



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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Bullsheat Mailing List - TDXS wishes to provide the Bullsheat to all amateurs in the 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 Bullsheat 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 Bullsheat area on K2TNO's Bulletin Board at 713-798-4955, or sent direct to the editor on either 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" diskette. Contact W5ASP at 713-974-3455 to arrange these file transfers. If necessary, files may be sent to "Dr. William Schrader" via FAX at 713-790-1275.

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 July meeting will take place on Friday, July 13, 1990. The meeting will be held at the Briargrove Park Center courtesy of Joe, W5ASP. The building is located at 2301 Seagler Road. This is just a couple blocks north and east of the intersection of Westheimer and Beltway 8. Seagler Road is the first street east of the Beltway running north off of Westheimer. Just beyond Westheimer on Seagler are two large churches, one on either side of the street. Just past the one on the east side is the club house adjacent to the tennis courts and pool. The name Briargrove Park Center is on the brick wall at the entrance. The parking lot is located between the tennis courts and the pool with the club house next to it. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

Program - The program for the July TDXS meeting will feature two 20 minute video tapes. The first will be a video from Kantronics presenting their new DataEngine. Jim, N5DC, will have the manuals with him for those who would like to browse further through the details. The second video tape will be from AEA and will deal with amateur television, a topic new to most of our group.

It seemed like a good time to try something other than a DX or contest related program. After viewing the tapes, Jim would appreciate your comments. He would like to know if you would prefer to see more of this variety of program, or return to the previous emphasis on DX and contest subjects. Unfortunately, new sources for program material are limited. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas, make it known! (de Jim, N5DC)

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 encouraged to join in.

DX Packet Cluster - TDXS sponsors the Waller County DX PacketCluster bulletin board located in Hempstead, TX operating on 144.95 MHz with the call KE5IV. The Cluster runs the AK1A software and uses AX25 Level 2 protocol. A new digipeater (TDX) is soon to be operational from the Greenway Plaza area to provide improved access to this PacketCluster. There is an alternative path on 144.91 MHz, also under KE5IV's call, with a high, multi-element 2 meter beam pointed towards Houston. This allows those on the west side of Houston the option of connecting directly with Hempstead and has the virtue of giving somewhat faster response. Fred, K5FP, operates the Galveston County PacketCluster, located in Santa Fe, TX which is quite active on 144.93 MHz. It is usually connected with KE5IV. Stations in the southern parts of Houston may find it easier to connect with this cluster. Both clusters are frequently linked into Austin and Dallas for added DX coverage, especially during contests. In addition to listing current DX spots, the system provides access to a wide variety of related information such as the W6GO QSL Manager list, Russian oblasts, WWV propagation, beam headings, etc. A complete list of the PacketCluster commands can be obtained by sending a S.A.S.E. to the TDXS at the address shown above.

The Prez Sez

de Ken, KE5IV

I hope by now we have all recovered from Field Day. From the last numbers I heard we may have fallen just shy of a new record in Class 2A. With very little sporadic-E the number of Q's on 10 Meters and on 6 Meters were definitely on the low side. I would have to say that 15 Meters was the money band. The only problems I know of were - the 2 El 40 Meter CW beam was a dummy load, the cattle tore down the 80 Meter delta loop, and the Novice 10 Meter quad discovered gravity.

It was good to see some new faces and some faces we have missed in the last few years. New faces at Field Day included: KI3L-Don, KE4GY-Frank, NB9T-Brian, N5RZ-Ralph (and GATOR), WA5F-Ray, K5LLL-Ron, and KB5NFN-Ron Jr. (whose Novice call was still in the mail at the time..ed). W5JQ, N5DU, and NM5M (now in Dallas) found the time this year to join us. We had guest appearances by WN4KKN, K5RC, N5LKC and N5NMX. Thanks to the guys in Houston: WA9VLI, K5YCP, W5JWM, and N5DC.

We didn't really do too good of a job monitoring either the repeater or packet for traffic from the Field Day site. Why is it, things go up so SLOW on Saturday and come down so FAST on Sunday?? By my count we had twenty-six (26) people off and on at the site and four (4) in the support group in Houston. Thanks to all, especially W5SJS-Bob for again providing the site!

