THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

founded 1970

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING NOTICE- The Texas DX Society meets the second Friday of each month except when changed by the Board of Directors. The next regular meeting will be on Friday, November 14. The speaker has not been announced. We will have elections, and some other business that needs attention. Please attend.

BULLSHEET MAILING LIST- It is the club's desire to provide the Bullsheet free to all amateurs in the area with an interest in DXing and/or contesting. If you would like to receive our newsletter, simply send your name, call, and mailing address to the Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 540291, Houston, Texas 77254-0291. Visitors at the regular club meeting can request the monthly newsletter by providing their mailing address on the sign-in sheet. Articles or other newsworthy items from club members and other interested amateurs are hereby solicited by your editor.

CONTEST REPORT
(de Steve, KN5H)

It appears that we have once again proved that the pertinaticious prognosticators of poor propogation were premature in their personal perfuntory predictions as phenomenonal paths perpetuated prolific pileups and provided plenty of perplexing and pacifying pickings for phone fanatics (that's "phanatics" - ed.). In other words ... The SSB contest at NR5M was GREAT with conditions that the newcomers couldn't believe and the old timers yearned for more of. Long path on 10 meters happened both mornings and left NT5D with something to tell his grandkids about. 15 meters was a big QSO total band. If you don't believe me, just ask the competition in Dallas. They are boasting over 2400 QSO's on that band. That's not to take away from the TDXS efforts though. NM5M and yours truly racked up impressive numbers on 15. 20 meters stayed open throughout the weekend and K5GN and K2TNO knocked them dead and still kept their sanity with all the QRM. NZ5I and WI5P tried to make 40 work but had the normal difficulties one finds on that band. KE5IV, KG5U and W9AGH blasted holes on 75 to give us truly impressive totals on that band. 160 was its usual exciting self with the highlight of the weekend being able to use the FB beverage setup of W9AGH. N5DU, W5JWM, KD5SP and HK4FFR lent excellent support to the cause.

A similar all out effort is in the works for CW. If you have the time, little or a lot, let me know. We sure could use you!

The CW Sweepstakes was held over the weekend of the first and second. I am saying this because the TDXS was noticeably absent. Regulars such as N5JJ and K5GN were all but silent. The SSB portion is scheduled for the weekend of the 15/16. Lets all get on and work the few that will be serious.

SOME RUMORS . . .

1986 CQ WW DX SSB

NR5M	160	57/12/27	MULTI-MULTI
	75	180/23/63	
	40	349/27/78	
	20	1097/38/128	
	15	1482/33/126	
	10	490/27/63	
	TOTAL	3655/159/485 = 5.88M	
K5RVK		N/A	MULTI-SINGLE
KE5FI		527/27/67	SINGLE BAND 10

1986 SWEEPSTAKES CW

N5DU	1029/74	
K5LZO	854/74	
W5ASP	850/74	
KG5U	753/74	
KN5H	734/74	
K5GB	730/74	
N5EA	275/64	
K5DX	160/63	
NM5M	850/74	MULTI-OP
K2TNO	767/72	

SOME RESULTS . . .

1986 FIELD DAY

K5DX — No. 1 USA 3A

COMING ATTRACTIONS . . .

NOV. 15-16	ARRL SSB SS
NOV. 29-30	CQ WW DX CW
DEC. 5-7	ARRL 160 METER CONTEST
DEC. 13-14	ARRL 10 METER CONTEST

FINALLY . . .

Thanks to K5RC and the NCJ for help writing this month's article.

73 KN5H

DX REPORT
(de Steve, WA9VLI)

SPRATLY ISLANDS----------There may be plans underway for an operation from Spratly in January, 1987 by mostly DU operators.

SOUTH GEORGIA IS.--------The elusive and much talked about VP8AQT may now finally be on location. He should be QRV November 1 for 2 weeks. QSL to G6KRF.

SOUTH SHETLANDS----------HF0POL has been reported on 7040 at 0100 - 0300 UTC, and 21220 at 1600-1800 UTC. Also, 3G9SS will be active November 13-16 all bands. OPS will be CE3BFZ, CE3CKE & CE3JQH.

