



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

The October 14th Meeting will be at **Ryan's Steak House** on 34th street. To get there, take the second exit off of 290 outbound (34th street, Antoine) from the 610 Loop. Turn left under the freeway on 34th street. The restaurant is ½ a block on the left. Dinner is at 6:30. Meeting to follow

How to Reach Us

On the World Wide Web: <http://www.tdxs.org>
On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz
On 70 Cm: 447.00/442.00 (103.5 Hz)
On Packet: Connect to **TDXS71** then connect to K5LV
Reflector: Send to: majordomo@moonbounce.n5iq.org
In the body of your message only put: subscribe tdxs-list
do *not* include your email address, as the reflector will pick it up automatically. Put nothing in the subject line.

The Prez Sez by Earl, N5TU

Damn! It's October already and I haven't made a single antenna change since just before last year's Sweepstakes. At least I have ordered Trlog this year and am in the process of going through the learning curve of trying to figure out how to utilize this software. It seems to be pretty difficult to set up but once running it is much smarter than NA or CT. Especially in CW mode. Having used it in ARRL DX and NAQP this year I have found it to be the perfect logging software for a fat fingered typist like myself. No more backspacing to make corrections, just type in the new QTH and it knows to take the last one you typed.

I still have the 40 meter beam to get back up and I need to revamp the 80 meter antenna but those tasks are definitely doable in the next couple of weeks. With that done I will be ready to compete in my favorite contest, CW Sweepstakes.

Last year's SS netted 22 logs for nearly 2.3 million points from the TDXS. That was 7th place in the medium club category. The North Texas guys had 12 more logs than we submitted which probably explains why they were in the #4 spot. Score wise they averaged 90.9k points per log but we averaged 104k points per log. Shows what a few extra logs can do. We are always going to have our big

scorers in this contest but the true measure of how well the club is doing is going to rest on the guys who get on for only a few hours AND submit their log with TDXS on the club affiliation line. So some time during the 30 hour period I'm sure everybody can find a couple of hours to work some stations. 50K is a good goal for a casual operator. With just a few more logs we should easily be able to beat our fellow Texans to the north. A really good effort will put us in a position for a club gavel which we haven't gotten in a long time. So remember to get on the air and turn in a log with TDXS on the club affiliation line. If you happen to hear me on, make it a point to give me a call. Biggest thing I have on the agenda is nominations for new officers. I'm sure there will also be upcoming contest discussion too. People are starting to ask about XA5T and the ARRL DX contests so that is open for some planning as well.

See you at the meeting,

TU

TDXS Contest Column

by Dale Martin, KG5U

It's official, boys and girls! KG5U is your Contest Chair. It's a sorry state of affairs for TDXS when a QRP Contester becomes it's Contest Chair. You may well wish, before it's over, that y'all had thunk this a bit more deeply before giving me this awful responsibility and terrible burden. I may be QRP in the contests, but my columns won't be short (sorry, Jim); there's a lot of contest stuff out there; some of it is even interesting.

I hope what I bring to this column will contain those things that will be of interest to TDXS members and will inspire those who have disappeared into the Internet netherworld to turn on your radios and give the boys a point in the contest. I can only succeed at this with your support. Feed me information. I need to know what you want to read about relative to contesting. If find something contest-related anywhere and want to share it (Your own insight, the Internet, magazines, etc.), let me know and I'll be happy to take it and put in what you wrote or I'll even write it myself if that's what you want. Just let me know.

Get on the air. Get in a contest. Have fun!

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From The ARRL Letter, Vol. 18, No. 39, October 1, 1999.

ARRL ADOPTS CABRILLO FILE FORMAT FOR CONTESTS

The ARRL Contest Branch has announced that it's adopting a new standard electronic file format known as Cabrillo for all ARRL Contests. Starting with the 1999 ARRL November Sweepstakes, the Cabrillo V2.0 file format will be the standard file format at the ARRL for electronic submissions. Previously acceptable file formats for ARRL contests may be submitted during a one-year transition period, however. Starting with entries for the November 2000 ARRL Sweepstakes, the Cabrillo format will be the only acceptable electronic file format for ARRL contests. Stations may still use text editors on their home PCs to generate the log files, but these "home-designed" files must meet the Cabrillo file format beginning with next year's November Sweepstakes submittals.

