

# *The Texan*

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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November-December 2018

**Frank Thrash, W4DLZ, Silent Key Nov 3, 2018. See RN5 Corner for details.**

## **From the TEX Manager**

The net alternate frequencies are changing. 7053 will change to 7106 and 3595 will change to 3593. I never did like 7053 and there has been too much activity on 3595 for the past year or so. I have done a lot of listening and the new frequencies seem to be much quieter. At least for now. It seems like when there is activity on any frequency, before long the QRM starts, so this could be a recurring thing. Ample time and notices will be forthcoming whenever a change is to take place. 73, Rodney W5DY

## **QN Signals in the Air?**

Thanks to Pete, K5GM, for the following;

I did not realize that commercial Q-codes included numerous beginning with QN. I had (mistakenly) assumed that the QN codes for net operation were chosen because there were NO commercial codes using the QNx. The commercial QN signals are as follows (mostly aeronautical) (the interrogatory form is followed by the "answer" form):

**QNE** What indication will my altimeter give on landing at ... (place) at ... hours, my sub-scale being set to 1013.2 millibars (29.92 inches)? On landing at ... (place) at ... hours, with your sub-scale being set to 1013.2 millibars (29.92 inches), your altimeter will indicate ... (figures and units).

**QNH** What should I set on the subscale of my altimeter so that the instrument would indicate its elevation if my aircraft were on the ground at your station? If you set the subscale of your altimeter to read ... millibars, the instrument would indicate its elevation if your aircraft were on the ground at my station at ... hours.

Note.- When the setting is given in hundredths of inch the abbreviation INS is used to identify the units.

QNI Between what heights above ... (datum) has turbulence been observed at ... (position or zone)? Turbulence has been observed at ... (position or zone) with an intensity of ... between ... (figures and units) and ... (figures and units) heights above ... (datum).

QNO I am not equipped to give the information (or provide the facility) requested.

QNR I am approaching my point of no return.

QNT What is the maximum speed of the surface wind at ... (place)? The maximum speed of the surface wind at ... (place) at ... hours is ... (speed figures and units).

QNY What is the present weather and the intensity thereof at ... (place, position or zone)?  
The present weather and intensity thereof at ... (place, position or zone) at ... hours is ...

Notes:

a) When present weather information is transmitted by a ground station, the abbreviations shall be selected from those specified in Annex 3, paragraph 4.8.2.

b) When present weather information is transmitted by an aircraft, the information shall be selected from items 10 to 12 of the AIREP form.

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The above are from a Wikipedia article, based on:

Aeronautical Code signals (QAA–QNZ; ICAO)

Main article: Aeronautical Code signals

First defined in ICAO publication "Doc 6100-COM/504/1" and in "ICAO Procedures for Air Navigation Services, Abbreviations and Codes (PANS-ABC)" [Doc8400-4] (4th edition 1989), the majority of the Q codes have slipped out of common use; for example today reports such as QAU ("I am about to jettison fuel") and QAZ ("I am flying in a storm") would be voice or computerized transmissions. But several remain part of the standard ICAO radiotelephony phraseology in aviation. These are also part of ACP131, which lists all ITU-R Q Codes, without grouping them by aeronautical/marine/general use.

73, Pete K5GM

### **A Story by Scott, N7NET**

Here is the next chapter of a new original work by Scott, N7NET. Enjoy, and once again, thanks to Scott.

### **Rose, Chapter 2 of 22**

Charlie was working beneath the hood of Ned's car when the postman entered the shop with a certified letter. It was from the Federal Communications Commission. After whipping his hands on a shop towel, he tore the envelope open and read that the amateur radio frequencies were now released for normal amateur use, effective immediately.

He felt a certain satisfaction. Things were returning to normal. After finishing with Ned's tune up, Charlie unlocked the door of his radio shack and pushed it open. Inside, on the desk, sat both his transmitter and receiver. They were home brew rigs, projects from four issues of prewar QSTs. that brought the world to his shack. After using a feather duster to fan away the accumulated dust, Charlie switched on the power. Leaving them both on standby, he leaned back in his wooden office chair to watch the filaments glow. Somehow it reminded him of his first assignment after finishing radio school. He was to locate and destroy a clandestine radio station in Europe.

