The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

** See "TSN Corner" on Last Pages **

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Field Day

Thanks to Floyd, N5EL, for taking Field Day NCS on early TEX and being ready to also take late TEX. We did not have very many stations check in, but we did manage to handle some traffic for extra FD points for at least 2 clubs. Scott, W5ESE, operating at KE5LOT, had messages for many of you ready but alas, only a couple were able to be passed. Next year, if you are operating at a FD site, try to QNI TEX at 7 to pass some traffic. The 10 extra points per message handled (100 for a message to your SM or SEC) quickly outweigh the time spent (and "loss" of QSO points). See "Operating" later in the newsletter for a great FD description.

TSN Corner

Take a look at the "new" TSN corner at the end of this newsletter. Pat, KD5TXD, who is a fine writer, as you know from her inputs to the TEX Mailbox, has done her first one in her new position as TSN manager. Looks good to me, although Pat stated that she "does not like computers" much. Lucky for us, she does like radios ☺

Sunspots at Last ! ?

The most recent "Traffic Call" newsletter contains the following story regarding why the Solar Cycle start seems to be "stalled" a bit. I found it to be quite interesting and I think you will too. It gives me some hope that conditions will soon start to improve significantly. Thanks to Sis, WD8DIN, the editor of "Traffic Call", for this article:

Sonograms of the Sun explain mystery of the missing sunspots
Provided by AAS Press Conference

Scientists from the National Solar Observatory (NSO) in Tucson, Arizona, have discovered that a solar jet stream deep inside the Sun is migrating slower than usual through the star's interior, giving rise to the current lack of sunspots and low solar activity. The group is presenting their findings this week at the meeting of the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomical Society (AAS/SPD).

The Sun normally undergoes an 11-year cycle of magnetic activity related to sunspots, solar flares, and the interplanetary storms called coronal mass ejections (CMEs). The current "solar

minimum" quiet period has been unusually long and deep, confounding scientists who hope to understand the origins of space weather and the Sun's magnetic field.

Rachel Howe and Frank Hill, both of the NSO, used long-term observations from the NSO's Global Oscillation Network Group (GONG) facility to detect and track an east-to-west jet stream, known as the torsional oscillation, at depths of about 600 to 4,300 miles (1,000 to 7,000 kilometers) below the surface of the Sun. The Sun generates new jet streams near its poles every 11 years. The streams migrate slowly, over a period of 17 years, to the equator and are associated with the production of sunspots once they reach a critical latitude of 22°.

Howe and Hill found that the stream associated with the new solar cycle has moved sluggishly, taking 3 years to cover a 10° range in latitude compared to 2 years for the last solar cycle, but has now reached the critical latitude. The current solar minimum has become so long and deep, some scientists have speculated the Sun might enter a long period with no sunspot activity at all. The new result shows that the Sun's internal magnetic dynamo continues to operate and heralds the beginning of a new cycle of solar activity.

"It is exciting to see that just as this sluggish stream reaches the usual active latitude of 22°, a year late, we finally begin to see new groups of sunspots emerging at the new active latitude," said Hill. Since the current minimum is now 1 year longer than usual, Howe and Hill conclude that the extended solar minimum phase may have resulted from the slower migration of the flow.

GONG and its sister instrument SOHO/MDI measure sound waves on the surface of the Sun. Scientists can use the sound waves to probe structures deep in the interior of the star, in a process analogous to a sonogram in a medical office. "Using the global sound wave inversions, we have been able to reveal the intimate connection between subtle changes in the Sun's interior and the sunspot cycle on its surface," said Hill.

"This is an important piece of the solar activity puzzle," said Dean Pesnell, of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. "It shows how flows inside the Sun are related to the creation of solar activity and how the timing of the solar cycle might be produced. None of the forecasting research groups predicted the current long extended delay in the new cycle. There is a lot more to learn in order to understand how the Sun creates magnetic fields."

The new science of helioseismology, enabled by instruments such as the ground-based GONG, the Michelson Doppler Imager aboard the SOHO spacecraft, and NASA's planned Solar Dynamics Observatory, has revolutionized understanding of the solar interior. "While the surface effects of the Sun's torsional oscillations have been observed for some time, understanding of the dynamo and the origin of sunspots depend on measurements of the solar interior that are only possible with helioseismic techniques," said Hill.

