

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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New NTS Central Area Staff Chairman

Happy New Year to all. It started out pretty quiet, but very quickly things started happening and I am now up to my eyeballs in alligators, as the saying goes.

As of January 1 (I think - I did not find out until a couple days later), I became the new Chair of the Central Area Staff. Jim, N0JL, the former Chair, decided not to run again. Thanks to nominations of Frank, W4FWT, (formerly W4DLZ) the RN5 Manager and Benny, K5KV, the TCC Director, I was then the only candidate remaining so was declared to be the new Chair. I must say that I spent a lot of time deciding whether or not I would take the position, given my limited time and my father's care, but finally decided to do so because I truly care about NTS.

Since then, I have been closely involved with the other Area Chairs as well as the Area Digital Coordinators in approving a proposal to be sent to the ARRL Board (which meets this week), detailing changes needed to NTS and particularly the relationship of NTS to ARES. There are also proposed changes to the Public Service Communications Manual (PSCM) that will be worked in coming months (and probably years). These were largely new to me, so coming up to speed has been a challenge, and is still an ongoing process.

A bit of history in order to better understand this. There has been an Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC) working for quite some time on evaluating the ARES and NTS and their relationship, tasked with determining what, if any, changes could be made to make the two work better individually and together. That committee, which I and Pete, K5GM, supplied inputs to, did not have enough background to understand how NTS worked and did not get enough inputs until very late in the process. As a result, their conclusions and thus recommendations, which will be presented to the ARRL Board, painted a flawed picture of NTS and came up with an oversight committee to be appointed. That is not necessarily bad, but the committee has no power to change anything or impose new procedures. Thus, the NTS high level staff members were forced to produce a counter-proposal that not only corrected the misconceptions of the NTS in the ECAC report but also came up with ideas on how to better organize and link together ARES and NTS.

Those of you who read the NTS Status White Paper that I put out last year (and am still updating) know that this ARES / NTS link was something I mentioned as needing much more work.

Meanwhile, work on changes to the NTS Methods and Practices Guide have been ongoing since about 2004 with a core group working them, largely in the digital domain. So that has now come together in the current proposal.

I have briefed the Central Area Staff members on all of these things and am organizing a core group to help work the issues that have arisen that are sure to generate some controversy. As one of the high level group said in a conference I was part of last week for the first time, “we are going to drag NTS into the 21st century, kicking and screaming”.

What this might mean for the Section Nets like TEX is unclear, but likely not too much, at least not right away, since it is largely the upper infrastructure that is being studied. We will always need section and local nets, regardless of the upper level hierarchy. Better ties with ARES, additional or changed net liaison needs, and digital stations may be the primary factors.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the NTS Area Staffs, each of the 3 areas has a staff comprised of the TCC, Area Net, and Region Net managers as well as 2 or more Members at Large. I am one of those MALs, as reported last year, and the Chair is then selected from among all the members. The staff is tasked with making sure NTS in their area runs per the PSCM and NTS Methods and Practices Guide. The Chair coordinates among the staff and works any issues that affect all the NTS Areas with the other area chairs.

I'll have more about what is happening in future issues, but since much of it is not directly meaningful to TEX, there won't be a lot of detail.

The Last Few Months, and Civilian Life (Part 1)

Due to popular demand, here is another interesting story from Uncle Vic, W7VSE. This one follows naturally from the last 2 issues. The first part is in this issue. The second part (Civilian Life) will appear next month.

I learned that Vic, who is over 90, fell and was injured. Thankfully he is recovering now but still undergoing physical therapy and unable to work his key. We all hope and pray for a complete recovery so we can again hear him on the air from the Pacific area. Thanks again, Vic, for all your efforts.

- . . . -

The last 8 months of my US Army Air Corps career were spent in an AACS (Army Airways Communications System) detachment at Medford Army Air Base, Oregon. Someone had finally figured out a system to give us Morse code guys a way to use our ability to send and receive the code, while here in the continental U. S. We finally had a job that used the Morse code.

