



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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Vice President	Wes Spence, AC5K
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DX Chairman	Jim Lane, N5DC
Field Day Chairman	Bob Burns, W5SJS
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Repeater Chairman	Brent Levit, NT5D

### The Prez Sez - de Don, KI3L/5

**Happy New Year** to all. I hope that 1993 will be good to everyone, and that TDXS will continue to flourish as it has in the past.

The annual **TDXS Banquet** will be held at the Houstonian (111 N. Post Oak Lane) at 7:00 PM on Saturday, January 23. Bill, K5GA and YL, Melanie have made the arrangements. The cost will be \$25 per person. I understand that an assortment of door prizes will be awarded, including several for the ladies. I hope everyone can and will attend. We must have a minimum of 25 attendees to secure the room without cost; you will hear from us soon regarding menu selection.

Congratulations to **Jim, N5DC**, who has been appointed to the ARRL DX Advisory Committee by Tom Comstock, N5TC, the West Gulf Division Director. The DXAC advises the ARRL Board of Directors and makes recommendations for changes (additions, deletions, etc.) involving the DXCC Countries List. Jim is a DXCC Honor Roll Member and is obviously well qualified. I'm sure he'll do an excellent job. Jim will also serve as our DX Chairman for '93 and should have access to firsthand information for his monthly DX/DXAC report for the Bullsheat.

**Dale, KG5U** has agreed to take the reins as net control for the TDXS Weekly DX and Contest Net (Tuesdays, 9:00 P.M. local time on 147.36/96 Mhz). Participation seems to be decreasing - let's all make an effort to check in more often and get the numbers back where they belong.

The club owes **Joe, W5ASP**, a vote of thanks for his involvement in management of the net for the past several years. Thanks, Joe, you've earned a well deserved rest.

**Chuck, KE5FI** is our new contest chairman. As I write this, he is assembling TDXS teams for the North American QSO Parties which will be held January 9th and 16th. Send all contest score reports and other information to Chuck. He plans to write a monthly contest column for the Bullsheat, and will need your input. (And then send your logs in on time, marked TDXS..ed)

All members should have received the letter soliciting donations for the new **two meter repeater purchase** which was discussed at the December meeting. Pledges made at the meeting were gratifying, and the response has been good. We are still waiting to hear from many of you, including several who have already made firm pledges. Please contribute if you can. All donations will be appreciated and acknowledged. We hope to purchase the new repeater as soon as possible.

I'm sure all of the TDXS joins with me in thanking **Bill, K5GA, Jim, NN5O, and Mike, AA5NK**, our 1992 officers, as well as other members of the Board for their efforts last year. The new officers and Board members for 1993 are listed above.

A final reminder. **Dues for 1993** are due **NOW** (\$25 for full members and Houston area associate members; \$12.50 for out-of-area associate members). Send dues to P. O. Box 540291, Houston, TX 77254-0291, or to our treasurer, Mike Davidson, KC5CP, 3518 Bellfontaine, Houston, TX 77025. It may be more convenient to mail the dues check with your repeater donation, or simply pay at the banquet. Remember, members who have not paid dues by January 31 will be automatically dropped from membership, and a \$10 penalty is imposed for reinstatement. 73, good DX. I look forward to seeing you at the banquet.

### 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 meeting will take place at the **Annual Texas DX Society Banquet and Awards Ceremony** to be held on **Saturday, January 23, 1993** at the Houstonian Hotel and Conference Center, 111 North Post Oak Lane. TDXS members will receive a direct mailing with full details. As in the past, festivities will get underway around 7:00 P.M. most likely with a cash bar for those interested. Dinner will be followed by a brief meeting for the presentations. All members are urged to join in this popular TDXS annual affair. You'll get your last shots at the outgoing officers and a chance to challenge the new crew for '93.

