



THE BULLSHEET



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President	Jim Lane, N5DC
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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. **The December TDXS meeting will be held one week earlier than normal.** This change has been made to avoid conflict with the ARRL 10 Meter Contest scheduled to begin the evening of Friday, December 13th. This month's meeting will take place on **Friday, December 6, 1991** at **St. Johns School** at the corner of Claremont and Westheimer Roads. Claremont is the name of Buffalo Speedway after it crosses to the north of Westheimer. There is a parking lot entrance just north of Westheimer. Park in the lot and follow the walkway to enter the school building. The general meeting will take place in the auditorium/lecture hall and will begin about 7:30 P.M. Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

The **Annual TDXS Banquet and Awards Ceremony** will be held on **Saturday, January 11, 1992** at Birraporetti's in the River Oaks Center on West Grey. Members will receive a reservation request with directions and menu options from N5DC later this month. All members are encouraged to attend this gala event. Our **new president Bill, K5GA** promises an exciting evening filled with fun and frivolity. Don't miss this chance to welcome the new year with Mr. Bill and his band of jolly elves (TDXS Board of Directors!).

Program - The December program will feature the video of the Houston visit of Musa Manarov, UV3AM and Boris Stepanov, UW3AX. This will include both their convention program and their visit to NASA. Jim, NN5O will handle the narration.

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 area on K2TNO's Bulletin Board at 713-798-4955, or sent to the Editor on either 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" diskette, either DS/DD or DS/HD. If necessary, text may be sent to via FAX to the editor at the number listed below. Files or other messages may be sent via E-Mail to: Schrader @ BCM.TMC.EDU. For those with VHF Packet and having access to any of the local Digipeaters, or able connect directly, ASCII text can be sent directly to the Editor. Contact W5ASP at 713-974-3455 to arrange for either fax or packet transfers.

The Prez Sez - de Jim, N5DC

Boy, how can it get any better! Yep, I'm talking about the TDXS effort during the Houston Com-Vention a few weeks ago. We did a lot and we did it well. Our two Russian guests, Musa and Boris were just great and really had a super time. Rusty, Chip and Martti certainly put on a fine DX and contest program. And the hospitality suite was a blast! What more could any of us ask?

I would like to again thank each and every one of you who contributed so much to the success of the 1991 Houston ham convention. I'm very proud of you all. As I clearly said in my article in the January Bullsheat, putting TDXS "back on the map" during the convention was one of my main goals. I trust you will agree that we did it up right!

Special thanks to **AA5NK, AK5B, K2TNO, K5XI, K7WOC, KC5CP, KE5IV, KF5MY, NN5O, NR5M, W5ASP.** (Listed in alphabetical order.) It was a real team effort. An effort that has not only brightened up the image of the TDXS locally, but has again brought us into the national limelight (See January QST!) I intend to recognize the "heavy hitters" at our annual January banquet.

As a legacy to our incoming president, Bill, K5GA, I herewith turn over the TDXS to his TLC. Things are in good shape. There appear to be signs of a definite revival of member interest and we're again in good financial condition. Along with Jim, NN5O, Vice President, Mike, AA5NK, Secretary and Don, KI3L, Treasurer as TDXS officers for '92, I don't see how I could leave it in better hands. Good luck guys!

In closing, my thanks to all of you who helped make this a "Banner Year" for the TDXS. Let's have many more of them!

One last comment. I understand that **Bill, K2TNO** may still be able to get more of the "**Musa & Boris**" T-shirts and/or the "**TDXS Operating Room**" shirts. If you are interested, get in touch with him, pronto! He will be closing up shop pretty quick now.

DX Report

de Bob, AK5B

Well folks, it looks like this may well be my swan song. I've enjoyed writing this column for the past two years, and I hope I've kept you up to date on the latest and greatest in the DX world. It's been an exciting year with lots of great DX for everyone. Who would have guessed that we'd have XZ, YA and ZA in our logs, not to mention 1S, 3B7, D2, and ET among others. I'm glad I had the chance to bring you all the good news. Now let's look forward to '92 for a shot at South Sandwich, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and ... who knows, maybe Martti will pull another one out of the hat!