He'd been chosen for the task because of his gifted ability to mimic other people's fists. In this case, he'd been chosen to locate a station operating on the coast of Spain. The stations regular contact had been silenced and Charlie had substituted for more than a week.

From an aging fishing boat, he maintained the scheduled contacts until he had established its general location. Then under the cover of darkness, he went ashore in a rubber raft and made his way inland, carrying some explosives. Using an R6 spy radio he maintained contact and by dawn, spotted the station in question, a shack built of weather beaten driftwood slabs.

Working his way closer, he tried to determine if only one person occupied the station? At last a man stepped from the doorway to relieve himself. Charlie recognized his photo on a QSL card. He was an Italian ham he'd worked many times before the war. He couldn't recall his name, but he distinctly remembered his call sign. Now he had to find a way to destroy the station without getting himself killed.

Taking a chance, he transmitted the man's ham call sign, and then followed it with random Spanish call. The man's head spun around and he stared at his shack, but he made no move to respond.

Charlie repeated the call, and then, using what little Spanish he knew he added: if he can copy this meet me on the beach where a creek feeds into the sea I have supplies. The operator did not respond. Instead, he headed for the beach. Moving in quickly, Charlie set his charges and headed for his rubber raft. Moments later, he heard the explosion.

(To be continued)

#### **TEX Mailbox:**

From **Bill, KA9IKK**: I wanted to share my results on responses received when sending messages with HXC handling instructions. In order to generate more traffic on the nets I sent out my own messages using the HXC handling instructions. As you know, HXC requests a delivery confirmation service message be sent back to the station of origin. Since August, I sent a total of 50 messages and only received 21 responses or 42% return rate. Not the return rate I expected but I guess it did generate a bit more traffic. Feel free to share the results in the TEX newsletter.

73

Bill KA9IKK

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Heard from **Jim, N5NVP**, who is keeping busy caring for his wife in a nursing facility distant from their home. Jim drives there each week so is not home to get on the radio. However, he passed along the following information:

The LA STM is now Jimmy Lewis (AB5YS), however; he doesn't work CW. The High Speed CW Net is presently in a Stand-By Mode and will be activated if the need were to arise. At the present time there is only me and Dick Lundy (WA5CAV) available to run that net. The LA ARES Net is still active and is only a SSB net and it meets regularly. Our other SSB net is the LA Traffic Net and it also meets on a regular basis.

73 to all, Jim N5NVP

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From **Vic, W7VSE**: (True WW II story) When the 60 men were selected for the mission to China Burma India (CBI) we were all transferred to the tenth chapter of the AACCS at Bolling Field just outside Washington D.C. We spent 4 months there learning all about how to survive in foreign service. One of the things we learned was how to say "I am an American soldier and please bring me one glass of cold boiled water."

In Chinese, this sounds like this. "Wo megwa Bean. Ching Kea Wo eee bolebay ling ki swee" We all had that memorized in case we were captured.

I never had to use it the entire two years I was there, but they made me learn it so I would never forget it. I guess they succeeded, because here I am at 96 years of age and I still remember it in 2018.

Regards, Victor B. Seeberger, Ex Tech Sargent (Five years before. During and after WW2)

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From **Rodney, W5DY**, Nov 9: I got the new Zero Five vertical antenna on Tuesday. Still waiting for the balun, which was shipped separately. I am anxious to try it since I have never had a vertical before.

Also, Big Dog is sick again, but am waiting for some parts to fix him. Nothing serious like before. In the meantime, I found an Alpha 76A for \$1300 which has had the 8874 finals replaced with 3CX800's. Have had it operational for about a month now and seems to be working very good.