W1NJM Saga

Thanks to Sis, WD8DIN, the editor of the “Traffic Call” newsletter of the Hit and Bounce Net (HBN – 0730 CT, 7042 KHz M-F, 7114 KHz S-S), for passing along George Hart’s saga of the “early days”. Here's Part 27 of George Hart's recollections, Geo gets into the "swing" of things at W1AW.

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

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

Chapter 27 - The Dedication of the new W1AW

The dedication was conducted under a canopy erected in front of the station; fortunately the weather cooperated. It was broadcast locally over Hartford radio station WDRC and nationally over the Columbia Broadcasting System. Among the speakers were representatives from the Town of Newington and the State of Connecticut, plus dignitaries from manufacturers who had donated equipment to W1AW, President Woodruff, General Manager Warner and a few amateur radio dignitaries. At the conclusion of the program, President Woodruff pulled aside draperies that had been erected over the memorial plaque and everybody stood up and applauded.

This was by no means the end of the dedication activities. That evening Hal and I conducted the Maxim Memorial Relay. It was the first official on-the-air activity from the new station. As had been announced in QST, the procedure was to make as many contacts as possible and receive messages of congratulations on W1AW's dedication. During the evening, crew members of radio station WTIC arrived and conducted an on-the-air live interview with Communications Manager F.E. Handy, W1BDI. I happened to be operating the station at the time when they started setting up right in front of me. When they started the interview I ceased operating, thinking that the noise of the keying relays would be a distraction, but a WTIC crew member motioned me to continue operating. Apparently the background noise was desired while Mr. Handy was describing what was taking place. It was my first time ever on broadcast radio.

When the interview was concluded, WTIC dismantled their gear and departed, as did Mr. Handy, leaving Hal and me to continue the conduct of the Maxim Memorial Relay. We operated in shifts throughout the night, until 6 a.m., when we closed up the station and went home, after handling several hundred messages and making contact with amateur stations all over the world.

We settled down into a routine. Hal spending the afternoon hours at the station doing maintenance and construction work. I showed up at 9 p.m. to tend to on-the-air operating schedule and do paper work. Actually, I seldom went home at 3 a.m. when my shift ended, but continued to operate until dawn or after. It was a rare pleasure to have stations calling you by the score each time you stood by after a contact, for the W1AW signal was not only outstanding, the station had received a lot of publicity in the amateur radio world and amateurs everywhere were eager to "work" us and get our QSL (confirmation) cards.

It was a new kind of amateur operating for me. I even used phone during these early morning periods when I could operate on any band and by whatever mode I pleased. Most of it was CW, but I do remember one morning about dawn I was called by VK2JZ ("vee kye two jye zee") in Australia. He was calling "W1IW" and at first I didn't realize he was calling me. Even when he gave his own call as pronounced above I didn't tumble and tried to correct him. He continued to call me "W1IW". I'd never heard an Australian accent before. His signal was

very strong and he said I was the strongest signal on the band and it was very strange ("strynge"). I think he doubted I was in eastern U.S., or suspected I was using illegal power. I was using a kilowatt on 20 meters. After this contact a whole herd lf Aussies landed on me. The rhombic antenna was really working.

Staying on after my shift was overdeveloped into a habit - a bad one, as it turned out. I would operate until 7 a.m. or so, then close up the station and go into Hartford and have breakfast at a White Tower restaurant on the corner of Main and Park Streets where I had struck up an acquaintance with a waitress. It was usually “way past 8” before I got back to Annawan Street and tumbled into my bed, listening to the hucksters peddling their wares. Often I was so keyed up that I was unable to sleep and lay awake contemplating this new life. Once asleep, I would sleep deeply until late afternoon, go to the White Tower for supper, then a movie, then report to W1AW for my shift.