Adoption of the Cabrillo file format resulted from a joint effort by software developers and contest sponsors in response to the proliferation of file formats being submitted to various contest committees. The ARRL Contest Branch reports that several dozen different file formats were submitted in the 1999 ARRL 10-Meter Contest. "While most formats technically fit the requirements under the rules, almost all of the files required significant work by contest staff and volunteers in order to be processed," ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, explained.

Henderson says noted contester Trey Garlough, N5KO, developed the Cabrillo format working with the developers of most major logging software and the sponsors of most major contests. "Major software developers have agreed to incorporate the Cabrillo format into new updates of the programs," Henderson said. He stressed that operators should contact various software developers and distributors for information on upgrades to their specific programs.

The Cabrillo format standardizes the QSO information that appears in each data column. Details on the format appear in the "General Rules for all ARRL Contests" in the November 1999 issue of QST. Specifications for the Cabrillo file format also are available on-line at kkn.net/~trey/cabrillo/ In addition to the file specifications, there are sample templates for various ARRL contests, a history of any modifications to the format, and some insight into the development of the Cabrillo file format.

Contesting by Dale Continued

For additional information on the technical specifics of the Cabrillo format, contact Trey Garlough, N5KO, trey@kkn.net. For more information on ARRL-sponsored contests contact ARRL Contest Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, n1nd@arrl.org; 860-594-0232.

WRTC 2000 Is Coming!

* WRTC 2000 contributions sought: Carl Cook, AI6V/P49V, has been tapped to head the World Radiosport Team Championship 2000 fundraising effort in the US. Cook is requesting monetary contributions on behalf of WRTC 2000 "to show the Slovenians the gratitude that we all feel toward them for undertaking such a monumental task" as WRTC 2000. "I think it is necessary for every one of us to contribute toward the immense cost of hosting WRTC 2000," he says. Donations in excess of \$250 may be submitted via a directed contribution to the Northern California DX Foundation, earmarked "WRTC 2000" and sent to Bruce Butler, W6OSP, 4220 Chardonnay Ct, Napa, CA 94558. Smaller contributions or deductible business donations may be sent to Carl Cook, AI6V/P49V, 2191 Empire Ave, Brentwood, CA 94513.—Carl Cook AI6V/P49V

(KG5U note: I plan to make a proposal at the next TDXS meeting that TDXS support WRTC 2000 with a contribution— if you guys & gals will put down your forks long enough to vote :-))

more....

Contest Results:

1999 ARRL DX CW Contest Results (Points/QSO's/Mults/Hours):

3rd place, North America, Multioperator Two-Transmitter: XA5T (XE2KB, N5RP, N5TU, KG5U, K1OJ, W5MJ, K5NZ, AD5Q ops)= 5,922,000/5875/336/48, High Power.

KZ5MM, 3,159/39/27/48, HP/160m

N5DU 69,012/324/71/48, LP/15m

N5AF 1071/21/17/2 LP/10m

Upcoming Contests: (from the WA&BNM Contest Calendar page)

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) 0000 CDT, Oct 16 - 2359 CDT, Oct 17

JARTS WW RTTY Contest 0000Z, Oct 16 - 2400Z, Oct 17

Worked All Germany Contest 1500Z, Oct 16 - 1500Z, Oct 17

Asia-Pacific Sprint, CW 0000Z - 0200Z, Oct 17

RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, CW 0700Z - 1900Z, Oct 17

Illinois QSO Party 1800Z, Oct 17 - 0200Z, Oct 18

Rhode Island QSO Party 0001Z, Oct 23 - 2359Z, Oct 24

QRP ARCI Fall CW QSO Party 1200Z, Oct 23 - 2400Z, Oct 24

YLRL Anniversary Party, SSB 1400Z, Oct 23 - 0200Z, Oct 25

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Oct 30 - 2400Z, Oct 31

10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW 0001Z, Oct 30 - 2400Z, Oct 31

November, 1999

Ukrainian DX Contest 1200Z, Nov 6 - 1200Z, Nov 7

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW 2100Z, Nov 6 - 0300Z, Nov 8

