



THE BULLSHEET



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Texas DX Society

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either 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" diskette, either DS/DD or DS/HD. If necessary, files may be sent to "Dr. William Schrader" via FAX at 713-790-1275. For those with VHF Packet and having access to any of the local Digipeater, or able connect directly, ASCII text can be sent directly to the Editor. Contact W5ASP at (713) 974-3455 to arrange such file transfers.

DX Packet Clusters - The Waller County Contest and DX PacketCluster Bulletin Board (PCBS) is located in Hempstead, Texas operating on 144.990 MHz with the call KE5IV. A new digipeater is now operational on 144.990 MHz from Stafford with the antenna located at 600 feet to provide improved access to this PacketCluster. This Digi has the alias HOU99. The requested procedure is to first connect with the digipeater (C HOU99) and then connect to the PacketCluster (C KE5IV). Please leave the cluster with the command BYE. There is a second port operating on 144.910 MHz, also under KE5IV's call. This affords local stations with higher ERP, generally those on the west side of Houston, the option of connecting directly with Hempstead and gives somewhat faster response.

The Galveston County DX PacketCluster, located in La Marque, is active under the call KC5SC and operates on 144.930 MHz and 144.970 MHz. It is usually connected with KE5IV via the 446.100 MHz backbone link. Stations in the southern parts of Houston may find it easier to connect with this cluster. AB5A located in Dickinson about 10 miles northwest of KC5SC operates another PacketCluster node regularly connected to the KC5SC PacketCluster via 446.100 MHz. This cluster features a 40 Meter HF Gateway on 7.089 MHz as well as limited access for local uses on the VHF port.

The local 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 DX related information such as the W6GO QSL Manager list, Russian oblasts, WWV propagation, beam headings, etc. Users are requested to limit their use of these "databases" to off-peak hours so as to minimize the side effects on others. A quick check of the status shown in the opening message which appears upon connection will indicate the number of nodes/users active at the time. Otherwise all users are encouraged to query the various data banks and make full use of their many features.

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 May meeting will take place on **Saturday, May 11, 1991**. The meeting will be held at the Ashford West Swim Club courtesy of N5RP, Bob Perring. The building is located on the south side of Westella just west, about 500 yards, of the intersection of Dairy Ashford and Westella. There is a sign in front of the building displaying the name. Westella is about 1 mile north of Westheimer and 2 miles south of the Katy Freeway. In either case you would exit at Dairy Ashford. Please plan to arrive by 11:00 A.M. There will be a brief meeting with the annual **Field Day** plan as the big item on the agenda. Following the meeting we will wrap ourselves around some brisket and sausage with all the fixin's. Anyone wishing to bring along something in the way of desert will surely be welcome. The pool will be open and there is a dressing room available. Rumor has it that N5 "Ringer Perring" will have the horseshoes along just in case "good old George" (Bush, that is...) drops by. This affair will end at 3:00 P.M. Visitors are welcome to attend and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

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

HELP! Over the years the TDXS has received various awards and memorabilia, and there have been quite a number of slide/film/video programs put together for the club's use. If you have any of these items, or know where they may be found please get in touch with one of the TDXS officers. An effort is being made to collect and store these items in a place where they will be readily available for use in the future.

The Prez Sez

de Jim, N5DC

Well gang here I go again. TDXS business first. I am disappointed to say the least over the apparent lack of interest in Field Day. I got the feeling at the last meeting that there was very little enthusiasm among the membership for this year's annual event. Our plans for Field Day will be the main topic of discussion for the upcoming meeting, and we must settle on just what we are going to do. Please come prepared to give us your feelings and ideas about this year's field day. Otherwise, the Board will have to make the decision. Remember Field Day has been the cornerstone event for TDXS since we started. Let's not drop the ball now!

Speaking of the meeting, you'll see from the Meeting Notice that we are having a Saturday meeting this month. It will take place at the Community Center in Bob Perring's neighborhood. The TDXS will supply the basics, but we need a few of you to bring along a dish that would serve as a desert to supplement the brisket, smoked sausage, potato salad and slaw. The Klub Koolers will be there for anyone who wants to wet their whistle. Frank, KE4GY will take this occasion to be indoctrinated into the joys of hauling our "Koolers" to the meetings.

