The Texan
Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)
** See "TSN Corner" and "RN5 Corner" on the Last Pages **

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July 2012

Central Area Night Watch

You may have read about the "Night Watch" idea in last month's RN5 Corner section of this newsletter. Richard, NF5B, the Central Area Staff Chairman for the National Traffic System has released the following information regarding a new "net" to start on August 1 at 0100 UTC. While this is an SSB net, and most of you readers are CW operators, those of you who are "dual mode" capable may want to participate, assuming you take time out for the CW nets that run during the same time period (albeit sporadically rather than continuously). Please disseminate this information to those you know are active in the SSB nets as well.

Here is the information from Richard:

Beginning August 1 at 0100 UTC.
Frequency: 3810 khz or first clear spot between 3810 and the general class sub-band limit.
Essentially 3810 khz or next clear spot below 3810 but above 3803 khz.

Duration: We'll try to remain actively guarding that frequency until 0500 UTC.

The net will handle all legal traffic. Any traffic which would be other than an informal "words with" etc. should be formal written traffic.   Net members such as NTS liaisons with other nets may wish to assist those not conversant with formulating formal messages.

Rationale:

The central area night watch is not intended to draw usual functions such as TCC schedules from the usual scheduled cyclic activity of region and area nets within central area. Its sole purpose is providing manual access to the NTS structure for stations who may for whatever reason be unable to access normal Morse circuits during those hours.   A second purpose is to provide support for ARRL sections experiencing communication difficulties and outages due to disasters or large scale emergencies.

Many sections do not operate late sessions of their cycle 4 nets. Although parts of regions 5 and 7 may be covered by the presence of independent phone nets, the remainder of central area is underserved after about 0115 UTC. This will give stations who would otherwise be

able to provide access to NTSD (digital) circuits who are not CW operators a method to pick up traffic.

With some daytime nets within central area unable to provide every day service, methods of access to the system in addition to those during limited times is desirable to help educate and recruit new traffic handlers. By encouraging mobiles and others to maintain a listening watch during nighttime hours with a controlled net helping facilitate communications, it could provide great benefits as I discussed in the white paper I submitted to multiple ARRL bodies, and for public comment.

This is a pilot project which will begin running August first at 0100Z.

Another important reason for the net to exist would be the standing up of an emergency resource almost immediately when needed. This would provide all comers with outlets for traffic, including health and welfare advisories from the disaster area and tactical messages, both formal and informal.

Short term goal is to maintain a directed net until 0300 UTC daily with stations standing a watch over that frequency until 0500. When a pattern of activity is established for the net, eventual goals would be to stand up controlled net operations first quarter of every hour or until business handled, with a listening watch the other 45 minutes of each hour.

All stations with appropriate amateur privileges are encouraged to utilize the facilities of Central Area Nightwatch.

There are a number of reasons for undertaking this pilot project now. After some discussion with a couple of other central area officials, it seems we should attempt to try something a bit different. Similar concepts coupled with implementation of the new appendix B chapter 6 of the PSCM can only help us bring the newer hams into the NTS fold.

So, colleagues, I'm also looking for some net control stations. Encourage interested parties to make contact with me at this address.

73,
Richard Webb, NF5B

Chair, ARRL NTS Central Area
Fidonet: Richard Webb 1:116/901
Internet: Richard.Webb@116-901.ftn.wpusa.dynip.com

2012 Texas Water Safari

Rodney, W5DY, participates in the Texas Water Safari every year. Here is a short report from him:

135 boats started, 94 finished. Both are record numbers. First place finished in 38-1/2 hours. Last place finished in 99-1/2 hours (100 hours is cutoff). 26 Ham radio operators put in a total

of 875 man hours during the event. 4 hams who could not work the event due to prior commitments, helped with prep work, spending almost 1 full day doing this.

This year, we had a "stand up" canoe. Pretty unusual, so I included a picture. Another "first" was a paddler who died due to a bodily imbalance. He drank too much water, not taking any electrolytes or salt, and virtually drowned. This happened between Hochheim and Cuero.