On free weekends I would often go home to Easton or, if funds were low, to a couple of movies or go out to W1AW and "hang around," sometimes attending the station while Hal went elsewhere on personal business. On several occasions I worked for Hal on weekends, at his request and promise to make it up to me, and during the week I would sometimes come in early so he could keep a dinner date. I had little else to do so I didn't really mind, and Hal soon seemed to take it for granted that I would work in his place whenever he asked. What he didn't know was that I was keeping careful record of the hours I was putting in on his behalf, just in case at some later date I would want to collect. Many hours of "owed time" were piled up in this manner. Eventually, the irregular schedule, poor meals, too much smoking and lack of exercise took its toll on my health, and I soon realized I was living a lonely and somewhat dejected existence. I was 25 years old.

On several free weekends during this period I decided to travel to Coudersport and visit Louise. I would ask Hal to swap shifts with me on Friday so I could leave at 9 p.m. and revert to our normal schedule on Monday so I wouldn't be back on shift until 9 p.m. Hal was usually willing to do this as I often did it for him on his free weekends. It was some 365 miles to Coudersport by the short route, and before superhighways; through many towns and cities all replete with twists and turns, traffic lights, up and down steep hills and often quite bumpy roads. The trip took about ten hours, from Hartford to Poughkeepsie, crossing the Hudson River, Binghamton, Elmira, thence down into Pennsylvania and Coudersport, a grueling journey, fighting sleep all the way. Once I went into a trance after passing through Binghamton and didn't come out of it until 30 or 40 miles later when a bump in the road alerted me. I had been driving in this condition through a number of traffic lights, intersections and other landmarks I had no recollection of passing. The incident frightened me so that I stopped at an all-night diner in Elmira for coffee then at a Sunoco station to get gas. On future trips I habitually made these two stops and became acquainted with members of the night crews.

I particularly remember the gas station attendant, a young fellow named Church. He and I became quite friendly. I would arrive at the Stebbins' Coudersport residence at about 8 a.m. They would give me some breakfast, then I would take Louise's sister to work after which I would hit the sack until about noon, when Louise would awaken me and we would spend the day together. Sleep was less important than the many other social activities during those idyllic weekends. On Monday morning I would get back into my little Chevy coupe (I had sold the Willys for the same price I had bought it, $75) and head back to Hartford, arriving in time

to start my shift at 9 p.m. and try to stay awake until 3 a.m. Those weekends took a lot out of me, and I relate them only as an ancillary part of my early amateur radio career at W1AW. Such asides may seem unimportant to the main subject, but they are a definite part of it.

Coming in Chapter 28 - The Hurricane

TEX Mailbox:

As promised last month, here is the Book Report submitted by **Pat, KD5TXD**. Seems like it goes well with the article earlier in this newsletter. Thanks again, Pat!

Book Report: "The Sun Kings – the Unexpected Tragedy of Richard Carrington and the Tale of How Modern Astronomy Began" by Stuart Clark. As I sit lamenting the delay of the start of the new Solar Cycle 24 I happened across this interesting book. When we moved to the Wild Horse Desert I took up two new hobbies, astronomy and amateur radio. I didn't expect the two to have any linkage, but they are bound by the effects of our sun and the cosmic void we are rushing through. I was listening on my K2 to some of the largest solar flares ever recorded within the first couple years of getting my amateur license. What a thrill!!

Along the way I had stumbled across the story of Richard Carrington and his viewing of the great solar flare of 1859. That seriously affected the telegraph systems of the age. The telegraph is the predecessor of our modern CW Morse code. How cool is that?? It is all linked together. This book goes into great detail on Carrington and the other "Sun Kings" of the age.

The book examines the lives and research of the great astronomy and physics minds of the 1800's starting with William Herschel and his ponderings on how the sun's activities affected the price of wheat. He was laughed at. The book closes with a list of very modern researchers and their findings of just how much the sun and even the universe affect our atmosphere and a tiny note that William Herschel probably was correct in his theory.

Each of the folks who advanced our knowledge of the sun's activities had a nemesis. Just like Oliver Heavyside had a nemesis, Richard Carrington was at odds with the scientific elite of the age. Carrington witnessed the connection between sun spots and coronal mass ejections. He noted the magnetic disturbances caused by solar activity. He carefully recorded his findings and tried to verify what he had seen with what other witnesses had encountered. The attitude of the age was that there was "no acceptance without proof, and the more extraordinary the claim, the more extraordinary the proof required". The solar/magnetic link to earth was real. Seems a lot different from our modern whimsical acceptance of whatever popular theory is presented sans careful examination of opposing views.

