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THE BULLSHEET

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Texas DX Society
An ARRL Affiliated Club



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The Texas DX Society, P. O. Box 540291, Houston, TX 77254-0291

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DX Chairman	Jim Lane, N5DC
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The Prez Sez - de Don, KI3L/5

I must admit that I've been victimized by the summer doldrums the past few weeks. I spent approximately ten days out of town, and, needless to say, was unable to operate the NAQP contests seriously. I did find time to devote several hours to the CW WAE contest, however, and had a ball.

September has arrived, along with the contest season, and better propagation, so I look forward to a resurgence of activity. The **September Sprints** are right around the corner. The intensity of the sprints always intimidates me, but I usually manage to finish, and make a minimal contribution to the TDXS club score. (You can usually find my score listed near the bottom of the W5s in the published results). I hope to see good TDXS participation in the sprints. If you plan to get on, call **Chuck, KE5FI**, to get your TDXS team assignment, and have fun!

Mark Saturday, October 9 on your calendar, and plan to journey to the W5SJS ranch near Brenham for the **October TDXS meeting and antenna maintenance party**. The meeting will be short - the major item of business being nominations for 1994 club officers. A slate of officer candidates will be submitted by the nomination committee. Additional nominations will be accepted in writing prior to that date, and will also be accepted at the meeting.

The major activity of the day, under the direction of field day chairman **Dave, WB5N**, will include inspection, testing, maintenance, and repair of field day antennas, coax, towers, etc. Lunch will be provided by the club (de **Bob, N5SRP!**). Obviously, success is dependant upon a high level of participation, so please plan to attend. Many of you who possess specific expertise and skills can expect to hear from us for a commitment! The day promises to be a lot of fun. More details will follow at the September meeting and in the October Bullsheet.

The **September TDXS meeting** will be at **Moose's Restaurant** (west of Chimney Rock on Bellaire) at 7:00 PM Friday September 10. Plan to arrive between 6 and 6:30 for dinner prior to the

meeting. Topics for discussion will include the October antenna party and the **Houston Ham Com-Vention**.

Anyone who has access to manuals for the various antennas used by the club for Field Day, e.g. 2 el 40M Cushcraft, TH5, TH6, 15 & 20 monobasnders, please make them available so that we can check demensions. If you have spare harware, especially stainless, let us know and plan bring it along with your tools. Hope to see you at the meeting.: 73 de **Don, KI3L**

Announcements

Meeting Notice - The Texas DX Society meets on the second Friday of each month, except when the date is changed by the Board of Directors. This month the meeting will take place on **Friday, September 10, 1993**. The meeting will be held at **Moose's Restaurant at 5423 Bellaire Blvd.**

The restaurant is located on the south side of Bellaire just east of its intersection with Chimney Rock. It is in the middle of a small strip shopping center. There is ample parking along the front of the center. We will be using the room just off to the left of the main dining area as you enter. Our reservations start at 6:00 P.M. Members are encouraged to plan on dining with the group so that we can properly respond to restaurant owner's hospitality. Menu prices are modest with a traditional chicken-fried-steak at \$4.80. There is a salad bar. Beer is available but only with the meal. The meeting should get underway around 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.

DX PacketClusters - The TDXS Contest and DX PacketCluster operates on 144.970 MHz with the call **K5DX**. This cluster node is operated by **Rich, K5WA** from his home in southwest Houston, and is sponsored by the Texas DX Society. It is regularly linked to the Texas PacketCluster DX network. **K5DX** may be accessed directly, or using the **TDXS97** packet node by first connecting to the **TDXS97** node, and then connecting to **K5DX**, i.e. **C TDXS97**, then **C K5DX**, all running on 144.970 MHz. The **TDXS97** node has been upgraded and will now handle 26 users. It will not function as a digi.

The **Brazos Valley Contest** and **DX PacketCluster Bulletin Board** is located in **Hempstead, Texas** and operates on 144.990 MHz with the call **KE5IV**. This node is accessible either directly or by connecting through any of several local packet nodes. The **MAGBPQ** node on 144.990 near **Magnolia** provides access to users on the north side of Houston. The **KE5IV** node provides a wealth of information and features of interest to DXers .

