



founded 1970

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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DX Chairman	Jim Lane, N5DC
Field Day Chairman	Bob Burns, W5SJS
Legal Chairman	Sid Leach, K5XI
Repeater Chairman	Brent Levit, NT5D

The Prez Sez - de Don, KI3L/5

Plans for the **October 9th TDXS Meeting and Antenna Maintenance Party** have been finalized. Based upon the response at the September meeting, we expect an excellent turnout. Success depends upon a high level of participation, so please plan to attend. **Arrive at the W5SJS Ranch near 9:00 AM** (directions are printed elsewhere in this issue). A preliminary inspection of the antennas (approximately 10-12 beams) has been made, and we hope to assign a team of two or three persons to assemble and measure each antenna. A portable tower will be set up near the worksite for raising each antenna to perform on-the-air testing, tuning, and adjustment.

I suggest that each of you bring your own tools (socket wrenches, box wrenches, crescent wrench, screwdrivers, pliers, tape measure, etc.) If you have specialized items that may be helpful, please bring them along as well. Copies of manuals for Cushcraft (4 el 10/15/20) or Hy-Gain (TH5, 204BA & 105BA) monoband yagis are urgently needed! Don't forget gloves, "Tuna Boots", and other outdoor gear (I still remember the Field Day fire ants!) Hopefully, at day's end, all antennas will have been checked and determined functional. TDXS should definitely be "back" for Field Day 1994.

Bob, N5RP, will supervise preparation of the **barbecue lunch**, which will be served near 12:00 noon. TDXS will provide the lunch and beverages. Bring lawn chairs, camp stools, or picnic tables, if you have them available.

A short **meeting** will follow lunch at approximately 1:00 PM. The main order of business will be **1994 TDXS officer nominations**. The following slate will be submitted by the nomination committee: **President - Bob Perring, N5RP; Vice President - Kenny Manchester, NZ5I; Secretary - Dave Sarkozi, WB5N; and Treasurer - Mike Davidson, KC5CP.**

Additional nominations are being accepted via mail (TDXS, P.O. Box 540291, Houston, TX 77254-0291) until October 8, and will also be accepted at the meeting. Please confirm that an

individual is willing to serve prior to placing his name in nomination.

Final preparations for the **1994 Houston Com-Vention** will also be discussed, including the Hospitality Suite, the TDXS Raffle, and the DX-Contest Forum. The raffle prize, a Kenwood TS-50S, is in our possession, and the tickets have been printed. Virtually everyone reading these comments (TDXS members as well as regular Bullsheat readers) has a vested interest in the success of this raffle. We are therefore soliciting your support, and will be mailing each of you a packet of tickets valued at \$20, including an SASE for your return check. If you desire more tickets, please call KI3L or N5RP.

Meetings for the remainder of 1993 include the October 9 Antenna Party, the November 12 convention meeting, and the **December 17 Christmas party at the KI3L QTH** in Pearland (spouses and YLs will be welcome). Please mark these dates on your calendar.

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 be held on **Saturday, October 9, 1993**. The meeting will take place at the ranch of Bob Burns, W5SJS. This is also the Field Day site for TDXS. Directions are given below. Members are asked to gather promptly at **9:00 A.M. Saturday** to help in the check-out of the field day antennas, coax, and other equipment.

There will be a **TDXS sponsored Bar-B-Q lunch** around noon, and an important club meeting shortly after 1:00 P.M. This is the final meeting for nomination of 1994 TDXS officers. It is also the meeting for consideration of the annual dues for 1994. And it will be last meeting before the November convention.

With the recent change in the weather it ought to be a good day to sort out the field day gear, over indulge in N5RP's world-renown brisket, down a few 807s, and plot the fate of TDXS in 1994. Y'al come, ya hear!

