



THE BULLSHEET



Official News Bulletin of the
Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

founded 1970

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

President	Bob Perring, N5RP
Vice President	Ken Manchester, NZ5I
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The Prez Sez - de Bob, N5RP

From the N5 Radio Pulpit! - Well... antenna parts, hardline and guy wire have been scattered amongst us as of this past Saturday. This was the "stash" of goodies donated to the TDXS by Don, K5AAD. We had quite a good turn-out at Bob, W5SJS's "Lumberyard" with a bunch from the club plus a few others. Everyone that attended seemed to manage to carry out a little something that put a smile on their radiating face. (Pun intended.) I know that I surely did get a lot of stuff that I wanted for several future antenna projects that I have in mind.

My intentions are to interlace 4 or 5 elements on 20 with the present 3 element 40 that I have on my 40' boom. Above that I am hoping to mount several elements for 10 and 15 on a 30' boom length. I managed to get everything that I might need for those projects. Dave, K5GN was a big help to me. I mean that boy knows his antenna parts! (There still a lot remaining..but not for long..contact N5RP..ed) As for the club's benefit - would you believe \$350.00 big ones. Not too shabby for a "win-win" type of deal!

The annual TDXS May BBQ is next weekend and is again being held at the community center around the corner from the N5RP hacienda. As in the past, covered dishes are solicited from those attending. The TDXS provides the drinks, plates, BBQ, onions, pickles, peppers, etc. Guests are very much welcome to this event. We always have a good turn-out that generally carries on afterwards with everyone rolling over to N5RP poolside for further fun and frivolity. We have the meeting room reserved from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Those wanting to start earlier are more than welcome to my place starting at 10:00 A.M.

Field Day is getting closer. By golly, we have a good tally of commitment to operating. The current status includes,

Station Captains:

- Station 1 - Dale, KG5U
- Station 2 - Dave, WB5N
- Station 3 - Kim, K5TU

VHF - Ron, K5LLL

Novice/Tech - Ron Jr, KB5NFN

Packet - Bill, K2TNO

Operators already signed up as committed for operating slots are: K5GN, K2TNO, K5LLL, KB5NFN, NZ5I, WB5N, AK5B, N5PJI, K5TU, K1TU, KI3L, N5REK, KG5U, K5WA, KC5CP, AA5NK, K5GB, N5RP and W5SJS.

Probable operators: W5ASP, N5DC, K5LZO, K5GA, KE5FI, NT5D, K5EC, K5XI, N5DU, K5JND, K5RVK, ...

We need to work on some guest ops in the form of WY7U, KB5YVT, AB5TV and others that have been attending some of our recent meetings.

It's official! We actually have equal billing in the Ham-Com flyer for the hospitality suite with the NTCC. Let's have a good turn-out up there and get to know those ops a 'lil better. Is there any interest in the "Club Compete" idea I rattled on about in an earlier edition of this fine paper. If we're interested, let's fine tune the concept at the BBQ and challenge NTCC at the Arlington bash.

Well, CU at the BBQ - BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

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 14, 1994. The meeting will be held at the Ashford West Swim Club courtesy of N5RP, Bob, and Mary Beth Perring. The building is located on the south side of Westella just a few hundred yards west of the intersection of Westella and Dairy Ashford. 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. There is a sign in front of the building displaying the name. There is a parking area as you enter from the street. The N5RP "Ice House" will be open at 10:00 A. M. with 807s, coffee, whatever, available for the early birds. Anyone wishing to bring along something in the way of side dishes or desert will be welcome. The community center building will be open from 11:00 A.M. on for anyone wishing to drop off food. Please plan to arrive for the meeting no later than 12:00 P.M. There will be a brief meeting with Ham-Com and the annual Field Day plan as the main items on the agenda. Following the meeting we will wrap ourselves around some brisket and sausage with all the fixin's. The infamous N5RP pool/hot tub will be available by appointment only. However, rumor has it that Rich, K5WA may again be conducting his special SCUBA classes which were absent from last year's program. The scheduled events will wind down by 3:00 P.M., so those with plans for later in the day will have plenty of time to drop by and visit a while.

ARRL DX Bulletin

From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT
May 5, 1994

The items in this week's bulletin are courtesy of Bob, W5KNE, *QRZ DX*, Chod, VP2ML, *The DX Bulletin*, Frank, AH0W, Dave, VE3CPU, Joe, NJ1Q, Warren, NF1J, the Yankee Clipper Contest Club PacketCluster network and the Contest Corral column in *QST*. Thanks.

