

# *The Texan*

Newsletter of the Texas CW Traffic Net (TEX)

**\*\* See "TSN Corner" and "RN5 Corner" on the Last Pages \*\***

Net Manager: Position Open (W5DY resigned due to poor health)

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Assistant Manager: Position open



January - February 2022

## **Sick Traffic Handlers and Sick Radios**

There have been quite a few of us that have gotten sick since the last newsletter and one death of a very active traffic handler.

Jeff, WB8WKQ, who used to check into TEX from MI and help us when skip was long, became a silent key a few days ago. He reported having Covid at the January RRI board meeting (he was coordinator of the eastern area, too) and the next thing we heard was that he was in the ICU on a ventilator. He became even worse and finally succumbed. His obituary is on the Radio Relay website at the following link:

<http://radio-relay.org/jeff-miller-wb8wkq-silent-key/>

Larry, WB9FHP, the primary digital traffic system hub station, was hospitalized last month for some time. Upon returning home, he had to resign from the position and his system remains off even at this time. Have not heard from him since early January. Hoping he is still recovering.

Pete, K5GM, who you all know very well here on TEX (and RN5 and CAN), was hospitalized for a week with pneumonia and just returned home on the 9<sup>th</sup>, still needing oxygen and help getting into and out of his wheelchair due to a torn rotator cuff in his right shoulder. He will need to have that repaired once he recovers enough. Because he needs an outside helper with moving to and from his bed, Pete will have difficulty with late net activities in order for the helper to return home at a reasonable hour.

On the sick rig side, my Omni VII has developed some problems in the transmit side, causing it to shut down unexpectedly, sometimes not starting up again. I purchased a used Ten Tec Jupiter on eBay and just received it on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The transmit side worked as it should other than being unable to adjust the keying weight, which is too choppy for my taste. The SWR measurement is also not working right. The receive side has very low signal gain, as though an attenuator were in the input. It does have a switchable 20 dB attenuator, which does cut down signals a lot, but even with that out, the S-meter does not read more than S-3 with the strongest signals. However, it is usable while I check on getting the Omni repaired. Ten Tec has been out of business for a while now but will still do repairs on selected rigs, including the

Omni VII. However, the backlog is 6 weeks, which is why I bought the backup rig. Sadly, it worked fine on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and CAN NCS duty on the 11<sup>th</sup> (Zulu) but would not transmit correctly for early RN5 NCS duty. A quick test shows it is working again on the 12th.

Thanks for all the help with TEX and RN5, particularly from Jon, KZ5Z, and CAN From N0SM while my rig was not working. If you have reports that you have been holding for a while and I am unable to get them after a reasonable time, please just E-mail them to me, thanks, Steve

### **Excerpt from Jack, W5TFB's Book**

*Note that his narrative now has little to do with Amateur Radio. If you find this is not of interest any longer, please advise and it will be discontinued. If you still like it, also advise that. Thanks - Steve*

Here is the next excerpt from Jack's book. Jack gets to explore more of Sue's ranch and gets to know her and her grand daughter Mae a little better.

I slept well in the quiet house. I had two changes of clothes, so I put on the clean ones, and stuffed the others, on their second day, in the backpack. My bedroom was on the south-west side, so I could watch the sunrise through the west window. Sunrise and sunset colors are much nicer from the other side, but they don't last so long and aren't as orange. On the other hand, sunsets are oranger (provided you can see them at all) because of the higher level of suspended particles in the lower atmosphere, and the east sky is not as amazing for the same reason.

I didn't want to wake anyone, so I decided to look around the room. In the back of the large empty closet was a heavy door with a good lock. It was locked. I turned the wing-key in the lock, opened it, and saw the other side was also a heavy door. Neither door had a keyhole, although there was a doorknob, so it could only be unlocked from the bedroom side. I gently closed my side, locked it, and sat. Obviously that door went to Sue's bedroom. Obviously she will know I know about it by now. I just filed the info.

I went downstairs to the kitchen and looked around to see what was to eat. I didn't see any bread, but there was the makings of whole wheat bread in the icebox and pantry, so I started on that. Sue came in just as the dough was ready for the first rise. They had a warming oven I hadn't noticed before, so I set it to 100°, covered the dough, and put it in to rise. I cleaned the workspace and put measuring things and the dough hook in the dishwasher.

Sue said, startling me, "Coffee or tea." "Coffee. I can always dilute if it is standard Louisiana coffee. How did you sleep?" "I've slept better, but well enough. Do you still recite poetry? You may remember you recited all the doggerel in Carroll's Underground and Looking Glass, most of it while walking me home after school. The doggerel is well done, I use that word because it is nonsense and not intended to be taken seriously."