The **Galveston County DX PacketCluster**, located in **La Marque**, is active under the call **KC5SC** and operates on 144.930 MHz. It is usually connected with **K5DX** and **KE5IV** via the 446.100 MHz backbone link.

DX Report

de Jim, N5DC

This month, in lieu of my usual DX column, I would like to recognize those TDXS members whose calls are shown in the "Top of the Honor Roll" column, as well as those appearing in the "DXCC Honor Roll" list that were published in the September issue of QST. My congratulations to all of these folks!

There were 325 current countries at the time these list were made. Top of the Honor Roll required credit for the full 325. The DXCC Honor Roll itself was based on 316 countries.

NOTE: If my arms weren't long enough, and I happened to overlook someone..., well, I get 10 demerits, and you get to search the next listing! And in case you haven't heard, future DXCC listings will be published separately and mailed to current DXCC members, rather than appearing in QST.

Top of the Honor Roll

Mixed:

K5AAD 325/357

DXCC Honor Roll

Mixed:

AA5NK 325/332

K5AAD 325/357

K5YCP 325/342

AK5B 324/330

K5DX 322/367

K5NA 322/348

N5DC 322/338

K5RC 320/346

W5LLU 320/322

KC5M 319/325

KE5TF 318/321

K5BZU 318/324

KC5CP 317/321

K5MA 316/329

Phone:

K5YCP 325/342

K5DX 322/362

WA9VLI 320/327

W5LLU 320/322

KC5M 318/323

CW:

K5NA 320/324

AK5B 318/322

AA5NK 317/322

The Ohio/Penn Dx Bulletin

August 30, 1993

Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW

Provided by BARF-80 BBS Cleveland, Ohio

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, DF4RD, DJ0WQ, AD1C, K1ER, K4CEF & Southeastern Cluster Group, W8CZN, WB8LFO, NW8F, K9AJ, N9NS, W0RJU and W0GML for the following DX information.

4U1UN QSL ROUTE. Contrary to what was published in the September 1993 issue of CQ Magazine on page 105, AA2FN is not the QSL Manager of 4U1UN. In the same issue on page 132, it states that Jim, W8CZN, (NODXA member) is the QSL Manager, which is correct. Carmelo, AA2FN, is one

of the operators of 4U1UN and does have access to logs, but Jim, W8CZN, has all the logs. OPDX was informed there is a backlog of cards, but this due to the station trying to computerize the logs and are experimenting with a couple of logging programs. This will help in a quicker turn around in cards. So, at the present, at the request of 4U1UN, cards are being checked manually from the logs. So please be patient during this transition.

9G, GHANA. Mike, K9AJ, talked to Randy, 9G1XA (K0EU), this past week and has supplied the following information. (ed. Both are from the AH1A DXpedition team.) Randy will be in Ghana for the next 2 to 3 weeks on business, but will be active when time permits. He is using a TS-450, Alpha amp (1KW), CushCraft R-7 and on 160, an inverted "L" (Aki special) with vertical component about 40 feet. Randy has also taken RTTY gear with him. His emphasis will be on the WARC bands, low bands and RTTY. Suggested frequencies: CW - 3505, 7023, 10103, 14023, 18073, 21023, 24893 and 28023 kHz. SSB - 3795, 7085, 14195, 18115, 21295, 24935 and 28495 kHz. RTTY- 14085, 21085 and 18105 kHz (listening up). On 160 meters, he will be transmitting on 1827 and listening on 1831. Start looking around 0500z for him on 160 (9G sunrise is around 0530z). QSL via K0EU.

9N, NEPAL. Reports say Baldur, DJ6SI, and two other operators are active from 9N-land. There have only been a few reports of activity on the Ohio/Penn Network, but Dieter, DF4RD, has supplied OPDX with a list of spots from two of the Bavarian Contest Club's PacketClusters. Call signs being used are 9N1BD (probably Baldur), 9N1AP and 9N1HL. Activity seems mainly on 20 meters, but there are reports on 15 and 40 meters. Check around 7005 kHz between 2200 and 2300z, 14025 kHz between 1500 and 1600z, and 14195 kHz between 2030 and 2130z. One spot had DJ6JC operating as 9N1HL on RTTY (14084 kHz around 1546z) and reporting to QSL via DJ6JC. The length of this operation is unknown at this time.

