The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)
** See "TSN Corner" and "RN5 Corner" on the Last Pages **

Net Manager: Steve Phillips, K6JT, Plano TX
(k6jt@arrl.net , 214-208-8900 Cell)
TEX Web Site: http://web.me.com/sr_phillips/Site/K6JT_TEX/

Assistant Manager: Rodney Baker, W5DY, Goliad TX
(w5dy@arrl.net)

February-March 2012

I Can't Believe it

Guess age is creeping up on me. I completely neglected to put out a newsletter in February. Nobody seemed to notice, though, so I guess we are all prone to forgetfulness. Well, it was to be a "short" issue anyway, so we'll make up for it this month and include statistics for both months for both TEX and TSN.

Welcome to *RN5 Corner*

As those of you who perform liaison duties to RN5 know, coverage of NCS and CAN liaisons on RN5 has been somewhat irregular. Frank, W4DLZ, the RN5 manager and I have been discussing possible ways to spark more interest in the region net that serves the southern states. I know that this newsletter has boosted interest in TEX and served as a forum for your feedback as well as operating tips. Accordingly, I suggested to Frank that we have a portion of this newsletter devoted to RN5 activities. Frank will still correspond with the RN5 stations and will pass along what he would like to have in *The Texan*. So welcome to RN5'ers. Your special "RN5 Corner" may be found near the end of this newsletter immediately following "TSN Corner".

Daylight Time Again !

I hope to have this out Saturday night, but if not, you will have observed that the time changed back from Standard already (used to be the end of April as I recall). Yes, we spring forward an hour on our local clocks on March 11 this year. As always, TEX, and all the NTS nets, continue to meet at their same local times, which will be an hour earlier UTC (early TEX at 0000Z and late TEX at 0300Z). Just barely got back our lost hour of sleep and now it is being taken away again !

The 7290 Picnic is on April 21

The 42nd annual 7290 Traffic Net Picnic will be held at the new location of the SPJST Lodge just outside of Taylor, Texas on April 21. Pictures and a map are on the web site for the new location. We will also have our regular catered BBQ at 4 PM that you are invited to attend. The menu will include brisket, sausage and all the trimmings from the same caterer that we

have been using. The cost will be $13.85 per plate. Tom W5UFO will also be there with his homemade ice cream.

Please check the net's web site of 7290trafficnet.org for details including a map and pictures.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as can attend. 73,

Jo Ann KA5AZK
Manager 7290 Traffic Net
Asst. Director West Gulf Div. NTS

Note: The new location is east of Austin, a little closer for NTX stations but a little farther for STX stations. It looks like a very nice place, much better than the one at Smithville. I will not be able to attend due to the need to care for my father, who recently fell and hurt his back, now requiring my nearly full-time assistance with all activities since he cannot get up from bed or a chair without help. Rodney, W5DY has not yet determined if he can attend. There will not be a Pfeiffer-Pfist award presentation this year to honor the memory of Jay, N5PWG, the last recipient.

Thanks to Sis, WD8DIN, the editor of *Traffic Call*, the Hit-and-Bounce net newsletter, here is the next installment of the W1NJM Saga.

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

CHAPTER 34B- ARRL Apparatus Bureau (final)

A journalistic history of the life and times in the Amateur Radio world of W1NJM by George Hart, W1NJM

Meanwhile, the basement at 38 La Salle Road had become a warehouse for meters and other "Apparatus Bureau" equipment and the task of tagging and doing the paperwork on this program fell largely in my hands. It also kept the shipping department busy. The technical department, under George Grammer, helped in identifying the quality of some of apparatus and meters of foreign or unknown manufacture. Clint Desoto, then high in the production-editorial staff, abhorred the whole program and its extensive use of QST space. "You and your g**dam meters!" he used to say to me, in typical good nature.

I got to know most of the higher-ups on the HQ staff pretty well during this period. K.B. Warner, the big boss, became almost an associate, as did George Grammer, QST's technical editor, and Dave Houghton, the treasurer and circulation manager. I even got on a first-name basis with George Bailey, the League's president, during his frequent visits to the headquarters.

I used to "brown bag" my lunch at my desk, but one day KB suggested I join the group who went to a nearby eatery on Farmington Avenue at lunchtime. I've always had this tendency to be a "loner," but this seemed to be an opportunity to further "feather my nest" and I jumped at it. It soon became a custom and a relaxation. KB held forth with some unusual stories at some of these sessions and I soon realized he was a man with a keen sense of humor and a ready wit.

