

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas CW Traffic Net (TEX)

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

Net Manager: Position Open (W5DY silent key)

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Congratulations to Jo Ann, KA5AZK

Jo Ann, KA5AZK, the manager of the 7290 Traffic Net (<https://www.7290trafficnet.org>) has been awarded the George Hart Distinguished Service Award for 2023. Jo Ann received her Novice License in 1979 in Garland TX and upgraded to General shortly after. Back in those days you had to go to the FCC Office for testing and pass a code test. She stumbled across the 7290 Traffic Net about 1980 and has been with them ever since, serving as Treasurer, Assist Manager and Manager. Currently she is Manager and an NCS on that net. She has also served as Region 5 Transmit for the Central Area Net and NCS on the Region 5 Net for the National Traffic System. She also has the honor of being appointed West Gulf Division Assistant Director for NTS.

The George Hart Distinguished Service Award honors long-time ARRL Communications Manager George Hart, W1NJM (SK), the chief developer of the National Traffic System™ (NTS). An ARRL Charter Life Member, Hart spent more than four decades as a member of the ARRL Headquarters staff and continued to be an active radio amateur and regular Field Day participant in his retirement. In 1984, the ARRL Board of Directors named Hart as an ARRL Honorary Vice President. He died in 2013 at the age of 99.

Established by the ARRL Board of Directors in 2009, the George Hart Distinguished Service Award is given annually to an ARRL member for exemplary service to the League's Field Organization. Selection criteria include NTS operating record, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) participation, or service to the ARRL Field Organization in terms of appointments and/or leadership positions held.

Recipients receive an engraved plaque and cover letter and will be profiled in [QST](#).

Congratulations, Jo Ann, and thank you for your years of service and maintaining the 7290 Traffic Net as the best place to handle traffic for Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

The TEX net maintains a liaison station with the 7290 Traffic Net.

Excerpt from Jack, W5TFB's Book

Here is the next excerpt from Jack's book. Mae does exceptionally well in the chess tournament. Lots of chess detail for those of you who play.

It was good that the table was a little large for us, because that was a lot of food, with eighteen selections, all different. I would like to inspect their kitchen, but not when it is busy. I would probably be trampled and cooked. This time the food took longer, partly because it takes a while to grill a porterhouse medium, and baked bass also took time. I was occupied studying Sue and mom. They could have been the same age. I spent a lot more time on Sue.

Mae had eyes only for Craig, and he returned the favor. Craig was not all dolled up like Mae and mom, although that may have been mom's regular garb. He looked exactly like what he is, a bright young man with no doubt of his accomplishments and future. I knew that those three chess games had improved Mae's outlook, and that the school nonsense was forgotten.

They were jabbering in French. Craig turned out to be fluent as well. I did not feel left out, not at all. They weren't talking about me; I believe they were talking about their experiences in France. Had it been in English I could have joined in but probably would not have. Mom and Craig spent seven years in France, where Craig went to a Catholic school until he was 10, when they returned to the states. They used English at home, so he was naturally bilingual. When they returned he was given some test by the school that placed him in the seventh grade. He had learned to play chess in France from mom.

Sue and Mae had toured France in her seventh summer, and stayed in Toulouse the summer she was eight. Toulouse is an old city, then about the population of El Paso but much more compact with adjacent buildings sharing side walls, the inner city surrounded by a wall. In South Louisiana, serious French is offered in schools, and Mae took all she could.

The food started arriving. We had a temporary extra busboy; they set up their portable tables for their large trays. It took four trips, two by each, to bring everything. Only Craig's was all on one plate. Those that could merged different dishes when that could be done. The preferred language reverted to English.

I asked Sue, "Who took care of the company while you were in France?" "Then I had a partner who knew everything I knew. The company was a lot smaller, and required less management. Plus we didn't have a pile of cash in index funds like we do now. We didn't separate research from the money part. Also, the company was still in real estate. When we returned from the second trip I found that he started his own company, in Baton Rouge where real estate was really hot, taking all of the real estate team. I did get a million in securities from him, which I liquidated and put in no load low expense index funds, and we finally had some cash. Oil was booming and we were in an ideal position to capitalize.

"The downside is that I lost a partner, but I got to do things I had always wanted to do, mainly beef up the research group. And the company had cash to fund what research said looked good."

Mom asked me, "What do you do? Craig says you are quick with numbers." I told her I am a mathematician, retired but still keep up, especially with pattern recognition. I asked her, "And you?"

"I was a dancer, Ballet, in New York. My husband is a bean counter for the Federal Reserve in Dallas, makes a lot of money, but he has a hard time getting away. We met by accident after he had seen me perform in Romeo and Juliet. He was on a business assignment. He has a law degree, but his passion is accounting, especially auditing. And, yes, I was her, Juliet.

"We married with a contract saying that each was free to pursue our separate careers. I took leave to have Craig. He was born in Dallas. When he was 2 we went back to New York, hired a nanny, and I went back to work. The long rest had been good for me. I was in better shape than ever, and again was given lead parts. The troupe went to France, where I was born. I traveled separately, bringing Craig and Michelle (French Canadian nanny). Late in the first year I was dropped, falling all the way into the orchestra, and would never dance again professionally. We decided to stay in France. I got a job teaching dance and English, and finally returned to Dallas when Craig was 10. My husband was still counting beans and had not missed me. He was never close to Craig and didn't understand why anyone would play chess. Still, he is a good man. I am now director of the Arts Council of Dallas."

I asked, "Where in France were you born?" "Nimes, in 1960. We came to New York when I was 16. I could already dance."

In between all of this everyone was raving about their food and the care with which it was prepared. The 'common' salad was beefed up with several unexpected goodies: anchovies, croutons, the tiniest, sweetest tomatoes I had tasted (Sue said they were a new variety developed at LSU), julienned baby carrots, and hand torn tender romaine.

