

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://www.k6jt.com/>

Assistant Manager: Rodney Baker, W5DY, Goliad TX
(w5dy@arrl.net , 361-645-5107 Cell)

January-February 2016



7290 Net Picnic - May 28

Believe it or not it's almost picnic time again. The 46th annual 7290 Traffic Net Picnic will be held at the SPJST Lodge just outside of Taylor, Texas on May 28. Pictures and a map are on the web site. We will 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 \$15.50 per plate again this year. Tom W5UFO will also be there with his homemade ice cream.

Please check the net's web site of <http://www.7290trafficnet.org> for details as they become available. Looking forward to seeing you all. 73, Jo Ann KA5AZK
Manager 7290 Traffic Net

OPERATING W1AW/5 – AN OKLAHOMA STORY – CONCLUSION By Sam Sitton W5CU

My first block of time operating as W1AW/5 went by in a blur – a continuous pileup on 80 and 40 meters that started off simplex and went split quickly when the CW signals all blended into a pulsating single tone on my transmit frequency. Old lessons about pileup management learned the hard way during three ham-cations on Grand Cayman came back quickly, but I'm still not convinced I was doing it right. Do you move in predictable patterns and increments, tuning up to your set limit frequency then back down to just above your transmit frequency, or do you jump around unpredictably and pick off the loudest stations? I tried it both ways – predictable seemed to attract more callers on my listening frequency, as the savvy stations discerned my pattern, so more QRM.... but unpredictable jumping around is hard on the small signal stations who become frustrated (been there, done that!). Whatever I was doing, I worked lots of stations, and four hours felt like 20 minutes.

I was to have opportunities to operate as W1AW/5 only five more times during the week, due to my paying job, coordinating the ARRL Centennial operation and family demands. None of my later operating slots were as challenging as that first night, but all were fun, positive experiences. I will mention one of the best ones.

On Thursday morning I received an email from Nob JF2MBF asking for my help in setting up a special schedule. Apparently Nob and many of his friends in Japan had done well getting Oklahoma in the log in the January operation on most bands but had completely missed 80 meters. Despite it now being summer with more atmospheric noise, he said that their group had been watching the bands closely and felt that a window of propagation would open 1000-1200Z, if we could get a station on at that time. I was skeptical but responded that I would be on 3.530 mhz at 1000Z so pass the word to all the JAs. Fortunately, I had Friday off from work, so about 4:45 a.m. I drove over to my station and set up to call. I threw out a brief CQ, and behold, the first station to call was JF2MBF with crisp 569 signal and perfect CW sending. We chatted for a few minutes, then he signed, saying there might be a few more who want to work OK. What an understatement! The pileup began again, all JAs. I split quickly and began working them as fast as my sleepy brain and hand could move at this early time in the morning. After 90 minutes of quality contacts, the CW started blending together in a dull hum, with very few single signals being decipherable. It sounded like the entire island nation of Japan was calling me, all using 5 watts to an indoor antenna. I exchanged emails with OM Nob several more times during the week. Several of our operators tried other skeds on 80 with some success. It was pure fun but also humbling to know how much this U.S. – based operating event had gained traction in another part of the world, and how important our operations were to others on the far side. My other takeaway was the reminder that just because a band is quiet, it doesn't necessarily follow that propagation is poor and contacts can't be made. I made a note to self – get your lazy carcass out of bed early some morning and call CQ on 80...

Another positive experience for me was following the operations of another ham, Mike W5TMC. Mike is a great operator located near the Arkansas border with a quality station and signal, who happens to be blind. He expressed an interest in operating W1AW/5 but had concerns about being able to make it happen, even with the modern bells and whistles that support sightless operation. We encouraged him to sign up, he did, and his operation was flawless. Mike put 1,118 contacts in the log. It is all amazing to me, considering how I fumble around with my radio despite having 20/20 corrected vision! Salute!

As we neared the weekend, everything was going well, but challenges would arise. A line of storms were predicted to move across the state Friday, and the wx man is usually spot-on around these parts. Several stations were forced to abort their operating slots due to lightning and QRN but fortunately no tornados and no one lost antennas. Then on Sunday, propagation failed us due to some random geomagnetic event of the sun, rendering 20 meters and up useless.

Also, over the weekend an email went out to all coordinators from Dave NN1N reminding everyone of a 24 hour ragchew group in the northeast that occupies a frequency in the low end of the 40 meter phone band who had been objecting to ARRL each week for the past month about the W1AW/ operations. Apparently one of our operators got too close, and a strong protest was emailed to David Sumner, ARRL's CEO. NN1N Dave was in no way accusatory, just warning everyone to avoid the area of this "net" in the interest of keeping the peace.