I recall one incident at this time that illustrates a sense of humor which, at the time, I didn't fully appreciate. It has nothing to do with the Apparatus Bureau, but is worth relating as an aside. One morning I found in my "IN" basket a note from KB on pink paper. He used this shade of notepaper to indicate that the subject of the note was crucial. It said something like this: "George, you and I have always gotten on fairly well, but if I ever find you snooping around my desk, I promise you will suffer the worst possible consequences." I read it over and over with increasing heartbeat, frantically trying to think what he was referring to. I had never been near his desk except when summoned, and always in his presence, so I concluded it must be some kind of misunderstanding, or someone had "set me up." Nevertheless, the implied accusation was very upsetting. Since it was near lunchtime, I decided to face him at that time, but when the time came, I almost "chickened out" and stayed cowering behind my desk. Although he was seldom absent from the lunch sessions, I found myself hoping he wouldn't show up; but he was there ahead of me and motioned me to sit beside him. Once so seated, he turned away from me and continued his conversation with the person seated on his other side. For quite some time he seemed to ignore my presence. Then, when the conversation was momentarily away from him, he turned a bleak gaze on me and said, "Did you get my note?"

"Yes I did, KB, and I have no idea what you are talking about!"
"Doesn't ring a bell at all, eh? Did it shake you up?"
"It sure did, but--"
"You should have recognized the tone, because it was just like the tone of a letter you wrote to the Michigan SCM yesterday. It will have the same effect on him that my note had on you."
He broke into a rubbery smile. "Let that be a lesson to you."
"You mean--"
"Did I suspect you of snooping around my desk? Of course not! It was just an object lesson."

I was too relieved to be angry. In later years I had the same trouble with KB's successor regarding the tone of my letters to the field. More on that subject later in the script - If I remember it.

In the next chapters George settles into his ARRL position - suddenly full-scale war had a dramatic impact on League operations and his responsibilities.

Next in Chapter 35 - ARRL and WERS

TEX Mailbox:

Pat, KD5TXD, is delighted that not only has the cement been poured into the hole for the tower, but the tower is now installed. See the previous newsletter for details about digging out the hole. Since it has been nearly 2 months since the last newsletter, all events have been completed. Pat writes:

I never thought it would happen. I have tears in my eyes and cement splashes all over my body. We carefully checked the hole for stray javelinas, bunnies, rattle snakes and any other creature that might have wandered by in the night. The cement was about an hour late in arriving. Charles had to lift the guy wires for the push up pole so he could get in with the

cement truck. They poured a little cement in the bottom. Charles used a cement vibrator to spread it around and checked the level of the base. It was still in line so they poured some more. Charles vibrated the cement and checked the level. This went on for what seemed to be hours until finally the hole was topped off. The wood braces for the tower base were still seeming to be level.

There was enough cement to pour a landing for the steps off the deck. We have really needed that. There was still cement. Charles had ordered 6 cubic feet. I had the cement guy dump the last of it by my two mesquite trees making a giant blob for my bird feeder and bird bath. Charles made a "frownie" face over that. The cement guy thought I was crazy. Hey, I am not letting one drop of that cement off the

property. I will be eating beans for at least three months to pay for all of this. It has only taken 6 years to get this tower base set in. I am sure it is 6 years. I might have to go back into the old TEX Newsletters to see if I can find where I was bragging about Charles getting a tower for his Christmas present.

Well, with all of the cement poured the giant truck had to find its way out of the yard. Not as easy as getting into the yard. He nearly pulled down my 80 meter loop antenna. Charles rushed over with a long pole that we used to lift the guy wires when he came in. He managed to turn around. Then Charles had to run over to the guy wires and lift them so he could get out. I guess I better check the radio tonight to see if either of the antennas are still functioning. We have to wait a month before mounting the tower. Once I get antennas up I will no longer have the excuse that I can't hear anyone. At least I hope I hear better. Y'all will have to give me signal reports once this is all completed. It is actually getting close to being a reality.

We have wire antennas for 80 and 40 meters to put up. We have a tri-bander beam which will need a rotator for 20, 15, and 10 meters. I will put my 2 meter j-pole on the tippie top of it all… or close to the tippie top. It's a miracle!!! It's a true miracle!!! No Javelinas or other creatures were harmed in this cement pour. All we have to do is wait for it to cure. Now, Charles and I didn't get it very smooth on top, but at this point in the game I don't care about smooth. All I care about is can we get the bolts free so we can mount the tower. More on this madness later...

