLSHEET



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Texas DX Society

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

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**DX Packet Cluster** - TDXS sponsors the Waller County Contest and DX PacketCluster bulletin board located in Hempstead, TX operating on 144.990 MHz with the call KE5IV. A new digipeater is now operational on 144.990 MHz from the Greenway Plaza area to provide convenient access to this PacketCluster. This Digi has the "alias" TDXS. The suggested procedure is to connect with TDXS first (C TDXS) and then, when the prompt (?) appears, connect to KE5IV (C KE5IV). 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. (K5WA is often available as a digi on 144.93 MHz to assist in accessing the K5FP Cluster.) Both clusters are frequently linked into Austin, Dallas and beyond 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.

## 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 September meeting will take place at 7:30 P.M. on Friday, September 14, 1990. The meeting will be held at the offices of Hewlett Packard, 10535 Harwin Drive. The building is on the south side of Harwin 0.9 mile west of the intersection of Harwin and Gessner. It is also one block east of Beltway 8 (Sam Houston Toll Road) at the intersection of Harwin and Sovereign. There is a sign on the lawn in front. We have been asked to park in the lot in the front of the building. Visitors are welcome to attend and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

**Program** - The program for the August TDXS meeting will be presented by the friendly folks at Hewlett Packard. They will first give us a presentation on antenna measurements and then demonstrate various items of their equipment that are of interest to John Q. Ham. If you've ever had the opportunity to see some of their demos, you know that they do a really slick job. A lot of time, effort and expense are going into this program and TDXS needs to show their appreciation by turning out en masse. (de Jim, N5DC)

**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.

**Bullsheat Mailing List** - TDXS wishes to provide the Bullsheat to those amateurs in the Houston 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 Bullsheat 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 Bullsheat 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, KESIV

Even though it is the beginning of the 1990-1991 Contest Season, it is hard for me to believe that fall is just around the corner, especially when the mercury hit 100 degrees again today.

By the time you read this the North American CW Sprint will probably be history, but phone Sprint, which will be on the evening following the club meeting, still needs a full crew. Give Dale, KG5U, a call if you want to join in the fun as part of the TDXS team.

Starting with the September meeting written nominations will be accepted for the 1991 TDXS officers. Before submitting a nomination be sure that the person you nominate is willing to run for office and handle the job if elected.

At the August meeting W5ASP made a motion (which passed) setting up a nominating committee made up of the past presidents of the TDXS who are currently full members. Their job will be to get with the members and come up with a slate of nominees for office for 1991. I would prefer the nominations were in writing or made from the floor at the October meeting like they use to be. It seems to me that the last 3 or 4 years have been rubber-stamped because no one cares! I would like to know what the membership wants!

I guess no one wants to volunteer for Houston Ham Convention. It doesn't really matter. This year NARS (Northwest ARS) will be holding a raffle for a transceiver and they are going to be a lot more involved with the convention program. Think about it! What will the TDXS do for fun-money? Just some food for thought!

See you at the September meeting.

## DX Report

de Bob, AK5B

Have you worked the ZA yet? Seems that there are a few slims that have been keeping the frequencies cleared out, using the calls ZA1AA and ZA1CZ. There may be a sure enough operation from there this month, so don't give up hope.

Some of you have been asking "what is" and "who are" etc. with reference to I.O.T.A. and those "numbers" that have been showing up on the PacketCluster and other places like 2 Meters. Well IOTA stands for Islands-on-the-Air. This is an award program that was created in the mid '60s by a UK SWLer named Geoff Watts. This program was taken over by the RSGB in 1985. There are 15 different awards available. They range from single continent islands to world wide islands or island groups (over 400). Once you have worked 150 or so in the pursuit of DXCC, this seems like a logical progression and another use for those hard to come-by QSL cards. Just think, if you had worked Bill, K2TNO/1, a few weeks ago on Martha's Vineyard Island off Cape Cod, you could easily get NA-46 confirmed!