**Bullsheat Articles** - Articles or other newsworthy items are hereby solicited by the editor. Articles should be submitted in the form of either ASCII files or as word processor files. Files may be uploaded to the TDXS area on KB5NFN's Bulletin Board at 713-777-0821, or sent to the Editor. If necessary, text may be sent to via FAX to the editor by prior arrangement. Files or other messages may be sent to the editor via CompuServe or Internet to 71045.2632@compuserve.com. For those with VHF Packet and having access to the TDXS Digi, 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.

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**DX Report**


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de Mike, AA5NK

Maybe it's because of my being home stateside since mid December, but I thought the bands have been great. Maybe some flat days or nights, but that is to be expected. My particular interest, the lower bands, have proven fruitful. Either DX I needed, or stations that were rare to those bands.

- **UJ8JI** - A real regular via long path 40 meters in the morning. QSL to IK3HHX. (Good to see CIS stations using outside QSL managers.)
- **7Q7XX** - Somewhat regular on 40 meters around 0112 Z. QSL to JH3RRA.
- **JW5NM** - Has made some appearances on 40 meters and has promised to show on 75/80. Worked him at 1252 Z. QSL to LA5NM.
- **T28IO & T21XO** - Around 1300 Z on 40 meters. QSL to Y58IO.
- **P29DK** - At 1259 Z on 40 meters. N4EOF is the QSL manager.
- **9F2CW (ET)** - From 2200 Z on 40 meters; 0250 Z on 80 meters and going to 1828 MHz many times. QSL to his home call, DK7PE.
- **S21ZG** - On many mornings, long path 40 meters around 1300 Z. QSL via W4FRU.
- **9K2MU** - Also on long path 40 meters at 1343 Z. QSL to 9K2AR.
- **3D2AG/P** - On Rotuma at 1300 on 40 and 80 meters. QSL to his home call.
- **T55C** - Nice one to get on CW around 0047 Z on 40 meters. QSL to WA6CDR.

(All of the 40 meter activity above is CW.)

Even 75 and 80 meters have been good for our area in the early evening. When a W1 or W2 gives an EU 5/9 plus twenty, you can actually hear the EU DX and make a QSO. But then, I have always found December to be a good 75/80 meter time.

The big news for December was Romeo and his group on from North Korea as P5RS7. This is a license issued by the military. Around December 27 I heard that they had already made 20K QSOs and were going for 40K. No big signal in South Texas, and no report of much low band activity.

The Desecheo boys are active at this time making many QSOs on all bands, including WARC. They are using their own calls with a /KP5 attached. QSL to NOTG.

And of course the new countries created by the Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia split ups, have been filling the air waves. Czechoslovakia was split up effective January 1, 1993 in to Czech, still with the OK and OL prefixes, and Slovakia with OM for their prefix. QSLs to Slovakian stations can go direct by using their "old" OK call address with the new prefix. Cards via the ARRL Outgoing Bureau will go the new OM Bureau under the new call. No word from ARRL's DXCC desk yet on their new status.

The Yugoslavia split up created four new countries. Three have already been approved by ARRL for DXCC.

- **S5 - Slovenia** (ex-YU3) Only QSOs after June 26, 1991.
- **9A - Croatia** (ex-YU2) Same effective date as S5.
- **4N4 - Bosnia-Herzegovina** (ex-YU4) October 15, 1991 is the effective date.
- **4N5 - Macedonia** (ex-YU5) Has not yet been approved.

I've worked several C9s, Mozambique recently on 10. Wasn't too long ago this was "rare stuff". Kind 'a routine now!

Sort of humbling to get on the WARC bands with a non-resonant antenna, barefooted. But that too has been fun. Just hope the pile-ups don't get any bigger. There has been some nice DX show up on the WARC Waves, e.g. 3B8CF, 9F2CW, /KPS, TF3EJ, T21XO, VP8GAV, HP0POL and on and on. Maybe it has been that good all along. I'm just not home that much. One of these days I will find time to operate from Moscow, Ashkabad, Tashkent or from beautiful downtown Raduzhny, Siberia. (The skiing is terrible.) Too busy working and trying to stay warm!