Then, having an opportunity to study the on-line spreadsheet operations tracker on Saturday morning, I noticed that we had very few slots filled for the weekend. I rushed out an email to

OKDXA members asking them to jump in and help some of the folks who had been carrying the load in the early days of this event. Thank God for email (except spam)! Not only did we pick up five new operators who committed to keep the operation alive over the weekend, some of the guys who had worked so hard during the first few days came back for more on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Once again, the spreadsheet was populated!

When the last CQ was made by our group of stations and the W1AW/ operation transferred to two other states and one territory, the 27 Oklahoma operators (including the EARS club station) had logged over 31K QSOs (later adjusted for dupes to 29K) over a seven-day period. Including the January operation, state totals exceeded 54K. An incredible 17K of the state total QSOs were made by the multi multi contest station K5CM. One of our second operation stations, K5WE, made almost 7K QSOs on CW in a one-man operation. This was not the first rodeo for our big guns! And we small pistols made a good showing also.

Later, when everyone had crawled off from their radios, slept, watched 30 year-old movies, ate and otherwise recharged their batteries by doing nothing, the OKDXA group and several of the other operators got together in a diner on I-44 midway between OKC and Tulsa. Out of that meeting, which was somewhat of a post-mortem of the Centennial operation in Oklahoma, some conclusions were drawn:

Things That Worked:

- NN1N and NJ1Q at ARRL HQ – their original vision, their continuous support and encouragement
- OKDXA member support
- The K5CM station and ops (first operation)
- The EARS back-office (second operation)
- The K5WE QSO machine (second operation)
- The N2IW spreadsheet (second operation)
- Band coverage and utilization
- The 80m pre-op net (second operation - attended by most of the approved operators)
- The live Google document hosted by EARS (second operation)
- It was just so much fun!

Things That We Could Do Better in the next event:

- More operations on 80 and 40 Phone for the locals
- Is one year too long? – complaints during the latter part of the year from other band-users
- Broken rigs, faulty antennas, sleep deprivation – just the usual contest stuff...

73, Sam W5CU

George Hart Series

Here is the second part of the 34th installment of the George Hart Series. More discussion of the ARRL Apparatus Bureau.

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

*A journalistic history of the life and times in Amateur Radio of George Hart, W1NJM (SK)
by George Hart W1NJM*

CHAPTER 34B - The ARRL Apparatus Bureau (final)

Meanwhile, the basement at 38 La Salle Road had become a warehouse for meters and other "Apparatus Bureau" equipment and the task of bagging 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 these 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

New Cycle 4 TCC Director Needed

The following was received from Benny, K5KV, a week or so ago (in its original form from email):

FOLKS

CENTRAL AREA TCC CYCLE 4 HAS LOST A VALUABLE MEMBER DUE TO THE NATURE, VOLUME AND TYPE OF TRAFFIC BEING SENT VIA NTS. A COMMENT NOTED WAS HE DID NOT NEED ANY MORE TRAINING. THIS YEAR I HAVE BEEN IN NTS 50 YEARS. I TOO DONT NEED ANY MORE TRAINING. IN THE PAST TEN YEARS, I HAVE ONLY SEEN TWO MESSAGES WORTH THE TIME SPENT.

I RESIGN AS CENTRAL AREA CYCLE 4 TCC DIRECTOR, ORS AND ALL NTS ACTIVITY TODAY.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SENT ME TCC REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY SKEDS, PLEASE RESEND THEM TO ANYONE NEEDING THEM FOR A FEBRUARY MONTHLY REPORTING IF REQUESTED.

NTS HAS SOME OF THE BEST CW OPERATORS ANYWHERE BUT IF WE ARE HONEST IT IS MORE LIKE A GARBAGE HANDLER THAN TRAFFIC HANDLER.

73

BENNY K5KV

As a result, I posted the following to all known TCC members:

All,

As you can read, Benny, K5KV, has resigned as Cycle 4 TCC director and completely dropped out of NTS. This has been coming for some time and the resignation of a key TCC rep today apparently has pushed him over the line.

Benny has done a great job as TCC Director and is an excellent CW traffic handler, so we are going to miss him a lot.

A notice will be sent to the Central Area Staff for nominations to fill the position. In the interim, I will accept your February reports via radiogram (preferred), e-mail, or Winlink. Please re-send them to me if you have already submitted them to Benny. Those of you with TCC Slots (Echo, Foxtrot, Charlie) please also advise your days and position as well as details on how you make your TCC link. I will put all that information together for the new TCC Director. Please continue with your skeds as you are able.