BHUTAN----------A51PN was reported on 14024 at 2300 UTC last October 23rd. This is a legit station but no further activity reported at press time.

PETER I ISLAND----------KD7P could not obtain permission form the Norwegians to operate this winter from Peter I Island. Perhaps next year.

SUDAN----------More activity lately from ST2SA reported at 14150 around 1500 UTC, and ON71P/ST2 on 14176 at 2100 UTC. ON71P/ST2 was also active during CQWW phone. If you missed him don't feel bad, it took 6 elements at 199 ft. to pull him out of the QRM at Hempstead.

CROZET & AMSTERDAM IS----FT8ZA from Amsterdam Island, and FT8WA from Crozet are due to begin operations about November 15th.

TOGO----------5V7WD, "Denny" has been active lately. He meets his manager WB4LFM every Monday and Thursday on 14265 at 2100 UTC. He was also handing out mults during CQWW phone.

BEAR ISLAND----------JW8FG, 14202 at 2200 UTC. QSL to Box 9176, Bear Island, Norway.

LIBERIA----------Liberia is sporting a new A82 prefix these days. A82AY and A82BN have been active on 14175 and 14235 from 2200-2300 UTC.

SRI LANKA----------4S7NMR was reported working east coast stations on 14226 at 1725 UTC. WSL to KZ8Y. 4S7RO was worked in Houston on 7000.6 CW at 1230 UTC.

KURE ISLAND----------KH6JEB/KH7 is still working the masses on 14227 at 2230 UTC. QSL the home call.

SIERRA LEONE----------9L1AR, 14209 at 2225 UTC.

NORTHERN MARIANAS--------If you worked KH0AC during CQWW phone and need a card, try K7ZA.

KAMPUCHEA----------XU1SS was reported with DU9RG on 21300 at 2250 UTC. Also check with the W7PHO evening net on 14227.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA--------3C1MB, checks into the Indexa net on 14236 about 2345 UTC from time to time.

ANDORRA----------C31UA had a strong signal into Houston recently on 3796 at 0400 UTC.

PAGALU ISLAND----------The 3C0A cards are apparently in the mail. TR8JLD says over 3000 were recently mailed.

ZIMBABWE----------Z23JP has had a good sig lately on 7008 at 0348 UTC.

REUNION ISLAND----------FR4ZD is a regular on 40 CW around 0250 UTC.

RUSSIANS----------40 meter long-path starting about 1200 UTC usually yields a good catch of Russians on CW.

Well, it looks like lots of folks had fun during CQWW phone week-end with solar flux well into the 90's and lots of DX-peditions and new prefix's about. JA's were worked on 10 meters long-path in the early morning hours and again on short path late afternoon. 15 meters held up very well with a smashing performance by NR5M's 15 meter crew headed by Captain NM5M. It appears that no one heard or worked DJ8QT/TL from Central Africa, or 5U7LC from Niger.

Lots of goodies however in the Caribs and Indian Ocean, as well as HS0A, BY4AA, and BY1QH. If we really hit the bottom of the cycle in July, things could get exciting very soon.

THE OTHER FELLOW'S SHACK
(de K2TNO)

Attached in the 'Sheet is Kenwood Service Bulletin #911, describing changes to the TS-940 to cure the famous phase noise defect.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"If you want a freq give me 5 minutes and you'll have one." -
NR5M 10/26/86

HOW TO ATTACH A PL-259 COAX CONNECTOR
(de Bill, K2TNO)

I've been amazed to see the number of times an antenna project has failed because the two-dollar coax connectors are incorrectly installed. So, I'll describe the process for you here. PLEASE read this, clip and post in your shack until the procedure is second nature to you.

TOOLS: Buy a 50-watt chisel point soldering iron. I use an Ungar; they make one element which fits just perfectly onto the connector in the slot between the threads and the fluted flange containing the insulator.

