



founded 1970

# 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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**Weekly DX and Contest Net** - Each Tuesday night at 2100 CST, the Texas DX Society sponsors a DX and contest net on 147.96/36 MHz. The purpose of this net is to exchange information of interest to DXers and contesters. The agenda includes general and club announcements, DX information, contest information, QSL routings, and related topics. Participation is not limited to members of TDXS, but is open to all and everyone is free to join in.

## 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 8, 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 no later than 4:00 P.M. The building will be open around 3:00 P.M. for those wanting to get an early start. There will be a brief meeting with the annual **Field Day** plan as the main 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. This affair should wind down by 7:00 P.M., so those with plans for the evening will have plenty of time to drop by and visit a while. Visitors are welcome to attend and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

**Bullsheet Mailing List** - TDXS wishes to provide the Bullsheet 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 Bullsheet 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"

## The Prez Sez - de Bill, K5GA

The first **TEXAS QSO PARTY** under the direction of our club is now history. The **ARMADILLOS**, though not out in full force, had much fun including yours truly. Many thanks to **Jim, N5DC** for burning the midnight oil to ready my vehicle for the event, and 'mega'thanks to **Melanie** (a.k.a. MRS. BILL) for ordering me "to hit the road"! She also did a tremendous job of driving us close to 800 miles for 20 counties worth of effort.

I want to thank the W6 boys for making an honest effort to support our QSO party. There were about 10 of the guys in there chasing the "dillos". I propose that our club reciprocate during their QSO party this year, except of course for last year's CAL QSO winner **Joe, W5ASP**. There is no room for a 'HOG' Joe, so get lost!! Frank, **KE4GY** was in there for the entire event! It sounded like he was baby sitting his family at the same time. **Kim, K5TU** spent more time on the air this past weekend than in the last 5 years combined! I couldn't believe it! **Jan, K5MA/4** and **Richard, K5NA/4** were giving out a few while hobnobbing with the elite FOCers. I just can't understand these yankee transplants not staying on for the entire weekend! **Bob, N5DU** really knows how to pick a motel, and he also got a lesson in unlocking his car without keys! My suggestion to him is to never make a lunch date in Cuero, Texas. Then there is **Hose, KN5H**. Well, Hose is Hose. What more can I say. And by golly, **Wes, AC5K** got in there for his fair share of the fun as well. **Chuck, K5LZO** (with **WB5RUS**, and **KE5IV** no less) showed up for a brief appearance and then left... (thanks for small blessings!) I propose that **Tom, K5RC** be disqualified for having a foreigner on board. Imagine, **Rusty, W6OAT** as an Armadillo??? Maybe Sid, K5XI was there to show him the ropes! Anyway, thanks to all who participated. I hope to see all at our **BAR-B-QUE** meeting this coming Saturday.

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**DX Report**

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de Mike, AA5NK

(Our intrepid world traveler and acclaimed reporter of DX news has mounted his trusty camel and set off into the desert sands of Egypt in search of black gold. We are expectantly awaiting reports of a weak and warbly signal signing /SU. In the interim the following must suffice to meet the

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**ARRL DX Bulletin**

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Thanks to Bob, W5KNE, and QRZ DX for the following DX information.

**BURKINO FASO.** Peter, XT2BW, is the only active station from Burkino Faso. His assignment is until December 1992, although a six to twelve month extension may be in the works. Listen for him on 40 through 10 meters, including the WARC bands. QSLs to WB2YQH.

**CRETE.** SV1AHH/SV9 will be active through May 3 on 20 through 10 meters, with an emphasis on RTTY.

**CHINA.** Operators at the Nanjing Institute of Technology club station BY4WNG have built a TNC. DXers and tech wizards may check out a description of the TNC which is available on the VS6UF-1 BBS on 21111 kHz.

**MICRONESIA.** Barry, WC5N, will be active between May 2 and 9 as V63BW. Check 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters for this mostly CW operation. QSLs to W5EW.

**M-VISLAND.** An all band/mode operation by a team led by UT4UZ is reportedly in the works for May 21 through June 16. Keep an eye on the Cluster for this one.

**FALKLANDISLAND.** VP8s signing /92HY are celebrating Heritage Year.

**UGANDA.** The 5X5CW operation planned by John PA3CXC, has been put on hold due to hostilities in the region.

**IOTA NEWS.** Here are some of the recent offerings for IOTA Hunters: 4K4, Dickson, AS-005; TM5, Piliier, EU-064; LU/D, Martin Garcia, SA-055; KL7CYL, Kodiak, NA-019; CT1CB/P Baleal, EU-040; V73EU, Majuro, OC-029; and SV8/SM0TXM Paros, EU-067.

