



founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET



Official News Bulletin of the
Texas DX Society
An ARRL Affiliated Club

September 1986
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Officers and Contributors

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|----------------|----------------------|-------|---------------|
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| V. President: | N5JJ | Dave Busick | Bullsheat Editor: | K2TNO | Bill Schrader |
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| Contest Chairman: | KN5H | Steve Nace | Outgoing QSL's: | N5AF | Sam Neal |
| DX Chairman: | WA9VLI | Steve Smothers | Bullsheat Publisher: | NR5M | G. DeMontrond |

Columns by: KE5IV, K2TNO, WA9VLI, KN5H, W5ASP, KE5FI

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, September 12, at the Bellaire Hospital Professional Building, 6550 Maple Ridge at 7:30 p.m. The board meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. The program will feature videotape highlights of the TDXS Contest and DX Forum presented at the ARRL National Convention. Items on the meeting agenda include (1) Nominations for TDXS officers for 1987; (2) plans for the Houston Ham Convention; (3) annual dues rates.

ATTENTION FULL MEMBERS

Have you attended enough meetings in 1986 to sustain your status? Time is running short. See you there - ed.

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.

WEEKLY DX & CONTEST NET- Just a reminder that each Tuesday night at 9:00 p.m. the Club sponsors a net on 147.96/.36. Participation by non-members as well as members is welcomed. The purpose of the net is to facilitate the exchange of DX, contest, and Club information within the amateur community. Your active support of this activity is encouraged.

NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS
(de Ken, KE5IV)

Here is a reprint of the TDXS rules regarding elections. The Board will propose a slate of candidates who have agreed to run. But it's up to you to propose opponents, if you so desire. Please give these rules some careful thought, and contact anyone you wish to nominate in advance to be sure they are willing to run.

ARTICLE VI

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Written nominations for each of the four elected officers shall be made to the club Secretary. The nomination period shall begin with the regular September meeting and end with the regular October meeting. Additional nominations shall be accepted from the floor during the regular October meeting.

Section 2. Election of officers shall be by secret ballot at the regular November meeting. Notice of the election shall be mailed to each regular club member by November 1. Absentee ballots shall be accepted by the club Secretary until twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. The Executive Committee members who are in attendance shall count ballots. The election results shall be decided by a simple majority vote for each office.

Section 3. A runoff election shall be held between the top two candidates for any office in which no candidate receives a majority vote.

Section 4. The elected officers shall be introduced at the regular December meeting and shall officially take office on January 1.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER
(de Joe, W5ASP)

The next six weeks promise to be quite a busy period for TDXS members. K2TNO's receiver clinic is set for the afternoon of Saturday the 6th and should prove to be an interesting comparison of the various rice boxes we all depend upon so much. Even if you don't bring in your patient for Dr. Bill's examination, drop by for the pool and suds session. It should be loads of fun. (It was! - Details next month on results -ed.)

The September meeting marks the opening of nominations for next year's officers. Although the Board of Directors will submit a slate of nominees to kick things off, it is really the job of the entire membership to help put together the final list of candidates. Give it some thought, check with your nominee and then give his or her name to KE5IV (or be at the October meeting to make the nomination from the floor).

Then there are a couple of interesting contest weekends coming up...NCJ CW and Phone along with a double shot of CAN-AM contesting the weekend of the 19th. KN5H has the teams for the sprints listed elsewhere in this issue...be sure you're ready to roll at the appropriate time and that your logs get in the mail once the contest is finished!

There will be a "Contest Clinic" during the phone portion of the CAN-AM under the capable direction of K5GN. We will put the station at the Lumberyard on the air and allow anyone interested to operate under actual contest conditions with the advice and guidance of an experienced contester at his side. If you've never had an opportunity to do this before, let me assure you it is the most valuable time you'll ever spend at the rig. If you are interested, let Dave know and give him an idea of which you prefer, Friday night or Saturday.

The 9th Annual Houston Com-Vention is set for October 3-5. As always, TDXS will be expected to play a major role in the activities. The Contest and DX Forum is being organized by W9AGH and will provide a full program of events. Though the traditional TDXS Hospitality Suite is somewhat "iffy" at the moment, I think KD5SP, AK5B and K5YCP can pull it off...they'll need help, so offer some of your time if you can.