For those who missed Ham-Com in Arlington on the weekend of the 8th of June... you really missed a good convention. The flea market had good equipment and very few boat anchors. The were excellent forums for Packet, DX and Contesting. Saturday night we had an informal Hospitality Suite in the KE5IV, K5WA, KG5U hotel room.

In the next couple of weeks the PacketCluster will be down while I install the DRSI boards and get used to setting the parameters for them. I have spent the better part of the last week reading all the information from W6GO, NJ5N, KG5ND and others to avoid the problems other SYSOP's have had. The good news is that most of the problems have a cure now. Keep your fingers crossed. Hopefully, this will free up my KPC-2's for use as digipeaters and or KA-NODES at a couple of locations.

See you at the meeting...we have a few items of business to take care of...be there!

Repeater News

de Jim, N5DC

As most of you are probably aware, there have been some big changes in our repeater setup in recent days. I want to bring you up to date on where we are and where we are headed. We are no longer operating from the 500 ft. tower in the Jersey Village area. As of this time, we have returned to the 5 Greenway Plaza site and are using the G.E. Repeater. For reasons unknown to me the G.E. has lost its preamplifier and the Spectrum is putting out nasty spurs. I have arranged for a "doctor" with commercial test gear to have a look at the units during the next week or so, and we should be back up and running soon with both repeaters at this site. The good news is that our intermod problem seems to have diminished (gone away we hope!). It is my intention to separate the Spectrum from the G.E. and move one of them to 1 Houston Center, the newly acquired repeater site. The other will be relocated to the

original Greenway site where the Spectrum was initially. This was the site that Wes, N5WW, had made available some years ago. We will be on the same building but not on the KODA antenna support. The present 5 Greenway Plaza site will then become the location of our digipeater with the new call TDX (replacing ALD). All of this will take some time and an outlay of money by TDXS. I believe it is a rational and workable plan that will fit our current needs and give us a variety of options. It remains to be seen which of the voice repeater sites will give us the best coverage. Whichever one does will be our primary site with the other one being the backup. On behalf of TDXS, I would like to thank Bob Moorman, K5VMX, for the considerable time, effort and money he spent both on the repeaters and on the digi system.

DX Report

de Bob, AK5B

Wow! Another month gone. It will be Christmas before we know it. But June was a good month for the DX oriented type amateur. Had a nice time at Ham-Comm, though we did have to listen to K5LZO and KC5M talk about Desecheo Is. while we attended the DX lunch put on by the Lone Star DX Club. It was fun though, and I think all had a good time. (Just a little early in the day for cold chicken fried steaks.)

Then the operating event of the year, i.e. my annual visit to the Blue Bell factory in Brenham, otherwise known as Field Day. Other than being HOT, all went well and I'm sure there will be a write up on the results elsewhere in this Bullsheet.

DX-wise, the **Trindade** operation did come up as scheduled but not for the duration expected. They were on for just a few days, then no more was heard.

The good news is that the **A51JS** QSL's are showing up in the mail. Jim did a super job with the photos, etc. A real nice card indeed.

The rumors are still flying for a **ZA** operation in July. The DX Bulletin has Peter, HA5WE, shooting for a 10-14 day operation beginning in early July. So keep your ears open and rig warmed up, cuz maybe...

Jack, FR5ZU, will operate /J on July 5-16 from **Juan de Nova**. He will be SSB only around 14.280 or so.

Also this month, Martti Laine and family will be QRV from the Caribbean. July 4-9 from 8P9, then on July 10-13 from VP2V in the British Virgin Islands. If you work Martti and he notes the log as being the operator, the QSO should count for the **YASME** award. QSL to WD6GFF and ask him to check and make an appropriate note on the card as to who the operator was.

According to QRZ DX the **3Y5X** cards are in the mail (and have been arriving in Houston..ed). The LA's made a bulk mailing to W6 land for distribution here in the states.