March 4, 2 PM - Someone pinch me, I must be dreaming...
At left - It's vertical!!!! No antennas yet, but it is vertical!!!!

This picture shows Charles and the heroic crew: WB5IZD, N5GAA, W0KRH, KA5JBZ, brother of W0KRH, Mark. Thanks to all!!

Thanks, and 73!!!
Pat KD5TXD

Note: No, the tower is not leaning - Pat was so excited she held the camera skewed.

Doug, KA5KLU, forwarded this link to something that most of us will remember well. Have your sound on:

Burma Shave with the Statler Brothers. This will take you back...

You may need to watch it twice; once to watch the Burma shave signs and once to catch all the pictures plus listening to the music of the Statler Brothers.

Click: http://oldfortyfives.com/DYRT.htm

Scott, W7IZ, Oregon STM, forwarded the following good information from K9JM about how to check if a recipient of a license renewal reminder message might be a Silent Key.

Greetings to all!
I would like to comment on the "repetitive bulk message debate" here. As a traffic handler who took off a couple decades and came back to an NTS with these type of messages, my initial impressions were shock and dismay. But then, I realized how it came to this and why (email, computers, texting, free long distance plans and such). Then, I began not only to understand these types of messages, but to appreciate them.

The number one complaint I hear about "repetitive bulk messages" .... and this happens most often with the license renewal.... is PLEASE DO NOT SEND MESSAGE TO SILENT KEYS.

There have been many cases where a message is delivered to a silent key widow who is still in the early stages of grief. Cases where the silent key was just recently killed in foreign wars...

Is it too much to ask for the station of origin to check to see if the guy is still alive? Or is it too much to see if the guy has already renewed his license?

If you are not familiar with the social security death index...

http://www.socialsecuritydeathindex-search.com/

become so.

When handling bulk traffic at the regional level, I will often check SSDI to see how many of the folks are SK. If they are, I will return the message then and there. Over the past year, my estimate of messages to SK of renewals is around 18%.

Before I started using SSDI, about a quarter of these deliveries were very unpleasant at times leaving the remaining family member in tears, or at least choked up.

The worst case was a "welcome to ham radio message" that was sent to what was a service man whom, while on leave took and passed his amateur radio test and shortly afterwards was killed in Iraq. The delivery station spent hours trying to aid the parents in understanding why this happened. This fine soldier was on the SSDI at the time of origination, so it would have been possible to avoid this one... and I pray this never does have to happen again.

If you originate bulk messages, do everything in your power to assure the person receiving the message wants to get it.   Ask the following questions... are they alive? Do they need this information? Have they already done what I am asking of them?

This is a different take on the flame wars that go on about bulk messages. Please be smart about these messages. Don't assume the delivery station will do his homework.

Jim Michener (K9JM)

Received this from **Frank, W4DLZ**, originally written by Hank, W6SX, who used to be a neighbor of mine when I lived in CA, but now lives in beautiful Mammoth Lakes. Some good ideas:

Hello All,
More traffic needs to be generated for NTS to survive...
Here are some great suggestions by Hank W6SX

1. Thank someone for a nice Rag Chew.
2. Thank someone for a QSL card and tell him your card is on the way--hope the radiogram beats the card.
3. Thank someone for an LOTW QSL.
4. Thank someone for an article in QST or CQ.
5. Ask someone a question about his article.
6. Ask someone for a sked for a new state.
7. Congratulate someone for his score in a contest.
8. Ask someone what tips he has for doing better in a contest.
9. Congratulate someone on an award you read about in a magazine.

Etcetera. I could go on and on. It's not that hard.

If you really care about NTS, JUST DO IT.

Ski Exuberantly,
Hank, W6SX

Mammoth Lakes, California
Elevation 8083 feet in John Muir's Range of Light
73,
Frank W4DLZ
RN5/4 Mgr..

Pat, KD5TXD, while waiting for the cement to set before mounting the tower did a little reading. Here is one of her excellent book reports. Thank you, Pat !

Railroad Radio by Vincent Reh, WA2AUY, is just the tool for the amateur radio operator who likes trains. I accidentally found this book after a discussion with one of our local hams who is also a train fan. We were pondering the use of radio by the railroad. KA5WPK had discovered our local railroad dispatcher's frequency and started listening in on the train orders. He could hear the dispatcher almost always and occasionally hear the train crew response. We are hooked!!

