

# *The Texan*

Newsletter of the Texas CW Traffic Net (TEX)

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

Net Manager: Rodney Baker, W5DY, Goliad TX  
(Resigned due to poor health – position open)

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Assistant Manager: Position open



May - June 2020

## **About the TEX Manager**

Very sad to report that Rodney, W5DY, has had to resign as the TEX manager as of mid-May. His health has deteriorated to the point that he is now in Hospice care at home. He sent me (K6JT) the records he had and all NCS stations have now started to send their reports to me for inclusion in the statistics.

Here is Rodney's final message to everyone:

For my final article I wish to thank everyone who helped me and certainly wish I could have continued as net manager, but God has some other ideas on that. It's funny how things just slip up on you and this did just that to me. I never dreamed that I would be in this medical condition now, but here I am.

I could mention everyone by name and call, but that would use up a whole page. So, here is the brief version of my thanks to you for all your help. I hope to be around some more, but who knows what will happen, so with that, 73 and good luck.

Happy Hamming to all my Tex CW friends,  
Rodney W5DY

This means the manager's position is now open. Randy, N5RL, had shown interest in being the assistant manager, but he is now also having his own health issues, so we are without a manager. I will continue to collect the reports and keep statistics, but my on-air time is severely limited due to my wife's problems. All NCS and liaison stations, please continue with your currently scheduled assignments, although with Rodney and Randy (sometimes) unable to fill their old ones, there are going to be nights with only a "pick up" NCS possible. Jim, W5FEA, continues to do more than his share of these but he is no longer going to RN5. It is getting very thin, and most of us continue to "age out" of serious activity. Please, those of you regulars who are able, consider taking on more assignments, and if some of you are willing to take on the manager's job, please let me know. Among us we can very likely keep things operating smoothly without significantly burdening any one person.

We are all praying for Rodney and also Randy. Thank you both for your many years of service.

## **Home at Last – Part 2**

### **By Vic, W7VSE (SK)**

This story continues to tell about what happened upon Vic's return from his duty in China.

Back on the train---this one was a troop train, and we had an uneventful trip to Wichita Falls. Here again, we Morse code men did not have any duty. Of course, I spent as much time as I could over in Oklahoma, visiting my Mom and enjoying my hometown. John Osborn, "Ozzie," from Indiana was also stationed there at Wichita Falls. He was another Morse code man "frozen" and waiting to be discharged. John was with me at Yangkai Air Base in China. In fact, he took my job as Chief Operator at Yangkai when I was transferred to Chabua, India. He was also one of the gang that drank beer all the way across India.

So "Ozzie" got to meet my Mom and he and I had some memorable times in my old hometown. But soon I got some more traveling orders. I was transferred to Langley Field, Virginia.

Back on the train—and it's a long ride from Texas to Virginia. I was only there for less than a month, but I found a cute bar maid to spend some time with in Hampton Roads, the first little town outside the Air Base. Would like to have stayed longer, but orders showed up, transferring me to Sacramento, CA.

Back on the train---that train ride was almost from Atlantic to Pacific Oceans. I've often wondered if someone in Headquarters was playing games with me and doing this on purpose. I was getting moved around so much, I had trouble getting a paycheck. I had room and board and clothing, but no money to go out on the town.

Back on the train---(This is beginning to sound like a broken record, but believe me, it actually happened.) I only spent about 2 weeks at Sacramento and guess what? Orders came in for me to move to Spokane Army Air Base in Washington State.

Back on the train for a nice ride up the Pacific coast to Spokane. There was some celebration going on, maybe it was Armistice Day, November 11. Anyway, they were having a parade and many festivities were in progress. Some older people literally took charge of me, and I didn't need to have any money—they wine and dined me, and put me up for the night. What a party!

