

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas CW Traffic Net (TEX)

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

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November-December 2019

From the TEX Manager

The early sessions have been better, but propagation is still up and down. The early session tonight (Dec 9), I could hear everyone, but there were 4 stations who could not hear W5FEA. That is weird to me since I was hearing all fine. Jim has been having some antenna issues, but he spent a good bit of time on his roof today and hopes to have fixed it. And, that is what is strange. It was after he did his fixing that nobody could hear him but me.... hmmmmmm.

Don W5DAE sent me an email asking if he was helping or hindering the net. I told him he was doing well. And, he has. I remember when he first was on and you could not tell what he was sending, hihi. He has really improved in the past year or so and hoping he will stay with it.

Randy N5RL is home and his daughter moved back home to help take care of him and his wife. Don't know if he will go to Warm Springs or not. He did tell me that he won't be able to do his assignments any more, so Jim and I have been covering these.

I don't know how long this will last. Both Jim and I are getting burned out. I could see it coming to Jim cause he doesn't care if he makes every session or not any more. My health, the way it is now, is not helping me either. I don't know how much longer I can do this. I hate to quit, cause I feel like the net will die if I do, but I will not push myself either. Will just have to wait and see.

It sure would help if someone would take some of the NC and backup spots but I ain't gonna hold my breath on that!!!!!!

73, Rodney W5DY

Digital Operations Threat – Part 2

As you all know, since the request for comments was sent to everyone who is on the mailing list for this newsletter, NY University (their lawyers, actually) sent a petition to the FCC for immediate ruling that would effectively eliminate all major digital modes, not just Winlink.

Radio Relay International (RRI) filed a rebuttal to this petition, pointing out many errors in it as well as a potential conflict of interest for NYU. Hopefully many of you were able to file a comment supporting the RRI and Winlink Development Team submissions. The ARRL was also able to file a rebuttal, and given the wide use of Winlink in ARES communications, they are in agreement with the RRI/Winlink filings.

On another note, John Stratton, N5AUS, defeated the challenger who was heavily supported (estimates of expenditures of as much as \$11,000 for advertising and mailing) by the group wanting to eliminate our digital communications capabilities. John was elected by a wide margin, receiving about 2/3 of the total vote. Thanks to all of you who supported John. The ARRL board composition is now much more transparent and supportive of our traffic handling systems and digital communications in the future.

The Army Air Corps, Part 2 **By Vic, W7VSE**

... I was going to have to learn CW (code) at 25 to 30 words per minute or more...

In that era, there was a huge quantity of information being handled on the air in Morse code. Press Wireless and others were all over the dial sending the news of the day, stock market reports, and many other stations broadcasting some kind of message "traffic" 24 hours a day. Even the newspapers across the USA had a code man who would copy the national news from the radio for the local newspaper. Many other things were handled by code. It was one of the major ways to communicate back then. I would go back to the station in my off time and tune around over the airwaves on a spare receiver. I tried to find a station that was just a bit faster than I could write down on the typewriter. I kept this up for a couple of months and I could see that I was getting a little faster, but still had a ways to go. I liked it, and that made it a lot easier.

But then orders came that I was to be trained as a Control Tower operator. I didn't want to do this, but when you're in the military, you do as you are told. There were five of us selected, and we went to a mock-up Tower every day where there was no radio gear, but we had a Staff Sergeant, named Howell, who was very knowledgeable about control tower operating. He was our instructor. Every day, for several weeks, we had several hours of training and practicing verbally, in that mock up tower. We learned a lot of the verbiage used in controlling aircraft. "Cleared to land" "Cleared for takeoff" "Hold short of the runway" "Taxi into position, and hold" "Extend you downwind leg" and many, many more. He gave us written tests frequently, and, after a few weeks, reported to Sgt Guthrie that we were all qualified tower operators. I still didn't like it, I wanted to operate using code. Then we learned we were to be transferred to Tucson Army Air Base (which later became Davis-Monthan Airport) in Arizona to establish the first control tower there. The Commanding Officer of Tucson Army Air Base, Captain Moore, flew a Martin B-18 bomber to Kelly Field to transport us to Tucson. This was my first airplane ride. I got to ride up in the Plexiglas nose of that 2-engine bomber in the bombardiers' seat most of the way. That was quite a thrill for a 19-year-old kid.

When we got in our landing pattern at Tucson Army Air Base, it was raining. I thought, this is going to be a great place. But that must have been a rare thundershower, because it didn't rain again the nine months or so that I was stationed there at Tucson.

While the regular control tower was being constructed, our temporary tower was a tent, alongside the main runway. The military shared the airport with American Airlines civilian airport terminal.

