



THE BULL SHEET

OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF THE TEXAS DX SOCIETY

an ARRL affiliated club

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MEETING NOTICE: The August TDX Meeting will be Friday, the 12th, at 7:30, at the Chimney Rock Medical Plaza, located at 6550 Mapleridge, which is near Bellaire General Hospital.

Armadillo Run '83

I don't know about you folks, but I thought this thing would be over after the Run was over. My God, was I wrong! I haven't come down yet! Most of you express the same elation and "high". Isn't it great, TDXS? We feel good again, we're proud again. We are bragging on each other again. Oh, how I have missed these days lately. It feels good to feel good, doesn't it!

Well, what little I know about people tells me that this is exactly what we all should be feeling now. For those who actively participated in the Armadillo Run, we feel pride in ourselves and our fellow TDXS members. We were the "troops" in the field all sharing the experience, the friendships and discomforts. But, we are also the lucky ones in one regard, as the weekend unfolded mile by mile, we could feel the objective getting closer in one of the best and most efficient operations ever pulled off by any amateur radio club in the world.

For the TDXS members and friends supporting us from home or just being "there" ready to jump in to assist the field troops, obvious excitement existed as each hour passed. You people were like the folks "back home" cheering on the team. You provided the warm puppy feeling the troops needed to feel secure. You provided the occasional shot in the arm all of us needed in the field from time to time to keep going. That little "go get 'em"; "we're proud of you"; "GL"; etc. we heard from you really helped when some of us were getting our buns and/or brains scrambled by endless bumps, rattles and swaying. What a swell of pride we felt when we slipped within range of the repeaters and you all met us like heroes coming home from a war that had been won without any casualties. Its probably a bit gushy, but I did get a little misty when I heard that all counties had fallen and all my guys were either home ahead of me or not far off my tail.

The elation didn't stop there. Within minutes of hitting work on Monday AM praise started to flow in from those who all of us came to know and respect very strongly through out the long weekend. Calls were received from W2GD, K1ZZ, K9BG and K1TN saying words about the TDXS that would make all of us say "aw-golly..." It was unanimous amongst them that they had not had so much fun in years. They praised you operators as one of the best group of CW ops they had ever heard jammed in 20 KHZ. They praised our organization and our goal plan. But most of all, they praised the TDXS for being able to pull the event off as a gelled unit.

Apparently it was a bit awesome to hear all those FB signals pumping out perfect CW like beacons. The Bugcatcher ruled with various reports giving the Big Signal award to either N5JJ and NA5R or K25M. All stations were said to be copyable at all times throughout the weekend. The manhours all teams put into getting those picky whips to resonate paid off in a big way. We all copied well and we all were heard and I mean around the world.

Most teams worked a group of JA's all day - something most of us can't do from the house. HB9AFI appears in logs morning through the evening when his signal peaked S9 + 20 in the back of my truck. QRP OKIAPV made it to all corners of Texas only due to the expertise of our FB operators. Many of us held the pile-up at bay to let him squeeze one more county out of, at best, average band condition. Dave and Grady operated late into the night in the pursuit of the county hunters plaque so they enjoyed EUR nums that apparently were something to be heard.

All of us enjoyed being at the receiving end of tremendous stateside pile-up. Many who have operated outside the U.S., myself included, have stated they have never experienced such massive pile-ups. I hope somebody taped some of that. It was incredible! Every 30 minutes or so we would slip into another county and it would be like going from XV5 to XU! The quality of operators chasing us was very high. Lots of big time contesters used all their best techniques to squeeze in as many counties and as many Q's as possible.

It was no turkey shoot for them either. W2GO, who could claim only a probable second place finish put in well over 30 hours of 20 meter Armadillo chasing. I'm sure our probable first place winner, K1ZX/4 Jim White, put in even a few more. Besides the big guys, all the others who made our effort a success obviously spent an incredible number of hours in front of their rigs watching for those much needed counties.

Jim, K1ZX/4 says he's got all 254, a feat most of us still can't believe. John, W2GD claims 253 while K9BG thinks he missed only 3 or 4. Several ops made it to over 200. W7GHT and K8MW finished off the last Tx counties they needed by keeping a close ear on one of our desert Armadillo teams, K5MA with K5TU doing a single op effort. K5VWW had the privilege of making it. #254 for USA - CA credit by doing it to K9BG in Maverick County. All of us put people across the world much much closer - closer than they ever anticipated - to having all those tough counties logged.