Directions - W5SJS's ranch is about **6 miles south of Brenham** and about 12 miles north of Bellville off Hwy 36, near Kenney, Texas. Take Hwy 290 to Brenham or I-10 to Sealy. Take Hwy 36. Look for a **turn off to the West marked Business 36**. Go under the railroad bridge and immediately make a sharp right turn onto **FM 2754**. Bob's place is **two miles** further down the road. It is well marked by a 130 ft tower beside the house fronting on the road. Just to the west of the house is a road leading onto the ranch.

Try 147.360 direct as you near the site. Who knows, someone just might talk you in! Non-members who may be uncertain about getting to the site should inquire on 147.36/96 before Saturday.

The Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin

Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW
 Provided by BARF-80 BBS Cleveland, Ohio

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, AD1C, WA2TMP/7, WA3EUL, KU4J, K4CEF & Southeastern Cluster Group, KT5X and AH6IO for the following DX information.

3V8W, TUNISIA. Tim, KU4J, received a phone call September 23rd from Karl, DF2WV, and Karl has supplied the following information. Karl states he "WAS" the operator at 3V8W and he operated from July 23rd until August 15th. He made about 6500 QSOs in which only two were SSB QSOs to a couple of friends in Germany. Karl works for the Deutsche Aerospace, and they were installing some equipment in Tunisia. The operation took place from a military base and they would not allow SSB operations. Karl's license is good for a year and he and Baldur (and possibly others) are planning to return in November. He states that he has three pieces of documentation and has to resolve a few issues when he returns in November, so he has "NOT" submitted his documentation package as of yet to the League. Karl also mentions he was not in Morocco as reported in last week's bulletin and has not been there since 1970 as CN8/DK2WV.

9N, NEPAL. Jerry, UT4UZ, of Kiev, plans to accompany a Ukrainian mountaineering trip to Nepal. He will be leaving at the end of September and states he has the proper 9N1 papers already. Look for him during the month October running only about 200 watts.

BV9P, PRATAS ISLAND. Still no official word on when the BV0ARL/BV9P DXpedition will start. Rumors still indicate October 5th.

P4, ARUBA. Jorma, OH2KI, will be active in the CQ WW CW Contest as P40I. He will be operating Single/Op on all bands. QSL via OH2KI.

ST, SUDAN. A station signing ST2/G40JW was reported on 14062 kHz at 1951z, on September 24th. Not much is known about this station other than the station stated to QSL via Box 4016, Khartoum, Sudan.

V7, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Richard, AH6IO, will be active from Kwajalein Atoll from October 24th to November 2nd. He will be operating all bands with the call sign V73IO. QSL direct AH6IO's CBA. Ken/KH6HH, Pat/NH6UY, Richard/AH6IO, Ken/V73C and Sam/V73A will be active during the CQ WW SSB Contest from Kwajalein Atoll. Call sign for the contest will be V7X. The QSL Manager for V7X will be KH6HH (use CBA).

VP2E, ANGUILLA. Jim, WB6CJE, will be active from here during the CQ WW SSB Contest as VP2ERN. He plans to run Single/Op on all bands.

VP2V, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS. Tim, KU4J, informs OPDX that at least seven members of the North Alabama DX Club are planning to be active from here October 26th to November 2nd. They are also planning to be active in the CQ WW SSB Contest. Their exact call sign for the contest is unknown at this time, but is forthcoming. QSL will be via AB4JJ.

XX9, MACAO. (Rumor of the week?) It has been reported that Martti Laine, OH2BH, who is now living in Hong Kong for the next two years, will be making a special trip, once a month, during a weekend to Macao.

YK, SYRIA. (UPDATE) Al, WA2TMP/7, informed OPDX that he is one of the proposed operators that was going to be active during the CQ WW DX Contest. Al states that the group will not be making a contest trip to Syria because of the short

amount of time before the contest season. They need sufficient amount of time to get all the paper work and the equipment set up. Instead, the group has rescheduled their DXpedition to take place in the January/February timeframe for a regular operation that would last for about a week.