During all of this Craig and Mae were essentially fooling around from across the table. Mae had perfect table manners (a big change from 'normal'), as did Craig. I felt like the only slob at the table, but no one, not even Sue, paid the slightest attention to me. That left me alone to savor the food.

I worried about how we were going to keep the kids out of bed. I also had no idea how to bring it up. Problems like this have plagued me all my life. My own childhood offered no guidance. After the feast was over, I asked if anyone wanted coffee. Craig said he didn't, that he had to be up early, and no one else did either. It turned out that Craig and mom had a room with two regular beds, and mom was a light sleeper. And both Mae and Craig had that part of their brain, that I lack, fully functional. I must admit that my restraint with Sue had been purely tactical: All the signals from her indicated that my invitation to share a bed would be accepted, even the first night, but it had to come from her. Later, when she didn't ask right out loud if I wanted company, she forced me to bring it up. She didn't know but if she had said, "I'll be there with you and Marie." it would not have offended nor surprised me.

They brought the check, which I picked up but Sue said, "Let me." "Then I will furnish the tip, in cash. There is a significant difference in how much they get now and in how much they can keep."

Mom said, "I won't tell my husband." I guess she knew a little about taxes. I said, "It's not that. The restaurant will make them pay the credit charge discount. I think it is 5% for American Express."

We arose, went out by the fountain, and had the obligatory hugs. That's something else I suck at, hugging a stranger. It is even stronger than that. I'm no good at hugging anyone who isn't a lover. I shook hands with Craig, asked if he knew the outcome of round 3, and he said Mae had told him, and that tomorrow is going to be interesting. The hug from mom was OK but her heels put my nose under her chin. Craig hugged Mae, and you could tell she was almost liquid and he was showing what he wanted, but they eventually separated, and he went to his room with mom.

I asked if anyone would like a walk in the cool. Mae said, "Yes. I need to work off some of the tension from the evening. Keep an eye on me lest I attack the first man I see. Oh, Jack is safe." That was excellent, and I knew what she was really saying that she knew we knew, that she had sexual cravings for Craig, and she was telling us not to worry.

Sue said. "I am tired and need a shower, so you two go on." There was a park about half a mile away. I asked if she would like to go there. She said OK, so we headed off in that direction. I said, "You will have White in both games. Have you thought about what opening to use?"

She reflected. "It depends on the pairings," "You will not play Craig in round 4. Your opponent will be from Baton Rouge. He and Billy drew the round before you beat Billy. He is the reigning Louisiana champ."

"Then I will use the English opening. I know it fairly deeply, but I am sure Craig knows it better. If I win and play Craig in round 5 then I will start (no matter what he does) 1 g3 2 Nf3 3 Bg2 4 0-0. He will not try crazy things, but will develop, probably in some order d5, Nf6, e4, Be7. He may copy my moves exactly, giving me the King's Indian with colors reversed. In any event I have analyzed this variation myself with help from Fritz 6, at least to 22 moves, the main lines deeper. You do not want to let me have this."

I was impressed. "I would like to anyway. I have played (with Black) 1 . . . d5 2 . . . b6 3 . . . Nc6 4 . . . Bb7, challenging White on the long h1-a8 diagonal."

"Do that with me and you'll find your center to be easily assailed and your challenge ineffective. The main problem is nothing is defending b7 giving me a free pass with a King Knight, pinning your Knight defending your center after preparation with solid semi-closed development on the Queen side. A move like Rb8 wastes a move tying up the rook, which should be on c8 or d8. Exchanging Bishops is worse. Your kingside is weak, mostly because of your second move. I'll show you soon. You have other problems as well. Your Queen Knight should wait for c5 before going to c6. What you did gives me d5."

We arrived at the park. It was well lit and had adult sized swings and a kid-sized merry-go-round, but she didn't want those, I guess because her pretty dress was only 5 inches from the ground. I asked if she would like to go back, and she said she would like that.

On the way back I reminded her of the time controls, and of exactly what the rule is. "In the next two rounds the clocks are set so that initially they point to six o'clock. Each player has an hour to reach move 30 in the game. If your opponent's flag falls before reaching 30 moves, stop the clock and call the director, who will rule that the player forfeits based on time. If both players clocks have fallen then the game is a draw. If time control of one hour is reached and move 30 has been completed, then the next time control occurs when the clock reaches 8 o'clock. Thus a game theoretically lasts four hours, although that is rare. All the rest of the moves in a game must be completed by 8. Again, if you notice his drop, stop the clock and call the director."

"OK, I didn't really understand that. So far time has not been a problem. Are there any other weird rules?" "Yes, the three most common are: A game is drawn if the same exact position obtains three times, not necessarily consecutively. A few believe it has to be the result of perpetual check. That is only the most common way it happens.

"A game is drawn if 50 moves are completed with no player moving a pawn or capturing a piece or pawn. The director will assign someone to count moves when that looks likely to happen. They will not rely on the recorded score, but sit there and count moves.

"A game is drawn if there are no pawns, and both sides have either a King and Bishop or a King and one or two Knights or a lone King, unless mate on the move can be demonstrated. If this happens, and you are in time trouble, stop the clock and call the director. An alert director will do that for you. You are not required to by rule or ethic. For example if you are ahead on time you would play on without breaking any rule, knowing that you can't lose unless you do something really stupid.

"There are scores of rules about defective clocks and making illegal moves (they are regarded as set when the other player has completed two moves). Thus a King can capture a Queen if the player moves his King next to the Queen, two moves by the other player are completed, at which point the first player can legally capture the Queen unless she is protected. That is unlikely, but I have seen it happen that a player accidentally moved a Bishop to a wrong colored square and it was not challenged until two moves were made, thus giving the player two Bishops of the same color. This can be an advantage or not. Kids just learning often make wrong Knight moves or do not know the e.p. pawn capture rule, or how to castle queen-side, but they won't happen in your group. Pay attention anyway.