North American Collegiate ARC Championship, CW 2100Z, Nov 6 - 0300Z, Nov 8

High Speed Club CW Contest 0900Z - 1100Z, Nov 7 and

1500Z - 1700Z, Nov 7

Japan Int. DX Contest, Phone 2300Z, Nov 12 - 2300Z, Nov 14

WAE DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Nov 13 - 2400Z, Nov 14

ALARA Contest 0001Z - 2359Z, Nov 13

OK/OM DX Contest, CW 1200Z, Nov 13 - 1200Z, Nov 14

Six Club Winter DX Contest 2300Z, Nov 19 - 0300Z, Nov 22

LZ DX Contest, CW 1200Z, Nov 20 - 1200Z, Nov 21

IARU Region 1 160m Contest, CW 1400Z, Nov 20 - 0800Z, Nov 21

LI/NJ-QRP Doghouse Operation Sprint 1700Z - 2100Z, Nov 20

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB 2100Z, Nov 20 - 0300Z, Nov 22

North American Collegiate ARC Championship, SSB 2100Z, Nov 20 - 0300Z, Nov 22

RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW 2100Z, Nov 20 - 0100Z, Nov 21

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Nov 27 - 2400Z, Nov 28

CONTESTING BY DALE CONTINUED

December, 1999

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec 3 - 1600Z, Dec 5

TARA RTTY Sprint 1800Z, Dec 4 - 0200Z, Dec 5

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 11 - 2400Z, Dec 12

OK DX RTTY Contest 0000Z - 2400Z, Dec 11

RAC Canada Winter Contest 0000Z - 2359Z, Dec 19

Croatian CW Contest 1400Z, Dec 18 - 1400Z, Dec 19

Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Dec 18 - 1500Z, Dec 19

Internet CW Sprint 2300Z, Dec 31 - 0100Z, Jan 1

Remember, if you get in any contest which has a club/team entry field in the summary sheet, be sure to indicate TDXS.

And, no matter how small your log, submit it!

73,

dale, kg5u

DX Report By Buzz, N5UR

The T31 crew is doing a bang up job of giving everyone a rare on both phone and cw. I still have not heard them on 30 or 160 or RTTY, but the West Coast has heard them on Top Band. Kanton Island, Central Kiribati (OC-043) Look for T31T, T31K and T31YL to be active between 23 September and 3 October. QSL T31K and T31T via SM6CAS (Nils-Goran Persson, Box 2050, 436 02 Hovas, Sweden). QSL T31YL via SM6WYN (Ulrika Persson, Jarnmyntsgatan 7, 4 tr, 414 79 Goteborg, Sweden). The web site for the DXpedition is at <http://www.qsl.net/t31t> They will be activating ZK3 next October 7-12. T31 is an example of how to run a first class operation unlike the fiasco 3C0R operation of last month which arrived days late left two days early, and went to sleep every night insuring that North America and the Pacific would not hear them on the low bands. In addition, much of the equipment was not in operating condition. On the bright side (?) they left the generators and other equipment on Annobon and hope to return before their license expires at year end. Anyone want to bet on whether or not the stuff will be there if they return?

Randy, WX5L reports that plans are proceeding ahead to provide RTTY gear to the ZX0SK/ZW0SP upcoming DXpedition to St. Peter & St. Paul Archipelago. Laptop computer, TNC and software have been secured and transportation finalized. The operation will take place in late September- early October. Apparently they will not operate top band as space limitations prevent them from putting up an antenna, but they will be on the other bands and all three modes.

There are rumors of a real 9U5 has begun operations, so far reports from Europe say 9U5D has been heard on 15 SSB and he has sent his documentation to the ARRL. WFWL From my experience, 9U along with 5U and T5/6O are the toughest countries on the African continent, so lets hope this is a bona fide 9U many have awaited

Ten meters has been opening to Europe again with Mike N5MT and I both snagging OJ0/K7BV (TDXS # 33 Dennis Motschenbacher) for a new one on that band. On the other end of the spectrum, Mike AD5A reported his first new European country on 160 this weekend, an EA3. No other major operations are scheduled for October, however there will be lots of activity in the CQWWSSB OCT 30-31, and lots of WARC activity leading up to the contest, so get your stations ready.

Packet Racket by Jim, N5DC

The following article was forwarded to me by Earl, N5TU, and makes for very good reading:

Matt Magill (KB9GMN) revisits the age-old 'Dear Abby' question of why can't Johnny stay connected to his local Packet Cluster. How much time do we all spend dealing with those questions (sigh) ?

