



founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

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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Repeater Chairman	Jim Lane, N5DC

The Prez Sez - de Bill, K5GA

Happy Valentine's Day everyone! I'm sure you have already taken care of all your sweethearts by now. I have for sure! (And I also have choice property in Arizona for sale...)

In view of the upcoming ARRL DX contest the TDXS Board of Directors, in it's infinite wisdom, voted to move our club meeting up to Friday, February 7th. At first Melanie, my XYL, thought that we had moved it just to allow each of us the chance to honor the girls in our lives. But it was only a brief thought and she now understands that contests really are more important than true love.

In all seriousness, please make it a point to attend the February meeting, as we have several important topics to discuss. The various Board members are busily attacking their responsibilities trying to come up with plans for this year's activities. We need to put their ideas out for discussion and get the response and approval of the membership before proceeding. If we can get this all sorted out now, it will make the remainder of the year a lot more interesting for everyone.

Please note that we will be meeting in a different room this time. The new room is just up the stairs from the main auditorium. If anyone gets lost, we will "talk you in". Please be sure to wear your speaker mike clipped to your shirt collar!

The Board is somewhat concerned that a number of you have not yet paid the dues for 1992. If apathy exists, this means that the club is not meeting the needs of its members. If this is so, then those members should pay their dues, become more active in the club, bring up whatever problems that concern them and then push for the needed changes. **Remember, silence is NOT golden in a fraternal organization such as TDXS. 73**

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" diskette, either DS/DD or DS/HD. If necessary, text may be sent to via FAX to the editor at the number listed below. Files or other messages may be sent via E-Mail to: Schrader @ BCM.TMC.EDU. For those with VHF Packet and having access to any of the local Digipeaters, or able connect directly, ASCII text can be sent directly to the Editor. Contact W5ASP at 713-974-3455 to arrange for either fax or packet transfers. Publication deadline is the first friday of the month.

Announcements

Meeting Notice - The Texas DX Society meets on the second Friday of each month except when the date is changed by the Board of Directors. **The February TDXS meeting will be held one week earlier than normal.** This change has been made to avoid conflict with the ARRL DX CW Contest scheduled to begin the evening of Friday, February 14. This month's meeting will take place on **Friday, February 14, 1992** at **St. Johns School** at the corner of Claremont and Westheimer Roads. Claremont is the name of Buffalo Speedway after it crosses to the north of Westheimer. There is a parking lot entrance just north of Westheimer. Park in the lot and follow the walkway to enter the school building. The general meeting will **NOT** take place in the main auditorium where we have met before, but will be held in **Room W-101** which is just up the stairs from the auditorium. The meeting will get underway around 7:15 P.M. Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

Program - The February program will feature the video of the World Radiosport Team Championship held in Seattle in July 1990. This was a contest with 22 different two-man teams from around the world. All were operating from the same local at the same time working some 4,000 stations in 150 countries. An excellent write-up of the WRTC by John Crovelli, W2GD appears in the October 1990 QST.

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. Stations checking-in are urged to report DX heard or worked locally, band openings, contest claimed scores, and any other information that might be of interest. Participation is not limited to members of TDXS, but is open to all and everyone is free to join in.

DX Report

de Mike, AA5NK

There have been some interesting stations on during the past thirty days. Among the most notable were: 40 Meter CW - 7P8SR, HZ1AB, TA4A, 3DA0BK, OY9JD, UH8EA AND C56/OH2XR; 80 Meters - T30RE, 3A2GL, 6W6JX, 7P8DX, 9M2AX and A22BW; 10 Meters - 3D2/ROTUMA, 7P8SR, 6W6JX, HS0AC, XX9AS, T30RE and 9K2ZZ. Obviously, the bands have been in pretty good shape.

Niger, 5U7M has been quite active, particularly in the contests. This is a JA boy who requests that ALL QSLs go via JARL. It should be no problem, as we know how good the JAs are with their QSL chores. (Tell that to JH5EES...I'm still looking for his /JD1 card from last May..ed)

It looks like **Revilla Gigedo**, XF4 will be active February 4-18. They will be on 160 thru 6 Meters, CW/SSB/RTTY.