And now I would like share with you a few observations fresh from Dayton. AK5B, AA5NK, and I attended the DX dinner on Friday night. It makes me feel pretty small to rub elbows with people credited with more than 370 countries, as did one of the guys at our table.

We all listened with rapt attention to the story of Seth, XU1SS. He survived the "Killing Fields" of Cambodia, literally. Much of his family was lost but he has been able to locate his Mother and some of his sisters, and is now reunited with them here in the U.S. It is quite a story, and is going to appear in book form, and possibly as a movie.

I was also moved by the short speech that 9K2CS made, especially his expression of thanks to the U.S.A.

I had a look at the 160 meter GAP antenna. That dude is BIG!! Also eyeballed the new Drake R-8 receiver. It sure looks like a winner. (Any bets on when it will appear as a transceiver?) The new Signal One looks like the Icom 781 in a different package. In fact they buy the spectrum display unit from Icom. Bet that sucker weighs 70 lbs or more. It sure nuff would be a tough one to lug on a DXpedition.

Dayton really is a happening! If you haven't been, you should go...at least once. You will see things that you would not believe could exist in the world of Amateur Radio. That's it for this time.

See you at the meeting.

Upcoming Events

- May 11Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- May 11CQ-M USSR Contest
- May 19OMARC Midnight Special
- May 25CQ World Wide WPX CW Contest
- June 7-9Ham-Com '91, Arlington, Texas
- June 8Lone Star DX Luncheon & Program
- June 14Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- June 15JARL All Asian CW Contest
- June 22ARRL Field Day

DX Report

de Bob, AK5B

It looks like 1991 is going to be a good year. One of the first things that came out at the International DX Convention in Visalia last month was that the ARRL desk had approved the documentation for K5VT's operation as **S20VT** for DXCC credit. It really was nice to see Vince again...and even better to get my S2 QSL delivered in person!

We had a good group representing the TDXS this year. There were eight folks in all, six of whom were members. Chuck, K5LZO and Barbara, WB5RUS made the convention for their first time by way of San Diego following a visit with their daughter. Joe, W5ASP and I drove down from San Francisco on Thursday. Tom, K5RC and Midge, along with Sid, K5XI and his significant other, came down on Friday with Rusty, W6OAT. We all had a super time. The weather was perfect. The attendance number that I heard was around 600.

Martti, OH2BH was on hand with the logs from the Penguin Island DXpedition already printed on computer labels sorted by callsign. So after a short line, we were able to get a card for each contact.

The award for "best story of the weekend" has to go to Martti. He told us at the breakfast meeting on Sunday that one "big gun, east coast DXer", after picking up all of his QSLs Saturday (a total of 16 cards!), came back later and wanted to know about reclaiming the dollar bill he had originally sent as postage? Thinking a lot quicker than I'm sure I would have, Martti replied that he had already "applied it to the DXer's credit". (I'm not sure I'd like to open one of those accounts!)

Word is that the DXAC will vote on Penguin Island at the end of the month right after Dayton.

Martti also introduced his new book, "Where Do We Go Next?" It's a very well done 306 page, soft cover book with easy to read text, color pictures and Martti's humor. They brought 200 copies to Visalia and promptly sold out. I'll bring mine to the next meeting if you would like to check it out.

Dates announced for **Visalia '92** are **April 11-12** at the Holiday Inn, but the hotel said they would not take any reservations prior to May 13, 1991. Bet that will be a hectic day for their reservation desk.

I didn't hear any good rumors this year of exciting upcoming DXpeditions. The next big thing DX wise in April was to hear Baldur, **DJ6SI** on the air as /SY from **Mt. Athos** on the morning after I got back. Was able to work him on two bands for a new one on CW...

Now that I've returned from Dayton I will add a few more things. Need **A6, United Arab Emirates** on 40 meters? Spoke to Don Greenbaum, WB2DND and he will be on 7.065 MHz on Sunday May 12th at 9 PM Houston time. That is his sunrise and he will be looking for the US. He will be split and on phone. If the band is too noisy, or if you request it, he will go to CW. He said that he will be doing quite a bit of CW this trip with the keyer. I know he has one now, as he bought it at Dayton!