I started working the water safari in 1982. This is the toughest public service event you will ever work. I can remember spending up to 5 days working the checkpoint in Victoria. Then there are 3 more checkpoints below this one. It is not as tough now because several years ago, they put cut-off times to reach each checkpoint, whereas in earlier years there was none.
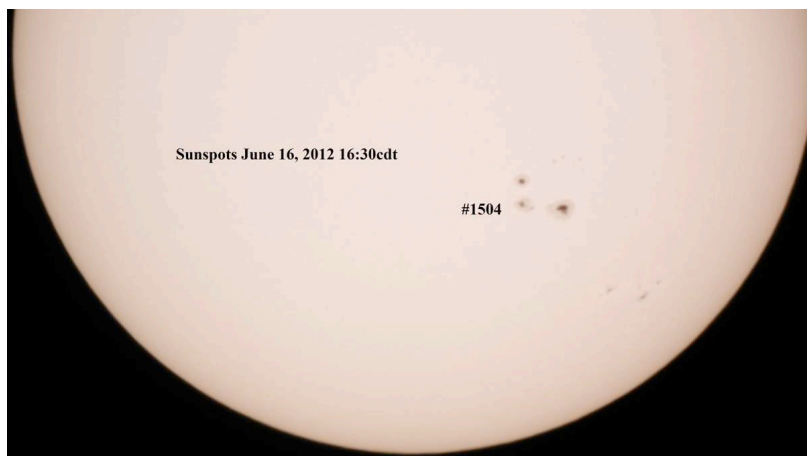
For more details, go to their website: http://www.texaswatersafari.org

TEX Mailbox:

Many of you have heard **Tom, W5DH**, on early TEX as the DFW liaison. I'm really happy to have his help with that connection (the DFW Early net meets at 18:30 on 2 meters). In response to info I sent to him, Tom wrote: Thanks for the info Steve. I'll see what I can do between the 7920, early DFW VHF, and TEX nets for a while. Currently I do not have 80 meter capability but will try to figure something out on that (maybe an Armstrong method of loading what I have). Hope to catch up with you on the air soon. I used to handle a lot of traffic back in 8 land when I was first licensed circa 1957. Will look forward to getting back into it. 73, Tom W5DH

Pat, KD5TXD, was busy taking more pictures. She wrote: Hi all, took my camera and telescope out today (June 16) and snapped some sunspots. They are nothing like the gigantic ones from the last solar cycle, but they are the biggest I have seen this cycle. 73!! Pat KD5TXD

Scott, W7IZ, the Oregon STM, sent along the following information. I think there was something about this in a previous newsletter, but now that N1IQI is sending out notifications almost at the very last minute, there are bound to be an increase in the number of Silent Keys that are addressed. Thanks, Scott. Here is the info:

I have started checking any N1IQI license expiration traffic I receive against both the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) and the qrz.com listing.

About 20% of the traffic seems to be to a SK. Actually that is not surprising when you consider the aging ham population... And it is also no surprise that those licenses have not been renewed yet. Guess it is too much to have the families notify the FCC when their loved one passes.

I thought I would pass along the web site I use for the SSDI in case any of you would also like to do this with Loren's traffic. I've also started sending a email to editor@qrz.com and SK@arrl.org along with a copy of the SSDI notice. I also send a service message to N1IQI indicating that the intended recipient is a SK.

The several I've done so far have thus been indicated as SK at qrz.com. Maybe that will help until the FCC drops the callsign because it has not been renewed.

This is the site I use to search the SSDI
http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/ssdi/?kbid=9064&m=9

The search is free and there are no registration requirements.
73 Dave WB2FTX, EADC NTSD

Benny, K5KV, sent along an NTS routing guide, which I have put on the TEX website. See the link at the bottom of the main page of the website or click here:
http://k6jt.com/MPGR04A-NTS_ROUTING_INFO.pdf

Benny also said that for TEX, it is pretty simple - anything outside Texas is listed as "RN5". For RN5, it is also pretty straightforward - anything outside of the states in RN5 (TX, OK, LA, AR, MS, AL, TN, FL), which are listed by state using the standard postal abbreviations, is listed as "CAN". It gets a bit tricky on CAN, however, and that's where the routing guide comes in handy.