Railroad Radio starts out with an interesting history of railroad communications. I am familiar with the telegraph aspect. Reh touched on several of the very early efforts to communicate with moving trains including Thomas Edison's 1885 creation of a wired wireless system of train communication. The description continues with the railroads applying parallel technologies to that of radio's advancements over the decades.

There is even a comment about how amateur radio operators were used in the 1950s to relay messages between disconnected stations using HF after storms took down their telegraph systems. Hams kept the trains rolling until repairs could be completed in much the same way as ARES backs up local communications when regular communications have been taken out of operation.

The author went on to describe more modern systems which consist of VHF, UHF and microwave applications. There are voice, digital and remote control systems all using different forms of radio. Even the end of train devices, EOT, which have replaced the beloved caboose, are radio devices that talk to the head of the train to monitor the train's break line system and to notify the head end when the rear of the train has stopped or started moving. I forget that the trains are generally long enough that the rear end isn't necessarily moving when the front is.

There is a detailed discussion of the various kinds of antennas used by railroad radio systems from the base station with its tower, the locomotive with its cab top antenna, mobile rigs for railroad cars and trucks, and portable devices carried by crew and rail workers. There are even track side radio devices that monitor passing trains for equipment problems and then use an automated system to report the problems by radio.

Reh concludes the book with an interesting discussion of scanners and antennas for scanners. The book was written in 1996 so there are a lot of technology advances made since then. If anyone is interested in borrowing this keen little book, let me know. My pal, KA5WPK, has first dibs on reading it, but I will be happy to share it when he is finished.

Thanks and 73!! Pat KD5TXD

TEX Net Topics

Thanks to Randy, N5RL, for taking the early RN5 slots on his NCS nights - Tuesday and Friday. Randy is still somewhat nervous in taking on these new responsibilities, but he is doing a great job and learning quickly.

Randy is also providing liaison with the 7290 Traffic Net, bringing some RN5 traffic to TEX as well as taking some "leftovers" to the 7290 net the next day. A reminder that the "TTN" liaison slot is now defined to mean "Texas Traffic Nets", which includes both the 7290 Net and the Texas Traffic Net. Stations checking in from either net may respond to the "QNA TTN" invitation during net callup. That means that more than one station may respond, one from 7290 and the other from TTN. Additionally, if you are on late TEX and volunteer to take some otherwise unhandled traffic to either 7290 or TTN, you should so inform the NCS.

We still have *11* open NCS/liaison slots, including **2** open *primary* NCS slots and *5* open *primary* RN5 slots on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (all shown in **red**). Please consider taking one of these, or even just an open backup position. The RN5 liaisons are sorely needed. Late Thursday RN5 is generally difficult for me because I have a TCC sked at 9:45 and may not be done with RN5 in time if I check in there. NCS stations are reminded to always try to recruit an RN5 liaison station on early TEX if the normal liaison does not check in or it is Thursday or Saturday where no station is assigned.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	N5RL	KD5TXD	KD5TXD	N5RL	*Open*	W5GKH
Backup	*Open*	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	*Open*	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	*Open*	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	W5CU
RN5 #1	W5GKH	N5RL	W5CU	*Open*	N5RL	*Open*	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	*Open*	W5DY	*Open*	W5ESE	W5ESE	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	*Open*	W5CU	*Open*	K6JT	*Open*	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT	W5GKH

TEX/1: **3541**/7053 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 **3541**/7108/1841 at 22:00 local
RN5/1: **3567**/7108 at 19:30; RN5/2: **3567** at 21:30 local
TSN: **3552** - 19:45 local; CAN: **3552**/7052/7108 - 20:30 local; PAN: **3552**/7052- 22:30 local

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, K5RG, KA5KLU
NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, N5RL, K5RG, W5TMO, KD5TXD

Statistics:

Following are the statistics for both January and February.

We did better in January than December. A couple of RN5 slots were missed but traffic and checkins were both up.

Randy, N5RL, with 56 (90%) took first, followed by Rodney, W5DY, a distant 2nd with 37 (60%). Sam, W5CU, with 32 (52%) took 3rd. Outstanding, Randy, thank you for your great efforts. Thanks to all of you who checked in for your support.