Watch for the possibility of two new countries to be active this month. Six operators plan to put on the **Penguin Islands**, off the coast of Africa. Calls announced will be **DL8CM/ZS1** on CW and **DK9KX/ZS1** on SSB. Planned dates are July 14-20. WFWL! Also, five or six ops from VE2 will put on **Grosse Ile**, July 26-31 using the call **CI0GI**. New DXCC country status has been requested for both of these operations.

The DX Bulletin reports that the **IS0XV** Spratly operation has been approved for DXCC credit. Still no US route for QSLs, so send via Box 308, Moscow 103009, USSR. Now, if they'll just send the cards.

Don't forget the World Radiosport Team Championship contest that is part of the Goodwill Games being held in Seattle. The contest will be July 20-21 and should be quite an

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event. Get the details from QST (or May and June issues of the Bullsheet..ed) and try to give out a few Q's. Should be fun! This is a first with teams from up to 23 countries competing for "Worlds Best". Don't know how the USA team will fair without any members from the TDXS on that end, but we should be able to help out from this end.

Till next month, 73 es CU in the ZA pileups...GUD DX!

Contest News

de Dale, KG5U

First off, my thanks to all for not giving me grief for missing last month's column submission. Sadly, STS-35 got put off till August. But W5RRR never looked better...it must be seen to be believed. Then during the external tank test in late June another hydrogen leak was found bringing the Shuttle flight schedule to a screeching halt. All this is going on and Hubble turns up a less than perfect mirror on one of its onboard telescopes. Not a good month overall! However, we shall prevail...the American spirit can and will do no less.

The same can be said for contesting...against all hardships, and Mr. Murphy, etc. Speaking of which, another spectacular effort at Field Day has again been accomplished quite successfully in spite of incredibly hot weather. The stock tank, because of lack of wind, was outfitted with its own generator to drive the sump pump to keep the tank filled with fresh, cold water. The tank and a low-flying plane...how many FD groups can boast of using a private plane to shoot a north-south bearing for them?...were the highlights of the weekend. We even managed to keep NSRZ's attention for most of the weekend. And NM5M, now a Dallas area resident, came down for the fun.

How successful the actual FD activities were remains to be seen. As planned, we went Class 2A this year. One motor home on the hilltop, the other at the shady grove and the novice station in a travel trailer (with air conditioning!) just a hundred yards from the hilltop station. Overall, I would say we came close to, if not beating, the record for the category, but the numbers were still being processed as this was being written. We await Mr. Perring's (NSRP) words with baited breath.

I have included a copy of a Contesting Survey which appeared on page 88 of the July 1990 issue of CQ Magazine. John Dorr, K1AR, made up the survey and discusses his reasons in the column. I urge you to fill out the survey and send it on to John at the address shown. In addition I suggest you include your name, call and packet address for his use. Thanks!

Upcoming Contests

July 14-15: *IARU HF World Championship*, 14th/1200Z till 15th/1200Z; CW and SSB; S/O and mixed categories. Send signal report and ITU zone (we are in Zone 7). Logs must be postmarked not later than August 15, 1990. Check April 1990 QST for further details.

July 20-21: *World Radiosport Team Championship*, 20th/2100Z till 21st/0700Z; CW and SSB; S/O-S/T, M/O-M/T categories. Exchange signal report and serial number. Check the 1990 WRTC insert with the May or June TDXS Bullsheet or June 1990 QST for more details.

July 28-29: *Six Meter Activity Day Contest* (sponsored by the Six Meter Invitational Net), 28th/1400Z till 29th/0300Z. Exchange call, first name, grid square and, if appropriate, member number. Logs to be postmarked by August 31, 1990. See July 1990 QST for other details.

August 4-5: *Ten-Ten International Net Summer Phone QSO Party*, 4th/0000Z till 5th/2400Z; S/O only; SSB, AM or FM only. Exchange callsign, name, state, and 10-10 number(if a member). Check July 1990 QST for details.