That's what made our effort so special, so enjoyable - everybody won! There was fun, excitement, reward, and mutual respect for all players regardless of which side of the ship you were on.

Our control ops did a super job of watching over us. K5NA/2 with his fine multi-op team did us proud out East. Not much was heard from Brother N6HUP but he was there for over 20 hours with an ear to the RX. Sister Lynn KA6WAR shared the load and they were ready to leap in and help if called upon. Lee W5DOZ kept a lot of pressure off my back by keeping moment by moment updates of counties covered. Our Ace, Crash King K5IY/AM kept pumping updates to the gang in Houston even in face of some tough weather. Bob, WA5GX1 and Jim N5DC formed his aircrew and they all earned wings for their Armadillo Run caps.

Preliminary stats look like this: counties put on air - 254 (of course - whoever doubted it); QSO's made - just under 20,000; miles driven - over 12,000; cash spent by by our teams getting ready and on the trip - about \$5,000; gallons of gas burnt - about

2,000; Jack Rabbits killed without a license - 4; beer consumed - 4 cases; affairs in the field - censored; accidents - 2 very close calls; tickets received - none, thanks to at least one Frizz Buotes. Alex, WA5UHT, increase in GNP - 432%

A final wrap, an article for QST or CQ; a National Convention and Dayton slide show all follow. We'll finish it the TDXS way - in a big way.

It was a tremendous privilege to serve the club as chairman of Armadillo Run '83. Combining all that super talent into a Smooth Machine was a pleasure not equalled in my 23 years ham career. Thanks guys, I loved it - I hope you all did too. C.U. again in '86!

7B KZ5M

COMBINED TDXS SUMMER BLOW OUT AND POST ARMADILLO RUN BEER SIPPING PARTY

August 13th at 8 PM will see the TDXS and friends together again. Bring the wife or lady friends and lets cheer our Armadillo Run heroes for a job well done. Bob, book a room and bring Linda over for the bash.

The Wounded Armadillo Club on Highway 90 between Richmond and Sugar Land sponsors our bash. They promise signs, banner and all. Wear those Armadillo Run caps and shirts if you got'em. (20 caps will be for sale at the August TDXS meeting).

This is a full TDXS and friends party so lets make it our biggest gathering in a long time. We have a reserved spot near the country western band for 60 folks with room to go to 100. Get word to KZ5M (home 343-1060, work 776-2500) or Orville, K5VWW (home 777-1102, work 439-2753) so we can plan for enough space. Let's make it a biggy!

Slip into those casual CW clothes and lets tear the place down. This promises to be the biggest and most enjoyable couples and singles TDXS event in many years. Our spirit is high so lets get it for all its worth!

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THE QUESTIONAIRE THAT WAS ENCLOSED IN LAST MONTHS BULLSHEET. WE NEED THE INFORMATION BADLY! - W5ASP

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Our trip is progressing nicely and we are having a great time sight-seeing and, of course, shopping. Right now it is 10 AM, Wednesday (9 PM, Tuesday in Houston) and we are on a flight from Hong Kong to Bangkok. We have just crossed into Vietnam at Da Nang and will cross over Laos before going into Thailand. Seems strange knowing the air route crosses these countries.

We had a great stay in Hong Kong, VS6. There are countless electronics shops, jewelry shops, tailors, etc. The city is very crowded, but the people are very pleasant. As an individual, there is no hassel - even for the ladies. (Capt. announced we just crossed Mekong River). As far as electronics go, there is everything imaginable - from Apple & Banana computers to 2 meter gear. Most all shops have IC - 2A's, IC - 25A's and assortments of Trio Kenwood rigs, but all 2 M. I did not see any HF equipment, al-

though a VS6 - fellow I met on the street said a few outlets carry great amounts of ICOM to Trio stuff. Price wise, electronics and cameras seem to run about 60% to 70% of 47th St. Photo catalog prices. Also the shops here have many models and variations of equipment that we don't see in the states.

About clothing - tailor made stuff is expensive, especially women's clothing. Men's tailor made suits, jackets, etc. are good but as expensive as, say, Leopold, Price & Rollover!

Did not see any evidence of HF Antennas around Hong Kong. My callbook listing of VS6 hams got lost somewhere along the way, so I was not able to phone any of the locals. Seems like operating from here would be quite difficult because of the extremely crowded and tall buildings plus the whole city is essentially surrounded by hills up to 2K ft.