Dean, W8IM, who is on RN5 from FL, and is a licensed commercial operator for KKUI, is the one that sent all the information about the Night of Nights operations, which I forwarded to y'all by separate email. As I write this, it is Thursday night, and I did listen for the commercial stations on the published frequencies in the website link that was given including the ITU Channel 3 frequencies for KKUI. The only commercial station I heard clearly was WLO on 8582, and he was just sending out the frequency list where he could be contacted. Anyone else have any better luck with the commercial stations? Please let me know.

TEX Net Topics

There are a few backup slots still open (shown in *yellow*) but only *3* open liaison slots, all of them for Late RN5 on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday (all shown in **red**). Since Rodney and I are backup for these, we usually have them covered, but there are times when both of us are unavailable. If you are willing to take any of these or any of the open backup slots, please let me know.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

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

TEX/1: **7053**/3541/7108 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 **3541**/3643/1841 at 22:00 local
RN5/1: **7108**/3567 at 19:30; RN5/2: **7108**/3567 at 21:30 local
TSN: **3552** - 19:45 local; CAN: **7052**/7108/3552 - 20:30 local; PAN: **7052**/3552 - 22:30 local

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG
NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, W5TMO, KD5TXD

Benny, K5KV, suggested that the schedule and roster be on one page so it would be easy to print out and save. Sounded good to me, so here it is (including some updates).

TEX Roster

	Call	Name	Location / Notes		Call	Name	Location / Notes
	N5BA	Brian	Houston		N7NET	Scott	McKinney
	W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK		N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
	K5CZ	Ed	Temple		K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
	W5DH	Tom	Dallas		WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
	W4DLZ	Frank	Florida		W5OMR	Geoff	Houston
*	W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	*	K5RG	Ken	Houston
	N5EL	Floyd	Temple		N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
*	W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs		W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
	W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia		N0SSS	Adam	Oklaunion
	K5GM	Pete	Austin		W5TMO	Mike	Austin
	W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio		W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
	AA5J	Lee	Arkansas		KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
	K5JRN	Si	Austin		K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
*	K6JT	Steve	Plano		W5UFK	Ken	College Station
	KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio		KS5V	Ed	Bulverde
*	K5KV	Benny	Star		WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
*	W6LFB	Jim	Denton	*	NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
	WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village		W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

Traffic and checkins were both way up, compared to May, thanks to the Field Day traffic we handled that night and in following days. No RN5 slots were missed (*thank you*).

Randy, N5RL, again had outstanding participation with 58 out of 60 (97%) taking first, followed by Benny, K5KV, in 2nd with 35 (58%). Rodney, W5DY, with 32 (53%) was 3rd. Thanks to all of you who checked in for your support. It was a good month.

We had a few visitors to the net including Dick, WA5CAV, from LA, Frank, W4DLZ, from FL, and Tom, K4VIZ, from AR - all RN5 regulars. Larry, KC0M, also checked in from MO with traffic for us.

Please join me in welcoming Tom, W5DH, from Dallas. Tom is performing the liaison with the DFW VHF Local Net on the early session, and will be bringing RN5 traffic to TEX on occasion.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 3.0 per net session (1.7 last month). Net time averaged 13.7 minutes per session (compared to 11.0 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.6 per session (4.6 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (June 2012)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
N5BA	Brian	0	1					
		1						
WA5CAV	Dick	1	2					
	LA	1						
W4DLZ	Frank	0	2					
	Florida	2						
W5CU	Sam	8	19		5			
		11			5			
W5DH	Tom	5	5				4	
	Dallas	0						
W5DY	Rodney	12	32		1			
		20		4	1		1	1
N5EL	Floyd	1	1					
		0						
W5ESE	Scott	24	24		1			
		0						
W5GKH	Charlie	7	13	6	5			
		6		6	4			
K5GM	Pete	11	16	3	2			
		5						
W9GVW	Eric	4	4					
		0						
K6JT	Steve	18	47	3	1		16	
		29		6	19		28	
K5KV	Benny	15	35	1	3	1		

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
		20		5				
WA5MS	Marty	4	4					
		0						
KC0M	Larry	0	1					
	MO	1						
N5NVP	Jim	1	13					
		12						
K5QOW	Gary	3	3			3		
		0						
K5RG	Ken	3	14		1			
		11			1			
N5RL	Randy	28	58	10	11	14		
		30				26		
W5TMO	Mike	0	16					
		16		9				
KD5TXD	Pat	8	8	7				9
		0						
KS5V	Ed	4	16					
	Bulverde	12						
K4VIZ	Tom	0	1					
	AR	1						
Totals		335		60	60	44	49	10
				100%	100%	73%	82%	17%
QTC 1		75	182					
QTC 2		107		Sessions:		60		
Time 1		381	820					
Time 2		439						