In the tent, our radio transmitter and receiver were the kind that were used in an aircraft. The transmitter had a very short, curled microphone cord, and when a plane called in for landing instructions, we would have to pick up the "mic" and tell the aircraft to stand by while we went outside the tent to see if it was all clear for it to land. It was very hot in that tent and we sweated a whole lot. This made me dislike being a control tower operator even more, so I talked to the Station Chief.

The Station Chief, and NCOIC, of the AACS detachment at Tucson was another Tech Sergeant named Everett Wogstadt. He was an all-around electronics and communications man and was well qualified to do anything that was needed. Also, he was another old-timer that knew how to handle men and was promoted to a high-ranking Officer during WW2. I let him know that I didn't like being a tower operator and wanted to come into the AACS station as a CW operator. He told me I would have to wait a while.

I was promoted to Private First Class, Specialist 4th Class, and my paycheck went to about 50 dollars a month. I was still the last man in the line to get a paycheck each month. A few months later, they abolished the Specialist classifications and I got the nearest paying grade which was Corporal and then I made 54 dollars a month and boasted two stripes on my uniform. This was in the latter part of 1941.

I liked the Peacetime Air Corps and was feeling like I would make it a lifetime career. Five of us tower operators lived in a house just off the Air Base. We had a Class "A" pass, which let us go to town whenever we pleased. We still ate in the mess hall, but lived off the base and would wear civilian clothes now and then. (I'm not sure it was legal, but we did it anyway.) I was going over to the AACS radio station regularly and practicing the code, as described earlier, and was getting a little faster. I kept reminding the NCOIC that I wanted to get out of the tower and get into the station.

We started getting some new trainees from Scott Field Radio School in Illinois, and there were a couple of them that wanted to get in the station and use CW, like I did. Finally, one day, Sgt. Wogstadt called us into his office and told us that the three of us were to become student operators at the AACS radio station, WYT, and we were paired with three of the regular qualified operators. He told us that he would give a three-day pass to the first one of us that qualified as a regular operator. The guy I got paired with was named Smith, (Smitty), and he was a T/Sgt and was in his late 30s, I think. He was really good at Code. He showed me how to select frequencies on the transmitter and the receivers and many other things that I needed to know. I sat in the training position with headphones and listened to him handle message traffic, same as I had done back at WYG at Kelly Field. He was way too fast for me to copy, and during the times we were not busy, I'd tune in a press wireless station and practice copying code. I was thinking that this was great and I will have plenty of time to learn how to operate the station and also get my code speed up to par.

But after only 2 or 3 days of this, I came to work one day and Sgt Smith was sitting in a chair away from the operating positions and had his head buried in the newspaper. I went to my training position and put on the headphones. After a while I thought I heard a station calling

us. So, I said, "Sgt Smith, I think someone is trying to contact us." He had the newspaper up over his face, reading it, and he lowered it slightly and looked directly at me and said, "It's all yours." Then he lifted the newspaper up and started reading it again, ignoring me. I soon realized that I was going to have to operate that station all by myself. It scared the hell out of me! I felt like I was on "Death Row," But I got in the operator's seat and dialed up the frequency and very slowly, and shaking like a leaf, I told that station to slow down, as I was a student operator. I really sweated bullets the rest of that shift, and I'm sure the operators didn't enjoy working a "Lid" like me. ("Lid" is what code people call a very poor operator.) But I succeeded in handling the few messages that I had to relay to WZB, Biggs Field, El Paso, Texas, and others back to March Field, WYM, and McClellan Field, WZS, in California.

After that shift, I went to the mess hall for dinner and then I went back to the radio station and the evening operator allowed me to spend several hours practicing copying code. I realized, again, that I would have to get my code speed up if I wanted to remain in this profession. For the next few weeks, I sweated through my daily shift, and then came back later and copied code another few hours every day. And when I was practicing on another operator's shift, he would give me some good pointers and advice.

One day I showed up for my shift, as usual, and "Smitty" (Sgt Smith) told me that he thought I was qualified to hold down a shift. He had already told the NCOIC, who called me in and congratulated me and gave me a 3-day pass. Me and another operator went down to Nogales, Sonora, Mexico and celebrated over a weekend. We had a blast, drinking Tecate beer, tasting (and not liking) Tequila, dancing and flirting with the Mexican Senoritas, and just enjoying ourselves. Yes, the pre-war service was great. Five of us Tower Ops had our own house just off the base. But December 7, 1941 was just around the corner and changed all that for us, and for most of the world.