**CRYSTALBALL.** Some goodies that are active now or planned for the near future include G4SMC/8R1 until May 20, 4U7ITU until May 3, and 8Q7 by a group of JA operators until May 6.

**NORTH KOREA.** Avoid the rumor mill. Stay tuned to W1AW DX Bulletins on HF and various BBS services for the official word.

(Note - The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service advises that the QSL bureaus for S7, Seychelles and 9X5, Rwanda are no longer in operation. So, either direct or via a manager should be the rule for now..ed)

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**Repeater Report**

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de Jim, N5DC

As promised, we have now come "full circle" and the TDXS repeater is back at our "new" old site. Thanks to Dave Hammer, WJ5B we are currently operating again from the Summit Tower West location. We are about five miles west southwest of the One Houston Center downtown location, and the antenna is about 120 feet lower in elevation.

As I expected, we sacrificed some coverage to the north and east, but in return our coverage to the west seems to have significantly improved. The acute shadowing associated with the downtown location has disappeared. So far the intermod has been very minor. Keep your fingers crossed!

As planned, Brent, NT5D's 440 MHz machine is now up and running. The Icom repeater has been relocated to the Summit Tower West site. Although there was an antenna at the site we thought could be used, it seemed to be defunct. Over the weekend Brent's original 440 antenna was taken down and moved over to the new site. Apparently, it had to be pulled up the outside of the building. Ah, fun and games! This repeater operates on a frequency of 442.0 MHz (Input 5 MHz up) with a tone input of 103.5 Hz. Give it a try. I think you'll find it a refreshing change from 2 Meters.

Now, as to the future. Just as soon as Dave's busy schedule permits, we will pull the G.E. from One Houston Center and put it in the "hospital" for a much needed overhaul. Once we have it healthy again, it will go over to the Summit Tower site to take the place of the Spectrum. And...(would you believe it?) the Spectrum will then travel back downtown to take up station as our faithful standby machine, with perhaps a try at diversity reception, huh, maybe?

Igor, our omnipresent voice of DX, continues on his merry way. I have had numerous conversations with Tim, his creator and mentor, and have passed along your suggestions. Though I expect that we will surely see some changes in the software, I'll bet that it will be several months before we have it in hand. Please be patient and remember we are trying to make the TDXS repeater once again a DX spotting repeater.

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**For Sale**

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**IBM Turbo XT Clone** with: 640K RAM, 360K floppy, 20 Meg Hard Drive, 2 Serial, 1 Parallel, Monochrome Video, 1200 Baud Modem, Keyboard, Case w/ Power Supply. No Monitor. \*\*\* \$ 250.00 \*\*\* Contact KB5NFN or N5DC.

(This the computer originally purchased by the TDXS for use with the TDXS PacketCluster. Thanks to K5LLL and KB5BFN there is now a speedy 286 machine handling the K5DX packet duties. We need to find a new home for this little jewel...ed)

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**Due Dates**

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(Contest Logs must either be postmarked (\*) or received (!) by the dates listed...Get Your Logs In!)

June 1(\*).....Texas QSO Party

# The TDXS Bullsheets

## Contest News

de Bob, N5DU

(As befits a true blue contester, our TDXS Contest Chairman has quietly slipped his moorings and set sail westward into the setting sun in search of contest greatness. His parting words were "...tell them that I go 'dillo'ing, but shall return with tales of vast accomplishments." Obviously the poor boy's enthusiasm for the Texas QSO Party has run amok. Check this column next month for the grim details..ed)

## Contest Results

### Results

#### 1991 CQ WW WPX CW

K5MA/1.....565 Q x 366 M - 497K  
K5NA/2.....278 Q x 199 M - 90K  
AX5B.....129 Q x 114 M - 22K  
V31KF (W5ASP)....1500 Q x 515 M - 1.8M

#### 1991 Sweepstakes

Texas DX Society 12th 1.9 M  
CW

W5WMU(K5GA)...1303 Q x 77 M - 200,662 #6  
SO/HiPwr

K5MA/1.....231 Q x 65 M - 30,030  
KN5H.....833 Q x 76 M - 126,616 #2 MDC  
KE4GY.....721 Q x 73 M - 105,266 #1 AL  
W5ASP.....995 Q x 77 M - 153,230 #2 STX  
AC5K.....720 Q x 76 M - 109,440  
K13L.....715 Q x 74 M - 105,820  
K5DX.....217 Q x 65 M - 28,210  
K5RC.....107 Q x 57 M - 12,198  
K5WA.....105 Q x 48 M - 10,080  
K5GN.....106 Q x 42 M - 8,904  
K5LZO(WB5RUS)...680 Q x 74 M - 100,640  
KC5CP (M/S).....471 Q x 75 M - 70,650