We may be approaching the point where TCC will be replaced by NTS Digital. While that would work, the Area net will be starved, so it is only a last resort. We can perhaps fill a few "holes" using NTSD, but eliminating TCC is a bad idea otherwise. There are reasons why we continue to maintain the voice / CW NTS, and they are still valid – it is a backup when all else fails and does not require computer or external modem hardware that may not have power to operate.

If any of you in the Central Area are interested in taking the TCC Director position, the only requirements are that you are active on the CW nets and an ARRL member. You are welcome to nominate yourself. There will have to be an election by the staff if there is more than one nominee.

If anyone has some suggestions on how to deal with a shrinking TCC staff, please also send those along.

Thank you, and particularly thanks to Benny for his many years of service.

73,

Steve K6JT

Chair NTS CAS

Also: See the Operating section of this newsletter for information about TCC.

Suggestions Received

The item in my response asking for some suggestions produced the following input from Ken, W7EKB, who had been my TCC India counterpart for some years (and hopefully will soon be again). I thought it was very good and worth sharing with all of you. Thank you, Ken...

I have been active in NTS since sometime in the 1960s, although I did take a 10 year hiatus while my wife and I raised a family.

I have thought long and hard about the present position of NTS and have come to some conclusions which MAY be of interest.

The first, and to my mind the foremost, problem with NTS is the extreme lack of real support from ARRL, notwithstanding Steve Ewald's fine support. In point of fact, ARRL has not given NTS nor TCC the support it truly needs if it is to survive as (to my mind) an all-important backup for EMCOMMS. It really is the only long-haul reliable means of handling traffic, and ARRL has patently ignored us and our efforts for many years. I don't know how to deal with this issue, but to me it is a fact.

Secondly, NTS itself has done an extremely poor job, in my opinion, of "advertising" itself to the ham population in general. Hardly any ham, whether an OT like me (first licensed in 1956) or any "newbie" has even heard of us, and what we have done and are capable of nor the reasons for our existence. This very fact makes recruiting active and interested hams extremely difficult if, in fact, nearly impossible.

Thirdly, in my very, very carefully considered opinion after many years of experience, the MAIN problem with NTS' handling traffic is on the DELIVERY end. I have seen, time after time, traffic picked up at a local net or even directly by an NTS operator, have watched it being carried accurately and quickly from origination to the delivering NTS station, only for it to have never been delivered. And after many years of watching this sort of thing, the only conclusion I could come to was that the LOCAL nets, very few of which are really "traffic" nets in the true sense of the word, ignore the traffic at that point. I don't know what can be done about this, but something NEEDS to be done about it.

In other words, all the expertise, dedication, and hours of work by NTS members is essentially wasted because no one on the delivering end will take the responsibility to actually even ATTEMPT to deliver the traffic.

In my own state of Idaho, the only wide-area local net, the Idaho FARM Net, is a total waste of time even bothering to check into. It meets daily, has over 300 members, yet there is seldom even one person on that net who will take traffic, even for his own city. It is a SOCIAL net, and useless otherwise.

And that net is not the only such net either.

I suspect there needs to be a very strong commitment from at least the ARRL dedicated to training the AVERAGE ham radio operator in the necessity and the need for him/her to at least learn how to handle traffic whenever and wherever it is needed, and in the responsibility which that entails. After all, we ARE a "service" according to the FCC.

Lastly, I wish to address what I call the "bandaid" of "bulk traffic". Although I fully understand the idea behind it, and respect the dedication of those who make it up and send it, to me it is simply an extreme stop-gap to our lack of traffic problems, and really does NOT and cannot address the underlying problems, only SOME of which I have attempted to outline above.

I find it extremely annoying to have to handle the stuff. I especially find it annoying to have to accept any more than 5 pieces of such traffic at any one single net session. At this point, there are too few of us to deal with this stuff and as Benny Owens K5KV pointed out, we Old Timers

don't need any more "training". In addition, getting the delivering stations, who really NEED the training, to take this stuff and to actually deliver it has become more and more difficult.

Here in Idaho, I had been taking K6HTN's traffic for several years, since no one else would do so, and then I would MAIL it to the recipients, since I had no other outlet. In addition, I have received such traffic MAILED to me, by one other husband/wife team here in Idaho who only recently began to handle traffic, picking it up, apparently, on the only NTS voice net in this area.

However, due to unforeseen circumstances here, I had to temporarily leave NTS for a while, and have not taken her or anyone else's traffic for the past several months.

