

# *The Texan*

Newsletter of the Texas CW Traffic Net (TEX)

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

Net Manager: Position Open (W5DY silent key)

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Assistant Manager: Position open



March-April 2023

## **Rodney Baker, W5DY, Silent Key**

Rodney had been sick and under Hospice care for over a year. During that time, he was still able to check into TEX on occasion although it became harder to do as time went on. His last check-in to TEX was in November 2022. He finally became a silent key on March 31, 2023. Rest in Peace, Rodney

Here is a summary of Rodney's amateur radio activities that he provided in May 2011. It was left as he wrote it with minor date updates rather than changing to past tense.

First licensed in 1975 as a novice WN5TAY, Tech license in 1975 WB5TAY, General in 1975 same call, Advanced in 1978 KF5JW, Extra in 1978 same call. W5DY callsign obtained in 2006.

Active in traffic nets on CW from 1975 to 2022 and active in traffic nets on SSB from 1977 to 2021 (mic in closet for 2 years).

I started working overseas in the oilfield in 1991 and did not work HF for 15 years. Although I gave up HF, I was still active on VHF/UHF.

I retired from the oilfield in 2004 and started on HF again in 2006 at which time I changed my call to W5DY.

CW is my preferred mode, but am also active on SSB, both primarily on traffic nets. I was a net control on the Texas Traffic Net for almost 2 years from 2006 to 2008. I am very active on the Texas CW NTS Section Traffic Net (Tex CW) both as net control and RN5 liaison. I am also the assistant net manager of Tex CW net. I have a schedule on the Trans Continental Corps 2 nights a week as Station Fox since 2008.

I was appointed South Texas Section Traffic Manager in January 2008 and appointed EC of Goliad County in 2009. I work HF, VHF/UHF from my home, my truck and portable from my motorhome.

I am active in Field Day, the Texas Water Safari, Special Event Station W5G at the Goliad County Fair and the Missions Tour de Goliad bike ride

Note that Rodney was also TEX manager from October 2018 until poor health required that he resign in May 2020.

From QRZ.com, here is Rodney's biography:



Howdy Folks, this picture was taken while I was putting out fires in the Kuwait oilfield in 1991. Actually, the coveralls and hard hat are a bright yellow but don't look like it, hi. I had just come out of the hole and partly covered with good ole oil. I did clean it off my face before the picture was taken. I added the other pictures showing my team and some of the fires.

The biggest blowout my team handled was making 42000 barrels of oil per day. It took 11 days to conquer this one, which was 5 days ahead of schedule, saving them over \$10M. The Kuwait Oil Co managers promised us each a Rolls Royce or \$200,000 cash. I opted for the \$200K, but as yet have not received it !!!

In 1992 one of my biggest thrills was being selected to represent Wild Well Control at the opening of the IMAX movie "Fires of Kuwait", which was made featuring my team and nominated for an Academy Award. It was at the Smith Institute in Ontario. I was honored to be on Canadian National TV during this showing.

This started my overseas working career and ended my ham radio activity. I retired in 2004 and became active on ham radio again in 2006.

I was Section Traffic Manager for South Texas from Jan 2008 to Jan 2019. Currently Member at Large of Radio Relay International Central Area Staff, EC for Goliad County Texas and ORS.

My main activity is the Texas CW Traffic Net which meets every day at 7 and 10 pm central time on 3541 khz. Come join us and have some fun. Other CW nets are RN5 at 1930 and 2130 on 3567 or 7108 and CAN at 2030 on 3552 or 7052.

Since getting older and not able to do a lot of things that I used to, I have become more active on ham radio, mostly in traffic handling. You can usually find me on the 7290 Traffic Net at 1000. I had to clean the cobwebs off my mic so I could use SSB (Still check in on CW occasionally, hihi).

Thanks for looking, 73, and see you on the air. Dih dah dih dah dit

***We miss you, Rodney !***

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

Here is the next excerpt from Jack's book. Mae does well in the chess tournament.