A U.S. group is scheduled to activate **Clipperton**, FO0 starting in early March for seven days. This is to be an all band/mode/24 hour/4 station operation. Hopefully they also have plans for low band and for the WARCers.

Mozambique, C9, once a rare commodity, has become most popular of recent. I received the C9RAA QSL which was a new one on CW for me. C9RZZ is returning there February 1st and should be active during his four week tour.

KH7/KD7P is returning to **Kure Island** and will be active February 15-19. He is to concentrate on the WARC bands and RTTY. Supposedly the Loran system there will be shut down on June 1 1992. This could shut down access to this spot, and may create a rare one down the road.

Aves Island, YV0 is one of the most needed in Japan (7th on their Most Needed List) and also in Europe (16th). A YV group has said they will start operation on February 28 thru March 3. This will be for 160 thru 6 Meters, including the WARC bands, both CW and SSB.

W5BOS and W5KNE will show from **Christmas Island** as VK9XM and Vx9XN from February 11-24. They promise 160 thru 10 Meters and WARC with both CW and SSB.

Bougainville, a part of **Papua New Guinea**, P29 has declared independence. The island of Bougainville has a very large mine that is very critical to the tax base for Papua New Guinea. But there have been many terrorist problems at the mine. When I was there in mid 1989 the mine had to be shut down due to the terrorists. It has remained much the same since then. But the government in Port Moresby will not give up Bougainville that easily. In spite of all this, VK2BVS has secured a license from the Arawa Republic of Bougainville. So far no activity has been reported from this station.

Ed Kritsky, NT2X has an interesting article in a recent issue of QRZ-DX regarding the postal problems in Russia and the other republics of the **Commonwealth of Independent States** (CIS). The article is well worthwhile reading. I recommend you obtain a copy. I will, however, briefly summarize his message.

The basic problem is that the mail is not getting to the recipients. To get around this Ed recommends the following steps. 1.) Avoid flashy envelopes and stamps. Use metered mail and plain surface mail envelopes. 2.) Show no call signs on the envelope. Write your name and address by hand. No rubber stamps or labels. 3.) Seal envelopes with synthetic glue which will not respond to heating or steaming. 4.) Use transparent tape to seal all seams. 5.) Use Russian manufactured envelopes even though the writing will be in English. Follow the address style used by the Russians. 6.) Avoid sending currency even if it is legal (which it is in the CIS). Use

IRCs. There is available a device that will detect the metal particles found in paper currency. 7.) Registered mail is the preferred method, using the techniques above.

Ed goes on to say that it is a real problem and is well known to the government authorities. Even mail between the various republics is suffering the same fate. Not mentioned in Ed's article, but worthy of note is that word has it that Box 88 is "not working". This will compound the problem as it leaves direct mail as the only option. (It might be wise just to hold off on "outgoing" cards "via the Bureau" for a while until this gets sorted out..ed)

Now That Was Fun!

de Dale, KG5U

Have you ever stumbled into a pileup you knew you were going to be spending a lot of quality time with? I thought I had the other night. I came into the shack about 0352Z, looked at the long list of DX spots from the K5DX PacketCluster (everything but 80 Meter CW was there), hit the band button on the TS-930 for 3.5 MHz, and did a quick spin through the bottom 10 kHz. A 579 station was calling "CQ DX" and I stopped to listen for a minute. I was sure it was stateside. He finished his fourth CQ DX and signed his call three times ... A22BW!

Realizing that there must already be a huge pileup building for him, I quickly glanced at my trusty amp. Nope, it was off! AND the power plug was pulled at the wall outlet under the desk. Not enough time to fix that. Looked like I was going to be there a while. As he signed his call for the third time, I got ready to toss my call into the maelstrom. Then...he pressed on with another string of CQ DX. I decided to brave it, go barefoot and see what developed. He had a good solid signal here, so surely I must have a good one there. Seemed logical at the time. As soon as he signed "K", I sensed that it was going to be a long night.