Buy a small tubing cutter that is sharp - don't us it for plumbing too!

Buy a roll of #14 gauge solder. The thin #22 solder is cumbersome for this purpose.

Buy a small vise, such as for a drill press.

PROCEDURE: For RG8, RG213, RG-11 coax:

1. Slide the PL-259 shell onto the coax.
2. Strip one inch of vinyl jacket off the end.
3. Tin the braid all the way around for at least ½ inch up from the jacket.
4. Use the tubing cutter to cut the braid 7/16 inch out from the jacket.
5. Use wire cutters to slice off the braid to be removed.
6. Take a sharp knife and carefully cut through to the center conductor about 1/16 inch beyond the end of the braid.
7. Remove the extra dielectric.
8. Screw on the PL-259 connector until the end of the center conductor is flush with the end of the center pin.
9. Clamp the cable in the vise. Heat over one braid hole with the flat part of the iron, plus a little solder to heat and tin.
10. Use the corner of the tip to put solder into each of the four holes.
11. Solder the center conductor.
12. Remove excess flux and any solder from the outside of the center pin.

PROCEDURE FOR 1/4-INCH COAX USING ADAPTERS (RG-8X, RG-58, RG-59)

1. Slide the PL-259 shell onto the coax.
2. Slide the proper size adapter onto the coax.
3. Strip one inch of vinyl jacket.
4. Push back the braid to loosen the weave, then push back some more to invert the braid back over the coax vinyl jacket.
5. Slide the adapter up under the braid until the end of the adapter is flush with the end of the vinyl jacket.
6. Use wire cutters or small scissors to cut off the braid wires so they do not reach the threads of the adapter.
7. Smooth braid over adapter, re-check for any wires which are too long.
8. Strip dielectric about 1/8" beyond the end of the adapter.
9. Insert into a PL-259 connector, and screw on the connector until the adapter seats tightly against the back end of the PL-259.
10. Solder the braid holes as in steps 9 and 10 of the procedure above.
11. Solder the center pin as in steps 11 and 12 above.

CHECKING EXISTING CONNECTORS

1. The vinyl jacket should be threaded into the PL-259. If you can see the braid at the back of the connector, it was incorrectly installed.
2. Unscrew the shell and inspect the solder holes. Unsoldered holes, or no solder are tip offs the connector is bad.
3. Check the center pin. If it is deformed, or not completely filled with solder or the center conductor wires aren't visible at the end, replace the connector.

FINAL PLAINTIVE PLEAS

1. Don't try to re-use PL-259's. It's nearly impossible to de-solder one and clean it up. Usually a few braid wires remain inside the connector. If you're stuck in an emergency and must re-use one, the best way to remove it is with a propane torch.
2. Don't use Radio Shack PL-259's; they are steel, and can't be soldered well. Use Amphenol, which are plated brass.
3. Do use Coax-seal on outdoor connectors. UHF series connectors are not water proof.
4. Do cut off used coax until you see bright, shiny braid. If the braid is black or tarnished this means water has entered and the coax is lossy.
5. Don't use crimp-on coax fittings, especially outdoors.

KENWOOD

SERVICE BULLETIN

AMATEUR RADIO

SUBJECT	DATE
TS-940S VCO CARRIER TO NOISE RATIO IMPROVEMENT	9-15-86

We have received random reports of an apparent problem with the Carrier to Noise ratio when the radio is operated under marginal band conditions. The Carrier to Noise ratio of the TS-940S may be improved by the following changes. The improvement that can be expected will be on the order of 15dB within the range of +/- 20 KHz from the center frequency of the VCO. This change will be incorporated on all units shipped from Trio-Kenwood after 9/15/86.