*No wonder your signal is booming in here every night! - Ed.*

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From **JW, WB8SIW**: The December issue of the "[QNI Newsletter](https://qninewsletterdotnet.files.wordpress.com/2018/11/qni-2018-12.pdf)" is now available for download at:

<https://qninewsletterdotnet.files.wordpress.com/2018/11/qni-2018-12.pdf>

Thank you! 73, James Wades

Topics Include: A Tale of 2 Hurricanes; Digital Mobile; Winlink/RRI Radiogram form; How to Win friends; Dealing with Zero Sunspots; Dear Santa; Training Column; The Uncontested CW Band; Dreaming of/in CW among others. A very interesting issue – Ed.

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Note that **Rob, K6YR**, has resigned as WAN manager and retired from all traffic handling.

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## TEX Net Topics

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown below (as updated by W5DY).

### TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NC 1	W5FEA	N5RL	W5FEA	N5RL	N5RL	W5FEA	W5CU
Backup	N5RL	W5FEA	K5GM	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA
NC 2	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K5GM	W5DY	W5CU
Backup	K5GM	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5FEA
RN5 1	N5RL	W5FEA	K5GM	W5FEA	W5DY	N5RL	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	N5RL	W5DY	N5RL	W5FEA	W5FEA	W5FEA
RN5 2	W5CU	K6JT	K5RG	K6JT	K5GM	W5DY	W5CU
Backup	W5FEA	W5DY	W5CU	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5FEA

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: **3552**/3595/7052/7108 - 20:30 CT; WAN: **3552**/7052 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K5GM, K5RG, N5RL

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K5GM, K5RG, N5RL

	Total	NC	NC-BU	RN5	RN5-BU	DAYS OFF	
K6JT	5	3	0	2	0	4	Su-M-F-Sa
W5DY	14	2	5	2	5	1	Su
W5FEA	17	3	6	2	6	0	SORRY
N5RL	8	3	1	2	2	2	W-Su
K5GM	5	1	2	2	0	4	T-T-S-S
W5CU	6	2	0	3	1	4	TWTFSS
K5RG	1	0	0	1	0	6	MTTFSS
OPEN	0	0	0	0	0		
	56	14	14	14	14		

### TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	* N7NET	Scott	McKinney
N5BA	Brian	Houston	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
WA5CAV	Dick	Pineville LA	K9NY	Bill	Canyon Lake
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
W5DAE	Don	San Angelo	WA5PRI	Don	Thibodaux LA
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5FEA	Jim	Graham	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT op)
K5GM	Pete	Austin	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KA9IKK	Bill	Katy	K5TSK	Jim	Pearcy AR
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	W9VE	Don	Dallas
WA5MS	Marty	Argyle	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
NM5M	Eric	Plano	K6YBV	Bob	Placerville CA

\* Capable of 160 meter operation

### Statistics:

#### October 2018:

Jim, W5FEA, and Rodney, W5DY, with 61 out of 62 (98%) tied for first place. Don, W5DAE, with 55 (89%) was 2<sup>nd</sup>. Randy, N5RL, with 47 (76%) was 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Phil, W5NT, checked in from Wimberley. All others are on the roster.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 3.1 per net session (2.7 last month). Net time averaged 11.6 minutes per session (compared to 11.8 last month). Check-ins averaged 6.3 per session (6.4 last month).

#### TEX Net Statistics (October 2018)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
N5BA	Brian	1	1					
		0						
W5CU	Sam	4	12	3	3			
*		8			6			
W5DAE	Don	27	55					
		28						

W5DY	Rodney	31	61	2	8			
		30		8	4			
W5FEA	Jim	31	61	14	12	31		
*		30			2	30		
K5GM	Pete	19	43		4			
*		24		5	4			
W9GVW	Eric	17	17					
*		0						
KA9IKK	Bill	15	26					
*	Katy	11						
K6JT	Steve	7	30				5	
*		23		18	11		23	
W5NT	PHIL	1	1					
	WIMBERLEY	0						
K5RG	Ken	0	7					
*		7			4			
N5RL	Randy	22	47	12	4			
*		25						
K5TSK	Jim	5	6					
	AR	1						
W9VE	Don	14	14				12	
	Dallas	0						
WB8WKQ	Jeff	0	12					
	MI	12						
Totals		393		62	62	61	40	0
				100%	100%	98%	65%	0%
QTC 1		108	190					
QTC 2		82		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		362	722					
Time 2		360						

## November 2018:

Jim, W5FEA, with 59 out of 60 (98%) was again first. Rodney, W5DY, was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 55 (92%), and Don, W5DAE, was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 49 (82%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

John, KM0I, checked in from MS and Phil, W5NT, again checked in from Wimberley.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 1.6 per net session (3.1 last month). Net time averaged 11.3 minutes per session (compared to 11.6 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.5 per session (6.3 last month).