Coming up in January - A couple of JAs (with Australian and US calls) have received permission to operate from VR6, Pitcairn Island. They are to be there January through March. Good! Maybe we can pick them up on some different bands, as they have promised to be on ALL bands, including WARC and 6 meters.

All Y2-Y9 call signs expire on 12-31-92, to be replaced by DL1-9.

T32VU is 70 year old DL1VU who is off on a visit to the South Pacific. Also included on his itinerary are T31, Central Kiribati; T30, West Kiribati; C21, Nauru and T33, Banaba. QSL Karl to his home call.

It has been reported that JH8CLU and two others will be active from 5R8, Madagascar on all bands, including RTTY. This is to be a five day visit from January 10 to 15th.

This will be my last DX column. Jim, N5DC is picking up the quill and will no doubt have many fascinating tales to tell in the days to come. I'll just work 'em when and where I can. 73 es Gud DX!

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**ARRL DX Bulletin**


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Thanks go out this week to Tom, VR2GO, Harry, OM3EA, and the Register Citizen newspaper for the items in this weeks bulletin.

**CZECH AND SLOVAK REPUBLICS.** On January 1, the dissolution of Czechoslovakia took effect. The telecommunications authorities of the two new nations have agreed that OK and OL call signs be used in the Czech Republic and OM in the Slovak Republic. The address of the QSL bureau for OK1 and OK2 amateurs continues to be PO Box 69, 11327 Praha 1. A new society, the Slovak Amateur Radio Association, has been established to represent OM amateurs, with Anton Mraz, OM3LU, as president, and Harry Cincura, OM3EA, as QSL manager. Its address is PO Box 1, 85299 Bratislava.

**ERITRIA.** The people in this republic are expected to be voting on independence from Ethiopia in a United Nations-supervised referendum sometime in April. The DX Advisory Committee, DXAC, is awaiting the results of this vote before any recommendation on the DXCC status of Eritria.

**INDIAN OCEAN TRIP.** Bernhard, DL2GAC, will be in India from mid January through early February on a fact finding mission for a proposed Indian Ocean DXpedition. He hopes to operate as 8Q7CQ in February for a day or more, and then move on and operate as H44MS for approximately two months.

**CONTEST WEEKEND.** The Japan International DX CW Contest is this weekend. It runs from 2200z Friday through 2200z Sunday. (Low bands only..ed)

**HONG KONG.** Tom, VR2GO, reports that a UK amateur has been erroneously claiming to be his QSL manager. The proper QSL route for VR2GO is Tom Ewing, GPO Box 9887, Hong Kong. Tom adds that VR2 is the new call sign prefix being issued for Hong Kong. VS6 calls will be gradually phased out before 1997.

## Contest Corner

de Chuck, KE5FI

The conditions for the December ARRL Ten Meter Contest were almost as good as the previous year. The sporadic E propagation to stateside was better than the previous year on Saturday, but fizzled out on Sunday. At my station, I decided to go low power this year and was ahead of last year's high power effort until Sunday morning! While the QSO rates were slower on Sunday than the year before, the long-skip multipliers made up for it. NR5M operated with his characteristic perseverance to a nice finish. (He's not really a big guy, that's his 30 gallon bladder taking up all that room!)

I included the VS6WO multi-multi score below, to show how great a job our new Prez, KI3L did in single op, both modes. Good going, Don.