Operating:

40 meters has been a bit unpredictable of late. NCS stations are reminded that if conditions seem poor on 40 (e.g., you don't hear any stations or signals are very weak) then early TEX should be moved to 3541 KHz and resume operations there with a brief callup and call to each of the stations that checked in on 40, if any. We had to do that one day this past week and may need to do it in coming weeks as well.

One of the main purposes of this newsletter is training. There is an excellent writeup from Bud, W2RU, who is the manager of the Eastern Area Net that appears in the RN5 Corner. All TEX stations are urged to read what Bud has to say. Some of you are relative newcomers to NTS and may not be aware of the topics he discusses. I am in complete agreement with all his points, although due to property restrictions that are becoming all too common, putting out a strong signal is not possible for everyone due to antenna and/or power limitations.

Until next month, 73, Steve K6JT

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT

Greetings from the Wild Horse Desert – home of your TSN Manager

TSN is struggling. Without Arley and Pat it has become really difficult to make all of the nets and send the training lessons. There would have been no TSN in June without the faithful help of Carroll, KB5TCH. KD5MMM, Phil, has stepped up to NCS duties on Thursday night and is doing a great job. Good stations such as WD0ESF, Mike in Kansas, are checking in, but Mike's signal is just too weak to call as NCS.

I realize the lessons are boring to the old time traffic handlers, but if you know someone who is interested in getting into CW traffic handling, please encourage them to check in with us and become a part of TSN. Tuesday is our most difficult night. If anyone would like to step in as NCS for Tuesday it would make a significant difference. In fact, if anyone would like to help with any night it would make a significant difference. We are SLOW. We work through a set of 150 traffic training lessons sending one a night and repeating when the set is finished. Lessons are NTS format. Each check in is asked to make a net call. If you go through the lessons and get your speed up you should be able to graduate to TEX, RN5, etc. You should be able to handle real CW traffic. That is the goal of TSN. Right now it just does not look good for the TSN home team.

If you have time and are interested in helping us out, please drop me an e-mail at pja@atcweb.com. We really need someone who can call the net on Tuesday. And it would be above and beyond the call of duty if someone could help with sending the training lessons. Thanks to all!!

June 2012   TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	TX	K9JWV	Jim	St. George	UT
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	K5KV	Benny	Star	TX
W5AS	Club Call			K7KV	David	Auburn	WA
K5AVJ	Lynn	Abilene	TX	KB0LF	Fred	Murray	NE
N9AWP	Edward	Markleville	IN	W8LKI	Wolfe	Defiance	OH
WA4BAM	John	Miami	FL	K5MDK	Mike	Plano	TX
W4CCU	David	Pensacola	FL	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
ND0CW	David	Newburg	ND	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
AB0DK	Dave	Kirksville	MO	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
K5DMC	Jerry	Kiln	MS	K5OAI	Sam	San Angelo	TX
W5DPT	Louis	Deer Park	TX	K9PUI	Dick	Indianapolis	IN
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	KE5PYF	David	Fort Worth	TX
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells	TX
WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
WD9F	Woody	Springfield	IL	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
K5FAL	Curt	Edmond	OK	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
AG9G	Dwight			WB5UPS	Ron	Port Neches	TX
K5GM	Pete	Austin	TX	N5UZ	Rick	Cedar Park	TX
AK4GY	Russ	Lewisberg	TN	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
WD5ILB	Bob	Azle	TX	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	WB8W	Bob	Cincinnati	OH
N0JL	Jim	Chilliecothe	IA	WB5WKQ	Jeff	Dryden	MI
K6JT	Steve	Plano	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	WJ5Z	Roy	Tyler	TX

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!!

TSN Activity Report for June 2012
Total Sessions 30, Total Check-ins 81, Total Traffic 25 by 8 different operators.