Effective Now. Field checking of QSLs for NEW applications for ARRL DXCC awards can be processed locally. (Again, this is for first time applicants...**NO endorsements!**) Believe it or not, there are at least four club members that I know who have many QSLs over the 100 mark that have never sent them off for the award. Now you can have up to 250 cards checked on the spot (as has been the case for several of the CQ awards for some time), and then just simply send in the final paper work to the DXCC desk in Newington. The list of approved countries is highlighted in the new ARRL DXCC Countries List, Publication No. 91, dated September 1991.

Each application has to be signed by two certified DXCC Field Representatives. (These are local DX club members who have 300 or more countries credited and have been appointed by the ARRL Division Director. From the TDXS we now have four Field Reps: Jim N5DC, Evie, KF5MY, Linda, KE5TF and Bob, AK5B...ed).

In order to make the field checking as easy as possible, we suggest that anyone interested simply start by first getting touch with either (1) the Lanes, (2) the Walworths or (3) catch Jim and me together during the week. (And I promise we won't hit you up for lunch.) If you have any questions, look us up and we'll try to get you the right answers. No Chuck, 6 Meter DXCC can't be field checked (or 2 Meter, Satellite, or 5BDXCC).

Needless to say, the convention was a huge success. It sure was neat to hear the first presentation of the ZA1A story by Chip, K7JA and Martti, OH2BH. And then to get the QSLs from Rusty, W6OAT right on the spot. The room was completely packed during the ZA presentation with standing room only in the rear. I would have counted those present (it reached a total of 87...ed), but the speakers kept my full attention. A really super show!

It was a great pleasure having Martti, Chip and Rusty all here at the same time to share the convention with us. Where do we go next? And speaking of Martti, I do have a small supply of his book by that title. Just found out via fax that as a Christmas special, we will be able to offer the book for \$18.00. If you are interested, see me at the December meeting.

Speaking of meetings, don't you dare miss the January one. It's to be our annual banquet, and this year the location is one that I'm sure everyone will enjoy. It's to be held at the BirraPoretti's on West Gray near Shepherd. Jim will be getting the menu selections out to all of the members, so you can sign up to come and also make your choice from the menu. Super facilities and great food. Thank Melanie (Mrs. K5GA) and Chuck, KE5FI for the suggestion.

I guess I need to put something in here pertaining to DX, other-wise I could lose this cushy job! Much to the surprise of many, the Colvin's are on the DXpedition trail again. This time they have surfaced in Asia, signing HS0ZAP. Larry, NY5L heard Iris once on a net, but that's the only report I've gotten

of them being on the air. There isn't any telling where they will show up from, so keep tuned. Maybe even XZ, who knows.

Our Editor sez he needs this missive, so I'd best get it sent. Hope everyone was able to drop all the right hints for Santa this year. Have a great Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year with a new country or two thrown in just for good measure. It's been fun. 73 es DX.

What's Happening at the Callbook?

(The following is an extract from an editorial article by **Fred Laun, K3ZO** which appeared in the **Potomac Valley Radio Club's** October 1991 newsletter..ed)

...A recent article in the *W5YI Report* described the move of the Callbook's editorial offices from Illinois to New Jersey after its acquisition by Billboard Publications which publishes *World Radio-TV Handbook* and the well-known show biz chronicle *Billboard Magazine* as well. None of the experienced staff in Illinois, who maintained important relationships with PTT's around the world, were kept on. The person who Billboard hired to run the Callbook in New Jersey was let go unceremoniously after he had spent several weeks in Illinois learning the operation. My usual Callbook supplier, *W6GO/K6HHD List*, has decided not to offer the Callbook this year since they have not been able to get firm information out of the publisher. A BBS message on the packet cluster said the 1992 Callbook would be delayed indefinitely in coming out.

Under Billboard the Callbook has already quietly been making economy moves. The 1989 edition of the Callbook, for example, contained 61,351 Indonesian calls, while the current Callbook contains only 6,572. This was accomplished by wiping out the YDs, the Indonesian novices, who presumably are not allowed to work DX (though I have worked and confirmed a few). I have been forced to hold on to my 1989 Callbook, however, because when YDs upgrade to YC or YB, they keep the same suffix, and the Callbook has not been current on Indonesian upgrades...