### Claimed Scores:

#### ARRL Ten Meter Contest

KI3L/5 - SO/Mixed, High Power, 2191 X 217 = 1,342,362  
NR5M - SO/Phone, High Power, 2699 X 167 = 901,466  
KE5FI - SO/Phone, Low Power, 2103 X 150 = 630,900  
KC5CP - SO/Mixed, High Power, 708 X 206 = 400,464  
W5ASP - SO/Mixed, High Power, 675 X 139 = 360,566  
K5DX - SO/Mixed, High Power, 321 X 30 = 19,260  
K5LZO/VP2V - SO/Mixed, 2039 X ?  
VS6WO - Multi-Multi, 1860 X 197 = 1,142,206

#### NAQP CW

W5ASP - 625 X 187 = 117 K  
K5GA - 505 X 178 = 89 K  
KI3L - 468 X 179 = 84 K  
AC5K - 448 X 173 = 78 K  
K5DX - 297 X 152 = 45K  
AA5NK - 250 X 121 = 30 K

#### ARRL 160 Meter

K5DX - 373 X 74 = 58,016  
W5ASP - 138 X 55 = 15,345

### Other Scores:

#### ARRL SS CW

K5TU - 353 X 74

#### CQ WW DX CW

K5MA/1 - 1756 X 138 X 379 = 2,641,353  
KC5CP - 193 X 90 X 33 = 67,150 single band 10

This issue of the Bullsheat should hit the news stands before the phone portion of the **North American QSO Party**. This is a really great contest for several reasons, not the least of which is that you only work ten of the twelve hours of the contest period from noon until Midnight, local time Saturday. Think of the astonishment on the faces of your loved ones when you emerge from the caverns of the shack on a contest weekend and sleep in on Sunday! This is an all-band only, low power (150 watts max out) only contest. You can work stations once on each band, 10 through 160 (no WARC bands). Multipliers are the 50 states, Canadian call areas and other North American countries. Other continents can be worked for QSO credit only. The exchange is your name and state.

We will form five man **TDXS teams** for the team competition in NAQP. Please contact me at 952-8171, or W5ASP, if you are interested in being on a team.

### Upcoming Contests:

NAQP SSB - Jan 16, 1800 to Jan 17, 0600 Dec; QST, page 128

CQWW 160 CW - Jan 29, 2200 to Jan 31, 1600 Nov; CQ, page 72 (Note that CQ got the dates wrong in the Nov announcement)

N.A. Sprint CW - Feb 7, 0000 to 0400; (this test is for real men only)

N.A. Sprint SSB - Feb 13, 0000 to 0400: ditto (N.A. Sprint rules in Jan QST, page 115. Sprint & NAQP rules in Jan/Feb NCJ)

ARRL DX CW - Feb 20-21; TDXS multi-single effort?

CQWW 160 SSB - Feb 26-28; try to work the locals!

ARRL DX SSB - Mar 6-7; anybody for a NR5M work party?

### Log Deadlines:

ARRL 10 Meter - Jan 14, 1993 (postmarked)

NAQP CW - Feb 9, 1993 (postmarked)

## The Software Scene

de Bob, N5PJI

(The following article appeared in the current edition of the Potomac Valley Radio Club's *PVRC Newsletter*. As Bob, N5PJI is our resident MAC expert, we called upon him to do the optical scan and clean-up of this article. It's nice to have lots of local talent to call on..ed)

### Marathon: Contest Software for The Mac

Reviewed by David Hubbard, WD41EH

Before the current contest season began, I found myself faced with a dilemma. I wanted to enter the world of computer contest logging. Having used CT during several multi-single efforts from K3DI, it seemed the obvious choice. Unfortunately, my XYL and I already owned a Macintosh (which was great for everything except contest logging) so I couldn't justify buying a PC solely for contest operation. Fortunately, Kevin Krueger, N0IOS, has stepped forward with a contest program for the Mac called Marathon. I bought a copy and gave it a test drive during the November CW Sweepstakes.

The current release of Marathon supports ten contests including CQ WW, ARRL DX and the ARRL November Sweepstakes. Marathon has the standard features that contesters have come to expect in even the most basic logging programs (e.g., real-time dupe checking and check-partial). In addition, N0IOS has included a CW interface, a packet radio interface for connection to the DX Cluster, a computer-to-rig interface, and a maintainable country and prefix list for DX contests.