AH1A QSL STATUS. John, K1ER, reports all USA cards received direct (e.g SASE) have been mailed. Cards for Italy, Japan and other countries are about done. John expects that all cards received will be answered by mid-September. If you do not receive a card by the end of September, you might drop a note to K1ER.

CY9CWI and WV2B/CY9 QSL CARDS. Cecil, NW8F, reports he is not the QSL Manager for these two operations and has been receiving cards for them. He is the QSL Manager for Art, WA2UJH/CY9 and reports that he has only the log for WA2UJH/CY9. He also reported the cards for WA2UJH/CY9 were out 2 weeks after the end of the operation. QSL CY9CWI to VE2CWI and WV2B/CY9 to CBA.

FK, NEW CALEDONIA. Remi, FK8CP, continues to be active on 160 meters daily. The East Coast guys are working him between 1835-1838 on CW around 1000z.

K5MK/5, DERNIERES ISLAND (IOTA NA-119). Larry, K5MK, and Mike, W0GML, will be active from here October 15-17. The island is located in the Louisiana State Center group (29-29.5N/90.1-91.4W). Activity will be on 10-40 meters including the WARC bands and on CW/SSB. Suggested frequencies are: SSB - 14260, 21260 and 28460 CW - 30 kHz from the band edge (+/-QRM). QSLs go to K5MK with SASE or the bureau. Additional information will be forthcoming.

KH5K CARDS. Mike, N9NS, QSL Manager for the KH5K DXpedition informs OPDX that he now has the QSL cards from the printer and processing has begun. Cards should be in the mail now or sometime this week (August 30th).

Propagation

SV/A MOUNT ATHOS. There still may be hope for an operation. Bruce, WD4NGB, received a telephone call, August 27th, saying that JA3MNP is still in Mount Athos and expects to be active from August 31st to September 2nd. This will be mainly a RTTY operation.

SV9, CRETE. Norbert, OE1NBW, is planning to be active from the Island of Crete between August 29th and September 24th. He will be active mainly on CW, but there will be SSB activity. Look for SV9/OE1NBW/p on the following frequencies: CW - 14009, 21009 and 28009 kHz, on SSB - 14209, 14309, 21209 and 28509 kHz. QSL via CBA or bureau.

ZS9/ZS0 DXpedition (by James, DJ0WQ). "We had a wonderful time on Penguin Island, making about 9500 to 10000 contacts. We had to stay a day longer because of a storm that kept us from leaving the island, but all went well. We will submit the necessary documentation to the ARRL within the next three weeks and the QSL cards will be going out in about two months. The same goes for our ZS9 operation. We made about 600 contacts. " 73's and Good DX de DJ0WQ, James (ed. In last week's bulletin we mentioned Walvis Bay may be headed for deletion because the South African Government "may be" handing over the enclave to Namibia. It was reported that several issues and conditions have to be met before the transfer takes place. So it may be sometime before it actually happens (months to years?).)

ZY1, SANTANA ISLAND (IOTA SA-029). Mendonca, PY1UP (ex-PY0TUP) will be active from this Brazilian Island located near Rio de Janeiro. His callsign will be ZY1UP on CW/SSB and he will be active on all bands (except 10 MHz, still not legal in Brazil). QSL to: Joao Batista Guimaraes Mendonca, P.O. Box 108674, Sao Goncalo - RJ, Brazil, 24620-970.

DX Advisory Committee

de Jim, N5DC

Just at press time I received word that the vote by the DXAC members on the question of Eritrea has been counted, and that, as expected, the committee will recommend DXCC status for Eritrea again. The preferred date for the "reinstatement" will be May 1993, as requested by the Eritrea PTT. I voted for the reinstatement to be effective as of May 1991, which was the date favored by the W5 contingent by a margin of better than 2 to 1.

This recommendation from the DXAC will be presented to the folks at ARRL headquarters, and the final decision will be up to them. We should get the final word fairly soon. I don't see anything upcoming on the DX lists from E3, but you can bet there will be a flurry of activity once the decision is made known. It's a shame we didn't get a better shot at Eric, NM5M during his brief visit a couple of months ago.