Headquarters of AACS, which covered most of the world during WW2, came up with the idea to install five Direction-Finding (DF) stations on the west coast. They were well spaced from Washington State to Southern California. We had a leased telephone line that connected all the stations, including the Headquarters (HQ) station at Sacramento, CA. We did not have telephones on that line however. That leased wire was a landline Morse code wire and all the stations were connected in parallel. It was the only way we could communicate from the DF

station to the other stations and HQ. When one station used it, all the other stations could hear that station. If someone was using the wire, everyone else had to stand by until he finished sending. However, I don't remember having any extended trouble with the wire. We had to converse in the International Morse code, so we got lots of operating practice, especially on the graveyard shift (from midnight to 8AM). I got fairly well acquainted with several of the operators up and down the west coast. We only knew each other by our two letter personal signs. This was usually your initials. Mine was "RS," I used those letters from my name, the last letter in Victor and the first letter of Seeberger, VictoRSeeberger." One operator in California signed "AW" and he and I conversed a lot. One night there wasn't any traffic for hours and, after we had a long extended quiet time on the wire, AW called me. I answered and he said a little dog had wandered into the DF shack and that he had shared his lunch with the dog. The next night, when things quieted down again, I asked AW if the dog was still there. He said yes. I said, "put him on the Morse key, I want to talk to him." This became an ongoing joke for several months. (Later, in this story, we will meet AW again.)

The DF station's job was to monitor a radio frequency that the aircraft used when flying between San Francisco and Hawaii. This was a busy supply route for the troops overseas. The planes transmitted on phone (voice), but every time one of them gave a position report or communicated with a ground station, all the DF stations obtained a bearing on that signal. Then we all sent our bearings, in message form, by Morse code, to the HQ station. I think they used the info to check on the navigators and see how accurate they were. If you can visualize the process, when the aircraft transmitted, all of the 5 DF stations, up and down the coast wrote down his bearing (direction) from their locations. When all 5 bearings were received by the HQ station, they could draw lines from all 5 stations, and where all 5 of the bearings intersected, it would pinpoint that aircraft's position. They could then compare it to the navigator's report. Sometimes an aircraft would declare an emergency, and all 5 DF stations would go to another frequency and assist as needed. Then, after the emergency was over, we went back to monitoring the original frequency.

Of course we had to stay on the air 24 hours a day, and we had the normal 3 shifts, again. Day shift, 8am to 4pm; evening shift 4pm to midnight and graveyard shift, midnight to 8 am. There were two of us on each watch. All the skilled code operators had been advised that they could not get discharged and would probably be sent overseas again. It takes months to properly train a good CW operator, and they didn't want to have to delay the war because they didn't have enough of us. As long as we were unable to get discharged, some of us tried to enjoy ourselves while we were here in the States and had the opportunity.

The Medford Army Air Base shared the airport with civilian planes. The military only had two detachments on the base, a refueling Squadron, and the AACS Detachment. We had a 40 man barracks to live in, and there was a mess hall and a latrine, with showers. The AACS radio station had a nice red brick building near the taxiway to the main runway, within walking distance of the barracks, and there was a control tower on top of one of the hangars. Our Direction Finding (DF) shack was way over on the far north side of the airport. We had transportation to and from the barracks area to the DF shack, and a military vehicle that took us to and from town when we were off duty. It was about 3 miles from downtown.

Medford had another Army Base about 15 miles away. It was Camp White, an Infantry training base. At least two Infantry divisions, The 91st and the 95th divisions, (I think) had

trained there and both were now overseas fighting the war in North Africa. There was an abundance of Army personnel still at Camp White. It was huge. With many barracks, mess halls, movie house, and other buildings, even a Military General Hospital.

During the summer, some of the fruit businesses, in Medford, sent a letter out to the Air Base and asked if anyone could come in on their days off and do part time work for them. Nearly all the men were in the armed services and there were not enough available to do all the work during the fruit season. I volunteered for this and spent my days off working for Medford Ice and Storage, for several months. It was tough, working in the cold storage, and I didn't really like it, but they paid us the going hourly rate. I think it was around a dollar and a half per hour. That was good part time pay for 1945.

