



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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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 June meeting will take place on **Friday, June 14, 1991** at **St. Johns School** at the corner of Claremont and Westheimer Roads. Claremont is the name of Buffalo Speedway after it crosses to the north of Westheimer. There is a parking lot entrance just north of Westheimer. Park in the lot and follow the walkway to enter the school building. The general meeting will take place in the auditorium/lecture hall and will begin about 7:30 P.M. A meeting of the TDXS Board of Directors will be held starting at 6:30 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 June program will open with a short slide presentation by W5ASP of the 1990 CQ WW DX SSB Multi-Single operation by K5GA, WB5N and W5ASP from Ambergris Caye, Belize, C.A. Then Bob, W5SJS will go over the final plans for this year's Field Day. Those planning on participating in the annual **TDXS Field Day** should make a special point of attending this meeting. Bob will need everyone's help, if we are to have another successful weekend of fun in the sun!

Bullsheat Mailing List - TDXS wishes to provide the Bullsheet to those amateurs in the Houston area with an active interest in DXing and contesting. Donations to help defray publication and mailing costs are appreciated. Visitors to our club meetings will receive the Bullsheet for three months free of charge simply by signing the Attendance List and including their mailing address. Articles or other newsworthy items are hereby solicited by your editor. Articles should be submitted in the form of either ASCII files or as MS Word or WordPerfect word processor files. Files may be sent to the Editor on either 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" diskette, either DS/DD or DS/HD. If necessary, files may be sent to "Dr. William Schrader" via FAX at 713-790-1275, or via E-Mail to

Schrader @ BCM.TMC.EDU. For those with VHF Packet and having access to any of the local Digipeaters, or able connect directly, ASCII text can be sent directly to the Editor. Contact W5ASP at (713) 974-3455 to arrange such file transfers.

DX Packet Clusters - The Waller County Contest and DX PacketCluster Bulletin Board (PCBS) is located in Hempstead, Texas and operates on 144.990 MHz with the call KE5IV. A digipeater is operational on 144.990 MHz from Stafford with the antenna located at 600 feet to provide reliable access to this PacketCluster. This Digi has the alias HOU99. The preferred procedure is to first connect with the digipeater (C HOU99) and then connect to the PacketCluster (C KE5IV). Please leave the cluster with the command BYE. There is a second port operating on 144.910 MHz, also under KE5IV's call. This affords local stations with higher ERP, generally those on the west side of Houston, the option of connecting directly with Hempstead and gives somewhat faster response.

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

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

QST ... QST ... QST

PLEASE CONTACT EITHER JIM, N5DC (358-0051) OR BOB, W5SJS (463-7575) AND LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN JOIN THE TDXS AT FIELD DAY. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO THIS A.S.A.P. CHECK INTO THE TUESDAY NITE NET IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS.

The Prez Sez

by Jim, N5DC

If you missed the last month's meeting, a Saturday midday get together at NSRP's civic club recreation area, you missed a real good time! We had lots of good food and fellowship. I was most pleased to see a number of our members bring along their families. Everyone seemed to have swell time. I especially want to thank Bob and Mary Beth Perring for all of their efforts. The brisket was outstanding and I think that, if Mary Beth will give Bob a few more cooking lessons, he'll eventually be able to pass the head chef's test! We'll have to try another Saturday session later on in the year.

I have received word from our West Gulf Director, Tom, N5TC that the ARRL is on track for having DX Clubs field check QSL cards for new DXCC credit. I will need to have names from those of you (with 300 plus credited) who are interested in participating in this program. Authorized Field Checkers must be approved by the ARRL Division Director and appointed by the ARRL President. This is a program that fits very well into the scope of the TDXS's activities.

Our June meeting will be focused on planning for Field Day. Bob, W5SJS will need to know how many of you will be there during the weekend and when. Though we have decided to take a break from our usual record setting pace, Bob has to make some plans regarding equipment, stations and operators. Even if you miss the meeting let it be known if you think you can join us this year.