Upcoming Events

- September 10.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- September 11.....European (WAE) DX Contest SSB
- September 11.....North American Sprint CW
- September 18.....North American Sprint SSB
- September 18.....Scandinavian Contest CW
- September 25.....Scandinavian Contest SSB
- October 02.....West Texas DX Assoc. DX Bash
- October 02.....California QSO Party
- October 03.....RSGB 21/28 MHz SSB Contest
- October 09.....TDXS Meeting & Antenna Party
- October 16.....RSGB 21/28 MHz CW Contest

de Roy, AD5Q

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

August brought us improved conditions on 15 meters, but as I write this, the solar flux is down in the 80s. 20 is having trouble staying open at night, and this is effecting the morning path to Asia. A lot of day path activity is moving to 17 meters, which is looking like a serious DX band for the long term. September is a month of dramatic change, and we have much to look forward to.

15 will continue to improve, and will likely carry most of the day path traffic to Europe this season. The 10 meter season does not look promising, but we will have a good idea of what to expect by the end of this month. With fluxes in the low 100s at best, we cannot expect much propagation to Russia. The seasonal window we get over the pole on 10 meters is narrow, even at the peak of the cycle. At equinox time, the grey line runs directly over the pole, just as the summer absorption problem dissipates. As the 10 meter season progresses, the encroachment of darkness over the pole narrows and closes the window for high latitude work. When these paths are open, they will be early in the morning and around sunset (just before the band closes). With the low fluxes this year, the polar paths will probably not open at all on 10.

We may get some propagation into Russia early in the season though. High latitude propagation on 10 peaks in October, while the European paths are good later in the season as the grey line aligns itself diagonally across the Atlantic. Even so, the lower the fluxes, the harder it will be to work Europe - especially eastern Europe, which brings us so much contest activity. The worst contest scenario is when the east coast gets to run Europe and we get only scatter.

With high latitude paths usually closed on 10, we anticipate narrow windows on 15. These will also become difficult later in the DX season, especially in winter. The fall season should otherwise be very good for 15. It will be a daypath band, closing shortly after sunset. When 10 isn't working, 15 will be crowded. There should be enough attention remaining on 10 meters to spot and exploit openings when they do occur, especially with so many novices avoiding the 13 WPM code test.

During September, it is good to spend more time watching 40 and 80. Fall is the best season for working into the southern hemisphere on low bands, since these paths are mostly inactive during our winter. Low band DXers have a lot to look forward to this year. 20 Meter DX Hogs are in for early night time band closings, and frustration in major DX contests.

West Texas DX Association DX Bash

de Ken, KE5IV

The 3rd Annual West Texas DX Association's DX Bash is scheduled for Saturday, October 2 and Sunday, October 3, 1993.

This is an open invitation to all DXers, Contesters, True Believers, QRPers, DX Cluster Users, Antenna Nuts, Big Guns, Little Pistols, etc. to come join us. Bring your XYLs; the gals had a great time together the last couple of years. Read the information below about special tours/trips. This is a FUN weekend!

LOCATION: W5KFT's ranch on Lake Buchanan northwest of Austin. Repeater freq: 146.06/146.66 MHz.

SPECIAL FEATURES AND DISCUSSIONS

*** Towers * DX PacketCluster * Contesting * Antennas * Contest Stations * Great DX Feats ***

Les Bannon, WF5E, the W5 QSL Bureau Mgr., will be on hand. Some of the Bureau Sorters will be there to personally deliver QSL cards.

XYLs & YLs - GREAT THINGS TO DO

*** Vanishing Texas River Cruise * Fall Creek Winery * Enchanted Rock Park * Shopping in Fredericksburg * Buchanan Dam/Lake * Longhorn Caverns * Confederate Air Force Museum * Austin Steam Train * LBJ Ranch

SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 2

08:30 - 10:00: Coffee and Donuts
 09:00 - 12:30: Lots of DX, Contest and Antenna Talk
 12:30 - 13:30: Lunch at the ranch (Included in Registration)
 13:30 - 18:30: More DX, Contest, Antenna, Cluster, Misc.
 19:00 - 20:30: Bar-B-Que Dinner at Big John's
 20:30 - ?????: Back to the ranch for more DX or B...S...