I just said I do. This may be going somewhere. "Do you know of the poet Diane Wakoski?" "Of course. What about her?" "I know one of her poems. You may know it, Some Constantly Besieged Castle." "Yes, I know it. It has always played to a powerful memory. And fantasy." Well, maybe not going anywhere. "How about Carroll's The Pig-Tale, from Sylvia

and Bruno, Concluded? It's better for breakfast anyway. Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't ask you what you would have for breakfast."

"Just a glass of orange juice. I am still full from the birthday luncheon, and I would rather wait until the bread is baked—if I get some bread?"

"Certainly." I had seen the OJ in the icebox and went to pour her about six ounces. She was sitting at the kitchen table, one of those late 40s diner booths, but in mint condition. I brought the juice and sat across from her. "Where did you get this booth? It brings back memories. They had identical booths at the A&W root beer place. I remember going there with you. You liked root beer floats, I just liked the frozen mug of root beer, straight up, which was only a nickel. The ice that formed on the side was so good."

"Brenda found it at a junkyard, intact. I don't know what she paid for it. I had forgotten about that. How often did we go?"

"Most Mondays. It was just a block out of the way to your house, and I didn't like to get to work early. Mondays at work were the hardest because Cecil was always hung over from the weekend. The only good thing was that Mondays were the busiest for service calls, so he was usually out."

"Maybe that is why I like it so much, the association with having a forbidden treat. The booth doesn't match anything in the house."

I said, "Let me check on the dough. May I get you more OJ?"

She said no. The dough had about 30 minutes to go, so I asked if she would like to hear The Pig-Tale.

Sue said yes. "Then let's go to the entry room where you will have a nice place to sit." Once there, she got comfortable on one of the sterner-looking couches, and I, standing, began. "This short poem has introductory verses at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end. If you liked Walrus and Carpenter, and I think you did, you will love this. She looked like she had something to say, so I said, "What?"

"I liked the Red Knight's Song better."

"I'll tell thee everything I can, / There's little to relate.'?"

"Yes. In that poem he plays with the sounds of English nearly as well as Poe. You may remember you recited that one several times at my request."

I nodded agreement, took a deep breath, had a sip of coffee, which was just like I make at home, and began.

"Little Birds are dining Warily and well, Hid in mossy cell;  
Hid, I say, by waiters Gorgeous in their gaiters  
I've a Tale to tell..."

I recited the entire poem from memory for her and finished with:

Little Birds are choking Baronets with buns, Taught to fire a gun.

Taught, I say, to splinter Salmon in the winter Merely for the fun.  
Little Birds are hiding Crimes in carpet-bags, Blessed by happy stags:  
Blessed, I say, though beaten Since our friends are eaten When the memory flags.  
Little Birds are tasting Gratitude and gold. Pale with sudden cold.  
Pale I say, and wrinkled. When the bells have tinkled,  
And the Tale is told. “

Sue said, “Wow!” I just nodded and went to punch down the dough. She followed me into the kitchen and asked, “How do you keep all the Little Birds in the right order?”

“I don’t know. Anyway they don’t have any certain order except the first, second, and last of the first batch, and the last of the third batch. Some Constantly is harder, mainly because I have a history with it. It makes it hard to keep the emotion out of my voice. That is allowed in reciting poetry.” I turned off the warmer oven, sprinkled the counter with flour, and smashed out all the air bubbles, and let the dough rest in the still warm oven. “Where are loaf pans? I don’t insist on them, but it will look more like American bread if I use one.” She got them. I said, “Two.” They were nice Pyrex ones. “If you could lightly butter the pans while I make the dough into loaves that would help. Also, get a light oven-proof saucepan, put in about two cups water, and place that on the bottom, the oven floor. Oh, use the gas oven. Then oven at 400°.”

I proceeded to roll out the divided dough, rolled it up and sealed off the edges, and put the loaves in the greased pans, then back to the warming oven, set again to 100°. “It will be over 30 minutes. Shall we go back to the entry room? What do you call it?”  
On the way there she said, “Front room.”

That made sense. We sat on that same couch, which sat much better than it looked. The shape of the back rest was just right for me, and the seat was nice and firm. I said “I could go back to sleep on this, and may, but if I do wake me so I can put the bread in the oven.” That couch was facing the windows, and we could see her employees arriving.

Sue said, “I have a meeting with the Department Heads, their assistant heads, the head of security, and the CEO at 8 every Monday. It doesn’t usually last long, maybe 20 minutes. There is no new business on the agenda.”

“That is good. Bread needs to rest after it comes out of the oven. It is still cooking for fifteen minutes, more when in a glass loaf pan.”