Oregon has a different way of dispensing liquor. They have State controlled liquor stores. You can only buy a bottle of hard liquor in a State-controlled liquor store. You could take it home and drink it, or you could sneak around in the alleys and drink it. But if you wanted to drink it in a bar, you would have to check your bottle in to the bartender, with your name on it. Then you could order drinks, for a price, from your own bottle. This system was not foolproof, however, as some of the guys would order drinks from a friends bottle. Beer and wine were not controlled though, and you could purchase those at the bars and restaurants. Another odd law Oregon has, if you were having a drink at the bar, you cannot take your drink in hand and walk to a table. There were many bars in Medford. Three hotels all had bars in their lounges, Medford hotel, Jackson Hotel and the Holland hotel. There were a few bars on Main Street and Riverside. Front Street had several more. Some of those on Front St were rough looking joints with sawdust on the floor. Medford even had it's own A-1 Brewery. Their A-1 beer left a lot to be desired in taste, but this was wartime and anything, with a "beer" label on it, sold like hotcakes. The regular brands seemed to sell out quickly. Sometimes It was difficult to even get a beer, as the servicemen would be lined up three deep at the bar trying to get waited on.

My favorite bar was the Union Club on west Main Street, about a block from the Medford Hotel. The Union Club had huge goblets of draft beer for a dime. The hotel lounges charged 25 cents for a beer. So we would go to the Union Club first and fill up the tank on ten cent beers, and then walk the block, or so, to the Medford Hotel Lounge. There we could buy one 25-cent beer and "nurse" it for a while as we "shot the breeze" or tried to get acquainted with the girls who came in. There was an abundance of girls. I think there were many wives of the Infantrymen who were overseas, and of course, a lot of local girls.

One evening, I was at the Medford lounge, drinking beer with two buddies from the Air Base and their girl friends. After a while, one of the girls, named Lucille McCollum, told me she had a friend that she thought I would like to meet. She left and was gone almost a half-hour. When she returned, she had that friend with her. Her name was Dellene Thompson. Lucille introduced her all around and we three couples then spent an enjoyable evening together. We left the Lounge and rode in Lucille's Model A Ford to a dance hall south of Medford. I found out where Dellene lived, when Lucille took her home. Little did I know that this was the beginning of a new chapter in my life.

Dellene was divorced and had a 12-year-old son, Gerald "Jerry" Stephen Thompson. They both lived with her mother.

Dellene and I dated for a few months and got along well together. She was in charge of the Medford office of the National Hospital Association, a health insurance company. We dated regularly and, after a few months, we discussed getting married. I told her I would not get married until I was out of the military service. She seemed to understand this, as she had previously lost a boy friend, in one of the above mentioned Infantry Divisions. He was killed in Italy.

I was beginning to like living out here in the Rogue River Valley with the mountains, clear streams and greenery the year round. It was quite a change from the "flatlands" and "Tornado Alley," where I had lived the first 18 years of my life, in Waurika, Oklahoma.

So, in August, they dropped the Atom Bombs on Japan, and a few weeks later, I got the word I could be discharged. I was a Technical Sergeant and they offered me a Master Sergeant's grade if I would reenlist. I asked if it was mandatory to reenlist. They said no, so I told them what they could do with it. Rather than travel all the way back to San Antonio, TX, where I had enlisted, I agreed to go up to Portland, Oregon to be discharged. In Portland, I bought a suit of civilian clothes and a pair of wedding rings. I had originally signed up for a 3-year hitch in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and this was now four years and 4 months later. When I got back from Portland, I stayed in the barracks at the Air Base for a couple of weeks. Even ate a few meals at the mess hall. This was tolerated.

73, Vic Seeberger W7VSE

Next month, in Part 2, Vic describes the transition into Civilian Life.

George Hart Series

Here is the 13th installment of the George Hart Series. Geo and Ed encounter Mother Nature and her ways.

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*

Part 13 - Life on the Farm, Part Two

Ah, dream on boys! We soon found that the tent idea was highly impractical. On that high hill the wind blew lustily, the rain penetrated the tent during storms, dampness invaded everything, insects from tiny bloodsucking flies to mammoth moths visited us at night. We expected great things from our new super antenna, but they were not forthcoming. Our dry cell batteries kept becoming discharged. Contacts were so seldom as to be almost nonexistent. The poles were erected during the summer of 1931, but by fall we had become totally disenchanted and the equipment was re-installed in the farmhouse with an antenna in the trees.

We were still living in the College Hill house but the 852 transmitter and SW-3 receiver had been moved to the third floor of the Chemical Publishing Company. I tried to maintain our traffic schedules from the printing plant, but it was a losing battle with all the noises and chilly environment, because the heat was turned off at night and the place, not very secure, was spooky and intimidating.

The radio fortunes of the Hart brothers, W3NF and W3AMR were at a low ebb.