Also had a nice visit with Wayne, W4MPY, the QSL man. He has added two items that will be of interest. He now has the genuine "metric" size airmail envelopes. These are 4 1/2 by 6 3/8 like the ones from Europe. 50 for \$10.00. The other item is a QSL card for the confirmation of those SWL cards that you receive. I will finally be able to send a card in reply without having to adulterate my regular card.

At the DX Dinner on Friday night they had the annual "DX Standdown". At our table N4SU, Dick Kennedy finally had to

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sit down at the count of 372, and the next one down, the winner, was W6HX, Fred Gillett with 373. Where have all the countries gone??

Don't forget that **Ham-Com '91** is coming up on June 7-9 in Arlington. Kaare, LA2GV will be one of the special guests of the Lone Star DX Association for the luncheon program. Remember he was one of the ops on Bouvet, 3Y. They also are having Jim, N4HX and Tom, K3TW, two former residents of Africa each of whom has put on a number of rare ones. Linda and I will be there again, but after last year I sure hope they change from the cold chicken fried steak with cream gravy at 11 AM.

If you've never been to this convention, don't miss it. I think even the flea market has better stuff to choose from than Dayton. It's true! Also, I understand that TDXS plans to gather Friday eve for dinner and Saturday nite for... whatever! Keep tuned for details. CU there.

73 es gud DX

Amateur Radio in China

de Mike, AA5NK

(This is the second of two articles on amateur radio in China as lived and interpreted by Mike, AA5NK. Mike has been travelling to China since 1986...ed)

You hear a China station occasionally, but probably not as regularly as you once did three to four years ago. Activity in China has hit a peak and dropped off a bit. I am guessing that a lot of the shine or intrigue has worn away. Many of the operators then and now are paid operators. I am sure their heart was not in it, as one would think. But this served the purpose of getting China on the air. The club stations are not expanding as they once were. Most of the stations we see in the Callbook are not active. A lot of the equipment at these stations has fallen into disrepair.

We only hear a few regulars who are motivated and also good operators. BY4RB and BY9GA are excellent operators and fairly active. Occasionally BY1QH, my old station, is heard. The occasional BZ you will hear are individually licensed operators working from a club station. Numerous private licenses have been issued. Two and one half years ago, the CRSA held their first testing session at BY1PK in Beijing. I was there and saw about 25 people in from all over China for testing.

The personal economics of the people in China just will not provide for equipment to set up their own station. I do not see that situation changing for a long time. "We" will have to keep the club stations operative. Refrigerators, televisions and such items have a higher priority to the individual Chinese. Most of the operators are students or just entering into the business world. There is little or no money to be used for radio equipment. These people are not even making the average salary of US \$50.00 per month. That takes time and seniority.

As all of the city dwellers live in apartments, obtaining permission to have any sort of antenna is impossible. As all or most of the apartments are owned by the government factory unit (company). Permission would probably have to come from the president or director of the unit. Here you have an old hardliner who looks on ham radio as something unknown...not needed...expensive...maybe even subversive, i.e. typical of a lot of third world countries.

I have attempted to motivate BY1QH to work the low bands. It has been difficult. They are used to having a quiet 20

M band with the contacts spoon fed to them. The electrical noise in Beijing is something else! Even with my "quiet" 40 M delta loop, QRN is S7 to S9. It makes it tough to copy even the average 40 M station in North America. N4AR has a fantastic 40 M antenna setup. On average nights he might be S3. On good nights I would work 10-20 NA stations, only to be told later on that there were "hundreds" calling. BY is needed on the lower bands.

BY1PK has a better setup. But the station master, Mr Tong is a government worker and sticks to his normal working hours. You can operate as long as it is between 8 A.M. and 5 P.M. If you are able to operate at night, you must run barefoot as TVI is bad.

I chose to cultivate BY1QH for my operations. It was a good station and after proving myself, I was given a station key and able to operate when ever I took a notion...for as long as I wanted. One night I was chit chatting with a Malaysian and a Kampuchea station when the power went out. The guard had turned the power off at his appointed time. A little "bak-sheesh" took care of that situation. Now, when I go by his room on the way up to the station, I let him know I will be operating...and to keep the power on for my part of the building.