Lastly, in my opinion, the extreme lack of support for using CW by anyone but the contesters has been coming back to bite us. Heck, even the movie, "Independence Day" proved that CW is the ultimate reliable method of communications when all else fails. In one scene near the end of that potboiler of a movie, the defending forces fell back on CW since it was the only thing that could get through. So, even a stupid MOVIE, for God's sake, makes clear what we CW ops have known for many years: that CW will get through when nothing else will, yet ARRL now gives us scant support, devoting far more resources to supporting the latest digital method, which when the devil internet finally falls, will be pretty much useless.

On this last, I speak from experience: I first became actively involved in computers and networks back in the 1970s as part of my work. I eventually became, and still am, what is termed an "IT Professional", building computers, and networks, and supporting those in a University environment for over 30 years. I KNOW just how fragile the internet and computer systems actually are.

In fact, I built the first WORKING small-computer network at the University of Idaho.

So, you can take my ideas on the subject of NTS, traffic handling, CW, and to a lesser extent EMCOMMS however you wish.

I can only hope that something I say here will be of use.

vy 73,
Ken W7EKB

TEX Mailbox:

Scott, W7IZ, forwarded this CW Forever poem, shared here for your enjoyment and a break from the serious matters discussed above:

CW Forever – Poem

You must have, at times, thought into the past,
Where some things go out, while others last.
What comes to my mind is the Old Morse Code,
That has wandered the storms from any abode.

To talk with one's fingers, is surely an art,
Of any info you care to impart.
In most conditions the signals get thru,
While the same about phone is simply not true.

Those dits and dahs cut through the trash,
Of nearby noise or lightning's crash.
To the sensitive ears of the ham receiver,
Who records this data with ardent fever.

He knows he's doing something unique,
(In such poor conditions, that's quite a feat!)
To roger the message that came off the air,
These brass pounders sure do have this flair.

They say Morse Ops are a dying breed,
But don't despair, there's always that need.
When conditions get rough for the new automation,
Be rest assured, there'll be need for your station.

CW is dying? Believe it never,
This mode will be 'round forever and ever.
But one thing is sure, what we really need,
Is to relay our knowledge to the younger breed.

To carry the torch, long after we're gone,
To send Morse Code thru the air like a song.
When at last, Silent Keys pull that final lever,
We can Rest In Peace--it's CW Forever !

WA1TBY

- . . . -

Tom, W5DH, who was our early liaison to the DFW Traffic Net, sent along the following:
Holiday Greetings Steve. Hope is all well there.

Am getting the itch to get back into the scene a little bit and thought I might check into a few
TEX nets if that ok with you. Don't think I'm too rusty, but if so will catch up quickly. Maybe not
every day but more than I have recently. Just let me know.

73

Tom Covert W5DH

Yes, we do miss you, Tom, and look forward to hearing you again.

- . . . -

Received the following from **Summer, VE5SDH**, who is a blind ham in Saskatchewan, just
getting into traffic. Hard to believe she learned CW only 2 years ago. She was actually able
to check into late TEX one evening. I think she will make a great traffic handler some day. I
sent her some information about the nets in Central.

Hi Steve

I have also been checking in to the region ten net.
I've been looking at some of the NTS manual.
I check in to our evening net on 3735 regularly.
I will need practice typing messages :) i pretty much went straight to head copying when i learned CW two years ago
Thanks :) 73 Summer

- . . . -

Tom, K4VIZ, sent along the following interesting link to the raising of a WW1 U-boat. Tom wrote: Apparently this occurred just after WW1. Pretty darned cool!!

<http://www.warhistoryonline.com/war-articles/amazing-images-the-sinking-and-raising-of-u-boat-110-rare-glimpse-inside-a-wwi-u-boat.html?u110=>

73,
Tom Desaulniers / K4VIZ
Conway, AR

- . . . -

George, K5BMR, sent out the following regarding MTC Radio and the excellent service he received. Always good to learn about a reliable company. George wrote: Howdy all,

Recently, I purchased an Icom 7200 at MTC and had the best service that I have ever had. They really jumped thru hoops with the price and it was shipped the same day, FedEx. Danielle did a super job getting it shipped out on a Friday afternoon.

Here is the link to their web site... <http://www.mtcradio.com/>

If you are considering purchasing any gear, these folks will treat you right... Even y'all that live way out of Texas, can experience the great Texas service. Take a look at the last page and inside cover of the January QST, if you have not already seen their 2 page ad. As you know, I don't often toot someone's horn, but this time I am.

73, George

- . . . -

From **Scott, W7IZ**: Greetings All: A few days ago a message was attempted to be sent on one of our Section Nets using a foreign language (Spanish).