The winter of 1931-32 at College Hill was an uncomfortable one for us. The "den" had been torn down and our electricity disconnected. The house was in partial disarray, because we had already started moving the furniture and other items to the farmhouse. As winter waned and spring blossomed I was completing my postgraduate year at Easton High School and the exodus from the College Hill house to the farm started to gain momentum. With four sturdy boys, a farm truck and a sturdy woman (my mother) in charge, we disdained professional movers and undertook the job ourselves; but it turned out to be a bigger job than we had expected. My father and his two families had lived there for over 50 years. The truck was not a big one. My two older brothers, Ed and Watson, loaded it at College Hill and unloaded it at the farm once a day. On weekends and holidays, with my younger brother Martin and I to help, we managed three or four trips a day -- interspersed, of course, with other activities.

It was a grueling period, rife with difficulties, disagreements and strife of various other kinds, but by the end of June, 1932, we took the last truckload down the river road and got set up for permanent residence at the farmhouse. W3NF remained at the printing plant, abandoned most of the time. W3AMR was set up at the farmhouse, but seldom used. The 65-foot poles on top of the hill stood silently, unused and almost forgotten.

The farmhouse was wired for electricity in expectation that the utility would run a line up from the highway, a distance of 3/4 mile up a private dirt and gravel road, but negotiations with the electric company fell through and we were faced with the prospect of a winter in the old house without electricity, inadequate telephone, no indoor plumbing, no central heating, the nearest neighbor over 1/4 mile away down the private road which we must maintain ourselves, including plowing snow, which was sure to come. There were seldom any snowless winters in the thirties. And, of no concern to the rest of the family, but of great concern to Ed and me, no amateur radio except the inadequate battery-operated W3AMR.

I was involved in the feverish preparations during the summer of 1932 -- getting in a supply of firewood for use in the five fireplaces in the house, maintaining the road, cleaning the house for permanent residency and many other chores -- but I never spent a complete winter in the farmhouse. In August I went to Allentown and took the Penn State entrance examination and, much to my astonishment, was accepted in the freshman class as a pre-veterinary student.

Next in Part 14, Off to Penn State and the College Radio Station.

TEX Mailbox:

Didn't receive a lot of E-mail regarding TEX and net operations, but here are a few others that you may enjoy anyway. Also see RN5 Corner for an excellent article from an EMCOMM worker.

Tom, K4VIZ, sent in the following. Considering New Year's was just a couple weeks ago, it is still timely.

For what it's worth, Auld Lang Syne literally means for old time sake or old times remembered. As each New Year rolls around, I can't help but remember the good old times in which I grew up, back in the 50's.

Maybe we were unaware and our folks had the worries and burdens.

Each new year also means more and more old friends have departed and my time nears.

Each new year means more madness around the world and our leaders get more sleazy.

Anyway, we are still well fed and have a roof over our head and loving families. That's what counts.

Nevertheless, for some reason, when I hear Guy Lombardo play Auld Lang Syne, I get really teary-eyed and a lump in my throat.

My wish for all of you is to have a happy and healthy and prosperous 2014.

Listen to this YouTube video and think of me and times past.

God Bless you all.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsmjKicZ9ql>

73, Tom, K4VIZ

- . . . -

Scott, W7IZ, sent along this compendium of new Texting Codes for Seniors. Since the average age of TEX / RN5 ops is probably somewhere around 70 (maybe a bit more), I thought you would at least get a chuckle. For those of you who don't do texting on your phones, these make dandy CW abbreviations, too :-)

Young people have theirs, now Seniors have their own texting codes:

- * ATD At the doctor's
- * BFF Best friends funeral
- * BTW Bring the Wheelchair
- * BYOT Bring Your Own Teeth
- * CBM- Covered by Medicare
- * CUATSC See You at the Senior Center
- * DWI - Driving While Incontinent
- * FWIW - Forgot Where I Was
- * GGPBL - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
- * GHA - Got Heartburn Again
- * HGBM - Had Good Bowel Movement
- * LMDO - Laughing My Dentures Out
- * LOL - Living on Lipitor
- * OMSG - Oh My! Sorry, Gas
- * TOT - Texting on Toilet
- * WAITT - Who Am I Talking To?

Hope these help.

- * GGLKI (Gotta Go, Laxative Kicking in!)