TONGA. Paul, KK6H, is supposed to be operating from here May 5 through June 4, though as of press time there have yet to be any spots on the local PacketCluster node. Listen for Paul's CW and RTTY from the shack of A35CT. Paul has requested the call sign A36H and plans to be in the WPX CW contest. QSL via KK6H.

JOHNSTON ISLAND. There is good news and bad news. First the bad news. The AH6IO/KH3 DXpedition by AH6IO and NH6UY has been cancelled. The good news is that satellite gear for the DXpedition will be used by KH3AF for about a month, so at least satellite DXers will have a chance at snagging this one.

YEMEN. Robert, N4GCK, of 3Y0PI fame, has received permission to operate from Yemen. He will be on as 700CW during July for a period of 4 or 5 days, mostly CW.

ZAIRE. Paul, F6EXV, has been active as 9Q5EXV. F5FHI is signing 9Q5FHI and has been worked on 7016 kHz at 0100z and 14193 at 1938. Both EXV and FHI are expected to move to other African locations soon.

ITU HQ GENEVA. Listen for 4U9ITU being operated from station 4U1ITU until May 11.

LIECHTENSTEIN. The 4U9ITU operators plan to operate HB0/DL8BDR/P with CW, SSB and TTY modes from May 12 to 15.

DESECHEO ISLAND QRT. A spokesman for the US Fish and Wildlife Service reports that landing permission requests are being denied, so amateur activity from this island is on hold. This action is a result of modern day pirates and Haitian rebels occupying the island.

SINT MAARTEN. From May 24 to 30, Chod, VP2ML/WB2CHO, and Frank, AH0W/OH2LVG, will be signing PJ7/WB2CHO and PJ7/OH2LVG respectively. They will team up to operate in the CQ WPX CW Contest as PJ8X. QSL PJ7/WB2CHO via K1RH. QSL PJ7/OH2LVG and PJ8X via KE7LZ.

SAINT PAUL ISLAND. Five northeast Wisconsin amateurs are planning a 4 or 5 day DXpedition to CY9 between June 10 and 19, weather permitting. Check 25 kHz up on 40 through 15 meters. For SSB, try 3795, 7155, 14195, 18130, 21295 and 28350 kHz. RTTY will be on 7085 and 14085 kHz. QSL via K0SN.

ON A SAD NOTE. Harvey McCoy, W2IYX, FSK RTTY pioneer and Editor of *The Long Island DX Bulletin*, recently became a Silent Key at age 83. RIP, Harvey.

DXCC Changes

de Jim, KA6A

There have been many changes in the DXCC Countries List in the last few years. This is a summary of the changes from 1987 through 2 May 1994. The information is sorted by the date the changes became effective. The number of active countries at that time is in parentheses. The dates following the

country information are the effective dates for contacts from the country.

Jan 87 (317)

3Y Peter I added (1/25/87)

Apr 88 (319)

P4 Aruba added (1/1/86)

S0 Western Sahara moved from deleted to active

May 89 (321)

4J1 Malyj Vysotskij Isl added

3D2 Rotuma added

May 90 (324)

3D2 Conway Reef added

T33 Banaba Isl added

ZS9 Walvis Bay added (9/1/77)

Mar 91 (322)

7O Yemen added (5/22/90)

Y2 East Germany deleted (10/2/90)

4W North Yemen deleted (5/21/90)

7O South Yemen deleted (5/21/90)

Sep 91 (323)

ZS1 Penguin Isl added

Jan 93 (326)

4N4 Bosnia-Herzegovina added (10/15/91)

9A Croatia added (6/26/91)

S5 Slovenia added (6/26/91)

Jun 93 (327)

A1 Abu Ail deleted (3/31/91)

OK Czechoslovakia deleted (12/31/92)

OK Czech State added (1/1/93)

OM Slovakia added (1/1/93)

4N5 Macedonia added (9/8/91)

Jan 94 (328)

E3 Eritrea moved from deleted to active (5/24/91)

Mar 94 (326)

ZS9 Walvis Bay deleted (3/1/94)

ZS1 Penguin Isl deleted (3/1/94)

Oddities: There are 327 active countries until Jan 94, even though E3 has been added, since no cards may be submitted earlier. P5 North Korea is a DXCC country as soon as an accredited operation takes place from there. Romeo's P5RS7 operation is still not acceptable for DXCC. North Korea would be country 329.

Scarborough Reef - Future DXCC Country?

(This article was adapted from a report written by Marti Lane, OH2BH/VR2BH. It appeared in the May 2, 1994 issue of *QRZ DX*, Bob Winn, W5KNE, Editor..ed)

Scarborough Reef (or Shoal) is located in the northern part of the South China Sea at 15.07 N 117.51 E. The reef is claimed by the People's Republic of China (BY). A DXCC application for separate country status has been filed on the

The Curse of Ft. Huachuca

de Tom, K5RC

I'm not often given to looking to the dark side for answers to inexplicable events, but, after a 20 year string of bizarre happenings, I am labeling this one The Curse of Ft. Huachuca (wa-choo-ka). The origins of the curse may never be known, so we pick up the story in the mid-1970's in Peoria, Arizona.