#### SSB

W5WMU.....2121 Q x 77 M - 326,480 #8  
SO/HiPwr

K5MA.....1285 Q x 77 M - 197,890 #2 EMA  
KE4GY.....131 Q x 39 M - 10,218  
K13L.....1630 Q x 77 M - 251,020 #1 STX  
KE5FI.....1076 Q x 68 M - 146,336  
K5WA.....802 Q x 77 M - 123,508  
K5DX.....377 Q x 77 M - 58,058  
KC5CP.....253 Q x 77 M - 38,962  
AK5B.....255 Q x 75 M - 38,250  
N5AF.....223 Q x 58 M - 25,868  
K5RC.....147 Q x 60 M - 17,640  
W9AGH.....109 Q x 68 M - 14,824  
W5ASP.....77 Q x 77 M - 11,858  
K5LZO(WB5RUS)...962 Q x 77 M - 148,148

### Claimed

#### 1992 ARRL DX CW

K5GN.....2478 Q x 356 M - 2.6 M  
K5MA/1.....2368 Q x 352 M - 2.4 M  
K5NA/KP2.....4343 Q x 336 M - 4.37 M  
NM5M.....1274 Q x 110 M - 420 K (15M)

## Texas QSO Party - Early Reports

Just at press time the following results have trickled into Armadillo News Central. Keep in mind that these are "raw" numbers subject to sorting through the rat's nest of log sheets for which mobile operators are noted!

### The South Texas Zephyr

K5GA (w/ XYL): 20 Ctys - 410 Qs

### The Antique Seekers

N5DU (w/ XYL): 22 Ctys - 400 Qs

### The Three Amigos

K5RC (w/W6OAT): 25 Ctys - 391 Qs  
K5XE 10 Ctys - 131 Qs (SSB!)

### The Wine & Festival Tour

K5LZO (w/WB5RUS & KE5IV): 12 x 250

### The Bayou Roamers

AC5K (w/ XYL): 10 Ctys - 200 Qs

### The Piney Woods Prowlers

N5RP (w/ W5ASP): 36 Ctys - 505 Qs

(No word yet from the N5RZ/N5TR team or WF5E... Looks like about 160 Texas counties may have been covered.)

## TDXS BBS News

de Ron, KB5NFN

Thanks to the continuing efforts of **Bill, K2TNO**, there is now available a new computer which will be used to support the Baylor School of Medicine's Cell Biology BBS on which the TDXS has several areas set aside for its exclusive use. Up to now the BBS has been running on a Leading Edge XT machine with a 30 Meg hard drive. (No, the Michaelangelo Virus didn't find a home here!)

Needless to say, performance has been somewhat lacking on the XT computer. Fortunately, that is all about to change. We now have access to a Sperry 286 with 40 Meg hard drive that only needed the disk controller card replaced. Said computer is in my hands right now, and I'm in the process of "enhancing" it, i.e., replacing the BIOS chips, adding more RAM, and putting in the new 1:1 interleave disk controller.

Over the course of the next couple of weeks, I will be installing a new version of the BBS software on this computer. Once it is fully tested, I will put it on-line in place of the XT. Since the software is the newest version of the current Opus package, there will be very little visual change; just a few new commands.

I've also received input from various users about little bugs that exist on the current BBS. For this, I am grateful for I sometimes overlook things that I might consider trivial, yet to others may be considered monumental. A simple menu option, for example. Thus, I appreciate any feedback I can get about the BBS operation. (Note that there is a place to leave Ron a note just as you "sign-off"...ed)

Right now, I don't have any fixed date for replacing the computer, but I hope to have it changed no later than the

middle of May. I'm not sure if I'll be able to "port" the current user database into the new software package. The possibility exists that you might log-in and find yourself a new user. If this does happen, please go ahead and complete the log-in procedure and leave a message for Bill or myself indicating that you were a previous user of the BBS. One of us will restore your access accordingly. Of course, we know many of you by name, but a little reminder would be appreciated in case we happen to overlook you by accident.