I sent an inquiry to Steve Ewald, WV1X, for ARRL's official stance on handling messages with foreign texts. His reply is below.

It's good to get these things out in the open so we all know about them.

As Steve mentions, a 'companion message' in English could be sent along with the Spanish one. Please pass this along to interested hams.

73/Scott Gray W7IZ
Oregon STM
(The following has been condensed from the original reply from WV1X)
Hi, Scott.

Yes, you are correct. If you don't know what the message says, you and the other traffic handlers are under no obligation to forward it on through other traffic handlers and the NTS system. I think it's the correct thing to do because you don't know what the content of the message is.

In this case, no radio amateur would or should willingly want to send a message with content that is possibly prohibited in nature. (See the rule 97.113 -- Prohibited Transmissions.)

Here's an idea: If you or other radio amateurs want to take the time and discover an accurate interpretation of the message through any number of means -- someone who knows the foreign language or maybe a computer translation program, etc -- and you are satisfied that the message is okay to send, and doesn't have any prohibited message or content, then you may proceed in sending the message. I suppose you could send along a companion message that has the interpretation together with the original message in a foreign language.

The FCC Rule 97.119 (b) (2) [about Station Identification] says:

(b) The call sign must be transmitted with an emission authorized for the transmitting channel in one of the following ways:

(2) By a phone emission in the English language. Use of a phonetic alphabet as an aid for correct station identification is encouraged;

Therefore, it's permissible for a U.S. licensed radio amateur to speak or send CW in a foreign language on Amateur Radio as long as he or she identifies his or her Amateur Radio call sign in the English language.

§97.113 Prohibited transmissions.

(a) No amateur station shall transmit:

(1) Communications specifically prohibited elsewhere in this part;

(2) Communications for hire or for material compensation, direct or indirect, paid or promised, except as otherwise provided in these rules;

(3) Communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer, with the following exceptions:

(i) A station licensee or station control operator may participate on behalf of an employer in an emergency preparedness or disaster readiness test or drill, limited to the duration and scope of such test or drill, and operational testing immediately prior to such test or drill. Tests or drills that are not government-sponsored are limited to a total time of one hour per week; except that no more than twice in any calendar year, they may be conducted for a period not to exceed 72 hours.

(ii) An amateur operator may notify other amateur operators of the availability for sale or trade of apparatus normally used in an amateur station, provided that such activity is not conducted on a regular basis.

(iii) A control operator may accept compensation as an incident of a teaching position during periods of time when an amateur station is used by that teacher as a part of classroom instruction at an educational institution.

(iv) The control operator of a club station may accept compensation for the periods of time when the station is transmitting telegraphy practice or information bulletins, provided that the station transmits such telegraphy practice and bulletins for at least 40 hours per week...

(4) Music using a phone emission except as specifically provided elsewhere in this section; communications intended to facilitate a criminal act; messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning, except as otherwise provided herein; obscene or indecent words or language; or false or deceptive messages, signals or identification.

(5) Communications, on a regular basis, which could reasonably be furnished alternatively through other radio services.

Thank you for writing. I hope this explanation and interpretation of the FCC rules is helpful.

73, Steve Ewald, WV1X
Supervisor, Field Organization Team

- . . . -

Finally, the following links to articles in the New Yorker magazine that deal with preparedness for an emergency situation will be of interest. Thanks again to **Scott, W7IZ**. At least read the first part of the first one in some detail because it speaks of the "Cascadia subduction zone". You are going to hear more about that very soon and you may very well be involved in NTS activities related to it (a hint of things to come soon - more in the next newsletter).

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/07/20/the-really-big-one>

<http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/how-to-stay-safe-when-the-big-one-comes>

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TEX Net Topics

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown on the following page (for easier printing of a single page). Several changes have been made. Sam, W5CU, will be home much of the time until the next newsletter, so his slots are restored to normal. Mike, W5TMO, is off the air until construction of his home upgrade is completed. Benny, K5KV, has resigned from all NTS activity, as previously noted. That leaves Monday early RN5 and Friday Late NCS slots open. Ken, K5RG, is now teaching a class on Mondays so that leaves late RN5 liaison open as well. He is now the primary Wednesday late RN5 liaison with Sam, W5CU, shown as backup.