- . . . -

A lot of NTS ops complain about book traffic, but I believe welcome messages to new hams are worthwhile. Here is a message passed along by **Dave, WB2FTX**, the Eastern Area Digital Coordinator that at least shows there are those who appreciate them, and it even looks like a new ham has learned how to format traffic as a result:

NR 1 R KD8WEA 13 LEXINGTON OH JAN 6
PETER DL4FN
C/O WB2FTX
DL4FN AT NTSEU
BT
THANK YOU FOR THE RECOGNITION
MY LICENSE IS ONLY SEVEN
DAYS OLD 73
BT
TIM KD8WEA

- . . . -

Scott, W7IZ, sent this link to a funny video on YouTube about Engineers and Ham Radio. It has been around for a while, but it is certain to bring a smile to your faces anyway:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9etGela1xM&feature=share>

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TEX Net Topics

There are still 5 backup slots open (shown in **yellow**) and **1** open NCS slot (shown in **red**) in need of a station for Saturday early NCS. Please advise if you are willing to take any of these positions on a regular basis.

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown on the following page (for easier printing of a single page). The Roster was updated since last month. Note that we have added Jason, KD5RQB, the TSN net manager. Jason has been checking in to the early TEX net. His CW is still a work in progress, but he is determined and we are happy to have him. NCS stations, be sure to slow down to 10 WPM or less when checking Jason in or out of the net.

If you are scheduled for an NCS or Liaison slot, and you cannot make it, if at all possible, please notify both K6JT and W5DY (see email addresses and cell phone number at top of page 1) as soon as you can before the net meeting so that the backups can be alerted. Thanks to those of you who have been doing this.

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TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	N5RL	KD5TXD	KD5TXD	N5RL	<i>Open</i>	W5GKH
Backup	<i>Open</i>	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	K5KV	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	K5KV	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	W5CU
RN5 #1	K5KV	N5RL	W5CU	KA5KLU	N5RL	KA5KLU	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5ESE	W5ESE	<i>Open</i>
RN5 #2	K5KV	K5KV	W5CU	KA5KLU	K6JT	KA5KLU	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K5KV	K6JT	<i>Open</i>

TEX/1: **3541**/7053/7108 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**/7052/7108/3595 - 20:30 CT; PAN: **3552**/7052 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, K5GM, K6JT, KA5KLU, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, W5TMO, KD5TXD

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5BA	Brian	Houston	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
W5DH	Tom	Dallas	W5OMR	Geoff	Houston
W4DLZ	Frank	Florida	AC5P	Mike	Bartlesville OK
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
W5FEA	Jim	Graham	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
K5JRN	Si	Austin	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
* K5KV	Benny	Star	K6YBV	Bob	Placerville CA
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	W5YE	Brian	Harlingen
WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)
N7NET	Scott	McKinney			

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

Checkins were slightly up but traffic was down compared to last month. The Christmas traffic we hoped for did not materialize (is it partly our fault for not originating greetings ourselves to friends and family?). All RN5 slots were covered and TTN / DFW representation were good. Thanks to all for a good job.

Jim, W5FEA, with 60 out of 62 (97%) was unable to complete another “clean sweep” due to being at his daughter’s place for Christmas. Well, that is the best place to be at that time, Jim, and you still get an A+ for effort. Rodney, W5DY, with 48 (77%) captured second, and Randy, N5RL, with 38 (61%) was third. Thanks to all of you who checked in for your support.

We had a couple of visitors to the net including Frank, W4DLZ (who is now W4FWT), and Bob, K6YBV, from California, who should be considered a “regular” now. It was also good to hear Brian, N5BA, check in from Houston after a long absence. I was teasing Brian that he gave me one of my best Christmas presents by checking in again. Welcome to all and thanks!

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 3.0 per net session (3.1 last month). Net time averaged 11.9 minutes per session (compared to 11.6 last month). Check-ins averaged 6.2 per session (5.9 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (December 2013)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
N5BA	Brian	3	5				
		2					
W4DLZ	Frank	0	1				
	FL	1					
W5CU	Sam	18	30		8		
*		12			8		
W5DY	Rodney	27	48	6	5		
		21		6	1		
W5ESE	Scott	3	3				
*		0					
W5FEA	Jim	30	60			30	
*		30				4	
W5GKH	Charlie	10	20	10			
*		10		10			
K5GM	Pete	8	24				
*		16					
W9GVW	Eric	2	2				
*		0					
K6JT	Steve	21	49	3			21
*		28		4	4		28
KA5KLU	Doug	13	24		9		
*		11			9		
K5KV	Benny	6	28		1		
		22		4	9		