"By the way, when castling either move the King first or move the Rook and King at the same time. If you move your Rook and take your hand off then that move is complete. I've seen that challenged and the rule enforced. When that happens you can still castle on the other side if it is legal. The director or assistant director is not allowed to interfere in these issues. It is up to the offended player.

"The Rook move thing happened once in a French Defense game, advance variation. The f and d files were both open on my side. I moved my King Rook to f8 and then picked the King up and my opponent called the director and I was told I couldn't do that. (I knew it.) On my next move I castled Queenside, now had two rooks on half-open files with a magnificent Knight on d4 that could not be dislodged. My opponent didn't see it coming. If I had castled Kingside I would be castling into a fierce attack. White had all his forces ready to target my g7 and h7 pawns."

Mae said, "Would you like to continue that ineffective defense to the R'eti you proposed? We could pick it up at White's move 5."

I said okay, not enthralled with my prospects. I gave up at move 12. "You were right." We reached the hotel. Mae said, "I feel better, relaxed and just a little tired. Tomorrow is going to be fun, and I promise to manage my time more carefully." In the room she gave me an innocent hug, but didn't take a chance on the cheek peck. She may be tired but she was keyed up, and only one thing I could imagine could cause that.

I entered our room, saw that Sue was sound asleep, had a quick shower, set the alarm to 6, and joined her. We slept peacefully. I thought this a good sign.

Sunday morning 25 November The alarm sounded. I stopped it as soon as I knew it. I think Sue was already awake, or had been, since she was holding me and I had to free myself. That woke her up as well, or the alarm did.

I wanted to cuddle but as tired as I was I would probably go back to sleep and wake up at ten. So I asked Sue what she wanted to do. She said, "Sleep." So I dressed, set the alarm to 8, and went down for coffee. I also had to think about timing. I came up with this:

Section
10-12 8-9 K-3 4-5 6-7
Section 4: 9:00 1:10
Section 5 10:00 12:30
Section 6 10:10 12:40
Section 7 10:20 12:50

Awards 5:20 or as soon as finished 3:00 or as soon as finished 3:10 or as soon as finished 3:20 or as soon as finished 3:35 or as soon as finished.

The spacing is a little tighter because of the efficiency shown by the staff in getting out pairings quickly. It may take longer to give out awards in the 4-5 section. That won't hurt anything. They were going to bring in pizza starting at 11:15 today. Some of the Senior group would not have much time to eat if the first game lasted the full four hours. I had never seen that happen, although I had played over games in which both players were in time trouble. I went to the coffee shop and had only coffee. I wasn't hungry. Sue knew where I would be if she needed me. I went back to the lobby where I would be in sight of the elevator. There was a New York Times on the table that I picked up to read. It was about 7:30. I realized I didn't really care what was going on, so I put the paper back and went back to the coffee shop, asked for OJ, whole wheat toast, and black coffee to take to my room. It came on a tray, at least 12 ounces of coffee, half that of orange juice. I headed back to our room.

Sue was up, almost dressed. She smelled the coffee and said, "How sweet of you." She moved the phone and put the contents on the small, high table surrounded by three stools, and sat. "I was hoping I could serve you in bed, although I find that unpleasant myself, eating in bed." "Yes, so do I, just as I dislike sleeping at a dinner table."

I smiled. "Oswald Jacoby has a saying, 'I know the difference between a card table and a bed', I suppose meaning he doesn't sleep when playing cards. And that is true, he doesn't." "Have you played with him?"

"Unfortunately, no. I have played against him, a sport I cannot recommend. He is a wonderful bridge and poker player. He did go halves with me in a poker game while he had to play bridge in the men's final bridge championship at the Shamrock Hotel in Houston."

"What do you mean by going halves?"

"He puts up half the stake, I put up the rest. At the end, he gets his contribution if I have that much, then I get mine, and we split the rest of winnings if there is anything left. We both receive a benefit: I get to play in a higher stakes game and risk losing only half that stake. He does not expect me to lose and thinks I am going to win a lot, so he gets good odds on his money. In fact he doubled it, as did I. Once he put up all the stake when I was broke. I risked nothing. That was a thousand dollar buy-in game. I played tight and won eighteen hundred, leaving me with \$2,800. After giving him his grand back and splitting the winnings I had \$900."

Mae came in. I didn't hear that she was up. She was dressed in ordinary clothes. Sue had finished everything I brought up, so I asked if she would like to take Mae to breakfast. Mae said, "Craig and I are going to have breakfast at 8."

I said, "Go Dutch, and charge your part to 12010, Bryant."

Sue said, "You have three minutes." She said OK and left. "I wasn't hungry anyway. I should have gone with you two on that walk. I am still stuffed from last night, but the treat you brought was nice."

"I am stuffed too. I didn't eat anything, just had coffee. Looks like they enjoy each other's company. Does Mae have a lot of boyfriends?"

"None that I know of. She thinks the boys at school are juveniles and jerks. Craig seems older than 16." "She's probably right. I was when you knew me. And Mae seems older than 15, even when dressed in normal clothes. I noticed she had washed off the eye liner this morning."

"Even when Marie was little she seemed more grown-up than other kids her age, and it is more pronounced since you arrived. You had better get to the tournament. It will be 8:30 by the time you arrive." I kissed her, and left.

When I arrived the pairings for the Senior division were posted. Mae has White on board 2 with one of the players from Baton Rouge with 2 1 . One player had withdrawn, so 2 the lowest scoring player got a bye and an automatic win. I guess there is no house-man for this division. Craig has Black on board 1 against another from Spring, also with 3, who last year came in second to Craig at the Texas Championship. This was Craig's first time to play Black, so should both win they will play in the final round, each with 4. I gave my proposed timetable to the bullpen manager, who said they could compress the lower division start times because all the pairings have been made and were posted. I said, "The only critical one is the start of round 5 for the senior division. Their games could take four hours and they need time

to eat something. I'll watch and time it so they get 20 minutes to eat. You guys have been cranking out pairings in near real time."