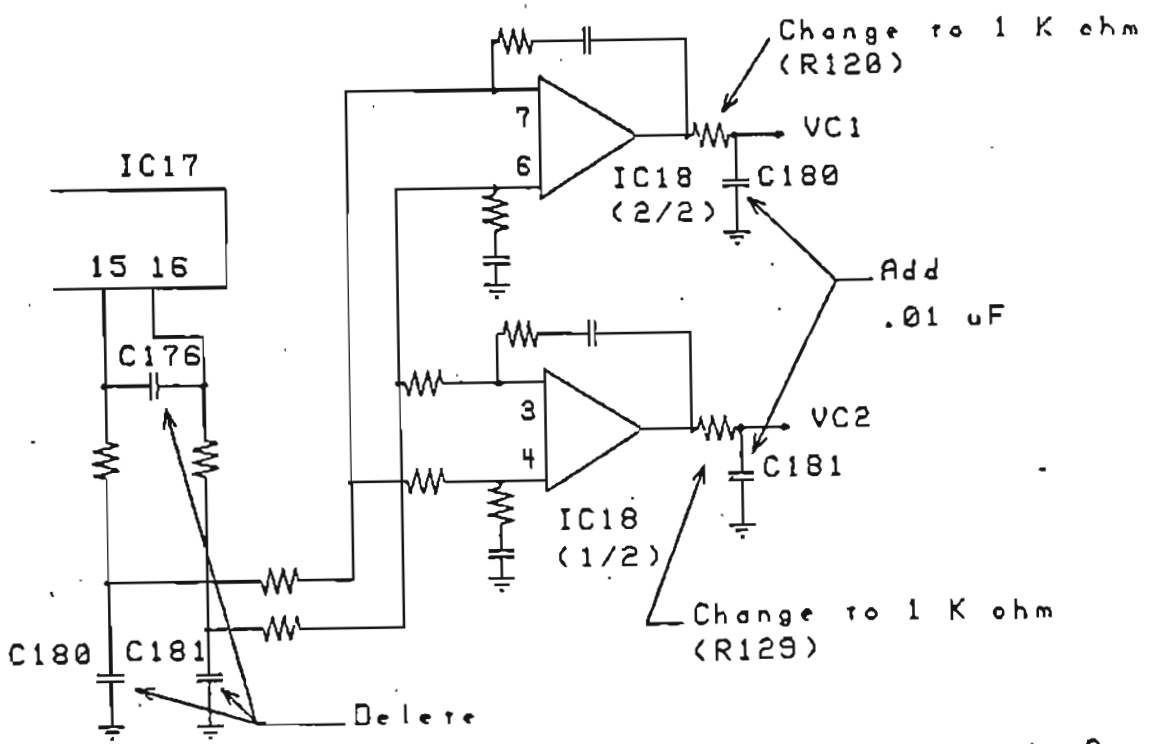
Parts required

R120,121	1K ohm 1/6 watt carbon resistor	RD14CB2C102J
C180,181	.01 uF disc ceramic capacitor	C91-0117-05

Procedure:

On the PLL UNIT (X50-2020-00) remove capacitors C176, C180, and C181. Change resistors R120 and R129 from 470 ohms to 1 K ohm. Install the new values for C180 and C181 in the new positions indicated in the accompanying diagrams. Capacitors C181 and C180 should be attached to the foil side of the PLL unit.

PLL UNIT (X50-2020-00)