The TDXS raffle is in the capable hands of NR5M and his chief salesman (I don't take "NO" for an answer!), WI5P. Just be sure to tell all of our "friends" that now is the time to support the good works of TDXS, especially the repeater, by their generous purchase of tickets!

Ken, NZ5I, will mastermind the Flea Market table. N5WW and several others have offered to donate a lot of very valuable "goodies"; N5RP has agreed to furnish a collection point and to transport the items to the market place at the appropriate time. Now all we need is some more help to run the actual sales effort...let Ken know if you're willing to give it a shot.

The TDXS Meeting on October 10th (next month, not this month! - ed.) will be the long awaited visit to KODA's transmitter site under the direction N5WW. Make your plans now to be that the site an hour or so earlier than the usual meeting time...we'll have a gathering afterwards at an appropriate watering hole to take care of thirst, hunger and maybe a bit of business. Details will be in the next issue of this rag.

CONTEST CORNER

(de KN5H)

It appears the summer doldrums are coming to an end. Lots of contests are just around the corner during the upcoming months. Before we get to the ego massaging portion of this month's dissertation, first some talk of upcoming events.

The September Sprints are scheduled for the second and third weekends of the month. More specifically, CW is Saturday the 13th and SSB the week following (the 14th/21st Zulu). The contests begin at 0000Z or 7 P.M. local. In the past the club has done an outstanding job in the club competitions. Lets try to continue on with this tradition.

The number 1 CW team will consist of : N5JJ, K5LZO, K5GN, K2TNO, N5DU, KG5U, K5TU, KN5H, K5WA and K5MA.

The number 1 SSB team will consist of NR5M, K5LZO, K5GN, KD5SP, KE5IV, K5RVK, NT5D, NM5M, NZ5I and KN5H.

The second teams for each contest will consist of anyone who thinks they will be able to get on the air and try to work a few. You need not be an expert or have a gigantic station to make a few points and help out in the club competition. So far I have the following stations signed up for the number 2 CW team, NM5M, NT5D, NZ5I, K5DX, NR5M, N5IVF and W9AGH.

The number 2 SSB team consists of: K5GN, K5DX, N5JJ, N5DU, W9AGH, N5IVF, K5TU, K5WA, K5MA (still one short).

If you wish to operate on the first CW team, remember that you have to better another's previous score to bump him off the list. The SSB team is different in that there does not seem to be as much competition to obtain a number 1 team slot. As a matter of fact, if you wish to be on the number 1 SSB team, let me know. KN5H will gladly switch to the number 2 team.

Now for the part that some of you are waiting for. Lots of contest results have been published in the last month or so. They appear in their entirety below. However, there are some which require special mention.

Congrats to the CW Sprinters who did an excellent job last February with a number 2 finish in the club competition. Now if we could get 20 meters to stay open for about an hour this September...number one in the club and number 6 in the U.S.A. was N5JJ. Not far behind was K5LZO (No. 7 U.S.A.) and K5GN (No. 8 U.S.A.). Thanks fellas.

The always popular CQ WW SSB DX Contest of 1985 is official and congrats are in order for the NR5M crew on their Multi/Multi effort. K5RVK showed everyone who was number one for the fifth district when operating Multi/Single and K5DX rounded out the scores with an excellent Single-op performance. Way to go guys.

The CW Armadillo/County Hunters contest was again dominated by the TDXS. K5LZO, K5GN, KB5FU, K5RVK, AA5Y and W5WMU kept everyone busy with over 8000 mobile QSO's from over 300 counties in all. N5JJ certainly fulfilled anyone's requirement for Armadillo Co. with an outstanding effort from that location.

Our final congrats go out to Galen Graff, KB5FU, who was recently successful in working all counties No. 512, and staying married while doing so.

SOME RESULTS . . .