### TEX Net Statistics (November 2018)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
N5BA	Brian	1	2					

		1						
W5CU	Sam	6	14	4	4			
*		8		3	8			
W5DAE	Don	22	49					
		27						
W5DY	Rodney	28	55	1	8			
		27		16	10			
W5FEA	Jim	30	59	15	12	30		
*		29		2	3	29		
K5GM	Pete	14	29	1	3			
*		15		2	1			
W9GVW	Eric	12	13					
*		1						
KM0I	John	0	1					
	MS	1						
KA9IKK	Bill	9	15					
*	Katy	6						
K6JT	Steve	0	8					
*		8		7	3		8	
W6LFB	Jim	3	3					
*		0						
NM5M	Eric	0	1					
		1						
W5NT	Phil	1	1					
	Wimberley	0						
K1PKZ	Paul	1	1					
		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	7					
*		7			5			
N5RL	Randy	20	44	9	3			
*		24						
K5TSK	Jim	1	2					
	AR	1						
W9VE	Don	15	15				15	
	Dallas	0						
WB8WKQ	Jeff	0	9					
	MI	9						
Totals		328		60	60	59	23	0
				100%	100%	98%	38%	0%
QTC 1		53	98					
QTC 2		45		Sessions:		60		
Time 1		384	679					
Time 2		295						



## Operating:

As noted at the beginning, there have been changes to the alternate frequencies for TEX to use, especially during CW contests.

You may have noticed markedly improved band conditions the past week or so. Turns out there have been sunspots nearly every day. Sure hope they continue!

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Here are the composite reports for the last 2 months for traffic handled at the region and above levels. Totals were lower compared to the prior 2 months.

### Central US Nets Activity for October 2018

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5th Call Area \$	14	26	55	91	0.286
Cycle 2 9RN*	13	325	72	76	4.276
Day 10th Call Area #	14	34	69	125	0.272
Night 5th Call Area	55	110	239	543	0.203
Night 9th Call Area	58	220	166	375	0.587
Cycle 4 TEN	57	38	189	305	0.125
Day Central US	14	214	85	236	0.907
Night Central US@	30	337	205	603	0.559
Day Inter-Area Traffic	56	147	56		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	72	181	62		86%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1632	1198	2354	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KM0R Central/10th HUB		1007	497	510	
WB9FHP 9 <sup>th</sup> Call HUB		4656	2383	2273	
Digital Stations (9)		1646	741	905	
Total DTN Digital		7309	3621	3688	
Total Central US		8941			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					
# Manager recovering - thanks Dave, ND0CW, and Bob, W0LAW for their reports					
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
\$ Manager had stroke, in rehab, totals from KC5OZT report					

### Central US Nets Activity for November 2018

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5th Call Area \$	12	7	48	72	0.097
Cycle 2 9RN*	13	299	88	89	3.360
Day 10th Call Area #	13	20	66	93	0.215
Night 5th Call Area	55	72	275	350	0.206
Night 9th Call Area	58	163	151	423	0.385
Cycle 4 TEN	52	48	131	256	0.188
Day Central US	13	187	80	157	1.191
Night Central US@	30	245	200	522	0.469
Day Inter-Area Traffic	56	110	54		96%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	72	89	60		83%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1240	1153	1962	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KM0R Central/10th HUB		961	477	484	
WB9FHP 9th Call HUB		5487	2864	2623	
Digital Stations (9)		1819	685	1134	
Total DTN Digital		8267	4026	4241	
Total Central US		9507			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					
# Manager recovering - thanks Dave, ND0CW, and Bob, W0LAW for their reports					
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
\$ Manager had stroke, in rehab, totals from KC5OZT reports					

Keep your net reports going to Rodney and send me any items for the newsletter. Copy Rodney on them if they are directly related to net operations.