W7KW moved to the far north end of Phoenix to escape neighbors and to build a substantial antenna farm. He acquired about 1,500 feet of military surplus AB-105 tower from Ft. Huachuca Military Reserve (hence the name of the curse) and erected four 180' towers. Virtually from the moment he completed the towers, his problems began. A neighbor started harassing him about the towers and started what would become a four year legal battle. It seems that the neighbor found the towers offensive because they obstructed his view of the mountains! The entire affair was punctuated by incidents of malicious harassment, sabotage and covert activities that were a constant source of aggravation to Bill. He persisted, however, erecting the prototype KLM 4 element 80 meter beam and gaining a famous cover shot in CQ Magazine when he erected an antenna using a hot air balloon. The effects of the curse again manifested themselves in a freak wind storm that totally destroyed the 80 meter beam. Shortly after that, a court ruled that W7KW would have to lower the towers to 120' feet to placate the neighbor.

NA5R and I were starting to build another contest station in Texas when K7GM called and suggested that W7KW might want to sell out. In mid 1982, we went on a recon trip and struck up a deal. Several weeks later, five of us showed up in Peoria with two 40' tractor trailer trucks, a 90 ton Grove crane and, in 3 days, we dismantled W7KW and moved it to Manvel, Texas. Shortly after we left, W7KW became a silent key under circumstances still not explained.

The next year was one of wild enthusiasm as we erected three towers and advertised plans for a killer super-station, with at least 5 towers, stacks on all bands and rhombics. In July of 1983, Hurricane Alicia came to town and leveled Radio Manvel. Still unaware of the curse, we rebuilt and managed to erect the 40 meter, 15 meter and 10 meter stacks. About the same time, NA5R's business and my business began having problems. In December of 1984, the 10 meter tower blew down a week before (what would have been) my 10th consecutive 10 meter contest and I haven't competed in one since. By late 1985, both businesses were out of business and we were both beset by a number of personal tragedies.

We managed to operate a few contests from NA5R, but never were really competitive. In 1986, we were forced to dismantle the station and liquidate it. NR5M acquired the assets and moved them to Hempstead, Texas. In retrospect, George must have had a sense about the curse, because he opted to leave all that tower piled on the ground and build his contest station with Rohn 45 and 55. Proximity must count for something. Even though the AB-105 towers were not up, NR5M's station has never reached its full potential and stands today idle and in disrepair.

In the years since 1986, the only time the AB-105 was disturbed was when WN4KKN acquired some of it to build his station in central Texas. As history dictates, Trey had to dismantle his station, liquidate the tower and move to California, before the potential of that station was realized.

That brings us to 1993. The Stephen F. Austin Radio Club and the Austin County Repeater Association were looking for a tower site for their repeaters, when I remembered the AB-105

laying in waste. A call to NR5M yielded a generous donation of 120' of the tower. In December, several of us unearthed the skeleton of steel from its home among the yaupon and poison ivy. In March of 1994, we stacked it in Bellville, Texas. For several weeks, it was the home of our 2 meter and 440 repeaters (and was soon to be the support for my 160, 80 and 40 meter wire arrays) when, in early April, a freak wind storm blew it down.

The next morning, the workings of the Curse of Ft. Huachuca became crystal clear to me. That tower was never up in any one place very long. It fell twice and was taken down at least four times. Everyone that had it in their possession experienced varying degrees of family and financial problems.

Whether you are given to believe in the unexplained or inanimate objects having a spirit, I believe that in this case the Indian gods did not intend for that tower to be standing vertically. In deference to the evidence, it is now on its way to a nameless scrap metal yard, in an obscure city, where it will rest in peace, horizontally polarized.

NTCC Ham-Com '94 Program

de Paul, KS1G

(The following is taken from a note which appeared in the May 1994 issue of the North Texas Contest Club's newsletter, *The NTCC News..ed*)

All members (sic) are invited and encouraged to attend the NTCC Contest Forum at Ham-Com. Our forum will run from 9-11 AM both Saturday and Sunday. This year the Ham-Com flyer did not do us any favors.

Our two out-of-town guests are Ville, OH2MM and Jerry, W2FMI. OH2MM will talk about choosing a DXpedition site and operating a DX contest from there. Ville has a lot of DX contest experience from the "other side", and this should be really interesting.