Sunday, October 3

08:30 - 10:00: Coffee and Donuts
 09:00 - 13:30: More talk about DX, Contests, Cluster, etc.
 14:00 Everyone goes home to get ready for CQWW

MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Airy Mount, Bed & Breakfast, Hwy 29E, Burnet, 512-756-4149

Hojo Inn, 908 Buchanan Drive, Burnet, 512-756-4747, 800-634-3464

The Sunday House, Bed & Breakfast, 308 S. Pierce, Burnet, 512-756-2935

Buchanan Yacht Club, Hwy 261, (West side of Lake Buchanan), 512-793-2568

Crystal Cove Resort, Hwy 261, (West side of Lake Buchanan), 512-793-6861

Driftwood Shores Resort, West side of Lake Buchanan, 915-379-2405

The Edgewater, Cabins & RV Hookups, Lakeshore Dr & Hwy 261, 512-793-2818

Hi-Line Lake Resort, RR3014, (West side of Lake Buchanan), 915-379-1065 Badu House, Bed & Breakfast, 601 Bessemer, Llano, 915-247-4304

Chapparal Motor Lodge, 700 W. Young, Hwy 29 West, Llano, 915-247-4111

Classic Inn, 901 W. Young, Hwy 29 West, Llano, 915-247-4101, 800-346-1578

Fraser House Inn, Bed & Breakfast, 207 E. Main, Llano, 915-247-5183

Pecan Tree Inn, Bed & Breakfast, 1119 Ford, Llano, 915-247-3502

Comfort Inn, 1206 Hwy 281, Marble Falls, 210-693-7531, 800-228-5150

DIRECTIONS

From Burnet go 13 miles west on Hwy 29 (past Inks Lake/Colorado River Bridge) to Hwy 261. Sign reads Lone Grove, Tow, Bluffton. Take a right on Hwy 261 and go 6.7 miles to the ranch entrance. Sign at gate reads EDWARDS-FULGHAM RANCH. Go 2 miles on pasture road to the ranch house.

From Llano go 2.2 miles east of Llano to FM Road 2241. Take FM 2241 to Bluffton. At Bluffton, continue east on Hwy 261 for 1.9 miles to ranch entrance. Sign reads EDWARDS-FULGHAM RANCH. Take pasture road for 2 miles to the ranch house.

COST

Registration is \$20.00 per person which includes cost of continental breakfast both days, lunch on Saturday, free coffee, free soft drinks, and free snacks for both days. The DX Dinner Saturday night is dutch treat.

We need to know if you are attending so we can plan for food. Please register early with W5KFT so he can see that you get fed.

If you have questions, contact W5KFT via DX Cluster or 806-745-3692 (office) or 806-799-5783 (home).

Mail registration to 3801 68th Street, Lubbock, TX 79413. Telephone number at the ranch in 915-379-2501, but this will only be answered during the DX Bash. All other calls should be directed to the Lubbock numbers until then.

SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT TOURS

A number of the gals are planning a major shopping expedition to nearby Marble Falls on Saturday. Come join them. Another group is planning on attacking the shops in Fredericksburg. It is a one hour drive to Fredericksburg, one of the neatest towns in Texas. It is great place to shop, visit, and browse. Lots of small shops there cater to the Texas shoppers in the Hill Country of Texas.

We have made arrangements for a special tour/tasting at the Falls Creek Winery near the ranch on Saturday.

The Ranch is located on the migration path of the Monarch Butterfly as it travels to Brazil for the winter. At the 1991 Bash, we had perfect timing to see millions of the butterflies cover the oak trees in the area. Bring your camera. If the timing is right, this is a once in a lifetime experience.