There are some neat things the operator can do with Marathon. Since the program is built around the Macintosh GUI (Graphical User Interface), most of the pop-up windows are scrollable and sizable to the way you want them. This means that if you don't like the log window at the bottom of the screen, you're free to grab it with the mouse and drag it to where you want it. You can also pull up most windows at the same time and "stack" them on the screen in any order. This was particularly useful in the Sweepstakes when I wanted to leave the multiplier checklist on the screen. Since Marathon's packet window is scrollable (it holds over 8,000 characters) you can review DX spots that have been pushed off the screen. This could be especially useful when DX spots are coming in a tidal wave during a contest. Once you select a spot, a keystroke moves the DX station's call into the log entry window. Frequency and mode can also be grabbed from the packet window when the computer-to-rig interface is active.

The 48-page user's manual provides complete instructions for updating Marathon's country/prefix list. Beam headings and distances are calculated automatically once you supply your Maidenhead grid locator. Finally, for those of you (myself

included) who think the operating table is crowded enough without a mouse to deal with, Marathon allows the operator to perform nearly all function with the mouse OR keystrokes

There are a few rough edges. The Marathon CW interface will not directly key the rig. The user must supply an ASCII-to-CW interface (e.g., AEA Morse Man or PK-232). Also, unlike CT, Marathon does not filter needed multiplier's from the packet window into an announce window. While this wasn't an issue in the Sweepstakes, it would be a problem for a serious packet-assisted entry in a DX contest. There is also no facility for doing a super-check partial look up.

Is this program as good as CT? In my opinion, "not quite". However, I like this program a lot. Macintosh users finally have a full-featured contest logging program that provides nearly all of the features we've come to expect from CT. If you're a Mac owner, Marathon is well worth considering.

### The Shetlands, Revisited

de Andy, GM0ECO

During and after CQ and WAE contests the question often arises as to how to tell if a station is in the Shetland Islands. The answer is that you can't...unless you ask them.

Call signs are issued in the UK in the format G\*0ABC where the number and suffix are sequential, i.e. 2s then 3s then 4s then 0s (some logic!) with AAA-ZZZ for each number. The \* in the call is changed dependent which country you are in. For example, I am GM0ECO, but if I go mobile down south I become G0ECO or even GW0ECO (as I used to be). Each station has a main station address, and when operating anywhere else must operate as /p. It is a hassle changing station addresses, so it is not done as a matter of routine.

The Shetlands are not seen as a separate area, and so is populated with stations (not a lot) with arbitrary suffixes. There is no way of reassigning the calls by any pattern. K1EA's list in MASTER.DAT is probably your best bet. The call book is quite useful. If the address is listed as Shetland then the likelihood is that it is the correct location.

There are currently no real active contesters on Shetland. GM3ZET, the club station in Lerwick, gets on now and again plus one or two others. Joe, W5ASP and I looked at doing a multi-single last year in WAE from the Shetlands but gave up the idea due to lack of equipment up there. The biggest antenna is a 2 el tribander at 40 feet! Anything bigger than that just blows down in the consistent 30 mph plus winds..and higher (90 to 100). There are no trees on the islands (well maybe 4 or 5 in someone's back yard half way between Lerwick and Brae). It's just too windy. It is 350 miles north of Edinburgh, and the propagation is bad enough this far north (I'm just north of Edinburgh) compared to the south of England....so it must be awful up there. I don't know how Jon, OY5JD gets on. There is a big oil terminal on the main island which employs a few hams but it is a very transient community with G5RV's the norm. Not the best place for a big contest effort....more of a challenge. (Oh yes, for the record, GM0ECO is NOT Shetland, but be sure to work me anyway!)

### Due Dates

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

January 14, 1993.....ARRL 10 Meter Contest  
 January 15, 1993.....CQ World-Wide DX CW Contest  
 February 8, 1993.....North American QSO Party CW

## Repeater Report

de Brent, NT5D

As most of you know, the transmit final in the GE Repeater finally bit the dust. Because the one watt driver was hard to hear in most locations, the decision was made to press the Spectrum repeater into service. Even though the Spectrum's receiver does not hear as well as the GE does, it appears to be operating reliably after K5GA replaced the power supply. Prior to the final going out the intermittent drop-out problem, that has plagued the GE repeater for quite some time, still wasn't fixed.