Jerry, W2FMI will discuss Baluns and Ununs. Dr. Jerry Sevick is a well known QST author, and has been published in numerous amateur radio and professional journals.

Finally, our very own WX0B will present a brief slide show on his own station and how he implemented the technology presented by W2FMI.

Don't forget the NTCC/TDXS hospitality suite Saturday night.

For Sale

The TDXS has a large quantity new 1/4" EHS (6,700 #) guy wire for sale. It will be sold in minimum lengths of 100 Ft. The cost is \$ 0.10/Ft. , i.e. \$10 per each 100 Ft. length.

Also available for sale are large quantities of hardline and assorted lengths of aluminium tubing. These may be examined by contacting NSRP.

Upcoming Events

- May 14.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- May 14.....CQ-M (Russian) DX Contes
- May 28.....CQ WW WPX CW Contest
- May 28.....World Telecommunications Day CW
- June 04.....ARRL VHF QSO Party
- June 04.....Portugal Day Phone Contest
- June 10.....ARRL National Convention, Arlington, TX
- June 10.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- June 11.....World Wide South America CW Contest
- June 18.....All Asian DX Contest - CW
- June 25.....ARRL Field Day

The TDXS Bullsheat

basis that the reef is more than 225 statute miles from the coast of mainland China. The reef is located only 120 miles west of the coast of the Philippines, but according to the application the reef is not claimed by the Philippines.

On April 24 OH2BH/VR2BH and DL5VJ chartered and aircraft in Manila and flew out to the reef. They made a thorough survey of the reef from the air for about 45 minutes, often flying as low as 100 feet above the sea.

According to the report provided by OH2BH/VR2BH, with the exception of several rocks or coral heads, the narrow belt of coral reef is totally under the surface of the sea. The reef is estimated to be about 10 miles in diameter. There is an opening in the reef at the southern end of the reef. Along approximately 30 miles of reef only about 30 "rocks" or coral heads were seen protruding from the water and only two of them were of significant size, and they were carefully observed. These rocks were estimated to be 5 or 6 feet in diameter and approximately 6 feet above sea level.

With calm weather, anchorage is possible within the lagoon, however, staying and operating from the solid soil of the reef is impossible at high tide. The only possible operating site would be one of the shipwrecks, which were well above sea level at the time of the survey.

Marti concludes his report with the following comments. It is now up to adventurous expeditioners to get to the vicinity of the reef and find a dry piece of land at low tide on which to operate or operate from one of the wrecks. It is up to the DXAC to decide whether those thirty coral heads are enough to make this another DXCC country.

Many of the pictures taken during this survey will be taken to Dayton by N7NG (look for the NCDXF booth).

Regards from the South China Sea, Marti, VR2BH/DU1

Katashi Nose, KH6IJ - Silent Key

(Taken from the May 1994 issue of the Western Washington DX Club's newsletter, the *Totem Tabloid*..ed)

The club recently received this letter from Matsuyo Nose, widow of Katashi Nose, KH6IJ. Katashi was one of the giants of DXing and contesting and a long time honorary member of the WWDXC.

Dear Friends,

We regret to inform you that Katashi Nose, KH6IJ, passed away on April 7, 1994. He was 79 years old. He had suffered a severe stroke on March 27, 1994, almost exactly 15 years after suffering an initial stroke. Funeral services are scheduled for April 13, 1994.

KH6IJ was born in Honolulu on July 27, 1915. He was the second son of Jusaku and Tokino Nose, who had emigrated to Hawaii from Fukuoka, Japan. His older brother Ryuitsu settled permanently in Fukuoka, where he was a political and economic advisor to the American Counsel in Fukuoka City.

KH6IJ, once called "the Pacific Powerhouse," was first licensed as K6CGK in 1932. In 1937 he became the first ham in Hawaii to earn the American Radio Relay League's Worked All States award, the first WAS ever issued outside the continental United States. In 1948 he became the first ham in Hawaii to earn the Worked All Zones and DXCC awards. He received his Extra Class license in 1952, the fifth ham in the United States to earn this ticket.

For 56 years KH6IJ wrote a newspaper column on ham radio for the local newspaper, the Honolulu Star Bulletin. He also authored countless articles for ham radio magazines.

Katashi earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii in 1937, a master's degree from Harvard University in 1960, and a certificate of advanced studies from Harvard in 1969.

Katashi truly enjoyed the fellowship of hams, and we are grateful for the ham community's support over the years.

Sincerely, Matsuyo Nose

Propagation

de Roy, AD5Q

(The following article is taken from the *Northwest ARS Newsletter* for May 1994..ed)

April was disappointing. For the first half of the month we had a recurrence of the disturbed conditions from March. The bands opened up later in the month as these disturbances moved to the other side of the sun. The first half of May will likely bring yet another two weeks of poor conditions. Aside from this, late spring is an excellent season for DXing - especially on 20. There is still another problem.