Nothing to do at Spokane Army Air Base, the same as the other places I'd been stationed. We didn't have any duties. Went into town often, and some nights I missed the last bus back to the base, and would sleep in the lobby of a well known hotel. I can't recall the name of the hotel, but they were very friendly toward the military and ignored our staying overnight in the lobby, or on the mezzanine, just above the lobby. We of course had a bed back in the barracks, and there was a recreation room close by, with pool tables and other things. I spent a lot of time there and at the Club nearby. The beer was good and priced right. On a typical day, I would have 3 meals in the mess hall, and spend a few hours playing pool and drinking beer. After dinner, I'd shave and shower, get dressed and catch the bus into town, and really

get serious about drinking beer, and trying to pick up a girl friend as often as I could. What a life! It didn't last long however, as I received orders to report to Medford Army Air Base, Medford, Oregon.

BACK ON THE TRAIN for the last time. I rolled into Medford about 7AM one day and got directions at the depot on how to get to the USO, just behind Hubbard's Hardware store on Riverside. It was only a few blocks from the depot. When I arrived at the USO, it wasn't open yet. I peered through the glass window and could see a janitor pushing a broom in the back. I tapped on the glass and he came over, heard my story, and let me in. Now I had a place to stay, temporarily, until the town woke up. I got cleaned up, and after some personnel showed up, I checked my barracks bag, and went for a stroll down town.

I didn't have any money at all, but I had a carton of Lucky Strike cigarettes. With the wartime rationing going on, cigarettes were hard to come by in those days, and were almost worth their weight in gold, so I took them with me to use as barter. I found the Union club on West Main Street and went in and sat on a barstool. The bartender came over to me and asked what I wanted. I told him I had no money but had that carton of Luckys that I wanted to trade. His face lit up like a Christmas tree and he said yes, we could do some trading. So, I had a beer or so and ate a pickled polish sausage and a pickled, boiled egg, for breakfast. Later on I called the Air Base and they sent transportation to pick me up. I completed the last 8 months of my Army Air Corps service at the Air Base here in Medford.

I read an article a while back that was funny. This guy said that beer was invented many thousands of years ago. Later on they had to invent the wheel so they could build a vehicle to go get the beer.

Over the years, I've thought a lot about why I drank so much, and why I chased after the girls. I have considered that maybe I drank because I thought I needed that to make me brave and brazen enough to chase after the girls. Also, the possibility, hanging over our heads, that we were doomed to be sent overseas again and might not survive the war. I have come to the conclusion that, having that constant reminder that you may die, gnaws at the primordial male instinct that urges you to reproduce and leave progeny on earth, so you will have evidence that proves you did not exist in vain.

Well, at least that is the only excuse that I can think of, to explain some of the outlandish things I did during my life.

(Thank you, Vic. May you Rest in Peace)

### **TEX News in 1975**

Here are some tidbits from one of the newsletters sent to me by Pip, WB4FDT. Thanks again, Pip. This is followed by an article from the OOTC (Old Old Timers Club) newsletter, also sent by Pip. I have a feeling that many of us who are reading this newsletter easily qualify for the 40 years of past activity to join the OOTC. I know that 2021 will be my 60<sup>th</sup> year of being continuously active. But Pete, K5GM, has that beat with his Novice license from 1954 (as stated in last month's newsletter). That's 66 years right now!

TEX statistics from December 1974: QNI 535, QTC 606, QTR 1334 in 60 sessions (rate .454, which is better than most of the upper level nets as shown in the Operating section).

There were special congrats to two of the TEX members who “crashed into fame” by receiving 40 wpm code proficiency certificates – W5TI, Bill, and W5UGE (K5RG), Ken. Bill did his on a mill, starting at 20 wpm. Ken wrote his out, a feat that (at that time) was believed impossible any faster than 30 wpm. *(OK, Ken, it is now 45 years later – can you still write that fast ??? Ed.)*

One TEX member took exception to the suggestion to keep the net’s speed down to 20 wpm. He pointed out that the Operating Manual recommended 16 to 18 wpm for a section net, and even that is a big jump from the TEX Slow Speed net’s 10 to 13 wpm. He wrote: Doubtless, some of us get carried away and feel the regulars are copying OK at 22 to 25 wpm, but in order to attract good ops who are on fone a lot, we must hold down our speed. We need fone ops. Please, let’s not chase them off. *(As I recall, restructuring had not yet happened in 1975 and CW testing at 13 wpm for a General and 20 for Extra were still in force – Ed.)*

In the OOTC newsletter, there was a cartoon contrasting typical QSOs in 1952 with one in 1992. In 1952, the operator said, “I’m running an 807 in the final, Class C. I decided to modulate it with a pair of 6L6’s, push-pull, Class B, etc....” (Home brew rig). In 1992 the operator said, “Rig here is a Haiphong Eleventy-Six Super X, and I haven’t the foggiest idea what’s inside the thing!” (Import Brew rig). Kinda makes you sad, eh?