During the demonstrations downtown at Tiananmen Square, I was given a photo ID to use to pass through the gate at Qing Hua University, where 'QH' is located. They were not allowing any foreigners through the gates of Qing Hua and Beijing Normal Universities. These two schools were the nucleus for the situation at Tiananmen and many foreign journalists were at the schools interviewing the students.

The station at 'QH' was never shut down after the incident of June 4 1989. But two weeks later the students forced their way into the station and demanded use of the station to "tell the world what happened". The operator had the foresight to switch out the antenna. So nothing went out to ruin amateur radio in China. (Has any body got any spare final transistors for a 2KL amplifier?)

Another time, I was asked by a nearby DX station if I could meet and relay information as to what was happening at Tiananmen Square. They had no telephone access to Beijing. I told him he had a problem but we and ham radio would not be a part to this scheme. I warned the other operators of this and the possible consequences. I feel it was a journalist looking for a way to get up to date information. The callsign he used was not in the callbook.

There are still some political and economic hurdles to pass before amateur radio is a common everyday thing. I talk about my operating in China with Chinese people away from the stations. They are amazed that anything of the sort exists or is permitted. The Chinese operators are very friendly to their "foreign friends" in amateur radio. With proper procedures, they will probably welcome you with open arms to operate their station. But as I said last month: it will be to your benefit to correspond well ahead of time about your desire to operate.

QSL's. When I first started working and operating in China, I would hear all sorts of complaints about not getting a QSL from China. On rare occasions it may have caused some confusion, but I always handled my own QSLing. I later let Barry, KI8W take over the chores. I would say this is for my operations only. (Do you hear that Yuri?) Most of the stations are excellent and sincere about their QSLing. But it only takes one bad one who is active to give a bad appearance of the Chinese hams. I would counsel with the operators of the various stations about the importance of QSLing.

All in all, they are darn good people!

Contest Corner

de Ken, NZ5I

The results are finally out and it looks like there is still life left in Sweepstakes! In case you haven't heard, the numbers in both the phone and the CW events were truly awesome. Activity was very high indeed. Looks like Novice participation and the incentive pins were a real hit.

Whatever the reason for the high level of activity, this contest was a blast to operate regardless of your degree of skill or experience. Several TDXS/Texas type folks did very well. Trey, WN4KKN/5 operating from N5AU, won the Single Operator High Power CW category. Then Bill, K5GA operating from W5WMU, took third place a mere 6 Qs behind W0UA in second. And Randy, K5ZD/3 was 10th. In the Low Power SO category, kudos are in order for Ralph, N5RZ who cleanly took the #1 position.

George, WB5VZL at N5AU did some serious damage during the SSB test taking #3 in the SO High Power category. Another well known George, NR5M took #5 barely edging out Dr. Pat, W5WMU in 6th. N5RZ then turned in an impressive 8th place finish in SSB.

The TDXS did well placing ninth in the Medium category of the club competition with 17 entries. Sadly, a significant multioperator effort from the WTX QTH of Tom, KD5SP (good for 5th?) went unrecognized in the final standings...no logs! What happened guys!

Kudos to all of you who participated, the TDXS was well represented, all over the country. Hopefully we'll see you again next year. To those who didn't make it, you missed a really fun time.

The calendar shows that CQ-M is upon us May 11 starting at 2100Z until May 12, 2100Z. Lots of new oblasts on the air!

WPX CW is coming up on May 25-26. I'm told that the Lumberyard will be active for a Multi Single for WPX. If you're interested, I know you'll be welcome. Get in touch with Tom, N5EA for details. Joe, W5ASP will be on from Belize as V31KF. Frank, KE4GY and I are either going to be on from N5AU or from NR5M for single band efforts. We'll all be on the lookout for all the mult's we can get...be sure to work us! Reminder: Logs may be submitted on disk in ASCII format only when accompanied by a written Summary sheet. Don't forget to indicate TDXS on the Summary sheet!

Finally, join me in rolling out the welcome mat for our newest TDXS members Frank, KE4GY and Mike, AA5NK!