TRIO-KENWOOD COMMUNICATIONS

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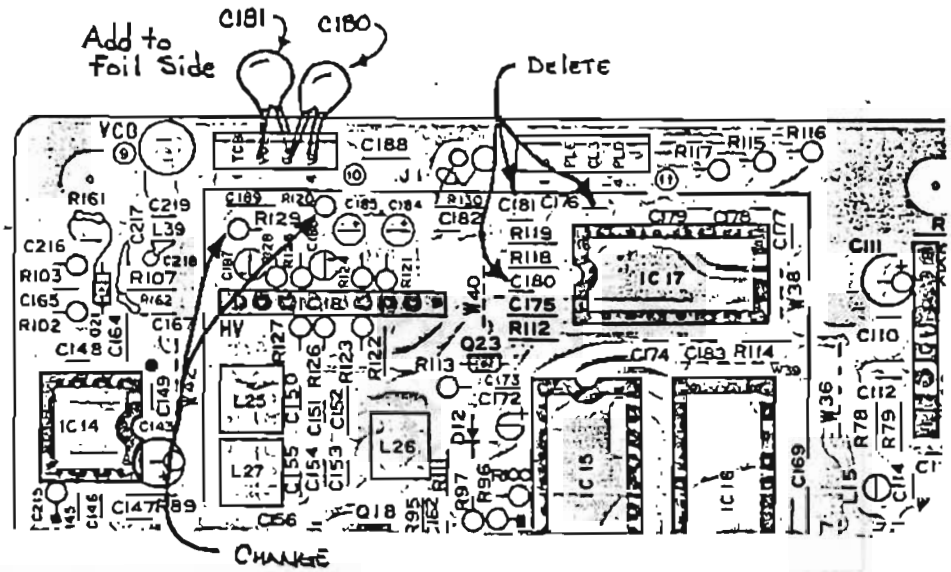