I went downstairs. No sign of Mae, but she could be outside or in her room. Sue joined me in the kitchen. I told her the plan: "The drive should only take 40 minutes. It is only 25 miles or so. I have to leave by 5 because of my headlights. You and Mae can come later tonight or fairly early Saturday. She needs to be there by 845. I will have her registered. I need to know her last name. There are some expenses but I can cover those for her. If you decide to come tonight and arrive before, say, 1930, then I will get you and Mae keys."

"I think tonight would be better for Mae. She likes her mornings in bed. I'm sure you know the best way to travel."

"I was going to take US 90 and then turn left onto US 167. I'm not sure where the downtown Hilton is but I will have plenty of time. And you probably have a Louisiana road map. I don't know how to reach 90 from here."

She told me, and added, "I even have a street map of Lafayette."

So everything was settled, pending Mae's choice. I asked, "Do you have a small suitcase to put clothes in? My backpack is big enough but would wrinkle everything. Even a large paper sack will do."

"Look under your bed. I think there are three sizes. Kind of old-fashioned, but lightweight and strong. Modern ones have skids and wheels and multiple handles. And lots of zip-up pockets, but what for?"

"One more thing: Marie's last name is Barber. I had it changed when she entered kindergarten. Do you have the address here? I don't have a street address, but UPS and others will deliver packages if addressed to our PO box. The company gets a lot of packages."

"I just need the zip code." She got a Post-It and wrote the full address and telephone number, as well as her cell number. So I was all set.

I went upstairs to pack. Nothing to that. Everything fit in the smallest suitcase.

Sue came in through the closet. She said, "Mae wants to leave early too, right after she has a snack. She likes Lafayette although the schools were horrible."

I got my bag and left. The drive was easy, and I could see the Hilton from 167. It took me 50 minutes. The traffic during the last ten miles was bad, but it was Friday afternoon rush hour. I let them park the Civic and went to the desk and checked in. I asked for two more keys for my wife and granddaughter who would arrive soon, told him their names, and did the unavoidable credit card thing. The tournament was going to pick up the cost of the room, but if I did room service I was on my own. I was sure they got a low rate since the tournament would probably bring in a hundred rooms of kids and parents during a slow time of year. Maybe a lot more. When I got to the room I saw there were two notes stuck to the door. I picked them

off and let myself in. The keys were like credit cards but about half as big. I called Sue at home, with no luck, then her cell number. Mae answered, and I told her the room number, and that her room was nice and even had a window with a good view. I told her to pick up two keys at the hotel desk. Our room had a bigger bed, but the room was actually the same size, so it felt crowded in there. We did have a separate bathroom. I unpacked and hung up my stuff, had a quick shower, and put on fresh clothes. We were on the top floor, the 12th.

The notes, from different authors, said the same, just giving me the room number of the meeting room for the directors, and said there would be a light buffet set out. I was to learn that light means something different in south Louisiana than in Texas.

There was a knock on the door, and I let them in. I carried Mae's stuff to her room. Mae asked wickedly, "Where is Jack going to sleep?" I was going to say something cute in return, but Sue just said, "He will sleep in the other room with me." Nothing like a simple direct answer to a non-question, since Mae had already figured out the answer.

I asked, "Is anyone hungry? You two must know of scores of good places to eat, possibly some within walking distance. I don't have to be here until a little before 8, and it's not 6 yet." I knew where to eat from a long time ago (I taught at USL for one semester), but they had more recent information. Eating out was cheaper here than in Texas unless you have a lot to drink, and Sue and I would need our wits intact. And of course there was that meeting.

Sue said, "Probably the hotel restaurant is best, especially on weekends. They have a menu that takes a while just to read. I'll call and see if we will be served directly. It is early." She called, said we were three, and whoever told her if we came in a few minutes then we would be served. Evidently she wanted to write us down anyway, for the last thing Sue said was, "The Bryant Family, Room 12010." Mae's eyes widened and her eyebrows looked like frightened cats, but she said nothing. On the way down she asked if she had to be Bryant now. Mae was witty this evening, a good sign because it was a clever kind of wit, not a nervous or mean one. She would need her wits in the morning. Sue just explained that is the name the room is in, and usually a meal could be charged to a room number and so paid for when you check out. I gathered that Sue was used to the wit but didn't want it to escalate.

