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THE BULLSHEET

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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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The Prez Sez - de Jim, N5DC

The long awaited and widely acclaimed **14th Annual Houston Com-Vent'91** is upon us. **Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 8-10, 1991** will feature a fun packed festival of events for the local amateur community, much of it a result of the efforts of the TDXS and their friends.

And now, at the very last minute, we have a very, very pleasant surprise. Thanks to the initiative and perseverance of **Sid, K5XI**, we are being joined by **Martti Lane, OH2BH**. What was to be a premier event is now even more exciting with Martti's appearance for the **TDXS Contest and DX Forum**.

As President of TDXS, I want to thank each and every one of our members who has or is going to help out. It certainly makes life a easier and a lot more enjoyable when we get fired up and put out a real group effort.

Please remember to frequent the TDXS Hospitality Suite, and welcome our guests and visitors. And... **BE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR SELLING BOOTS ON, AS WE HAVE TICKETS TO SELL. BE THERE AND SELL, SELL, SELL!!!**

I need some ideas from the members as to where we should have our January banquet. There seems to be a fair amount of sentiment against going back to Brady's Landing for yet another time. I also had feedback from several folks who felt that \$25.00 a person was too steep. It should be pointed out that about \$8.00 of last year's charge went for our prizes. If we wish, the prizes could be eliminated with a corresponding reduction in cost. I personally had no problem with Brady's, and felt that the food was good. Please give me any thoughts you may have on the matter, **AFTER** the convention.

Remember, there will be short meeting in the **Hospitality Suite** at 7:30 P.M. on Friday night. We'll get a chance to meet and greet the newly elected officers of TDXS, rest their souls!

At the risk of repeating myself, let me again thank all of you for a great job in preparing for the convention. I went on record in my first column for the Bullsheet back in January, that one of

my goals was to put forth a big push for the convention this year, and really put TDXS back in forefront of amateur radio. Come to the convention, meet our invited guests, UV3AM, UW3AX, K7JA, W6OAT, OH2BH, W5UN, etc., visit the TDXS Hospitality Suite, and then you be the judge of whether or not we've reached this goal.

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. This month the November meeting will take place on **Friday, November 8, 1991**. As this date coincides with the opening of Houston Com-Vent'91, the meeting will be held at the **Sheraton Crown Hotel**, 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd. This is the same location used for the convention for the past three years, and is just north of the Beltway 8 exit into the Houston Intercontinental Airport.

Bill, K2TNO and Mike, AA5NK will running the TDXS Hospitality Suite in **Room 807** (or possibly Room 907; check the 147.96/36 repeater Friday afternoon for the location.) which will be used to host this month's meeting. Members should start gathering well before the usual 7:30 P.M. kickoff time so that we can start promptly, conduct the needed business, adjourn, and return to the more important tasks at hand.

Highlights of the meeting will be the introduction of the **'92 TDXS Officers** and plans for the January banquet. Try to get there, it's going to be a fun evening. As always, visitors are welcome to attend the meeting as guests of the TDXS.

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.

DX Report

de Bob, AK5B

All I can say to those of you that didn't make it to the **First Annual WS DX Bash** is, "Be sure to mark your calendar with a big "X" for the second weekend in October of next year".

A really great time was had by all who attended. There were folks from all parts of the state. The West Texas DX Association gang are to be congratulated for not only the great idea, but for carrying the whole event off without a hitch, though there were a few anxious moments at Big John's Bar-B-Que when Bryan and he got their heads together. But it was great.

The weather, the food and all the good DX stories that got bantered around on the lawn, in the house, or around the pool at the motel all contributed to a casual weekend away from it all. The location, right on Lake Buchanan, proved to be perfect. The breeze hung in there and made the outdoor activities real comfortable.

For those folks that couldn't stay away from TV for that long a period, there were even continuous videos featuring the Kansas City DX Club antics, DX peditions etc.

Did get to pass out a bunch of flyers for our convention, and looks like there will be a gathering of DXers in Houston this November.

Speaking of the convention, one last time let me remind you to get some **QSL cards to Mr. Sharp** for the hospitality suite display. The response has been less than overwhelming, so come on and turn loose of a few cards. Just bring them with you when you come Friday. They will be returned after the convention, so don't worry that Sharp will use them for coffee coasters or whatever. He's helping, how about you?

Be sure to allow plenty of time for the suite, as this proverbial watering hole should be the gathering spot for all the good gossip. (I was going to say men visit, women gossip, but that's probably some kind of harassment).

