



# 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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I write this as I sit on a plane in Cincinnati, on my way home via Chicago O'Hare, after attending the Dayton Ham Convention. It has been a great trip with K5AAD, K5NU, and N5KTN along as traveling companions. Ahhh, the land of White Castle Hamburgers, Rubber Ducky Helmets, and the experience of seeing techy shoppers quibble over the price difference of an asking price of \$2.00 vs. an offer price of \$1.00.

Tomorrow, I leave for VS6 and BY for a while. so I have to get what few thoughts I am capable of storing in my little brain into this computer for forwarding to WB5N for the Bullsheet.

For those of you that missed last month's meeting, well you REALLY missed a meeting. KK5DK and K2TNO certainly packaged up an event that will be hard to equal for quite some time to come. THANKS ONE WHOLE LOT, GUYS !!

I will not be here for the May meeting so I hope everyone will be able to get along without me. The Tracy Gee room is reserved. I surely do hope that I will come back to discover that FD is arranged in our usual fine fashion for an all out TDXS intergalactic high score in whatever category we elect to plunge into.

I guess by now everyone is aware of the November Hamfest that has been developed for this year. Thanks, of course to our NZ5I, N5DC, and all of the others for the fine effort. I have put together a few stimuli for our mutual thought processes, and hope that these ideas might mature into reality, in some shape, form, or fashion, as time goes along.

AA)

What do you think of a Field Day type multi SS setup for the Hamfest. Wanna play ? HEY, THE BIG OPS OF THE TDXS CONCEDE SS FOR JUST ONE YEAR SO AS TO SET UP A STATION AT THE HAM FEST SIGHT, FULL BLOWN, TRAILER HOUSED. FULLY VISIBLE, RIGHT OUT IN FRONT ..... FOR ALL TO SEE ..... USING MOBILE HOMES, FD ANTENNAS, ETC. AND SHOW EVERYONE HOW WELL TDXS OPS

A few motor homes, the N5RP BugWagon, maybe a deluxe operating area set up over in a sound deadened area of the convention for the station.

Crankup trailer tower with 2 elements for 40, TH6DXX for all else, or monobanders for the top 3 bands.

## Announcements

**Meeting** – The Texas DX Society Meets the second Friday of each month, except when the date is changed by the Board of Directors. The July meeting will be **Friday July 14, 1995. The meeting location will be announced on the TDXS Repeater 147.96/36.** The meeting will begin promptly at 7 PM. Visitors are welcome to attend, and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

## From the Editor – de Dave, WB5N

I must apologize for the May and June **Bullsheets**. They were written but never mailed. I've made some changes in how that happens that actually should get the **Bullsheet** into your hands faster. I must also apologize to those we contributed to the **Bullsheet** but never got to see it in print. I'll do my best to see that it doesn't happen again.

## The Prez Sez – de Bob, N5RP

Fellows, here is the article I put together last April for the May Bullsheet. I've also attached a copy of my article for the June edition. After you read these, please let me know what your thoughts might be as to obtaining TDXS membership participation in ham radio events.

**FOR THE MAY EDITION OF THE BULLSHEET.**

## The TDXS Bullsheets

We could be computer controlled, packet connected, hooked up to a TV camera for a display inside of the Hamfest area, connected to an audio patch so everyone could hear our rate (a tap from the radio audio for both monitor function as well as what we are working)

We could even turn our score in as a whole new category "Hamfest". Submit two scores; "Field Day" format ; "SS" format.

BB)

Surely we have the expertise to demonstrate, or compare the two main contest software logging programs. Maybe, a very basic presentation so as to entice new entrants into the contest arena.

CC)

How about an INTERNET demonstration and its interface capabilities to amateur radio.

DD)

I think we can get K5IU to come down and give a presentation on his revolutionary antenna design concepts.

EE)

How about a packet seminar showing its relevance to DX'ing and contesting.

FF)

A receiver design or performance comparison seminar. (K2TNO ?)

GG)

HOSPITALITY SUITE ? .....YOU BETCHA !! .... WHERE, WHEN ??

HH)

Auction, possible conflict with hospitality suite? Silent auction ? Open bid auction ?

II)

Ticket sales for what type of gear. \$\$\$\$ scale. Who runs with this one ?

NOW, WHERE CAN YOU, AS A TDXS MEMBER HELP !?!?!?. HOW CAN I HELP!?!?!?. WHAT PORTION OF ANY OF THESE POSSIBILITIES DO WE WANT TO GO FOR ? THE BOARD NEEDS YOUR FEEDBACK, PLEASE, JUST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

If ever there was an opportunity for the TDXS to get a good kick start out of the blocks on a new venture, and become a main player in association with an organization that benefits us all, it might very well be NOW. I am sure that the Houston Hamfest group will remember us for quite some time to come if we put some forth just a little effort at helping them out with their new venture. As we well know, when the TDXS starts out putting forth just a little effort into something, it quickly blossoms into something of major proportions and performance. I don't see why the first weekend in November should be handles any differently.

Fellows, there are so many aspects of the Hamfest that need a dedicated TDXS member to champion. I really do hope that i

might come home to find a list of volunteers for performance on each and every one of them.

DAYTON .....

Weather was great this year, although this morning (Sunday) as we left, the weather was looking like the old Dayton rain sorta thing. I saw old members up there; K5NA, K5MA, K5ZD. Saw the new ICOM radios; IC706 and IC776 .... WHOA, Feature rich !