It seemed like every "big gun" on 80 M CW in North America was there to welcome him. I took a deep breath, hit the function switch over to A-B, hit the A=B button, pressed T-F SET and ran the B-VFO down about 350 Hz below A, and put out my call twice. As I listened through ensuing pileup, I could just hear the tone of A22BW's reply through W8AH's second or third set of triple calls, along with quite a few others. I copied 579 and the fact that his name was Larry, just after I decided to use the amp after all and was already crawling around under the desk looking for the 220 plug. Then he signed "KG5U BK" and made my day. It was nothing less than a miracle that I did not do serious damage to my person coming up from under that desk to grab the paddles. A quick 599, Dale, TU and another new one logged. *I like it when it works!*

Silent Key

Jack Douglas, KA5DNP, signed SK de KA5DNP CL and left the air for the last time on December 13, 1991. Jack, a longtime member of AMSAT and advocate of satellite communications was also one of this area's unique DXers. He held DXCC Satellite Certificate No. 30 after working and confirming 100 DXCC countries via earth orbiting satellite. Among those countries credited to Jack were 4J1FS, XX9, OH0, P29, FO0XX (Clipperton), TF, OX, 5N3, and VP8. Good catches in anyone's log. Jack was an intense and colorful speaker on amateur satellite topics, having made numerous presentations to local clubs (including TDXS) and during the annual Houston conventions. Jack made a very positive and lasting contribution to amateur radio in the Houston area and will be missed by all of those who knew him. CUL OM de W5ASP

DXing with TDXS

de Joe, W5ASP

One has only to look at the DXCC listing in this issue to understand the current lack of enthusiasm amongst TDXS members when it comes to DXing. With 15 Honor Roll members and some twenty or more past the magic 300 mark, chasing DX just isn't the prevailing activity these days. Even the packet spots show a drop in TDXS credits. And the repeater is beginning to sound like a lesson in ancient history when it comes to DX.

Perhaps what is needed is a bit of "let's see you prove it" to stir up the embers and spice up the airways. To that end TDXS presents the **1992 DX Challenge**. The rules appear below. Once you've read them over, I'm sure you'll agree that it will extend the talents of even the most accomplished among us. But the Grand Prize should suffice to "let loose the hounds", and the winner will no doubt "bask in the warm admiration of his peers".

In any event it ought to be fun, particularly if we can get a sizeable contingent on the air during the coming months. Make sure you display your dazzling talents by putting all the choice bits out on the PacketCluster and/or Repeater. The real thrill comes from being barely in the lead with the pack nipping at your heels. We'll be comparing notes and standings on the TDXS Weekly Net, and maybe even passing out a few surprises. Make it a habit to join in. Good luck and good DX.

1992 TEXAS DX SOCIETY DX CHALLENGE

- **WHY** - To provide a worthy DX CHALLENGE to TDXS members
- **WHO** - Open to any present or past member of the TDXS
- **WHEN** - 0000Z February 8, 1992 to 2400Z December 31, 1992
- **WHERE** - 1.5 - 30 MHz, Mixed Mode only, i.e CW & Phone
- **HOW** - Work as many DX stations from the "LIST" on as many bands as possible in the given time period. The one with the most band/countries at the end of year wins!
- **WHAT** - Grand Prize: \$100 Gift Certificate from Madison Electronics
- **MORE** - The following rules apply.

1. DX countries on the **LIST** are to be taken from the official ARRL DXCC Countries List. The **LIST** will contain all of those countries that are NOT marked for checking by ARRL Field Representatives. The list which is current on 12/31/92 will be used to determine the winner.

2. **No QSL cards will be required.** Participants will submit to the DX Chairman a log of all contacts claimed with full details as to date, time, frequency, mode, call, etc. All contacts must be made by direct contact with the station claimed without any intervening station, such as a repeater, gateway or other relaying station. This log must be signed by the participant affirming that all contacts are valid.

3. The Grand Prize will be awarded only if there are at least 10 TDXS participants submitting their final claims. All contacts must be made during the contest period stated above. A minimum of 25 band/countries will be required to be eligible for the Grand Prize.

4. Contacts must be made from within the continental United States and must be made by the participant using his

own call. Participants in Multi Op contest efforts may claim only those stations they actually work with their own call.

5. Operators may be "assisted" by packet, voice repeater, or by other stations moving DX on their behalf.

6. All participants are expected to announce all DX stations heard and/or worked via the local PacketCluster, or via the TDXS 146.36/96 Repeater, if packet is not available.