An easy place to start is by monitoring the actual off-air packet exchanges between the USER and the CLUSTER:

- (1) Are there excessive RETRIES? if yes, in which direction?
- (2) Are there excessive REJECTS? if yes, in which direction?
- (3) Which end initiates the disconnect: USER or CLUSTER ?
 - (a) does USER tnc show 'retry-count exceeded?'
 - (b) if CLUSTER has DRSI diagnostics, check for packet backlog

Every network is different, of course, so it would be impossible to come up with a set of suggested 'standards' for USER TNC parameters. And many of us have our own personal 'biases' on what is 'correct', hi. However, here is my 'checklist' for the most common USER disconnect culprits (in no particular order):

- (1) FRACK set too low (VERY common problem)
 - (2) RETRY parm set too low
 - (3) TXDELAY improperly set for radio type
 - (4) Transmitter audio deviation incorrectly set (very common)
 - (5) Receiver audio volume incorrectly set (very common)
 - (6) 'digipeating' through an intermediate station
 - (7) Using an intermediate 'node' with low inactivity timer setting
 - (8) Computer 'hash' at user end getting into receiver
 - (9) Excessive electrical noise (any kind) at user end
 - (10) Intermod components (commercial paging, CATV birdies, etc.)
 - (11) Do you have an adequate signal to the Packet Cluster or node? Very common. (added by the editor)
- Good luck/73! Ted (W8KVK) - Athens, Ohio

Texas QSO Party Results by Henry, W5HNS

TEXAS QSO PARTY 1999 – FINAL RESULTS

CALL	STATE	CATEGORY	SCORE	Q
LU6EF	ARG	SO	45	5
K6QWH	AZ	SO	5950	55
N6MU	CA	SO	171576	476
WN6K	CA	SO	18665	117
W6ISO	CA	SO	722	19
WA4IMC	FL	SO	7840	69
KN4Y	FL	SO	7638	69
K4BAI	GA	SO	33528	155
K4PK	GA	SO	3056	42
WT9U	IN	SO	2584	41
LY3BA	LITH	SO	224	12

Texas QSO Party results continued

CALL	STATE	CATEGORY	SCORE	Q
W8SFF	MI	QRP	3468	34
K8CV	MI	QRP	720	16
W8WVU	MI	SO	1687	23
W8YL	MI	SO	243	9
KB0WHY	NE	SO	6032	64
K0OAL	NE	SO	3804	44
K5XY	NM	M	112	8
WA2BQI	NY	QRP	147	7
W2EZ	NY	SO	3888	36
K8UCL	OH	QRP	5295	45
K0CIE	OK	SO	6162	
VA3IX	ONT	SO	25652	127
VE3WZ	ONT	SO	21916	113
K3WWP	PA	QRP	363	11
WA3HAE	PA	SO	165348	440
AA3CE	PA	SO	50624	198
ZP6CW	PARA	SO	189	27
VE5BCS	SASK	SO	143	13
W4JH	TN	SO	2294	37
KF4ZR	TN	SO	1288	28
W5WMU	TX	M	207922	
W3DYA	TX	M	129299	731
AE5B	TX	M	97844	464
KD5AIJ	TX	M	95952	401
K5LV	TX	M	86080	607
KJ5X	TX	M	66340	390
K5VUU	TX	M	57376	284
NA5TR	TX	M	56944	325
WA8GHZ	TX	M	46752	271
KK5LO	TX	M	43256	228
K5GQ	TX	M	35069	
NX5M	TX	M	7088	58
K5NZ	TX	MM	149160	603
K5GVL	TX	MM	28575	312
K5CWR	TX	MMO	119424	
KB5ZXO	TX	QRP/M	10568	58
N5DO	TX	SO	209676	731
N1LN	TX	SO	50458	375
KM5SC	TX	SO	22360	199
N5NXS	TX	SO	12696	67
NN5ZZ	TX	SO	8575	112
WA5SAJ	TX	SO	846	82
KA5AKG	TX	SO	6418	81
K8CSG	TX	SO	1292	34
N5WIZ	TX	SO	384	16
AJ4F	TX	SO	264	11
K5WNO	TX	SO	56	7
KO7X	UT	SO	7897	73
K4UK	VA	SO	1687	26
AA4KD	VA	SO	720	19
AA1SU	VT	SO	490	16
AB7RW	WA	SO	10431	72
NA7R	WA	SO	360	17