1985 CQ WW DX SSB CONTEST

| | | | |
|-------|------|-----------------|----------------|
| K5DX | 780K | Number 1 Texas | Single Op |
| KE5FI | 470K | Number 4 U.S.A. | Single band 15 |
| K5RVK | 493K | Number 1 W5 | Multi-Single |
| NR5M | | Number 4 U.S.A. | Multi-Multi |

1986 CW SPRING SPRINT

| | |
|--------|----------------|
| K5JJ | 9840 #6 U.S.A. |
| K5LZO | 9633 #7 U.S.A. |
| K5GN | 9287 #8 U.S.A. |
| K2TNO | 8460 |
| N5DU | 8436 |
| KG5U | 7140 |
| K5TU | 6996 |
| K5WA | 6800 |
| KN5H | 5270 |
| K5MA/1 | 4794 |
| NT5D | 3584 |
| N25I | 616 |

1985 ALL-ASIAN CW

| | | |
|-------|------|-----------------------|
| NR5M | 135K | No. 1 U.S.A. Multi-op |
| K5LZO | 100K | No. 3 U.S.A. Multi-op |

SOME RUMORS . . .

1986 CQ WW WPX SSB CONTEST

| | | |
|--------|----------|--------------------------|
| NT5D | 5.2M | No. 2 U.S.A. Multi-Multi |
| NB1H | 3.7M | No. 2 U.S.A. Single-op |
| (who?) | K5ZD op. | |

1986 ALL-ASIAN CW

| | | |
|------|-----------|----------|
| NR5M | 700 QSO's | Multi-op |
|------|-----------|----------|

COMING ATTRACTIONS . . .

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| September 13-14 | NCJ CW Sprint |
| September 13-14 | EU SSB Contest |
| September 13-14 | ARRL VHF QSO Party |
| September 13-14 | Washington QSO Party |
| September 20-21 | NCJ SSB Sprint |
| September 20-21 | Can-Am Contest |
| September 20-21 | Scandinavian CW DX Contest |
| September 27-28 | Scandinavian SSB DX Contest |
| September 27-28 | Calif. QSO Party |
| September 27-28 | Delaware QSO Party |
| October 4-5 | IRSA World championship |
| October 4-5 | VK/ZL/Oceania SSB DX Contest |
| October 11-12 | VK/ZL/Oceania CW DX Contest |
| October 11-12 | Penn. QSO Party |
| October 11-12 | Ill. QSO Party |
| October 11-12 | RSGB 21/28 mhz SSB DX Contest |

FINALLY . . .

Your contest chairman would like to thank all of the fellows who sent in their Sprint logs last February. This was the first time in Sprint history that our team had all 10 entrants submit their logs!

I was informed that I neglected to mention another club member's recent contest success. I am speaking of Mr. Randy Thompson, K5ZD/1, who finished number 1 in the universe during the SSB Armadillo Run/CHC with a score in the area of 16 Million points.

CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY
(de K2TNO)

Word reaches us from WA6VEF that the Northern Cal Contest Club is sponsoring the Calif. QSO Party this year, and is OFFERING WINE PRIZES! The top 20 non-W6 will each receive a bottle of NCCC Private Reserve! Interested? Dates are 1600Z 9/27 to 2200Z 9/28, all HF bands CW and SSB. Exchange QSO number + your state. Try CW on the half-hour (QRG: 1805 and 50 KHZ up from the bottom for CW; SSB: 1815-3850-7230-14250-21300-28500). Try 160M at 0500Z, 80M at 0700Z.

These special wines are bound to be collector's items. Each grape was hand-picked and squeezed of its juice by inserting it into the dash contacts of a Bencher paddle. The juice was stored in the bait tanks for the Clipperton DXpedition for two weeks at 38°C (a process known as "reeking" - ed.) Then the fermented juice was filtered through a 4,000 card stack of JA QSL's and placed in the sawed-off tops of used 3-500Z's. These were rotated daily from three months by a team of monks from Mt. Athos before bottling. The bottles were stored on their sides in the shade of Alpha 77's awaiting the contest results.

OPERATING PORTABLE FROM VP9
(de Bill, K2TNO)

August is a cruel month in Houston - antenna towers sear your hands at the touch, the mosquitos fly away with your wrenches and the sweat stings your eyes. What to do? We took a vacation to Bermuda, and I dragged along a little FT-757. What a ball!

Bermuda is a subtropical island lying about 750 miles off the coast of the Carolinas smack-dab in the middle of the Gulf Stream. It's your standard vacation paradise - great food, nice people, beautiful flowers and gin-clear waters. Furthermore, it's rather rare on CW, so it was fun to see what could be done from my hotel room balcony. Licensing was a snap-no fee; I did it by mail but the locals say a 5-minute visit to the appropriate office gets you set.