I asked Sue where it was, and she said inside, just on the other side of that big fountain. I had never been in a hotel with an indoor fountain. All around the outside were shops except the back, which had all the messy things that go with pretending messes do not exist.

The big room was half full, but busy. We were seated near the fountain, but it was not noisy. The menu was 12 pages and was held together with a golden ribbon. I know, just colored gold. We told a busboy that we would have water, with a diet Dr Pepper for Mae. The waiter came and asked if we were ready, and I said I would have a bowl of gumbo, crayfish etouff  e, shrimp aspic, and steamed brown rice. I have no idea what Sue and Mae ordered since they ordered using French. Mae's French sounded more French-like than Sue's to me, but I spent only two months in France, and that a long time ago. The waiter did not write anything down. I had seen that once before, in San Antonio.

The food came faster than I expected. Everything I had was good, especially the shrimp aspic. The aspic was rich, with a mild tomato base and hints of garlic, onion, bay leaf, and a strong celery and lemon flavor. The shrimp were perfectly boiled in lightly seasoned water. It

was a little too cold for me but I had intended to leave it for last. The étouffé was the best I have had. I make better gumbo, but then I make the best gumbo I have had anywhere.

Sue had oyster stew, crayfish jambalaya, some kind of green salad, and a small serving of chocolate mousse which was served later. Mae had beef tongue, black-eye pea jambalaya, and a zucchini salad. She got a lot of tongue, more than she could eat, so we took that with us. She had probably had a milk and toast snack before they left. The room had a small icebox and a microwave. Everyone said their food was perfectly prepared and seasoned. I didn't complain about the gumbo, which was edible if not outstanding.

I signed for the dinner, left the tip in cash (the busboy 5% for his service and the waiter 15%) and we went, I to my meeting and they for a walk. The meeting was like I expected. I knew two of the section directors, both from Spring, Texas. They were each more experienced than I was, but not a lot. They were not selected director because of the large number of players from their school. The director must be able to resolve conflicts without having the slightest interest in the outcome. Section directors are somewhat protected from that by having a partner from a different population of players.

Most of what you do is just common sense, and the rule book has an excellent index. I learned the people who collect results and enter the data were experienced in those tasks, most working for the telephone company or one of the hospitals. There were separate computers using two hard drives (writing the same data to each one, that is, twice) and either hard drive could be made the master on a cold restart. Each had its own independent UPS and printer. Finally, the operating system being used was Unix (OK, they call it Linux or something like that). I didn't see how it could have been done better.

I was almost sorry I had eaten, for the buffet was outstanding and beautifully presented. I didn't nibble, though. I had to save that for later. The meeting was not at all a waste, for we all got to know each other well. My main role was to talk to the kids each day and introduce the working directors. Everyone agreed that the two had to agree on a ruling and to call for my help if needed. Also to keep everyone not playing an active tournament game out of the game rooms. Letting parents in ruins a tournament faster than a fire. When I used to go with Charles I had to leave the building. I just couldn't take the pressure of watching him play and trying to play for him. It is a little like a bowler who, after s/he releases the ball does weird body movements to control its path.

One more item: I had to tell them that one player in the Senior section was known personally to me. While most of those in the Senior section require little help, this was her first tournament and I could not rule on a game she was playing in. I knew several others but not in the same way.

The meeting was over at 2115. This was quicker than I had expected, so I stayed and made a tentative chart showing starting times for each of the sections. I ordered the times by the number preregistered in decreasing order. Here is what I came up with:

#### Section 1

10-12 9:00 8-9 9:15 K-3 9:30 4-5 9:45

6-7 10:00

round 2

11:15 11:30 11:45 12:00 12:15  
round 3  
2:45 3:00 3:15 3:30 3:45

This made it 2130, so I went to the room. Mae's door a crack, so I entered quietly. I thought Sue was playing asleep. I don't know how I do it, but I can usually sense that. Probably anyone can. Still, I undressed quietly and joined her. The pillow was too fat for me, but I had not anticipated this. Who could have? I was going to sleep one night on Lethe's lumpy couch and return to College Station. Pillows were down in the noise.