Just before Sue left she said, “Don’t let Marie bite. She sometimes wakes up grouchy.”  
I went back to the kitchen. The loaves had almost doubled, so I put them in the oven. When the oven got back to 450°, I removed the water and turned it down to 375°. The top was nicely browning. They would cook another half hour (oven off last 5 minutes), then cool out of the pan on racks for 15 minutes. It smelled good in the kitchen.

I felt like going back to bed. That didn’t seem right, so I had another cup of coffee. The bread would be ready to slice about the same time Sue was back. I looked for some butter, and it was in the door cubbyhole just like it should be. I took it out and popped it in the warmer oven, not warm enough to melt butter but a bit warmer than in the kitchen. I never put butter on

warm bread, not even right out of the oven, but I may be the only American, certainly the only Texan, who doesn't, unless lactose intolerant.

I set a mental timer and went back to the front room. I sat at the chess board. The set was just like the one I had at home, solid plastic with a 5 inch king, triple weighted. The board was inlaid in a teak table, alternating squares of ebony and bleached ash (or so it seemed; it definitely was ebony). Each side had a drawer just deep enough for the pieces and lined with felt, formed to fit the pieces. Although there was room on the table for score pads and clocks, there were two fold-out wings that extended the table so one could prop up a book or magazine to study a game. A tripod to help was cleverly stored under each wing.

I went back to the kitchen, opened the oven and knocked on the bread. It was done, so I turned off the oven. I found the wire racks for cooling things (and other uses) and put them on the stainless counter next to the stove. I put a glass of OJ on the dinner booth table, put plates in the warmer at 140°, and took out the butter. It was almost perfect, and in a skinny dish. I put the bread pans on the steel counter and poured myself a glass of milk. The bread had shrunk enough to tilt it out on the racks. I put the loaf pans in the dishwasher, set the table, and heard activity in the front room. It was both Sue returning and Mae being awake. They entered the kitchen. I asked Mae if she would have OJ, and she nodded. I sliced bread and served three slices on an oval platter. Mae got jam out (looked like grape) in a pint mason jar.

After we were seated I asked Mae how she was, she answered with a surprisingly low growl, so I asked Sue how the meeting went.

"Good. It took longer because they wanted to know who you are. I haven't had a man around since we opened the offices here."

I finished a bite of bread, and said, "And?"

"I just told them you were someone I used to know. Actually, that's all I know. I didn't suppose they would care that you are a good cook since everyone around here is a good cook."

"How did they know I was here?" "Probably the security guy gossip. Does it matter?" I shook my head no. Mae was taking all this in. She even looked like she might wake up soon. I didn't mention that she was wearing regular clothes, but then I remembered that it was a school day. "Do you need a lunch for school?"

"No, I eat in the cafeteria. The food there is better than in Lafayette. Also everyone knows everyone else in the school, which covers all grades in one building."

"When does school start?" "The second bell is at 8:40. It is a three minute bicycle trip, about a mile away." "Just on the edge of town, then. Do you like it?" "Usually. I make all A's, but that isn't hard. I really like math, English, and French."

Grandma helped me a little at first with math but I can do it all now. I wish she would teach, but she won't even talk about it. I better go now." She kissed Grandma on the cheek and left.

I noticed that she was a different person here than in Breau Bridge. For one thing, her diction was, well, grown up. I certainly understood: Even as an adult I have had to be several different people. I don't mean I have had to be artificial, just that I had different modes for

different situations. Everyone except an extreme hermit does that. During all of this Sue was silent. I got up to clear the table and put up the bread. Earlier, while looking for the cooling racks, I found the plastic storage boxes, got one that looked like it was for bread (it held what was left), and put that up, and put everything else in the dishwasher. It had room for lunch dishes, but Sue put in detergent and turned it on. I've never known a woman who wouldn't do the same thing.

She got up and left the room. There were crumbs all over the place, so I cleaned and straightened up.

Sue was in the living room looking out the window. I came in and asked if I could sit.  
"Indubitably."

"Who plays chess?"

"Marie and I, although she can beat me, especially at blitz. She has beat everyone she has played here. I play almost even with her with 30/30 time controls, which means thirty moves in 30 minutes, then 30 minutes for the rest of the game. She gets bored waiting for me to think at 30/60, in which 30 minutes is replaced by 60. Do you still play?"

"Only casually. I have a son, Charles, that I play, and I played in the San Jacinto open last Spring." I hoped that would guide the conversation in that direction.

"How did you do?"