I brought along my portable dipole, made from a pair of Hustler resonators and some 1/2 inch aluminum rod. On 40M the antenna is only about 12 1/2 feet long, and I stuck it out from the balcony on a piece of 3/4" aluminum tubing borrowed from VP9HL. The room faced roughly southwest; I was very loud in W/VE but the hotel blocked EU except for the big guns over there.

Operation was scattered over August 14-19, for a total of 17 hours. Most of the time I was able to grab 14025.1, and had some excellent QSO rates there. JA's are into VP9 on 20 meters in the mornings, about 11Z to 12Z, and I managed some good JA runs also. Nobody at the hotel (Southampton Princess) ever complained about my antenna - I operated off and on at all times of the day or night on both 20 and 40.

The final tally was 600 QSO's; 530 on 20; 70 on 40. Sad to say, no TDXS locals made the list despite strong signals out of W5 and one QSO with W5RK. I guess 20 CW is a good place to hide from you guys! I worked Jan, K5MA and Richard, K5NA but no other alumni.

This was my first solo DXpedition, and was a lot of fun. The Yaesu FT-757 isn't much of a receiver for serious DX work, but the size and built-in features were ideal for my purposes. I used the switching power supply - it works perfectly and never heated up. It certainly is lighter than the heavy-duty supplies. I'd recommend the switching supply to anyone planning portable work.

We did a lot of sightseeing and swimming, so Phyllis and Meg and I were only in the room occasionally. The local VP9's were very friendly and helpful on their repeater also.

By the way, I drew up a floor plan of the hotel showing its layout, directions and room numbers. Plan a trip to VP9? Give me the word and I'll tell you what room to request!

DX REPORT
(de Steve, WA9VLI)

MARION ISLAND-----ZS2MI appeared without warning on September 1, about 1400 Z and 14221. According to his manager, ZS1SL, the operation is not valid since the operator only has a VHF ticket. No word on when a legit operation may take place.

ALBANIA-----New rumors circulating again about a possible 9 day attempt by OK2AOP starting September 23rd. Hope abounds!

EGYPT-----SUIER, still a regular on 14227 about 2000 UTC. QSL to the callbook address.

MONACO-----3A6F, "Claude" 14195 at 1900Z, and 14197 at 2058 Z. Light copy here.

U.N. VIENNA-----4UIVIC, 14212 at 2130 Z, op John. Their DXCC status is still unresolved, but new legal opinions and documentation are being submitted to the ARRL DX desk.

AMERICAN SAMOA-----AH8A, 14309 at 0330Z. QSL to K6EDV.

SAN MARINO-----T77C, "Tony" still quite active. Check 14209 about 2030 UTC.

SOLOMON ISLANDS-----H44RO, "John" 14309 at 014 UTC.

LEBANON-----OD5SM, "Sammy" 14183 at 1944 UTC.

KAMPUCHEA-----XU1SS checks in with DU9RG on 14180 almost daily 1200-1300 Z. QSL to JAIHQG.

MONGOLIA-----JT1BG is also likely to show up occasionally on the above sked. Propagation is also likely to be better for the Gulf Coast, versus the West Coast sked at 1500-1600Z on 14227 Friday and Saturday.

SRI LANKA-----4S7ZH, "Zain" 14176 at 0229Z. Very light copy in Houston. He's only running about 100 Watts. QSL direct.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS-----HC1MD/HC8 has departed. Rich had severe power line noise and only made about 1000 Q's, and half were RTTY. QSL to K8LJG.

OMAN-----A4XKB, "Abdula" 14209 at 0327 UTC. QSL to P.O. Box 885, Muscat, Oman. Also, A4XKC "Idris" 14215 at 0300 UTC. QSL to KAIYN.

NEPAL-----9N1MM, 14208 at 0100Z and 14160 at 0200Z.

BELIZE-----V31LL, "Russ" 14228 at 0140 UTC.

MINAMI TORISHIMA-----7J1ACH, has been reported 10 - 80 meters. Even on 30 meter CW! Check 10106 at 0950Z and for rubber-lippers Rick often checks into the 14227 net at 0130Z. He should be there for about a year.