By now most of you on the TDXS mailing list should have received a notice concerning our **repeater fund drive**, the purpose of which is to **purchase a brand new ICOM 2-Meter repeater** and replace the troublesome GE. Because of Christmas and other obligations, I know it is a bad time of year to be asking for money. But if you can spare a contribution, it would be greatly appreciated. Every little bit helps.

The philosophy behind buying a new amateur repeater is two fold. First, the ICOM will carry a one-year warranty so that if anything goes wrong we can send it back to the factory, paying only the postage. Secondly, after the warranty expires, it can be repaired at amateur prices. For now the plan will be to repair the GE Final and sell the GE Repeater as is. Because the Spectrum appears to be operating competently, we will keep it as our back-up machine.

Now I would like to describe the **UHF repeater** that is available to the club. The machine operates on the 447.000 MHz input and 442.000 MHz output. Five MHz split is standard for UHF machines in this area. The equipment that forms the "system" breaks down as follows:

- ICOM UHF crystal controlled repeater
- Advanced Computer Controls RC-85 RPTR controller
- WACOM four can, band-pass/band-reject duplexer
- KLM 10W-in/100W-out UHF amplifier
- GLB 8dB gain preselector preamp
- Phelps Dodge 10dB gain fiberglass Station Master

This set-up has been in service since 1983 and has been very reliable. I chose an external repeater controller from ACC because of the increased flexibility over the internally built ICOM controller. Here is a small sampling of what can be changed remotely with touchtones:

- All timers - Hang time (3 choices), time out, etc.
- IDs - CW or voice
- CW Pitch
- Voice Messages - Club announcements, etc.
- PL on or off
- Activation of remote bases - HF through 1.2 GHz
- Phone patch on or off

There are many more remotely controlled features that are available, but this should give you an idea of what can be done. There are some features that a repeater user can access:

- Touch-tone Pad Test - Send "5" followed by the numbers or letters you want to check (keep your microphone keyed during entire sequence). After you unkey, the repeater will announce the tones it received.
- Your Receiver Signal - Transmit for approximately one second and send "88". After you unkey, the repeater will announce your signal strength in S-units.
- Phone Patch - A phone line has been activated. Call Brent Levit, NT5D at 777-6352 for details.

Please identify whenever you use any features - Thanks.

If you don't own any UHF equipment, I suggest trying an H-T first. When connected to a 12 volt source, most H-Ts will put out 5 watts. This, coupled with an outside antenna on your vehicle, will allow you to work the machine all over town. W5ASP uses the repeater with his rubber duck antenna - inside his truck! There is plenty of UHF repeater activity in and out of town. If you travel much, you just might find your H-T useful in other parts of the state or country as well.

Keep in mind that most UHF repeaters are tone access. You will need to buy a tone board for your radio - 103.5 MHz is the most common tone used in this area. Most of the newer radios come with tone boards built-in, but check it out before you buy it.

If you have any suggestions or comments about the UHF repeater, call me at 777-6352.

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## Bits And Bytes

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de Ron, KB5NFN

Good morning, and thank you for calling Dell...umm, errr... whoops, wrong frequency. grin Greetings from the land of Austin!

Hope Santa was nice and brought you all IC-781s or TS-950SDEXs. Me, well... I got a job! For those that haven't heard, I'm having an absolutely wonderful time here, getting paid to have fun, even. Isn't there some law against that?