During the 2 weeks of quiet conditions in late April, fluxes were mostly down in the 70's. We should still expect periods where they are higher, and hope that they range from the 70's to the 90's. The most effected band in this range is 15 meters. When in the low end of the range (as in late April), we get a taste of what 15 will sound like for the next few years. The band was mostly dead. Openings were marginal, with only a few European signals coming through. Without higher fluxes in May, there will be little DX on this band until the fall. East/west paths will be OK, so the band should be watched for openings to Africa and the Pacific. The same can be said of 10 meters.

20 has opened up nicely, but still closes down completely after midnight. With flux levels in the 70's, the high latitude night path to Europe will not open (but check 30 meters). After dark, a pipeline opens over the pole to Siberia, Turkistan (UI, UL, UM, UH, UJ), parts of Russia, and points further south. As we progress toward summer, these openings should expand westward to the more heavily populated portions of Russia and Ukraine - but not Europe. The best European openings seem to be in late afternoon and in the morning. Morning is also a good time for the polar paths, and this opening includes paths to eastern Asia. Signals from the S.E. quarter of Asia come through until noon. Careful tuning of 20 meters in the morning can pay off nicely when the fluxes are too low to open Europe on 15. Contacts with 9V, BY, JT, 9M, V8, HS, S2, & BV can be made routinely nowadays, with rarer DX always a possibility. Long path is usually open for a couple hours after sunrise - mostly to the Indian Ocean and southern Africa.

17 meters is another alternative for day path contacts into Europe, and recently has had more DX activity than 15. May should be an excellent month for his band. 40 also remains in good shape, with many nice long path and Asian contacts being made (mostly from the west coast). As I write this (May 3), the A index is back up to 30, and so that mess on the other side of the sun is returning for another go-around. This forecast is not valid until things clear up again.

Due Dates

(Contest Logs must be postmarked (or received *) by the dates listed...Get Your Logs In and marked TDXS!)

May 10.....CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest

SERIAL & PARALLEL PORTS - It seems like you can never have too many ports on a logging computer, particularly in a multi-op setting. Even a single op might want to connect a digital radio, TNC, CW keying and a printer, so right there are two serial and two parallel ports. Most port I/O cards have two serials and a parallel - buy two and all your needs will be met. Note: be sure at least one of the cards can be set up as COM3 & COM4 with IRQs other than 4 and 3.

MONITOR - It seems like a lot of testers scrimp when it comes time to buy a monitor, when in reality it is one of the most important parts of the logging system. Think about it - you're staring at the monitor a large part of the time while operating, so why not get one that looks good? Color makes a world of difference in the display of data, so decide right now to take the plunge. What you want is a 14" or 15" VGA monitor, 0.28 mm dot pitch, 1024 x 768 resolution non-interlaced. My suggestion is to always ask to see the monitor in operation, because there are some really poor monitors around. If you stick with the specifications listed above, you should get a decent monitor for under \$300.

There are some other minor recommendations. At K8CC, I prefer to have my computers (I have seven) in tower cases. The mini-towers can be mounted beneath the operating desk and out of the way.

I used to prefer the old-style keyboards with the function keys on the left, but I have been won over by the 101 keyboards with function keys on the top. There is a small IBM keyboard available that saves valuable operating space on the operating desk - keep an eye out for one.

Hopefully, these notes are useful - good luck in your buying spree

Internet Compendium

de Jim, KA6A

Contest Reflector:

Send broadcast messages to:
CQ-CONTEST@TGV.COM

The following commands can be handled automatically through CQ-CONTEST-REQUEST@TGV.COM

- SUBSCRIBE - subscribe to a mailing list
- SIGNOFF - remove yourself from a mailing list
- REVIEW - get a list of subscribers
- QUERY - get the status of your entry on the list
- SET NOMAIL - remain on the list but not receive mail
- SET MAIL - reverse the NOMAIL setting
- SET CONCEAL - conceal yourself from REVIEW listings
- SET NOCONCEAL - reverse the CONCEAL setting
- SET NOREPRO - prevent the list from sending you your

own postings

- SET REPRO - reverse the NOREPRO setting
- LIST - get a list of mailing lists available on this host
- HELP - receive a help file
- QUIT - terminate processing (skipping signature, etc.)

You must send your commands in the body of a mail message. Subject lines in mail messages are ignored.