Also the following article from the OOTC Newsletter. Not sure of the date, but think it is from this or last year.

### **IS HANDLING TRAFFIC STILL RELEVANT TODAY?**

As OOTC members, the answer should be a resounding yes! After all, why was the ARRL named "American Radio Relay League"? It was founded to form a core of the best operators who could relay traffic. By handling traffic we are following in the footsteps of the earliest amateurs. As a historian, this reason alone is enough to keep traffic handling going.

After WWII, ARRL traffic manager George Hart conceived the National Traffic System (NTS) to efficiently relay large amounts of traffic throughout the country. Most traffic nets belong to the NTS System. But with today's computer gizmos and the internet, handling traffic seems a bit old fashioned. But as our friends in the Bahamas, and a few years earlier in Puerto Rico and New Orleans found out, a disaster can put all communication, including the Internet, out of business. Trained hams with dipoles, car battery and a transceiver could and did send a lot of welfare messages to relatives in the US.

Another reason is training. For new hams learning CW, or just learning traffic etiquette, listening or checking into a net several times each week is great practice. You also get to know a lot of folks in the nets, locally or state-wide.

I mention all this because the traffic nets, especially CW ones, are experiencing attrition in their ranks as the retirement rate of current operators exceeds the rate a new recruits. I remember Vic Clark W4KFC (SK) once mentioned that when he was Section Manager in 1952, nearly 20% of the hams in Virginia would check into at least one of the nets.

It seems to me that the demise of the traffic nets began in the early 1990's with the end of the ARRL Communications Department (CD) QSO parties. In order to participate in these popular parties, one had to have an ARRL Appointment. In order to get an appointment, most ops had to be active in the traffic nets and submit a count of passed traffic. Once the CD Parties were gone, many folks no longer needed to keep up with their appointment and became less active in the traffic nets.

Its interesting to note that in the ARRL Board of Directors meeting last January "Affirmed its support for NTS and recognized the value of ..."NTS" and its "large core of experienced operators". I hope we see more recognition about traffic handling in QST. Maybe we can get some OOTC members back into their local and state nets...

### **TEX Mailbox:**

From Jo Ann, **KA5AZK**, on March 26:

In an effort to keep everyone safe and healthy, the Net Officers have decided to postpone this years picnic due to the virus. I have talked with the Rockdale City Hall and have secured a new date of October 24 for our picnic. Hopefully by then the virus will have subsided and things will be back to somewhat normal. There are two cases of the virus in Williamson County and most things are closed down.

Sorry to cause any inconvenience but these are extraordinary circumstances and couldn't be helped. All arrangements and locations will be the same, the only thing changed will be the date. Please help get the word out of the new date.

73, Jo Ann KA5AZK  
7290 Traffic Net Manager

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From Jim (Hank), **K5TSK**, on April 19:

I can still vaguely remember as a child watching the front door opened and a guy identifying himself as Western Union outside offering a message in telegram form. It wasn't good news. Can't remember the message, but the delivery is still lodged in my brain. Since relicensing late 2015, I've spent many hours listening to Louisiana CW net, TEX, RN5, CAN, and others. Something there resonates and I can't seem to get completely away from it. I suppose I love it for some strange reason.

Earliest memory after relicensing was while listening to the Arkansas Razorback net, hearing as K4VIZ got invited not to bring traffic to the net, but kindly. Two others, a guy in Eldorado, another in Jonesboro, got the same treatment and not so politely.

I've always been a little slow, so after receiving a little traffic off of TEX, 7290, RN5(?), I decided to try my luck. A couple of older old time traffic handlers on Razorback net, including one past multi-year section manager, did take a few messages of spam from DL4FN and others and either deliver or throw in the trash. And basically after a bit advised me that those messages did not make any sense and they couldn't understand why anyone would want to receive them. I got really pissed and told a few of them what I thought about it. Haven't been back and will not go back.