I was still working many hours to improve my code speed, and was handling my shift a lot better. One Sunday morning, I had worked the Graveyard shift, (Midnight to 8AM), December 7, 1941, that infamous Sunday morning, had breakfast and went to sleep in my bunk at our house. Soon I was awakened by a radio blaring very loudly from an adjacent bedroom. That wasn't supposed to happen at our military house. I listened for just a few minutes and the program sounded like an H. G. Wells movie about invasion from outer space, or something. I got up and went in there to raise hell about the noise and found out it was the report of the Japanese bombing Pearl Harbor. So I sat down and listened to that radio program for a long time. I did not get much sleep that day and had trouble staying awake that night on the Graveyard shift. The next day they moved the Air Base boundary to encompass our living quarters, cancelled our Class "A" passes, and we no longer were free to come and go as we pleased. It was wartime.

Things started happening in a hurry. A few of the old timers were transferred to duties at other locations, and we started getting replacements from the Radio School at Scott Field, Illinois. I had been doing a good job for a few months and my code practice had paid off. I was beginning to read at about 25 to 30 words a minute. With the older guys moving out and the new ones coming in, I moved up to the number two spot, behind Sgt Wogstadt, in the pay line. I became the Chief Operator and was promoted to "buck" sergeant (3 stripes).

Sgt. Wogstadt started training me to do his job in case he was transferred before me. He taught me how to do all the required paper work of a Station Chief. This was in early 1942. I was 20 years old, and didn't feel much like one of the "old-timers."

But my orders came in before Wogstadt got his. In May, I was selected as a member of the newly formed Tenth Communications Squadron of the AACCS and ordered to report to Bolling Field, Washington, D.C (WashDC). to be briefed and trained for "Foreign Tropical Duty." We did not know where we were going.

For the train trip back to WashDC, I was the Sergeant in charge of one of the newer operators, Corporal Rolf Cramer, who was also selected. He and I turned in all our government things, said our good byes, and boarded a train headed for WashDC. Our train trip was uneventful, and took a day and a night or so to get there. When we arrived at the train station in D.C. I was supposed to call out to Bolling Field for transportation.

(I am glad the Statute of Limitations has run out after these 70-odd years so I won't get into trouble telling this story.) I was in charge of Corporal Cramer, and I knew what I was supposed to do. But we had a long talk there in the train station. I reminded him that we were scheduled to go to "Foreign Tropical Duty" somewhere---we didn't know where---and there was a war going on. We didn't know how long we were going to be alive. So, I put it up to a vote, we could call now for transportation, or we could get a hotel room, have a night out on the town, and then call for transportation, like we had just arrived. We could get in trouble by doing this. The vote was 2 in favor and none against this idea. So we got on a city bus and rode until it looked like we were in the main part of D.C. We got off near 9th Street NW, Washington, DC, found a hotel, and then went out on the town. We found "Haddon's Oyster Bar" with a "Pabst Blue Ribbon on Tap" sign in the window, and Nick the Greek's restaurant right next door. (All the necessities of life!) The bartender was a pretty girl, named Margaret Haddon. Her mother owned the joint. So, Rolf and I spent the entire evening there and had, what we considered, our "last supper" at the Greek restaurant, with plenty of beer to wash it down.

Next morning we were only slightly hung over. We found some breakfast and talked it over. We both decided we wanted one more day. So, that next evening was a rerun of the first night and we really enjoyed ourselves. Then, the 3rd morning, we caught the bus back to the railroad terminal and called the Air Base for transportation. We both felt guilty. An army vehicle showed up and took us to Bolling Field. We ask where the 10th Communications Squadron barracks were located and they told us. When we walked into that area, a Tech Sgt approached us and we both thought we were going to get thrown in the brig or hung from the gallows, or something. But when the T/Sgt got closer I recognized him. It was Travis Camp, from Louisiana, one of the regular operators at WYT, Tucson, who had helped me learn to work a shift at the station. He was grinning from ear to ear and shook hands and welcomed us. He was glad to see us. After a while, he reached in his hip pocket and pulled out a stack of Class A passes, found our names, and gave us each our card. In his Louisiana drawl he said, "Y'all can go on back to town if you want to."

We had come out smelling like a rose, and then, we wished we had stayed another day at the hotel. But during the four months we were there, we frequented Haddon's Oyster Bar and Nick the Greek's restaurant quite a bit. We also visited most of the government buildings, memorials, etc. in Washington D.C.

(To be Continued)

TEX AND TSN 1974

Thanks to Pip, WB4FDT, for sending me some newsletters of TEX and TSN from the time he was operating in Texas. This is an excerpt for one of those newsletters and more will follow in coming issues. I also have some from Pete, K5GM, that will be used.