The purpose of this exercise is to enhance the overall BBS performance. I hope everyone will be able to benefit accordingly. I'm making long range plans to put my 9600 baud modem on the BBS if/when I upgrade to a 14.4K modem, but we'll just have to wait and see how things go. (I know Kirby, K7WOC would appreciate that move. Hope you got your 14.4 working!) 73 es CU on-line!

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### A Look Into The Future

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de Joe, W5ASP

(In what follows I may not have all of the details right, but I'll tell the story anyway. Not only was I rather impressed, but maybe I got a glimpse of the "wave of the future".)

Toly, UT3UY was at Dayton last weekend handing out the D2ACA cards from last year's big DXpedition. Sunday afternoon when most folks had left and the convention had pretty well closed up, Toly was apparently without plans for the next day or so. Dan, W4BRE responded by inviting Toly to travel home with him to Huntsville, AL as his guest.

Upon arriving home Dan suggested that it might be interesting to put out an announcement on the local Packet-Cluster that Toly would fill out QSL cards for the D2ACA operation in response to FAX requests containing QSO details. Those sending a FAX could later send Dan a S.A.S.E. for the card. Toly agreed and the message went out across the packet network.

About 8:30 that same evening (not too long after Dan put out the word) I wandered into the shack and saw a brief message from Bob, W5KNE describing the content of Dan's announcement. Just for the heck of it, I decided to send a FAX to Dan at the number listed. I had barely gotten back into what I was doing when the phone rang. Yep, it was Dan.

He said Toly had simply reached over to the FAX machine, torn off my message, and then and there filled out the D2 card. His call was prompted by his surprise at the strong response from the 5th Call District. Could it be that we'll be using the FAX in the future to file our QSL requests?

According to Dan, Toly was having a great time on his visit and was most impressed with what he'd seen and those

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### Upcoming Events

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- May 08.....TDXS Monthly Meeting
- May 09.....CQ-M Contest (??)
- May 30.....CQ WW WPX CW Contest
- June 12.....Ham-Com '92, Arlington, TX
- June 12.....Texas DX Society Meeting
- June 20.....All Asia CW DX Contest
- June 27.....ARRL Field Day
- August 28.....New Orleans DX Convention

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### Operating Practices

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(In the March, 1992 issue of *The DX Magazine* Bob, N6BFM/9K2ZZ listed a number of operating practices currently in use "...guaranteed to bring a fast-paced, orderly...pile-up to a grinding halt..." This included such gems as "QRP...QRP...", single and two-letter calls, request to QSY, etc. Bob's point was that these practices are evidence of the lack of common sense, patience and the ability to listen in DX pile-ups. In the May, 1992 issue of *The DX Magazine* Dick, K6GAK picks up on this theme and proposes the following. Maybe you can think of others. And maybe you might want to check you own operating practices.ed)

#### Most Offensive Expressions

- When last heard...
- Over over.
- Please copy...
- QSL?
- Thanks for being there.
- Count out my report.
- Ladies and gentlemen, we've been joined by...
- Query.
- Give me your last two, and spread them out.
- Back to net

#### Most Boring Conversational Items

- The weather.
- Your latest health problem.
- Your political or religious views
- The "good old days" of amateur radio.
- How the new operators are ruining amateur radio.
- What's wrong with the ARRL.
- What's wrong with the DXCC program.
- ...

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### Pileup Behavior - (Continued from page 5)

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RF gain control to the minimum necessary to hear the DX station and using your ears as a noise blanker, it is possible to pull the DX through BETWEEN static crashes. I used this very technique to pull VP8SSI's 449 signal through the noise on 80 meter CW and make the contact. We all want to work the elusive DX. By using your receiver to it's utmost capability, listening attentively, and applying the Golden Rule, we will greatly enhance the opportunity for DX operators to meet our desires in less time and with less anxiety. Good DXing to all! 73, Thomas Russell, N4KG.

(This reprint of N4KG's article appeared in *The Frankford Radio Club Newsletter*, May, 1992..ed)

## **PILEUP BEHAVIOR**

### **(COMMENTARY AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION)**

*Introduction: Thomas Russell, N4KG, has been a lifelong all band DX'er and contesteer. He has worked them all on CW and SSB and has over 300 countries on 80 meters. He is also a receiver design engineer employed by the Acustar Division of Chrysler Corporation and began his career at Collins Radio Company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.*

*Reprinted from The LongPath, North Alabama DX Club, April 1992*

For years, pileup behavior has been becoming increasing unruly, aggressive, and chaotic, especially on major DXpeditions to the most needed countries. As Martti Lane noted in his new book, *Where do we go Next?*, whenever they answer a station, half of the pileup is still calling, **THIS IS INEXCUSABLE**.