ZB2, GIBRALTAR. Jorma, OH2KI, will be active in the CQ WW SSB Contest as ZB2X. He will be operating Single/Op on all bands. QSL via OH2KI. ZD9,

TRISTAN DA CUNHA. Bob, WA3EUL, talked to Roger, G3SXW/MM, on September 24th and Roger expects to be active Tuesday, September 28th. He will be using the call sign ZD9SXW. This operation will be CW only, and he will be active on 160-10 meters. He plans to be there for at least two weeks and possibly three weeks depending on transportation. QSL via G3SXW.

(Reported via CT1XK..ed)

Tristan da Cunha. Roger Western, G3SXW, will be active as ZS9SXW for three weeks in October. Operation may commence by 30th September depending on weather conditions. Disembarkation of passengers from the ship is by helicopter but winds may delay off-loading of cargo. QRT is expected on 21st October, for return to Cape Town. Activity will be on nine bands, 1.8 - 28 MHz on CW only. Antennas will include a 3-el tribander, 3-el A3WS for 18/24 MHz, GAP Voyager DX-IV for 1.8/3.5/7 MHz and a Groundplane for 10 MHz. Check these frequencies: 3505, 7003, 10103, 14023, 18073, 21023, 24893, 28023. Please call 1-3 KHz up. Also, check for updates from G3SXW/MM enroute 24-27 September.

DXCC News

From ARRL Headquarters Newington, CT

The high cost of countries: A newsletter on the scheduled February, 1994 DXpedition to Peter I Island, the most needed DXCC country in everybody's poll, reports that \$50,000 has been spent so far. That is a downpayment; The newsletter is going to DX movers and shakers and may be followed in greater detail in various DX newsletters.

Deadline for DXCC submissions to make the 1993 Annual List was Thursday, September 30 receipt at HQ ARRL (Oh well, try again next year..ed). Don't forget that beginning this year the List will NOT appear in QST but rather will be published separately and mailed in early 1994 to all active DXCC program participants.

Documentation has been received and approved for the following operations:

- 6Y5/DF5UL - Operations Beginning 25 APRIL 1993
- 6Y5/DL2FAI - Operations Beginning 25 APRIL 1993
- 6Y5/DL4ZBI - Operations Beginning 25 APRIL 1993
- 7Q7CE - Operations Beginning 20 JULY 1993
- D68CA - Operations Beginning 9 AUGUST 1993
- FH/14ALU - Operations Beginning 21 AUGUST 1993
- TY8OBO - Operations Beginning 14 AUGUST 1993

TDXS 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, propagation forecasts and various related topics. It should be noted that participation is not limited to members of the TDXS, but is open to all and everyone is encouraged to join in.

Contest Scores

Results

1993 ARRL DX Contest CW

K5GN 1989 Q x 392 C = 2.3 M #10 W/VE SO/AB
 W5WMU 897 Q x 96 C = 258 K #2 W/VE SO/40M
 GM0ECO (W5ASP) 1768 Q X 194 C = 1.0 M #1 Scotland SO/AB

1993 ARRL DX Contest SSB

GM0ECO 2734 Q x 225 C = 1.8 M #1 Scotland SO/AB
 K5DX 196 Q x 76 C = 45K
 K5XI (et. al.) 3534 Q x 542 C = 5.7 M #4 Unltd.

ARRL DX Club - TDXS #8 (Medium Catagory)

CQ WW DX CW

K5GN 2161 Q x 167 Z x 450 C = 3.8 M #1 5th District
 KN5H 5867 Q x 31 Z x 107 C = 232 K #1 3rd Dist. 10 M
 W5WMU (et. al.) 2565 Q x 180 Z x 557 C = 5.4 M #6 USA

Claimed

North American Sprint CW

K5GN 275 Q x 43 M = 11,825
 K5GA 253 Q x 41 M = 10,373
 K5TU 234 Q x 40 M = 9,360
 KI3L 210 Q x 39 M = 8,190
 W5ASP 195 Q x 40 M = 7,800
 KE4GY 183 Q x 37 M = 6,771
 K5RC 152 Q x 40 M = 6,080