There seems to be a definite lack of interest in Field Day this year. Have we really reached "burnout"? I hope I am wrong. Anyway come to the June meeting and lets get a "fun field day" under way.

Several of the TDXS types attended a meeting a week or so ago of a new Packet organization that appears to be taking up the "slack" left by the apparent demise of HAPRS. I believe the new organization has some very worthwhile goals in mind. I hope they can achieve them and I feel we should help wherever we can. I suspect they will need our direct support, both in the technical and financial areas. Packet is here to stay, and since we are surely one of the biggest local user groups, e.g. through the several PacketCluster PCBS networks, let's help them help us.

See you at the meeting...73

Can You Help?

If you have any idea where I can locate a Kenwood VOX-4 Speech Processor for the TS-680S, please get in contact with Joe, W5ASP (713) 974-3455. I want to get one for Ron, ZF8AA on Little Cayman, B.W.I.

Believe it or not the TS-680 (TS-140 with 6 Meters) doesn't have a vox circuit. Makes it really tough trying to use K1EA on a laptop during a contest! (By the way, even a circuit diagram would help! Kenwood no longer makes the unit and apparently junked everything about it.)

Upcoming Events

June 14Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
 June 15JARL All Asian CW Contest
 June 22ARRL Field Day
 July 12Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
 July 13IARU HF Championship

DX Report

de Bob, AK5B

Hi there! Welcome to the nice cool Field Day month of June. (If you're on a mountain top in New England that is). Looks like things will be kind of "laid back" this year, a big change for this group. Maybe it's time though. The TDXS gang has certainly earned a "year off".

Sorry I won't be there for this one. First one I've missed in quite a few. I will be at a car show in Kerrville that weekend...getting just as hot I'm sure! But it does sound like fun, a relaxing weekend by the stock tank. If you can, be sure to be there. There should be at least two stations QRV. Bring lawn chairs, a cooler full, and just enjoy.

Got my **YASME SUPREME** award a week or so back, and was very pleasantly surprised. I'd seen one before, but didn't remember it being that good looking! (It's a scale model of the Yasme made entirely of copper and is really super...ed) I'll try to remember to bring it to the June meeting for show-and-tell. It has to be the nicest award in ham radio, and it's free, except for getting all those cards!

The big news at the home QTH is that the ZS8MI QSL cards finally arrived. Mine was for a CW contact on 6 Feb '90 and KE5TF, Linda's was for SSB on 24 Mar '90. That one will put her on the Honor Roll. Sure been ruff around this house the last few days. Hi!

As I write this, the **D2ACA, Angola** is pounding in on 28 MHz CW. Worked them last night on 40 Meter CW, and understand they were also on 15 SSB. Sounds like they will do a FB job of getting D2 moved way down on the need list. QSL to LZ2DF.

Latest word on **Penguin Island** is that the League has finally said yes to adding it to the DXCC country list. Submit QSLs after September 1st.

I wanted to make a showing this last weekend during CQ WPX CW, but it was not to be. Friday evening I had just gotten off to a good start when Linda informed me that the dishwasher had gone "TU". So into the kitchen I went, armed with screwdrivers, wrenches, medium hammer and lots of towels. Several hours later, I was able to inform her that yes indeed the dishwasher was really broken. The repairman would have to be called in the A.M. But, that did it for Friday night contesting for me.

No problem...just get up early Saturday morning and get a fresh start. Wrong! Had a call-out from the folks who employ me. So, off I went. I was home some 5 hours later. Naturally the bands were el stinko. Sunday I had to help get things around the place ready for Memorial Day company on Monday, so there went the weekend. I managed to get about 120 Qs or so. Maybe next year!

Hope everyone that went to Ham-Comm had a ball. As I write this, we're looking forward to the weekend, and hope that lots of locals make it. It's always a blast.