DX Reflector:

Send broadcast messages to:
dx@unbc.edu
Subscription, removal, all other administrative issues should be sent to:
dx-REQUEST@unbc.edu

CT Software Users Reflector:

Send broadcast messages to:
CT-USER@MLO.DEC.COM

The following commands can be handled automatically through MajorDomo@STTING.MLO.DEC.COM
subscribe CT-USER - subscribe to a mailing list
unsubscribe CT-USER - remove yourself from a mailing list
HELP - receive a help file
index ct-user - gets a list of the available files
get ct-user file.name - sends the file that has the given name

You must send your commands in the body of a mail message. Subject lines in mail messages are ignored.

ARRL:

DXCC - dxcc@arrl.org
Awards (WAS, etc.) - awards@arrl.org
Contests - contests@arrl.org

The ARRL has FOUR (4) ways to enter ALL ARRL contests. Within 30 days after the contest, send your entries via:

- INTERNET - ASCII summary sheet and ASCII log file (following the ARRL Suggested File Format) to contest@arrl.org
- ARRL BBS - ASCII summary sheet and ASCII log file (following the ARRL Suggested File Format) BBS up to 14.4-k baud telephone: (203) 665-0090
- DISK - Paper summary sheet and ASCII log file (following the ARRL Suggested File Format) 3.5 or 5.25 inch diskettes (high or low density)
- PAPER ENTRY - Official forms or reasonable facsimiles, Summary sheet, logs, dupe sheets

Mailing Address: ARRL Contest Branch 225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111

Online callbook:

Telnet to: callsign.cs.buffalo.edu 2000

Online propagation information:

finger solar@xi.uleth.ca
finger daily@xi.uleth.ca
finger aurora@xi.uleth.ca

FCC - items available by anonymous FTP

FCC's Daily Digest, news releases, some public notices, and speeches by Commission officials are accessible. FTP to "anonymous@fcc.gov". The password is your INTERNET address.

Online QSL information:

Send a message with DX call signs in the body to qsl-info@aug3.augsburg.edu

Gopher:

An incomplete list of ham radio related repositories accessible via Gopher:
COOMBS.ANU.EDU.AU
CHEOPS.ANU.EDU.AU OAK.OAKLAND.EDU

Send any corrections, additions, deletions to ka6a@uiuc.edu

Contest Corner

de Don, KI3L

TDXS members were among the top finishers in the 1993 ARRL Sweepstakes - three top ten finishers on the CW weekend! In a near photo finish, Billy, K5GA, (at W5WMU) captured second place just 700 points behind the winner. He will receive the plaque for winning the Delta division. Dave, K5GN (at K2UA), the #4 overall finisher, wins the West Gulf Division CW plaque. Eric, NM5M was also in the top ten box in ninth position. On the phone weekend, Chuck, KE5FI, grabbed first place, low power in the South Texas Section. Congratulations to all.

TDXS was well down the list in the club competition, but did very well considering the small number of submitted scores. Club scores reflect the number of entries more than individual scores anyhow. Let's plan to get more stations up and active for '94 SS and move up in the standings.

The ARRL has changed the format for reporting contest results - scores are now listed by ARRL Division rather than by the ARRL Section. The section winners are no longer highlighted or otherwise identified, although the section is given for each call. Five regions - Northeast, Southeast, Central, Midwest and West Coast - (each consisting of several divisions) have been defined; the top five scores in each category are listed for each of the five regions. It is a bit confusing, but all the pertinent information is listed. The change has generated considerable discussion on the CQ-Contest reflector on the Internet.

Congratulations are also in order for outstanding efforts by TDXSers in the 1993 CQ WPX CW Contest. Sid, K5XI and the crew were #3 in the USA in the Multi-Single Category. Dave, K5GN (at K2UA) was #4 USA in SO/AB, and Joe, W5ASP, finished # 7 in the World on 14 MHZ from ZF2NE/ZF8.

Dayton 1994 was enjoyable, despite continuous rain and drizzle. Everyone was driven inside by the weather, and the place was absolutely packed! The hospitality suites at Stouffers were as good as ever. I enjoyed the contest dinner Saturday evening - sharing a table with Richard K5NA, his YL Susan, KU2Q, Joe, W5ASP and several others. It was good to see Frank, KE4GY; we had a good long chat. Other TDXSers in attendance were Rich, K5WA, Mike, AA5NK and Kirby, K7WOC.