Send your name, call, address and phone along with a check for \$20.00 to: **W5 DX BASH, 3801 68th Street, Lubbock, TX 79413**

Contest Scores

Results

1992 ALL ASIAN DX CW
 WN4KKN - SO/AB Winner!
 W5ASP - SO/AB 1st 5th District USA

1992 CQ WW DX SSB
 ZF8AA (K5GA, KI3L, N5DU, W5ASP, N0BG, W0LSD)
 7th World MS
 KE5FI 6th World SO/10M LOW PWR

Claimed

European (WAE) DX CW
 ZF2NE (W5ASP) 1226 Q x 265 M = 649K

North American QSO Party SSB
 N5RP (w/KG5U) 602 Q x 129 M = 78K
 W5ASP 501 Q x 100 M = 50K
 NT5D 478 Q x 87 M = 42K
 K5RC 460 Q x 81 M = 37K
 K5DX 399 Q x 103 M = 41K
 K5LLL 366 Q x 97 M = 35K
 KE4GY 332 Q x 99 M = 33K
 AA5NK 146 Q x 70 M = 10K
 AK5B 56 Q x 37 M = 2K
 N5NMX 632 Q x 138 M = 87 K (TDXS #2)
 N5NMY 247 Q x 85 M = 21K (TDXS #3)

ARRL UHF Contest
 K5LLL 19 Q x 13 Grids = 1,014
 KB5NFN 13 Q x 8 Grids = 384

Stacking Tribanders the Easy Way

de Dick, NY1E

(This article appeared in the Yankee Clipper Contest Club's newsletter YCCC Scuttlebutt for December 1992..ed)

There is a lot of talk recently about stacking a pair (or more) of triband beams. I've heard several stations describe their system of switching upper, lower, or both, and haven't heard the same way twice, but they all had complexity in common. I make no claims that this system is technically correct, but I have been using it since 1989, and wouldn't have anything else now.

Knowing that the bands (20, 15, and 10) are harmonically related, I sat down with a fifth and a calculator and by trial and error found a length of coax that is close to an odd multiple of electrical quarter waves on the three bands (.66 velocity factor): 20 meters five electrical quarter waves = 58'. 15 meters seven electrical quarter waves = 54, and 10 meters nine electrical quarter waves = 52.2'.

I made two RG-11 cables 54' long, and fed them with a tee into two Antennas and had a flat SWR across all three bands (and had a high power dummy load!) So I decided it was worth picking up another tribander, if only to satisfy my curiosity. I use a Dow-Key remote switch with separate coils for each position so I can run either antenna individually, or both at once. Leaving the 75 ohm coax in line when using only one antenna, only moved the resonant frequency a little. I am now running a pair of TH-6DXXs at 45 and 90 feet on separate rotors with upper, lower, and both in phase, and both out of phase switching. The phase switching is accomplished with a DPDT relay between the balun and the driven element of one antenna wired so as to cross the wires, as in reversing polarity. This puts the antennas 180 degrees out of phase without regard to frequency.

The SWR is less than 1.8:1 across the bands feeding both antennas, with a maximum of 2.4:1 feeding a single beam with the 75 ohm coax in place. While I have found the radiation angle diversity and occasional gain worth the trouble, the best use is running two directions at once in my favorite contests. In the 10 meter test, keeping one on Europe, and one stateside keeps the rate up. In SS I leave one on the last multiplier I need, normally VY1 or KP2.

I have tried different heights for the lower antenna. 30' played better on 10 meters but worse on the other bands. So a third antenna would be nice, but guess it can wait until the next cycle peak.

TDXS Meeting Attendance Records

de Dave, WB5N

The following is a list of the full and associate TDXS members who have attended four (4) or more meetings so far this calendar year. These TDXS members are eligible for full membership in 1994 having already met the minimum attendance requirements for the year. .

AC5K, AK5B, K2TNO, K2UA, K5DX, K5EC, K5GB, K5JV, K5LLL, K5RVK, K5WA, K5XI, K7WOC, KB5NFN, KC5CP, KE5TF, KF5MY, KG5U, KI3L, N5DC, N5RP, NZ5I, W5ASP, WA9VLI, WB5N

If you feel you should be on the list, please contact me as soon as possible so I can find out if I have made a mistake. I did not make a list of those who were at Field Day 1993, and had to work from memory. Thus there is a chance I missed someone.

Radials

de Frank, W3LPL

(Frank, W3LPL picked this one off a packet BBS, and it appeared in *The Frankford Radio Club Newsletter* of January, 1992..ed)

Do you have a ground mounted vertical on 160 meters or higher bands? If you already have 120 buried or surface mounted radials, there is nothing to be gained from this upgrade (unless they are less than 1/4 wavelength!). If like most hams, you have only a few dozen (or less!) radials or they are short (less than 1/4 wavelength), read on!