We did not have any visitors in January.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.4 per net session (1.9 last month). Net time averaged 11.8 minutes per session (compared to 11.4 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.1 per session (4.3 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (Jan 2012)

Call		QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	14	32		11			
*		18			10			
W5DY	Rodney	17	37	1	4			
		20		5	5			
NE5E	Dave	0	1					
	San Antonio	1						
N5EL	Floyd	6	6					
*		0						
W5ESE	Scott	28	28		9			
*		0						
W5GKH	Charlie	10	20	10	4			
*		10		10	5			
K5GM	Pete	11	22					
*		11						
K6JT	Steve	19	49	4	1		19	
*		30		9	11		30	
K5KV	Benny	0	2					
		2						
W6LFB	Jim	6	6					
*		0						
N5NVP	Jim	0	11					
		11						
K5QOW	Gary	3	3			3		
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	3	12					
*		9						
N5RL	Randy	28	56	8				
*		28						
W5TMO	Mike	1	23					
*		22		7				
KD5TXD	Pat	8	8	8				5
*		0						
Totals		316		62	60	3	49	5
				100%	97%	5%	79%	8%
QTC 1		56	149					
QTC 2		93		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		357	733					
Time 2		376						

We did about the same in February as January. No RN5 slots were missed, thanks to N5RL taking 2 of the open slots, and traffic and checkins were close to the same.

Randy, N5RL, with an amazing 56 out of 58 (97%) took first, followed by Rodney, W5DY, a distant 2nd with 37 (64%). Scott, W5ESE, with 24 (41%) took 3rd, barely edging out Sam, W5CU and Mike, W5TMO, both of whom had 23. Note that Randy would have had 100% but a family issue came up unexpectedly one evening that caused him to miss both nets. A truly outstanding effort ! Thanks to all of you who checked in for your support.

We had 2 visitors in February, one DX (XE1GXG, Roberto from Guadalajara), and one local (W4WJ, Don, in Fredricksburg).

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.2 per net session (2.4 last month). Net time averaged 12.4 minutes per session (compared to 11.8 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.1 per session (5.1 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (Feb 2012)

Call		QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	10	23		6			
*		13			6			
W5DY	Rodney	20	37	2	3	1		
		17		3	4			
N5EL	Floyd	5	5					
*		0						
W5ESE	Scott	24	24		6			
*		0						
W5GKH	Charlie	6	12	6	4			
*		6		6	3			
K5GM	Pete	6	9					
*		3						
XE1GXG	Robert	1	1					
	Guadalajara	0						
K6JT	Steve	17	46	4	3		17	
*		29		12	16		29	
K5KV	Benny	3	5					
		2						
W6LFB	Jim	8	8					
*		0						
N5NVP	Jim	0	13					
		13						
K5QOW	Gary	6	6			5		
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	5	20					
*		15						
N5RL	Randy	28	56	10	7	6		
*		28				1		
W5TMO	Mike	1	23					
*		22		8				
KD5TXD	Pat	7	7	7				4
*		0						
W4WJ	Don	1	1					
	Fredricksburg	0						
Totals		296		58	58	13	46	4
				100%	100%	22%	79%	7%
QTC 1		53	130					

Call		QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
QTC 2		77		Sessions:		58		
Time 1		364	717					
Time 2		353						

The roster, shown next, had no changes since the last newsletter.

TEX Roster

	Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
	N5BA	Brian	Houston	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
	W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
	K5CZ	Ed	Temple	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
*	W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	W5OMR	Geoff	Houston
	N5EL	Floyd	Temple	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
*	W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
	W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
	K5GM	Pete	Austin	N0SSS	Adam	Oklaunion
	W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
	AA5J	Lee	Arkansas	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
	K5JRN	Si	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
*	K6JT	Steve	Plano	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
	KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
*	K5KV	Benny	Star	KS5V	Ed	Bulverde
*	W6LFB	Jim	Denton	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
	WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	* NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
	N7NET	Scott	McKinney	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

Benny, K5KV, alerted me to some confusion and mis-information that was circulating on a Yahoo Traffic group on which he is a member. The following is an excerpt from the response I made, which Benny then posted for the group. I also copied Steve Ewald, WV1X, at ARRL HQ and his response is shown as well. The initial post was as follows:

>Traffic passed by regular e-mail cannot be counted as traffic passed for SAR or PSHR credit

COULD YOU QUOTE THIS STATEMENT FROM THE 'MPG' PLEASE.
I COULDN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE. THINK ABOUT IT. EMAIL, AIR MAIL, CW, WINLINK AND OTHERS ARE ALL DIFFERENT MODES OF COMMUNICATION THAT IS ACCEPTED BY THE ARRL. SO SAYING THAT EMAIL CAN'T BE USED YOUR SAYING THAT CW AND OTHER MEANS SHOULD NOT BE USED. IF YOU PASS TRAFFIC IT IS COUNTED FOR SURE.   GIL W1GMF

My response, sent to Gil, W1GMF and Steve, WV1X was as follows:

Hello Gil,

I saw this from you, sent to the Yahoo group, so I wanted to give you the MPG info you were looking for.