MACQUARIE ISLAND-----VKOSJ. You can find "Sojo" on 14270 most Sundays UTC time 0300, for either SSB or CW contacts. A list may be taken at 0130Z to avoid confusion.

ASCENSION ISLAND-----ZD8SW is now on station for the next 2 years. Look for Stuart on 14209 at 2125Z.

ICELAND-----The recent TF7PS operation was from Westman Island. QSL to: THOR, P.O. Box 90, HVERAGERDI, 810 ICELAND.

NEW CALEDONIA-----Several stations are sporting a new FK25 prefix, in celebration of their radio association's 25 year anniversary.

MOLDAVIAN S.S.R.-----UO5OY, "Hank" 14223 at 2210 UTC.

EASTERN & WESTERN CAROLINES-KC6DM, and KC6HM. Has anyone received a card yet from this rare pair???????

I'd like to get reports from you low banders before deadline, now that we're going into the fall season. I'm sure all the goodies aren't just on 20 meters!

Just a reminder folks, when you hear an elusive one, use the "DX need list" that W5DOZ puts so much time and effort into. Chances are that some club member desperately needs something you may consider only "semi-rare." Get on the phone, as well as 147.36!

PROPAGATION FORECAST
(de Chuck, KE5FI)

In my opinion June, 1986 may well have been the bottom or end of cycle 21. Therefore, I believe we have already started cycle 22. The "smoothed sunspot number", where 13 months are averaged together, may point to a different month but I think the values for each month standing alone will be lowest in June, 1986. You say, "Strong language, Mr. Propagation!" Well you are right. Most of the other forecasters say the bottom will not arrive until a year or more from now. (See fig. 1 from NOAA, August 26, 1986.)

I say fooley! June, 1986 had a monthly average sunspot number of 0.8 which was the lowest since June, 1954's 0.2. value. The official low, based upon smoothed numbers, of cycle 20 was in June, 1976. NOAA has mechanically counted forward 11 years to the month from June, 1976 and predicts June, 1987. However, if one simply averages the last two cycles together by counting 22 years forward from June, 1954, the bottom comes out in June, 1986. Could it be that NOAA can't see the cycles for the spots?

NOAA supports its position by stating that "there have been few sunspot groups at high latitudes." Spots attributed to the "new cycle" usually appear at higher latitudes and with reverse polarity from spots in the "old cycle." These spots from the old and new cycles usually overlap each other in the transition period between the cycles. Therefore, if there have been a few spots at higher solar latitudes, the new cycle may well be months away. However, spots at high latitudes and reverse polarity have been observed as far back as 1983. A "Provisional List" of these spots published on July 1, 1986 showed 68 such sunspots, more than half of which have appeared in the first five months of 1986. Cycle 22 is expected to have a low peak and the sunspot activity to date is consistent with the beginning of such a "weak" cycle.