The other biggie to look for is the operation that is supposed to show up from **XZ**, the old Burma, now called **Myanmar**. There are to be four operators running two stations 24 hours a day for about 2 weeks. Reports are still saying it's set for sometime in June.

Jack, **ET2A** was still on the air the other night, while the papers said that the rebels were taking the capital! Hope he knows what he is doing and will be safe after the take-over. Or at the very least be sure to get the logs out to F6HIZ. That should do it for June.

Keep your fingers crossed for the XZ. I'll expect to see you at the June meeting. Be there! 73 es gud DX.

Texas DX Society Field Day Records

de Joe, W5ASP

If you've been around a while, or took the time to read the series of articles some time back on the history of the TDXS, you'll know that it all started out as a field day effort. For many years we kept close records of performance, most Qs per band by mode, best operator rates by band/mode, etc. But as things will, our concern for such quaint trivia has passed and they are probably lost now.

However, we do have the recorded history of our overall performance on Field Day. Here are the results over the past twenty years.

1971.....	Class 3A.....	7th Place
1972.....	Class 3A.....	6th Place
1973.....	Class 3A.....	4th Place
1974.....	Class 3A.....	2nd Place
1975.....	Class 3A.....	1st Place
1976.....	Class 3A.....	9th Place
1977.....	Class 3A.....	1st Place
1978.....	Class 4A.....	2nd Place
1979.....	Class 3A.....	1st Place
1980.....	Class 3A.....	2nd Place
1981.....	Class 3A.....	1st Place
1982.....	Class 3A.....	1st Place
1983.....	Class 5E.....	1st Place.....RECORD
1984.....	Class 3A.....	1st Place.....RECORD
1985.....	Class 4A.....	2nd Place
1986.....	Class 3A.....	1st Place
1987.....	Class 4A.....	1st Place.....RECORD
1988.....	Class 5A.....	1st Place.....RECORD
1989.....	Class 23A.....	1st Place.....RECORD
1990.....	Class 2A.....	1st Place.....??

Pretty impressive isn't it? Perhaps keeping up this proud tradition is worth a little effort on our part!

Callsign Trivia

de Fred, K3ZO

(The following article by Fred Laun, K3ZO appeared in the October 1989 PRVC Bulletin and later in the January 1990 Frankford Radio Club Newsletter. With the flurry of new prefixes appearing on the bands these days these "rules of thumb" may need amending, but the approach certainly is worthy of note....ed)

As I've said in comments (before), it helps me immensely in DX contests to know which callsign combinations are likely to be correct and which are not. Of course, at the rapid pace amateur radio is growing in some areas, those rules of thumb change constantly, and it helps to be active on the bands to become aware of changes.

Here, by first letter, are rules of thumb that I use when operating contests. I don't have a little sheet with these rules on it, they are just files "upstairs" for future reference. If I omit a first letter in my review, it's because the rules of thumb have occasion to be too seldom used (because of lack of activity in the affected areas) to be worth keeping in mind as an operating aid. Here, then, are the rules of thumb. They apply to HF operations only, since we are not taking up VHF operations in this review. Some countries use special callsigns for their VHF licensees.

"B": Only BT, BV, BY, and BZ prefixes are possible.

"D": DA, DF, DJ, and DK will almost always have two letter suffixes. The main exceptions are DJ0 and DK0, which frequently have three letter suffixes. The exception that proves the rule is DF1IAF. Don't ask me how he got his call! DH calls will be found only on 28 MHz and 3.5 MHz CW.

"F": Stations operating in France (F, FB, FD, FE, and FF) do not use the numbers 4 or 7 in their calls. Such stations with a 1 or a 6 in their calls will always have three letter suffixes. Such stations with a 2, 3, 5, 8, or 9 in their calls will almost always have two letter suffixes.

"G": The numbers 1, 7, and 9 are not used on HF in prefixes beginning with G. G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU, and GW stations with a 0 in their calls will always have three letter suffixes, while those with a 5, 6, or 8 in their calls will almost always have two letter suffixes. Don't forget that in the CQ WW contests, GM-Shetland counts as an additional multiplier.