It had to happen. The last few evenings, the **ZAIQA** station has been calling CQ and working stations, when he could, on his own frequency. Sure looks like the **ZAI A** group worked the pile ups down. That coupled with the fact that the **ZA** station would require "dx postage" make it a bit less attractive. Think the only takers they are getting are those of us "checking propagation". (I did say us).

I received my copy of the DX Magazine today that has this year's annual listing of the "100 most wanted countries". Needless to say, there are going to be a bunch of changes next year. For '91, listed in order from 1 through 10, the countries are: **ZA, XZ, VP8 (S. SAN.), S2, YA, A5, 3Y (Peter Is), 3B6, FR/G, and FR/T**. Looks like the two rough ones on that list will be the **VP8**, due to come up next March and the **3Y Peter Is.**, and the Lord only knows when it will be back on the air.

That will do it for this month. Got to get ready for the convention. Hope to see all of you there. 73 es gud DX.

Weekly DX and Contest Net

Each **Tuesday** night a **9:00 P.M. local time** the Texas DX Society sponsors a **net on 147.96/36 MHz**. The purpose of this net is to exchange information of interest to DXers and contesters. The agenda includes current DX and contest information, QSL routings and related announcements. 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.

ARRL DX Bulletin

DX BULLETIN 48
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT
NOVEMBER 1, 1991
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

Thanks to Bob, WB2CJL, and the Western New York DX Association for the following DX information.

DXCC DESK announced October 28 that it has resumed accepting **DJ6SI/SY** QSL cards from Baldur's May 1991 operation from **Mount Athos**. Those who had **DJ6SI/SY** cards rejected for **DXCC** may submit them with their next application. Those who received country credit for **DJ6SI/SY** do not have to submit cards again because they never had that credit removed from their **DXCC** record.

More from **MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A**. Apollo, **SV2ASP/A**, is recuperating from an accident. Apparently hamming helps the process, as he can be found around 21025 KHz starting at 1500Z.

ITS IN THE MAIL. PacketCluster messages indicate that **YA0RR** QSL cards are starting to come in. Expect **ZAI A** cards soon.

KURE ISLAND. Bob, **KD7P**, will be signing **/NH7** until November 2. This operation is CW only, and Bob politely requests *no insurance contacts*. QSL his home call.

CHAD. **TT0A** and **TT8SA** have been very active on the bands. **TT8SA** seems to prefer list operations.

TAIWAN, BV. No excuses for missing this one, as **BV2TA, BV2FB, and BV2BV** are all quite active.

ANGUILLA. Dorothea is using the call **VP25EE** to commemorate 25 years of Anguilla independence. For special certificate information, contact QSL manager **KA3DBN**.

ARRL PROPAGATION FORECAST

PROPAGATION FORECAST
BULLETIN 43
FROM TAD COOK, KT7H SEATTLE WA
NOVEMBER 2, 1991
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

In the past two bulletins we forecast possible stormy conditions for last weeks DX contest. Most of the upset was delayed until just after the contest, but since then the Earth has been bombarded with protons from numerous (...) soon the 29th, indicating a severe geomagnetic storm the previous day.

The solar flux was 272, a high for the month, on the same date. The Boulder K index went as high as seven several times over the past week. Conditions are ripe for a visible aurora across North America, although any viewing here in Seattle has been blocked by weather.

More fireworks are likely during the ARRL CW Sweepstakes this weekend from the same solar region 6891. The geomagnetic field will probably stay active until November 5, then quiet down until more active solar regions return around mid month, when solar flux should bottom out around 160.

American sunspot numbers for October 25 through 31 were 249, 270, 339, 307, 379, 342, and 325, with a mean of 315.9. Solar flux reported by WWV for the same period was 240, 251, 249, 271, 272, 262, and 232, with a mean of 253.9.

Packet Racket

de Ken, KE5IV

It seems to me that in a city the size of Houston, there is a real need for some sort of recognized governing body to allocate frequencies for digital communications. The idea has worked for local 2 Meter repeater frequencies, why not packet? HAPRS has come and gone, largely due to lack of user support. TCAPS seems to be headed in much the same direction at this point in time. The local users need a forum where they can discuss and resolve the various issues whether it be DX PacketCluster or TCP/IP or BBS or TEX-NET or just casual rag-chewing via the keyboard.