Results

CQ World Wide WPX CW

NR5M (Op. ??).....674 Q...406 PFX....378,798...SO/15M
 KI3L/5.....163 Q...118 PFX....12,862...SO/AB
 NY5L(N5EA,W5ASP)....690 Q...338 PFX..169,000 (??) MS

ARRL Sweepstakes -CW

K5MA/1.....1023 X 75.....153,450 #1 EMA
 W5WMU (K5GA).....1264 X 75.....189,600 # 3USA
 NR5M (K7GM).....1132 X 76.....172,064 #1 STX
 AC5K.....686 X 75.....102,900 #1 STX LOW PWR
 N5DU.....654 X 77.....100,716
 W5ASP.....585 X 72.....84,240
 KI3L/5.....401 X 71.....56,942
 NZ5I.....205 X 68.....27,880
 KC5CP.....534 X 72.....76,896 #1 MO STX

ARRL Sweepstakes-Phone

K5MA/1.....809 X 77.....124,586
 W5WMU.....1204 X 77.....339,416 #6 USA
 KD5SP.....1566 X 77.....241,164 #1 MO WTX
 NR5M.....2208 X 77.....340,032 #5 USA
 W5ASP.....1402 X 77.....215,908
 KI3L/5.....1074 X 75.....161,100
 KC5CP.....778 X 76.....118,256
 NZ5I.....519 X 72.....74,736
 KESFI.....146 X 55.....16,060
 K5WA.....125 X 51.....12,750
 KE4GY (+Others).....666 X 76.....101,232 MO
 N5NF (+WB5RUS)....371 X 72.....53,424 MO

The AEA Morse Machine MM-3 CW Keyer

de Jim, N5DC

Golly Gee Whiz!!! If you contesters and DXers haven't had a chance to get acquainted with the AEA MM-3 keyer you have really missed a neat experience.

As many of you know, I have for some time used a Heathkit CW keyboard, and thus have not had any need for a separate keyer. All was well until recently when through my door walks the Morse Machine, AEA's MM-3. Boy was I ever in for a surprise. The MM-3 appears to have more crammed into its little box than the 20 Meg PC laptop that I am using to write this review.

Some of its big features are:

- Speed selection from 2 wpm to 99 wpm (i.e. infinity!) either programmable or manually adjustable
- Twenty memories with 8K variable length, expandable to 36K
- Seven programmable modes: Keyer/Memory send, Beacon, etc.
- RS-232 controllable serial I/O port
- Automatic Serial Numbers
- Random Code Groups and Word Generator
- QSO Simulator DX Contest Simulator

I have had quite a bit of fun with the last feature. The first time I ran the DX simulator, the very first call I heard was a ZA! However, there was no pile up! (I wonder if AEA built-in a "slim"?). So I gave the ZA a call and he came right back! Now if I can just get a card, and then get Don Search to accept it!

It would take a volume of writing to point out all of the features of this keyer, but in my book it is a classic, and I would certainly encourage those of you with an itch for a really versatile hi-tech keyer to have a look. I might add that if you have an earlier version of the MM-3 without the contest simulator, you can obtain an update from AEA. I believe the charge is \$35.00 dollars.

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.

Packet Racket

de Ken, KE5IV

I held off until now to announce that HOU99 and HOU994 were on the air so that there would be plenty of time for a thorough field test. And man do they ever work well! HOU99 is on 144.990 MHz using a G.E. Exec II running 70 watts. HOU994 is on 446.1 MHz using a G.E. MVP running 35 watts. Both outputs are being fed into a duplexer and driving a duo-band antenna at 600 feet on the tower in Stafford.

There is good news and bad news with this new digi/node. The good news is user thruput is just outstanding. All error checking and forwarding to the end users are handled by The Net software at the node. A couple of weekends ago, there were 15 users connected to the KE5IV PacketCluster in the Node configuration and there were very few disconnects over a 48 hour period. During this time period there were a number of instances where two or three DX spots were put out in a 60 second time period with no conflict or delay.

The only down side to this arrangement is that if no DX or WWV announcements are put out on the PacketCluster during a one hour period of time, the Node will disconnect users due to lack of activity. I guess the real smoke test will have to be the CQ WPX CW contest weekend coming up at the end of May.