"H": The HJ (Colombia) prefixes will be found only on CW and on 3.5 and 7 MHz SSB. Except on 28 MHz, almost all stations using the HG (Hungary) prefix will have a single letter suffix.

"I": Almost all Italian stations are limited to the I, IK or IO prefixes. The biggest (exceptions?..ed) are IN3 and IV3 prefixes, and of course we all know about IT9 and IS0, but the latter doesn't count for Italy anyway in the contests (IT9 counts as a separate multiplier in the CQ WW). Stations with the IK prefix have three letter suffixes only.

"J": The prefixes JB and JC are not used. The Japanese began with the JA prefix, then jumped to JH, and then to JR, before coming back to JE and starting up the line alphabetically from there. Thus, in the less populated call areas, you will not find prefixes near the end of the Japanese allocation block (JA through JS) except for JR. JS6 is the exception, designating newer stations on Okinawa. At this time, I am not aware of any assignments of the following prefixes: JN-JS2, JQ3, JS3, JJ-JQ4, JF5, JG5, JI-JQ5, JS5, JKIQ6, JJ-JQ7, JS7, JI-JQ8, JS8, JE-JI9, JJJQ9, JS9, JF0, JI-JQ0, and JS0. Incidentally, if you ever have a JA pileup that is so bad that you just can't pull anybody through, the best thing is to say "The JA5, go ahead" or "The JA9, go ahead." These are the two least populated JA call areas, so chances are, given the JAs' noted discipline, you will get only one or two callers if you do that.

"L": All LA three letter suffixes end with A. Only LX1 and LX2 prefixes exist except for the occasionally special stations, and LX1 and LX2 stations all have two letter suffixes. The same thing exactly can be said for LZ stations, except that suffixes beginning with K almost always have three letters. In LZ, the standard exceptions to the 1 or 2 in the prefix are LZ5A, LZ7A, and LZ9A. Other special event stations may exist from time to time.

"O": All OH stations with three letter suffixes have suffixes beginning with M or N, except in OH2 where most of the three letter suffixes begin with B. OF is often used by the OHs in contests. Czech prefixes are normally limited to OK1, OK2, and OK3, with a few OK5 club stations, and special stations OK6DX, OK7AA, and OK7MM being the exceptions. The OL prefix will be found only on 1.8 MHz generally, but every now and then the OKs use OL in a contest, generally with a single letter suffix. In Belgium, there are no assignments of ON1, ON2, or ON0 prefixes. All ON5, ON6, ON7, and ON8 calls have two letter suffixes, while only ON4 suffixes beginning with A or K have three letters. The only ON9 call is ON9CDX.

"P": Only PA2, PA3 and PA0 are assigned. All PA2 and PA3 calls have three letter suffixes. PB prefixes (PB0 only) will be found on 28 Mhz only.

"Q": Definitely a busted call.

"R": The rules of thumb are rapidly disappearing here as the Soviets seem to be imitating us in trying to use all possible prefixes, but you still will not find and RA5 or an RA7 on the air. RE, RK, RN, RS and RX prefixes are not normally used. Beyond that, anything beginning with R seems possible these days.

"S": There are no SM8 or SM9 calls. The Swedes do not assign the same suffix to two different hams even if they are in two different call areas. Thus far, they have reached the S in their three letter suffix assignments, so you will not find the three letter suffixes beginning with T or above at this time. Exactly the same can be said about the SPs, except that SP8s and SP9s exist, but SP0s are rare. It is an interesting coincidence that the Swedes and Poles are just about at the same place in assigning three letter suffixes.

"U": Same editorial comments as in "R". No UA5s or UA7s are known to exist, and UE, US, and UX prefixes are not normally used (US0SWU and US4P being the rare exceptions). Remember UA9S and UA9W are in CQ Zone 16.

"X": There are only XE1, XE2, and XE3 prefixes in the XE block.

"Y": Only Indonesian first class hams are allowed twenty meters. They are assigned the YB prefix, with YE as the overflow prefix. Thus, you won't find any YCs or YDs on 14 MHz. The YO0 prefix is not normally assigned, nor are the YU9 or YU0 prefixes. Also, East Germans don't seem to use anything above the letter O for the last letter of their suffixes.

There are many more rules than these, but these should cover 99% of the cases found in contests.

Contest Corner

de Kenny, NZ5I

Another WPX has come and gone. Consensus seems to be that the Central and Western USA had a tough time, the result of poor conditions and thunderstorms. Maybe it's fate that I was unable to make it to a station in time to get cranked up. There's always next year. On another note, the ARRL Field Day event is upon us once again. We're gonna be missing some of our key players from the past, but we have quite a line-up of strokey dudes and party animals still hangin' around the Houston area. I'm really looking forward to seeing you all out there in Brenham. Last I heard we are going tombe operating 2A. Please come join us. The last column item I have is my initial call for Sprint Ops. Pencil in September 8th if your into finger talk, and September 15th for you rubber lippers. I'm going to be recruiting early this year for Sprint teams and I really want you to seriously consider participating. It's 4 quick hours and a lot of fun. Here are some recent claimed scores.

1990 CQ WW DX SSB

GM0ECO	20th World SO/AB
V31K	21st World MO/ST (K5GA, W5ASP, WBSN)
NR5M	1st USA 28 MHz
W5WMU	3rd USA 21 MHz
KE5FI	6th USA 3.7 MHz
K5NA/2	4th USA MO/ST

1990 CQ WW DX CW

K5MA/1	29th USA SO/AB
W5WMU	5th USA 21 MHz
K5NA/2	2nd USA MO/ST
N5EA	32nd USA MO/ST

1991 CQ WW WPX CW

V31KF (W5ASP) 1500 Q x 515 Pfx = 1.77 M

The 1991 Visalia DX Convention

de Fred, K3ZO

(While in the midst of appropriating articles from other newsletters I figured this one (May 1991 PVRC Newsletter), again by Fred Laun, K3ZO, would be of interest, particularly the East Coast's view of the West Coast. Obviously none of the six TDXS types who attended remembers what went on well enough to write about it, including your editor!..ed)

Once again the Visalia DX Convention is history. This year it was more like the gatherings of yore, with a largely W6/W7 crowd and a few visitors from distant parts. XU1SS (now living in WA), LA5HE and OH2BH were there, as was KL7AF, but most of the DX represented was Americans who have been operating overseas, such as G0MFO, AH3C, and 9V1YC.

The issues which caused the most emotion in the Contest Forum were two: both largely West Coast concerns. Old timer W6HX complained that one or two constant CQ'ers occupy the JA 3.8 MHz phone window, making it impossible for anyone else to work JA's during the phone contests. And N6AA complained that JA's are no longer as available as they once were to fatten W6 runs in contests. Long-time PVRC'er K3EST, who was recently awarded an all-expense-paid visit to Japan thanks to winning the JA Phone Contest, said that he found large numbers of JA's inactive because they are plagued by RFI. The question of FCC "power audits", which I thought would be a hot topic there, didn't come up at all.

A number of W6/W7's apparently feel that the ARRL DX Contest has to be changed, as it is getting to be a boring affair on the West Coast. I pointed out that for us out here in the East, it is easier to run Europeans on 80 and 40 in the ARRL contest because they are not busy working each other during that contest and have more time for us. The concept of "running Europeans on 80 and 40" sounds incredible to most West Coasters, however.

The memory of Samuel F. B. Morse was honored by a "Fist and Fanny" CW contest dreamed up by those two aging youngsters W6CF and W6ISQ. The "fist" portion was a contest to see how fast the contestants could send on a straight key. The "fanny" portion had contestants climbing onto a contraption that looked like half of a teeter-totter with a buzzer underneath, where the CW was sent by rhythmically sitting down on this thing until the buzzer buzzed.