7. All issues regarding this activity will be resolved the TDXS Board of Directors.

8. Revision of the rules and other changes may be made at any time by the Board.

(The **LIST** of qualifying DXCC countries can be found at the end of this issue..ed)

DXCC Record Conversion Program

de Dale, KG5U

In QST for January 1992, page 88, under DX Century Club Awards is a note concerning future endorsements that may have been overlooked by many. It seems that ARRL, and the DXCC desk in particular, is going to full automation for processing and storage of data. If you expect to endorse your current DXCC standings in the near future, you can help them out by assisting them in converting their paper records of your awards to computer records.

According to the article you can request a diskette containing their **DXCC Record Conversion Program** with which to make the necessary entries for your existing DXCC records. Just mail them a letter giving them your name, address, call, the type(s) of DXCC you'll be endorsing (band and mode), the month and year of your last endorsement, and if you prefer a 5.25" or 3.5" disk. There is no charge involved.

Since I am planning on updating my DXCC listing (from a miserable 130 dating from 1983 to, hopefully, 260 something), I sent off for the disk as directed. In a couple of weeks, I received the disk, a letter of explanation of the program and how the DXCC desk will use it, and a copy of my original DXCC listing/application.

As most of you are well aware, the DXCC Countries List is a constantly changing creature. Countries change their names and often merge and separate. New and different prefixes suddenly appear and old ones cease to exist. This has created for the DXCC desk what must be their biggest headache, keeping track of exactly when you submitted your first set of cards and on what version of the DXCC Countries List your credits were based.

There is an extensive four page set of instructions located in a READ.ME file on the diskette. You should definitely print them out for further study, and for reference while you are keying in the data. The instructions are not very clear on a few items. I made notes as I went along and wrote a long letter back to the Desk suggesting some changes regarding their terminology and procedural descriptions.

For instance, you are known by two numbers, one is your ARRL member number and the other is a DXCC Desk assigned "reference" number specific to your set of records. This is not the actual DXCC award number, but always begins with a 91 or 92 followed by two zeros (0). You are asked to enter these two numbers from the SETUP screen of the program. However, nowhere did the instructions or letter indicate which number is which. I had to scrounge around for an old address label to determine which was the member number. Then I had to close my eyes and guess which one of the two data entry blocks on the screen, sized for a long number, was to be used in entering it. A different name was given for each of the num-

bers on the screen from those referenced in the instructions. I guessed and went with my member number first followed by the "reference" number. This was all very confusing and gave me a less than confident feeling about how the rest of it would go. I wasn't disappointed. I blew it later on.

I then went to the next screen on the main menu and that led me to a listing that looked like it was sort of a DXCC Countries List, except on an expanded scale. There were one, two, three, four, or more entries for the same country. However, each entry was a bit different in its content of prefixes or the country name. For example, there were two entries for Nauru. The country name was listed as Nauru in one case and Rep. of Nauru in the second.

The scheme involves comparing your original DXCC application against what you see on the screen. When you see a match, you do an "arrow down" (or up) to it, and hit the SPACE bar. That puts an asterisk at that entry. The idea is to step all the way through the list marking each entry that exactly matches your list of submissions as it appeared on your original DXCC application. When you are finished you hit F1 and it is all saved to disk.

CAUTION: The instructions state that if you wish to take a break for a couple of minutes to hit F1 and the data will be saved. DON'T DO IT! I did while I was still in the VP2 section and it did save it. However, there was then no way for me to "continue" or "resume". The F1 function is ONLY to be used when you are completely done with the list.

After the F1 does its thing, you are taken back to the main menu. You can then do a printout which I recommend. Carefully check the printed list against your DXCC application to make sure that you have entered all the credited entries and that they are correctly marked. I only have DXCC CW, so I did not have other modes or single band lists to deal with.

Read the instructions very, very carefully regarding the saving of data. I just saved my data back to the disk the ARRL provided. The program is unique for your particular entries and is not suitable for use otherwise. Put a label on it to identify it, carefully following the instructions given. Finally, mail it to the ARRL along with the printout of the listing.