To get a complete list of the islands and all the info on the award program, send \$4.00 to Chod Harris at the DX Bulletin, P.O. Box 50, Fulton, CA 95439. There is a U.S. checkpoint for IOTA and that is Dewitt Jones, W4BAA. For a copy of his instructions, send a business size SASE to: P.O. Box 379, Glen Arbor, MI 49636.

If you want to listen-in and get the latest poop on who is doing what and going where, monitor the IOTA "official" net frequencies. On Saturdays at 1300Z on 14.260 MHz, Sundays on 21.260 MHz, also at 1300Z, and on 10 Meter try 28.460

MHz. On CW the preferred frequencies are 20 KHz up from the bottom.

One to look for now is IOTA NA-68. Mike, VE1MQ, will be QRV from Miscou Island on September 10-11th. QSL via his old call VE1BTT. Following this operation will be NY4A/VE1 who will be on for a few days, also from NA-68, starting the 13th of September. (Your editor will be on from NA-16, Little Cayman, as ZF2NE/ZF8 from September 7-16.)

If you're looking for SV/A Mount Athos on 160 meters, their frequency allocation is 1830-1850 MHz for both CW and SSB.

How was that for a lead-in for the latest on our full time DXer, K5LZO/MM. Seems it got too hot, temperature wise that is, in the Red Sea. So he did what any of us would have done, i.e. cruise north thru the Suez and into the Mediterranean to find a convenient Greek Isle. And then arrange for a suitable companion. Tune in for the latest at 0300Z on 14.290 MHz any evening. Get there early, as he may have to QSY due to QRM, etc. Note: If he fails to be on the air, it may just be due to the fact that WB5RUS, getting tired of the local QRM, has flown over to join Chuck for some R&R. Bet she's glad it's SV and not J2!

Got a nice note and picture from Charles and Jeanne Frost. He may be better known to you as K5LBU, Frosty. As you may know, they are back in Africa...this time with a Baptist Mission. They left on July 22 and arrived in Lusaka, Zambia on the 24th. They are there as volunteers under the auspices of the Sugar Creek Baptist Church in Sugarland, Texas. If you'd care to drop a line to them, I'm sure they would love to hear from you. Their address is: Charles or Jeanne Frost, Box 50599, ZA 15101 Ridgeway, Lusaka, Zambia. No word as yet on his chances of getting on the air. Remember, however, he was K5LBU/ST0 so keep an ear out especially on ten SSB.

Latest word from the group going to VP8 South Sandwich and South Georgia is via their September DXpedition News. The good news is, and I quote, "The very difficult transportation and cost issues are now behind us and we now have confirmed reservations". Sounds great, especially since this operation is expected to cost in the neighborhood of \$140,000. They will depart Miami for Punta Arenas, Chile on the 13th of November. They will board their ship Indiana in Parnas on the evening of the 14th and get underway on the 15th.

There are 20 operators signed up and that will put ten on each island. The expected schedule of operation out of South Georgia is: arrival 21 Nov with operation from 22 Nov to 5 Dec. From South Sandwich the schedule is: arrival 24 Nov with operation from 25 Nov to 3 Dec. They will be leaving South Georgia around the 6th of Dec and plan to arrive back in Miami on Dec 14th.

They list 22 different equipment donors. Kenwood U.S.A. is supplying 6 complete HF stations; Butternut furnishing low band verticals; and so on. Looks like it's really shaping up to give out two rare ones right at Christmas time. I'm sure with all the folks off for the holidays the bands will be just delightful. Anyone wishing to support this operation can send their contribution to Jerry Branson AA6BB/7, 93787 Dorsey Lane, Junction City, OR, 97448.

I talked to Don Search, W3AZD, at the DXCC Desk on August 20th in reference to the DXCC submission that I turned in on April 7th at the International DX Convention in Visalia, CA. Seems that he is currently working on applications dated March 15, 1990! At least they are still up there hammering away at them. Seems that due to the high sun spot cycle and the rash of "rare" countries showing up the league has been flooded with submissions, many with as little as 1 or 2 cards.