First of all, thank you for all your hard work in generating greeting messages to new hams. We appreciate them, at least here in Texas. I have often delivered one and been able to help the new ham get started on the air and answer questions. It is truly a valuable service.

It appears you are confused about traffic counting, though. Here are the pertinent excerpts from the NTS Methods and Practices manual, section 7.2.1:

7.2.1 CATEGORIES OF ACTIVITY - ORIG, RCVD, SENT, DLVD

See ARRL Public Service Communications Manual, [Section 2, NTS Chapter 10.2], and the ARRL PSHR Reference section in this chapter.

Messages handled by amateur stations are counted according to the following four categories of activity:

* ORIGINATED:

(An off-the-air function) Any ARRL standard format message traffic prepared by you (the first party) for someone other than yourself (a third party), and filed at your amateur radio station for initial transmission over the air. Count one point. In other words, this is a radiogram which you created for another person using your station's message number and call sign.
Note: A message that you create for yourself does not qualify as an Origination, but will be covered later under the SENT category.

* RECEIVED:

(An on-the-air function) Any ARRL standard format radiogram received over amateur radio by your station. This will include message traffic received, whether for yourself, for relay to another amateur station (the second party), or received for delivery to the message addressee (a third party). Count one point.
Note: Messages received by other means, such as telephone, postal, E-mail, MARS, in-person, etc., are not counted as Received, however they may cause you to Originate a message for later transmission.

* SENT:

(An on-the-air function) Any message traffic to be sent by your station to another amateur station (a second party), whether such a message is initially transmitted from your station as your Originated message for a third party, a message for yourself, or one that was received from another amateur station. Count one point.
Note: Messages sent by means of telephone, postal, E-mail, etc. do not count as Sent, however they may qualify for counting as Delivered.

* DELIVERED:

(An off-the-air function) Any message traffic that is delivered by you to the message addressee (a third party), provided that the message was received at your station by amateur radio and that the addressee is someone other than yourself. This delivery is done by telephone, postal, E-mail, in- person, etc. Count one point.
Note: A message sent by amateur radio to the final addressee at another amateur station is counted as a sent message, not as a delivered message.

end reference

It is very clear that ONLY messages that are actually transmitted or received BY RADIO (i.e., using RF emissions on the air) can count toward your monthly traffic total that is reported to your STM or SM. A message sent by Internet E-mail or even the TELNET function of Winlink (using Airmail or another program), or the Winlink Webmail function does NOT count except for delivering messages.

Using a VHF RMS to access Winlink would be acceptable as well, in addition to an HF radio connection, CW, SSB, FM, etc. The key point is that a radio must be used to either send or receive a given message.

Hope that helps alleviate your confusion. I know of at least one station that originates a lot of bulk traffic who uses the TELNET function of Winlink. I have advised him of the same information but he appears to be continuing to count that traffic for BPL. I think it might be time to require a certification with all traffic reports to the STM that the traffic was handled by radio and not other means. WV1X, do you concur?
73,
Steve K6JT
Manager TEX CW NTS Net (Texas multi-section net)
RN5, CAN, TCC member

The response I received from WV1X was as follows:

Hi Steve,

Thank for copying me on your message to Gil and for your interest and efforts in traffic handling.

The explanation that you provided on how to count traffic (for monthly station activity reports and Brass Pounders' League purposes) is correct. The reference that you cited is also excellent.

I think your suggestion would be a good one for discussion by Section Traffic Managers, Section Managers, and NTS officials.

There is an NTS Officials' e-mail reflector (that includes Section Traffic Managers, too) that is available and is currently hosting some discussion on training.

Through this reflector, I've heard that some sections are sponsoring training activities on the air and at hamfests, conventions and meetings.

Is there a similar, on-going discussion on the "Radiograms" reflector? By the way, I'm not on that reflector.

I'm wondering if the most effective means of conveying the procedures to properly count messages would be through peer-to-peer training on traffic handling at the local and section levels and supported by national-level resources such as the NTS MPG and announcements?