June 2012 QNS

May	Callsign	Name	QTH	STATE
29	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
16	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
12	WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS
11	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
7	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
3	W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX
2	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
1	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX

73!!
Pat KD5TXD
June 30, 2012

(RN5 Corner Starts on the next page)

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

Hello again and welcome to the Fifth edition of the *RN5 Corner*.

Thanks again to Steve K6JT for assisting with the RN5 Corner for me as problems here have kept me from both operating and composing inputs. Also thanks to all of you for doing your part as always.

As I'm writing this on a Thursday, it's the Night of Nights XIII from K6KPH and you should have all you need to participate along with our own Dean W8IM ON BOARD SHIP in TAMPA...

You should also be aware that K6KPH is a participant of NTS and can QSP PAN Traffic. This is on the weekends mostly on 14050 and other freqs as well. Be advised also that K6JT and myself are go to stations for Winlink RMS Express (NTS Digital).

Also starting AUG 1ST AT 0100 Z the CAN NIGHT WATCH, CANW will launch (see the description at the start of the TEX newsletter). This is a clean up net for all modes. It will be on 3810 and down as per QRM. If any traffic will be longer than a few minutes we will go off frequency to send the traffic. On or near freq will be SSB or CW. The CANW will start at 0100 Z and end at 0300 Z or so. If there is outbound traffic on Late RN5 it can go to CANW vice DRN5.

As NCS I'll be using SSB and CW. I'm hoping this will help solve the problem of NTS being more accountable. Also recall that Ed Trump AL7N, the Alaska STM, is constantly monitoring 14050 with his V beam, is on Winlink, and on Morse KOB on line 11. He is about as good as it gets...

See the info from EAN that was forwarded by Pete, K5GM, that starts next. Some very good advice and observations there.

Thanks to you all... FRANK W4DLZ RN5/4 Mgr

Pete, K5GM, forwarded the following information from W2RU, posted on the NTS Officials reflector of the ARRL. Bud makes some excellent points, particularly directed towards region and area nets, but also section nets (so TEX and other section net folks should also give it some thought).

From: "W2RU - Bud Hippisley" <W2RU@frontiernet.net>
To: "N.O.D. Officials" <nts-officials@reflector.arrl.org>
Subject: [NTS-Officials] Re: Traffic and Contesting
Date: Tue, 26 Jun 2012 22:41:56 -0400

It's disappointing to see the discussion that followed the original comparison of NTS with contest and DXing trends degenerate into the recent thread trashing contests. I'm beginning to have a new respect for the problems NTS faces. As Pogo famously said, "We have met the enemy, and he is us." Instead, Hank and Jeff show by their recent postings that they "get it". Many of the other responses show an unwillingness to give fair consideration to the points Hank and others are trying to make.

For me, the relevant observation is this: For WHATEVER the reason(s) the aggregate populations of contesters and DXers get more proficient over time, while the quality of NTS participation has declined substantially across the same time frame, and it would behoove us as NTS OFFICIALS to try to figure out WHY.

Yes, it's true that no-code has led to a different distribution of CW-proficient entrants to the hobby. But — if that were a significant factor, why wouldn't we be seeing similar effects from "no-code" in CW contesting and DXing?

The point of Hank's challenge was NOT to suggest that NTS activities should be turned into a contest, per se. The point was that we should engage in some self-analysis and figure out WHY our members' aggregate level of operating isn't improving with time....and HOW we can fix that — and then go DO that!

For example: When DXing, failure to learn good operating techniques will not only generate (often blunt) corrective peer pressure but will keep you from getting a contact with — and QSL card from — that rare country you want so badly. In short, there are mechanisms built into the DXing "system" that provide DXers with very strong feedback. If you ignore the feedback, you don't improve. If you don't improve, you won't succeed at DXing. Period.

It's been 30 years or more since I first suggested creating and publicizing a series of NTS certification and plaque levels based on requirements that had TEETH in them — not just attendance requirements. ARRL's Communications Department at the time chose to ignore the suggestions, and in the intervening years I haven't seen anything substantial or supportive come out of any of the area staffs, either. Instead, today we have ARRL emergency preparedness online courses that barely note the existence of NTS.

So, yes, lack of support by ARRL and the downgrading of NTS coverage in QST are factors. But if we believe in NTS and its value, we shouldn't let ARRL's internal politics determine our own individual ATTITUDES.