August 11-12: *European DX Contest*, 11th/1200Z till 12th/2400Z; S/O-A/B, Multi-single, Multi-Multi categories. Exchange signal report, serial number, and state (for U.S. stations). Work only European stations. Check July 1990 QST for details. They MUST be read to understand the off-times, multipliers, and countries rules/definitions, and what the heck a QTC is exactly.

August 25-26: *All Asian DX Contest*, 25th/0000Z till 6th/2400Z; CW only; S/O-AB, S/O-SB, Multi-multi categories. Exchange signal report and operator's age (YL's only have to give signal report and "00"). Note that the 1991 All Asia contest will move to the third weekend of June (I think it is the weekend before ARRL Field Day weekend..whew!) and the SSB contest to the first weekend of September.

Contest Results

1989 ARRL 10-Meter Contest

NR5M (K2TNO, K5GA, KE5IV, N5DU)
with 2,353,392 points for First Place, Multiop
KC5CP - 149,838; 2nd place, South Texas, Mixed Mode
N5AF - 24,480; 7th place, South Texas, Phone Only
K5WA - 636,000; 1st place, South Texas, CW Only
K13L - 493,920; 3rd place, South Texas, CW Only

Congratulations to all!

1990 All Asia Phone Contest

de Sid, K5XI

The phone portion of the All Asia contest was held on June 16/17 this year. This contest, sponsored by JARL, is always lot of fun for me. This year was no exception. Conditions were good, except that we did not get much of a 10 meter opening to Japan on Saturday, and when 10 meters was open on Sunday, the rates were not good. This year most of the action was on 15 meters. Over 60% of my Q's were made on that band.

A number of old time contesters have observed that the JA rates have dropped appreciably in recent years. Even though this contest is sponsored by the Japanese, the lower rates that I observed seemed to be consistent with a drop in popularity of contesting or amateur radio in Japan, or possibly both.

I had planned to leave work early on Friday, so I would have plenty of time to get set up for the contest. As these things usually go, I got tied up at the office and did not arrive at the station until over an hour after the contest had already started. When I got on the air and made my first contact at 0126Z, 15 meters was really hopping! I worked JA's as quickly as I could enter them into the computer. I jumped down to 20 meters a couple of times to pick up a few Russian mults, but essentially remained on 15 until 0640Z. By then, the rates on 20 meters had picked up, and I was off to the races running JA's on 20.

In this contest, contacts with stations in Asia count 1 point each on 10, 15, 20 and 40 meters. Contacts on 80 meters count 2 points each. I think contacts on 160 meters counted 3 points each, but this became rather academic, because I was unable to work anyone in Asia on 160. Prefixes are multipliers.

I have a mental block against contesting without a computer, so I used the K1EA program for the WPX contest. It

worked fine for this contest, even though it assigns the wrong number of points to each QSO. It did give me a realtime indication of prefix multipliers and rates. I have my computer hooked up to my TS-940S, and the logging program automatically recorded the frequency and time for each QSO. My secretary later fixed the logs to indicate the correct points for each QSO, so the paperwork wasn't much of a problem.

The rates held up on 20 meters all night. At sunrise, I went to 80 meters to score a few 2 point QSO's. There were three JA's that were pretty loud. I wonder what they were using for antennas. In all I only made 4 Q's on 80 meters, because our sunrise corresponded with sunset in Japan. The guys on the west coast had a definite advantage here.

I tried 40 meters and quickly decided that it was a waste of time. So 20 meters was the best band after sunrise. When the rate dropped on 20, it was back to the races on 15 meters again. My best hour was at 1300Z on 15 meters. At 1541Z I had milked 15 dry, and had 731 Q's in the log. I decided it was time to crash because 10 was not open.

When I woke up, 10 was open. After working 27 stations, 10 seemed to close, so I went back to 15 meters. At the end of day one, I had 3 Q's on 80, 1 on 40, 326 on 20, 461 on 15, and 27 Q's on 10 meters.

On the second day, I only made 67 contacts on 20, milked another 402 Q's out of 15 meters, and also managed 106 contacts on 10 meters.