Pairings were posted in two ways: An alphabetical list of players, their current score, room and board, and whether White or Black, was posted in the skittles room, the only time I have seen this. Also, next to the door to the room in which play was going to be, with two copies of the physically split 4–5 and 6–7 divisions. Maybe it wouldn't be so bad because they would not all arrive at the same time. It is usually a madhouse. Not this one; they had a large blackboard for announcements, and where the pairings are posted written on it. Anyway, kids are good at finding things.

I looked and saw that Billy had withdrawn. Mr. Leland walked in, and I asked if he would like to swap back. He would, and said he'd take care of it. The seniors were trickling in. Most looked like zombies.* They were mostly five to a room, with one sleeping on a cot, the others in two regular beds. They probably partied half the night. Craig and Mae came in, holding hands, and looking alert and ready to play. They didn't care that I saw them holding hands. I could tell Sue that Craig is good for Mae. I think she knows it. I won't tell her they were holding hands, although I think I could have, just not my style. They looked at the pairings then came over to greet me.

* There are no actual Zombies; they looked like the Hollywood version.

I got Craig's firm handshake and a warm hug from Mae. Craig said, "I want to brief Mae on the playing style of her opponent, so we will go to the skittles room." I wanted to hear, but knew I couldn't. A handshake and a hug from two contenders was bad enough. I decided to recuse myself in the case of Craig also, and told Mr. Leland, although not why. He said he knew there would be no problem. I knew Craig had played in the tournaments in Spring several times, and in every state championship since he moved to Texas.

I noticed board 3 was being played by two Spring players with 2 points. Looked like Spring was going to win two of the top five places. I went into the game room at 5 till 9, but Mae wasn't there, so I went to the skittles room and announced the start of round four, Seniors, and went back. When everyone was there I told them to set their clocks to 6:00, and explained the 60 minute time control and the whole game time control, what to do if a flag fell, turned it over to Mr. Leland, and left. From the look on their faces I could tell they knew that stuff.

Mr. Leland had an assistant I had played long ago but I didn't remember his name. I remembered the game. The tournament was held in New Orleans and was not a Swiss system tournament, but was paired like one each round. Instead it was double elimination (draws counting 1) with pairings made like in tennis, using ratings to determine the 2 rankings the first round, three games each on Saturday and Sunday, 30/60, starting at 8. Eliminated players were handled by entering them as withdrawn in the program. Grueling. Rounds started at 8, 1, and 6 each day, so it is conceivable you would play until 10. The tournament ended when only ten or fewer were 'standing.' I had drawn the third game on Saturday, an 80 move game, both players speciously not wanting to win. I wanted to but couldn't. With both in time trouble he proposed a draw which I accepted, more because I was worn out, and he didn't seem to be. I had driven half the night to get there by 7:30, in a VW microbus that needed a valve job. It was 11 before I got to bed.

This guy I played at 8 Sunday was a 1 e4 guy who didn't know his way around the French. He lost in 22 moves. Knowing an opening deeply helps because you can move blitz speed at first. I never knew a player this did not rattle, although there is nothing unethical about it. In this game we got out of the book at move 13 because he blundered. He played the advance variation, which seems like a good idea, but his center pawns are subject to attack by c5 and f6. Opening the King Bishop (f) file is disastrous for White unless he castles Queenside, but this guy didn't know. I went to my room and back to sleep, setting the alarm to noon. That would be a two hour catnap with an hour to dress, eat something, and wake up. The game I just played was not even a little stimulating.

The next game was with the first player I had played who was rated near me. He had lost 1, so I might have got an agreed draw from him, but he refused and we played. He played below his rating. I had White and played Bird's opening (1 f4) mainly because many books say it is unsound, and players who think that try to take advantage of it prematurely. It is just the Dutch defense with a move in hand, and if that game is OK what's the matter with this one? Actually, the move prevents e5, gives an ideal spot for the King Knight at f3, and after e3 opens lines for the King Bishop. I figured that if he is rated close to me then he will probably have dismissed this move as 'undeveloping,' and had not given it much thought, but look at what White has if you try to force things in the center: White may develop the KB (e2 is a good spot, or if Black has played Nc6, b5 is better), followed by 0-0, and now the rook has a potentially half open file. Anyway this guy let me have all of those things and I had a comfortable game. It is a shame that he blundered, for I think I had won the game before that. By the way, I would never play this opening against a player rated 100 points or more higher or lower than I am.

After this round there were only 9 with 11 or fewer losses, and only one with a perfect 2 5, so the tournament ended at 4:30. I was tied with one other (the player I drew in that marathon) at 4-1-0, so we split the sum of second and third place. After subtracting the room rent, the cost of gas, food, and the entry fee I about broke even, but that's not why we play, is it? (I asked you a question: Is it?!)

It was time for the other kids to start, all sections starting at ten sharp. They had already heard the time control speech, so I wasn't needed. A couple of Seniors had finished but not Craig or Mae. I knew unless someone grossly blundered they would take at least two hours. I hoped Mae could keep focused for that long, but I thought it possible because she was itching to play Craig. To have a chance at doing that she had to win. And the pair with 21 playing each other had to draw for Craig or Mae to win second outright. I had thought she had no chance against Craig, nor did anyone else. However, I was at the "but I wouldn't bet on it" point. Since Saturday a week ago this is a new Mae.

I called the room but got the message thing. So Sue was asleep or gone, both good. I had packed my bag, and Sue and Mae were supposed to pack theirs, so when I got a break I could go put them in my car. Check-out time was 4, but you could leave your car there without charge until 6. I checked the standings after three rounds: Three were 3, one 2 1 , 2 and two 2 among the players I thought had a chance to beat Mae. (She had already won games with three others having 2 now, so she wouldn't play them no matter what.)