"I thought pretty well. I scored 3-0-2, and came in fourth of 38, losing only to Brieger (finished first) and Cain (second, losing only to Brieger). One player, Bolen, finished 3-1-1, did not play Brieger or Cain, but I beat Bolen in the first Round. Because I did play the two masters the tie-break gave me fourth, even though there were two others at 3-0-2 and one 2-2-1. Brieger and Cain were the only masters in the tournament. Cain was 16 and Brieger was at least 80. It was the first tournament I had ever prepared for. My first tournament was also the San Jacinto Open, where I tied for second 3-1-1 with the player I drew. In that one my game with Brieger was my only loss. That was in 1959, almost 50 years ago. What openings do you prefer?"

"Forty-eight years. I guess you will find out." Another maybe good sign. I never know. "Would you like to go for a walk while it's still cool?" In South Louisiana 72 at 9 AM is cool, plus it wasn't too humid. "I could show you the garden, but yes a walk sounds good. I don't walk as much as you do."

On the way to the garden she showed me the barn. It was bigger than I thought it was, about the size of my house except all on one level. The first thing I noticed, heard really, was the chickens. They were in a house along the East wall about 10 by 10 feet, on skids. Sue opened the door and scattered feed outside on the ground. I hadn't heard happy chickens since I was a kid. On the north wall, which had no window, someone had hung up old barn-like tools. There were two two-man felling saws, several mule pulled walk behind plows, many others I didn't know. By now the chickens were all over the place. She got a basket and went in to gather eggs. She could use a little help. The coop was filthy, worse. I doubt if she knew how much more productive they would be with clean everything. She only got about a dozen eggs. I didn't know how often someone comes in for eggs.

Covered by a canvas tarp was a small tractor with attachments for a five-way hitch, the tractor and attachments on palettes off the ground. There had been many times when one would have saved me a lot of Jack-wear.

We came back to the small door we came in and left. "Chickens?"

She said, "They run around in the barn all day. We keep the big doors closed and locked. This small door is the only one that doesn't have a lock."

As we headed for the garden I asked, "How do you grow anything in this salty compacted soil?"

"Mulch, above and below. You'll see."

As we came closer, I noticed the garden seemed to be built on a small flat topped hill. Closer, it was many hills, mounds would be better, separated by paths, just wide enough to get the small tractor down, the mounds being narrow enough so you could reach the plants, with maybe one foot on the mound, to inspect and harvest. The garden was about 200 feet wide and roughly ten times that long. Only 70% was planted, the rest paths. The 200 feet furthest from the house was not planted in anything, instead the mounds were what looked like cypress bark, ground up trees, and shredded trash. To the north of the garden was a long low greenhouse with south facing sloping glass. I could imagine solar panels instead of glass. It had the entire west side occupied by an army of fans, some of them ordinary attic fans, with louvered output sides. Only one was going. There were also rolled up bamboo shades. It was my turn to be impressed.

"This is it. This winter during the break I will hire a serious front-end loader to move the 210 feet nearest the house and deposit it on top the cypress mounds in the back. It only takes half a day. The mound's width is so that a front loader can roll down the paths, straddling the beds, and dump its contents on the cypress mounds. They get it pretty uniform. I get cypress and pine bark by the truckload, and a load is dumped on the bed just cleared and spread out. "It takes another day for all the school kids, even first graders, to come and make the mounds neater, rake the cypress from the path and put it on the mounds, and then enjoy what is now called a Barber Party, lots of food and sweets, a piñata for the young ones, sack races and stuff like that for older ones, baseball, and a live Cajun band. Of course parents are invited. Many come. And practically all of my employees come to act as what amounts to caterers. They include the best cooks I know. The food is prepared by the employees except for the meats, which are prepared by Bill. You will meet Bill, who is a butcher and caters restaurants. He also has a beer joint, but back to the garden.

"Notice how there is no monoculture, the only exception being crops like sweet corn which must be massively planted to insure pollination. Of course that is long ago harvested and the 'waste' material shredded. I don't grow a lot, because I think it is awful canned. I give a lot away but only if the recipient agrees to grill it over a high flame, un-shucked, within three hours of harvest, seasoned only with butter and salt at the table. Any longer wait renders it starchy; any other way of cooking, even roasting in the hottest possible oven, should be a crime, even though it is common here to boil it."

“Have you ever tried freezing the corn?”

She said, “No. There isn’t much left over. Anyway, I don’t have a separate freezer, just the icebox.”

“How can you possibly eat all of this?”

“Don’t even try. It is a prerequisite of working for me that you are free to take what you can eat any time you like. The gardener Bert also sells a lot to grocery stores. That is part of his wage. It also gives him an interest in keeping the garden productive. You didn’t ask, but it is a certified 100% ‘organic’ garden. I don’t entirely agree: we use a lot of diesel fuel moving things around. I resent that misuse of a formerly well-defined word.”