## The TDXS Bullsheet

Most of these are folks in or getting into the Honor Roll bracket. Each one involves the individual's record being pulled, the information recorded, the return paper work created, etc. etc. I guess I'll just have to have patience. Don also said that the present guestimate for the 70 (Yemen) QSLs is that it will be treated as a new one. That is up to the DXAC to figure out.

Speaking of **Visalia**, those attending in '91 will want to be sure to arrive by Friday afternoon April 12. After the traditional cocktail party Friday evening there will be a new event...an outdoor barbecue in the Holiday Inn parking lot. The '91 convention is being hosted by the Northern California DX group, and it seems they're already hard at work with the planning. If you've never been...GO!. The location, weather and, of course, the folks make it a super weekend.

Well it looks like the Colvins are off again. They left California on August 20 for **Tanzania**, 5H. They will be at Tom Warrens' QTH, 5H3TW, and will use the call **5H0QL**. Plans are to be there for about a month. Then they will move on to 5R and C9, though no license or permission is in hand yet for either of these. QSL via YASME.

**Wallis and Futuna**, FW, will be QRV from September 13 thru 20. It will be aired by New Caledonia ARS, so should be quite active. For us IOTA types, this is OC-54.

Along these lines: Ralph, K1RH, will be QRV from **Jekyll Island** for about a week starting September 9. His call from this rare one, IOTA NA-58, will be **K1RH/LJS**. Give me a call when you hear him.

Another good one to watch for, **7Q7XB**, will be aired by Thor, LA7XB. He should start September 14 for about 8 days. He will operate all bands primarily on CW.

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### Contest Corner

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de Dale, KG5U

Okay boys and girls take a deep breath because the 1990 Contest Season is about to begin. Hopefully, you have made the necessary plans and arrangements with your better half, and have taught the kids, as well as the dogs and cats, how to fend for themselves from now through January 1991.

Starting off this month, we have the *European DX SSB Contest*, September 8-9th. See July QST, page 81, for the details.

On September 9 (actually Saturday evening local time) there is the *North American Sprint CW Contest* from 0000Z until 0400Z. A week later on September 16 it will be the SSB version of the North American Sprint Contest, again from 0000Z until 0400Z. Exchange their call, your call, serial number, name and state.

I am getting teams up for TDXS. So far we have KN5H, K5WA, K5RC, K5GA, KG5U, KR0Y, N5RZ and K7GM on the CW team with several others pending. However, the response for the SSB team has been slow. If you would like to get on the phone team, but have not been contacted by me, **CALL ME NOW!...PLEASE!**

*Scandinavian Activity Contest*: CW - September 15/16; SSB - September 22/23. Both start at 1500Z Saturday and run until 1800Z Sunday. Exchange RST and serial number; see September QST, page 80, for the details.

*CQ WW RTTY DX Contest*: September 29 - Details in September CQ and August QST.

*Fall Classic & Home-Brew Radio Exchange*: September 30 - See August QST, page 80. Object is to restore, operate and enjoy equipment at least 10 years old and home-brew equipment.

*California QSO Party*: October 6/7 - From 1600Z until 2200Z; Exchange serial number, state. Details in September QST and September CQ.

*VK/ZL/Oceania DX Contest*: SSB - October 6/7; CW - October 13/14. Both from 1000Z until 1000Z. Work only VK/ZL/Oceania stations. Exchange RST and serial number. Details in September QST.

*Pennsylvania QSO Party*: October 13/14...See September QST, page 80.

*RSGB 21/28 MHz SSB Contest*: October 14, 0700Z - 1900Z. Exchange RST and serial number. (WATCH FOR GM0ECO! Andy will be making a serious effort in this one. Let's help him out..ed)

*RSGB 21 MHz CW Contest*: October 21...see September QST. *Illinois QSO Party*: October 14/15, SSB & CW, 1800Z - 0200Z. Exchange RS(T) and state.

*Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)*: October 20/21, 0000Z - 2400Z. This is not actually a contest, but an on-the-air activity to bring scouts and scout groups together via amateur radio. If you know of a scout group, offer up some time at your station for them to see amateur radio first-hand and to talk with other scouts around the world and around the country.

Starting with the last weekend in October the really Big **Megillahs** take place...*CQ World Wide SSB & CW*, *Sweepstakes CW & SSB*, and the *Ten Meter Contest*. Next month this column will have the full details.

### Claimed Scores

*IARU HF Championship*

GM0ECO....1600 QSO's....117 Mults....697K points

*Worked All Europe CW*

W5ASP....375 QSO's....70 Cty...370 QTC....114,730 pts

*All Asian DX Contest CW*

W5ASP(w/N5EA)....313 QSO's....116 Mults....36,308 pts

(Where did all the local contesters go?..ed)

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### QRV? (BRrrr...)

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de Wes, AC5K

If you're like me, every year it's the same old story. It's CW Sweepstakes, late Sunday afternoon, nobody left to work and all that's needed for a "sweep" is... yeah, you know...a VE8 (or even a VY1).

Well, I've put up with it long enough and I want to do something about it. Me and a couple more of you guys are going to mount a multiop from VE8/VY1 this November during the CW SS weekend. If you're interested in joining up with me, give me a call at (409) 755-4753 or drop me a note at 465 Creekwood Dr., Silsbee, TX 77656.

By the way, this won't be a "camp-out/field day" affair. I intend to arrange for a nice, cozy, warm, well equipped station to use. Think it over and then let's talk it over. Could be a blast!

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## Repeater Report

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de Jim, N5DC

By the time you read this the G.E. repeater will be back on line after having suffered a component breakdown in the receiver that made it quite deaf. The breakdown coincided with the occurrence of a major electrical storm that hit the downtown area. However, it turned out that this was not the cause of the problem. The board has since been fixed and seems to be in even better shape than before the failure. In the interim we got a chance to see how the Spectrum would play. Needless to say, it left a lot to be desired! More on that subject at a later date.

If everything goes well, I expect that we will have replaced the 9913 feedline to the antenna with hardline by the time we all gather for the September meeting. This should mean even more watts to our "crappie pole" up there!

The GASFET preamp, that was removed from the G.E. when it was relocated to the new site, has been sent to Advance Research for a thorough overhaul. With any luck, it should be back and installed on the G.E. repeater by the end of September. (This should make the Gulf Freeway bunch happy!)

Look for a slow but steady improvement in the TDXS repeater, as we settle in to our new location. I have several things in mind to do, and will reveal them as they come to pass. The folks at One Houston Center have been very, very easy to work with, and have bent over backward to assist us. My hat's off to them. (And ours to you Jim for a super job!..ed)

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## Packet Racket

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de Ken, KE5IV

Hi guys! The new Digi and Node is up and running on 144.990 MHz. The call is TDXS using either the digi or the node. The digi is located on the 5 Greenway Plaza building (where the repeater was before its recent move). It stumbled a little coming out of the blocks, but seems to be cooking now! You can access it either by typing C TDXS and then at the prompt C KE5IV...or in the digi mode by typing C KE5IV V TDXS. (The 144.950 MHz input to KE5IV is no longer active...ed)

It seems that the people at Newington do not care about the growth of PacketCluster over the last several years. With the upcoming SAREX mission it should be interesting to watch the activity on the 144.9/145.0 portion of the 2 Meter band. The people at AMSAT have encouraged use of devices by their members which are endless CQ machines. There are currently 57 PacketCluster nodes throughout the country that carry the W6GO/K6HHD Manager List. These 57 nodes serve another 80 nodes, i.e. a total of 137 nodes, that have access to that particular database.