73,

Steve Ewald, WV1X
Supervisor, Field Organization Team

I also received a response from Gil, W1GMF, as follows:

THANKS FOR THE INFO. I DO DO IT PROPERLY AND WAS AWARE OF THAT SECTION. THANKS AGAIN.

GIL FOLLETT W1GMF/NTS-ORS

So there is the "official" word on counting of message traffic. Only those sent and received by radio may be counted in a station activity report or Public Service Honor Roll report. Delivery is the only category that may be made by E-mail or any other means.

I urge all of you to report your traffic count to your STM. For North Texas, that would be Herman, KE5HYW, and for South Texas, Rodney, W5DY. Always send a report, even if you only have a few messages and even if you don't qualify for the minimum PSHR total for listing in QST. We still need to show traffic handling activity for our sections. We don't have any stations on TEX in West Texas, and I don't know who the STM is there.

Until next month,

73, Steve K6JT

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)
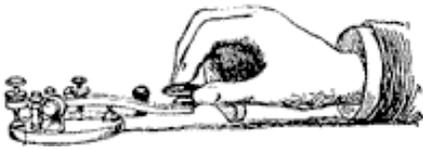
TSN Corner

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT

Greetings from the Wild Horse Desert – home of your TSN Manager

The following is from Pat's January input:
We are off to a good start for 2012. Thanks to everyone who has checked into TSN and especially the TEX folks who brought us some real traffic too pass. Remember, if you have traffic for Pat, WB5NKD, she and Arley are on TSN every night ready to receive traffic. That makes things interesting for the rest of us. January 20th seems to be a record breaking net for TSN, at least for as long as I have been associated with the net. We had 11 checkins that evening. We also had a new visitor, K5OAI, Sam in San Angelo. I believe I have heard Sam before, but not in some time. Welcome and visit TSN again soon.

TSN Activity Report for January 2012
Total Sessions 31, Total Check-ins 159, Total Traffic 32 by 14 different operators.

January 2012 QNS

January	Callsign	Name	QTH	STATE
31	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
31	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
20	AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX
20	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
18	WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS
12	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
9	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
5	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
5	W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX
3	K5KV	Benny	Star	TX
2	W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX
1	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
1	K5OAI	Sam	San Angelo	TX
1	W5DPT	Louis	Deer Park	TX

The following is from Pat's February input:
February was a great month. We had to add an extra day this year just to fit in all of the QNI's for TSN. KB5TCH came close to being on the net every evening. Thanks, Carroll, for your consistency. We also had high check-in counts from AA5JW, WD0ESF and W5VXI. Now the challenge will be to do more in a bigger month. We also had three visitors to the net: Dwight, AG9G; Dick, K9PUI; Dave, AB0DK. Thanks for stopping by and please join us again when you can hear TSN. Thanks to the TEX folks who brought us some real traffic to copy. That makes for a fun evening.

TSN Activity Report for February 2012
Total Sessions 29, Total Check-ins 165, Total Traffic 31 by 16 different operators.

February 2012   TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	TX	K9JWV	Jim	St. George	UT
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	K5KV	Benny	Star	TX
W5AS	Club Call			K7KV	David	Auburn	WA
K5AVJ	Lynn	Abilene	TX	KB0LF	Fred	Murray	NE
N9AWP	Edward	Markleville	IN	W8LKI	Wolfe	Defiance	OH
WA4BAM	John	Miami	FL	K5MDK	Mike	Plano	TX
W4CCU	David	Pensacola	FL	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
ND0CW	David	Newburg	ND	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
AB0DK	Dave	Kirksville	MO	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
K5DMC	Jerry	Kiln	MS	K5OAI	Sam	San Angelo	TX
W5DPT	Louis	Deer Park	TX	K9PUI	Rich	Indianapolis	IN
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	KE5PYF	David	Fort Worth	TX
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells	TX
WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
WD9F	Woody	Springfield	IL	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
K5FAL	Curt	Edmond	OK	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
AG9G	Dwight	Phillips	WI	WB5UPS	Ron	Port Neches	TX
K5GM	Pete	Austin	TX	N5UZ	Rick	Cedar Park	TX
AK4GY	Russ	Lewisberg	TN	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
WD5ILB	Bob	Azle	TX	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	WB8W	Bob	Cincinnati	OH
N0JL	Jim	Chilliecothe	IA	WB5WKQ	Jeff	Dryden	MI
K6JT	Steve	Plano	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	WJ5Z	Roy	Tyler	TX