After a couple years of reflection, I realize those guys were right. The stuff I monitor from time to time on the CW nets is spam. Seldom really make good sense and those messages advising how important our traffic system is to national security, etc. are basically BS.

So here we are with a bunch of kind hearted, mostly, old timers who have been doing CW traffic handling for many, many years and they watch the message sources dry up (and not a minute too soon, in my book), friends pass on, nets go wanting for leadership or QNI. It's too too sad.

I remember taking my wife, daughter, and grandkids to the Ozark Center State Park, years ago. We watched as candles were made. Pictures painted, iron work done, old newspaper presses inked, and baskets woven from oak strips. Since my dad's folks had been employees of the old Macon Telegraph news in Macon, GA, the presses grabbed me almost physically. It was fun and informative, but no one would leave that place thinking of starting a business of any size using that technology. Even if pot pourri and candles can be handy at times.

No one seriously expects all their news or mail to be hand delivered by a guy wearing a Phillip Morris outfit carrying a yellow slip. Frankly, isn't that what us basket weaving CW ops are doing?? Is it any wonder that while SKCC, FISTS, CWops, other groups grow daily, traffic nets go begging? It's the present reality of the actual need for what is being passed off for traffic. Since CW guys have more than their share of nostalgia in their make up, it's the stuff served up, that's the problem.

Gather the total number of existing CW traffic handling guys, ARRL, RRI, independent, and get them to agree to join an outfit independent of old hard feelings. Put them on a database with their willingly provided working email, and phone number. Let them know no one is going to use that system outside of the group involved to send them stuff outside of messages relating to their particular club(s) news or birthday, anniversary of ham license, their contest results for their particular activity. Make the messages ham friendly, expected, and fraud proof. People might be willing to answer the phone for something identified as that. Let the current spammers know their spam is unwanted and not needed. Spin it for what it really is. A group of nostalgic, old timers who love participating in keeping history alive. In my opinion, the CW traffic system (maybe not as constructed) is worth maintaining, but not for some guy to just keep his numbers up. NOBODY CARES. Frankly, I don't give a damn why any of you guys are mad at ARRL. Could not care less why ARRL is mad at you all. From my side, it's mostly bruised egos.

It's possible something like the new group might work. It is beyond obvious that what you guys are doing now, ISN'T.

Hank K5TSK

P.S. All the above is about CW traffic ONLY, don't have a clue about digital and couldn't care less. People get on 7290 to get on 7290. No traffic really needed.

Everybody has an opinion, this is mine, and worth maybe what you paid for it.

(Response on April 19 about name being Hank instead of Jim and asking permission to publish the input, as written):

Steve, if you think it would help, then do so. I truly want to see the guys have something to work with. I have always from the first time I listened to a CW net, the old Okla Slow net, under NKC, been IN. Never have been good enough for the big time though. Would like the tradition to be thriving as long as ham exists.

As for Hank, several of the higher speed guys I have worked, knew Jim Ricks, W9TO. He was a 60 wpm guy and a true CW op. I go by Hank, instead of Jim now, as a way of honoring him. Only one Jim Ricks.

73, Hank

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Received from Ken, **K5RG**, news for those in the South Texas Section about your new STM: With COVID-19 stay at home policies continuing in place, this is a great time to "Get On The Air" (GOTA) and work some ham radio.

One of the facets of ham radio is the art of Traffic Handling via the excellent STX section traffic nets such as the 7290 Net, Texas Traffic Net, Texas ARES Net, NTS, RRI systems or even your local 2 Meter net.

GOTA moving some traffic, even if it's a simple birthday wish, a practice ICS213 or a message to a friend to gain experience for that future day when ham radio may be the only means of communication.

As part of traffic handling is collecting net activity which includes, but not limited to net check ins, messages handled, Brass Pounder nominees and names for the Public Service list on STX nets so we can report to ARRL HQ and publishing in QST Magazine.