On to the meaty part of this column. I suppose the biggest question to be answered is, "Now that you're in Austin, what's the situation with the bulletin boards?". Easy enough, I suppose. Well, instead of just two bulletin boards, I now have three. Yes, three...! 2 3. By now, ya'll are probably familiar with the two I have "down there" (Houston), i.e. Pegasus (713-777-0821, 300-2400 baud) at my (and K5LLL's) home, and Cell Bio (713-798-4955, 300-2400 baud) in K2TNO's office at Baylor School of Medicine. \*

The third is my BBS here in Austin. It's what I'm calling the Austin Node of Pegasus. For those of you who want to run up your long distance phone bill, it's on 512-335-5403, 1200-14400/V.32bis-16800/HST baud.

Currently, the message areas on Pegasus Houston are directly echoed to Cell Bio. Meaning, if you enter a message on one system, the system will automatically copy it to the other. Additionally, once every couple of days, I make Pegasus Austin connect with Pegasus Houston for passing messages in the local message area.

What's that mean? If you entered a message in the GENERAL message area on Cell Bio, within an hour, you would find that same message in the GENERAL message area on Pegasus Houston. And, within a couple of days, you would also find that message in the GENERAL message area on Pegasus Austin. Needless to say, this feature comes in quite handy when it comes to being a remote sysop answering questions. I've yet to figure out how to pass files between the systems, but that comes later.

Any files/submissions for the Bullsheat, or the NCJ for that matter, should be pulsed to the Pegasus Houston board, preferably to the TDXS file area. Suffice it to say that, even though I've moved away from town, that doesn't mean I'm not going to be back to haunt ya'll. grin And, on that note, I'll take my leave and ship this file down to the Houston node.

Happy New Year to you all! 73 es CUL!

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## Propagation

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de Roy, AD5Q

This is winter. Both 10 and 15 Meters are closing shortly after sunset, and even 20 is closing in the early evening. Since this is also occurring in the rest of the northern hemisphere, our morning DX openings to Europe are cut short. The band closes in Russia before it even opens for us in the morning, so there is very little 10 Meter propagation to the former USSR.

Much of the day path activity has already moved to 15, which buys us longer openings and better propagation at high latitudes. Once the 15 Meter day path closes in late morning, try 20 Meters. You may be surprised to find DX on 20 in midafternoon. This is the way it will be in coming years with lower sunspot activity and lower MUFs.

In the evening, you may catch the last of the 20 Meter propagation with a path across South America to the Antarctic. Also watch for long path signals from Asia. Once 20 closes, it is time for serious low band work (or TV?). Signals are stronger on 80 this year, and the 160 Meter season is also an improvement over last year. This gives us something to look forward to in the coming years as the fluxes head toward the low 70s and 60s. There will be plenty of DX activity on 80 through the coming sunspot bottom.

One problem with low bands is that the east coast has a much greater advantage over us into Europe than on the higher bands. In the early evening, the few DX stations that are copyable are usually eastern Europeans running high power. It is important to recognize that these operators are night owls - operating during pre-dawn hours, and not, during their sunrise propagation peak. On our end of the path, the frequency is trashed by hoards of packeteers with Yankee accents (just like on the other bands). Breaking these pileups is not easy, but if you stay up past midnight, the real propagation peak to Europe occurs. Not only is there more DX activity, but most of the lids have gone to bed, leaving the opening to us and the west coast.

DX in westerly directions is best worked during our own sunrise peak. On most mornings, you will find several JAs on 80 - and maybe something more exotic. Pacific DX-peditions are easy to work, because they make a point of working stateside during our sunrise openings. Simply turn on your radio at sunrise, work a new 80 Meter country, and crawl back into bed. This trick also works for Pacific expeditions in the summer. 100 countries on 80 isn't that hard.

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## Weekly DX and Contest Net

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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, propagation forecasts and related topics. Participation is not limited to members of TDXS, but is open to all and everyone is encouraged to join in.

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## Upcoming Events

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January 16.....North American QSO Party SSB  
January 16.....Hungarian DX Contest - CW  
January 23.....Texas DX Society Annual Banquet  
January 29.....CQ WW DX 160 Meter CW Contest  
January 30.....REF French CW Contest  
February 7.....North American Sprint - CW  
February 12.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting