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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, Texas 77254-0291

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Contest Chairman:	K5GN, Dave McCarty	Conv. Chairman:	W5ASP, Joe Staples

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING NOTICE - The Texas DX Society meets the second Friday of each month except when changed by the Board of Directors. The June TDXS meeting will be held Friday, June 10, at 7:30 P.M. at DeMontrond Motor Homes, on Hillcroft just south of the Southwest Freeway. There will also be a board meeting beginning at 6:45 P.M.

WEEKLY DX & CONTEST NETS- Each Tuesday night at 9:00 p.m. the Club sponsors a net on 147.96/.36. Participation by non-members as well as members is welcomed. The purpose of the net is to facilitate the exchange of DX, contest, and Club information within the amateur community. A second, informal net operates on Thursday nights at 20:45 local time to go over DX bulletins. The Club's Packet Cluster DX bulletin board is currently up and running on 144.95 using the call NZ5I. Use AX25 level 2 protocol; it can be accessed via ALD or HEMP digipeaters if not direct. Your active support of these activities is encouraged.

BULLSHEET MAILING LIST - It is the club's desire to provide the Bullsheet free to all amateurs in the area with an interest in DXing and/or contesting. Donations to defray the publication and mailing costs are appreciated. If you would like to receive our newsletter, simply send your name, call, and mailing address to the Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 540291, Houston, Texas, 77254-0291. Visitors at the regular club meeting can request the monthly newsletter by providing their mailing address on the sign-in sheet. Articles or other newsworthy items from club members and other interested amateurs are hereby solicited by your editor. Send articles via FAX (713-790-1275) addressed to "Dr. William Schrader."

STOP PRESS! - Come to FIELD DAY at the W5SJS Ranch south of Brenham.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER
(by George DeMontrond, NR5M)

George is on vacation this week, attending his class reunion at Princeton. Remember his diet this spring? Seems he was trying to weigh the same now as he did when he graduated and he succeeded! (er, hey George: is that why they called you a "big man on campus?"). George bet his friends on graduation day that he'd own KLM by the time he was 40! - They thought he meant the airline (ha! gotcha back! - ed.)

FIELD DAY 1988
(de Butch, K5GB)

The TDXS Field Day - 1988 effort will be an all out attack on the Class 5A record score. In recent years the club has set both the 3A and 4A records so it's time to add 5A to our collection.

The site for this year's effort is the same as the 1987 site - the beautiful Austin County ranch of Bob Burns, W5SJS. To reach the site, take U.S. Highway 290 to Brenham. Turn south on Texas Highway 36. Go six miles to turnoff marked "Business 36" (Kenney, Texas) and turn right under the railroad underpass. Bear right just after the track on 2754 and go two miles to Bob's place. It's the first 70-foot tower on the right. Turn in the drive at the far side of the house and proceed past the barn, through the pasture, past the pond and windmill to the TDXS 1988 Field Day site. The Brenham repeater (147.26/.86) will be monitored to assist in locating the site. The telephone number at Bob's house is 409-830-0102, but this may be unattended and should be used only in an emergency in any event.

Set up begins in earnest at 1300 local time (1 P.M.) Friday, June 24 and the objective is to have all towers up and antennas playing by nightfall. This will require a maximum effort on the part of all participants. Make your plans to be there and ready to work by noon Friday if at all possible. The site will be available if you wish to arrive Thursday evening, but please let K5GB know if you plan to do this.

Operating slots will be divided (by drawing) among those who contribute to the set-up/take-down effort. Several slots on Sunday will be saved for those who can't help with the set-up but who arrange with the station captain to help with the take-down. In selecting your operating slot, please remember the object is to maximize the club score and select a time which is likely to have a rate consistent with your ability. (See K5GN's excellent article on this subject in June, 1987 BULLSHEET.) Also, try and arrange to have a logger available to help you. With 5 stations plus a Novice station operating full time, and with all the bonus activities, there will be plenty of operating time for all.

Your station captains for 1988 are:

K5MA - 20 CW
NR5M - 15 Phone; 80M
K5GU - 20 Phone
K5RC - 40 Phone; 10M
N5RP - 40 CW; 15 CW

K2TNO - Novice
K5GA - VHF and satellite
N5DC - Packet

KE5IV will again assemble beams for use by all stations.

Station captains are responsible for organizing all aspects of setting up, operating and taking down their stations. They are also responsible for nominating operators for inclusion in the drawing, so contact one of them before field day to volunteer your help.

NR5M has again offered to arrange to have Saturday evening Barbecue catered at the site. Other meals are up to each individual, although the entire gang traditionally goes into town Friday night dinner at a suitable establishment.

Plan to come early, stay late, and have a GREAT time!



HISTORY OF THE TEXAS DX SOCIETY
(by Richard King - K5NA, ex - K5PFL)

Editor's note: Here is part III of Richard's story for those of you who can't stand all this reading K5NA's tale is soon to be an NBC miniseries starring Loni Anderson in the title role.

The TDXS Becomes A Club

Around the end of 1970, I completed the constitution. The dues were set a 50 cents per month. The only expense we had back then was postage for mailings to the charter members. Nine charter members were chosen, K5PFL (K5NA), K5RLW (N5WW), WA3UHT, K5SOR, K5PFE, K5LZJ (N5AF), K5DEG (KV5S & VP2VM), W5JAW and K5ZJK (NX7K). Five of the charter members are still members of the TDXS and eight of the nine are still active in ham radio.

The most controversial part of the constitution was the new member requirements. We knew that we had a very fraternal organization and we wished to keep it that way. We had no cliques or factions in the club and we wanted new members to be thoroughly reviewed by the club before they would be allowed to join. A new member had to be nominated by a full club member before he was allowed to submit a membership application. Then there was a 30 day waiting period before a secret ballot for membership was done. Membership required a 75% affirmative vote with at least 50% of the club voting. This seemed harsh to many, but the Texas DX Society was more concerned with the quality of its members than for the quantity. We were not interested in becoming just another large unlimited membership contest club.

Since that first constitution, the membership requirements have become even more restrictive for new member review. I think that those restrictions in the first constitution set the tone for the attitude that the TDXS has always had. That fraternal atmosphere is the major contributing factor in the "can do" attitude that TDXS members exhibit. If the TDXS sets out to do something, we always do it in a big way and do it with style.

Finally, in the spring of 1971, elections were held and I was elected charter president. Wes (N5WW) was elected vice-president and I appointed myself as secretary/treasurer. The Texas DX Society was now a real club with officers. Field Day of 1971 was our first official operating activity as a formal club. Little did we know what lay ahead for the club. Field Day of 1971 was only the beginning.

ARRL Affiliation

In the summer and fall of 1971 the process of affiliation with the ARRL began. The paperwork was submitted in October and we waited for a response. A month later the ARRL sent a note saying that the application had been sent out to the West Gulf Division Director, W5EYB, for endorsement. Then we didn't hear anything until January, 1972. I was becoming a little worried, so I called W5EYB on the telephone. When he said that he had approved the application back in November, I became very concerned. The director apparently got the ball

rolling again because I was officially notified that the Texas DX Society was granted affiliation on February 4, 1972.

I later found out through an unofficial source that our application was delayed by the league because the league was afraid that we were a 'paper contest club'. This was about the time of the Mad River Radio Club disqualification in the sweepstakes club competition and the ARRL was very sensitive to granting new affiliations.

PART THREE - THE TEXAS DX SOCIETY EARLY YEARS

The TDXS Winter Banquet

The first winter banquet for the Texas DX Society was in January, 1972. It was held near the NASA complex in Clear Lake City (Houston) at an all-you-can-eat Swedish Smorgasbord. The attendees were myself, N5WW, VP2VM, WA5UHT, N5AF, K5SOR, W5SBX (now K5MA), WB5CKM, K5PFE, and W5RMC (now W5NA). It was boys only (no wives were invited) and I showed a copy of the original "Hams Wide World" for entertainment.

The first three winter banquets were not very different than the regular meetings. Our meetings back then were always held at restaurants. However, it was the fourth winter banquet in December 1974 that became a big event. For the first time, wives were invited and the banquet was held at Angelo's Fisherman's Market on South Main Street in Houston. My recollection of that banquet was of challenging Jan, K5MA, to a raw oyster eating contest. After a couple of dozen, I was stuffed and had to concede defeat. The embarrassing part was that not only did Jan beat me but so did his wife. Don't you just hate skinny people who can eat like that?

The TDXS Starts Making A Name

After our affiliation in early 1972; the TDXS began shifting towards contest activities. I think we all wanted to participate in those activities where the Texas DX Society's name would get exposure. In those days, there was not a 3-tiered club competition. The only clubs that won gravels seemed to be the Potomac Valley Radio Club, the Frankford Radio Club and Murphy's Marauders. Everyone else had to settle for 4th place and down.

In June of 1972, I wrote a letter for the TDXS to Ellen White (W1YL) at the ARRL. Back then, Ellen was the contesting liaison for the League. In my letter, I pointed out that two-thirds of the clubs listed in the 1971 SS competition had between 1 and 10 entries. I went on to say how unfair the system was, making the small clubs compete with the 100 member-entry-plus clubs. My suggestion was to make club competition based on clubs best 10 entries. That would equalize almost all the participating clubs. The ARRL didn't adopt my suggestion. However, it wasn't too many years after that before the League went to the 3-tiered club competition. I still think that my letter was one of the factors contributing to their decision to make changes.

In November of 1972, I wrote another letter for the TDXS to the Chief of the Amateur Branch of the FCC. In the letter, I asked (no, I begged) that the FCC assign K5DX as a club call-sign to the TDXS. The FCC was polite in turning me down. I made such a big deal about wanting K5DX over the next few years, that I

must have caught Sharp's, W5NMA ear. In 1976, Sharp managed to get K5DX as his call-sign during the great call-sign give-away. Sharp told me once, that he got interested in K5DX as a result of my ranting and raving about it.

I am certainly glad that Sharp got the call because I know it would have been gone by the time they got around to issuing me a new call-sign. However, I don't know if Sharp knew what he was getting himself into. All club activities seem to be official only if K5DX is the call to be used and Sharp has always been there when we needed him. For all those activities and Field Days where K5DX is used; if you haven't been told before, I will say it now. "Thank you", Sharp.

The TDXS Starts Contesting In A Big Way

As we approached the fall of 1973, the TDXS was becoming more and more motivated to do well in contests. We also became aware of a premier contesting group in North Texas (Dallas) called the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK). Their club call-sign was K5RWK and they always did very, very well at Field Day as well as having excellent club scores for ARRL SS and DX competitions. We were intimidated by this group and the fires within the TDXS started burning. The TDXS desired that top spot in Texas. We knew we couldn't compete with the PVRC, Frankford or Murphys. However, we would certainly settle for beating the Richardson Wireless Klub.

The ARRL SS of 1973 was one of the first big pushes by the TDXS to do well in the club competition. Our effort was outstanding, with over 1.2 million points. When the results were published in May 1974 QST, we were disappointed to learn that we had been beaten by the Richardson Wireless Klub. However, our club total was less than it would have been. I double-checked the addition by adding all club member entries to see if the total matched our club total. It did not and I immediately called the contest department at the ARRL, to question the discrepancy. The contest desk confirmed that they had reduced our score by removing the CW and Phone SS totals of W5WMU. If all the TDXS scores had been counted, we would have beaten the RWK by 19K.

This really made me mad. Pat, W5WMU, had been faithfully driving over from Lafayette to attend every club meeting. He had a better attendance record than did many of the Houston members. I asked the League contest person why W5WMU's score was removed and their answer was that, "He lived outside of the 175 mile radius of club territory and couldn't compete with the club." My response was, "Where are you measuring the center of the radius from?" The answer to that question was, "From the club secretary's mailing location, of course!"

After the phone call I got my map out and started measuring. Sure enough, Pat's QTH was about 185 miles from my QTH. As I was the club secretary, and lived 20 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, it meant that at least one-third of the TDXS's territory was under water. This didn't strike me as being fair, so I got my typewriter out and once again sent some fan mail to the league. In my letter I pointed out that since W5WMU was a full member in good standing, there was always a possibility that he could be elected club secretary. If this happened, Most of the Houston area club members would then be ineligible to compete in ARRL club competition. I also pointed out that affiliated clubs should be allowed to determine their own territory and I suggested a center point in East

Texas that contained W5WMU and all the other club members within the 175 mile radius. I sent them detailed maps of the proposed club area along with the letter to support my claim. I also copied our representative on the newly formed Contest Advisory Committee.

The response I got was classic. The Awards Committee, by way of the League Communications Manager responded to my letter. Their position was that since we had no regular meeting place to measure from (We moved our meeting around, meeting from Houston to Beaumont, Texas), our club territory was determined from our club affiliation address in our original Resolution of Affiliation. That address just happened to be the same as the club secretary's address. It was my address. The League said that we would not be allowed to pick another point as the center of our club territory.

So we lost another battle with the League. Today's club competition rules are more liberal about allowing a club to determine its own territory. I don't know how much effect the TDXS had on those rule changes, but maybe we softened them up.

Will our East Texas boys grow up and make good? Will the evil Newingtons prevail, or will the local lads win one for the gipper? (Yikes! The suspense is killing me - ed.).

DX ROUND UP
(by Jim Lane, N5DC)

DXCC HONOR ROLL TIME.

From QST June 1988 the following TDXS Members are recognized for their efforts. I am listing 3 categories, Phone, CW, and Mixed.

Call.....	Mixed.....	Phone.....	CW.....	Current.....	Totals
K5DX	X	X (353)		316	358
K5AAD	X			315	344
K5RC	X			314	337
W5DOZ(S.C.)	X			314	319
K5BZU	X			312	325
K5YCP	X	X (324)		312	326
N5EA	X			312	329
W5JWM		X		315	351

Congratulations Gang! If I overlooked anyone please let me know so I can recognize them.

By the way in the Congratulation Department. Mike Davidson, KC5CP passed the Extra at Hamcom. Congratulations Mike!

I regret to report the ongoing feud between Don Search and the gang that went to A15. Search claims that he has not received docs, and they feel that proper docs have been submitted. I wish that whomever is on an ego trip would get off of it, as I for one need A15 for a new one. It looks to me like 2 very childish people point fingers at each other. Come on guys!!!

Incidentally, I eyeballed the new Polar Rotor at Hamcom by TIC. It is a real hefty piece of gear. I was offered a \$250.00 dollar trade-in on my old one toward a new one. I guess you had better get them on the phone George!

QSL tip: I sent several UL, UJ, and UM cards to W3HNK along with several green ones and a note requested assistance as I had not been able to get cards from there. Within 4 weeks, I had back UJ and UL! Two out of three ain't bad folks!

Spleen venting department revisited:

K5 loogal zocgal oogal advises that I was off on my estimate on the Palmyra Crew as to cw speed. Chuck says they were running 38 wpm. I take ten lashes with a piece of wet coax Chuck for the miss on the speed, but I still feel that they were running too fast for the average DX'er.

New from ARRL: DX ops in the U.S. operating on a reciprocal license will now sign W5/GWOECO instead of GWOECO/W5. (Thanks Andy for the use of your call.)

SOLAR CYCLE MAY BE EARLY

The peak of the next solar cycle may occur as early as late 1988, and may possibly be the most intense cycle ever measured. According to Dr. Patrick McIntosh, Director of Solar Physics Research at NOAA's Space Environment Laboratory at Boulder Colorado, the solar activity level could reach normal maximum by summer if current trends continue. Earlier predictions based on traditional methods suggested that 1992 be the maximum. Predicting solar activity is risky, and Dr. McIntosh cautions that the rapidly increasing levels could flatten out. However, NASA is apparently taking some precautionary action with its low orbiting satellites, protecting them from "drag" that increases during periods of high solar activity.

First class mail to Canada is now \$.30, and the QSL rate is \$.21.

BULLETIN BROWSING

1AOKM 14,204 0300 UTC WSL IOIJ.
UQ1GXZ 21,345 1930 UTC QSL P.O. Box 55, Riga 226016, Latvia SSR.
VK2BCH now on South Cook not North.
AP2KH 0100 UTC 21,200-230 QSL IK8FUK.
AP2SQ 14,176 0200 UTC QSL W3HNK (there's that call again).
9X5AA 21,240-290 1800 UTC QSL U.S. Embassy P.O. Box 28, Kigali.
4W0EA June 24 to July 2 good luck to all!
9JOA 28,010 1600 UTC 1 hour later 21010 QSL Box 32621 Luska, Zambia.

Good luck see you in the pileups!

THE OTHER FELLOW'S SHACK
(By Bill K2TNO, Dale, KG5U)

Please QSL VIA THE GLUG...GLUG...GLUG:

From Nature, volume 333, page 5 (1988) comes news of Okinotorishima; "two lumps of rock protruding less than a meter out of the Southwest Pacific Ocean, 6,800

Km south of Toyko...(at low tide it)..is a respectable little island 5 x 2 Km. Five years ago there were four rocks above high tide but erosion has reduced these to two."

"The 22,000 ton Sunimosu Ace left Yokohama on April 22 laden with iron tetrapods, concrete, several small boats and two helicopters. (They plan) to form a circular wall 50 meters in diameter, which will be reinforced with concrete...Salvage of the "island" will take three years and cost about \$240 million."

P.S. - What's W3AZD going to rule regarding operation from an island propped up by concrete? - ed.

The following are from the WB9TYT PBBS (14.107 Mhz). Kudos to KN5D.

22- Year Sunspot Cycle.

Scientists have detected more evidence that the sunspot cycle is not 11 years long, but rather about 22 years long. For years solar observers have noticed that many aspects of the solar activity cycle repeat themselves every 22 years. For example, the polarity of sunspots reverses after an 11-year "cycle" and then goes back to its original polarity after the next "cycle" 22 years later.

Now scientists have found that precursors to the sunspots of Cycle 23, which should begin in the late 1990's. Sunspots of new cycles first appear in relative high solar latitudes, and migrate slowly toward the solar equator as the cycle wanes. Roger Ulrich of the University of California, Los Angeles, has found solar jet streams at about 70 deg. latitude, much closer to the solar south pole than such disturbances have been observed previously. These jet streams will migrate toward the equator, and, around 1996 or 1997, will begin producing sunspots at 30-35 deg. solar latitude; the first sunspots of Cycle 23.

Close study of these jet streams should provide early predictions of the next sunspot cycle. Meanwhile, Cycle 22 continues to evolve very quickly. Herschel Snogross of Lewis and Clark College says of Cycle 22: "There is evidence to suggest it's going to be unusually strong and perhaps the maximum will be reached earlier than usual, in 1989 or 1990," with the next minimum following in 1995 or 1996.

.END (From the DX Bulletin Special Report April 2, 1988)

Short Term Propagation Predictions

Sunspot Cycle 22 has been great for DXer's, but very hard on propagation forecasters. Short term propagation forecasts are based on the fact that the sun rotates once every 27.5 days, and regions on the sun that affect radio propagation on earth will swing around every 27.5 days. Thus, if a solar storm ripped the bands one month, you would expect poor band conditions 27-28 days later.

This system works only when the regions on the sun that affect our bands are relatively long-lived. If these regions last several months, we can make fairly accurate propagation predictions. Unfortunately, if the sunspot regions last only a few days or weeks, our prediction accuracy drops dramatically.

A sunspot region can appear and disappear in less time than it takes for the sun to rotate once. Then predictions based on 27 days previous are inaccurate. Solar flux and absorption tend in almost opposite directions from one solar revolution to the next. 27 days after a peak in solar flux, the flux is low and stays low. One solar revolution after a dip in flux, a solar flux increases.

The A-Index shows the same problem. Absorption increases dramatically 27 days after a quiet period. And one solar revolution after a severe solar storm, the A-index is very low, and the sun is quiet. It's enough to make propagation forecaster turn to astrology. Fortunately, large sunspots, those that affect our bands the most, tend to last longer than smaller spots, and are thus easier to predict. There is no substitute for direct observation of the bands; catching the latest solar figures on WWV and calling CQ.

.END (From the DX Bulletin Special Report May 1988)

Sunspot Cycle 22

The current sunspot cycle continues to advance at an accelerating pace. The observed sunspot number for April 1988 was 88.0, the highest value in three years. The solar flux averaged 123.4 for the same month. Again, one has to go back to early 1985 for similar high values.

The high sunspot numbers in April boosted the 13-month smoothed sunspot count for October 1987 to 43.6 from a value of 39.1 the previous month. The rate of increase in the smoothed sunspot number has accelerated throughout the past year.

We have no way of knowing whether the sunspot numbers will continue to increase at an ever-faster pace. Solar researchers base their predictions on comparisons with similar previous cycles. No sunspot cycle in history has started as fast as Cycle 22, so scientists have no comparison, and this cannot make any predictions of progress of Cycle 22.

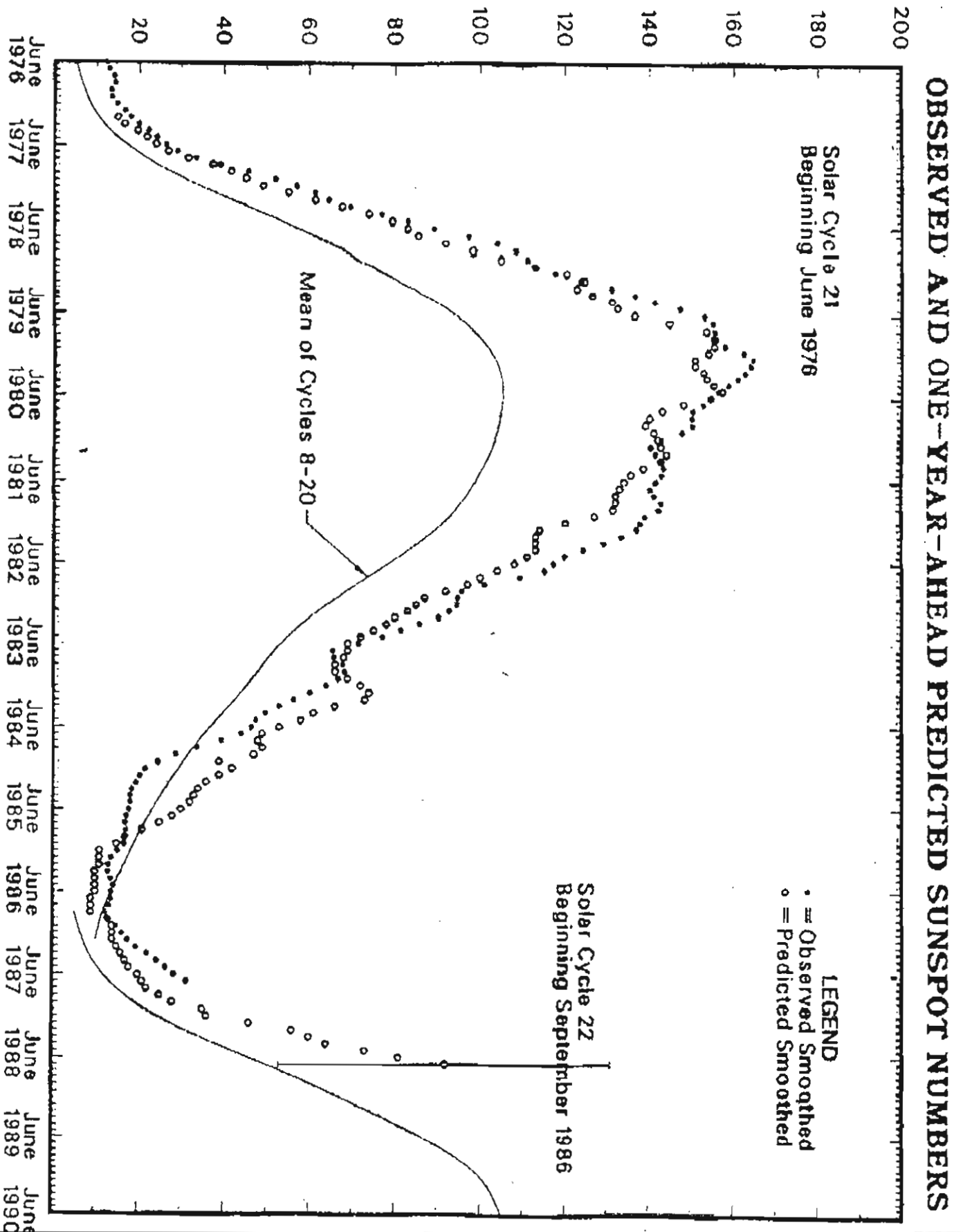
In the absence of official predictions, we can make some wild guess as to what might happen in the next year. If the sunspots continue their present rate of increase, the 13-month smoothed sunspot number could hit 100 by mid-summer, 1988, equivalent to a solar flux figure of about 150. Six months later, at the end of 1988, the smoothed average could hit 150!