There are some new options now available that will improve through put and reliability. With the PIN diode switching now found in both commercial VHF and UHF radios the transfer rate between various points is above 19.2K for packet backbone links. Here again there is a real need for more user support! The present 446.1 MHz backbone is still running at 1200 baud, and with the increase in local traffic that has taken place over the last 3 years, it really needs to be updated.

One of the original MFJ-1270B TNC units destined for MAG994 is at IAH. The other TNC is at WDL07 being used by TCAPS. I have purchased several more TNCs and now have to install the TAPRS DCD modifications. The point is that the local packet users currently using HOU99 or HOU994 or IAH4 or IAH need to support TCAPS.

In time both MAG994 and MAG99 will be located at the QTH of Chuck, K5LZO and Barbara, WB5RUS to improve overall system performance. Right now MAG994 is at Hempstead, ready to install as soon as Bob, K5VMX and I get MAG99 up and running again. The SSIDs for the system at Magnolia will be KE5IV-4 (MAG994) and KE5IV-9 (MAG99).

With a little luck they will be on the air by the time of the Convention. Then I will be off to the next fix in the system, i.e. the backbone link into Austin. Once that's done my task will be to help out the folks up in the Bryan and College Station area.

In all of this I will continue to need the help of the local packet users. PacketCluster is not like a repeater. It will continue to evolve and expand. And for those who have helped out there will be better access to some really useful new databases.

I am hoping that this week's ham Com-Vention will provide a good forum to talk things out. There will be a full day's session on packet radio and ought to be a good time to get everyone together to discuss such issues as: "Where does Houston packet radio go from here?" and "What is the most viable way for us to connect with the rest of the state?"

By the way, at 3:00 P.M. on Saturday I will give a talk on PacketCluster. Afterwards there will be an open meeting of TCAPS. Drop by and join in the fun. See you there!

ARRL DX Contest Plaque

The Texas DX Society has for many years sponsored the **Multi-Unlimited Europe CW plaque** in the annual **ARRL International DX Contest**.

This year's winner was **YT2B**, a group of six Yugoslavian operators who made 3614 QSOs with 263 countries for 2.85 M points.

Additional details of the ARRL's plaque program can be found on page 84 of the February 1991 issue of QST.

DX Packet Clusters

The Waller County Contest and DX PacketCluster Bulletin Board (PCBS) is located in Hempstead, Texas and operates on 144.990 MHz with the call **KE5IV**. A digipeater node operating on 144.990 MHz with the alias **HOU99** is located at Stafford to provide access to this PacketCluster for users in the southern part of the greater Houston area. A second node with the alias **MAG99**, also operating on 144.990 MHz, is located near Magnolia and gives better access to those users in the northern part of Houston. The preferred procedure is to first connect with the digipeater node (**C HOU99** or **C MAG99**) and then connect to the PacketCluster (**C KE5IV**). Please leave the cluster with the command **BYE**. There is a second port operating on 144.910 MHz, also under KE5IV's call. This affords local stations with higher ERP, generally those on the west side of Houston, the option of connecting directly with Hempstead and gives somewhat faster response.

The Galveston County DX PacketCluster, located in La Marque, is active under the call **KC5SC** and operates on 144.930 MHz and 144.970 MHz. It is usually connected with KE5IV via the 446.100 MHz backbone link. Stations in the southeastern parts of Houston may find it easier to connect with this cluster. **AB5A** located in Dickinson about 10 miles northwest of KC5SC operates another PacketCluster node regularly connected to the KC5SC PacketCluster via 446.100 MHz. This cluster features a 40 Meter HF Gateway on 7.089 MHz as well as limited access for local uses on the VHF port.

In addition to listing current DX spots, the system provides access to a wide variety of DX related information such as the W6GO QSL Manager list, Russian oblasts, WWV propagation, beam headings, etc. Users are requested to limit their use of these "databases" to off-peak hours so as to minimize the side effects on others. A quick check of the status shown in the opening message which appears upon connection will indicate the number of nodes/users active at the time. Otherwise all users are encouraged to query the various data banks and make full use of their many features.

Contest News

Results
1991 ARRL Field Day

TDXS - 2nd Place, Class 2A (3109 Q with 15 operators)

Claimed Scores
1991 CQ WW DX SSB

ZF8AA, K5GA, N5DU, W5ASP, W5VAH)

7139 Q 138 Z 486 C 10.3M

WSWMU (AK5B, K5LZO, WB5RUS,...)