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
W6LFB	Jim	2	2				
*		0					
N5NVP	Jim	0	4				
		4					
K5RG	Ken	7	13		1		
*		6					
N5RL	Randy	17	38	6	7		
*		21				14	
KD5RQB	Jason	3	3				
		0					
W5TMO	Mike	0	17				
*		17		7			
KD5TXD	Pat	6	6	6			
*		0					
K6YBV	Bob	0	9				
	CA	9					
Totals		386		62	62	48	49
				100%	100%	77%	79%
QTC 1		72	185				
QTC 2		113			Sessions:	62	
Time 1		366	736				
Time 2		370					

Operating:

Arkansas traffic is no longer being received on RN5 due to the last remaining liaison station resigning as of the beginning of this year. Furthermore, the only cycle 4 SSB net there refuses all book traffic. They won't even accept the "Welcome to 7290" messages that we get from time to time or welcome messages to new hams. Similarly, there is no cycle 2 RN5 liaison station from AR since none of its nets send reps.

After conferring with Jo Ann, KA5AZK, she determined that the 7290 net has about 8 more-or-less regular checkins from AR each day. She is verifying with them that they will accept traffic, at least for their local area. If the majority say "yes", then we are going to try a new workaround. I will be notifying the RN5 liaison stations to accept AR traffic and bring it to TEX. There, it can be sent to either myself or (preferably) the TTN/7290 net liaison station. However, if the TTN rep is not going to 7290 the net day and only to TTN, then I can take the traffic for relay to either Jo Ann or to George, K5BMR, the assistant manager of 7290.

Note this has no effect on digital traffic, which continues to go to N9ACQ, the AR DRS. It is only for those few AR messages that may come in from CAN to RN5.

Until next month, 73, Steve K6JT

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)



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

I want to start this month's Texas Slow Net Corner by saying thank you to Mr. Carroll KB5TCH for taking a couple of Thursday Nights last month while Phil KD5MMM was under the weather. Thanks Carroll!!!

Mike WD0ESF, Sam KK4HCF, Dave AB0DK, Joe AC5BE, and Dave W5VXI checked into the net last month. Please check-in as often as you can.

The TSN website is moving to the Tex CW website to make it easier to keep the information up to date. Thanks Steve for all your hard work maintaining the Texas CW and the Texas Slow Net Website. *(Web page move done - Click above link or go to TEX home page - Ed.)*

TSN ACTIVITY DECEMBER 2014

TOTAL SESSIONS 31, TOTAL CHECK INS 115 BY 11 DIFFERENT OPERATORS

December 2013 QNS

QNI	Callsign	Name	QTH	STATE
30	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
30	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta	TX
23	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
12	WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS
8	KK4HCF	Sam	Maryville	TN
5	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
3	W5FEA	Jim	Graham	TX
1	W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX
1	AC5BE	Joe	Houston	TX
1	AB0DK	Dave	Kirksville	MO
1	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX

January 2014 Net Controls

Name	Callsign
Carroll	KB5TCH
Phil	KD5MMM
Jason	KD5RQB

I am looking for Alternate Net Control Operators to help out if the primary net control operator has something come up and can not make the net. Anyone interested in being an Alternate Net Control Station please send an email to tsn.3570@aol.com, Please include a contact telephone number and what nights would be best for you.

January 2014 TSN Roster

Name	Callsign	QTH
Jason	KD5RQB	Atlanta, Texas
Carroll	KB5TCH	Douglassville, Texas
Pat	KD5TXD / W5ZD	Kingsville, Texas
Phil	KD5MMM	Fentress, Texas
Rodney	W5DY	Goliad, Texas
Mike	WD0ESF	Medicine Lodge, Kansas
Sam	KK4HCF	Maryville, Tennessee
Scott	W5ESE	Drippings Springs, Texas
Jim	W5FEA	Graham, Texas
Joe	AC5BE	Matagorda, Texas
Steve	KJ6T	Plano, Texas
Dave	AB0DK	Kirksville, Missouri
Benny	K5KV	Starr, Texas
Jim	N5NVP	Scott, Louisiana
Gary	K5QOW	Reagan Wells, Texas
Randy	N5RL	San Antonio, Texas
Mike	W5TMO	Austin, Texas
Dave	W5VXI	Caddo Mills, Texas
Arley	WB5NKC	Oklahoma City
Pat	WB5NKD	Oklahoma City

Stop by any evening on 3570kHz at 7:45p.m. CDT.