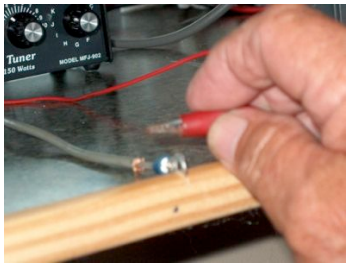
William Herschel, Richard Carrington, and Edward Maunder were proved correct with the passing of time and the addition of new research techniques. Today's "Sun Kings" are facing battle with the political global warming elite of this age in exactly the

same way their predecessors battled the elite of the 1800's. So, as I sit and lament the lack of sunspots for my radio to use I found it stunning that modern researchers were using tree rings and carbon-14 to determine that the last 70 years have had more solar magnetic activity than in the last 8,000 years. Wow!!

Oh, the tragedy of Carrington was that he married unwisely and fell into a scandalous situation with his wife being stabbed by a lover. Carrington committed suicide in a state of depression. A brilliant mind was lost to us.

On the bright side of Victorian relationships for these great thinkers was Edward Maunder's "lady computer". Back in Victorian days women weren't welcome in the scientific world. However, Maunder wasn't a whiz with math so a "lady computer", Annie Russell, was hired to assist him with the mathematics required for his research. It was a match made in heaven and they worked as a team to make the discoveries and do the solar research that we value today.

What a fun book. If anyone would like to borrow it, just let me know. Thanks and 73!!
Pat KD5TXD



Rodney, W5DY, went on a road trip to Abilene last month. He was able to operate from his RV and QNI TEX. However, Rodney forgot an important piece of equipment – his bug and straight key! Not to be kept away from his beloved TEX, he was able to fashion what he called a "high tech" key as shown at left. Well, at least he had a nice comfortable looking "mobile shack", as you can see in the picture at the right.

Tom, K4VIZ, the "interim" manager of RN5, sent the following report about our beloved brother Jim, KB5W: Jim Leist / KB5W passed away Monday June 22, 2009. He will be buried at Quantico Marine Corps Base with full military Honors. Jim's request was no flowers or cards. A contribution to the Shriner's Hospitals for Crippled or Burned children would be appreciated. He was 74 years old.

It's really sad to see an old friend go. He was my hero, a Marine's Marine. He had a Silver star, did behind the lines recon in "Nam" and took out Cong comm centers. Never lost a man. Took out a machine gun nest by himself. What a guy!!!!! His motto (and now mine also) is "Adapt, Improvise, Overcome." He is sorely missed.

Dave, W4ZJY, the acting Central Area Staff Chairman, sent along his farewell to Jim and also information about the CAS members. This is the first time I've seen a full list, so I am passing it along to you for your information. Dave wrote:

It has been a sad loss of our friend and OT Jim, KB5W. "Happy trails Jim, and CUL on down the trail." God Bless... Jim has been the hardest working and most devoted NTS OPR that I have ever known. ... and I have been active in NTS for a long time since the early 1950's. The NTS and this great hobby of ours hasn't just been a hit and miss game for Jim, it was a solid and genuine full time effort from him, ...100%, that's for sure! It is hard to find the right words to really describe his devotion and dedication to public service (Picon) and the NTS, but one thing for sure is that Jim would want us to continue to move forward with our restoration and revival efforts for the NTS, and certainly to stay the course. We area staff members shall continue to face the ongoing struggles, challenges, and hard times ahead in the present and future NTS operations and successes. So gang, lets continue to meet those challenges with a solid firm and positive grip, and full speed ahead.

For your info, I have attached below our most current and updated CAS roster. A selection process will be initiated in the near future to fill the open positions on a permanent basis, and possibly address other issues. More details will follow later.