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TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	N5RL	KD5TXD	KD5TXD	N5RL	W5FEA	W5GKH
Backup	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5FEA
NCS #2	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	Open	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	W5FEA	K6JT
RN5 #1	Open	NA5YO	W5CU	N5RL	N5RL	NA5YO	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5FEA	W5FEA
RN5 #2	Open	NA5YO	K5RG	K6JT	K6JT	NA5YO	W5CU
Backup	K6JT	K6JT	W5CU	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT

TEX/1: **3541**/3595/7053 at 19:00 CT; TEX/2 **3541**/3595/1841 at 22:00 CT

RN5/1: **3567**/7108 at 19:30; RN5/2: **3567**/3598/7108 at 21:30 CT

TSN: **3570** - 19:45 CT; CAN: **3552**/3595/7052/7108 - 20:30 CT; PAN: **3552**/7052 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K5GM, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, NA5YO

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, W5TMO, KD5TXD

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
N5BA	Brian	Houston	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
WA5CAV	Dick	Pineville LA	AC5P	Mike	Bartlesville OK
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	KF5QKJ	Don	San Angelo
W5DH	Tom	Dallas	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
W4DLZ	Frank	Florida	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT op)
W5FEA	Jim	Graham	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
K5GM	Pete	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
K5JRN	Si	Austin	NE5V	Chris	Liberty Hill
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
N7KRT	Jeff	Victoria	K6YBV	Bob	Placerville CA
* K5KV	Benny	Star	W5YE	Brian	Harlingen
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	NA5YO	Doug	San Antonio
N7NET	Scott	McKinney	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

December 2015:

Jim, W5FEA, with 62 out of 62 (100%) was again able to maintain “perfect attendance”. Randy, N5RL, with 51 (82%) took second, and Rodney, W5DY, with 45 (73%) took third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors to the net included Mark, KI0I, from Missouri, and Mike, W9MC, from Leander.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.6 per net session (3.1 last month). Net time averaged 10.8 minutes per session (compared to 12.6 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.6 per session (6.3 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (December 2015)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
KW5AS	Skip	6	6					
		0						
W5CU	Sam	4	9		4			
*		5			3			
W5DY	Rodney	22	45	2	5			
		23		3	1			
W5FEA	Jim	31	62	6	1	28		
*		31				3		
W5GKH	Charlie	7	16	7				
*		9		9				
K5GM	Pete	9	22					
*		13						
KI0I	MARK	1	1					
	MO	0						
K6JT	Steve	9	36				9	
*		27		11	9		27	
K5KV	Benny	12	32		5			
		20		4				
W6LFB	Jim	5	5				1	
*		0						
W9MC	Mike	1	1					
	Leander	0						
K1PKZ	Paul	9	9					
		0						

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
KF5QKJ	Don	3	4					
		1						
K5QOW	Gary	3	3			1		
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	1	12		1			
*		11			10			
N5RL	Randy	24	51	8	7	1		
*		27		1		26		
KD5RQB	Jason	6	6					6
		0						
W5TMO	Mike	0	3					
*		3		3				
KD5TXD	Pat	8	8	8				
*		0						
NA5YO	Doug	8	16		8			
		8			8			
K6YBV	Bob	0	3					
	CA	3						
Totals		350		62	62	59	37	6
				100%	100%	95%	60%	10%
QTC 1		54	162					
QTC 2		108		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		341	668					
Time 2		327						

January 2016:

Jim, W5FEA, with 62 out of 62 (100%) maintained his "perfect attendance". Randy, N5RL, with 51 (82%) took second. Rodney, W5DY, with 42 (68%) just edged out both Benny, K5KV, and Pete, K5GM, each with 41, for third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors included K7BNY, Arlo, from somewhere in Texas, K5TSK, Jim, from Arkansas, and VE5SDH, Summer, all the way from Saskatchewan.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.8 per net session (2.6 last month). Net time averaged 10.4 minutes per session (compared to 10.8 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.9 per session (5.6 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (January 2016)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
KW5AS	Skip	2	2					
		0						
K7BNY	Arlo	0	1					
	TX	1						
W5CU	Sam	9	17		5			
*		8			4			
W5DY	Rodney	20	42		3			
		22		6	2			
W5FEA	Jim	31	62	6	1	27		
*		31		1	1	1		
W5GKH	Charlie	8	16	8				
*		8		8				
K5GM	Pete	19	41					
*		22						
W9GVW	Eric	3	3					
*		0						
K6JT	Steve	13	37				13	
*		24		12	12		24	
K5KV	Benny	18	41		4			
		23		4				
W6LFB	Jim	2	2					
*		0						
K1PKZ	Paul	8	8					
		0						
KF5QKJ	Don	3	4					
		1						
K5QOW	Gary	1	1			1		
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	5					
*		5			3			
N5RL	Randy	25	51	9	9	2		
*		26				25		
K5TSK	Jim	4	4					

