

5111 Forest Haven Drive  
Houston, Texas 77066  
20 October, 1974

Dear TDXS Member:

Contest season is approaching rapidly, and I would like to urge each of you to participate to the fullest extent in this season's activities. As usual, the two major contests in the remainder of 1974 in which club participation is recognized are the CQ World Wide DX Contest [phone and cw sections] and the ARRL Sweepstakes Contest [phone and cw sections]. The dates for these events are as follows:

CQ WW DX CONTEST - PHONE	26-27 October, 1974
log submission date	1 December, 1974
ARRL SWEEPSTAKES - CW	2-3 November, 1974
log submission date	17 December, 1974
ARRL SWEEPSTAKES - PHONE	16-17 November, 1974
log submission date	17 December, 1974
CQ WW DX CONTEST - CW	23-24 November, 1974
log submission date	15 January, 1974

Rules and regulations for the CQ WW DX Contest are enclosed. Rules and regulations for the ARRL Sweepstakes Competition appear on page 59 of October QST, which each club member receives since TDXS has 100% ARRL membership. There are several significant changes in the SS rules regarding the acceptability of multi-operator entries for club awards. In particular at least 66% of the operators at any multi-operator effort must be TDXS members for the score to be included with the TDXS listing. Please read these rules carefully before making your final contest activity plans.

Last year, as many of you may recall, I set up QSO total goals for various stations for each of these events. This year, I have chosen not to repeat the goals but to urge each of you to participate to the fullest of your capabilities, both in amount of time spent in the activities and in upgrading station equipment, antennas, etc. to achieve a higher performance level. Any amount of participation, no matter how small, is of help to the club. The clubs in the top ten of both these events all achieve their high scores through the participation of a large number of operators who submit small and medium scores as well as those few who submit large scores. I would hope that the TDXS will have the benefit of your participation in this year's contests, and that together we can produce a club score we are all proud of.

In the past there has been some hesitancy on the part of club members to participate fully in these contests [and the ARRL DX Contest] when there is less than an even chance that the effort would produce a first place section certificate. In several cases this attitude has been taken to an extreme, and logs were not submitted even after a substantial effort was put forth to produce many contacts. This kind of attitude certainly does not help the club score, and in one case caused the denial of an ARRL club certificate because there was one less than the required number of log submittals [three single operator stations per mode are required for club certificates in the ARRL contests]. Another bad habit which we all would like to see eliminated is that of making less than 200 contacts in an ARRL contest so that a cross check sheet does not have to be prepared. It only takes a small effort to prepare the proper paperwork to accompany log submittals for small to medium QSO totals, and I would hope that the club means enough to each member to expend that effort.

While on the subject of bad habits, there are two more which need to be discussed. Both of these problems are characteristic especially of the owners of stations capable of making high scores in these contests. First, we all like to receive contest certificates, and that seems to be the overriding drive in many cases. I view my job as contest chairman to convince you otherwise and to work for a large club score. Consequently, I would like to urge all "high score capability" stations to operate all bands in the CQ WW DX Contest. It is a tremendous waste for a station capable of making well over 1000 QSO's on all bands to be operated single band 80 meters, for instance, and produce a total of 100-200 contacts. Also, some of us are not particularly fond of one mode or the other and tend to operate only in the phone or cw sections. Again, this is wasteful of station capability. Invite a guest over to put your station on the air in the contest on the mode you don't care for. The second major problem arises when the operator of a "high score capability" station spends his contest time at another station in a multi-operator effort. That is fine for the multi-op effort, but leaves an excellent station turned off when it could be producing 1000 QSO's or more. In summary lets all work to produce the maximum score from the available club equipment.

In my opinion the following stations should be manned [single or multi-operator] on all bands during both modes of the CQ WW DX Contest: K5LWL/YV6, K5PFL, K5RLW, W5NMA, W5RTQ, W5WMU, WA5LES, and WA5ZNY. These stations are all capable of well over 1000 QSO's in any major contest. At any given time, any one of these stations is capable of winning a section certificate, or perhaps placing in the top ten [propagation dependent]. K5LWL/YV6 is capable of making top single operator world-wide.

The following stations are capable of adding significantly to the club score with small to medium QSO totals: K5DEG, K5LZJ, K5LZO, K5PFE, K5SOR, W5SBX, WA5UHT, WA5WQI, WB5CKM and WB5HOD. W5SBX would perhaps fit in the first list if he would get off his rear end and acquire some decent equipment. WA5WQF would also move up to the first list if he would beg, borrow or steal a KW final for the contest. WA5WCT, one of the finest contest operators in the club, needs only to sit down in front of a good station to crank out a thousand QSO's or more [good multi-op material for you guys looking for assistance]. K5AAD certainly fits in the last category.

Please do the best you can in these events. Take careful note of the log due dates and mail your completed logs to the club secretary so that he can forward the club logs as a group along with the required secretary's letter. I have included CQ WW DX Contest logs and zone check lists with this letter to selected members [those in the first group listed above are expected to obtain their own log sheets]. If you do not have any summary sheets or ARRL SS logs, the club secretary can provide them for you. In any case don't use paperwork as an excuse not to enter the contests. The club secretary has volunteered to provide whatever paperwork assistance you require.

Good luck in the contests and see you in the pile-ups.

73,



Jan Carman, W5SBX  
Contest Chairman  
Texas DX Society