FCC Latest Moves

Fines for amateurs are now going up. There will be:

- \$8000 fine for false distress communications.
- \$7500 fine for failure to permit station inspection.
- \$7000 fine for importing and marketing of unauthorized equipment.
- \$5000 fine for exceeding power limits or using unauthorized frequencies.
- \$1000 fine for failure to ID your station.
- There will also be a \$500 fine for miscellaneous violations.

Upcoming Events

December 06.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
 December 06.....ARRL 160 Meter Contest
 December 14.....ARRL 10 Meter Contest
 January 01.....ARRL Straight Key Night
 January 11.....TDXS Annual Banquet
 January 11.....North American QSO Party CW

Contest Corner

de Ken, NZ5I

Looks like this may very well be my last column as the TDXS Contest Chairman. It has been a real fun experience for me. Thanks for all the help and support.

For those of you who haven't heard, Ann and I had a 9 pound baby girl on November 15th. Her name is Elizabeth Coleen. She'll begin learning CW in two weeks. (Obviously she has already mastered SSB, i.e. scream & shout.ed)

In the Kudos department, I saw that **Chuck, KE5FI** did well in last years CQ 160 Meter phone scoring a #6 USA. Nice job Chuck! In the CW end of the same test, our old friends **Richard, K5NA/2** and **Randy, K5ZD/3** did very well placing #3 and #6 USA respectively. Congrats guys!

Word got to me that we had some great matches going on for CQ WW CW. I can't wait to see the results in high claimed. **Eric, NM5M** was up at N5AU doing a single op on 15 M CW. **Billy, K5GA** was out at K5XI giving Sid's shack a go. I heard **Dave, K5GN** too. Word is that the conditions were very bad, at least for high band runs to Europe from five-land.

In closing this year I thought that I would revisit a subject that I talked about earlier in the year: **TDXS Contesting Shootout**. I have, for quite some time thought that such an activity could be a lot of fun for all. It would give us a chance to locally rank our operators with head to head competition on an even keel. And possibly, the activity could be opened up to include some of the east coast contest studs, allowing them to be tested against our folks with no geographical advantages.

Conceptually, the event would go something like this:

- Phone and CW competition. Switch hitters welcome.
- Contestants would be determined by interest/skill level. Teams formed.
- Contestant would recruit his/her team members. Only one operator though.
- Stations would include: Barefoot 930 and GAP vertical.
- Four to Six stations would be setup by the teams on designated date along predetermined site on Galveston Island during the early to mid spring contest period.
- Before the event the club would get together at the general meeting and draw spaces for the teams. The teams would be introduced and a Calcutta would take place (Teams would be auctioned off). N5DC could help with this I bet!
- During the weekend of activity the club would skim a little prize money for a barbeque and gathering.
- The post contest activities would include the awards ceremony. Awards would be to winning team owners and to the actual teams themselves. Plaques and Certificates.

There it is. The TDXS Contest Shootout. There would be some initial investment for some GAP verticals and some feed-line. I would hope that this would become an annual event, that way the equipment could be used repeatedly. If this were expanded to include outside ops then we would need to make provisions for qualifying them in advance. The operating positions would likely be tents and generators, much like field day, so the timing would need to be temperature sensitive.

This is only a concept. A little thought would need to go into the particulars. Does this sound fun to you? If you are interested please let me know. If there is sufficient interest in this type of event I would propose that a small committee form to begin planning.

Happy Holidays!

Contest News

Results

1991 CQ 160 Meter DX Contest

K5NA/2 773 Q x 95 M x 43 C = 243,960 Pts. #3 CW SO/USA
 KE5FI 665 Q x 71 M x 18 C = 109,695 Pts. #6 SSB SO/USA
 KI3L/5 100 Q x 37 M x 5 C 8,140 Pts
 Texas DX Society - #21 Club Score (2 Ops)