Craig and his opponent came out. I couldn't read Craig, but his opponent might as well have had a 'He Kicked Me' sign hanging around his neck. Craig was so cool, I'm not surprised he, out of nowhere, asked me if I play poker. It would be an experience to play in a game which included him. Or even head-to-head against him. Craig came over, and I congratulated him. He just said, "Thank you." There was nothing insincere about it.

I asked how Mae is doing, and he said he couldn't look, even though he was playing on the board next to hers. I said, "I understand."

Craig said, "Perhaps. It may not be what you are thinking. I have to stay focused on my own game. Even a second of inattention and you lose. Norbert Weiner said, 'Mathematics is nothing like chess. Chess is not decided by your best moves, but by your worst. It is just the opposite in Mathematics.' I am captivated by Mae but when I play I cease to exist as a person." There was a long pause. "I am really not good at chess. It is hard work, and doesn't come naturally to me.

There are hundreds of players who would crush me like a June bug. Experience has given me a hard shell, and discipline has given me the ability to have fear and not show it, but inside I am just a weak mess. I win with concentration as much as knowing openings or traps. And I totally ignore my opponent."

"You are right, I didn't understand at all. Now I do. It is a rare man of any age who knows himself to those depths."

He said, "Do you know when the pizza will arrive? I couldn't eat anything this morning but last night's steak is gone. By the way, I've never had a meal where everything was perfect." I told him, and agreed, the food was outstanding.

He looked at his watch: 10:55. "Twenty minutes. I guess I can wait. I hope Mae can join me, even in a noisy skittles room with sub par pizza. I don't know why she is interested in me. In school everyone thinks I am a geek. My old man thinks I'm throwing my life away playing chess, but I make all A's in school, all the way back to the second grade when they started giving grades. And schools in France are tough."

I did understand most of that oh too well, but said nothing. I'm glad, because I was facing the Senior's room. Mae emerged, put her finger to her lips silently saying shhh, and came and put her hands over Craig's eyes. She whispered, "Guess who?"

Craig said, "Oh Mom, I wish you wouldn't do that in front of all my friends." She removed her hands and quickly goosed him in the ribs. So he is a match for Mae's sharp sense of humor. That has to be more important than the shrinks think. Both of them giggled. "Let me turn in my result, and then eat something. I'm starving." Her victim now had only 21, and needed a draw in the last round to win anything.

I heard the pizza arriving. When Mae came I said, "I think there will be pizza in a moment." They left, Mae skipping like a ten-year-old. I have to advise her never to play poker. So they both won. Interesting. I called the room, got Sue, and asked her, "What are your plans in the next half-hour?"

"I don't have any. Why?" "Come down to the tournament room. There is awful food and a wonderful grand-daughter who may be hard to live with for a while." "OK, I'm on my way,"

She arrived in less than two minutes. The elevator must have been close. This hotel, for all its fanciness, needed another public elevator. Two is not enough for a 12 story building.

Sue arrived. "What did she do, swallow a pawn?" I said, "No, she is in there with Craig. Find out for yourself. She will like seeing you, and you may be pleased. Don't eat the pizza unless you are starving." She left, and the two Spring players, who recognized me, came out. I asked, "How did you do?"

The taller one, I think his name is Chenault, said, "We drew. It's like kissing your sister." Morgan, the other one, looked less downtrodden. "I was ahead the exchange and this wiener got me in perpetual check." I didn't say I know the feeling. If you play just a little chess, you do. It is funny how people show how they feel in different ways. The one who escaped the almost certain loss was disappointed and the other didn't really care. "Sometimes a draw with a lost game feels better than a win." They went to report the result. I went to tell the three the maybe good news.

They were celebrating. Sue looked like she could be 55, no, younger. I had no idea she had such a radiant smile. Craig and Mae, on the other side of the table, saw me coming. I did my best to appear glum, in this case by imagining some madman had mowed down the K-3 group with a machine gun. I know I made tears, and my mouth was quivering. Mae asked, "What's wrong?"

I said, sadly. "The other pair with 21 drew, so you two will play on board one in the 2 final round to decide first and second outright." Then I came out of it, and went over on the other side of the table to shake Craig's hand and hug Mae.

Sue asked, "So whoever wins the next game will win the whole thing? Wow!" Craig agreed, then said, "I play every game hard, concentrating with everything I have."

Mae said quietly, no emotion at all, "Yes. You will find that I do as well."

I changed my mind: Anyone who can do that should play poker, perhaps for a living. I got up and got more pizza. It was better today, and Sue had a slice. She said it wasn't hot enough but as hot as one would expect. Mae and Craig were staring one another down, hard when you're sitting shoulder-to-shoulder. Craig spoke, losing the staring contest, but easing the tension: "We shall see. It is what you wanted. You need to see how good you are. So far you are perfect."

Mae said, "That last game, I may not have won if you hadn't told me some of his weaknesses. He tried to play my English just like a Queen's gambit played wrong. If Jack hadn't told me to take it easy, that is, to take more time, I could have dispatched him in 20 minutes. His King pawn was isolated by the tenth move, and I won it without much of a struggle, destroying his center in the process. Meanwhile, I had a well-protected Knight in the center on d5, what Nimzovich calls an outpost, and that decided the game. He just imploded. When he resigned the only move he had was to move his King back and forth."

I looked at Sue, who was clearly amazed, but beaming. I hoped this would end forever the it's-because-of-Jack myth. The bullpen folks knew where I was, but my place is really out on the floor. I said, "I must return to work. The K-3 last round is starting. I want to thank you both. However the last round turns out, you two have brought much joy into my life this weekend." Holy cow, I don't say crap like that, but I did. It just came out. My checker needs some fine tuning. The kids were being surprisingly orderly and quiet, probably because they were mostly sleepy. I looked in on the Senior division room. Two games were still going on, but in one of them both players were in serious time trouble with about three minutes left in a closed position with interlocking pawns. The other game was a draw by insufficient material, which I pointed out to Mr. Leland who had not noticed it, so he went over and told them. This is one case where the director is supposed to stop the game. So it would be over in 5 minutes max, and I went to tell the office guru the next Senior round can start 25 minutes from now. He thanked me for the info. The sooner that round ended the sooner they could all go home.