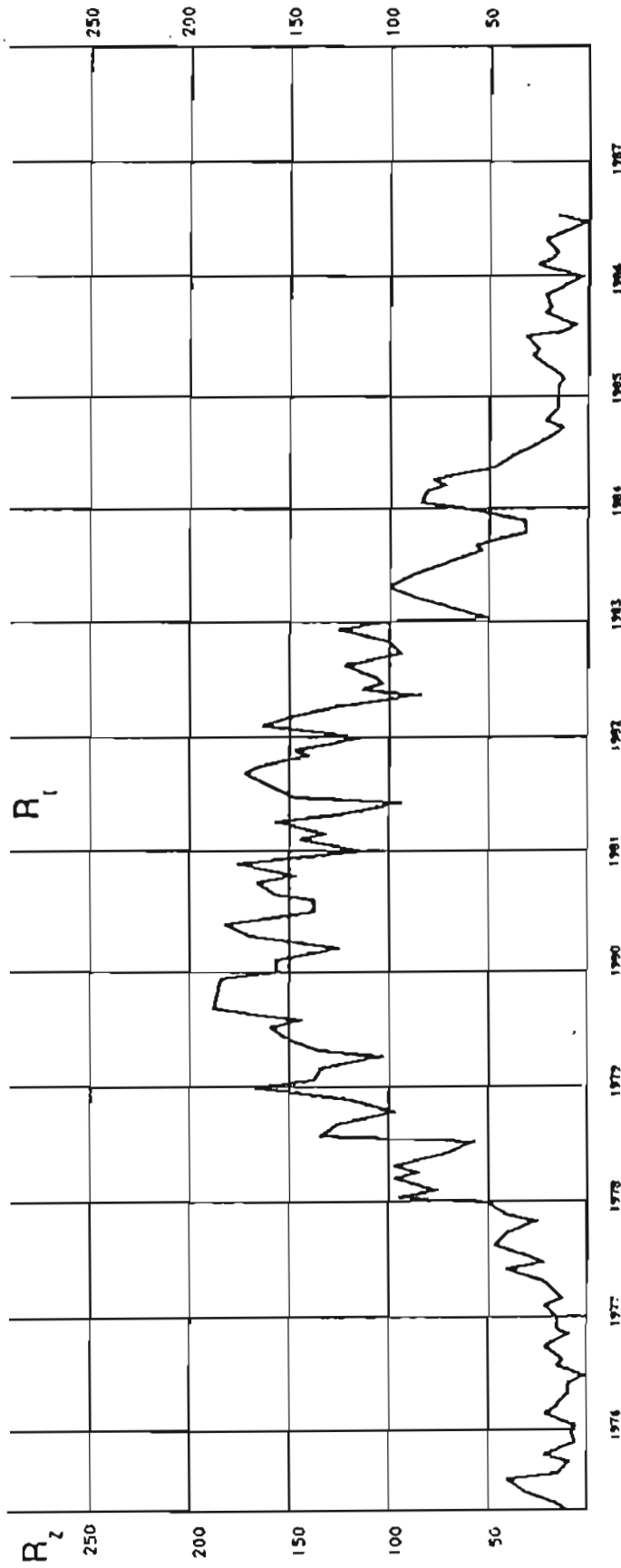
If I'm right and cycle 22 has begun, it should peak around January, 1990 with a smoothed sunspot number between 80 and 100. If so, we are in for good propagation again beginning with the contest season 1988.

The bad news is the max of cycle 22 will only be about 1/2 the peak values reached in the last cycle. The good news is, TDXS may be king for a long time to come! (Think about it.)

In September things should be lousy on: 8-10 and 15 -22
better on: 11-14

The bad news may translate to good news for our part of the country on the contest weekend of 20-21. If anyone wants the grayline stuff continued, please let me know.