At the head of one of the SAREX advisory committees is Roy Neal, K6DUE. I guess Roy has just stayed on 20 Meters for the last four or so years. His opinion: "Why worry about a few scattered Clusters across the country"! I just wonder which pile of sand his head is buried in!

At the upcoming TDXS meeting I will have copies of the correspondence about this which have gone to and from Newington in the last several months. I guess maybe it is time to rethink the 2 Meter band plan for both digital and space communications.

While I have been working with the PacketCluster and the new digi one important point has surfaced. When using a Kenwood TM-231A or a TR-7800 the TXD needs to be set at 40 because their PLLs are too slow. The crystal rigs like the IC-22A are head and shoulders above newer rigs for packet. Maybe that is why you can't find them

At the meeting I will have the AK1A User's Manual which is about 57 pages double-sided!

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## More Antenna Questions

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de Tom, N6BT

Here's another chance to test your antenna know-how by answering the following questions.

1. Driven or parasitic arrays that are close spaced are easy to match and tune. (Yes/No)
2. The gain of a yagi-type antenna primarily depends on the number of elements. (Yes/No)
3. In free space and using the latest antenna analysis programs, how much forward gain does the well designed Hy-Gain 204BA (4 el, 26' boom) antenna have? (in db)
4. How much more forward gain does a well designed 6 element Yagi of twice the boom length have over a 3 or 4 element Yagi? (in db)

Now let's see how well you did this time.

1. **No** - definitely not! the mutual interactions between the elements are tremendous. Moving the spacing from 1/8 wave to 1/4 wave makes the antenna easier to tune and match, because the "mutuals" are much less significant.

2. **No** - it depends on boom length. the number of elements is almost not related to gain at all, provided that the spacing between the elements does not exceed (about) 1/4 wavelength. Using a boom of 3/4 wavelength (52.5 feet on 20 Meters), a six-element Yagi and a four-element Yagi on the same boom will have gain that is within 0.1 db of each other. Additional directors can either help or hinder F/B ratio.

3. It has **8.35 - 8.52 dbi**. Referenced to a dipole it has 6.19 - 6.36 db.

4. Using the optimized W2PV design, the long boom (52') 6 element Yagi has **2.12 - 2.34 db** more forward gain. The half-power beam width is 52 degrees for the 6 element and 62 degrees for the shorter antenna (reference the 204BA).

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

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## Gone QRT

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de Bob, AK5B

The entire DX world was saddened by the news of the death of Gus Browning, W4BPD, who passed into the realm of Silent Keys on August 21, 1990. Gus was 82 and had been ill for some time. Those whose DXing dates back a number of years will remember Gus and his many exploits. For the more recent crop of DXers suffice it to say that he was the first one inducted into the DX Hall of Fame...nuff said!

## The TDXS Bullsheet

### Upcoming Events

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  
September 22...Scandinavia SSB Contest  
September 30...All Asian Phone Logs Due  
October 06.....California QSO Party  
October 07.....OMARC Midnight Special  
October 12.....TDXS Monthly Meeting  
October 14.....RSGB 21/28 MHz SSB Contest  
October 21.....RSGB 21 MHz CW Contest  
October 27.....CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest

### DXCC Notes

de Don, W3AZD

**New User Fees to Support DXCC** - The ARRL DX Century Club will institute a new fee schedule **October 1**. DXCC, while affecting a relatively small percentage of its members, is a substantial financial burden on the League. User fees, approved by the League's Board of Directors, will go toward better service (quicker turnaround time). The fee structure is intended to encourage participants to send less-frequent individual submissions to DXCC. Here is the basic outline:

1) After October 1, every first-time applicant for DXCC will be charged \$10, in addition to the usual charge for return postage. DXCC members as of October 1, 1990, are exempt from this registration fee.

2) ARRL and CRRL members will be allowed one submission per calendar year free of charge; this annual submission may include any number of QSLs, any number of DXCC awards and any combination of new and endorsement applications. It does not include a person's all-time first submission.