North American Sprint SSB

NT5D 266Q x 43 M = 11,438
 N5RP 257 Q x 43 M = 11,308
 W5ASP 256 Q x 45 M = 11,520
 KI3L 238 Q x 41 M = 9,758
 K5DX 193 Q x 43 M = 8,299
 KE5FI 173 Q x 39 M = 6,747
 K5RC 163 Q x 43 M = 7,009

CQ WW RTTY

K5EC 158 Q x 18 Z x 24 C x 53 S/P = 19,195

ARRL VHF QSO Party

K5LLL(w/KB5NFN) 86 Q x 41 Grid Sqs. = 4,592

Low Power DX Contesting

de Tom, N4KG

(This article appeared in the *Frankford Radio Club's* newsletter for December 1992. It was condensed from an article by Tom Russel, N4KG in the *November LongPath North Alabama DX Club* newsletter..ed)

High Antennas are not always better. Antennas at 35 to 45 feet can be much better during good openings. It is important to be VERSATILE. A high and a low tribander is a much better combination than any single beam at any single height. Multiple antennas can give you not only height and wave-angle diversity, but directional diversity, saving that all important element TIME by allowing you to change direction with the flick of a switch instead of waiting for a rotor to come around (and back!). If you can't put up a second tower, stick two

beams on a tall (70 ft or higher) tower, or put a simple trap dipole (driven element from an old tribander) parallel to the boom of your tribander. This way, you will always have an antenna at plus/minus 90 degrees from your beam. That makes picking up a KP4 or KL7 a snap when your beam is on Europe.

On SSB timing is everything. Wait for that pregnant pause in the pileup and dump your FULL callsign in there. Watch the S-meter for dips and listen for quiet gaps in the calling. Propagation can be a great equalizer. When you have it, you can work anything. When you don't, you'll be the first to know. Then change bands. Generally the highest band that is open will have the least path loss, but it is often productive to drop down for one band for a quick sweep to pick up a few contacts on what may be a less crowded band.

Be sure to enunciate clearly. Don't mumble and don't speak too fast. Project your voice and use readily understood phonetics. Give you FULL CALLSIGN. How would YOU like to have to back up your computer to enter the prefix and make an extra transmission for EVERY contact?

On CW timing is also very important, but there are a few additional tricks you can utilize to make yourself heard amongst the throng. Listen carefully to the stations the DX station is answering. Are they exactly on frequency or are they a little higher or lower. What speed does he seem to prefer? Is the DX operator a top notch operator? The good operators will pull you through. Skip over the guys who have difficulty managing their pileups. Note their frequency or put them in memory and check on them later.

To keep the rate up I leapfrog two VFOs through the band, always working two pileups at a time. If I can't break a pileup after a few calls, I load the frequency into a memory and move on. Multipliers usually come quickly except for the terrible pileups on Sunday afternoon when new Africans seem to always show up and create havoc. The best way to boost your multiplier count is to work as many easy ones on as many bands as possible. This means heading for the low bands after dark!

Software Review - JE3MAS CW Pileup Trainer

de Don, KI3L

At the September TDXS meeting Ron, KB5NFN announced that the new CW Pileup Trainer Version 4.08i program was available on his BBS. The program which is "freeware" was written by JE3MAS, and is intended for IBM PC users who have a sound (audio) card installed. The program is capable of generating an 18 call pileup with a 16-bit sound card, or a 9 call pileup with an 8-bit card. If no sound card is installed, the program will still function, but will receive only a single call at a time.

I've used contest and QSO simulators all of which receive only one station at a time (NA's practice mode, AEA Morse machine simulator, etc.). JE3MAS's multiple station pileup capability really stirred my interest. Since I had recently installed a 16-bit sound blaster in one of my computers, I promptly downloaded the files, PED408I.EXE and PED-DAT.EXE. After reading the short text file I had no difficulty bringing the program up, and was immediately impressed.