I set my alarm clock for 7. I knew I was going to sleep well. I whispered, "Let's cuddle and sleep. Kiss me goodnight, and, at least for a while, stay in my arms. My shoulder will be a good pillow."

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She saw I was awake, and said, "The alarm is about to sound, and you might want breakfast, at least milk and coffee. It comes with the room. I would like to have that with you since we will be busy all day. I will see that Mae is there by 830.

We dressed and went down for the breakfast buffet. It was scrumptious, as surprising as the meeting food had been. If you wanted a sweet roll you had to order it, since they warmed them right before serving. There were sausages and egg dishes enough to clog a sewer, not to mention an artery. We pigged out. For me it was to be the only meal of the day until evening unless they brought in food or had it sent up from the restaurant.

I arrived at the main room, on the second floor. It looked like large meeting rooms around a sort of command post. They had just opened for registration. Rooms were clearly labeled with school grade ranges. There were five grade ranges, (K-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-12). One could play in a higher section than their actual grade level but not a lower one. When I registered for Mae, I went to the High School position and filled out the form and paid the entry fee and first year USCF dues. The form was handed to the person just behind who was entering the data in the computer. The computers were networked and an additional computer, a Sun server, was used to merge all entrants and assign players a number. It also mirrored everything entered on the other computers.

The player numbers didn't mean anything except lower numbers went with players who had been entered earlier. Most entrants had pre-registered, saving \$2, and they just went to the common computer to see their player number. Those who had listed email addresses had been sent their number by email. Mae's number was 287, so at that time there were that many who had registered. Some may have withdrawn, but this was still going to be a big tournament.

I went to the Senior playing room and closed the door. It was quiet. That was good. The chairs were sturdy with a padded seat, like the ones in the restaurant. Sixteen boards had been set up with room for more. That meant there were probably 32 players already registered. In a 5 round tournament of flipping coins, with no draws, the expected distribution of outcomes is 1-5-10-10-5-1, meaning 1 player has all heads, 5 have 4, 10 have 3, 10 have 2, 5 have 1, and 1 has no heads. So about half of the players will win a trophy of some sort. Of course the

second group will get place 2 through 6, and the third will get place 7 through 16. This random experiment is not typical of real outcomes.

That does not apply because of draws, which in the Senior division are not uncommon, and because the players aren't equally matched. The analysis does apply to things like mutual fund managers, which come closer to being random. In a group of 32 you expect only 1 to beat the market five years in a row, but there are thousands of these funds. If there were 2048, then you would expect one manager to beat the market eleven years in a row, and one to lose to the market eleven years in a row, even if the managers are equal. (Overhead, for example the manager's upkeep, makes beating the market less than an even chance. Even postage and printing costs are not negligible. This is one reason for using index funds, plus the lower fees and tax burden.)

I went back to the registration table and asked if there was anything to do. Somebody I had not met handed me a red baseball cap and a pin-on badge that said DIRECTOR with my name on it in regular type. I pinned it on the cap. I learned later that the section directors had yellow caps and similar badges, with the assistant directors having green ones and no badge. I had already noted that everyone working the clerical jobs had nice blue caps. Later yet another cap, white with a green and cream checkered bill, was worn by Lafayette Chess Club volunteers handling lunch and snacks and assisting with chores related to transportation and logistics. Their caps had the logo of the chess club and their name embroidered on the front. Classy.