Your scribe found that this exercise was harder on the knees than on the fanny and retired quickly after finding the word "Mississippi" in the first line of the text. How judges W6RGG, W6RJ and K6NA copied any of what was sent by the assorted asses in attendance is beyond me.

QRU...

de Joe, W5ASP

The annual International DX Convention held in Visalia, CA is scheduled for the second weekend in April next year. Several of those who attended this year's affair are considering a post convention trip to Hawaii. Such a venture might, or might not, involve operating, but certainly would be a great side trip in combination with the Visalia weekend. If enough folks showed a definite interest, the possibility of group rates could be explored. Think about it and if you are seriously interested get hold of K5RC, AK5B or W5ASP.

The TDXS Bullsheat

Packet Racket

de Ken, KE5IV

If you haven't already heard the news, here's the latest. HAPRS, the Houston Area Packet Radio Society, is no longer! The group which guided packet radio through its early days in the Houston area has been officially disbanded.

TCAPS, Texas Coastal Amateur Packet Society, has replaced HAPRS not only as a local Club, but also as an information gathering unit, a planning committee, and a technical group. Their primary intent is to establish a first class packet network in the greater Houston area, connected to the rest of the state and beyond. Whether you use the BBS features of packet radio, the National Traffic System for message handling, or engage in general rag-chewing, you'll be interested in the changes taking place. TCAPS would like to set-up a viable system for all users. The first step in their plan is to have a 9600 baud backbone link up and running from Galveston to Huntsville by Labor Day.

Bob, AK5B, Rich, K5WA, Frank, KC5M, Jim, N5DC and I attended the first TCAPS meeting on May 22nd. This was a general information meeting and call for membership and support among local packet radio users. The next meeting will be held June 26th at a site yet to be announced. Plan to attend if possible; they really do need the input and support of all packet users in the Houston area.

Out of this meeting came the recognition that we had not been very effective in spreading the word about PacketCluster to those outside the TDXS. Unfortunately, there are many packet radio users around who don't really understand what a powerful tool it is, especially with all of the various databases available. Perhaps our working with TCAPS will help remedy this.

The Stafford digipeater, HOU99 and HOU994, are humming along just as advertised, and with the exception of single user, all the disconnects appear to be gone. The only exception is the Node Timer. If every user chooses to merely sit there watching the monitor screen and not making any effort to put out DX or WWV announcements or access the databases, the Node timer will disconnect from the cluster after an hour. You have only yourselves to blame when this happens. I don't see the need to set the Cluster's inactivity timer beyond an hour. The primary purpose of the Cluster is to pass information. Without information flow it's pretty useless.

I have recently purchased two MFJ-1270B units which are going to be hardwired to G.E. radios. The combination will take up residence at the LZO QTH in Magnolia and be known as MAG99 and MAG994. The antenna will sit atop a 10 foot mast on Chuck's 20 meter tower. That should be more than adequate for the folks on the northern perimeter of the Houston area. Right now I've got MAG994 doing a burn-in and plan to have MAG99 hardwired to MAG994 and running in the next day or so.

Please, be patient. I am installing PacketCluster Version 5 on the system. It seems that there are just two Sys-Ops in the state running this new version right now and it's somewhat touch and go here at the beginning. There are already a couple of bugs I have found. However, the added features this version provides the user both in normal operating and during contests is really great. What it does to save overhead between the cluster nodes is even better yet. If there is time at the June meeting, what with all the Field Day preparations, I will run through the highlights of Version 5, then later I can go more into detail.

See ya soon!

DX Century Club Awards

The June 1991 issue of QST contains the annual listing of the DXCC membership. Here are TDXS calls that were found from a quick scan of the endless columns. Sorry, 5s only!