However, there surely must be some excellent QTH's in the suburbs. Brian and I had an excellent day yesterday. We took a jetfoil boat to Macau, CR9. Macau is some 40 miles due west of VS6 and the trip takes about 45 minutes on the jetfoil (\$20 US for first class seats, roundtrip). You need visas, but we simply got them at the port in Macau. Wow, what an interesting place. Its only 6 square miles including some outer islands. The mainland portion is only 252 miles, and serves as a major port of entry into China at the point where the Pearl River comes out of mainland China. Major industry seems to be gambling casinos, tourists and all kinds of junk from China. Merchants with trucks are permitted to pass out of China into Macau, but not regular citizens. Most interesting to walk right up to the China gate!

At the highest point in Macau there is an old fortress, cannons and all. There is some kind of government building up there with numerous antennas including three Moseley tribanders and other wire antennas plus a satellite dish. This is what I suspect to be either CR9AK's QTH or something commercial/government. I couldn't find anyone to talk to about the facility, and it was quite restricted to tourists. It definitely is a fb QTH, as its take off in all directions was clean and elevation must have been 400 feet above the rest of the city. At another place, I spotted a tribander on an apartment house. Total population of CR9 must be some 50K with only a few thousand Portuguese. Primary languages are Portuguese and Cantonese. I suspect that logistics for a DX - pedition to CR9 would be difficult as there is no airport and little English is spoken. You would have to haul all gear over on a boat and find someone to assist with a QTH. It definitely would require some advanced planning. Again, like VS6, it is quite hilly, so a small, cheap hotel wouldn't necessarily be good for antennas because you could be nested down in between buildings.

That's all the scoop for now. We are "fixin" to land in Bangkok now. More later.

73's,
George
K5KG/VS6/CR9!

RTTY CONTINUED:

There have been several inquiries as to just how a RTTY QSO is conducted. Generally speaking, it follows the same format as is used on the other modes. The CQ now is rather short, 2 or 3 lines across the page is sufficient, as there are many more stations on RTTY since the advent of computers. Some stations, when answering a CQ transmit their name and QTH at that time. My preference is to answer with a 3 by 3 call to establish the contact. The CQ'ing station usually responds with a signal report (in RST), their name and QTH. Your response is the same, report, QTH, and name, then followed by whatever remarks you care to make. And these remarks cover a very wide range of topics, from the WX to personal history, etc.

The "BRAG TAPE" is a "HANGOVER" from the manual days when they were pre-cut on paper tape, and sometimes include all the station equipment down to the mike and UHF gear. Now most frequently now they just list the HF, power, antenna, and interface equipment.

Some stations transmit the CALL, QTH, and NAME of both stations in the QSO when returning to transmit. To me this is redundant, and all that is really needed is the CALLS of both stations.

The QSO is ended with usual ---thanks, hope to C U AGN, etc.

As of June 15th, it is no longer necessary to identify with CW, however the 10 minute ID rule is still in effect. Ordinarily this is taken care of during the QSO, as almost never do you transmit for more than 10 minutes.

The pre-programmed memories have taken much of the routine typing out of the QSO. For instance, I have pre-programmed a CQ, CQ DX, a "Final Statement", an "Answer Statement", RY's, the other stations CALL, my "Mailing Address", the "Time", "Date", "Final", and "Combined Time and Date". Any of these may be "CALLED UP" for transmission at any time by the proper COMMAND. Included in the appropriate message is a command to turn the printer on and off at the proper time for logging purposes. There is even one pre-programmed message that will insert a Serial Number for each transmission.

There are several contests each year, both of domestic and foreign origin. There is even a PIX contest!

All in all, RTTY is a fun mode. No one seems to be in a hurry, and courtesy prevails. Almost never does any one get on the frequency if it is used, and then only because they do not hear anyone.

DXing is lots of fun on RTTY. Usually there is not too big a pile-up, and it's not too difficult to work.

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Next month: Unattended Message Storage Operations

Lee-W500Z

July 23 - Bangkok

The Floating Market early in the morning, Redjaburi Province

How Everyone -

Thinking of all of you
on your Annadillo Run
this week end. Wish I
could wave all of you.
Best of luck & safety on
your journey.

All is well & exciting on
our trip - lots of sights
and stories to tell. Asy
to you
twight!

73. Geoff KSKG/MS

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