I saw Gary Leland from Spring, which had the strongest chess group in Texas. If it hadn't been for those busloads of kids from there he would have been director. I had written a little introduction with the ground rules and information they needed about how this is done. The first round for the K-3 kids is always hard; most of them have never been to a tournament. I was going to say all of those things several times, a section at a time. I ran it by Leland and he said, "Yes, that's the boilerplate. Remember, though, that these kids are way above average in everything, especially the ones past the fourth grade." I said, "Yes, I read your excellent paper. Your statistical methods are perfect, and the way you controlled for family resources, age, sex, and historical school performance was carefully carried out. You had a large enough sample to prove, at a 1% confidence level, that kids that play chess do better in school, and the longer they play the wider the gap, and even if they quit playing after two years they keep their advantage but do not widen it. I think the last statement has only a 5% confidence level." "Yes, the sample size was too small. I had included ethnic variables but the journal said that was too touchy. We have some promising African-American and Hispanic players that are better integrated into the system than their similar peers who do not play. In a sense what I found was that they do better because they are better adapted socially. That seems strange because chess is regarded as antisocial by many."

"I would like to read that if you still have the manuscript. I have noticed that the chess players do not huddle up in self-segregated groups in the cafeteria even if there are other chess players around. That may have as much to do with the observer as the facts.

"By the way, I have to recuse myself from making any ruling concerning one of the players in the Senior section. There she is. I'll introduce you."

I gave Mae the come here signal, and told her, “Mae, this is Mr. Leland, who co-ordinates scholastic chess in Spring, and will be the director for the Senior section you will play in. Mr. Leland, this is Mae Barber, a high school junior in New Iberia, who will be playing in her first tournament.” They shook hands. He said he was pleased to meet her and wished her a good experience. He told me he would email me a copy of the original manuscript, and left. I told Mae her player number, which would not change, and explained that in a few minutes they would post the pairing for the first round. I took her to the cozy room she would play in. “Now, how is Sue?”

“Well, she seems tired, but contented. I guess she doesn’t sleep as well when in a strange place. She is going to visit friends she hasn’t seen for a while. I’m glad I have this to do, else she would have hauled me along. I slept well and feel confident.”

I decided a little pep talk would not hurt. “You have been quick and clever lately. Your ‘Where will Jack sleep?’ and ‘Do I have to be a Bryant now?’ were better than clever. Now it is time to be reflective and play hard. I mean play hard chess. Make no sloppy moves. If you are ahead on the clock more than ten minutes, slow down and try to analyze more deeply. An exception is in the opening. If you are in a line you know well that is favorable to you, and are absolutely sure of that, play quickly. Make eye contact with your opponent when not studying the board. Your beautiful face, hair, and bright blue eyes may distract some, but do study the board while he is thinking. I know from playing you that you can visualize the whole board.

“You have four advantages over the others:

1. They don’t know you. These players have been playing each other for years.
2. You are at ease with closed positions and positional play. Most of the rest are on edge in a closed position and prefer tactical play.
3. You have just crushed two powerful adults by your dauntless courage and astonishing performance. Who are these clowns compared to them?
4. You will be well fed and sleep long, and are accompanied by a grandmother who will protect you and a friend who has the highest regard for not only your skill in chess, but in life as well. “By the way, don’t tell, but I love Sue too. “And, again, play hard, as if your life depended on it.”

Mae just said, “I always play as hard as I can. I don’t know what the last two points have to do with it anything.”

“The third is not about chess, it is about confidence and courage. You said, ‘I feel like I’m on top of the world.’ Embrace that feeling. Let it sustain you in difficult positions and give you confidence that you will find the way. Games in general are all about confidence, particularly chess, where kismet plays no part in the outcome. Let your opponent have the ill fortune. And when you think you have found the path to victory, have the courage to press on with your plan.

“The last point is about your body and brain. They need food and rest, and, I believe, love. You will see on Sunday 90% of the players are fatigued from lack of sleep and nourishment. If

you are lucky you won't have to play one of those, for there is little pleasure in defeating a player not at his best.

"I see they have posted pairings for the first round. Remember you are 287, and in one of the columns is an integer which says which board you play on, and the letter W or B tells you whether you have White or Black. You will be playing on a high numbered board, probably 16. Your opponent will know you are unrated, but don't pretend to be confused. Even if you win a first round game with stuff like that, it won't last. And, as Mr. Leland said, let this be a good, even enjoyable, experience, win, draw, or lose."

Mae gave me a hug and thanked me, then joined the crowd looking at the pairings. I didn't look at it at all, sort of an extension of my leaving the building when Charles was playing. Today I couldn't leave.