Four 1/4 wavelength elevated radials perform equally well as 120 buried or surface 1/4 wave radials. To retrofit an existing ground mounted vertical, cut four equal length wires. Each should be about 5 to 7 percent longer than 1/4 wavelength (exact length is not crucial). Attach each wire to an insulator at the base of your vertical. DO NOT connect them to your old buried or surface radials.

Electrically connect each of the four radials together, then connect the shield of your coax to the four new radials. The shield of your coax will no longer be grounded. Slope each radial upwards at a 45 degree angle until you reach your intended elevation (8 to 10 feet is a good choice). Then run each radial horizontally. The end of each radial should be insulated (beware: high voltage will exist on the end of the radial, just like on a dipole). The four radials should be at right angles to each other.

The orientation of the radials (such as having a radial pointed at Europe, South America, VK, etc.) is completely UNIMPORTANT, so don't worry about it!

You will notice that the resonant frequency of your vertical will go UP about 3 to 5 percent. If you want to compensate for this, you can lengthen your radial or add a small inductor at the base of the vertical.

Performance of this configuration is identical to a quarter wave vertical with 120 buried or surfaced radials 1/4 wavelength long, and identical to an elevated base vertical at the same height as the elevated radials on a ground mounted, elevated radial vertical.

This plan is described in the IEEE Transactions on Broadcasting, Volume 37, No. 3, September 1991, pages 77 to 82.

TDXS Weekly DX and Contest Net

Each Tuesday night at 2100 CST, the Texas DX Society sponsors a DX and Contest net on 147.96/36 MHz. The purpose of this net is to exchange information of interest to DXers and contesters. The agenda includes general and club announcements, DX information, contest information, QSL routings, propagation forecasts and various related topics. It should be noted that participation is not limited to members of the TDXS, but is open to all and everyone is encouraged to join in.

Due Dates

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

- September 07.....North American QSO Party CW
- September 15.....European (WAE) DX-Contest CW
- September 20.....North American QSO Party SSB
- September 30.....All Asian DX Contest CW (*)

Packet Racket

(The following was taken from a bulletin put out by Phil, WA4IMZ, President of T.C.A.P.S. dated Friday, August 27, 1993..ed)

THE FOLLOWING CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO THE T.C.A.P.S. HOUSTON SYSTEM IN THE NEXT WEEK. PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE ARE NOT FINAL, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HOUBPQ.

HERE IS A LIST OF THE CHANGES AND THE APPROXIMATE DATES OF COMPLETION.

8/28/93 - 8/29/93 HOUBPQ:WA4IMZ - 145.09 & 446.1 & BACKBONE; 300' (OLD HIGHWAY 90 & MURPHY RD.) This change will be permanent.

8/30/93 IAHPBQ:WD5GAZ - 145.01 & 446.1 & BACKBONE; 150' COMPAQ COMPUTERS (SH249 & FM1960). This is a temporary move.

8/31/93 WDLBPQ:WD5GNW - 145.07 & 446.1 & BACKBONE, TEMPORARILY QRT. USE EITHER NWV, IMZBPQ, OR PBCBPQ.

DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF SEPTEMBER WE WILL BE MOVING IAHPBQ TO A 250-300' LOCATION NEAR GREENSPPOINT MALL. IAHPBQ WILL THE CHANGE IT'S 2 MTR. FREQ TO 147.07. THE 446.10 AND HIGHSPEED BACKBONE WILL REMAIN THE SAME.

NEW WAVERLY (450'/800' ABOVE SEA LEVEL) WILL JOIN THE T.C.A.P.S. NETWORK AND BECOME NWVBPQ. IT WILL REMAIN ON 145.01 & 446.10 AND HAVE THE HIGHSPEED BACKBONE ADDED. NORTHSIDE COVERAGE WILL NOW BE HANDLED BY HMPBPQ (HEMPSTEAD), MAGBPQ (MAGNOLIA) AND NWVBPQ (NEW WAVERLY). IAHPBQ WILL ALSO COVER A LARGE SWEEP FROM NORTH THROUGH TO HUMBLE AND AROUND INTO DOWNTOWN HOUSTON. THIS WILL ALSO INCREASE OUR COVERAGE TO THE EAST. WDLBPQ AS WE KNOW IT WILL NO LONGER EXIST. IAHPBQ, IN IT'S MOVE TO GREENSPPOINT, WILL USE WDLBPQ'S EQUIPMENT AND FREQUENCIES. NWVBPQ WILL USE THE IAHPBQ EQUIPMENT AND FREQUENCIES. THE FOLLOWING NODES WILL REMAIN AS THE ARE:

DKNBPQ - DICKENSON
GLSBPQ - GALVESTON
BCTBPQ - BAYCITY
HMPBPQ - HEMPSTEAD
MAGBPQ - MAGNOLIA
IMZBPQ - THE WOODLANDS
PBCBPQ - SPRING

ALL OF THE ABOVE NODES WILL REMAIN LINKED. ALL OF THE BSS WILL REMAIN LINKED.

PLEASE BE PATIENT AS WE FINE TUNE THE SYSTEM IN THE NEXT MONTH. THIS PLAN WAS CONCEIVED 2 YEARS AGO IN THE TECHNICAL MEETINGS.

SOME OF THE USERS WHO USE HANDI-TALKIES AND INSIDE ANTENNAS MIGHT EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES ACCESSING THE SYSTEM. IF YOU DO, PLEASE LET US KNOW EITHER BY MAIL OR PHONE. IF YOU NEED FURTHER INFO PLEASE CALL WA4IMZ @ 713-367-3355 OR WRITE TO: T.C.A.P.S., 506 SPRING PINES DR., SUITE 110, SPRING, TX., 7386-1182.

PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR RETURN ADDRESS, LOCATION AND NEAREST NODE AS WELL AS A TELEPHONE NUMBER AND SOMEONE WILL GET BACK TO YOU.

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 current ARRL DXCC Country List.

Keep in mind recent changes. ES, LY and YL are no longer included with the "Russians". The "East" Germans now go with the DLs. The new Yugoslavian countries are now separate, i.e. 9A, S5, T9, Z3. Sort the CIS, i.e. the "Russian Commonwealth", cards according to the individual Republics as per the DXCC List. Also, remember that most QSLs for DXpedition operations usually go the home country of the operator, e.g. D2CW via DK7PE, etc. Many foreign stations have stateside QSL managers. These cards may be included with the "Ks". Most Caribbean stations turn out to be nonresidents, so send such QSLs to the operator's home country. There are number of DXCC countries not served, e.g. many U.S. territories (KH0, KH4, KH9, etc.) and countries such as Qatar, Montserrat, Nepal, etc. A complete list currently appears in the current ARRL DXCC Country List, along with additional information about the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service.

Finally, each TDXS member must include a current QST address label with each group of cards he wants sent to the bureau. Contact Dale, KG5U if you have any questions (before you drop the cards on him!).

QSLing

de Joe, W5ASP

Here are some tips on ways to handle your S.A.S.E. when QSLing by direct mail. They not only make life simpler for the guy on the receiving end, but improve your chances of a prompt response.

Use only the No. 6 3/4 size (3 5/8" x 6 1/2") envelope (or the foreign "airmail" 4 1/2" x 6 1/4") for your S.A.S.E. The No. 10 "business size" is a real pain to handle when answering a big stack of cards.

Clearly mark the front of the S.A.S.E. "AIRMAIL", preferably in the lower left. (Don't assume postal workers look at the stamps!)

Fold the "flap" back over the front of the envelope so that the adhesive strip is "out". All too many arrive already "sealed" as result of exposure to dampness.

Fold the S.A.S.E in half lengthwise, and put it in another envelope of the same size WITH THE FOLD DOWN! This avoids having your precious S.A.S.E. slit in half by the recipient's handy dandy letter opener.

Don't hide IRCs inside the S.A.S.E. Do put Green Stamps folded so that one half is inside the S.A.S.E., the other half outside and visible when your QSL card is removed.

And don't, DON'T put your name and address in the upper left of the S.A.S.E. as a "return address". If it doesn't reach you at the address that YOU put on the envelope, it certainly won't reach you when the same address is used as a "return address"!

It's a good idea to put your call on the inside flap of the S.A.S.E. Envelopes do occasionally get mixed up, plus a quick way for the other guy to check the card as he slides your envelope.