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!!

Until next month

73,
Jason KD5RQB

(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 (early/late) or 3598 when conditions warrant
Serving TX, OK, LA, AR, MS, TN, AL, and FL
Frank Thrash W4FWT (W4DLZ@ARRL.NET)
RN5 Net Manager

Hello guys and welcome to Edition 23 of the **RN5 Corner**.

The first thing you will notice is that I now have a new call - W4FWT, which contains my initials. Although I've had the W4DLZ call since being a novice in the 50's, it has been a problem on both voice and CW nets. Voice because without phonetics, it is easily mis-heard, and CW because it is just a bit awkward and long to send. I'm still getting used to the new call, but am liking it a lot for CW. Change of all email and other addresses is still pending, so for now continue to use the old ones.

Congratulations to Steve, K6JT, who is now the Chair of the NTS Central Area Staff. We wish him well and pledge to help out as much as we can.

Sadly, we have lost Tom, K4VIZ, from both the duty roster and as a check-in. Tom decided he'd had enough for a while and "retired" as of January 1. That leaves us with some holes in the NCS and CAN liaison slots, and it also leaves us with no AR outlets for traffic coming in from CAN.

As some of you may know, the AR SSB section net (Razorback) is very hostile to all book traffic and simply refuses to handle it. That's one factor that discouraged Tom, since his only recourse was to deliver all traffic himself. We do get some AR traffic from time to time. Steve, K6JT, is working with the 7290 net manager, Jo Ann, KA5AZK, to try to set up some alternate routing. Turns out there are AR stations that check into 7290, and Jo Ann is confirming they will take traffic for delivery or relay. Once that looks like it may work, we may be able to have the TX liaison take the AR traffic and send it to a 7290 net rep on TEX for handling. Note that it does no good to give AR traffic to a DRN5 liaison since AR does not participate in DRN5. Will advise more when arrangements have been confirmed.

We still need a regular NCS for the early session on Thursday, and now with Tom's exit, we need an NCS for both Sunday slots. There are still a lot of CAN Liaison slots open, especially those on Monday that have been vacant a long time, and the new CAN Tx liaison that just opened up on Wednesday with Tom's retirement. Tom had been taking other open CAN slots, too, in addition to that, so he is already sorely missed. Thanks again to those of you who fill in when needed.

Received the following email from Dale, K5EHE, that documents how important NTS is during times of disaster. I believe this was in response to some articles in the QFN (Florida Section Net) newsletter and a suggestion that QFN go to only one session per night.

Greetings All,

I used to be on QFN and enjoyed learning the art of traffic handling, back in the days of the Vietnamese refuge relocation and many, many storms. Here's a thought about sustaining the art of accurate traffic handling on CW and SSB traffic nets. I found myself as a communicator on a disaster team at Hurricane Andrew and again as same scenario played out in 1995 in the Virgin Islands for Hurricane Marilyn. Also several storms in 2004 and again in 2005. We had cell phones, MARS nets, and other government communications channels. Each failed in one way or another and I found myself with a backlog of messages, official messages, and no way to push them out of the affected area. In each case and for the majority of the messages given to me I wound up on NTS on regularly scheduled nets including QFN.

Once I had a message from our team commander going to Fort Walton Beach to the acting Director of Emergency Management for Okaloosa County. That was our deployment point and where most of the team was regularly employed. It was a status SITREP that detailed our itinerary for the next 72 hours. An experienced traffic handler took my message and queried the spelling of one of the words, "TASKED". He told me on CW that he could not find the word in the dictionary, after I repeated it to him multiple times. I was in a hot, stinking, radio position surrounded by dead wildlife and a field hospital with dozens of patients. I was not happy about the questioning of the author's choice of words in the text. It violated the long standing protocol to "relay the message as received", no changes, no editing. I did not write the message. As a communicator, my mission was to pass the message accurately and in a timely manner.

Two points here:

1. Were it not for Ham Radio and QFN specifically, the message would have not gone out. The other government channels failed. I kept pulling out communications tools from my "quiver" until I wound up with a straight key and IT WORKED.