Sue came out to visit. "You don't seem to be doing anything." "That means I'm doing my job well. What do you think about your granddaughter?" "I understood your comment, but I don't think she will be hard to live with. She has succeeded before and never got the big head. I admit this is a lot to be shoved into a week. Let me see: Total victory over those awful men, the best high school player in Louisiana, captured a fine young man and, if you don't mind my saying so, a fine old one as well."

I said I didn't and that it was true and mutual. I wasn't sure about being 'fine.' She added to what she had said, still having a hard time understanding it: "The capture of the only charming 16-year old boy I've met. Winning the Louisiana Chess Championship, coming out of nowhere. Possibly, and it doesn't seem as remote to me as it does to you, winning the open tournament, defeating a Master in the last round. I know you understand adolescence. No matter how much Craig proclaims he is serious, almost detached from his body, Marie has him wrapped around her little finger. Not really, he has wrapped himself around anything loose enough to grab hold of."

"I partially agree; he said she 'captivated' him, but went on to explain how he can put everything except the game out of his brain. I thought he was protesting too much, in this case because I had never questioned the forgone conclusion that he would win. That would be highly unethical and I wouldn't, but Craig may not know it.

"Craig was talking to himself, and although the words were forceful and confident, his body language betrayed him. He is afraid she will beat him, and that's not the Craig I know. His hormones are making a fool of him, as they do to us all at times. The man that remained fixed on Mae during a two-hour dinner, nothing in the room but her of any interest, cannot put that aside in an instant. You may not have seen it with all the French rattling around. He tried to cut his steak with a spoon. He is not in control of his brain.

"A woman can have the two feelings at once. I guess they have nicer hormones. And Mae has nothing to lose, and Craig just loses a cheap plastic trophy and, perhaps, some measure of 'face.' Surely nothing compared to his great accomplishments. Losing to an unrated player is never a disgrace. What if she is a young Bobby Fischer, or even Garry Kasparov, unknown until now? Actually, what if she is? She may be. Nothing she has done today makes that unlikely. This is a strong tournament."

“So you agree with me.” “Reluctantly, yes. It could be that when she played me she was not so confident. Although she won, she didn’t run all over me. I just ran out of time. Now she has psychology on her side. She has used it in all four of her wins so far, in three different ways. “I think she may not just beat Craig, but crush him. She is going to use the R’eti on him, an opening Craig thinks is weak. She has studied it, with the help of Fritz 6, and must know a thousand lines. I know she knows a hundred lines of the French, which is a much quieter opening. If he lets her have a King’s Indian reversed he will lose. Ten to one. We played a double blindfold game while walking, and after the fourth move she said she had a won game and outlined how she would win it. I didn’t believe it, but by the twelfth move I was so tied up I had no good move, and was about to lose a pawn. I have played Craig several times, and he never had me in so much trouble so early. He is meticulous and almost never blunders, but Mae has shown today that she plays the man, not just the game, and because of that has won. Do you know they played an offhand game that they had to end and agreed on a draw?”

“Yes. Jack, I wish you would make up your mind. You have gone from no chance to maybe a slight chance to almost certain draw or win.” “That is how the brain of a mathematician works. It changes the result of a calculation because of new data or deeper analysis. I know that it works the same in us all, but a mathematician must keep an open and flexible brain facing the most intricate and beautiful problems invented by man. I admit it: I think there is a good chance she will win. If she put on makeup and that blue sweater I know she would, but that is the wrong thing for her. Even if she decided on that you should nix it. If she did that and won then . . . OK, from your face I see that you know the then better than I do.”

“Yes, it would destroy her. In a sense that is what happened to Brenda. She dressed up last night for the reason she gave: She wanted Craig to know she was not a Cajun hick, but someone as sophisticated as anyone in his experience, and she did it tastefully and well. I know mom was impressed: She told me using plain French. By the way, her name is Ruth. The way to do it goes like this: He: ‘I beg your pardon, but I have forgotten your name’ She: ‘Think nothing of it. My name is Ruth.’ Lose the crap about no one ever told you her name. No one will believe you. And what does it matter? You just want to know her name.”

To Be Continued – tournament result in next issue

TEX / RN5 Mailbox:

Please send in your feedback, gripes, and suggestions. The mailbox had few inputs for TEX and RN5 beyond net and activity reports.

Jun 19, Scott **W7IZ** in Oregon:

Hi Steve, thanks for all your hard work!!

Everything okay out this way. I noticed all of a sudden I had a 20/S9 noise level on my Icom 735 so I switched to spare power supply, no difference. I had forgotten about the little 1-amp trickle charger in the corner of the shack that I'd bought from WalMart recently.....unplugged it and voila!! Noise went away!! Cheaper not always better.....!!

73/Scott W7IZ

- . . . -

Jun 23 from Jon, **KZ5Z**:

I want to mention that if anyone needs another outlet for Alabama or Tennessee traffic, K4OTM from San Angelo will often take those. He is on the 7290 net almost every day. 73, Jon KZ5Z

- . . . -

Jul 12 RN5 net. Jon, **KZ5Z**, invited Ike, **WB4LAL** from Alabama to check into the net more often. Here is Ike's response:

Thanks Jon. I've had trouble finding u guys sometimes but will try and check in at least on Wednesdays. I am NCS for the TN Tfc net on Wednesdays so will be around anyway. I am located just 3 miles South of the TN state line near the Natchez Trace so can take AL or TN traffic. I was active on RN5 and CAN back in the 80s an 90s, W5TNT (Lloyd Crawford, SK) was net mgr then. C U agn soon. 73

Ike WB4LAL

- . . . -

Jul 12 from Randy, **N5RL**:

Hey guys, This recent heat has been really bothering me and my room AC is not working well. Until such time as the heat fades or I can cool my shack better, my operations will be hit or miss. So forgive me for not making all the nets as I should but I fear my age and condition is catching up to me. I am working on a solution. 73 ! Randy N5RL

- . . . -

Jul 13 from Randy, **N5RL**:

Well I took care of my issue and got my problem fixed ... so my shack (better known as my cave) will be cool. That won't solve these incredible heat issues but at least I can operate without getting heat stroke or exhaustion. Take care fellas and see you on the air ... 73

Randy N5RL

Note that Randy is also having serious health issues and was in the hospital for a week. He needs our prayers, please - Ed.