I needed to catch my breath. “So you have ten acres, 70% coverage, and 90% of that under cultivation at any time? That’s still over 6 acres, and the way you mulch I would guess you never need to irrigate. Do you let the chickens roam?”

“No. You know chickens, they would love it here, lay eggs all over the place, wouldn’t come back, and then some varmint would get them, or at least a few. Let’s pick a few tomatoes and some lettuce. I have some locally grown smoked cured ham someone gave me that would be good on your bread, and you must be hungry.”

We got the food and headed back to the house. I noticed two more fans were now going in the greenhouse, the smaller ones. When we came in, Sue said, “We can wash up in here. There are two sinks.”

*To Be Continued*

#### **TEX / RN5 Mailbox:**

Please send in your feedback, gripes, and suggestions.

From Hank **K5TSK**, Dec 18:

I’m getting pretty forgetful. I have tried to get by at my new location with a minimal antenna, but the location is RF dead compared to my home place plus urban noise. Simply can’t get out well or hear half of what I’m used to at home. I have done a bit of SWLing on ham frequencies and did even listen in a couple times to 7290 net. Heard one of the TEX faithful trying to pass traffic on 7285 and what I heard nearly broke my heart. He uses a recorder to catch his traffic and in both instances he had failed to catch either station of origin or the full name and address of the addressee of the message.

Good news is, of course, most of the stuff simply doesn’t matter. I had forgotten the two cases, but your email jogged my mind. During a time of joy and celebration, it would be exceedingly mean of me to say anything which discouraged any of the traffic troupes, who simply hold onto dearly that which they have done for years and years. Please forgive me.



I cannot come back as I've disposed of most of my equipment and this location is RF 'poor'. Please list me as 'retired' and take me off the email list. If asked about that, please simply say that ham radio is no longer a viable option and that I enjoyed my time handling traffic.

Best regards and a Merry Christmas, Happy pandemic free 2022,

Jim (Hank) Ricks. K5TSK. (retired)

- . . . -

From Larry, **WB9FHP**, Jan 13:

I have been in hospital for about 2 weeks and have decided (although I hate to admit defeat by health ) that I should resign and turn my post over to Roger.

While I was gone something happened to my station...I'm still stuck in bed and trying to get some stuff done but people don't know what I need done ... sorry for the mess up... I loved digital but my health beat me out.

73, Larry WB9FHP

*Have not heard from Larry since this note. Hoping he is getting better.*

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From James, **WB8SIW**, Feb 1:

A new issue of the QNI Newsletter was published with the following topics:

1. Big changes to the Digital Traffic Net
2. The first Broadcast Station?
3. How to set up VARA to access DTN
4. How to set up VARA on a BPQ32 hub
5. The demise of AM radio
6. A Heathkit HW-101
7. The power of denial
8. Some lessons from Field Day
9. Developing alternate options for routing traffic
10. Two meter renaissance
11. Frequency flexibility
12. Announcing the Clyde Darr Memorial Award
13. RRI Help Wanted

You can find the January 2022 issue on <http://www.qni-newsletter.net/>

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From Jim, **W6LFB**, Feb 2:

About 3 years ago, an EF0 or EF1 tornado passed by us a couple blocks away. Don't think it touched down, because all the damage was caused by falling tree branches, not by a direct hit. But it stirred up all the trees in our neighborhood, and caused a large branch over my hex beam (on a roof tripod) to come down, snatch one section, and pull the support loose. Duct tape solved that - temporarily. But my low band OCF dipole (160-30M) was destroyed!!

Last month, I got one of those slingshot-type antenna launchers - after several tries, I finally got the lead line over a limb about 50 feet up (shooting for 60 but had to settle for that!). Hoisted the apex of my 270 foot, somewhat vertical / somewhat horizontal delta loop up to 40-

45 feet - wouldn't budge to go any higher. But - back on 80 & 160. Sam, W5CU, had no problem when I QNI with 5 watts QRP, so guess it's working!

Now - if it survives the impending ice storm!! (Starting now). Perhaps my return to TEX CW will be short-lived??

Feb 7 from Jim:

All of my antennae survived - trees too! Was fearing the worst, but for naught, All OK here! 73, Jim w6lfb

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From James, **WB8SIW**:

Originating Sympathy Radiograms to the Family of Jeff Miller (WB8WKQ)

Radio Relay International is inviting the traffic community to originate messages of sympathy to the family of Jeff Miller (WB8WKQ). All radiograms received will be transcribed onto RRI Form 1801 and will be formally presented to the family at an upcoming memorial service on February 26.