Think about it. If your call is W1ABC and the DX station calls "the XYZ station" and you jump in with your call, ask yourself what you are doing. If you were the XYZ station and half the pileup jumped on you while you were trying to get your call through, you would be incensed! Especially if the DX station never could pull you through and you lost the contact. So again, if your call doesn't sound anything like what the DX station is asking for, **WHY ARE YOU CALLING?** It's poor operating, it's bad manners, it **SLOWS DOWN** the QSO RATE, and it actually decreases your chances of making contact.

Several times during the Clipperton Island operation and the South Sandwich Island operation, I heard the operator ask people **NOT** to call if their call was nothing like what they were asking for. It was making it increasingly difficult for them to pull calls out of the pileup and **IT WAS SLOWING THEM DOWN!** Good contest operators can hit 300 contacts per hour on SSB and 200 contacts per hour on CW when the pileups are disciplined. That means that when the DX stations calls someone, only that person replies, making it quick and easy for the DX station to verify the full callsign and exchange reports. He is then ready to take other calls which he indicates by saying QRZ or merely signing HIS callsign. **NEVER** did I hear the Clipperton or S.S.I. operators approaching these kinds of rates. In large part this was a direct result of the lack of discipline in the pileups. The attitude that "if he isn't transmitting, he must be listening for ME" is counterproductive and causes unnecessary interference and delays.

Some of this problem no doubt comes from newcomers and inexperienced operators imitating what they hear. And what they hear is stations calling continuously! They **THINK** they are being **GOOD OPERATORS!** The problem is thus self perpetuating. Another possible factor is that the DX station may respond to a properly placed **TAILEND** and then everybody jumps in with continuous calling. (*some DXpedition operators were picking up calls without indicating a complete QSO*

*previously, thus encouraging continuous calling more than just tailending. ed) Martii Land devotes a whole chapter to TAIL ENDING in his previously mentioned new book. TAILENDING is just what it says, calling AFTER the completion of another stations contact. It implies that you hear the other station so that you don't call while he is passing his call and report AND that you KNOW the DX station has the CORRECT callsign for the other station. (more than a little difficult with the QSY with every QSO technique so popular with recent DXpeditions ed.) It is POOR OPERATING to call while another station is trying to correct or complete his callsign for the DX station. Unfortunately, too many people cannot distinguish between a correctly placed tailend and continuous calling. Proper calling requires good attentive LISTENING.*

To know when to call and when to standby, you **MUST** know what the DX station is doing **ALL** the times. This Requires that you pay attention and that you operate your receiver to it's utmost capability in pulling the DX station through. Many people make a **MAJOR MISTAKE** in receiver setup on SSB because the manufacturers all show their radios set for **SLOW AGC** when operating SSB. This is fine if you are ragchewing with a friend or group and don't want to hear static crashes between syllables. The function of AGC Automatic GAIN Control is to hold **ALL** signals **ABOVE** the AGC Threshold to the **SAME AUDIO LEVEL** or volume. The AGC will **REDUCE** your receiver gain to accommodate the **STRONGEST** signal level and hold it there for some period of time. **SLOW AGC** will recover **SLOWLY**. You will **NEVER** hear a weak DX station returning between the syllables of calling stations in an on frequency pileup if you use **SLOW AGC!** Therefore, for pileups and DXing, use **FAST AGC** at all times. **FAST AGC** allows you to hear between syllables of calling stations and to be more aware of what is going on at all times. Another trick is to reduce the RF gain control to a level that just allows you to hear the weakest signal you wish to receive and adjust the volume with the AF gain control. This raises the **AGC THRESHOLD**. The effect of this procedure is to delay the AGC and make the receiver operate in a linear fashion from the weakest level you select to the level of the AGC threshold. The AGC then acts more as a limiter than AGC, protecting your ears from getting blasted by strong signals, but giving you another important advantage. While in the **LINEAR RANGE**, the signals in your receiver are more like voices in a crowded room. The closest ones are stronger and the more distant ones are weaker. You have probably noticed that by concentrating on a single voice while many are talking in a crowded room that you can select and understand the **ONE** person you wish to hear. You have this same **LINEAR** response when your receiver is set up with a high AGC threshold reduced RF Gain Control setting. It is especially important to use reduced RF gain control settings on the low bands where atmospheric noise is a problem. With full RF gain, your receiver will be making AGC threshold on the **NOISE** spikes! This makes it especially difficult to copy weak DX in the presence of noise. By reducing the