On Sunday morning I learned a lesson about trying out a few CQ's even when a band sounds dead. At 1400Z on Sunday morning, it was way too early for 10 meters to open to Japan. But I have a new stack of two 6-element KLM's on 10 meters, so I thought it might be worth a try even though listening up and down the band failed to reveal any sign of an opening to that part of the world. Amazingly, I worked 12 JA's between 1416Z and 1425Z! Of course they were pretty weak, but nonetheless they were workable. 10 meters finally opened at 1945Z.

After staying on 10 for about 2 and 1/2 hours, I spent the rest of the contest jumping back and forth between 10 and 15. When things were going a little slow Tom, 5H3TW, stopped by to say hello during the contest. Unfortunately, he did not count because he is not in Asia!

The final breakdown, after eliminating dupes and non-Asia stations, is as follows:

BAND.....QSO.....QSO PTS.....PREFIXES

160.....0.....0.....0
80.....4.....8.....0
40.....1.....1.....0
20.....390.....390.....29
15.....855.....855.....101
10.....133.....133.....2

Totals..1383.....1387.....132 = 183,084

I like this contest, because the east coast guys do not have a geographical advantage in this one. All of their fixed stacks of yagis aimed at Europe are worthless in this contest!

There were a lot of people who were not in the contest who were putting out stuff on the packet cluster. N5NMX and NA5Z were especially active during the All Asia contest. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the guys who pitch in during various contests to put out packet spots for the contesters among us. Your efforts are very much appreciated!

Review: 2nd Op. - Revisited

de Jim, N5DC

I would like to revise a statement I made in my review of the 2nd OP DX Logging Program that appeared in the May 1990 issue of the Bullshead. I incorrectly stated that the 2nd OP would not support 5BDXCC when in fact it will.

Let's suppose that you have already entered all of your worked countries, but just for DXCC only. Let's further assume that you have also entered 300 countries that you have worked. Suddenly you feel the urge to start 5BDXCC! Suppose you have worked a ZA on 20 meter CW and then the following week you work a ZA on 15 phone. If you bring up ZA (ho hum, just another ZA...!), it will reflect your 20 meter contact. By hitting the F6 key the 20 meter data will be removed from the screen (but not deleted), and you can then input the 15 meter data.

Now from the Main Menu hit Summary and then F5, and you will get a multi band summary. It will show you with 300 (your DXCC total hasn't changed), but it will have increased your 15 meter country count by one.

I hope this hasn't been too confusing, but believe me it works. I apologize to the author for missing this one. I recently had a note from Jim Rafferty, N6RJ, pointing out this oversight. In addition, Jim went on to say that Version 3.0 will be coming out around August 1st and will have some added "Bells, Lights and Whistles". I will get Version 3.0, and report on it at a later date.

QRZ?...QRA?...QRU?...

de Larry, W1SA

According to an article that appeared recently in one of the tabloids, "An amateur electronics buff knows heaven exists because he's spoken to angels on his ham radio." This article went on to say that this avid DXer "...was attempting to reach another ham radio operator across the globe when he heard...a singing choir on an unused channel."

Later encounters involved a direct QSO with an angel who gave "...the exact frequency of heaven so he could contact it again." Unfortunately the article failed to list the frequency nor was there any QSL route given.

No confirmation of this operation has appeared in any of the DX newsletters, but it is rumored that the DXCC desk has re-queseted the documentation.

Upcoming Events

- July 10.....CQ WW WPX CW Logs Due
- July 13.....TDXS Monthly Meeting
- July 14.....IARU HF World Championship
- July 14.....CQ WW VHF WPX Contest
- July 20.....World Radiosport Team Championship
- July 28.....Six Meter Activity Day
- August 03.....ARRL West Gulf Convention, Austin
- August 04.....ARRL UHF Contest
- August 04.....Ten-Ten International Phone
- August 10.....TDXS Monthly Meeting
- August 11.....Worked All Europe CW
- August 25.....All Asian DX Contest CW

The TDXS Bullshead

Dispatches from the U.K.