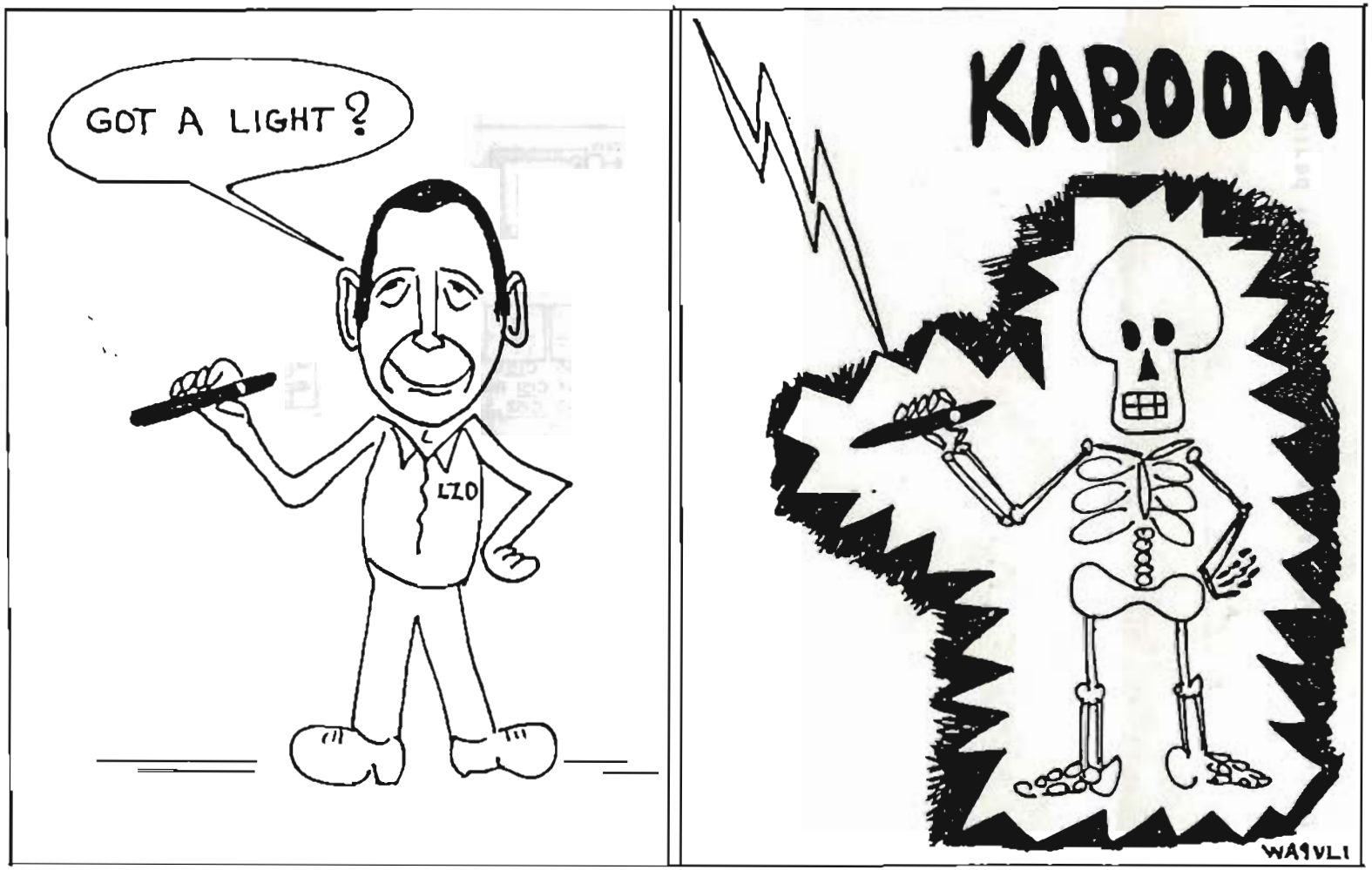
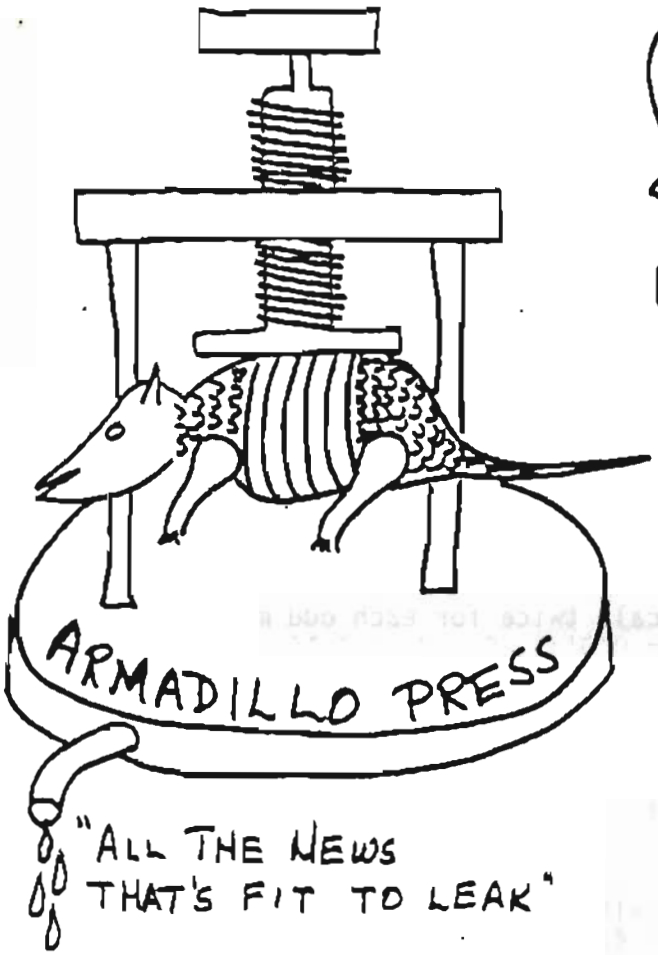