I had to go give my little speech to the Senior section. They were starting first. Other sections were larger than the 10–12. I counted 18 boards set up, so there would be 36 or 37 players. After I finished they set their clocks and started. They had their own room away from the madness outside.

The next section for which pairings were completed was the 8–9 group. Then the K–3. We had decided to let parents be in the room in this section. The kids would do better if they were there, and I ruled out cheating by keeping the parents away from the core of players. Players in this group were mostly from Spring and Baton Rouge. I toned down the speech so even the K players could understand it. It was the smallest section, only 15 boards.

By far the largest sections were the 4–5 and 6–7 grades. That was not the madhouse it usually is because each section was split in two and assigned to four rooms in all. The print-out program had been modified to allow splitting a large group into two rooms. I wondered why they didn't just make four sections, one each for 4, 5, 6, and 7, and brought it up later, but for now it will work out. I gave the speeches to 4–5, then to 6–7. By some minor miracle, a combination of computer power and the skill of the data entry people, every section started by 10. I have never been at a scholastic meet when the first round started on time. Mr. Leland's tournaments in Spring, and the Texas championship in Austin, are examples, usually starting over an hour late. I remember seeing the data entry people there humped over the keyboard, hunting and pecking.

I omitted a detail. When a game is finished, the players write the outcome on a small piece of paper, a form, and take it to the command center, called the bullpen at this tournament. Both players go. Their datum is immediately entered in the computer by the bored, probably sleepy, typist. The program has a lot of error checking and keeps the complete history of all key-strokes. The first to emerge from the Senior division was Cain with a win. He recognized me, and we had a chat, just chess, he told me that I used the King's Indian in the first game we played, then years later some out-of-the-book opening that started 1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4. He said, "I thought it could not possibly be sound, but you had me running for my life at first."

I was not amazed about his memory, for I remembered it too. I said, "You won both, and neither of us blundered, you just snuck up on me and smothered me. I used that gambit because it left open lines all over the place, but you played carefully and well. It has the disadvantage that if Black declines the gambit with 2 . . . e3 then it is a French Defense game,

so White must be prepared for that. A Caro-Kann arises with 2 . . . c5. I didn't mind this because I knew both defenses well, especially the French, from the Black point of view." Mae came out of the room, big grin, so she had done OK. I introduced her to Craig, and they left to report the outcome. The three of us went to the skittles room. Craig had a chess set, and asked Mae if she would like a casual game, no clocks but there is another round in maybe 90 minutes. She said OK.

*To Be Continued if there is still interest*

## **TEX / RN5 Mailbox:**

Please send in your feedback, gripes, and suggestions. The mailbox again only had a few inputs for TEX and RN5.

From James Wades, Feb 13:

The February, 2023 issue of the QNI Newsletter is now available. You can download a PDF copy direct at: <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/a7c9f25d-31a7-4462-ba9c-709656c16385/QNI%202023-2%20Approved.pdf>

Contents include:

1. New RRI Traffic System Initiatives
2. RRI Digital Traffic Net Expands to Puerto Rico
3. The "I Am Safe" Program
4. Reviving the Local Radio Club
5. Responsibility (Message Delivery)
6. Sparks on the Great Lakes
7. RRI Operating Directive - Interoperability
8. The Proven RRI Radiogram-ICS213 Protocol
9. Digital Traffic Network Goals

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June 21 to June 25 K6JT: Thanks to all those who filled in for me while I was sick with a very bad case of the Flu combined with Covid (whew!) Special thanks to Jon, KZ5Z, and Jack, K5WNU for covering my scheduled NCS slots and liaisons. I don't believe that a Flu shot will protect you or even result in a less severe case. Did not do anything for me. 73, Steve

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From Ken, K5RG: The new STEx Section Traffic Manager (STM) is Sheree, WM5M. Think I have the abbreviations correct. Sheree is very active but strictly phone from my limited observations. She is an active participant on 7290.

Ron Bosch, KE4DRF the past STM seems to have disappeared but only because of my limited interface with the Sections phone operators. Enjoyed working with Ron who was also digitally involved (NTSD).