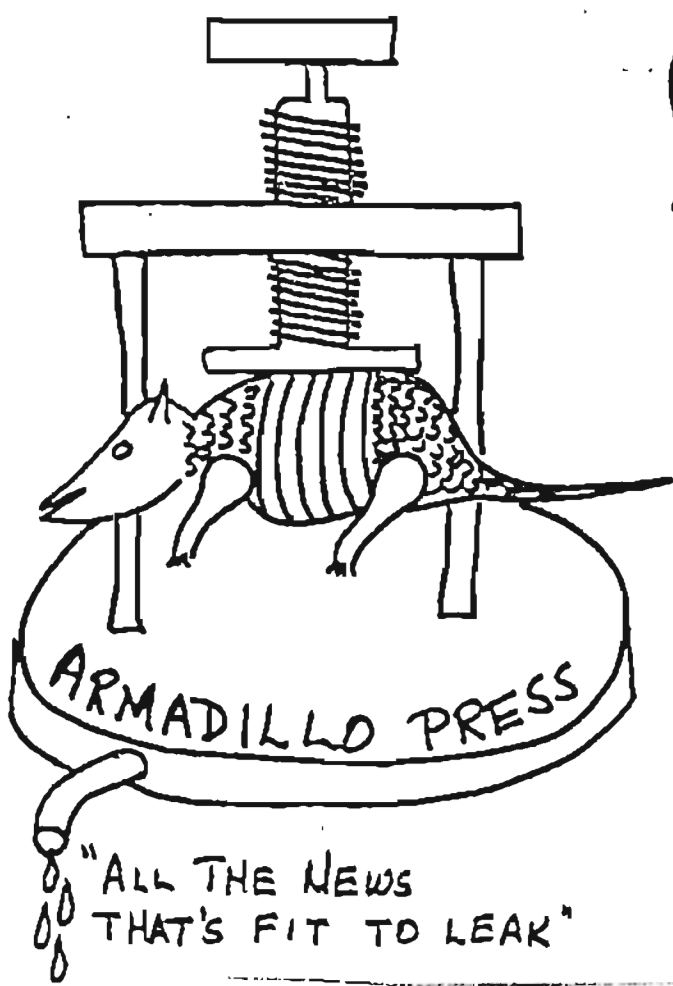
SUNSPOT CYCLE 21



Monthly Mean Sunspot Numbers

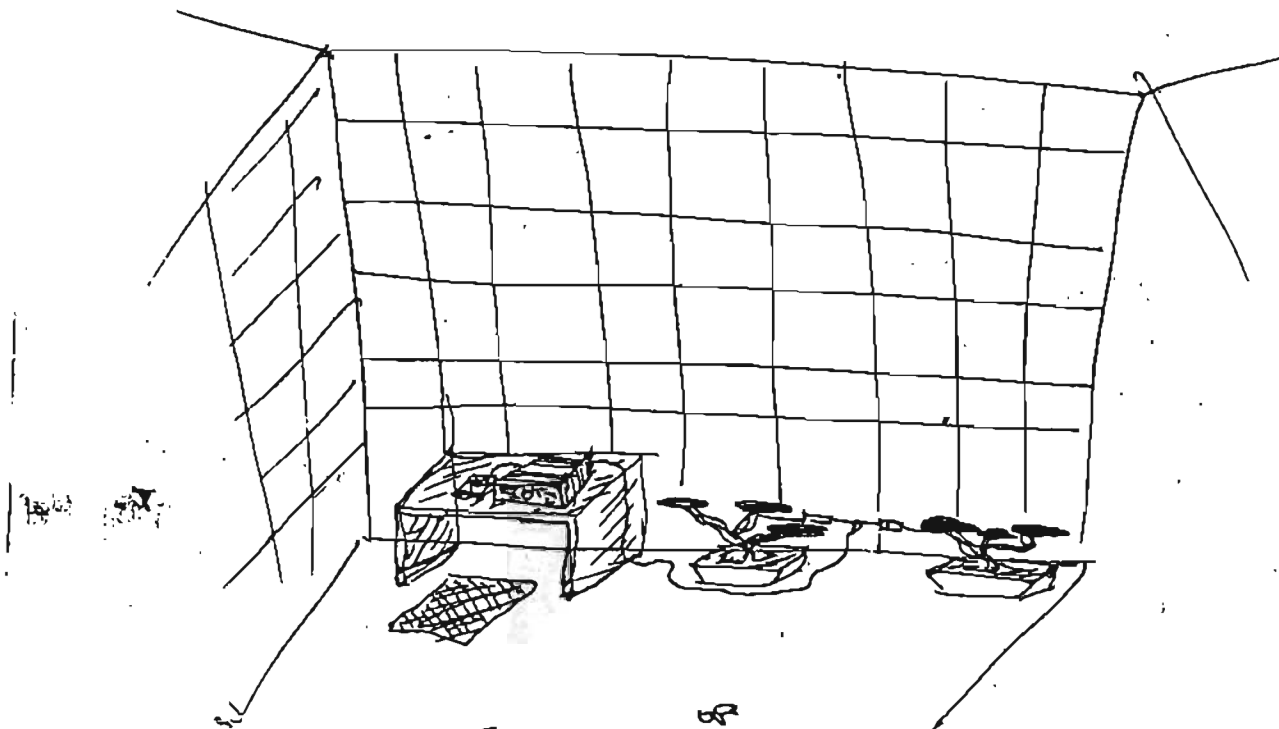
Monthly mean sunspot numbers (not smoothed) through July, 1986 show that the present solar cycle has entered its minimum phase. The June value (0.8) was the lowest since 1954. The date of the previous minimum, June, 1976, itself predicts that the coming minimum may be a year or more from now. There have been very few sunspot groups at high latitudes. An increase in their number would signal minimum was imminent.

FIG 1



PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY
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TYPICAL JA SOURCE ^{OR} FOR THOSE
'ESP' ~~CALL~~ LOGGED CALLS ON
40 CW

- K95U

SOMEWHERE IN WEST TEXAS ..



MEANWHILE, KSRVK + CREW
WERE BUSY IN S. DAKOTA ...