Time required for this modification is 1 hour or less. (C)82086TKCCLM


GOT A LIGHT?
LZO
KABOOM
WAYLI



"ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO LEAK"

PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY IN ARMADILLO COUNTY, TEXAS by the TEXAS DX SOCIETY

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DXPEDITION TO W5

(de Ralph Oppurnockity, VQ9RRR and XYL)

Dear fellow club members:

Greetings from the far reaches of hamdom. Harriet and I wanted to write and bring you all up to date on our recent operation from W5. We had a biz trip planned to Houston, Texas and decided to try to fit in a little hamming while we were there. Houston is a lush, tropical paradise and we had to think twice about whether we would be able to pull ourselves away from the sights long enough to get on the air. A quick canvass of the club members at VQ9 revealed that you guys were frantic for an opportunity to work a W5, especially on 20 cw where the only real activity is from some K2 who never QSL's. So, we set about getting licenses and finding a good spot for operating.

Licensing was no problem; we sent in our $400 and received the calls WJ5KXZ and WH5HIH. We used the KXZ call on SSB and 'HIH on cw since it's so easy to send correctly.

To get acquainted with a possible operating site, we contacted a well-known DXer in Houston and asked his advice. George, NR5M, replied at once and helped us get a terrific deal on a room at a place called the Shamrock Hotel. He assured us that we wouldn't bother the other guests at all. He was right; there seemed to be a convention of demolition experts at the hotel, and they practiced every day with their jackhammers. The room was free; George arranged the room, and all we had to do was to buy a couple of cars, to be delivered to the home QTH.

We arrived in Houston by train from Lufkin International Airport, and were met by a couple of hams from the local radio club. Dave, K5GN and Dale, KG5U, got us and the gear cleared through customs. We were soon driving off to the hotel with Dave at the wheel and Dale navigating. The hotel is only about five miles from the train depot, but somehow the locals took a wrong turn or two and we ended up driving around for several hours. They got pretty confused about the directions but Harriet and I enjoyed the sights of the suburbs. We went through Beaumont, Magnolia and Richmond on the way from downtown to the hotel.

En route, Dave gave me a few hundred pointers on how to work DX pileups. I'll give a full report on his suggestions when we return to VQ9, but the gist of his method seems to involve simultaneous tuning of three bands at once using a minimum of seventeen antennas at least six wavelengths apart, changing cw speed every three QSO's except when the beam heading is exactly divisible by 38, when you increase your rate by working split-frequency and sending your own call twice for each odd multiple of the call district of your previous two QSO's. Sounds complicated; Dave assured me it's a snap once you get the hang of the system.

But I digress. Eventually we arrived at the Shamrock, and the locals got our carry-on crates unloaded. We couldn't find one bag, which had become lost in the junk in the back of K5GN's trunk. He promised to ship it back to us if it ever surfaces.

My business meeting wasn't scheduled until the following Tuesday, so the fact that it would take place over 40 miles away didn't seem too bad at the time. The hotel turned out to be rather spartan, but it's a landmark and I guess is being refurbished. Harriet had to struggle with the two crates of gear I'd assigned her to carry. She made it into the hotel OK despite a broken heel on her shoe when a local Houstonian tried to knock her down and grab her purse. I was carrying the exciter, so I could run faster than Harriet could. No way I was gonna let that guy rough up the rig!

We got to the room, and I appropriated some sawhorses and an old door from the Presidential Suite to use as an operating table. We had arrived!!

The antenna situation was the first item of concern. We put one end of the dipole at our balcony. Sad to say, the balcony railing had been sold to a collector, so the balcony was more of a ledge. As a matter of fact there wasn't anything to tie the antenna to, so Harriet had to stand out on the ledge and hold tight to the rope while I operated the rig. The plan would have worked great, except that I'd tied the lower end of the sloper to a piece of pipe sticking out of a pile of concrete debris across the driveway. It turned out the debris was actually in the bed of a dump truck, and when he drove away damn if he didn't yank ol' Harriet clean off the ledge. Fortunately for us, her leg was twisted up in the coax feedline, and the coax kept her from falling more than a few stories. Boy were we in a pickle! She was too heavy to haul back up, and I sure couldn't cut the coax because I hadn't packed a soldering iron so the feedline had to stay intact. Finally I hit upon a great idea. I hollered down to the truck driver to drive around a bit farther to the south. That move tightened up the antenna Harriet was holding in her hand, and pulled her out about 20 feet from the building. Meanwhile, I began to unscrew the PL-259 from the back of the rig. Boy, was it ever tight with Harriet's weight dangling from that feedline. Anyway, I hollered to Harriet to let go of the antenna, and at the same time finished

unscrewing the PL-259. Dang if it didn't work like a charm! Plopped her right smack-dab in the middle of their olympic-sized pool! You all remember what a great swimmer Harriet is, after that Field Day we took to another island a few years back when we inadvertently left her at the site? Well, she was fine again this time, too. And no damage to the antenna, which was the main thing. Great sport, that Harriet!!