To report your nets activities in the STX Section, we have a new Section Traffic Manager, Kathy Parks, W4BBY and she is seeking any and all activity and net reports for inclusion in the monthly report she sends to ARRL HQ.

To accomplish the reporting needs, I ask all nets and their managers to please reach out to Kathy and establish a reporting method.

Questions and report submissions can be directed to Kathy at:

Kathy Parkes, K4BBY

ARRL South Texas Section Traffic Manager kparkes at aol.com

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From Rodney, **W5DY**, on April 25: All members of Tex CW Traffic Net.

Effective May 1 2020 the nets on Saturday nights will be eliminated. There will be one more night in the near future which will be eliminated also, but as of now that is TBD. (*A later message from Rodney said it will remain only Saturday*).

Thanks and 73, Rodney W5DY

Net Manager

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Received the following humorous mail from George, **K5BMR**: An Older then Dirt Quiz  
*Do you remember?*

1. Blackjack chewing gum and Teaberry.

2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water.
3. Candy cigarettes.
4. Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles.
5. Coffee shops or diners with table-side jukeboxes.
6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers.
7. Party lines on the telephone.
8. Newsreels before the movie.
9. P.F. Flyers.
10. Butch wax.
11. TV test patterns that came on at night after the last show and were there until TV started again in the morning. (There were three channels if you were lucky).
12. Peashooters.
13. Howdy Doody.
14. 45 RPM records.
15. S&H Green stamps.
16. Hi-fi's.
17. Metal ice trays with lever.
18. (*And my own recollections*, Nash Rambler and Big Bands like Glenn Miller)

*You have to SHARE if you remember 4 or more!*

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From Sam, **W5CU**, on May 30:

I'm fully recovered and feeling great, but of course like several of you I fall in the category of threatened species in the new Covid world order. They tell me everything is reopening but I'm still advised to "shelter in place". OK, I get it, but I'm going to change the "place" to Buena Vista, CO, effective next week. We bought a small cabin there with some half-decent antenna-hanging cottonwoods and aspens, so I don't expect to be off the air very long, maybe a week or so. I'm gaining some elevation from my last /0 location - this one's 8,000'. Current plan is to stay there all summer and return to OK in late Sept.

There is a possibility that I will be doing some Forest Service work in the Rio Grande N.F. on week-days which would take me out of most radio activities (it's in Del Norte, about 1 1/2 hours away from my place). Decision to do this will be based on the virus situation in mid-June, when the staff is scheduled to report back to the District office. I'll let you know asap whether or not this happens.

As with my past absences, any help with NCSs and liaisons would be appreciated during this down-time. Based on past experience with /0, propagation probably will not favor my continued NCS or liaison on TEX and HBN nets, but I will jump in and help if I'm home and band condx allow. I appreciate you all covering for me. NCS/liaisons are shown below, all days local time. 73. Sam W5CU

Sunday: TEX NCS, RN5 NCS, RN5 to CAN liaison

Monday: HBN NCS, RN5 to CAN liaison, late RN5 to late TEX liaison

Tuesday: RN5 to CAN liaison

Wednesday: RN5 NCS, RN5 to CAN liaison,

Thursday: RN5 to CAN TX liaison

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## TEX Net Topics

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown below (as updated for W5DY, N5RL, W5CU and deletion of the Saturday early and late nets). It includes Rodney's last schedule.

Welcome to Jim, K5JFB, in Fort Worth, who has been checking in a lot and is now on the Roster. Note also that CAN and WAN have changed to their 40 meter 7052 frequencies for the summer.

### TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NC 1	W5FEA	N5RL	W5FEA	N5RL	N5RL	No Net	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	W5DY	K5GM	W5FEA	W5DY	No Net	W5FEA
NC 2	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K5GM	No Net	W5CU
Backup	K5GM	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	No Net	W5FEA
RN5 1	N5RL	Open	K5GM	Open	W5DY	No Net	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	W5DY	Open	Open	No Net	Open
RN5 2	W5CU	K6JT	K5RG	K6JT	K5GM	No Net	W5CU
Backup	Open	W5DY	W5CU	W5DY	W5DY	No Net	Open

\* W5DY is no longer able to operate due to health issues – left in the table to show places that now need to be filled. W5CU is in the process of setting up his station in Colorado. Sam hopes to continue helping TEX, RN5, and CAN, but he may have trouble on the early sessions due to propagation.