The title screen prompts the user to select a data file from a short list of files which are included with the program. Each data file contains several thousand legitimate callsigns. These files which contain many familiar callsigns have undoubtedly been created from actual contest log files. After choosing the

data file the main menu window appears superimposed over the familiar K1EA CT screen (Logging, Rates, CW Status, Summary, and Check Call windows). The author acknowledges K1EA on the title screen and in the text file. Choices on the main menu include 1) Pile up trainer, 2) CT trainer, 3) Pile up generator, and 4) Demonstration. I found the Pile up trainer to be the most entertaining and challenging mode.

After selecting the Pile up trainer mode, the user is prompted to enter his callsign, and an exchange number (599 or contest exchange). He must then select the sending device (Keyboard, Paddle or Keyer), and choose either Dxpediton or Contest mode. He then selects the pile up character 1) Order, 2) Medium, or 3) Chaos and the number of simultaneous pile up stations (0-18). After selecting the bandwidth (125 Hz to 4 Khz) an answer to the Start? prompt will bring the pileup to life.

The pileup sounds absolutely genuine. Eighteen simultaneous calls sound like hundreds to an untrained ear like mine. Each station will call three times. If it is not picked up and logged, it's gone. Calls come over a wide range of pitches and speeds. The user can tune up or down through the pileup with Pg Up and Pg Dn keys. Send and receive CW speed and pitch are adjustable. The familiar CT commands and screens are in force, with a few exceptions, which are clearly listed in the text file. The program will not allow logging of a broken call. If the user fails to properly log a call after it has been sent three times, it will not respond to further calls. Since the logging screen will not move to the next line, the entry must be deleted prior to returning to the pileup. The ever present Rates window keeps the adrenalin flowing as the pileup continues. Call recognition and tailending techniques will improve rates. Tailending is easy in the 1) Orderly pileup but difficult in the 3) Chaotic one. Response with a partial callsign will diminish the size of the pileup, but the rate will decrease. I've experienced no crashes or lockups. It's a real kick.

The CT trainer mode is similar to the Pile up trainer mode, except that logging of busted calls is permitted. I have spent very little time in this mode, but it seems to work as well as the others.

The Pile up generator mode simply generates a pileup from the data file, and scrolls the callsigns across the screen as the audio is played, and the Demonstration mode will perform sending, receiving, and logging functions while the user sits back to watch and listen.

This program is absolutely superb. I congratulate JE3MAS for his contribution, and thank him for distributing it as freeware to the amateur community. I highly recommend the program to all, and recommend that serious CW types consider acquisition of a sound card to permit full enjoyment of this software.

Alpha.. Bravo.. Charlie.. Delta...

de Jim, AD1C

I thought this was interesting enough to pass along. It apparently originated via Brian Kelk, University of Cambridge Computer Lab, UK.

(For the sake of brevity, only excerpts of Jim's Internet message are given here..ed)

"Here is a collection of alphabets of the Alpha Bravo Charlie Delta kind, variously known as radio alphabets, phonetic alphabets and spelling alphabets. There are a number of distinct ones for English, and also alphabets for: French, German, Dutch, Flemish, Italian, Swedish, Finnish and Russian."

ENGLISH

The NATO phonetic alphabet:

Alpha Bravo Charlie Delta Echo Foxtrot Golf Hotel India Juliet Kilo Lima Mike November Oscar Papa Quebec Romeo Sierra Tango Uniform Victor Whiskey Xray Yankee Zulu.

The ARRL (American Radio Relay League) version (1948):

Adam Baker Charlie David Edward Frank George Henry Ida John King Lewis Mary Nancy Otto Peter Queen Robert Susan Thomas Union Victor William X-ray Young Zebra.

From a Swedish telephone directory:

Alfred Benjamin Charles David Edward Frederick George Harry Isaac Jack King London Mary Nellie Oliver Peter Queen Robert Samuel Tommy Uncle Victor William Xray Yellow Zebra.

