



THE BULL SHEET
OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF
THE TEXAS DX SOCIETY

an ARRL affiliated club

VOLUME VIII, NO. 10

October 1983

ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION ISSUE

Welcome to all the folks who have come to Houston for the ARRL National Convention! Don't miss the TDXS Hospitality Suite! Hope you enjoy the convention!

THE TDXS ARMADILLO RUN

Here are just a few quotes from the many, many letters which we have received from participants in the "Amadillo Run" which was conducted by the Texas DX Society:

"You guys must have amassed several thousand miles of driving and are worthy of the FREINDS OF OPEC award!"

Bob - W4VQ

"Absolutely fantastic! I thought you were all crazy when first hearing about the Amadillo Run. Saturday morning of the run I still didn't think it could be pulled off.. Congratulations on an effort well done!"

Dave - W5PWQ

"The Armadillo Run overshadowed the rest of the country. Made this year's contest memorable, since there was enuff activity to hold everyone's interest to the end. Not only that, you afforded a whole bunch of us the opportunity to finish the state. HOW ABOUT GETTING YOUR GANG TO MOVE INTO ANOTHER STATE NEXT YEAR? NORTH CAROLINA, FOR INSTANCE?"

Bill - W7GHT

"My compliments to you and the rest of the gang for an excellent outing - very well coordinated and first class operators. You put on such a good show that it was difficult to find time for the necessary breaks - Hi."

Jerry - K9BG

"Please thank your entire gang for a super bunch of operation during the test."

Jerry Burkhead - N6QA

"Great Deal! All those rare ones! TNX. Please pass along my sincere appreciation to all who participated in those mobiles."

Bob Shaw - WA2CNF/Ø

"Your contest was lots of fun. You guys are great operators and did a terrific job. I pictured a Cadillac racing across a desert with an antenna strung across the long-horns on the hood. Or, maybe you used a dipole hanging between two horses. Whatever, it was great. Surely flattery will get me something!"

Susan M. Tannenbaum - KU2Q

"Thank you! I don't know whose idea the "Amadillo Run" was but someone came up with a winner. Spread the word, if you will, that it was one super job of operating ... I just wanted to say thank you.

Pat - WD9BCG

INTERESTED IN A "NEW ONE"?

The rumor mill is in high gear grinding out possibilities for DX-expeditions in 1984. Clipperton, Aves Island and Bouvet are frequently mentioned. In case you are one of the more fortunate ones, and are about to lose interest don't despair, in "1984" Big Brother has something for everyone. Yes, even you folks on the honor roll.

At least two groups are attempting to get permission to operate from Peter Island. This very remote and uninhabited island is located off the coast of Antarctica, generally between Antarctica and Argentina. Recently granted "country" status, Peter Island, a dependency of Norway, only needs an approved operation to qualify for addition to the DXCC listing. 1984 could be a very interesting year.

See you in the pile-ups.

73 - Frank - KC5M

BOY SCOUTS BEGIN PROGRAM IN AMATEUR RADIO

The Sam Houston Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, is starting a program in amateur radio for older boys. Several Explorer Posts specializing in amateur radio will be organized and Advisors (adult leaders), sponsors, and equipment are needed. The program will emphasize the traditional principles of Boy Scouting and will provide opportunities for outdoor activities along with development of knowledge and skills associated with amateur radio.

Please give serious consideration to becoming an Advisor for one of these Posts. This

is an excellent opportunity to teach our youth about the fascinating world of radio communications in an atmosphere which stresses the importance of traditional values. Working with our young people is a rewarding experience and you are sure to receive much more than you give.

For further information, please contact Mr. Paul Hopkins, Sam Houston Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, 659-8111.

73's
Jim - KB5CA

K5DX/R REPEATER UPDATE

I've been watching the coverage and the various types of interference that appear on the repeater since the antenna was repaired and the repeater receiver realigned. Based on my experience and some discussions with other repeater operators in Houston, I believe the interference we have is not the fault of our repeater.

The signal that was keying up the machine every 10 seconds or so was (or still is) a spur that swept from approximately 147.92 up to somewhere above 148 MHz. Thanks to K5YCP for discovering that cause. Ken called me at home one evening and we both heard it as it moved up frequency through our input on 147.96 MHz.

Now we have another type of interference to track down. The noise that sounds like bacon frying is not like the sweeping signal in that it is not coming through on the input frequency. If you listen carefully, you will not hear a beat note nor does the signal "capture" the detector. In FM receivers, any number of input signals may be on the input, but the detector only "hears" the loudest one. If the signals are similar in strength, then nobody wins. The noise we hear is not affected by the strength of the input signal on .96 so we can conclude that the interference is not RF on the input frequency, but probably generated locally at the repeater site. The receiver appears to be normal otherwise.

Tracking down interference is not only difficult because of its intermittent nature, but very time consuming. I appreciate the help of several club members including KC5CP, K5YCP, and KZ5M for their objective reports.

de K5TU

2 METER QRO

With the interference we have experienced recently comes the tendency for those who have high power 2M amplifiers to use them. We all understand the desire to be LOUD on the HF bands where the pileups are competitive and the power is required. On 2M, the use of high power is another ballgame.

We share our repeater frequency with many other repeaters, some barely outside our coverage area. There is no frequency allocation on the amateur VHF/UHF frequencies. Repeater frequencies in Texas are coordinated through volunteers of the Texas VHF-FM Society. These area frequency coordinators can only make suggestions on how your repeater should be operated (maximum ERP for antenna height, frequency, etc.), but have no formal authority. Repeaters operate under gentlemen's agreements.

By leaving your 80 or 160 watt amplifier on, the slightest band opening will cause unintentional interference. Temperature inversions occur almost every morning, so the chances of causing interference are greater than you might think. Try turning your amplifier off. You may find you don't need it. If you operate in the fringe area of the repeater's coverage, try reducing the amplifier output by reducing the drive. Once you capture and quiet the receiver, using additional power doesn't help your signal. In other words, use the minimum power necessary.

Think about the use of your high power 2M amplifier. Do you really need it?..... Or is it a carryover from HF and the desire to be one of the BIG BOYS?

Guest Editorial by K5TU

HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING "LOST IN THE TRANSLATION"

Well I finally made time to print up the Russian phrases that appeared in last winter's NCJ. Credit for the article should go to K1K1 and the National Contest Journal. The Russian amateurs that I have worked using these phrases have seemed to be more outspoken in our QSO's. I hope that many in the club can use this material.

73's
Eric - WB5WHR

Greetings - ZDR

Goodbye - DSW

Good - HOROMMO*

Good Day - DOBRYJ DENX

Good Morning - DOBROE UTRO

Good Evening - DOBRYJ WEMNER

Good Night - DOBROJ NOMNI

I need your QSL - MNE NUVNO WAMMU QSL

Duplicate QSO - POVTORNAAA QSO

Send a letter to me - PRIMMLITE MNE PISXMO

Your report is 599 - WAMM RAPORT 599

My name is - MOE IMAA

My QTH is - MOJ QTH

QSL sure - QSL BUDET

See you soon - POKA

I don't understand - AA NE PONIMAIM

Please - SPASIBO

*combine letters under a "—" to form 1 character