TEX/1: **3541**/7106/3593 at 19:00 CT; TEX/2 **3541**/3593/1841 at 22:00 CT

RN5/1: **3567**/7108 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: **7052**/3552 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: W5CU, K5GM, K5RG, N5RL

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5FEA, K5GM, K5RG, N5RL

### TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	WA5MS	Marty	Argyle
N5BA	Brian	Houston	* W6LFB	Jim	Denton
WA5CAV	Dick	Pineville LA	NM5M	Eric	Plano
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	N7NET	Scott	Crossett AR
N5CXX	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
W5DAE	Don	San Angelo	K9NY	Bill	Canyon Lake

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	WA5PRI	Don	Thibodaux LA
* W5FEA	Jim	Graham	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
K5GM	Pete	Austin	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
KM0I	John	Hattiesburg MS	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KA9IKK	Bill	Katy	K5TSK	Hank	Pearcy AR
K5IX	Dave	Brackettville	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
K5JFB	Jim	Fort Worth	W9VE	Don	Dallas
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan

\* Capable of 160 meter operation

## Statistics:

### April 2020:

Don, W5DAE, was first place with 56 (97%). Jim, W5FEA, with 49 (90%), edged out Rodney for second, and Rodney, W5DY, was third with 47 (88%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Joe W3GW, was visiting from LA – other stations are on the roster.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note there were 58 sessions reported out of a possible 60. Traffic averaged 1.8 per net session (1.5 last month). Net time averaged 9.5 minutes per session (compared to 8.7 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.7 per session (5.0 last month).

### TEX Net Statistics (April 2020)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
N5BA	Brian	1	1					
		0						
W5CU	Sam	7	15	4	5			
*		8		4	8			
W5DAE	Don	26	56					
		30						
W5DY	Rodney	22	47	1	2			
		25		5				
W5FEA	Jim	24	49	22	1	23		
*		25		3		24		
K5GM	Pete	12	36	1	5			
*		24		4	3			
W3GW	Joe	1	1					
	LA	0						

KA9IKK	Bill	10	16					
*		6						
K5JRN	Si	1	1					
*		0						
K5IX	Dave	5	10					
		5						
K6JT	Steve	0	14					
*		14		14	9		14	
K5RG	Ken	0	9					
*		9			6			
N5RL	Randy	20	44					
*		24						
K5TSK	Jim	3	3					
		0						
W9VE	Don	9	9				9	
		0						
WB8WKQ	Jeff	0	17					
		17						
Totals		305		58	58	52	13	0
				100%	100%	90%	22%	0%
QTC 1		36	104					
QTC 2		68		Sessions:		58		
Time 1		272	551					
Time 2		279						

## May 2020:

Don, W5DAE, was 1st with 48 (89%), Jim, W5FEA, was 2nd with 45 (81%), edging out Randy, N5RL, who was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 44 (77%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Welcome to new member Jim, K5JFB, who had 23 check-ins from Fort Worth.

Visitors included George, K5TR, from Austin and Dave, K5WN, from San Antonio.

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 62. Traffic averaged 1.9 per net session (1.8 last month). Net time averaged 11.8 minutes per session (compared to 9.5 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.4 per session (5.7 last month).

### TEX Net Statistics (May 2020)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	7	17	3	5			
*		10		3	8			
W5DAE	Don	24	48					

		24						
W5DY	Rodney	11	20	1	1			
		9		1				
W5FEA	Jim	24	45	15	1	23		
*		21		1		21		
K5GM	Pete	14	34		8			
*		20		6	3			
W9GVW	Eric	5	10					
*		5						
KA9IKK	Bill	2	6					
*		4						
K5IX	Dave	2	2					
		0						
K6JT	Steve	0	13					
*		13		13	9		13	
K5JFB	Jim	11	23				1	
		12					1	
K5RG	Ken	0	6					
*		6			4			
N5RL	Randy	24	44	9	7			
*		20						
W9VE	Don	3	3				3	
		0						
WB8WKQ	Jeff	0	10					
		10						
K5TR	George	0	1					
	Austin	1						
K5WN	Dave	1	1					
	San Antonio	0						
Totals		283		52	46	44	18	0
				100%	88%	85%	35%	0%
QTC 1		30	99					
QTC 2		69		Sessions:		52		
Time 1		320	614					
Time 2		294						