2015 Q 143 Z 461 C

NR5M SO/10M 1108 Q 35 Z 130 C 479 K

KE5FI SO/10M 835 Q 35 Z 129 C 350 K

1991 ARRL SS CW

K5GA.....1320 Q....77 S (5th Place ??)

W5ASP...1000 Q....77 S

K5LZO.....680 Q....75 S

KC5CP....475 Q....75 S

K5DX.....210 Q....65 S

K5WA.....150 Q....50 S

K5RC.....120 Q....52 S

N5DU.....40 Q....30 S

AC5K.....? Q.....? S

Contest Corner

de Kenny, NZ5I

Looks like we're very near the end of the year 1991. Hope you all were able to get your aluminum polished and shacks arranged for the winter contest and DX season. I have been underground for the past several weeks with business and family concerns, and have had to put plans for my own arsenal of aluminum to the side for a time.

A hearty pat on the back to the Ops of TDXS who turned in a super 2nd place finish in the 2A category behind W3LIF. For a "Laid Back F.D." this is terrific! I want to point out that the margin of victory was about 400 QSOs and that W3LIF had 28 operators! Very nice job folks.

Just a reminder, be sure to send in **CQ WW hard copy logs** with your summary sheet! Your scores will not be counted without them. This is a **rules change**. Also remember that you can receive a breakdown of your unique calls and percentages if you submit a diskette and request this information. Hopefully we had some members who chose to compete in the new low power category, this sounds fun to me.

On the Sweepstakes front, I was pleased to find out that the ARRL has decided to continue awarding Pins to participants who score 100 or more QSO's (\$3.00 + SASE) upon request. For those scoring a clean sweep there is a very nice Mug available for \$8.00. Consensus is that these programs really help spark participation. See the rules for specific instructions or contact me by landline or Net and I'll get you the details.

Reporting on news from afar, **Frank, KE4GY** has put a beam up at his new Alabama QTH and is QRV. He says that his array gets more than a few stares from passers by.

Frank and I have a standing sked on 40 CW every Tuesday evening after the TDXS 2M net. Join us at 9:30 P.M. local time on 7060.0 MHz for a casual chat. If you'd like to contact Frank, his new address and phone are: Frank Moore, KE4GY, 149 Bibb Dr., Madison, Alabama, 35758. He was on for the WW SSB with around 200 plus Qs.

I don't know what you've heard, but the word around my neck of the woods is that we may have a record crowd for the local ham convention. I hope that the Sheraton is prepared for what may hit them on Nov. 8-10th. I really have to extend kudos to all involved in helping to get this thing arranged, especially **Jim, NN5O**. This took some vision and a lot of hard work. This is also my baby's due date! Thanks a lot Jim...both of you.

DXCC News

Honor Roll

321 - K5DX /360

Endorsements

Mixed

AK5B /322
K5DX /365
KE5TF /312
W5ASP /303

Phone

K5DX /360

CW

AK5B /304
W5ASP /288

First Annual W5 DX Get-Together

de Ken, KE5IV

For those who did not attend the **1st Annual W5 DX "Bash"**, all can say is ... you missed a super weekend! As announced over the DX PacketCluster and in the October Bullsheat, this event was sponsored by the **West Texas DX Association** and was held October 12-13, at W5KFT's ranch northwest of Austin. **Brian Edwards, W5KFT**, his mother and his wife Barbara provided everthing needed for a fine weekend.

The ranch is a perfect location. Plenty of trees to provide shade, and a nice breeze coming off Lake Buchanan to keep the afternoons very comfortable. The guest house was used for those presentations requiring slide or overhead projectors. The living room in the main house had the VCR and large screen TV running tapes of DXpeditions and various tapes from other clubs.

The special guest was **Danny Weil, VP2VB, FO8AN, HC8VB**, etc. Although he didn't give a formal talk, there were quite a number of Danny's photos being passed around to look at. And he had numerous tales to tell about his many DXpeditions, especially the equipment and sailing vessels that were involved.

Some of the more formal presentations included: Lowband Antennas and Lowband DXing; Rotating Towers (by K5IU); the new W5 QSL Bureau (by WF5E); PacketCluster using TEX-NET; SYSOPS talking about their local Nodes; and the NR5M "Super Station" (by KE5IV, naturally..ed).

Saturday's lunch was provided at the ranch. A "build your own sandwich" event. Needless to say, there was plenty of food to build it with. Saturday night's meal was at Big John's Bar-B-Que just down the road. And that was some of the best brisket I have eaten in a long while!