Note that these are SMOOTHED figures; individual monthly sunspot totals could easily top 200 in early 1989, if this cycle continues its rapid rise. Of course the sunspot numbers might not increase as rapidly as they have over the past six months. Although it has never happened in 200 years of tracing sunspot cycles, the current cycle could conceivably level off soon, as originally predicted for Cycle 22.

This is most unlikely, based on the previous 21 cycles. In the past 230 years, whenever the smoothed sunspot numbers increased at this stage in the cycle, the sunspot numbers continued to increase to a high peak of well over 100. Based on

this history, we can look forward to a sunspot cycle at least as good as Cycle 21, and perhaps much better.

.END (Possibly from the DX Bulletin Special Report - date unknown)
Smoothed R_z



Mad River "Flash", Dayton issue, 4/88

K8MR says in an article called "new life for old towers" that he had a bunch of old 45G sections re-galvanized. He sanded off the "grossest rust" and then had a commercial outfit acid-dip and then hot-dip in zinc! The only problem was the zinc got inside the tower legs where they slip over the previous section. His cost: \$36/section.

FRC Newsletter, May 1988:

But comrade, why are you louder than the Woodpecker? - an article by W3XU tells of UH8EA:

"We all remember the impressive signal and contest results by this single op private station. Apparently this success raised eyebrows at Box 88. They sent a delegation to UH8EA's QTH in Turkmen, a desolate QTH not too far from the Iranian border. The party went first to the UH8EA QTH in an apartment building adorned by a few average ham antennas. But no one was home, and the UH8EA signal was not particularly strong at his QTH. The delegation finally wound up at a club station out of town. The club "trustee" was UH8EA, and there they found him in the company of additional operators. The Box 88'ers also found jury-rigged bread boarded KW-plus amplifiers in a tumble-down trailer somewhere between the station and the antennas. UH8EA is now inactive.