Until February, or perhaps March if I change to quarterly newsletters, have a Merry Christmas holiday season and best wishes in the New Year.

73, Steve K6JT  
TEX Newsletter Editor

## 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)



Photo Courtesy of VE3UU

## Greetings From Northeast Texas

There was no activity on TSN for October or November.

## TSN Activity Reports

Month	QNI	QTC	Nr. Operators
October 0 Sessions	0	0	0
November 0 Sessions	0	0	0

## TSN Roster (January 2018 to January 2019)

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
KB5TCH	Carroll	SILENT KEY
N5XGG	Joe	ROCK ISLAND, TEXAS
WB8YLO	Steve	TOLEDO, OHIO

Stop by any evening Tuesday, Thursday, or 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 63 of the **RN5 Corner**.

Sadly, Frank, W4DLZ, the RN5 manager, became a Silent Key on November 3 due to a stroke. The following was received from Jerry, W4SU, on Nov 10:

Mary Thrash, the wife of Frank Thrash, W4DLZ, called this afternoon to give me the sad news that Frank passed away at a hospital in Tallahassee Florida on Saturday, November 3, following a stroke.

Frank would have been 82 this December. He has been dealing with health problems for the past two or three years. Even when Frank was sick, he had a great sense of humor and we enjoyed many long telephone conversations.

If you would like to send a card to Mary, her address is:

Mary Thrash  
52 Crawford Avenue  
Crawfordsville, FL 32327.

73 to all, Jerry W4SU

Frank Wadley Thrash  
December 7, 1932 - November 3, 2018

Jerry, W4SU, continues to collect RN5 net reports. Note that numbers for QNI, QTC, and QTR are sufficient.

Received the following from Jack, K5WNU, on Dec. 2: Sorry guys, I'll be off the net until Dec 13-14. Headed to Maryland to see my son and family. Catch you all when I get back.

Thanks to all who continue to support RN5. Regulars include WA5CAV, W4SU, K5WNU, W5FEA, and W5DY along with Pete, K5GM, and Ken, K5RG. John, KC4FL, continues to regularly check in from FL.

Please continue to pass AR traffic to the TEX liaison station to take to the 7290 Traffic Net if there is no other outlet. Note also that Bill, N9ACQ, the manager of daytime RN5 and an AR station, is still off the air following a stroke. Nothing has been heard from him in over a year.

As always, we need NCS and Liaison stations. Thanks to those of you who fill in the open slots. Steve, K6JT, will fill in the noted slots when not away in Florida.

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

### RN5 Duty Roster (Update Nov. 8 from W4SU)

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5FEA	W4SU	W5CU	W4SU	W4SU	Open	WA4ZPZ
NCS #2	W5FEA	K6JT	W5CU	K6JT	W4SU	Open	WA4ZPZ
CAN TX	Open	W4SU	W5CU	W4SU	W4SU	Open	Open
CAN RX	W5CU?	W4SU	W5CU	W5CU?	W4SU	Open	W5CU
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

### 2018 Statistics

MONTH	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
SESSIONS	55	55
QTC	110	72
QNI	239	275
QTR	543	350
AVG QTC	2.0	1.3
AVG QNI	4.3	5.0
AVG QTR	9.9	6.4

The following roster, which has not been updated, 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	W8IM	DEAN	FL
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	K6JT	STEVE	TX
W5CU	SAM	OK*/CO	KZ8Q	BEN	FL
W4DLZ	FRANK	(SK)	K5RG	KEN	TX
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5FEA	JIM	TX	W4SU	JERRY	AL
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	K5WNU	JACK	MS
K5GM	PETE	TX	WA4ZPZ	TOM	AL

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

\*\* K4VIZ is only marginally active. Send AR to the TEX station for the 7290 net (do not use DRN5).

73, Steve K6JT  
Newsletter editor