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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 or want to change your assignment, please advise so the schedule may be updated. We are still missing primary coverage for 4 NCS, 2 RN5/1 and 1 RN5/2 slots.

Based on reports from Jon and Randy, 40 meters seems to be working better for early TEX and RN5.

Suggested frequency is 7108 but digital and SSB have been observed on these so tune around.

The late sessions will continue on 80 meters, with stations sent to 40 to pass traffic if needed. CAN and WAN have moved to 40.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NC 1	Open	N5RL	Open	W9VE	N5RL	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	Open	Open	KZ5Z	N5RL	Open	No Net	Open

NC 2	Open	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	Open	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	Open	Open	KZ5Z	KZ5Z	KZ5Z	No Net	Open
RN5 1	N5RL	KZ5Z	Open	KZ5Z	Open	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	Open	Open	KZ5Z	Open	Open	No Net	Open
RN5 2	W5CU	K6JT	K5RG	K6JT	Open	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	Open	KZ5Z	W5CU	KZ5Z	Open	No Net	Open
TTN/7290	Open	N5RL/KZ5Z	Open	KZ5Z/N5RL	Open	Nada	Open

TEX/1: **7108**/3541/3593 at 19:00 CT; TEX/2 **3541**/3593/1841 at 22:00 CT
RN5/1: **7108**/3567 at 19:30; RN5/2: **3567**/7108/3598 at 21:30 CT
CAN: **7052**/3552/3590/7108 - 20:30 CT; WAN: **3552**/7052 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: K5RG, N5RL, KZ5Z, W5CU

NCS Backup: K5RG, N5RL, KZ5Z, W5CU

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	* K5KV	Benny	Star
N5BA	Brian	Houston	* W6LFB	Jim	Denton
WA5CAV	Dick	Pineville LA	WA5MS	Marty	Argyle
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK, /0 CO	NM5M	Eric	Plano
N5CXX	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)	N7NET	Scott	Crossett AR
W5DAE	Don	San Angelo	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
W5DY	Rodney	Silent Key 3/31/23	W5OMR	Geoff	San Antonio
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5FEA	Jim	Graham	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
K5GM	Pete	Tennessee	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
KM0I	John	Hattiesburg MS	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
KA9IKK	Bill	Katy	W9VE	Don	Dallas
* K5IX	Dave	Brackettville/Del Rio	WB5VIH	Dave	Merkel
K5JFB	Jim	Fort Worth	NA5YO	Doug	Palacios
K6JT	Steve	Plano	KZ5Z	Jon	Springer OK

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

June 2023:

Don, W5DAE, took first place with 50 (96%), Jon, KZ5Z, was second with 48 (92%), and Randy, N5RL, was third with 41 (79%). Thanks again to all who checked in.

Visitors: NS7E, Art, in Winters, TX

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note there were 52 sessions reported out of a possible 52 (no Saturday nets). Traffic averaged 0.60 per net session (0.4 last month). Net time averaged 8.7 minutes per session (8.3 last month). Check-ins averaged 3.7 per session (3.9 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (June 2023)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
W5CU	Sam	4	4				
*		0					
W5DAE	Don	25	50				
		25					
K5IX	Dave	12	15				
		3					
K6JT	Steve	0	14				
*		14		14	9		14
K5RG	Ken	0	5				
*		5			5		
N5RL	Randy	20	41	6			
*		21					
W9VE	Don	14	16	5			14
		2					
KZ5Z	Jon	24	48	16	23	3	
	OK	24		11	12		
Totals		193		52	49	3	28
				100%	94%	6%	54%
QTC 1		10	31				
QTC 2		21	Sessions:		52		
Time 1		265	454				
Time 2		189					

July 2023:

Jon, KZ5Z, was 1st with 51 (98%), Don, W5DAE, was 2nd with 38 (73%), and Randy, N5RL, was 3rd with 35 (67%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in. It was good to see Jim, W5FEA, checking in again.

Visitors: Chris, WS7V, Dallas

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note that there were 52 sessions reported out of a possible 52 (no Saturdays). Traffic averaged 0.58 per net session (0.60 last month). Net time averaged 8.3 minutes per session (8.7 last month). Check-ins averaged 3.4 per session (3.7 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (July 2023)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
W5CU	Sam	5	5				
*		0					
W5DAE	Don	14	38				
		24					
W5FEA	Jim	0	2				
*		2					
K5IX	Dave	10	14				
		4					
K6JT	Steve	0	11				
*		11		11	7		11
K5RG	Ken	0	4				
*		4			4		
N5RL	Randy	20	35	5			
*		15					
WX7V	Chris	0	1				
	Dallas	1					
W9VE	Don	14	14	3			14
		0					
KZ5Z	Jon	26	51	18	26	2	
		25		15	15		
Totals		175		52	52	2	25
				100%	100%	4%	48%
QTC 1		4	30				
QTC 2		26		Sessions:		52	
Time 1		240	432				
Time 2		192					

Operating:

Both traffic and check-ins were down both months. Thanks to those of you who continue to support TEX, but we can really use some more traffic and net members.

40 meters seems to be working well for early TEX and RN5. It can also work for the late RN5 net, as shown by some operation during the last month. Sunspots are increasing along with better evening propagation on the higher frequencies.