If you worked with Jeff either on the various nets or in a management capacity, please consider originating a radiogram. Instructions are as follows:

Address your radiogram to:

THE FAMILY OF JEFF MILLER WB8WKQ  
C/O RADIO RELAY INTERNATIONAL  
PO BOX 43  
NILES MI 49120  
JAMES DOT WADES ATSIGN RADIO HYPHEN RELAY DOT ORG

The text should be brief but appropriate to the situation. Please make it personal in your own words. An example might be:

MY SINCERE SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF JEFF MILLER X HE WILL BE MISSED

Please incorporate handling instruction HXF26 in the header.

Please try to originate your radiogram by no later than February 20.

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## **TEX Net Topics**

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown below. If you are willing to take any of the open positions, please advise so the schedule may be updated. Still missing coverage for 2 NCS slots and 2 RN5/1 and 1 RN5/2 slot. Thanks to Don, W9VE, for taking the early Thursday NCS slot and thanks to Jon, KZ5Z, for taking several NCS and RN5 backup and 2 regular RN5 slots. The Duty Schedule and Roster have been updated.

### TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NC 1	W5FEA	N5RL	W5FEA	W9VE	N5RL	No Net	Open
Backup	Open	Open	K5GM	N5RL	Open	No Net	W5FEA
NC 2	K5GM	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K5GM	No Net	Open
Backup	W5FEA	W5FEA	KZ5Z	KZ5Z	KZ5Z	No Net	W5FEA
RN5 1	N5RL	KZ5Z	K5GM	KZ5Z	Open	No Net	Open
Backup	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	No Net	Open
RN5 2	W5CU	K6JT	K5RG	K6JT	K5GM	No Net	Open
Backup	Open	KZ5Z	W5CU	KZ5Z	Open	No Net	Open

TEX/1: **3541**/7106/3593 at 19:00 CT; TEX/2 **3541**/3593/1841 at 22:00 CT

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

TSN: **3570** - 19:45 CT; CAN: **3552**/7052/3590/7108 - 20:30 CT; WAN: **3552**/7052 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: K5GM, K5RG, N5RL, KZ5Z

NCS Backup: W5FEA, K5GM, K5RG, N5RL, W5DY, KZ5Z

### TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	NM5M	Eric	Plano
N5BA	Brian	Houston	N7NET	Scott	Crossett AR
WA5CAV	Dick	Pineville LA	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK, /0 CO	K9NY	Bill	Canyon Lake
N5CXX	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
W5DAE	Don	San Angelo	WA5PRI	Don	Thibodaux LA
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
* W5FEA	Jim	Graham	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KM0I	John	Hattiesburg MS	K5TSK	Hank	Retired
KA9IKK	Bill	Katy	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
K5IX	Dave	Brackettville	W9VE	Don	Dallas
K5JFB	Jim	Fort Worth	WB5VIH	Dave	Merkel
K6JT	Steve	Plano	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Silent Key Feb 2022
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	KZ5Z	Jon	Springer OK
WA5MS	Marty	Argyle			

\* Capable of 160 meter operation

## Statistics:

### December 2021:

Jim, W5FEA, was first place with 50 (98%), Don, W5DAE, was 2nd with 46 (90%), and Jon, KZ5Z, was a close third with 44 (86%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in.

Visitors: Rick, WA4IAR, in GA

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note there were 51 sessions reported out of a possible 54 (no Saturday nets). Traffic averaged 2.4 per net session (1.6 last month). Net time averaged 14.7 minutes per session (12.0 last month). Check-ins averaged 6.1 per session (5.3 last month).

### TEX Net Statistics (December 2021)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	6	12	2	6			
*		6		3	6			
W5DAE	Don	24	46					
		22						
W5DY	Rodney	18	38					
		20						
W5FEA	Jim	25	50	13		24		
*		25		1		25		
K5GM	Pete	7	26		2			
*		19		7	2			
WA4IAR	Rick	0	1					
*	GA	1						
K5IX	Dave	9	11					
		2						
K6JT	Steve	0	15					
*		15		15	10		15	
K5RG	Ken	0	5					
*		5			5			
N5RL	Randy	18	40	10				
*		22				1		
WB5VIH	Dave	9	9					
		0						
W9VE	Don	15	15				15	
		0						
KZ5Z	Jon	20	44		1			
	OK	24						
Totals		312		51	31	50	30	0
				94%	57%	93%	56%	0%
QTC 1		20	124					

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
QTC 2		104		Sessions:		54		
Time 1		328	748					
Time 2		420						

### January 2022:

Jim, W5FEA, and Jon, KZ5Z, tied for 1<sup>st</sup> with 51 (94%), Don, W5DAE, was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 48 (89%), and Rodney, W5DY, was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 45 (83%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors: None

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note that there were 54 sessions reported out of a possible 54 (no Saturdays). Traffic averaged 1.6 per net session (2.4 last month). Net time averaged 12.7 minutes per session (14.7 last month). Check-ins averaged 6 per session (6.1 last month).