- . . . -  
Apr 2, KZ5Z: Hello Steve. Hope all going well. Just wanted to mention that conditions on 80 have been very poor to south Texas on Early TEX. I have been moving the net to 40 meters where conditions are much better. I think it is just too early for 80 on early TEX. That may be the case to a lesser degree on early RN5 but I haven't moved that net yet. 73, Jon

*Early TEX is now officially on 40 meters as announced in this newsletter.*

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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. There are some openings and an update to the Roster.

We are still missing coverage for 4 NCS, 2 RN5/1 and 1 RN5/2 slots.

Based on reports from Jon and Randy, 80 is not working well for the early TEX and RN5 nets. Accordingly, both early nets should move to 40 meters. Suggested frequency is 7108 but digital and SSB have been observed on these so tune around.

The late sessions can stay on 80 meters, with stations sent to 40 to pass traffic if needed. CAN is moving to 40, a little at a time. Some NCS have made the switch and others are still waiting a while. As the sundown time gets later, a move to 40 will be needed for CAN.

### 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

TSN: **3570** - 19:45 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:

#### February 2023:

Don, W5DAE, took first place with 47 (98%), Jon, KZ5Z was a very close second with 46 (96%), and Randy, N5RL, was third with 41 (85%). Thanks again to all who checked in.

Visitors: None.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note there were 48 sessions reported out of a possible 48 (no Saturday nets). Traffic averaged 0.65 per net session (0.8 last month). Net time averaged 10.4 minutes per session (10.1 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.5 per session (4.8 last month).

#### TEX Net Statistics (February 2023)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	5	7					
*		2						
W5DAE	Don	24	47					
		23						
W5FEA	Jim	5	6					
*		1						
K5IX	Dave	12	21					
		9						
K6JT	Steve	0	9					
*		9		9	6		8	

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
K5KV	Benny	4	5					
		1						
W5OMR	Geoff	14	14			14		
		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	4					
*		4			4			
N5RL	Randy	19	41	8				
*		22		1				
W9VE	Don	14	15	4			14	
		1					1	
KZ5Z	Jon	23	46	12	23			
	OK	23		14	13	1		
Totals		215		48	46	15	23	0
				100%	96%	31%	48%	0%
QTC 1		19	49					
QTC 2		30		Sessions:	48			
Time 1		281	488					
Time 2		207						

### March 2023:

The top 3 stations were only 1 QNI apart: Jon, KZ5Z, was 1<sup>st</sup> with 51 (94%), Don, W5DAE, was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 50 (93%), and Randy, N5RL, was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 49 (91%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in.

Visitors: None

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 0.9 per net session (0.65 last month). Net time averaged 9.1 minutes per session (10.4 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.0 per session (4.5 last month).

### TEX Net Statistics (March 2023)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	7	9	1	1			
*		2		1	1			
W5DAE	Don	24	50					
		26						
W5FEA	Jim	0	2					
*		2						
K5IX	Dave	13	18					
		5						
K6JT	Steve	0	15					
*		15		15	10		15	
K5KV	Benny	0	1					

		1						
W5OMR	Geoff	9	9			9		
		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	5					
*		5			5			
N5RL	Randy	23	49	10				
*		26				1		
W9VE	Don	8	8	2			8	
		0						
KZ5Z	Jon	26	51	14	26			
		25		11	11	2		
Totals		217		54	54	12	23	0
				100%	100%	22%	43%	0%
QTC 1		9	48					
QTC 2		39		Sessions:		54		
Time 1		265	493					
Time 2		228						

### Operating:

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

The time change resulted in worse propagation for early TEX (and RN5), so they have both been moved to 40 meters. Hopefully that will work better for everyone, but in the past, long skip has made 40 a little difficult for those close to each other, especially for the late nets, so those remain on 80 for now.

Here are the composite reports for the last 2 months for traffic handled at the region and above levels. Traffic totals were up significantly from January for February and up even more in March. The problem is that not enough of it reaches TEX, although RN5 was way up in March.