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
	AR	0						
KD5TXD	Pat	9	9	8				
*		0						
VE5SDH	Summer	0	1					
	SASK	1						
NA5YO	Doug	9	18		9			
		9			9			
K6YBV	Bob	0	1					
	CA	1						
Totals		366		62	62	56	37	0
				100%	100%	90%	60%	0%
QTC 1		97	175					
QTC 2		78		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		353	647					
Time 2		294						

Operating:

With the resignation of some TCC staff, there are now openings for several of the 3 types of liaison in cycle 4 (CW). For those not familiar with how TCC works, here in Central we have 3 different assignments:

TCC Charlie - Checks into CAN (2030 local) and takes traffic for the Eastern area. Meets the TCC Kilo station from Eastern either during CAN or after the net to send the traffic.

TCC Echo - Checks into CAN and takes traffic for the Pacific area. Meets the TCC Golf station from Pacific either during CAN or after the net to send the received traffic.

TCC Foxtrot - Normally checks into the Pacific Area Net (2230 local), although that is not required as long as an arrangement is made with the TCC India station from PAN to receive traffic for the Central area either after PAN or even the next day using, for example, 20 meters. The Central area traffic may be passed via a region net to CAN, or to delivery nets if appropriate, the next day.

We currently have the following openings (local days):

Friday: TCC Echo and Foxtrot
Saturday: TCC Foxtrot
Sunday: TCC Echo and Foxtrot

I will be acting as the TCC Director until one is selected by the Central Area Staff, so if you have an interest and time, please let me know what day(s) you would be interested in covering and what slots. I have TCC Echo and Foxtrot slots myself on Thursday local, and (from TEX) NA5YO, K5RG, K5GM, and W5CU cover other days and slots. I particularly like the TCC Foxtrot slot since I know many of the PAN stations from my years spent in CA before coming to Texas. It is also the most challenging due to the distance involved.

...

I attached the December composite Central Area report to last month's statistics E-mail, so I will not include it here.

NTS Central Area Activity for January 2016

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
RN5 Cycle 2	32	65	163	421	0.154
9RN Cycle 2	12	200	111	132	1.515
10RN Cycle 2	12	20	109	119	0.168
RN5 Cycle 4	60	181	348	684	0.265
9RN Cycle 4	40	53	95	247	0.215
TEN Cycle 4	53	105	177	426	0.246
CAN Cycle 2	12	169	102	329	0.514
CAN Cycle 4	31	111	217	355	0.313
TCC Cycle 2	36	120	36		
TCC Cycle 4	93	61	87		
Total Voice/CW Nets		1085	1445	2713	
NTS Digital			Received	Sent	
WB9FHP CADC 9RN		2280	1187	1093	
W5SEG RN5		318	195	123	
KMOR 10RN		224	110	114	
DRS Stations (15)		2094	1049	1045	
Total NTS Digital		4916	2541	2375	
Total Central Area		6001			

Until April, thanks for all your support of NTS.
73, Steve K6JT



Photo Courtesy of VE3UU

TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3570.0 KHz +/- QRM

Website: <http://www.k6jt.com/tsn/>

Net Manager: Jason KD5RQB, tsn.3570@aol.com

Greetings From Northeast Texas

(December) One of the biggest changes of 2015 was going from a weekly net to four nights a week.

I want to again thank Carroll KB5TCH and Sam KK4HCF for their continued support and dedication. Without their help there would not be a Texas Slow Net. Thanks Carroll and Sam!!!

January's TSN Corner starts with some bad news. Jo Ann Keith's (KA5AZK) mother passed away January 30th. JoAnn is the net manager for the 7290 Traffic net as well as Assistant Director West Gulf Division NTS; ARES District 8 District Emergency Coordinator. JoAnn on behalf of the members of the Texas Slow Net our thoughts and prayers are with you.

The 46th Annual 7290 Picnic is May 28th. The picnic will be held at the SPJST Lodge just outside of Taylor, Texas. For more information on the upcoming picnic please visit the 7290 website at 7290trafficnet.org

TSN Activity Reports

Month	QNI	QTC	Nr. Operators
December 15 Sessions	36	15	6
January 11 Sessions	35	11	6

Net Control Stations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No Net	No Net	Carroll KB5TCH	Open - Jason KD5RQB	Jason KD5RQB	Sam KK4HCF	No Net

December 2015 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	15
JASON	KD5RQB	8
SAM	KK4HCF	6
SKIP	KW5AS	4
MIKE	WD0ESF	2
STEVE	KB5KWO	1

January 2016 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	11
SAM	KK4HCF	10
JASON	KD5RQB	9
HOWARD	WD5IDB	3
MIKE	WD0ESF	2