Again, special thanks to Jon, KZ5Z, who covers the majority of TEX sessions and RN5 both early and late.

Here are the composite reports for the last 2 months for traffic handled at the region and above levels. Traffic totals were down in June but up again in July, mostly from an increase in

digital. VE1IJ is active from Nova Scotia again so we are seeing traffic from Glenn who just installed an amplifier and also NX9K/N9VC started up again after a little vacation.

Central US Nets Activity for June 2023

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 th Call Area	13	52	58	68	0.765
Day 9 th Call Area	13	185	87	83	2.229
Day 10 th Call Area	13	12	46	64	0.188
Night 5 th Call Area**	52	106	190	445	0.238
Night 9 th Call Area	51	271	188	296	0.916
Night 10 th Call Area	53	41	140	233	0.176
Day Central US	13	124	107	235	0.528
Night Central US @	30	357	154	435	0.821
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	75	38		97%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	80	211	79		98%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1556	1062	1938	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		165	103	62	
N9VC Central Area 9RN/TEN		3069	1271	1798	
Digital Stations (11)		350	176	174	
Total DTN Digital		3584			
Total Central US		5140			
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager - thanks to NCS stations for statistics					

Central US Nets Activity for July 2023

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 th Call Area	13	35	55	65	0.538
Day 9 th Call Area	13	206	83	74	2.784
Day 10 th Call Area	13	11	52	73	0.151
Night 5 th Call Area**	52	131	206	518	0.253
Night 9 th Call Area	55	248	188	367	0.676

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Night 10 th Call Area	51	27	123	218	0.124
Day Central US	13	105	103	222	0.473
Night Central US @	31	313	156	386	0.811
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	64	39		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	82	200	74		90%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1340	1079	1923	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		431	249	182	
N9VC Central Area 9RN/10RN		3976	1601	2375	
Digital Stations (11)		265	131	134	
Total DTN Digital		4672			
Total Central US		6012			
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager, thanks to NC Stations for statistics					

DTN Access:

KE5YTA Pactor 1800-0600 CT Mon/Tue and Tue/Wed, Wed 1800 to Mon 0600
Center Frequencies: DTN 3591, 7103, and 14098; RMS Winlink 3.589 and 7.1024

N9VC Pactor + VARA 24/7 except when on HF Nets

Center Frequencies (both Pactor/VARA) 3591.9, 3593.9, 7102.4, 14110.4

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

Wishing everyone a Cooler Summer and Good Health in 2023.

Until October, 73, Steve K6JT
TEX Newsletter Editor and Statistician

Note that TSN Corner has been discontinued and the net is no longer active. It has also been eliminated from the net statistics tables.

RN5 Corner

RRI Fifth Call Area Net (Daily) 1930 CT on **7108** and 2130 CT on **3567**

Alternate Frequency 3567 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 91 of the **RN5 Corner**.

Thanks again to those who support RN5 and especially to the NCS stations for their reports. All nights were covered and reported (other than Saturdays, which remain optional).

Jon, KZ5Z, continues to either check in or control every RN5 session. Sam, W5CU, is again operating from his Colorado QTH and will be there much of the remainder of the summer. Who can blame him with the 100+ temperatures we have been having here. 40 works well for Sam, both early and late RN5. Sam and Ken are the only ones besides me regularly assigned to go to CAN. Sam and Jon are the only ones who take outgoing RN5 traffic there. We need more help with CAN liaisons.

Another Thanks to Jack, K5WNU, who continues being NCS on many RN5 sessions, as you can see in the statistics below. His wife has had some health issues so Jack had been away to take care of her. Both are back home now.

Here is a list of the stations sending NC reports for June and July (in order from earliest date station first reported that month). Thanks to everyone for supporting RN5. NCS slots are filled, but there are a lot of empty CAN liaison slots.

June: W5CU 8, K5WNU 19, K6JT 9, KZ5Z 16

July: K5WNU 20, KZ5Z 19, W5CU 6, K6JT 7

Thanks to all for your support of RN5, especially regulars WA5CAV, W5CU, K5WNU, KZ5Z, K6JT, N5RL and K5RG. John KC4FL, Dean W8IM, and Ben KZ8Q, also check in from FL some nights.

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. Jon also checks into TEX so TX traffic can be sent to him if no other TEX liaison.

Jon reports if anyone needs another outlet for Alabama or Tennessee traffic, K4OTM from San Angelo will often take those. He is on the 7290 net almost every day.

TN traffic can be sent to Jim, WA4VGZ, who is the manager of daytime RN5 and located in TN. Use WA4VGZ@Winlink.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@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	(No net)	KZ5Z
NCS #2	K5WNU	K6JT	W5CU	K6JT	K5WNU	(No net)	KZ5Z
CAN TX	Open	Open	W5CU	Open	Open	(No net)	Open
CAN RX	Open	Open	W5CU	K6JT	Open	(No net)	Open
DRN5	Open	K6JT	K5RG	K6JT	Open	(No net)	Open

2023 Statistics

MONTH	June	July
SESSIONS	52	52
QTC	106	131
QNI	190	206
QTR	445	518
AVG QTC	2.0	2.5
AVG QNI	3.7	4.0
AVG QTR	8.6	10.0

The following roster shows stations coming to RN5 in the past 5 years and their states.

Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	State	Call	Name	State
WB5BNV	FRED	MS	K6JT	STEVE	TX
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	WD5JTZ	MIKE	LA
W5CU	SAM	OK / CO	WB4LAL	IKE	AL
W4DLZ	FRANK	(SK)	KZ8Q	BEN	FL
W5DY	RODNEY	(SK)	K5RG	KEN	TX
W5FEA	JIM	TX	N5RL	RANDY	TX
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
K5GM	PETE	TN	K5WNU	JACK	MS
W8IM	DEAN	FL	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