If you are a perfect data entry person, as I am sure many of you reading this are, you can skip this paragraph. For those of you who, like me, lose it somewhere between your monitor screen, eyes, brain, fingers, and keyboard this is important information. As you are entering the asterisks into the listing, a counter near the top of the screen keeps score for you. Now, if you blow it during a line entry, the entry can be corrected. (They knew I was going to be using the program). You just arrow back up or down to the entry and hit the space bar again and the asterisk disappears. The counter, however, increments up one. So, as I did, by the time you finish 130+ entries you will have made more than one or two "corrected" errors during data entry. Naturally the counter will show several more credited than you really have. Don't worry about it! Just disregard the counter readings altogether.

According to ARRL, they are only doing all of this to update their existing DXCC records. New applications for DXCC and endorsements must be submitted in the usual way, i.e. paper applications and listings, along with QSLs. They are working towards accepting endorsements on diskette (with, of course, the QSL cards), but are not there yet.

I will have a copy of the letter, the diskette READ.ME instructions, the DXCC application and listing, and the printout from the program of my DXCC list with me at the next meeting. If anyone has questions about how to do the program once they have it, I will be happy to help where I can. Good luck and DX.

DXCC News

(February 1992 QST reported the annual listing of the DXCC membership. Honor Roll members are indicated with an asterisk (*).ed)

Mixed

*K5DX 365
 *W5UN 355
 *K5AAD 354
 *K5NA 347
 *K5RC 344
 *K5YCP 337
 *N5DC 333
 *K5BXU 332
 *N5EA 332
 *AA5NK 325
 *KC5M 323
 *W5SG 323
 *AK5B 322
 *KC5CP 316
 K5MA 322
 KF5MY 318
 KE5TF 312
 W5ASP 303
 NN5O 294
 K5XI 277

Phone

*K5DX 360
 *W5JWM 351
 *K5NA 340
 *K5YCP 337
 *KC5M 321
 *AA5NK 320
 W5LLU 312
 W5SG 312
 K5XI 276

CW

*K5NA 322
 KC5M 314
 AA5NK 311
 AK5B 305
 W5ASP 288
 AC5K 238

Upcoming Events

February 07.....**TDXS Monthly Meeting**
 February 08.....PACC (Dutch) Contest
 February 09.....North American Sprint - SSB
 February 15.....ARRL DX CW Contest
 February 21.....CQ WW 160M SSB DX Contest
 February 22.....UBA (Belgian) CW Contest
 February 22.....REF (French) SSB Contest
 March 07.....ARRL DX SSB Contest
 March 13.....Japan Int'l DX CW Contest
 March 13.....**TDXS Monthly Meeting**
 March 15.....Bermuda Contest

The TDXS Bullsheat

Contest Corner

de Bob, N5DU

Well folks, you're in for a great treat this year. At least as far as Contest Chairman is concerned. K5GA twisted my arm by saying he would QRM me in any future contest that I might enter if I didn't "volunteer". Now I turn to you for help in pushing TDXS yet another few steps into the contesting world's history books.

I have just submitted a list of the **North American Sprint - CW** team's participants to Trey, WN4KKN/6. By the time you read this note, CW Sprint will be in the books. I'm sure TDXS will have another good showing, as the team looks quite strong. Team members this time are **K5RC, K5GA, W5ASP, KN5H, NZ5I, KE4GY, AC5K, K5TU, KV6O**, and **AD5Q**. It is nice to see some new blood in the line up.

Please keep an eye out for other prospective team members for the fall sprints. I would like to see us get participation back to the point where two or more teams could be fielded, with highest performers being placed on Team #1. Also, please let me know immediately, if you want to be on the TDXS SSB Sprint team for Saturday, February 8th. Right now I have **KD5SP, K5RC, K5GA, KE4GY, NZ5I, W5ASP** and **N5IVF** on the team. If you've got a radio and an outside antenna (as opposed to your Hon. Contest Chairman), Sprint can be an interesting four hours. With an indoor antenna Sprint is wishful thinking, but a contesting optimist loves a challenge!

We've got **ARRL DX CW** coming up on **February 15th** and **CQWW 160M DX SSB** on February 22nd. (Plus a host of others per the Coming Events calendar.ed) I've seen some pretty good 160M spots on the PacketCluster that tell me good 160M stations are just waiting for a challenge. I still think that's my favorite band.