Today, one of the biggest contributors I see to NTS's collective shortcomings is FAILURE TO TRAIN PROPERLY. Examples:

* A region net rep to EAN Cycle 4 futilely listens for the net call-up on one band for NINE minutes before deciding he probably should try finding the net on our primary band. Where did he learn this? Perhaps more to the point, where DIDN'T he learn the PROPER procedure for finding the net? Note that it should be possible to determine where the net is located in 30 seconds or less.

* Hardly anybody who comes to EAN knows what QNJ (or QTB, or any of a dozen or more other Q signals routinely used on CW nets) means. Who amongst you conducts training in QN signals? (At the annual NYS CW Net picnic, W2RUF — SK for many years now, but at the time Net Manager — used to invite all in attendance to fill out the names of New York counties on copies of a state map she handed out. Her objective: help EVERY net member have a better knowledge of the geography of the section they had to route messages in. It was TRAINING that was FUN! If anyone is doing something similar today, please post it here — instead of dumping all over contests and contesters, THAT'S what the purpose of this reflector should be!)

* Pairs of reps are sent off frequency by NCS to clear traffic; they are observed (with NCS's second receiver) calling each other 250 Hz apart, yet they don't find each other, and they come back to the net to report a failed pairing. Who failed to tell them, "Tune around a little bit...."? Or, "Open up your filter selectivity a little bit..."?

* Many region net stations bring traffic to EAN without knowing how to list all of it; instead, they'll list the "difficult" destinations by STATE! Suddenly they've made their ignorance the NCS's problem. What's so hard about keeping a list next to the rig, or checking on the ARRL web site before the next net starts? Who DIDN'T suggest that to them? Who DIDN'T conduct training exercises in destinations?

* Standard NTS procedure has been — since the very beginning — to avoid QRMing pre-existing QSOs on / near the published net call-up frequency when starting a net session. So sometimes I start EAN on something slightly different from the published 3575. Imagine my surprise when a region rep checks in on exactly 3575.000, even though I'm running the net on 3574.5. And each time this rep returns from a pairing, he comes back to exactly 3575.000. Why doesn't he know he's supposed to zero-beat the NCS? To the best of my knowledge, the only place we hams are constrained to channelized operation on HF is the 5-MHz band.

I could go on and on, but I think my point should be obvious by now: I learned good traffic net techniques at the SECTION net level (back before there were such things as Local nets), and I don't understand why they're not getting taught at that level TODAY. Even worse, how are these individuals getting assigned to Area Net representation tasks at the REGION or TCC level without adequate training? Q: Who's responsible for training? A: Primarily the net managers at the Section and Local level, but Region Net managers should also be monitoring the situation and reporting problems back to the cognizant Section Net manager. I certainly give my region net managers feedback when I feel someone has been sent to EAN C4 inadequately prepared for life in the fast lane. How many of you are doing that?

Probably not falling in the category of "training" but certainly indicative of ATTITUDE:

* Why do so many of today's (evening cycle) NTS participants have no interest in having a decent signal? Unlike 25 − 50 years ago, very few reps to EAN C4 own an amplifier or have an antenna a moose could run under without pulling it down. Most actually seem to take pride in running barefoot, regardless of how band conditions are, or regardless of how many failed pairings they contribute to. In contesting, we get a chuckle out of participants who sign "K2KIR / QRP" as if their ability to work you while running QRP were a badge of honor. It's a

badge of honor only for the stations the QRPer manages to work — i.e., the ones who are adept enough to pull the QRP station's pea-weak signal out of the noise.

* Why are so many of today's (evening cycle) NTS participants "rock-bound"? In the old days, "rock-bound" meant you had no VFO — only a handful of crystals for your transmitter. What I mean by it today is this: Why do so many participants have no ability to put out an audible signal on some band other than 80 meters? At Section, Region, Area, and TCC levels we claim to specialize in HF (HIGH FREQUENCY) traffic handling. But HF propagation is notably fickle, and its vagaries well-documented. During sunspot minima winters, 80 meters is often useless after 6 or 7 p.m. local time because of long skip or no skip at all, and the intelligent / adaptive thing to do is take our operations to 160. During sunspot maxima summers, 80 meters is often difficult because of high D-layer absorption up until an hour or so after sunset, and 40 (or even 20) becomes an important alternative for net operations. But I've resisted taking EAN to 40 unless absolutely necessary because so many reps can't QSY there, or when they get there they act like they own a regenerative receiver and can't find the other half of their pairing DWN 2 or UP 4. The situation is even worse on 160 — despite promoting techniques for utilizing 80-meter antennas on 160, at least half the regular reps on EAN C4 tell me they can't QSY to 160! "Can't" or "won't"????? Who amongst us is training our net members to have PRIDE in an ability to QSY and just generally be FLEXIBLE?