73, Dave W4ZJY
Acting CAS Chair

NTS Staff - Central Area

Chair		**OPEN**	**Acting W4ZJY**
Member at Large	Steve	N0SM	
Member at Large	Frank	W4DLZ	
Manager RN5 Cycle 1	Leon	WB5ZED	
Manager RN5 Cycle 2	Leon	WB5ZED	
Manager RN5 Cycle 3		**OPEN**	**Acting K4VIZ**
Manager RN5 Cycle 4		**OPEN**	**Acting K4VIZ**
Manager 9RN Cycle 1	Vernon	NA9L	
Manager 9RN Cycle 2	Vernon	NA9L	
Manager 9RN Cycle 3	Steve	N9CK	
Manager 9RN Cycle 4	Steve	N9CK	
Manager TEN Cycle 1		**OPEN**	**Acting K0MDV**
Manager TEN Cycle 2		**OPEN**	**Acting K0MDV**
Manager TEN Cycle 3	Dave	W0SS	
Manager TEN Cycle 4	Dave	W0SS	
Manager CAN Cycle 1	Richard	NF5B	
Manager CAN Cycle 2	Richard	NF5B	
Manager CAN Cycle 3	John	W3FAF	
Manager CAN Cycle 4	John	W3FAF	
TCC Cycle 1	Dave	W4ZJY	
TCC Cycle 2	Dave	W4ZJY	
TCC Cycle 3	Pete	K5GM	
TCC Cycle 4	Pete	K5GM	
Area Digital Coordinator	Dave	W4ZJY	
Associate Staff	Sam	W5CU	
Associate Staff	Mickey	K5MC	
Associate Staff	Jim	N0JL	
Associate Staff	Benson	AE5V	

Bert, AC5Z, has been having both keyboard and antenna problems. He wrote: "I got my antenna back up after Field Day and have had nothing but problems. It's old but hadn't been

acting up. Since it is old, I'm planning to build another G5RV and provide a new twin lead feed line. I hope to have it up by Thursday evening in time for the TEX CW Net. 73, Bert

Good luck, Bert. Hope you get back on TEX in good shape soon.

TEX Net Topics

With the vacation schedules and departure of some TEX members, we missed one early TEX net this past month. That is the first time in my recollection that it has happened in the last 4 years since I took on the manager's job. Yes, it will be 4 years next month that I wrote the first newsletter, which you can still see on the TEX website. Sure does not seem like it has been that long. Some things have changed in those 4 years, but we are still going strong, thanks to all of you and your support. Hopefully the upcoming improvement in conditions will give us a bit of a "breather" from those awful winter long-skip nights.

We still have many open RN5 slots. As a result, we missed several skeds last month. Please consider filling one or more of the open slots as a regular or even backup station. If you can only take one of the NCS or liaison slots a given night, such as early RN5, that would be fine. We have ***16*** open NCS/liaison slots, with ***8*** open *primary* RN5 slots (all shown in **red**)! Thanks again to Sam, W5CU, Scott, W5ESE, Ken, K5RG, and Rodney, W5DY, who have been filling the majority of the openings. It is also great to have Doug, KA5KLU, back checking in regularly again, and also livening things up with lots of traffic from Arley and Pat. Thanks, Doug, for taking some of the RN5 slots. Any chance you would like to have your old Tuesday NCS and liaison slots back again? As you can see below, they are available.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	***Open***	KD5TXD	AC5Z	K6JT	AC5Z	W5GKH
Backup	***Open***	***Open***	W5DY	W5DY	KD5TXD	W5DY	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	***Open***	KD5TXD	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	***Open***	K6JT	***Open***	K6JT
RN5 #1	W5GKH	***Open***	W5CU	***Open***	***Open***	***Open***	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	***Open***	W5DY	***Open***	W5ESE	W5ESE	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	***Open***	W5CU	***Open***	***Open***	***Open***	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT	W5DY	W5GKH

TEX/1: **3541** at 19:00 local; TEX/2 **3541** at 22:00 local
RN5/1: **7105**/3567 at 19:30; RN5/2: 3567 at 21:30 local
TSN: 3552 - 19:45 local; CAN: 7052/3552 - 20:30 local; PAN: 7052/3552/3557- 22:30 local

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, KA5KLU, K5RG
NCS Backup: W5DY, N5EL, K6JT, KA5KLU, KD5TXD, AC5Z

Statistics:

Traffic count came up a lot this past month, largely thanks to Doug (and Pat, WB5NKD). QNI also improved slightly. Pat, KD5TXD, with 34 (57%) took top QNI for the month, followed by

Rodney, W5DY, with 30 (51%), and Floyd, N5EL, and Scott, W5ESE, tied for 3rd with 24 each (41%). Thanks to all who checked in for your support.