Claimed Scores

1991 CQ WPX CW

K5NA/2 SO/28MHz 90K

1991 ARRL SS CW

K5GN..... 105 x 45
 K5MA/1... 231 x 65

1991 ARRL SS Phone

KI3L/5..... 1630 x 77
 K5MA/1.. 1285 x 77
 KE5FI..... 1075 x 68
 K5WA..... 800 x 77
 K5DX..... 377 x 77
 AA5NK.... 293 x 77
 AK5B 255 x 75
 K5RVK ... 459 x 72
 N5AF..... 223 x 58
 K5GA..... 160 x 63
 K5RC..... 148 x 60
 W9AGH... 109 x 68
 W5ASP..... 77 x 77
 K5LZO(w/ WB5RUS)... 966 x 76

1991 CQ WW SSB

GM0ECO... 2013 x 95 x 338 - 1.78M SO/AB
 K5MA/1..... 1057 x 120 x 359 - 1.38M SO/AB

1991 CQ WW CW

K5GN..... 1586 x 163 x 428 - 2.58 M SO/AB
 K5MA..... 1652 x 138 x 387 - 2.51 M SO/AB
 K5LZO..... 652 x 99 x 246 - 628 K SO/AB
 K5GA..... 620 x 33 x 107 - 250 K SO/15M
 K5DX..... 395 x 112 x 217 - 352 K SO/AB
 KI3L/5..... 182 x 55 x 106 - 81 K SO/AB
 KC5CP..... 112 x 26 x 66 - SO/AB
 N5EA (W5ASP,W5VAH,KV6O) 906 x 142 x 362 - 1.2 M

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 free to join in.

Packet Racket

de Ken, KE5IV

I have given our Editor the records from the PacketCluster for the '91 CQWW CW contest. These records contain all of the DX spots that were put out on the PacketCluster over the weekend. I ran the "log" through the K1EA CT program after the contest. It's pretty impressive just what one could have been worked just chasing these spots. Take a good look at the country and zone multipliers. Shows what can be done under "poor" conditions, even by a "casual" operator! (See the following article for more details..ed)

The Packet Node system for Houston is progressing quite well, thanks to the efforts of **Bob, K5VMX** and **Hans, N5PBC**. Several key projects are now being completed. By the time you read this HOU, IAH and CLC should be connected together via the 19.2 KHz back-bone. Shortly thereafter, WDL and Hempstead should also be on-line.

For those who are already starting to get excited about getting on at 19.2 K ... forget it. The same mistake will not be made as was made in the case of the former 446.1 MHz back-bone running at 1200 baud. The firmware will be programmed with the Node calls ONLY! Included in the system upgrade will be 9600 baud ports on 440. MHz for those users who want to use them.

The bottom line to all of this effort is that, if you are using the existing Node system, **T.C.A.P.S., Texac Coastal Amateur Packet Society**, needs your help! And I need your help! The dues for TCAPS are only \$12 per year. Just a buck a month! It is a real bargain for any and all users in the Houston area, whether they use the PacketCluster, TCP/IP (for file transfers), BBS's or just for rag-chewing. Check your 'Cluster or BBS, or get with me and see that your \$12 goes to TCAPS to help out!

Over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend I intend to get with Bob, K5VMX to help with final phase of setting up MAG99 and MAG994. I have had MAG994 sitting at Hempstead since before last month's convention. However, due to lack of time, I just wasn't able to get it on the air during that time. In addition, I have also been working on connecting to the rest of the Clusters via TEX-NET. All I have to say in my defense is ... **FIRE THE SYSOP!!** 73 and see ya on packet.

(NOTE: Every user of the PacketCluster should make an annual contribution to TCAPS, or its equivalent. The PacketCluster network is an integral part of today's DX and contest scene. We've all taken a "free ride" long enough. Guys like Ken and Bob are out there busting their tails to bring us a modern, functional system. They need our financial support, not just an occasional pat on the back. We all spend big bucks on our rigs, computers, etc. Now let's see that some of this goes where it's needed. **Send Ken your check today!** Next time you go in the shack and flip on the TNC you'll know you've had a hand in making it go. Ken Grabenstein, KE5IV's mailing address is P. O. Box 922, Hempstead, TX 77445...ed)

DX Packet Clusters

The Waller County Contest and DX PacketCluster Bulletin Board (PCBS) is located in Hempstead, Texas and operates on 144.990 MHz with the call **KE5IV**. A digipeater node operating on 144.990 MHz with the alias **HOU99** is located at Stafford to provide access to this PacketCluster for users in the southern part of the greater Houston area. A second node with the alias **MAG99**, also operating on 144.990 MHz, is located

near Magnolia and gives better access to those users in the northern part of Houston. The preferred procedure is to first connect with the digipeater node (**C HOU99** or **C MAG99**) 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 southeastern 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.