### Operating:

The net has stopped meeting on Saturday night, which had been a major problem recently due to seemingly incessant CW contests every weekend. Also, CAN has had a lot of trouble with these. RN5 decided to forego Saturday nets as well, although Jack, K5WNU, has been calling them when he is able.

As mentioned in the preceding, we are desperately in need of more NCS stations and particularly RN5 liaison stations.

Randy, N5RL, is now back home after more hospital visits and feels well enough to do some NCS and RN5 liaison duties. Rodney will check in to the net when he feels well enough but cannot commit to NCS or liaison duties. Sam, W5CU, has gone to Colorado to a new place and intends to stay there all summer. He has put up an antenna and was back on the air as of the 11<sup>th</sup>. Sam plans to check in to TEX, RN5, and CAN when propagation allows.

Although RN5 major participants voted to cease scheduled weekend net call-up (Sat and Sun), Jack, K5WNU, has been calling up the net and anyone who wants to call the net is welcome to do so. Since TEX no longer meets on Saturday, perhaps having RN5 also just skip Saturday would be acceptable.

As mentioned before, CAN has moved to 40 meters. Early RN5 is also a possibility for a move to 40 (7108). NCS stations may do this after announcing the move on 3567 at net startup time. Early TEX is another candidate for movement to 40 (7106). Please send me your thoughts on doing this. As with RN5, the NCS may make the move after starting the net on 3541 and announcing the move. Using 40 may help Sam make it to early TEX and RN5 from Colorado, but 40 needs to be tested for the rest of the net stations.

Here are the composite reports for the last 2 months for traffic handled at the region and above levels. While April was again low like March, activity came way up in May.

#### Central US Nets Activity for April 2020

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	13	27	60	94	0.287
Cycle 2 9RN*	12	244	78	66	3.697
Day 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area #	13	24	64	99	0.242
Night 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area**	54	100	215	451	0.222
Night 9 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	57	269	232	607	0.443
Night 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	55	33	167	251	0.131
Day Central US	13	109	70	276	0.395
Night Central US @	30	384	201	614	0.625
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	84	39		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	86	237	83		97%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1511	1209	2458	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
WB9FHP Central Area HUB		1468	738	730	
Digital Stations (11)		1098	346	752	

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Total DTN Digital		2566	1084	1482	
Total Central US		4077			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					
# Manager recovering - thanks Dave, ND0CW, and Ron, WB9WKO for their reports					
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager - thanks to NCS stations for statistics					

### Central US Nets Activity for May 2020

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	12	41	67	110	0.373
Cycle 2 9RN*	12	271	79	68	3.985
Day 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area #	12	30	57	84	0.357
Night 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area**	49	88	198	414	0.213
Night 9 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	61	493	231	772	0.639
Night 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	60	52	164	298	0.174
Day Central US	12	116	68	202	0.574
Night Central US @	31	612	207	619	0.989
Day Inter-Area Traffic	36	110	36		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	87	349	86		99%
Total Voice/CW Nets		2162	1193	2567	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
WB9FHP Central Area HUB		3953	2150	1803	
Digital Stations (11)		1576	577	999	
Total DTN Digital		5529	2727	2802	
Total Central US		7691			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					
# Manager recovering - thanks Dave, ND0CW, and Ron, WB9WKO for their reports					
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager, thanks to NC Stations for statistics					

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

Until August, let's hope propagation gets better and we can all start to get outside a little more to enjoy the summer. Stay safe – masks and proper social distancing are still highly advised, especially for us Old Timers.