* Where is the MANAGERIAL commitment? I know my life as an Area Net manager is simpler than that of a Section or Region Net manager who has more slots to fill than I, but regardless of where we are in the System block diagram, filling slots with qualified reps is part of the job, and it goes with the territory. If I can't find seven qualified stations to serve as net controls on a regular basis, I cover with what I have — including myself — until I CAN find a suitable replacement. (Note: The replacement I ultimately choose doesn't have to be fully qualified at the beginning but s/he MUST show clear evidence of a willingness and an ability to improve over time.) At one time or another, each manager in NTS is called upon to be a teacher, a publicist, a public speaker, a record-keeper, a scheduler, etc. When we take on the commitment of being an NTS OFFICIAL, we tacitly agree that it means we are responsible for much, much more than just sitting down at the rig each night and clearing the hook.

* When a region net in the Eastern Area fails to send a rep to EAN C4 on a given evening, anywhere from six to a dozen dedicated individuals are potentially inconvenienced. If you're retired, perhaps it's no big deal if you have to clear your xRN or TCC traffic the next morning on H&B Net (how's that for supporting NTS?) or Cycle 2 but — for working stiffs, failure to clear the hook on Wednesday night may create a major disruption of pre-existing family plans for Thursday night. I've long felt a strong obligation to clear ALL traffic entered into EAN each evening because of this implied commitment but I freely confess that these days even I give up in frustration and QNF the net when a region net fails to send a qualified RX rep — or fails to send a rep at all! Failure to assure the presence of a competent RX rep at the next higher level in the System is a GROSS SYSTEM FAILURE that should not be treated lightly — and ALL participants, regardless of where they are assigned in the nightly operations, should be taught to appreciate that fact. Where is that teaching occurring?

Bud, W2RU, Manager, EAN C4

Note that Trey, KJ4FDV, will be leaving for school in August and Tom, WA4ZPZ, is QRT with rig repairs pending. Please fill in for their slots shown below, as you are able.

RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	KJ4FDV	W4DLZ	W5CU	WA4ZPZ	W4QAT	W4DLZ	K4VIZ
NCS #2	KJ4FDV	W4DLZ	W5CU	WA4ZPZ	W4QAT	W4DLZ	K4VIZ
CAN TX	Open	WA4ZPZ	K4VIZ	K5KV	K4VIZ	K5KV	K5KV
CAN RX	Open	WA4ZPZ	Open	Open	W4DLZ	W4DLZ	W5CU
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

June 2012 Statistics

SESSIONS	57
QTC	186
QNI	382
QTR	796
CAN TX REP	89%
CAN RX REP	91%
DRN5 REP	67%

The following updated roster shows active stations coming to RN5 from their various states.

Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	State	Call	Name	State
W4AGL	JIM	FL	AA4HT	BOB	FL
K4AKC	TOM	AL	W8IM	DEAN	FL
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	WA5JAN	JIM	AR
W5CU	SAM	OK*	K6JT	STEVE	TX
AC5CW	ERIC	LA	KA5KLU	DOUG	TX
KO9D	BENNY	IN	K5KV	BENNY	TX
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	WA5LQZ	ALAN	LA
K5DMC	JER	MS	K5MC	MICKEY	LA
WD4DNC	BARRY	FL	N5NVP	JIM	LA
AD4DO	JOHN	FL	K4PG	KEVIN	FL
W5DTR	CURT	IL	WA4PIZ	JIM	AL
K1DW	DALLAS	LA	W4QAT	PAT	AL
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	K5RG	KEN	TX
NY4E	BILL	FL	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
KJ4FDV	TREY	AL	W6SX	HANK	CA
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	KI5T	WADE	LA
KA4FZI	PHYL	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR
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 W4DLZ