February 2012 QNS

February	Callsign	Name	QTH	STATE
29	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
29	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
26	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
19	AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX
18	WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS
15	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
9	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
7	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
4	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
2	N0JL	Jim	Chilliecothe	IA
2	W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX
1	AB0DK	Dave	Kirksville	MO
1	AG9G	Dwight	Phillips	WI
1	K9PUI	Rich	Indianapolis	IN
1	W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX
1	WA4BAM	John	Miami	FL

73!! Pat KD5TXD February 29, 2012

(RN5 Corner Starts on the next page)

RN5 Corner
Region Net 5 (Daily) 1930 CT on 3567 and 2130 CT on 3567
Alternate Frequency 7108 or 3598 when conditions warrant
Serving TX, OK, LA, AR, MS, TN, AL, and FL
Frank Thrash W4DLZ (W4DLZ@YAHOO.COM)
RN5 Net Manager

Hello All,

First I'd like to thank Steve K6JT for inviting RN5 to have a spot in the Texas Newsletter. This will definitely generate more interest for the Fifth Region...

There are many things we need to discuss concerning NTS, and these will be covered more in upcoming issues. More messages have to be generated (see the tips from W6SX in the TEX Mailbox section) and there needs to be more reliable delivery (or servicing if unable to deliver). Consider the following :

NR 57 R HXC W4DLZ 12 CARRABELLE FL FEB 26
PETER SCHNEIDER KC2QYM
50 GEORGE ST
TENAFLY NJ 07670
BT
THANKS FOR THE VERY ENJOYABLE
RAGCHEW ON 17 METER SSB X 73
BT
FRANK W4DLZ
AR N

The preceding was sent out on ERN5 on the night of Feb 26th and it hasn't been delivered yet, nor has a service message come back indicating it could not be delivered.

Can't NTS do better than this?

One big item for me is Message delivery percentages. In some areas of the country the delivery rate is only 25 percent and the highest is around 80 to 90 Percent.

Who can depend on a system with those statistics? We need to be accountable if NTS is to survive.

Sorry to come outta the gate griping, but we have work to do. Please don't be a part of the problem, join me in becoming a part of the solution.

Thanks to all of you who regularly support RN5. Feel free to send me your feedback and ideas on how to improve net operations - we'll try to have them in this part of the newsletter each month. As you will see from the duty roster on the next page, we desperately need help with CAN liaison stations and we need a regular Tuesday NCS. If you can only make one net (early or late) as NCS or you can only take CAN TX or RX, that will be just fine. I'd also like very much to have "backup" stations for any and all positions.

RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	KJ4FDV	Open	W5CU	WA4ZPZ	W4QAT	W4DLZ	K4VIZ
NCS #2	KJ4FDV	Open	W5CU	WA4ZPZ	W4QAT	W4DLZ	K4VIZ
CAN TX	Open	WA4ZPZ	K4VIZ	Open	K4VIZ	K4VIZ	K5KV
CAN RX	Open	WA4ZPZ	Open	Open	W4DLZ	W4DLZ	W5CU
DRN5	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open

February 2012 Statistics

SESSIONS	57
QTC	198
QNI	376
QTR	745
CAN TX REP	90%
CAN RX REP	91%
DRN5 REP	30%

The following is a roster of the most active stations coming to RN5 from their various states.

Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	State	Call	Name	State
W4AGL	JIM	FL	W8IM	DEAN	FL
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	WA5JAN	JIM	AR/MS
W5CU	SAM	OK*	K6JT	STEVE	TX
AC5CW	ERIC	LA	KA5KLU	DOUG	TX
KO9D	BENNY	IN	K5KV	BENNY	LA
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	WA5LQZ	ALAN	LA
K5DMC	JER	MS/AR	K5MC	MICKEY	LA
AD4DO	JOHN	FL	N5NVP	JIM	LA
W5DTR	CURT	IL	WA4PIZ	JIM	AL
K1DW	DALLAS	LA	W4QAT	PAT	AL
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	K5RG	KEN	TX
NY4E	BILL	FL	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
KJ4FDV	TREY	AL	W6SX	HANK	CA
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	KI5T	WADE	LA
KA4FZI	PHYL	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR/MS
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	K6YR	ROB	CA
K5GM	PETE	TX	WA4ZPZ	TOM	AL

* When W5CU is not present on Late RN5, OK traffic may be sent to the TX station

73,
Frank W4DLZ RN5/4 CW Net Mgr.