We had Phil, KD5MMM, visit us from Fentress. Phil came to us via TSN. Please welcome him and QRS when he checks in. NCS stations are reminded to always slow down to the speed at which a new station checks in. It is the courteous and friendly thing to do. We also had Cal, WF5W, visit us from Tomball. David, KM5YQ, also came to us via TSN. He is on the roster, and I updated his QTH to Dallas from Irving, per the FCC database.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.9 per net session (up from 1.9 last month). Net time averaged 14.8 minutes per session (compared to 12.6 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.3 per session (up from 5.0).

TEX Net Statistics (June 2009)

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
W5CU	Sam	9	18		7				
*		9			8				
W5DY	Rodney	15	30	2	5				
		15		2	4				
N5EL	Floyd	23	24	2	1				
*		1							
W5ESE	Scott	24	24		8	1		22	16
*		0							
W5GKH	Charlie	8	16	8	4				
*		8		7	4				
K5GM	Pete	5	5						
*		0							
AA5J	Chuck	4	6	2	2				2
*		2		2	2				
K6JT	Steve	13	43	5			13		
*		30		9	9		30		
KA5KLU	Doug	9	10		1				
*		1							
W6LFB	Jim	2	2						
*		0							
KD5MMM	Phil	1	1						
	Fentress	0							
WA5MUF	Bill	4	8						
*		4							
N5NVP	Jim	0	8						
		8							
N5PWG	Jay	6	13						
*		7		2					
K5RG	Ken	7	23						
*		16			1				
W5TMO	Mike	1	20						
*		19							
W5TV	Tom	1	1						
		0							
KD5TXD	Pat	17	34	6		14			1
*		17		7		1			2

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
W5UFK	Ken	3	5						
*		2							
WF5W	Cal	1	1						
	Tomball	0							
KM5YQ	David	0	2						
*		2							
AC5Z	Bert	16	16	5					
*		0							
Totals		310		59	56	16	43	22	21
				98%	93%	27%	72%	37%	35%
QTC 1		85	171						
QTC 2		86		Sessions:		60			
Time 1		470	873						
Time 2		403							

TEX Roster

	Call	Name	Location / Notes		Call	Name	Location / Notes
	N5AF	Sam	Cleveland		WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
	KW5AS	Skip	Victoria (ex-KA8IXC)	#	N7NET	Scott	McKinney
	N5BA	Brian	Houston		KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
	W5CDX	Wads	Crowley LA		WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City OK
	W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	#	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
	NV5D	Martin	Allen	*	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
*	W5DY	Rodney	Goliad		K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
	N5EL	Floyd	Temple		K5RG	Ken	Houston
*	W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs		W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
	W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia		W5SBE	Larry	Austin
	K5GM	Pete	Austin		KC5T	Bob	Houston
	W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio		W5TFB	Jack	College Station
	KA9IKK	Bill	Houston	#	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
	AA5J	Lee	Plano		W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
	KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	*	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
	K5JRN	Si	Denton		AI6U	Chris	Sacramento (CA)
	K6JT	Steve	Plano	#	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
	KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	*	K5UN	Lee	Leonard
	W5KNN	Ed	Bulverde (was KS5V)		K5WQG	Eddy	Tomball
	K5KV	Benny	Star	#	KM5YQ	David	Dallas
	W6LFB	Jim	Denton	*	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches (Lufkin)
	WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village		W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

Not Capable of operating in 3600-3700 band; * Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

I was kind of surprised that I did not receive any comments about Bud, W2RU's article last issue. I guess you were all in general agreement.

Only one operating item I would like to mention (again): When sent off frequency to handle traffic, it is the receiving station that picks the frequency and calls the station that has the traffic.