### TEX Net Statistics (January 2022)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
N5BA	Brian	1	1					
		0						
W5CU	Sam	11	19	4	8			
*		8		5	8			
NA5CW	Dave	2	2					
	Hockley	0						
W5DAE	Don	24	48					
		24						
W5DY	Rodney	26	45	1				
		19						
W5FEA	Jim	24	51	13	1	24		
*		27		2		27		
K5GM	Pete	4	24		3			
*		20		8	5			
K5IX	Dave	6	9					
		3						
K6JT	Steve	0	11					
*		11		11	7		11	
W6LFB	Jim	4	4					
*		0						
KB5NJD	John	1	1				1	
		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	4					
*		4			4			
N5RL	Randy	14	31	6	1			
*		17						

W9VE	Don	21	23	3			21	
		2					1	
KZ5Z	Jon	26	51		4			
	OK	25		1	1			
Totals		324		54	42	51	34	0
				100%	78%	94%	63%	0%
QTC 1		11	86					
QTC 2		75		Sessions:		54		
Time 1		316	686					
Time 2		370						

## Operating:

Seems like long skip conditions are becoming less frequent. That would also seem to suggest that we are having more sunspots with attendant increased ionization and higher Maximum Usable Frequency. Definitely a good sign. I remember 10 years ago during the previous sunspot maximum that 20 meters would stay active well into the night and all signals were much stronger on all bands. Even 10 meters was red hot some days with loud signals from all over the world and activity continuing after dark.

If you have some anecdotes about what it was like in past maximums, please send them in for inclusion here.

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Here are the composite reports for the last 2 months for traffic handled at the region and above levels. Totals came up in December but went down in January mainly due to WB9FHP being hospitalized and off the air, resulting in a much lower digital count.

### Central US Nets Activity for December 2021

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	12	47	57	88	0.534
Cycle 2 9RN*	12	219	62	60	3.650
Day 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area #	13	49	58	73	0.671
Night 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area**	50	120	163	452	0.265
Night 9 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	52	434	185	438	0.991
Night 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	44	34	114	224	0.152
Day Central US	14	136	74	230	0.591
Night Central US @	31	636	161	518	1.228
Day Inter-Area Traffic	42	89	40		95%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	65	280	64		98%
Total Voice/CW Nets		2044	978	2083	

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
WB9FHP Central Area HUB ##		6010	2838	3172	
KE5YTA Alternate Hub ##		0			
Digital Stations (15) ##		0			
Total DTN Digital		6010	2838	3172	
Total Central US		8054			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					
## WB9FHP hospitalized, only able to supply totals, not details					
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager - thanks to NCS stations for statistics					

### Central US Nets Activity for January 2022

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	13	19	60	82	0.232
Cycle 2 9RN*	14	219	66	59	3.712
Day 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area #	13	45	60	73	0.616
Night 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area**	45	118	183	455	0.259
Night 9 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	54	432	176	430	1.005
Night 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	60	32	155	266	0.120
Day Central US	13	111	71	164	0.677
Night Central US @	31	585	174	451	1.297
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	45	39		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	63	288	63		100%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1894	1047	1980	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		649	349	300	
N9VC Central Area 9RN/10RN		1118	251	867	
Digital Stations (12)		512	274	238	
Total DTN Digital		2279	874	1405	

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Total Central US		4173			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					
## WB9FHP off the air due to illness, digital does not include his numbers from January					
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager, thanks to NC Stations for statistics					

Keep sending your TEX net reports and inputs for this Newsletter to me, either on the air on TEX or RN5, via Winlink, or via standard Email.

Happy Spring, coming up next month with (hopefully) good propagation.

73, Steve K6JT  
TEX Newsletter Editor and Statistician



## TSN Corner

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

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

Net Manager: Jason KD5RQB, [fallishere2@hotmail.com](mailto:fallishere2@hotmail.com)



Photo Courtesy of VE3UU

## Greetings From Northeast Texas

Jason, KD5RQB, has been calling the net when he is able. Help is needed for more support of TSN. Jason tries to call up the net Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Please look for him.