From a Dutch telephone directory:

Amsterdam Baltimore Casablanca Danemark Edison Florida Gallipoli Havana Italia Jerusalem Kilogramme Liverpool Madagascar New York Oslo Paris Quebec Roma Santiago Tripoli Uppsala Valencia Washington Xantippe Yokohama Zurich

FRENCH

anatole bernard c'ecile denise 'emile fran5cois g'erard henri isidore jean kl'eber louis marcel nicole oscar pierre quitall robert suzanne th'er'ese ursule victor wagon xavier yvonne zo'e

GERMAN

Anton Berta Caesar Dora Emil Friedrich Gustav Heinrich Ida Julius Karl Ludwig Martha Nordpol Otto Paula Quelle Richard Siegfried Theodor Ulrich Viktor Wilhelm Xanthippe Ypsilon Zeppelin

ITALIAN

Ancona, Bologna, Como, Domodossola, Empoli, Firenze, Genova, Hacca, Imola, Jolly, Kappa, Livorno, Milano, Napoli, Otranto, Pisa/Palermo, Quartomiglio, Roma, Savona/Siena, Torino, Udine, Venezia, Wagner, Xilofono, York, Zara.

FINNISH

Aarne Bertta Celsius Daavid Eemeli Faarao Gideon Heikki Iivari Jussi Kalle Lauri Matti Niilo Otto Paavo Kuu Risto Sakari Tyyne Urho Ville Viski

RUSSIAN

Aleksej Boris Vasilij Grigorij Dmitrij Elena Zhenja Zoya Ivan Ivan_Kratkij Kilowatt Leonid Maria Nikolai Olga Pavel Roman Sergej Tatjana Uljana Fjodor Hariton Zaplja Chelovek Shura Schuka Tviordiy_Znak Igrek Miagkiy_Znak Emilija Yuri Jakow

Upcoming Events

- October 09.....TDXS Meeting & Antenna Party
- October 09.....VK/ZL DX Contest CW
- October 16.....Worked All Germany Contest
- October 17.....RSGB 21/28 MHz CW Contest
- October 29.....CQ WW DX SSB Contest
- November 06.....ARRL Sweepstakes CW
- November 12.....TDXS Monthly Meeting
- November 12.....Houston Com-Vention '93

K2UA - The Voice of Austin County

de Dennis, K2UA

(At my request, Dennis put together the following description of the station he has been building at his home outside of Sealy, TX. As shown by the excellent scores recently turned in by Dave, K5GN, this is rapidly becoming a station to be reckoned with..ed)

The current status at K2UA is more or less as follows.

- Tower #1: 180' Rohn 45G
- 160M Sloping dipole at 175' 7
- 5M Quad loop w/top at 175'
- 40M 4 el. KLM at 180' 4
- 0M 2 el. Cubical Quad at 100'
- 40M dipole at 35'
- 15M low 5 el. yagi fixed SE
- 2M 4 pole array at 175'
- Tower #2: 135' Rohn 45G
- 20M 4/4 el. stacked 204BAs (135'/65') w/ phasing
- 80M inverted Vee at 135'
- 2M 22 el. array fixed on Houston (aimed at W5JWM)
- Tower #3: 135' Rohn 25G
- 15M 6 el. KLM @ 135'
- Tower #4: 108' Rohn 25G
- 10M 6 el. KLM @ 108'
- 10M 5 el. @ 35' fixed SE

Miscellaneous antennas:

- 40M Bobtail Curtain between tower #1 & #2; toward Japan.
- 1300' Beverage receiving antenna; aimed 045 degrees.
- 360' beverage NW/SE; non-terminated
- 500' beverage NE/SW; non-terminated

Upcoming plans include the following:

- Remove 40M Bobtail and replace w/80M Bobtail
- Build 4 element full sized cubical quad for 80M
- 6-over-6 stack for 10 & 15M; fully rotary
- 3 short towers (Rohn 25G & RBX tower) 35' to 45' for low rotaries on 20 thru 10M. Each 5 element.
- Note: All antennas fed with 50 ohm 1/2" (80/40) or 7/8" (20,15,10) hardline. 160 M fed with good old 8214.