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.

The 'Cluster Does CQ WW

Here are the results of the K1EA CT program run of the PacketCluster DX spots over the '91 CQ WW CW Contest.

BAND	QSO	QSO PTS	ZONES	COUNTRIES	
160	17	41	9	17	
80	53	134	17	38	
40	106	293	27	73	
20	74	204	28	60	
15	80	223	26	61	
10	139	385	28	87	
Totals	469	1280	135	336	602,880 Pts.

Interestingly enough the N5EA M/S had just slightly more multipliers, i.e. 142 x 362. However, K5GN (S/O) came up with an astounding 163 x 428. There's a lesson in all of this!

Visalia '92

(This note appeared in the December 1991 issue of the *Southern California DX Club Bulletin*..ed)

Martti Laine stopped by Long Beach to visit with his book publisher after the Houston Convention. Martti contacted the (So. Calif.) DX club in order to get our approval of having a genuine Albanian at our Visalia Convention.

As it looks now the President of the Telecommunication of Albania will be with us in Visalia as guest of honor with presentors being Martti, OH2BH; Wayne, N7NG; and Chip, K7JA, all in the ZA1A operation, at the banquet Saturday night in Visalia. Super Treat!

CT WRITELOG TIP

de Dave, N3RD

(This article appeared in the October 1990 issue of the *Frankford Radio Club Newsletter*. Though it deals with Version 6.14, long since replaced by Version 7, it should be quite useful to contesters submitting their CT logs this season..ed)

After hearing several complaints about possible glitches in K1EA's CT program regarding the WRITELOG procedures, it seemed worth the time to explain how CT creates these files, and why you may run into trouble. The reports generated by CT are created by issuing the WRITELOG text command entered on the logging line of the main window. In addition to the log files, CT creates the following: filename.BAD, .SKD, .CON, .DUP, .BRK, .SUM, .MUL, .CTY and .ZON (CQ WW only). These files are always created regardless of your class of entry. Refer to the CT manual for a description of them.

Exactly which log files are created depends upon which class of entry you have selected (SO, M/S, etc.). Using CT 6.14 and a sample file called CW.BIN, the following table lists the log files created for the indicated contests and classes of entry.

Contest: CW WW

Class of Entry

- S/O - CW.ALL,CW.160,....,CW.10
- M/S - CW_R.ALL,....,CW_R.10;CW_M.ALL,....,CW_M.10
- M/2 - NA
- M/M - CW.ALL,CW.160,....,CW.10

Contest: ARRL DX

Class of Entry

- S/O - CW.ALL
- M/S - CW_R.ALL;CW_M.ALL
- M/2 - CW.1, CW.2
- M/M - CW.ALL,CW.160,....,CW.10

As you can see, for S/O and M/M CT adopts the selected filename and changes the filename extension to indicate the band of the log. However, for M/S and M/2, the people who run the contest require something more elaborate. In CQ's M/S category, separate band-logs are required for the RUN and MULTIPLIER stations. To keep things straight, CT not only changes the filename extension (as in S/O and M/M), but also appends a "_R" or "_M" to the filename itself to identify the two separate sets of logs. This is where the DOS file naming conventions may inadvertently bit you. If your filename was already at the limit of eight characters, when CT attempts to add the 2-character suffixes, the operation fails and you end up with no logs. The same thing happens in the ARRL contest. This was the problem which I had heard about.

The solution to the problem is to properly name your .BIN file prior to issuing the WRITELOG command. You can run the contest in the M/S class using the filename ARRLCW91.BIN, for example, but you must quit CT, rename the file to ARCW91.BIN (six character long filename), then restart CT prior to doing WRITELOG. After that, you can rename your .BIN file to whatever you want for archiving purposes.