Also, try to get as close to the assigned frequency (up 2, down 3, etc.) from the current NCS frequency when choosing the side frequency. If the NCS has moved a little to avoid QRM, take that into account. For example, if the NCS is on 3540.5 and says “down 3”, try to use 3537.5 instead of 3538 (which would be 3 from the normal TEX frequency). Of course, if there is QRM on the assigned frequency, then move up or down from there, but try to keep it within plus or minus 1 KHz.

Field Day in the Wild Horse Desert by Pat, KD5TXD

The Wild Horse Desert Hams had spent months and months getting antennas ready for Field Day 2009. We planned a big splash for our Field Day this year. The club voted...you remember about our local democracy, don't you...to use the flag poles at the Visitors Center for our wire antennas. The Visitor's Center was kind enough to invite us again for Field Day. The Texas Forest Service had left our EOC radio room just a couple weeks back, but we had to make arrangements for a place for Field Day ahead of time enough to properly prepare.

To use the flag poles properly we would have to extend the legs of the wire antennas and tie downs outside the property line of the Visitors Center. Well, the neighbor is the Kleberg County Impound Center. We would need proper official permission to string our antennas across the fence. Now a couple club members noted that there was a hole in the fence and we should be able to just slip over and tie down. Well, I wasn't about to let that happen for fear our antenna committee would be "impounded" for trespassing. The club voted that Charles would go visit the county Sheriff and secure official permission. Now the Sheriff is an elected official of the county. This is not election year so we weren't hopeful about getting permission. However, Charles did his job very well. He secured a vote of confidence from the Kleberg County EMC. The Sheriff welcomed Charles with open arms and after two hours of shooting the breeze gave permission and an invite for the hams to use the whole facility. That might be a frightening experience for next Field Day.

Saturday morning the antenna committee arrived bright and early to string antennas. They wanted to get the job done before it got really hot. Well, it got really hot really fast. We discovered a problem upon arrival. The door that we had run our antennas out of last year had been boarded up. One member of the antenna committee suggested we drill a hole in the wall of the Visitors Center to make an antenna port. Ummm...the director was not around to give permission for that adventure. After a good deal of discussion the club took a vote. I deeply fear these votes. One of our members is good pals with the director of the Visitors Center and he declared that the director wouldn't mind at all having us drill a hole in the wall. The club voted to drill the hole and make the antenna port with one dissenting vote.

Field Day started and the band was pathetic. We called and called and called on every frequency we could muster and only caught a couple stations. Visitors flowed into the center and ooo'ed and awed at the radios. The antenna committee had just gotten out the drill and started drilling the hole in the wall when the director walked in. I rushed over and greeted her (secretly hoping she wouldn't notice the fellows in the corner drilling a hole in her building). She was so pleased to see all the visitors swarming the center, and signed our visitor log for the club, and then... The fellows started up the drill. The director flew off her feet and spun 180 degrees. "What's that???" I immediately declared it was KA5WPK's fault. The antenna committee left me standing there stammering and stuttering about how she wouldn't notice at all that there is a hole in her wall after we get done and we can use the hole next year for

Field Day. (Hmmm...would there be a next year?) After hearing the explanation she said it was OK. My heart stopped racing and the panic sweat subsided from my brow. Fortunately we racked up a record number of visitors for the center over the weekend so the director was happy. That is how the Visitors Center pays its bills, from the number of visitors that come through Kingsville.

I went home for a nap and the crew worked the radios for the evening on Saturday. I came back about 10:00 p.m. and started pounding brass. Well, I am slow. I am improving as I was no longer forced to look for the slowest people to make contact with. I used my straight key so I would be sending slow enough that folks would slow down for me. TEX folks know me and still kindly slow down for me even though I am sending faster than I can easily copy. I racked up 59 contacts before 8:00 a.m. I was punchy by then. 40 meters and 80 meters CW was smoking all night long. If I could just get a little faster I could really wow the club. One of our members is actually starting to do some CW so maybe it is all worth the effort.