But I digress. Anyway, we finally got the antenna up and QRV. We found out only then that there was no A.C. in our room. As a matter of fact, there were no outlets, because the'd all been sold along with the wiring. We were desperate! We called our friend George and he fixed us but good. He sold us twenty car batteries and even had em brought to our hotel. Well, I had a heck of a lot of work yet to do getting the log sheets ready, the Bencher contacts cleaned and my pencils sharpened. So while I was doing all that, I told Harriet to get the storage batteries up from the lobby to our room on the fifteenth floor. She really is a terrific DXpedition member to help out like that. It was especially tough on her when she found out that the elevators had been sold to a collector also, and she had to lug the batteries up the stairs. She nearly got the first one up to the room in time for my sked with the club at the gray-line peak on 20. Sorry, guys, I hollered and tried to hurry her up but you know how slow and methodical Harriet can be when she's busy. Like that time at the flea market when I'd bought that wad of 5000 feet of used copperweld, and got Harriet to unkink it while I was on duty at the Hospitality Suite. So anyway, we had the first battery in place about 15 minutes late, but the next one took her a spell because the batteries weren't the sealed kind. So that first battery leaked a little acid and kinda ate a few holes in the front of her dress, right up near her --ah-- like I said, front. So anyway, that caused a further damn delay in the battery department because Harriet insisted she was damn sure not going to traipse up 15 flights of stairs carrying storage batteries while looking like a slob.. So she'd change clothes after each battery trip. I don't know how we'd have made it if she hadn't figured out that she could make each dress last for two trips if she turned the dress around after the first trip. I tell you, the gal's a genius on a DXpedition. Lord only knows how she managed to squeeze eight dresses into the crate I'd assigned her to carry. With all the spare turnbuckles and the tower base plate in there, I'd have thought she'd have packed lighter. But not ol' Harriet! Always prepared for any emergency, she is.

Like that time when the club generator's gasoline had all those fine particles in it on the contest DXpedition? Remember how Harriet was the one who figured that the mesh in the top of her bikini was just right for a filter, so we strained all 55 gallons of gas through the left cup? Ha, ha! -- Harriet says to tell those SOB's where the hell is the seventy bucks the Club promised to pay her for the ruined bikini? Great sport, that Harriet!

So anyway, finally I was set to put the juice to the box. I had to put on the headphones because Harriet was pretty hot and sweaty after the battery trips, and she started to hyperventilate. That made her have one of her attacks, and it makes quite a racket until she calms down. Best thing to do is to leave her alone, I figured, so I put on the cans and hit the switch. Damn if the SWR wasn't clear out of sight. So I hit the auto-tune transmatch button and KABLOOEY! The whole exciter box began to vibrate, then smoke and finally belched a big green cloud of gas out the cooling holes.

We were dead in the water! No RF in the antenna, and I'd only pushed the transmatch button a single time. Now you know where the old expression comes from, "Oppurnockity tunes but once."

But I digress. So, there I was in a bombed-out hotel, with twenty storage batteries, no lights, no rig, and Harriet freaking out in her acid-blotched clothing. I tell ya life's a bitch sometimes for a hard-working DXer like me.

So anyway, want to know how I got me and Harriet out of that situation? Well, you see, it was like this. First we.....

Say, fellows, the last mail out of Houston is leaving soon and I gotta run and stick this in the post box! Cheers to all, and I'll write again soon. I think I'll be QRV from here at the Shamrock, so hope to work you all tomorrow morning if the batteries last.

73 and 88,

Ralph and XYL

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Word has just reached us that soon after Ralph mailed the letter above a terrible accident occurred. Harriet recovered from her attack and found Ralph using the AC cord on her blow dryer to rewire the transmatch. That incident finally pushed her over the edge, I guess, so apparently she heaved Ralph, his rig and all the gear out the hotel room window. There was an inquest, but the grand jury decided to no-bill her, after testimony from a number of XYL's from the Texas DX Society. The ruling was justifiable homocide.