I'll try to have a better column in the next issue after I've fully discovered what K5GA and W5ASP have gotten me into. Please drop me any scores, contest information or announcements, multi-op requests, etc. on DUBOX via HOU (144.990 MHz), via the K2TNO BBS (798-4955), or during the TDXS Weekly Net. And...**Keep the rate up!**

Contest News

Results

IARU HF Championship

GM0ECO.....953 x 89 237,541 SO
KI3L.....312 x 28 24,304 SO
KE5FI.....285 x 31 22,847 SO
W5WMU.....1606 x 91 418,782 MO
K5XI (K5RC,K7GM)...1543 x 107 498,085 MO
N5EA (KE4GY,K5GN,N5BA,W5ASP,W5QZ)
998 x 92 274,528 MO

Aug '91 NAQP CW

TDXS #1 (KI3L,K5GA,W5ASP,K5RC,K5LZO) 6th
TDXS #2 (AA5NK,NZ5I) 11TH

KI3L 387 Q x 135 M - 52K
K5GA 293 Q x 110 M - 32k
W5ASP 300 Q x 105 M - 32k
K5RC 263 Q x 102 M - 27k
K5LZO 228 Q x 78 M - 18k
AA5NK 179 Q x 81 M - 14K
NZ5I 178 Q x 68 M - 12K

Aug '91 NAQP SSB

TDXS #1 (KI3L,NZ5I,N5DC,AK5B,K5RC) #4
TDXS #2 (K5WA,AA5NK) #6

KI3L.....428 Q x 126 M - 54K
W5ASP.....453 Q x 103 M - 47K
K5WA.....327 Q x 114 M - 37K
AA5NK.....254 Q x 103 M - 26K
NZ5I.....251 Q x 78 M - 20K
N5DC.....174 Q x 63 M - 11K
K5GN.....139 Q x 74 M - 10K
WA9VLI...173 Q x 56 M - 10K
AK5B.....120 Q x 59 M - 7K
K5RC.....89 Q x 45 M - 4K

Sep. '91 NA Sprint CW

TDXS#1 (K5GN,K5GA,KI3L,W5ASP,KNM5H,NZ5I) 8TH

K5GN.....282 Q x 47 M - 13K
K5GA.....285 Q x 46 M - 13K
KI3L.....214 Q x 37 M - 8K
W5ASP.....195 Q x 39 M - 8K
NZ5I.....140 Q x 33 M - 5K

Sep. '91 NA Sprint SSB

TDXS #1 (K5GA,KI3L,K5GN,NZ5I,KN5H) 5TH

NR5M.....286 Q x 50 M - 14K
K5GA.....283 Q x 49 M - 14K
KI3L.....251 Q x 50 M - 13K
K5GN.....104 Q x 32 M - 3K
NZ5I.....61 Q x 28 M - 2k

Claimed Scores

ARRL 10 Meter

GM0ECO...1357 Q x 136 M - 369K SO/Phone

Jan. '92 NAQP CW

W5ASP.....342 x 114
K5RC.....263 x 137
K5GA.....130 x 80
KI3L.....130 x 66

Feb. '92 NA Sprint CW

K5GN.....350 x 49
K5GA.....310 x 43
K5RC.....268 x 48
AD5Q.....277 x 44
W5ASP.....205 x 43
AC5K.....209 x 40
KV6O/5.....199 x 38
NZ5I.....101 x 30

ARRL 160M CW - K5DX.....327 Q x 75 M - 51,750

ARRL SS CW - K5DX.....217 Q x 65 M - 28,212

Due Dates

(Contest Logs must be postmarked by the dates listed...Get Your Logs In!)

February 10.....North American QSO Party - CW
February 17.....North American QSO Party - SSB
March 02.....North American Sprint - CW
March 09.....North American Sprint - SSB

NCJ NA QSO PARTY

Once again TDXS teams were well represented in last month's QSO Party. And the results indicate that we continue to be a force to be reckoned with. Here are the claimed scores.