### Central US Nets Activity for February 2023

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	12	24	62	75	0.320
Cycle 2 9RN*	12	197	88	62	3.177
Day 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area #	12	17	46	64	0.266
Night 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area**	48	98	182	385	0.255
Night 9 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	51	337	182	342	0.985
Night 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	54	49	142	259	0.189
Day Central US	11	139	97	210	0.662
Night Central US @	28	386	146	411	0.939

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day Inter-Area Traffic	33	85	33		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	84	262	76		90%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1594	1054	1808	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		339	173	166	
N9VC Central Area 9RN/TEN		3215	1332	1883	
Digital Stations (13)		325	178	147	
Total DTN Digital		3879			
Total Central US		5473			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager - thanks to NCS stations for statistics					

### Central US Nets Activity for March 2023

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	14	34	71	87	0.391
Cycle 2 9RN*	14	275	91	79	3.481
Day 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area #	14	16	61	78	0.205
Night 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area**	54	153	232	501	0.305
Night 9 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	56	343	206	403	0.851
Night 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	55	44	138	235	0.187
Day Central US	14	146	127	310	0.471
Night Central US @	31	391	160	476	0.821
Day Inter-Area Traffic	42	117	41		98%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	93	260	88		95%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1779	1215	2169	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		296	156	140	
N9VC Central Area 9RN/10RN		3443	1502	1941	

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Digital Stations (14)		461	310	151	
Total DTN Digital		4200			
Total Central US		5979			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					
@ 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 Happy Spring and Good Health in 2023.

Until June, 73, Steve K6JT

TEX Newsletter Editor and Statistician

## TSN Corner

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

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

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

**This will be the last TSN Corner unless Jason reports activity**



Photo Courtesy of VE3UU

## Greetings From Northeast Texas

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

## Net Control Stations

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

## TSN Activity Reports

Month	QNI	QTC	QTR	Nr. Operators	Sessions
February 2023	No Report	0			?
March 2023	No Report	0			?

## TSN Roster (January 2019 to Current Date)

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

Stop by any evening Tuesday through Friday on 3570kHz at 7:45 p.m. CT and start the net if you do not hear anyone there. This is a great place to learn how to handle traffic on CW. If you are a voice net traffic handler, this is a great addition to your amateur radio skill set. See you on the air!!

73, Jason KD5RQB

## **RN5 Corner**

RRI Fifth Call Area Net (Daily) 1930 CT on **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 89 of the **RN5 Corner**.

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

Jon, KZ5Z, will be gone from Apr 14Z to Apr 18Z. Sam, W5CU, will be gone Apr 13Z to Apr 18Z and off the air. Then Sam will be in Colorado Apr 19Z to Apr 26Z and operating from there. Sam and Ken are the only ones besides me who regularly go to CAN, although Jon has tried it a few times. Sam and Jon are the only ones who take outgoing RN5 traffic there. We need more help with CAN liaisons.

A big Thanks to Jack, K5WNU, who continues an outstanding job of being NCS on many RN5 sessions as you can see in the statistics below.

Here is a list of the stations sending NC reports for February and March (in order from earliest date station first reported that month). Thanks to everyone for supporting RN5. There are a lot of empty CAN liaison slots.

February: K5WNU 26, K6JT 6, W5CU 6, KZ5Z 10

March: K5WNU 21, K6JT 10, W5CU 13, KZ5Z 10

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.

TN traffic can be sent to Jim, WA4VGZ, who is the manager of cycle 2 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	FEBRUARY	MARCH
SESSIONS	48	54
QTC	98	153
QNI	182	232
QTR	385	501
AVG QTC	2.0	2.8
AVG QNI	3.8	4.3
AVG QTR	8.0	9.3

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	KZ8Q	BEN	FL
W4DLZ	FRANK	(SK)	K5RG	KEN	TX
W5DY	RODNEY	(SK)	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5FEA	JIM	TX	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K5WNU	JACK	MS
K5GM	PETE	TN	KZ5Z	JON	OK / (TX)
W8IM	DEAN	FL			

\*\* 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