The crowd was huge this year, and there were the usual odd goodies to be had that one just can't live without, or find the ability to pass by as they are revealed to you by flea market purveyors. All in all, I showed remarkable strength in not buying too much, but exhibited shrewd wisdom in grabbing onto some invaluable goodies at remarkable prices. Just the kind of thinking that makes my junk room so well stocked and supplied with the remnants of yester year's great ideas.

If you have never been top Dayton, you have never been to a Hamfest. It is truly one of the hobby's main events.

I wonder if the Houston event might be viewed that same way 25 years from now. The TDXS can be a big part of what OUR Hamfest becomes. LET'S BE A BIG PLAYER. HECK, LET'S BE "THE" BIG PLAYER !!!

Hold down the fort while I'm gone. Get Field Day humming. Maybe I'll bring back everyone a fake Rolex. CU from XX9 ?!?!?! We'll see !

### **FOR THE JUNE EDITION OF THE BULLSHEET.**

RP4, JT1, HS0, BV7, BT9, VK, 7Q7, 9M2, HL, BY1, VS6. JA's Galore! Believe me when I tell you that there is no way for any of my fellow members to be hearing the stuff I am hearing this evening on my new all band antenna !

Signals are at an AGC thumping 599+ level from everywhere, and the night has just begun. It is 18:45 local time and all of the bands seem to be hopping with their own particular brand of really rare DX. After all these years, I have finally discovered the magical combination of location and antenna for world-wide signal extraction from the ionosphere. My secret ? A crawler crane on the deck of a Korean work barge located in the South China Sea. I have taken my little Sony portable receiver with the fishing reel antenna, coupled the antenna to my receiver, and then hung the antenna on to the cable of the crane which shoots up well over an additional 100 feet into the air from off of the deck of the living quarters barge that is to be my home for the next several weeks.

What could I have been thinking ? Why did I not drag along my little HW-8 and "just go for it" Oh well!

The fact that the seas are too rough for the quarters barge to stay connected to the production platform that I am hereto work on, and there will be nothing for me to do for the next 4-5 days except read magazines under sunny skies while enjoying the brisk cooling breezes from the North, only causes me to ask that same question over and over with a maddening redundancy.

## The TDXS Bullsheet

Somehow, I was of the impression that we had so very much communications available to us today. We have had television for so many years as to cause us to take for granted our taking of that media for granted. At every street corner we have access to telefax, e-mail, beepers, etc.

Well, I am here to tell you, there are still those instances when good old ham radio can outdo them all. Being stuck out here on this undulating football field sized slab of rust and creosoted timbers only serves to confirm my realization of that fact. I am in a situation where all of today's readily available communications conveniences are removed from me as the 1,000 foot distance between my living quarters barge and the multi-story production platform that accommodates all of those "today communication conveniences". Because of rough seas that prevent our being attached to the platform that we are out here to work on, I am stuck out here in the South China Sea with Sony ears but very little else, with which to make contact to the outside world. Oh for my little HW-8 and a hank of wire !

Even the things we learn as HAMS, beyond DX'ing and Contesting, can come into play. The guys up in the navigation room have attempted to make a TV antenna out of a fan screen, some welding rod, copper wire, coat hangers, and a broom stick; all to not much fruition. (A Jackson Pollack sort of contraption); Shazzam ! Up limps N5RP with the high tech solution of resonant lengths, .15 and .20 wavelength spacing, and a computer, all be it void of the Yagimax program. Again, what could I have been thinking ? Well, back to basics of learned formulae and retained memory, such as it is.

Our past two TDXS meetings have had to do with the new, and to some of our members, exotic INTERNET; that exciting new world of high tech communications. I, as I write this article from around 21 degrees North by 115 degrees East on my small Compaq computer, I cannot touch that so called "readily accessible" new world from this isolated South China Sea "paradise". My simple HW-8 would provide me with that access to the world.

The June TDXS meeting will bring us back to that same type of communications reality. YOUR June meeting will be Field Day, back to our roots, back to what we, as the TDXS, do best ..... Q's at a fast clip with our group of operators who know how to get the job done as it should be done. E.T. call home if you want, but the TDXS knows a better way !

I have said it before, and you must hear me say it again ..... Field Day is that singular club event where EVERY member has the chance to contribute to the common effort of the club with his or her own special ability. I truly do HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU at this year's non contest event. Your fellow club members also VERY MUCH WANT TO SEE EACH OF YOU at this year's numero uno club outing ! To not be present for TDXS Field Day is to let the rest of your club members down in a big way. To just make a presence in the form of an afternoon visitation is all that is needed to confirm your interest in the rest of us.  
73, N5RP/(close to VS6 & BY)

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Information on the club meeting for this month (July 14) can be obtained from obtaining same on the repeater. Most likely, I am

going to find some place in the heights (The Commissary on Houston Boulevard) for a cool drink and an atmosphere for club discussion for those that might be interested in talking about where we are (or are not) headed as an organization. I hope the location will be centrally located enough for everyone to not find location fault. As for a place to eat, perhaps W5JWM can suggest somewhere, since we will pretty much be in his neighborhood.

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### FIELD DAY 1995

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Look for the complete wrap up of TDXS Field Day 1995 in the August **Bullsheet**. We entered class 2A with novice VHF/UHF, and satellite stations. Our estimated final score is 8350. Field Day went very smoothly this year and those of you who did not make it out this year you were sorely missed. To those who did contribute this year congratulations and thanks!