TDXS Team #1

K5GA.....500 x 170 = 85,000
 K5RC.....570 x 180 = 102,600
 K13L/5.....475 x 170 = 80,750
 KE5FI.....466 x 80 = 37,280
 W5ASP.....771 x 171 = 131,070

TOTAL 436,700

TDXS Team #2

AK5B.....254 x 104 = 26,416
 K5DX.....452 x 165 = 74,500
 KC5CP.....160 x 105 = 16,800
 N5DU.....125 x 40 = 5,000
 N5RP.....305 x 112 = 34,160

TOTAL 156,876

TDXS Team #3

N5DC.....135 x 47 = 6,345
 NZ5I125 x 30 = 3,750

Repeater Report

de. Jim, N5DC

It's time to bring everyone up to date on the status of our repeater, i.e. where we are now and what our plans are for the future. As I'm sure all of you know we are rather badly shadowed to the southeast and to the west from our present location. To alleviate this unpleasant situation I have been looking into another site that I believe will give us more uniform coverage in all directions. However, it may reduce our fringe area coverage as the site is about 100 feet lower in elevation. We will just have to see how it works out.

To begin with, we will "split-up" the G.E. and the Spectrum and create two stand alone repeater systems. To do this will require the acquisition of another duplexer. Believe me, those puppies are not cheap! However, I have located a used unit in good condition at a very reasonable price and will ask the club to agree to purchasing it.

Bill, K5GA, presently has the Spectrum in his shop and intends to install a first class power supply. That and a bit of tweaking should put the Spectrum back on it's feet. The G.E. needs to be gone over again, and it's time to go to more substantial antenna. Cleaning up the G.E. and installing the new antenna will be the first step. Fortunately, we already have a quality antenna on hand. Next we will move the G.E. to the new site where it be become the "primary" repeater. The Spectrum will then become the "alternate" repeater at the present site. These steps should go a long way towards reducing the downside of our present set-up and add to the flexibility of the TDXS repeater.

On another front, how would you like to hear packet DX spots being put out on a voice repeater? It is possible and in fact being done with good success. Remember the primary purpose of the TDXS repeater was, until recently, to handle DX spots. The advent of the PacketCluster system has pretty much

sidelined this task. However, not everyone has, or will, hop on the packet bandwagon. There are some good arguments for having both. Think about it and let me know how you feel.

Brent, NT5D is planning to relocate his 440 repeater to one of the TDXS sites and making it available for general TDXS use. Perhaps this is an alternative for the "voice" packet idea. I'll be back with you with more exciting details in the next issue...stay tuned!

Look What Happened at the Callbook!

(In the December 1991 issue of the Bullshead there appeared an article by Fred Laun, K3ZO regrading the Callbook. In the January 1992 newsletter of the Potomac Valley Radio Club Fred had some further comments that I'm sure he would want passed on to our readers..ed)

...I owe the Callbook an apology for a previous column I wrote in this Newsletter. The 1992 version has been updated considerably, with plenty of direct addresses, for example, for the BV's and JT's. The info from Thailand that my friend HS1ABU, Editor of Thailand's CQ Magazine, sent in, was used. With reference to one of my specific complaints, the YD's have been put back in this issue, so I can finally pass my 1989 DX version on to some deserving UA. If you're QSLing like I am, you won't go wrong by getting hold of this new issue.

Packet Racket

de Ken, KE5IV

There has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes since November in an effort to bring the Houston Node System up to speed. I know it has been frustrating at times for PacketCluster users, especially with the occurrence of "disconnects". Although the 19.2K Baud system is now in place, it is not yet finished. And, as I write this column, it is already running at 80% of capacity. Believe it! There have been firmware problems, buffer overruns, and various and sundry bugs. I am sure I will find a reason for them, and have an explanation at a later date.

For now I want to try to give you a picture of the updates being made to the Node system using the accompanying diagram. A great deal of care is being taken to see that some of the mistakes made in the past several years will not be duplicated this time. Starting at the top, i.e. Level 1, there is a UHF backbone running at 19.2K baud. You'll see the various system Nodes and two (2) WORLI BBS systems. The two BBS systems are there to forward all mail traffic in and out of Houston system. Neither allow individual user access. Access to the KE5IV PacketCluster will be through the HMPSTD node regardless of the port, with the exception of the locals on 144.910 MHz. Later on provisions may be added on to allow these users access to the rest of the system. The Nodes and BBS systems will have hard encoded callsign lists.