MIXED

362.....K5DX
351.....K5AAD
344.....K5NA
339.....K5RC
332.....N5EA
331.....K5BZU & K5YCP
328.....N5DC
320.....AK5B
319.....W5DOZ (SK)
318.....KC5M
315.....W5SG
313.....KC5CP
310.....KF5MY
308.....W5BIR
306.....KE5TF
294.....W5ASP
281.....W5HNS
277.....K5XI
236.....K5WA

PHONE

357.....K5DX
351.....W5JWM
333.....K5NA
331.....K5YCP
316.....KC5M
308.....W5SG
306.....W5LLU
252.....W5HNS

CW

318.....K5NA
305.....AK5B
304.....KC5M
289.....AA5NK
272.....W5ASP
209.....AC5K
168.....W5HNS

(If your call is missing, let me know and I'll do an update next month. Also remember that the DXCC desk is still several thousand endorsements behind...ed)

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.

Buy an FT-1000?

de Paul, K1XM

(This article was written by Paul Young, K1XM who is the Editor of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club's newsletter Scuttlebutt. It appeared in the June 1991 issue. Of particular interest is the impact of the K1EA software in introducing new criteria for judging transceiver performance..ed)

This is not a review of the Yaesu FT-1000. I have never used one. But I have seen one, and that is close enough for me to write this article.

There were two FT-1000 rigs at YCCC contest stations for evaluation during the CQ WW CW. One was at the K1ST multi-multi. It was used on 10 meters. Mark, K1RX, found that it was receiving the same signals every 23 KHz. The transmitter was clean, so the short-term work around was to call a station every time he heard it until it came back; that was the "real" one. Eventually it was swapped out and K1MNS' Drake TR7 was substituted.

The other FT-1000 didn't get that far. It was at the K1AR multi-single. Ken, K1EA tried to interface it to CT. He found several problems, the most serious being that there is no way to read just the frequency. The radio dumps the entire status, over 1,600 bytes. This takes almost four seconds, during which time the radio locks the front panel! So the rig was never used, and Ken thinks Yaesu doesn't understand contesting.

George, W2VJN tested an FT-1000 for the FRC newsletter and found the receiver to be about as good as a TS-930S. He later tested another and found it to be many db better.

At the Dayton Hamvention I talked to Chip, K7JA, of Yaesu. He had not heard about the problem at K1ST, and he could not explain why one of the rigs George tested came out so poorly. He said he has been trying to get a ROM update from Japan to fix the CT problem. He also confirmed that the FT-990 would have the same problem.

I'm not saying you should not buy an FT-1000. But it appears Yaesu is having quality control problems with this complex radio. So buy it from a dealer who is willing to fix it if necessary. And if you operate in the unlimited or multi-op categories, or you count on the radio to tell your computer what band you are on, the CT problem may be a show-stopper.

More on The MM-3 CW Keyer

de Jim, N5DC

For those of you that read my article on the AEA Morse Machine MM-3 CW Keyer in the May Bullshead, here's some further inside scoop. Chuck, K5LZO ran across a rather unique and interesting characteristic of this little jewel. He noticed that at the higher CW speeds he could detect a finite delay between the time he hit the paddle and the time the keyer actually generated the character. Chuck then checked another MM-3 and found the same thing happening.

He called and talked this over with the guys at AEA. They confirmed what he had found and explained that there is a 20 millisecond delay intentionally built in for QSK puposes. They gave him the following code to enter in order to either defeat or lengthen this delay. Use *C80NN - where NN is the number of milliseconds of delay desired. For instance, *C8000 would give you zero delay, *C8020 would give you a 20 millisecond delay, etc. Many thanks Chuck for running this one down for us, it will help keep up the rate!

You Know it's a Bad Day When...