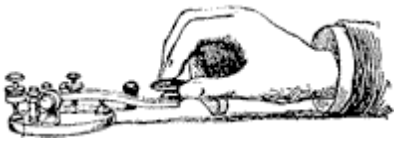
We had expected our ARES DEC to come visit us on Sunday morning. He is a member of the giant Corpus Christi club, STARC. He came over on his motorcycle. The antenna committee rushed out to admire his ride. He had a good visit with our club. He commented that we really did things right...we secured an air conditioned facility for our Field Day. STARC was out in the park under a tent with the heat and the bugs the way Field Day is supposed to be. As he rode off into the sunrise the antenna committee did high fives all round congratulating themselves on the air conditioning and flag pole antennas.

Our Field Day score was not something to write home about. But our fun score was a record breaker. Thanks and 73!! Pat KD5TXD

Until next month,

73, Steve

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)



The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT

TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3552.0 KHz +/- QRM
Web Page Returning Soon
Pat Allison KD5TXD (pja@atcweb.com)
TSN Net Manager

Greetings from the new Net Manager

Hi to all!! I am looking forward to working with all of the TSN folks. TSN and OTN are the two nets that helped me build up my CW speed and confidence. Scott and Chuck really did a great job with TSN over the last few years. It will be a real test to try to fill their shoes. I am still working on getting our TSN web page set up after AA5J's departure. Thanks for all your help and encouragement.

June 2009 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	State	Call	Name	City	State
N5AF	SAM	Cleveland	TX	KE5LOT	Club	Fentress	TX
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	WA5LOU	Lou	Kennard	TX
KD5CB	Mike	Hillsboro	TX	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	WA5MUF	Bill	Stafford	TX
W0CXX	Steve	Cedar Rapids	IA	N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	TX	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
K5END	Larry	Spring	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	K4OSO	Milt	Rockville	VA
WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS	K9PUI	Rich	Indianapolis	IN
WB9FLU	Bill	Columbus	IN	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
WB5GFU	Al	Alamo	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park	TX	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
AE5GT	Clint	Wimberley	TX	KA5TJS	Allen	San Augustine	TX
KA8IXC	Dan	Victoria (KF5AS)	TX	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
AA5J	Lee	Plano	TX	KD5VGJ	Jay	Flower Mound	TX
W5JBV	Mike	Panama City	FL	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
K5JE	Earl	Claremore	OK	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
K6JT	Steve	Plano (W0CXX)	TX	KM5YQ	David	Dallas	TX
W5JKK	George	Bethany	OK	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	W5ZD	Pat	(KD5TXD)	TX

Welcome to New and Visiting Stations

W5JKK, George in OK; KA5TJS, Allen in San Augustine; W5VXI, Dave in Caddo Mills; and club station KE5LOT in Fentress, TX. We enjoyed Field Day in June and I would like to suggest that you can do a lot of practice for next Field Day by checking into the Texas Slow Net and learning to work some traffic. Remember, your CW contacts on Field Day count two points.

Thanks to all who participated

We appreciate all who have checked into the Texas Slow Net. Hope you can continue to check in and participate. Please bring your friends who want to learn CW traffic handling. Our net control stations will try to slow down to your sending speed. Please list a message for one of your friends or family members. Handling CW traffic is a learning by doing sort of thing.

TSN Activity Report for June, 2009
Total Sessions 30, Total Checkins 140, Total Traffic 27 by 16 different operators.

June QNS

QNI	Callsign	Name	QTH	QNI	Callsign	Name	QTH
30	WB5NKC	Arley	OK, Oklahoma City	4	KD5MMM	Phil	TX, Fentress
30	WB5NKD	Pat	OK, Oklahoma City	4	W5AG	Arch	LA, Lafayette
22	KD5TXD	Pat	TX, Kingsville	2	KM5YQ	David	TX, Irving
15	W5ESE	Scott	TX, Dripping Springs	1	KA5TJS	Allen	TX. San Augustine
13	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills, TX	1	KE5LOT	Scott	TX, Fentress
7	AA5JW	Carl	TX, Stafford	1	N5XGG	Joe	TX, Colmesneil
4	AA5J	Lee	TX, Plano	1	W5DY	Rodney	TX, Goliad
4	KB5TCH	Carroll	TX, Douglassville				

73!!
Pat KD5TXD
July 7, 2009