Level 2 will be running 9600 baud with the Regional BBS systems, Non-TCAPS Nodes, PacketCluster, and Other Services. Each of these must meet the technical criteria of the TCAPS Technical Committee under a formal written agreement. Part of the reason for the 9600 Baud UHF port is to keep local BBS traffic off of the 19.2K backbone and yet allow the other services a higher speed link within the system.

Level 3 will provide be something new. This will be a 9600 baud User Port on VHF. Most of the modern TNCs now support a plug-in board for such a port. Along with Non-TCAPS Nodes and Other Services users this should provide an im-

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provement resulting from increased thrupt running at 9600 baud.

Level 4 is just where we have been operating the last four years, and it still does have it's place. Some of the users can't run out and buy the latest technology, as it changes daily. (This is know in computer jargon as keeping things "backward compatible"...ed)

With regard to the Level 3 and Level 4 Nodes, it was decided by the Technical Committee of TCAPS to reduce the height of the antennas used by those Nodes to about 100 feet. The result would be to break up the region into cells much like mobile telephone on VHF. During the Spring and Fall inversion season, this will help with maintain system thrupt and eliminate the occurence of Node hopping.

As you might guess from looking at the system layout and all that is involved, there has already been a substantial cash outlay on part of several people. In addition there have been thousands of man hours spent in writing the software, creating firmware, cold-starting or warm-starting the various Node's after each system crash, then trying to find out exactly why the system crashed and tuning up the various radios. Most of this has happened since the Houston ham convention back in November. That's a lot of work in a short span of time.

Keep this in mind and when you see or hear Bob, K5VMX; Brad, KASCDJ; Gerry, N5JXS; Hans, N5PBC; Phil, WA4IMZ; Walter, WD5GAZ; or Herb, WD5EFC be sure to take the time to thank them. While most of you are sleeping they are working on the equipment to improve the Houston System that so many of use daily. It just makes good sense that if you use now or plan to use the Houston packet radio system, you should support T.C.A.P.S. The dues are just \$12 a year. If you can send more **DO IT!** The address is: **Texas Coastal Area Packet Society, P.O. Box 3109, Spring, TX 77383-3109.** Hope to see you at the February meeting.

The LIST of DXCC Counties

1S1	SPRATLEY	KP1	NAVASSA
3B6,7	AGALEGA, ST. BRANDON	PP0-PY0	PETER & PAUL
3C0	PAGALU	S0	WESTERN SAHARA
3V	TUNISIA	S2	BANGLADESH
3W, XV	VIETNAM	SV/A	MT. ATHOS
3X	GUINEA	T33	BANABA
3Y	BOUVET	T5	SOMALIA
3Y	PETER I	TN	CONGO
4J1	MV ISLAND	TT	CHAD
5A	LYBIA	TY	BENIN
5R	MALAGASY	VK0	HEARD
5U	NIGER	VK9	MELLISH
5X	UGANDA	VP8	S. GEORGIA
70	YEMEN	VP8	S. ORKNEY
9G	GHANA	VP8	S. SANDWICH
9U	BURUNDI	VU	ANDAMAN, NICOBAR
A5	BHUTAN	VU	LACCADIVE
C9	MOZAMBIQUE	XF4	REVILLA GIGEDO
CE0	SAN FELIX	XU	KAMPUCHEA
D2	ANGOLA	XW	LAOS
EP	IRAN	XZ	MYANMAR (BURMA)
ET	ETHIOPIA	YA	AFGHANISTAN
FO	CLIPPERTON	YI	IRAQ
FR/G	GLORIOSO	YK	SYRIA
FR/J	JUAN DE NOVA	YV0	AVES ISL.
FR/T	TROMBLIN	ZA	ALBANIA
PT8W	CROZET	ZK1	N. COOK
KP5	DESECHEO	ZK2	NIUE
PT8X	KERGUELEN	ZK3	TOKELAU
PT8Z	AMSTERDAM, ST. PAUL	ZL8	KERMADEC
HK0	MALPELO	ZL9	AUCKLAND
KH1	BAKER, HOWLAND	ZS1	PENGUIN ISL.
KH5	PALMYRA, JARVIS	ZS8	MARION ISL.
7Q	MALAWI	ZS9	WALVIS BAY
6A	UNITE ARAB EMIRATES	VP8	S. SHERTLANDS

HOUSTON AREA PACKET NETWORK