1993 ARRL CW Sweepstakes Results:

W5WMU(K5GA)...1531 X 77 = 235,774 SO/HI #2 USA
 K5GN(@K2UA)...1436 X 77 = 221,452 SO/HI #4 USA
 NM5M.....1378 X 77= 212,212 SO/HI #9 USA
 KI3L.....1237 X 77 = 190,498 SO/HI #3 STX
 W5ASP.....1000 X 76 = 152,000 SO/HI #5 STX
 AC5K.....922 X 76 = 140,144 SO/LO #2 STX
 K5LZO.....579 X 76 = 88,008 SO/HI
 K5MA.....380 X 76 = 57,760 SO/HI #1 EMA
 KG5U.....362 X 74 = 53,576 SO/QRP #2 STX
 K5DX.....204 X 70 = 28,560 SO/LO
 K5EC.....63 X 33 = 4,158 SO/HI

1993 ARRL Phone Sweepstakes Results:

KI3L.....1557 X 77 = 239,778 SO/HI #3 STX
 W5ASP.....1115 X 77 = 171,710 SO/HI #5 STX
 KE5FI.....770 X 77 = 118,580 SO/LO #1 STX
 K5EC.....660 X 75 = 99,000 MO (& net)
 K5LZO.....373 X 72 = 53,712 MO (& WB5RUS)

1993 CQ World-Wide WPX CW Results:

K5XI.....2317 X 809 = 4,735,077 M/S #3 USA
 (& K5RC,K7GM,WT5U,K5TU)
 K5GN (at K2UA).... 2007 X 666 = 3,868,128
 SO/HI #4 USA
 ZF2NE/ZF8 (op W5ASP)..1733 X 595 = 2,633,470
 SO/14MHZ #7 WORLD
 K5EC 189 X 148 = 53,872 SO/HI

Don't forget to send me any and all of your scores either via the TDXS Packet Cluster, K5DX, or via the Internet at KI3L@AOL.COM

Buying a Logging Computer

de Dave, K8CC

(This article by Dave Pruett, K8CC appeared in the April/May issue of *The Flash*, the official newsletter of the Mad River Radio Club..ed)

With Dayton right around the corner, now is the time to consider buying or upgrading a logging computer for the ham shack. (Though Dayton is over, Ham-Com still lies ahead for anyone who cares to make the trek north..ed) Logging software gets better with every release, although sometimes it takes a better computer to see the benefit. However, if you haven't checked recently, your computer dollar goes a long way in today's market. Dayton's plethora of vendors offers a great opportunity to get just what you need at a steal. (I can attest to this. There were tables of computer goodies EVERYWHERE! ..ed)

If you already have a logging computer, buying just the pieces to upgrade your old machine makes sense. Otherwise, if you're looking for an entire computer, you'll probably get a better deal buying a complete system from one of the vendors.

There are five areas to consider in buying a logging computer.

CPU TYPE - There is no place else where your computer dollars make more improvement in performance than the computer's "brain" or CPU. My recommendation is not to buy anything less than a 386 CPU, to get lots of computing power and powerful memory management capabilities. Right now, you can get a 40 MHz 386DX motherboard for around \$100, which is a great deal. However, my favorites are the motherboards using the 40 MHz Cyrix 486DLC. This chip is essentially the same as the Intel 486 without the math co-processor (which provides no benefit for logging anyway.) 486DLC motherboards are typically around \$170.

MEMORY - You should have at least 1 MB of RAM on your computer, or 2 MB minimum if you want to run the new CT. Typically, the choice is 1 MB or 4 MB due to the way memory is arranged, and I recommend buying 4 MB which will cost an extra \$100. You can use the memory to hold extra QSOs, or run a disk cache to speed up your hard disk, or maybe get one of the internal voice keyers like a DVP or a VoiceBlaster

HARD DISK - None of the contest logging programs hog disk space, so just about anything will do. (My two dedicated logging computers plus my PacketCluster get along fine with 40 MB drives.) If you're going to put all of your thousands of QSOs on the computer, you might want to consider a larger hard disk. Plan on paying less than \$1 per megabyte. Also don't get hung up with floppy drives - they exist only to get files onto or off the computer.. Pick a size (3 1/2 preferred) and go with it.

The TDXS Bullshead

DX News

de Sid, K5XI

Trivia

Last month we started with some tough DX trivia questions. No one got them all correct, so the jackpot doubles this month. The easy question last month was: What countries count in the CQWW contest that are not DXCC countries? That contest uses the WAE "countries list" for Europe. Thus, 4U1VIC counts as a multiplier. So do the Shetland Islands GM; (when you work a GM station in that contest, you have to ask if the station is in the Shetlands). UA-UIIN (Karalin) and IT (Sicily) also count as countries. TA1 (European Turkey) counts as a separate country from Turkey. The DXCC country of Svalbard is split into two countries: Bear Island and Spitzbergen. So that increases the number of country multipliers in Europe by an additional 6 countries or so.