Besides the ham radio goings on, there were other things to see and do. On Saturday afternoon **Chuck, K5LZO, Bob, AK5B** and **Barbara, WB5RUS** visited the Falls Creek Winery about 10 miles from the ranch. Several of the gals in attendance naturally went off shopping. One had to be particularly careful when driving what with the Hill Country deer moving about in the mornings and the evenings. The Monarch butterflies were in their annual migration and that was quite a sight when they left the brush.

Friday and Saturday evening after returning to the motel where we TDXS types were staying, there was ample opportunity to conduct our own wine tasting of the locally grown product while relaxing by the swimming pool. Saturday night we were even joined by a couple of brave souls from Dallas. Needless to say there were lots of a "dead soldiers" in the trash can by the pool when we were finished.

Sunday morning was the way I enjoy it the most. Just a bunch of us just settin' in the shade, relaxing in the lawn chairs, just talking about antennas and towers. You know, the never ending discussion: "which is better, a Quad or Yagi?"; or "which tribander is the best?"; and "What antennas do you use on the low bands?" It was really great to meet the guys I've talked with over the years, and to meet the new people I have only chatted with via PacketCluster. Guess that's what makes ham radio fun.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the 2nd weekend of October next year! That's certainly going to be one of the best weekends on the 1992 DXers agenda.

The TDXS Bullsheet

Incoming QSL Cards

The ARRL DX QSL Bureau consists of a number of separate call area bureaus that handle the incoming QSLs arriving from foreign countries. This service is free of charge and does not require ARRL membership. For the Fifth Call Area the address is: **ARRL W5 QSL Bureau, P. O. Box 50625, Midland, Texas 79710**. Full details about this ARRL service appeared in the **September 1991 QST on page 64**.

To claim cards ARRL recommends sending the bureau a number of 5 x 7 1/2 in. SASEs. To assist TDXS members in this Bob, AK5B, has obtained a supply of envelopes. He will provide 10 of the 5 x 7 1/2 envelopes along with a single 6 x 9 in which to mail them to the bureau for \$1.00. If you are interested, catch him on the repeater or call a day or so before the monthly meetings.

For those who expect to receive large quantities of cards here are a couple of suggestions. (1) Place \$1.25 postage on each 5x7 self-addressed envelope, (2) Have the post office stamp "THIRD CLASS" in the lower left, (3) Attach a label "50 Cards Minimum" beneath the "THIRD CLASS", (4) Put your call in the upper left and (5) Number the envelopes consecutively (so you will know where you stand as you receive them back from the bureau).

This approach will save a lot of agony with postage due and avoid small mailings which use up envelopes needlessly. The time delay in using Third Class won't be noticeable.

Outgoing QSL Cards

The ARRL provides a service to its members which allows them to send DX QSL cards to foreign countries at minimum cost and effort. TDXS members can take advantage of this service by getting their cards to **KG5U**, who will in turn forward them to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service. **TDXS pays the nominal service fee of \$2 per pound as well as the postage.**

Those wishing to use this route for their cards must sort their DX QSL cards alphabetically by country as shown on the ARRL DXCC Country List. This means that the prefix ES or LY goes with the Russians, XQ and 3G with Chile, AZ and L2 to Argentina, etc. However, it is not necessary to sort within a given country, i.e. all Russians may be lumped together, don't sort RA, UT, LY separately. Keep in mind that QSL's for D-Xpedition operations usually go the country of the operator, e.g. JW9XG via LA9XG, 3D2XR via SM7PKK, etc. Many foreign stations have stateside QSL managers. These cards may be included with the "K's". By the way, most caribbean stations turn out to be nonresidents, so send such QSL's to the operator's home country. There are number of DXCC countries not served, e.g. many U.S. territories (KH3, KH7, KH9, etc.) and countries such as Taiwan, Egypt, Nepal, etc. A complete list currently appears in September 1989 QST, page 65.

Finally, each TDXS member must include his QST address label with each group of cards submitted. Contact KG5U if you have any questions (before you drop the cards on him!).

Upcoming Events

November 08.....**Houston Com-Vention '91**
November 08.....**Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting**
November 08.....Japan International DX Contest
November 16.....ARRL Sweepstakes - Phone
November 23.....CQ WW CW DX Contest
December 07.....ARRL 160 Meter Contest
December 13.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
December 14.....ARRL 10 Meter Contest