TSN Roster (November 2015 to December 2016)

Callsign	Name	QTH
KW5AS	Skip	VICTORIA, TEXAS
W5CBP	Chris	ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
W5DY	Rodney	GOLIAD, TEXAS
WD0ESF	Mike	MEDICINE LODGE, KANSAS
W9GVW	Eric	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
KK4HCF	Sam	MARYSVILLE, TENNESSEE
WD5IDB	Howard	EDMOND, OKLAHOMA
KB5KWO	Steve	NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
KD5MMM	Phil	FENTRESS, TEXAS
KD5RQB	Jason	ATLANTA, TEXAS
KB5TCH	Carroll	DOUGLASSVILLE, TEXAS

Stop by any evening Tuesday through Friday on 3570kHz at 7:45p.m. CT.

This is a great place to learn how to handle traffic on CW. If you are a voice net traffic handler, this is a great addition to your amateur radio skill set. See you on the air!!

73,
Jason KD5RQB

RN5 Corner

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

Hello guys and welcome to Edition 46 of the **RN5 Corner**.

Thank you all for a job well done in 2015. Have had some problems again, this time with antennas, but hopefully that will soon be resolved and I will be able to be on the net more.

More concerns about possible problems, as mentioned in the last edition. Here are a few more tips.

North Korea's Kim Young Nut now can reach the U.S. Mainland's West coast...with a Nuke...

We need operators and old rigs (boat anchors) so as to save whats left with probably the only communications system. CW, of course.

A microwave oven is great to store solid state rigs before a blast. We need Viking 2's, DX 100s, other Heath Tube CW rigs and Viking, WRL, and Heath VFOs like the VF-1.

You can build up a 6L6 oscillator rig again and find an old S38, S40, Hg 129X , NC 183d, etc. Or even an old Sky Buddy. The hardest part is finding tubes. Most will probably also need new filter capacitors.

No Hybrids - any solid state devices in the rig will be "zapped". If your tube VFO chirps, it can probably be improved by keying the cathode.

We need to keep the nets running. Tom, WA4ZPZ, found that his high noise level is indeed caused by a leaking power company device. He contacted them and the engineer came out and found it. A work order was put in, but Tom is still waiting for them to come replace it.

Many thanks to Jim, W5FEA, for taking the Monday NCS slots. Thanks also to Tom, K4VIZ, who helped out when Jerry, W4SU, was having his surgery. It has been good hearing Tom, K4VIZ, on RN5 and also Andy, W4SQE, has been checking in from time to time. One night we had almost a "full house" - only missing MS. I remember the "good ol' days" with KB5W running things and getting a full house more often than not. We miss Jack, K5WNU. Haven't heard him in a while. Also want to thank Dick, WA5CAV, for his reliable coverage of LA on RN5. And, of course, the net would not exist without all the hard work of Jerry, W4SU, taking CAN liaisons and NCS positions that would otherwise be missing.

73, Frank W4DLZ
RN5/4 CW Net Mgr.

(Schedule, statistics, and roster on the next page)

RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5FEA	W4DLZ	Open (W5CU)	W4SU	W4SU	W4DLZ	WA4ZPZ
NCS #2	W5FEA	W4DLZ	Open (W5CU)	K6JT	W4SU	W4DLZ	WA4ZPZ
CAN TX	Open	NA5YO	Open (W5CU)	W4SU	W4SU	NA5YO	Open
CAN RX	Open	NA5YO	W4SU ?	K6JT	Open	NA5YO	Open
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

2015 / 2016 Statistics

MONTH	DECEMBER	JANUARY
SESSIONS	61	60
QTC	174	181
QNI	336	348
QTR	672	684
AVG QTC	2.8	3.0
AVG QNI	5.5	5.8
AVG QTR	11.0	11.4

The following roster shows stations coming to RN5 in the past 3 years and their sections.

Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	Section	Call	Name	Section
W4AGL	JIM	FL	K5KV	BENNY	TX
WA4BAM	JOHN	FL	K8KV	BEN	FL
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	N5NVP	JIM	LA
W5CU	SAM	OK*	K4PG	KEVIN	FL
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	KZ8Q	BEN	AL (FL)
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	K5RG	KEN	TX
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5FEA	JIM	TX	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	W4SU	JERRY	AL
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
K5GM	PETE	TX	K5WNU	JACK	MS
W8IM	DEAN	FL	NA5YO	DOUG	TX
K6JT	STEVE	TX	WA4ZPZ	TOM	AL

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

** K4VIZ is no longer active. Send AR to the TX station for the 7290 net (do not use DRN5) 73, Frank W4DLZ