As an aside, it is interesting to note that CT creates some log files which are not really needed. In the CQ contest and for all M/M entries, the .ALL logs are not required, since CQ asks for separate band-logs. Also, in the ARRL M/S category, only

one signal at a time is allowed, with a 10 minute band change rule, so there is no need for separate "_R" and "_M" logs. Simply delete the unwanted logs after doing WRITELOG.

In conclusion, the reported problems with WRITELOG were not glitches with CT, but resulted from the way CT names the files it creates. With proper understanding of this procedure, you can pick a filename (i.e. six character..ed) for your .BIN file which will avoid inadvertent violation of the DOS file naming conventions.

Using Old Terminals with New Computers

de Jim, K8MR

(This article by Jim Stahl, K8MR was taken from the October/November 1991 issue of the *Mad River Radio Club's FLASH..ed*)

I'm an old hand at single operator assisted DX contesting. In this category packet spots are obviously vital; but perhaps unlike operating in say multi-single, where a multiplier station tends to immediately pounce on a new spot, in S-O Assisted a packet spot will frequently wait until other matters, such as a good run, are taken care of. Often this make it desirable to have older spots than the most recent 8 or so that CT can provide. Further it can be handy to have a separate screen devoted to the packet spots, saving the computer screen for other functions. Therefore I have set up my station to have the TNC drive both the logging computer and the old ASCII dumb terminal.

This is a simple matter to have the TNC drive two displays. It is a considerably more complex matter to have two keyboards drive one TNC, so I didn't include this function. All outgoing spots, announcements, etc., must be done from the logging computer keyboard.

The TNC output on the RXD line (Pin 3 of J4 on the KPC-2) is wired to Pin 3 of the terminal RS-232 port in parallel with the other wiring to the computer port. The TDX line (Pin 2) to the terminal is NOT connected. The ground line (Pin 7) is also connected. To facilitate the connection, I paralleled J4 Pin 3 to an unused pin (Pin 11) for the RXD line to the terminal.

In my precontest testing, I have found that having the full time packet display, containing the last 23 lines of spots, to be a significant help.. With the modest effort required, I think you may find it worth doing.

(Note: This same scheme should also be useful for multi-single setups. During CQWW CW I noticed many occasions where the upper half of the screen on one or both of the two interconnected computers would over-write the packet window and obscure packet spots, announcements, etc. A separate terminal dedicated to packet would certainly relieve the congestion..ed)

Contesting Survey

de John, K1AR

In my September contest column in CQ Magazine I started a survey of today's contester, his background, experience, and activities. In order to increase participation I have asked the editors of contest club newsletters to include a copy in their next issue. Please, take a minute to complete this survey and return it to me at the address shown. Thanks!

Contesting Survey: Inside the Mind of Today's Contester

Your Callsign (optional): _____

Contesting Experience (years): _____

1. In a few words, what is the single most important issue facing contesting today (e.g., lack of new blood, ethics, etc.)?

2. Do you think the sport of contesting will continue to improve over time, or have we seen the best?

YES NO

3. What is the age of the youngest and oldest contester that you personally know? (Approximate answer is acceptable.)

Youngest: _____ Oldest: _____

4. As you have grown older, what has changed about your ability to operate?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

5. Are experienced contesters doing anything about bringing more youth into contesting?

YES NO

6. Is contesting an asset or a liability for amateur radio?

Asset Liability

7. Has the integration of technology into contesting gone too far?

YES NO

8. Do you feel the competitive nature of contesters is germane to other areas of life (e.g., career, other hobbies, relationships)?

YES NO

9. In one sentence, what has been your most memorable contest experience (e.g., participating in the last multi-multi operation at W2PV)?

10. What other hobbies do you enjoy outside of contesting/amateur radio?

a. _____

b. _____

11. What percentage of your vacation/holiday time do you use for contesting and related activities (e.g., antenna work, DXpeditions, etc.)?

less than 10%

25-50%

greater than 90%

10-25%

50-90%

12. Do you use some form of computer support while operating?

YES NO

13. Given the right set of circumstances (e.g., best station, access to good operators to learn from, QTH), can most anyone eventually win the Single Operator category in a major DX contest?

YES NO

Comments: (use additional sheet if necessary)

Return survey to:

John Dorr, K1AR, 2 Baldwin Street, Windham, NH 03087 USA

Deadline: November 20, 1991