Last month's other trivia questions were: Geyser Reef, which is now a deleted country, is in what ITU zone? C9 is now the prefix for Mozambique. What (now deleted) country did C9 used to count for, prior to September 16, 1963? Who has credit for the most DXCC countries confirmed?

The answers are: Geyser Reef is in ITU zone 53, (it is also in CQ zone 39). Prior to September 16, 1963, C9 was Manchuria. Manchuria was deleted and contacts made after that date count as China BY. Finally, W1GKK has credit for more countries confirmed than anyone else. His official count is over 383 countries.

This month's trivia questions are:

- Who in the Texas DX Society has credit for the most countries confirmed among our TDXS club members?
- Gus Browning was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame in November 1967. What was Gus' callsign?
- Prior to March 31, 1957, what DXCC country (now deleted) had the prefix 9S4?

DX News

ZS8MI is leaving Marion Island soon. If you need this one, you had better catch it A.S.A.P.! An operation was scheduled from Yemen for July 4-5 using the callsign 700CW. However, the outbreak of a civil war in that country will surely put an end to those plans. Speaking of civil wars, 9Q5EXV and 9Q5FHI are now active from Zaire, having escaped the violence in Rwanda. C91J (ex-C9RJJ) will be returning to the U.S. He has been very active from Mozambique. He gave me a C9 multiplier in several contests. I was surprised when he called me in the NAQP! Thanks for the many great Q's John! Your great African signal will be missed.

A station is supposed to be active from Tunisia as 3V8TM, but I have not seen any DX spots on our packet cluster for this one. A35CT is supposed to be active from May 5-June 4. An operation is scheduled from Cambodia for May 8-20. St. Paul Island CY9 will be active June 10-19. A group is going to Market Reef OJ0 on May 14-17.

Romeo's documentation for North Korea P5 has been received at the ARRL. The only problem is that it is in Korean. Any one out there who can translate this stuff? Please note, however, that it has not yet been approved.

The 3Y0PI cards are in the mail. Hopefully you will have received yours by the time you read this.

Pratas Island is back under active consideration by the DXAC. It seems that someone has responded to at least some of the committee's questions.

As expected, Walvis Bay ZS9 and the Penguin Islands ZS0 have been officially deleted from the DXCC list. Actually, maybe it is fortunate that the Penguin Islands have been deleted? Do any of you guys have any idea how bad that placed smelled? I felt sorry for the faithful Dxpeditors who bravely went where no one had gone before (and for good reason!) to put a new one on for the rest of us. That is dedication to the hobby.

The DXAC is considering the issue of whether a DXCC country should have a minimum size in order to qualify as a "country." Scarborough Reef raised this issue. It seems that there aren't too many square inches of dry rock at high tide. Well, maybe the DXAC should also set minimum standards for how a place has gotta smell in order to keep places like the Penguin Islands off of the list. I understand that none of the guys who went there could convince their XYL to come along for the "vacation." I wonder why.

Hopefully we will have better band conditions near the end of this month. Lately the conditions have sucked! It is pretty bad when the A index is greater than the solar flux, but that actually happened on a couple of occasions recently! The sun's activity continues to decline, but it does not have much farther to go before it hits bottom. In the meantime, maybe someone will patch up that killer coronal hole in the sun which has been clobbering the bands. Good luck Dxing this month.

When the band is dead, try using the time to work on your antennas! This would be a good time to try to improve your antennas for 40 and 80 meters. Those two bands will be important when the summer static subsides in the fall.

TDXS 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, propagation forecasts and various related topics. Participation is not limited to members of the TDXS, but is open to all and everyone is encouraged to join in.

DX PacketClusters

The TDXS Contest and DX PacketCluster operates on 144.950 MHz with the call K5DX. This cluster node is operated by Rich, K5WA from his home in southwest Houston, and is sponsored by the Texas DX Society. It is regularly linked to the Texas PacketCluster DX network. K5DX may be accessed directly, or using the TDXS95 packet node by first connecting to the TDXS95 node, and then connecting to K5DX, i.e. C TDXS95, then C K5DX, all running on 144.950 MHz. The TDXS95 node has been upgraded and will now handle 26 users. It will not function as a digi.

The Brazos Valley Contest and DX PacketCluster Bulletin Board is located in Hempstead, Texas and operates on 144.990 MHz with the call KE5IV. This node is accessible either directly or by connecting through any of several local packet nodes. The MAGBPQ node on 144.990 near Magnolia provides access to users on the north side of Houston. The KE5IV node provides a wealth of information and features of interest to DXers.

The Galveston County DX PacketCluster, located in La Marque, is active under the call KC5SC and operates on 144.930 MHz. It is usually connected with K5DX and KE5IV via the 446.100 MHz backbone link.