HOU99 does have super coverage; Brenham, Spring, Kingwood, Sealy, and The Woodlands. For the people in Clear Lake City and Galveston hitting HOU99 should be easy. The guys in S.W. Houston have the tower almost in their backyards.

I would like to thank Bob, K5VMX for so quickly putting this new system together. I took him the G.E. MVP and the crystals for 144.990 MHz on Sunday. By Tuesday both HOU99 and HOU994 were on the air. Bob also furnished the duplexer until I could replace it a couple of days later. Bob has also been a great help at looking at the operating parameters and letting me know which ones are critical. I must admit more than a few were off in left field.

There are a number of local PacketCluster users, both members and nonmembers of the TDXS, who also subscribe to the W6GO/K6HHD QSL Manager List. There are now 55 PacketCluster nodes around the country that carry the W6GO List with some 102,000 users each month. Yet in spite of the widespread interest Jay's subscription rate dropped by 13.9% last month.

As I said at the time I originally installed the List on the KE5IV PackedCluster, it was just a trial with the hope that it would not take away from the regular subscriptions. I guess we all want something for free. If you do a SH/QSL SUBS, it will not take long for you to figure out just who the subscribers are in this area. They are the ones paying for what many of you take for granted.

For his subscribers, W6GO does offer a lot of other services, e.g. DX-BBS and PC-GO (which can run on your home PC, thus removing the need to query the Cluster). In addition many of the other databases now on the PacketCluster are there because Jay acts as the clearing house between the PacketCluster nodes. Just think about it! Maybe you need to help out with a subscription.

As soon as time allows, I'll be setting up the promised digi at the K5LZO/WB5RUS site on 144.990 MHz using a G.E. EXEC II. Hopefully this will help Sammy, N5AF (or at least open up a path into the Cleveland area), and possibly other users in East Texas. About the same time TAMDX should be on line from Aggie Land, thanks to the efforts of N5TC and WC5Q!

Outgoing QSL Cards

The ARRL provides a service to it's 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 D-Xpedition 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 nonresidents, 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!).

ARRL DX Bulletin

Thanks to Paul, KB1BE, and the Connecticut DX Association for the following information. From the DXCC Desk. Please do not submit cards for the ... (garbled) Island or Penguin Island Operations. These Islands are not currently DXCC countries and all cards submitted will be returned without credit.

DOCUMENTATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED FROM MONK APOLLO,SV2ASP/A, AND BALDUR, DJ6SI/SY, FOR THEIR RECENT OPERATIONS FROM MOUNT ATHOS. THEIR QSL CARDS ARE ACCEPTABLE FOR DXCC.

A5, BHUTAN. JIM AND KIRSTI SMITH, VK9NS AND VK9NL, ARE EXPECTED ON THE AIR FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AS A51JS STARTING IN EARLY MAY, AND PLAN TO BE ACTIVE ON ALL BANDS AND MODES. BEAMS, AMPLIFIER, AND RTTY EQUIPMENT WERE SHIPPED AHEAD. ON CW CHECK 3505, 7005 AND 25 KHZ UP FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE BAND ON 10 THROUGH 20 METERS. ON SSB CHECK 3795, 14195, 21295 AND 28495 KHZ, LISTENING UP. QSL TO VK9NS. DXERS SHOULD TRY 15 METERS AROUND 0100 UTC AND 20 METERS FROM 1100 TO 1300 UTC. SUNRISE IS AT 2330 UTC AND SUNSET IS AT 1230 UTC IN A5 LAND.

PY0S, SAINT PETER AND PAUL ROCKS. THE NATAL DX GROUPS DXPEDITION IS EXPECTED FOR A TEN DAY OPERATION STARTING MAY 3 OR 4. OPERATORS ARE PS7KM, PY4VB, PP5JD, DF9TF, AND DJ9ZB. THEIR DX CALL SIGNS WILL BE ANNOUNCED UPON ARRIVAL ON THE ROCKS. QSL ALL TO PS7KM.

5R, MADAGASCAR. ALAIN, 5R8AL, IS BACK IN THIS RARE INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRY FOR A MONTH LONG STAY AND HAS BEEN REPORTED ON BOTH CW AND SSB.