73, Steve K6JT

TEX Newsletter Editor and Statistician

## TSN Corner



Photo Courtesy of VE3UU

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)

### Greetings From Northeast Texas

Jason, KD5RQB, has been calling the net when he is able. He is still working long hours (in the food service industry) and not home many evenings. 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
April 2020	3	0	9	1	3
May 2020	16	0	96	1	16

### 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
WD8LDY	David	BRIDGEPORT, WEST VIRGINIA
KD5RQB	Jason	ATLANTA, TEXAS
N5XGG	Joe	ROCK ISLAND, TEXAS
WB8YLO	Steve	TOLEDO, OHIO

Stop by any evening Tuesday through Friday on 3570kHz at 7:45p.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 and 2130 CT on **3567**

Alternate Frequency 7108 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 open for Net Manager

Hello all and welcome to Edition 72 of the **RN5 Corner**.

Thanks to all RN5 Stations for manning the NCS and CAN liaison slots and sending your reports the last couple months. Please try to get the NC reports to me as soon after the session as possible. Participation has fallen off somewhat for CAN and TEX liaisons. The net members voted to skip Saturday and Sunday, but usage shows that skipping only Saturday would be best with more traffic coming from CAN on Sundays.

Following is a list of the stations sending NC reports for April and May (in order from earliest date station first reported). Jack, K5WNU, has stepped in to fill many of Jim's former duties (thanks!). Other help will be much appreciated. Thanks to you all for supporting RN5!

Apr: W5CU 21, K6JT 9, K5WNU 22, K5GM 2

May: K5WNU 21, K6JT 9, W5CU 18, K5GM 1

If you show up and there is no NCS and you do not want to do a formal net callup, just send RN5? a few times. If nobody answers in a couple minutes, please just report that as 1 station QNI, 0 traffic, 3 minutes.

There are many openings for both NCS and CAN liaison stations as shown in red in the Duty Roster. CAN liaison stations are asked to briefly open the net to handle any listed traffic if there is no formal NCS. I have added Jack, K5WNU, a few nights. Jack, are there any others you would like to have and do you maintain regular CAN interfaces that should be shown?

Thanks for your support of RN5. Thanks to regulars WA5CAV, on nearly every session, K5WNU, K5GM, K6JT, and K5RG. John, KC4FL, continues to regularly check in from FL. Ben, KZ8Q, and Dean, W8IM, check in from FL some nights. Jeff, WB8WKQ, has also been occasionally checking in from Michigan. Please continue to pass AR traffic to the TEX liaison station to take to the 7290 Traffic Net.

TN traffic can be sent to Jim, WA4VGZ, who is the manager of cycle 2 RN5 and located in TN. Reach him via Winlink (preferred). Use WA4VGZ at Winlink dot org and be sure to put //WL2K as the first 7 letters (including space) in the subject line. He also occasionally has a check-in from AL so that traffic could be sent to him for the daytime net.

(Schedule, statistics, and roster on the next page)

### RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	K5WNU	Open	W5CU	Open	Open	No net	Open
NCS #2	K5WNU	K6JT	W5CU	K6JT	K5WNU	No net	Open
CAN TX	Open	Open	W5CU	W5CU	Open	Open	Open
CAN RX	Open	Open	W5CU	K6JT	Open	Open	Open
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

### 2020 Statistics

MONTH	APRIL	MAY
SESSIONS	54	49
QTC	100	88
QNI	215	198
QTR	451	414
AVG QTC	1.9	1.8
AVG QNI	4.0	4.0
AVG QTR	8.4	8.4

The following roster shows stations coming to RN5 in the past 3 years and their states.

### Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	State	Call	Name	State
WA4BAM	JOHN	FL	K6JT	STEVE	TX
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	KZ8Q	BEN	FL
W5CU	SAM	OK*	K5RG	KEN	TX
W4DLZ	FRANK	(SK)	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	W4SU	JERRY	(Retired)
W5FEA	JIM	TX	K5TSK	JIM	AR**
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	WB8WKQ	JEFF	MI
K5GM	PETE	TX	K5WNU	JACK	MS
W8IM	DEAN	FL	WA4ZPZ	TOM	(Retired)

\* When W5CU is not present on Late RN5, OK traffic may be sent to the TEX station

\*\* K4VIZ and K5TSK are 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