- You go to put on the clothes you wore to the TDXS hospitality suite last night and there aren't any.
- You turn on the morning news and they're displaying emergency evacuation routes out of your city.
- Ten minutes before the contest you find your TH7 stuck on South.
- Your pet rock snaps at you.
- You start to boot up K1EA and the computer returns POST error code 1704.
- Your bar of Ivory soap sinks.
- You find A51PN operating transceive on 14,143.7 MHz. SSB.
- Your boss tells you not to bother to take off your coat.
- Your DXCC Award Credit Slip arrives with a note from Don that your only 3Y5X card isn't valid.
- You call your answering service and they tell you it's none of your business.
- The knock at the door while you're running them at 200/Hr during CQWW proves to be the FCC guy wanting to run reduced power checks.
- You see the 60 Minute News Team waiting for you in your office.
- The ZA announces that he is going to take stateside calls by counties.
- Suicide Prevention puts you on hold

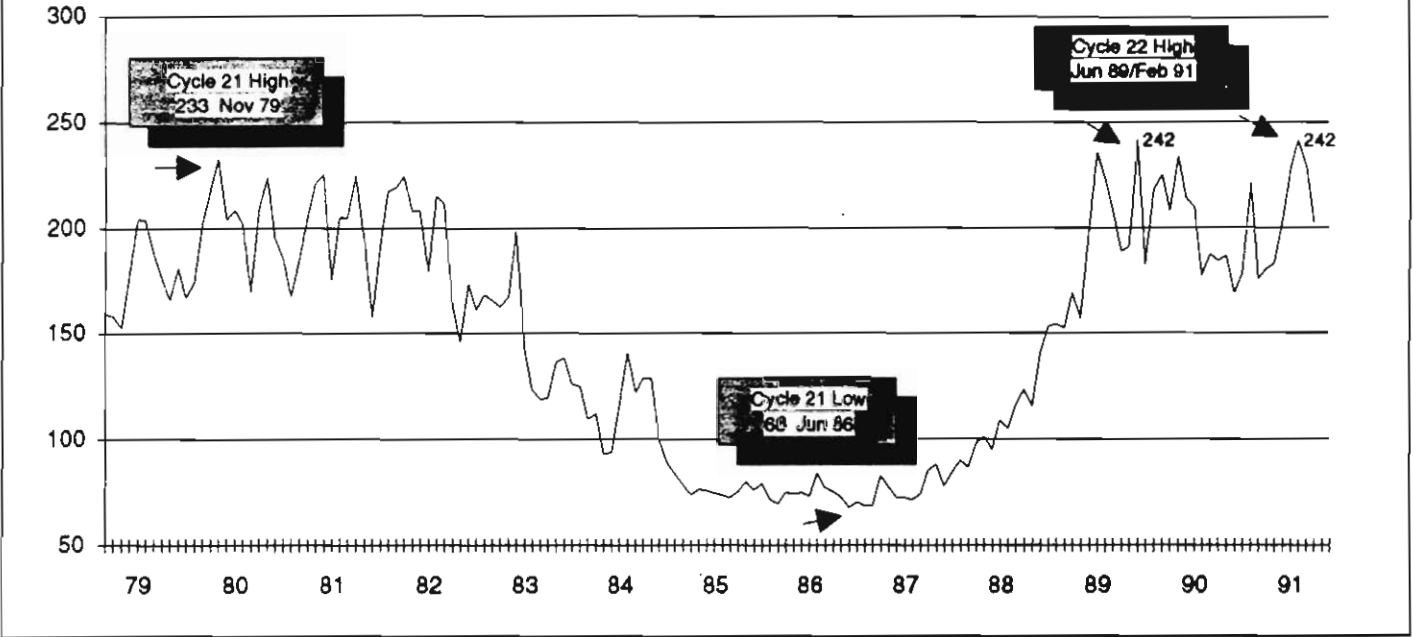
Outgoing QSL Cards

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

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

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

AVERAGE MONTHLY SOLAR FLUX VALUES
September 1978 - April 1991



Average Monthly Solar Flux Values - Courtesy Frankford Radio Club Newsletter, May 1991