Equipment inside shack:

- Station #1: Collins S-Line w/full QSK on 80/15M using Henry 3KA amp.
- Station #2: Collins S-Line w/full QSK on 40/10M using Alpha 78
- Station #3: TS-830 (K5GN) on 20/160M with Alpha 76 amp.
- Station #4 & #5: Collins S-Lines w/full QSK awaiting their sale or use. Whichever come first.

Upcoming plans for equipment:

Have Dave, K5GN buy 6 FT-1000Ds and replace everything... But since that will never happen, I plan to sell S-Lines and buy a FT-1000D for station. Visitors will bring their own rig. I will provide amps (normally.)

My intent is for the station to be used for Single Op, Multi-Single, or perhaps a modest Multi-Two, but not a large Multi-Multi effort. No time or money to get into that rat race again.

Otherwise, the station is intended for my use is DXing, rag-chewing, and kicking some butt whenever I have time to get on. I already have reports of 40 over in Europe on 75M and pinning the meters on 40 thru 10M.

The fiberoptic network to my remote listening station in Nova Scotia will be installed by 1996. <grin>

(Sid, K5XI who has his own VBS, "VERY BIG" station up in Grimes county has agreed to do a similar run down for us when time permits..ed)

Propagation Forecast

de Roy, AD5Q

(The following article is taken from the Northwest ARS Newsletter for October 1993..ed)

Moving into the seasonal peak for 10 Meter DX activity, things are looking dismal. Solar flux readings over 100 are becoming less common, and the path to Europe is difficult at best. There is almost no activity on 10 CW other than foreign SSB QRM from CBers. Nearly all 10 Meter activity is in the fone band now, and I (a CW snob) do not spend enough time up there to make an accurate appraisal on conditions to Europe. The major DX contests will bring a lot of activity on the band, and European contacts will be made. From this part of the country it may all be scatter propagation, which is marginal. If there is any direct path activity to Europe at all, the East coast will likely have it to itself. Though northern latitude paths will be closed, we will still have propagation to the east, west and south. During contests, 10 will still be an important multiplier band for Africans, the Pacific, VK/ZL, South America and the Caribbean. We could also get some abbreviated openings to Japan, which is a lower latitude path for us than Europe.

Conditions on 15 have also been seriously effected by the lower flux levels. The band is slow to open to Europe, and the path doesn't stay open as long. Polar openings are especially rare, with limited access to Russia. 10 and 15 are important bands for contesters at the peak of the cycle, producing quantities of DX contacts at 100+ per hour. All-night openings on 20 are also a factor. It will be a few years until we see these conditions again, and contest scores will plummet. Sunspot peaks stir up a lot of interest in DXing, contesting, and in ham radio generally. Many start with a low tribander that loses its effectiveness as the cycle heads down, especially when 20 closes at night. Activity declines as many lose interest in DXing, while others find new challenge on the low bands. These are more difficult, but maybe DXing on the high bands is just too easy.

The low band season is off to an early start this year, because 20 is already closing in the evening. Most CW activity moves to the low end of 40, where conditions are excellent. This band becomes seriously over-crowded. Any semi-rare DX station that shows is quickly spotted, and pileup frequencies are overrun with hoards of lids who usually make copy of the DX station impossible. To work this band with wire antennas, it is important to tune carefully for the DX and be among the first stations calling (before the news is out on packet). Since the SSB portion of 40 is dominated by shortwave broadcasts, many SSB DXers prefer 75 Meters, even though propagation is much more difficult.

Due Dates

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

- October 12.....North American Sprint CW (*)
- October 15.....European (WAE) DX Contest SSB
- October 19.....North American Sprint SSB (*)
- October 31.....Scandinavian Activity Contest
- October 31.....Washington State Salmon Run
- November 15.....California QSO Party
- November 30.....All Asian DX Contest SSB