2. The discipline of relaying messages, accurately and quickly is a critical mission, waiting for a, sometimes, life or death situation to happen...not if but when. It always happens. In my 45 years of EMCOMM I have found this out over and over. A blizzard in Tennessee almost 10 years ago demonstrated how multi-million dollar communication systems fail. As one Emergency official put it at the time, "We couldn't talk 2 miles with our miracle radio systems". What happened then was that most critical communications went to 75 and 80 meters, Amateur bands. This was in Tennessee. As a result, the State of Tennessee became one of the country's most innovative EMCOMM systems, using Amateur Radio as a backbone. Shortly after that, I became the Region IV MARS Emergency Coordinator and drew heavily off of the Tennessee contingency to shape the EMCOMM strategy. One thing about MARS, as with NTS, accuracy is the number one concern in message relaying. Another side note about MARS. During that time it became apparent that a liaison and working relationship with NTS and ARES was essential to MARS effectiveness. Also, MARS initiated an unprecedented on-the-air training program with weekly modules and on-the-air feedback for training effectiveness. Again, inter-agency communications, including NTS is essential to program delivery.

This is where SPAM has caused a flaw in the system. Repetitious traffic with canned texts that are available on web sites and addresses from QRZ have facilitated a slackened real-time accuracy in message handling. I know because I've been a part of it. No blame game here,

just pointing out the obvious. This can be addressed. Obviously, the system is only as good as the weakest link in the chain whether it's origination, delivery, or somewhere in between. When QFN was handling hundreds of messages a week with the names of Vietnamese family members on the rosters of three refugee camps, there was no canned text and cheat sheet to fix bungled text or addressing. Stations had to slow down and get it right. And it worked.

I remember Des Yong N4DY delivering a presentation on traffic origination and delivery to a local ham club in Pensacola. The audience was picking at their dessert and rolling their eyes in a bored rejection of the importance of Radiogram 101. This is unacceptable and a failure of leadership at multiple levels. Proper communications techniques are essential to the health of Amateur Radio. Ham Radio will always, always, always be put to the test and execution is directly related to training.

Kudos to the workhorses of QFN, the Regional Nets, and Area Nets for the essential work of the craft. I miss QFN over here but have benefited greatly by the fine work of those who are a part of it. Carry on OMs and YLs! You're the greatest.

73 — Dale Sewell K5EHE formerly W4NBF and N4SGQ

Well said, and some very good points.

Hope you all have a Happy and Healthy New Year in 2014. Let's keep NTS going. Take a look at the opening information in the front part of this newsletter. There are some big things going on that we hope are going to spur a better NTS and better ties with ARES. Stay tuned - some new things are going to start to take shape this year.

73, Frank W4FWT
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	KZ8Q	W4DLZ	W5CU	Open	W4SU	W4DLZ	Open
NCS #2	KZ8Q	W4DLZ	W5CU	K6JT	W4SU	W4DLZ	Open
CAN TX	Open	Open	Open	KA5KLU	Open	Open	W5CU
CAN RX	Open	W4DLZ	W4AGL	K6JT	Open	W4DLZ	K5KV
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

December 2013 Statistics

SESSIONS	62
QTC	186
QNI	345
QTR	710
AVG QTC	3.0
AVG QNI	5.5
AVG QTR	11.2

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	AA4HT	BOB	FL
K4AKC	TOM	AL	W8IM	DEAN	FL
WA4BAM	JOHN	FL	WA5JAN	JIM	AR
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	K6JT	STEVE	TX
W5CU	SAM	OK*	KA5KLU	DOUG	TX
AC5CW	ERIC	LA	K5KV	BENNY	TX
K09D	BENNY	IN	K8KV	BEN	FL
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	K5MC	MICKEY	LA
K5DMC	JER	MS	N5NVP	JIM	LA
WD4DNC	BARRY	FL	K4PG	KEVIN	FL
AD4DO	JOHN	FL	KZ8Q	BEN	AL
W5DTR	CURT	IL	K5RG	KEN	TX
K1DW	DALLAS	LA	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
NY4E	BILL	FL	W4SU	JERRY	AL
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	W6SX	HANK	CA
KJ4FDV	TREY	AL	K15T	WADE	LA
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR
KA4FZI	PHYL	FL	K5WNU	JACK	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 W4FWT