## Net Control Stations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
(No Net)	(No Net)	(KD5RQB)	(OPEN)	(KD5RQB)	(KD5RQB)	(No Net)

## TSN Activity Reports

Month	QNI	QTC	QTR	Nr. Operators	Sessions
December 2021	13	0	104	1	13
January 2022	12	0	96	1	12

## TSN Roster (January 2019 to Current Date)

Callsign	Name	QTH
KX5C	Ron	SILSBEE, TEXAS
W5DAE	Don	SAN ANGELO, TEXAS
W5ESE	Scott	DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS
KK4HCF	Sam	MARYSVILLE, TENNESSEE
KD5RQB	Jason	ATLANTA, TEXAS
N5XGG	Joe	ROCK ISLAND, TEXAS
WB8YLO	Steve	TOLEDO, OHIO
KD5ZCQ	John	ATLANTA, TEXAS

Stop by any evening Tuesday through Friday on 3570kHz at 7:45 p.m. CT and start the net if you do not hear anyone there. 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**

RRI Fifth Call Area Net (Daily) 1930 CT on **3567** and 2130 CT on **3567**

Alternate Frequency 7052 or 3598 when conditions warrant

*Serving TX, OK, LA, AR, MS, TN, AL, and NFL*

Due to Frank W4DLZ becoming a Silent Key

Nominations are still open for Net Manager

Hello all and welcome to Edition 82 of the ***RN5 Corner***.

Good to have Jon, KZ5Z, checking into RN5 regularly and also calling up some of the nets. Jack, K5WNU, continues to have intermittent receive noise problems, but still calls up nets when he can. Steve, K6JT, has had some rig problems and needed to be helped by Jon, KZ5Z, some RN5 sessions.

Following is a list of the stations sending NC reports for December and January (in order from earliest date station first reported that month). Thanks to you all for supporting RN5! We can really use more NCS and CAN liaison help – there are a lot of empty CAN liaison slots.

December: K5WNU 23, K6JT 10, W5CU 17

January: K5GM 1, W5CU 20, K5WNU 16, K6JT 8

Note that many sessions went uncovered, so any other stations who are able, please call up the net if you don't hear anyone. Since there are so few RN5 liaisons to CAN, incoming CAN traffic that could be handled is being held, causing excessive numbers of messages on other days. Note that Saturday nets are still optional.

Thanks to all for your support of RN5, especially regulars WA5CAV, W5CU, K5WNU, K5GM, K6JT, K5RG and now KZ5Z. John, KC4FL, continues to regularly check in from FL. Ben, KZ8Q, and Dean, W8IM, check in from FL some nights. Note that Jeff, WB8WKQ, who occasionally checked in from MI, has become a silent key this month due to Covid.

Please continue to pass AR traffic to the TEX liaison station to take for the 7290 Traffic Net. If there is no TEX liaison, these may be sent to the 7290 Traffic Net manager, KA5AZK at Winlink dot org (also see below for subject line restrictions). OK traffic can now be sent to Jon, KZ5Z, who is checking in regularly and has accepted the 2 Sunday night NCS slots (thanks !!). Jon also checks into TEX so TX traffic can be sent to him if no other TEX liaison.

TN traffic can be sent to Jim, WA4VGZ, who is the manager of cycle 2 RN5 and located in TN. Use WA4VGZ at Winlink dot org. For Winlink addresses via E-mail, be sure to put //WL2K as the first 7 letters (including space) in the subject line. AL traffic can be handled by sending it to Don, WV5Q at Winlink.org. Don is a digital traffic station located in MS, but he has connections with AL SSB nets for passing traffic.

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

### RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	K5WNU	K5WNU	W5CU	K5WNU	K5WNU	(K5WNU)	KZ5Z
NCS #2	K5WNU	K6JT	W5CU	K6JT	K5WNU	(K5WNU)	KZ5Z
CAN TX	Open	Open	W5CU	Open	Open	Open	Open
CAN RX	Open	Open	W5CU	K6JT	Open	Open	Open
DRN5	Open	K6JT	K5RG	K6JT	Open	Open	Open

### 2021-22 Statistics

MONTH	DECEMBER	JANUARY
SESSIONS	50	45
QTC	120	118
QNI	163	183
QTR	452	455
AVG QTC	2.4	2.6
AVG QNI	3.3	4.1
AVG QTR	9.0	10.1

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

### Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	State	Call	Name	State
WB5BNV	FRED	MS	WD5JTZ	MIKE	LA
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	KZ8Q	BEN	FL
W5CU	SAM	OK / CO	K5RG	KEN	TX
W4DLZ	FRANK	(SK)	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	W4SU	JERRY	(Retired)
W5FEA	JIM	TX	K5TSK	HANK	(Retired)
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
K5GM	PETE	TX	WB8WKQ	JEFF	(SK)
W8IM	DEAN	FL	K5WNU	JACK	MS
K6JT	STEVE	TX	KZ5Z	JON	OK / (TX)

\*\* K4VIZ is only marginally active. Send AR to the TEX station for the 7290 net (do not use DRN5 since there is only an occasional AR liaison station there).

73, Steve K6JT  
Newsletter editor and RN5 statistician