Rodborough Common, Gloucestershire, England, 25 June 1990

G0/KSTU Pulls the Plug on Cameron - Avid TDXS CW contester and DXer W. K. (Kim) Carr III, G0/KSTU announced today that he is leaving Cameron Iron Works after more than 15 years of service to join Tulsa based NATCO. KSTU and family are moving back to the USA effective immediately. Frustration at the office and an HF6V mounted in a RF "black hole" were the major contributing factors to the change. "Cameron thought I was a lifer.", he remarked. "It's not whether you win or lose in this game...it's whether you win."

High on the list of priorities for the Tulsa location is an acceptable antenna farm according to TDXS standards, and "a station to beat K5GN in the CW Sprint!", said KSTU. When queried about the new station, KSTU remarked, "I learned a lot watching K5LZO and NR5M. The new job pays well, but not that well!"

There was no immediate reaction from the RSGB or local hams. Speculation is that most are brain dead or now working backscatter on 432 MHz with a KW and soon will be. Prominent Scottish HF Contester Andy Burns, GM0ECO, was not concerned. "He was never a threat to me... I don't work CW." G0/KSTU's next door neighbor was heard rejoicing. His simultaneous all band all mode receiver (known in Britain as a TV) will now rest from the image ripping 35 WPM CW, left to demodulate the mindless rubbish of BBC1, BBC2 and the hand mixer!

ZA! ZA! ZA! ZA! ZA!

de F2YS/W2

On July 20, HA5WE and HA5PP will conduct a demonstration of amateur radio for the licensing authorities in Tirana, Albania. Peter and Zoli are confident that the license will be issued. The operation should start before July 27 and will last at least two weeks. If a license is not issued, the operators will return to Budapest and all donations received by F2YS/W2 will be returned immediately. Station call sign and QSL information (a US amateur) will be released by the operators after the start of the expedition. Frequency information will be released in about one week by F2YS/W2. Any unused donation will be applied to XZ later this year by the same operators. 73, Jacques (Courtesy of Jim, N5DC)

PSE QSL

de Sharp, K5DX

If you are a TDXS member, past or present, we want your QSL card. And if you have ever operated as a DX station we want that card also. These cards will be assembled into a display for the traditional TDXS hospitality suite at this year's Houston Com-Vention '90. Send your cards to C. E. Sharp, K5DX, 216 Meyers Road, Highlands, Texas, 77562, or bring them to the TDXS meeting. Please do it now!

Contesting Survey—Are Contesters Real Hams?

Your Call Area/Province/Country or Callsign:

Contesting Experience (years):

Home Telephone Number (see column):

Work Telephone Number (see column):

Address:

1. Do you regularly answer your bureau/direct QSL cards?
 YES NO

2. How many unsolicited outgoing QSLs have you sent in the past 12 months?
a. zero
b. 1-5
c. 5-25
d. greater than 25

3. Do you actively track your DXCC country totals?
 YES NO

4. Are you currently involved in a local radio club (non-contest)?
 YES NO

5. Have you administered an Amateur Radio Exam in the past 12 months?
 YES NO

6. How many QSOs with a non-contester have you made in the past 12 months that were longer than 10 minutes in duration?
a. zero
b. 1-5
c. 5-25
d. greater than 25

7. Do you operate special modes from your station (e.g., RTTY, SSTV, AMTOR)?
 YES NO

8. Have you ever been an "elmer" for another amateur?
 YES NO

9. How many hamfests did you attend in the past 12 months?
a. zero
b. 1
c. 2
d. 3 or greater

10. Have you participated in a public service activity (e.g., 2 meter communications in parades, road races, concerts) in the past 12 months?
 YES NO

11. Circle the following awards you have obtained:
a. 5BDXCC
b. 5BWAZ
c. 5BWAS
d. DXCC Honor Roll
e. Worked All Counties

12. Have you "home-brewed" a piece of amateur equipment in the past 12 months?
 YES NO

13. Have you ever held an amateur service position (e.g., Section Manager, VEC, OO, etc.)?
 YES NO

Comments (use additional sheet if necessary):

Return survey to: John Dorr, K1AR
OO Magazine Contest Column Editor
2 Baldwin Street
Windham, NH 03087 USA

Deadline: September 15, 1990