3) Non-League members outside the US and Canada will be charged \$10 for their first DXCC submission of any kind each calendar year.

4) US and Canada DXCC participants who submit more than once in a calendar year will be charged \$10 for each sub-

mission after the first one. Foreign nonmembers will be charged \$20 for additional submissions.

(Reprinted from QST September 1990, page 65)

### Don Wallace, W6AM

de Jan Perkins, N6AW

A new book, *Don C. Wallace, W6AM*, describes the history of amateur radio as experienced by Don Wallace. He was on the air in 1911 before the first radio regulations. Don was the radio operator for President Wilson at the Versailles Peace Conference. He was the winner of the Hoover Cup for the best home-built amateur radio station. Don was a charter member of WAC in 1926. He went on to install 16 rhombic antennas on 120 acres in Rolling Hills, CA, at that time the largest and most powerful amateur radio station in the world. By 1957 W6AM achieved the top of the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll, a spot he occupied most of the next 28 years.

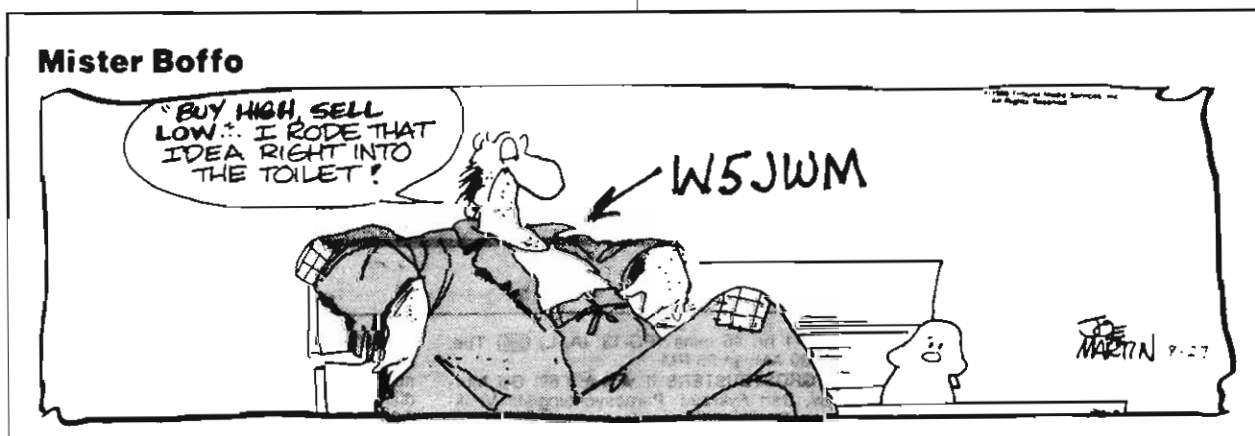
The book is available from Wallace & Wallace, 11823 E. Slauson Avenue, Suite 38, Santa Fe Springs, CA, 90670, hardbound, 350 pages. The prepublication price is \$19.95.

### QTH?

de Joe, W5ASP

Have you ever considered in how many ways you can reply to the simple query "QTH?". All of the following are proper responses, either in whole or in part (e.g. my QTH).

North America, U.S.A., Southwest, Texas, Gulf Coast, Harris, Houston, West Houston, Briargrove Park, Section 1, Block 7, Lot 187, 10031 Meadow Lake, 77042, 713 (Area Code), 974 (Exchange), 29.75 N & 95.4 W, IARU Zone 7, CQ Zone 4, 5th Call District, West Gulf Division, South Texas Section, EL29 (Grid Square), (Key Map), (USGS Square). Guess nothin' is ever as simple as it seems!



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### Outgoing QSL Cards

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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 his QST address label with each group of cards submitted. Contact KG5U if you have any questions (before you drop the cards on him!).

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### Incoming QSL Cards

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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.