To start with, there were several autobiographies of net members at that time, compiled by W5UGE (now K5RG). I found 3 that were familiar, 2 of whom are still active on TEX (although with different callsigns).

First on the list is Phil Sager, WB4FDT, who still has the same call. His bio said: Law student St. Mary's University, Austin. Single Ten-Tec Triton II. A guy who does it all, perpetual student, traffic man (BPL) and politician. AMSAT Corresponding Secretary, Holds 3 public service awards. Some of you who are on CAN have likely heard Pip checking in from the eastern area.

Second is Ken Goodwin, W5UGE, Electronic systems consultant in Houston, SB303, SB400, SB200, Matchbox. At new QTH, member TCC, BPL, STEX NM. As you know, Ken is now K5RG and is on TEX, RN5, and CAN as well as holding IATN (formerly TCC) skeds.

The third familiar name is Pete Jordahl, W7WAH/5, Computer oriented astronomer. At new QTH in Austin. DX-60, Johnson Courier, R4B, CE20A. Active Austin ARC, member of TCC, Friday night RN5 NCS. You all know Pete now as K5GM, and he continues to be active on TEX, RN5, CAN, and IATN.

Some other interesting statistics about TSN (then known as TEX SS) and TEX... TSN had 30 members with a monthly QNI of 182, 943 minutes in session, and 101 pieces of traffic. The TEX net roster had 63 calls listed. In 58 reported sessions there were 367 check-ins, 270 pieces of traffic, and 1122 minutes. Most QNI on one session was 10. Interesting to compare these numbers to those for the 2 months in this newsletter. TEX most QNI in one session was 8 (from Rodney's auxiliary report – not listed in the newsletter).

TEX Mailbox:

From **Bill, KA9IKK**, Hello Steve, hope you and all the net members are doing well. In an attempt to generate more traffic for the nets I have been sending out short "thank you" messages for some of my FT8 QSOs. I included the HXC handling instruction in hopes to generate more traffic. I used the Winlink radiogram template to generate the messages and to send them to the various NTS digital hubs using HF and VHF RMS nodes. The messages are usually acknowledged by the digital hubs within 24 hours. However, I have sent out 63 messages so far and only have received 18 service messages in return. This is about a 28% service reply rate even after specifying the HXC handling instruction. It is also interesting to note that many of the service messages I received come directly from the delivering station via e-mail and have by-passed the NTS system completely.

I'm not able to get on TEX as much as I used to and most of my operating is limited to weekends. My little dipole at just 5 ft works OK for early net but it is almost impossible to get in on the late session. I want to thank all the members on TEX and 7290 for relaying my messages.

73, Bill KA9IKK

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Pip, WB4FDT, sent a couple of envelopes (both covered with stamps !) of net bulletins from the 70's, as mentioned above. He wrote: Howdy Steve. I'm mailing you the TEX CW bulletins for the year I lived in San Antonio in 1973-4. Maybe you can use them for some history articles. Also, I've been listening to TEX once in a while. Just a note that TEX manager for several years in the 1970-74 era was W5ABQ Jerry. He lived a few blocks from me in San Antonio. I took him to the Austin Xmas ham club dinner. When he went SK I cleaned his stuff out. I still have his 1926 MARS certificate.

73, Pip

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From **Ken, K5RG**, Now that Camille's mother has passed away, we're making up for lost time. In November (Nov 7 – 17) we took a river cruise to Hungary/Germany and from next March 30th – April 13th a cruise to Denmark/Norway. I've planned another trip to Nepal in September/October 2020 so still crazy after all these years. FYI, Sam W5CU and I have been backfilling each other's schedules as necessary. His early Thursday morning sked with WA4BAM after the WAN Juliet sked is kind of tough since it is a 7 AM sked but the Florida path is always very good from Houston and WA4BAM has a great signal just prior to the Hit and Bounce Net.

So things are quiet in Houston. Camille's busy with her Master Gardener activities after having taken care of her Mother's estate. The last big task was selling the house, which went down with no difficulties. 73, Ken

- . . . -

From **Sam, W5CU**: Recent evenings have seen RN5 covered up and marginalized by FT8 transmissions, all very VERY loud. I believe the causes of this interference are the two active dx stations VP6R and D68CCC, because each time it happened I saw a spot of those stations on DXWatch of either 3565 or 3567. Of course, the interference is coming from the high-power stateside stations trying to get the dx in their log. I suspect most of the FT8 users don't use CW :(

Steve, would it be appropriate for RRI to bring this interference to the attention of the dxpedition organizers? I like a good dxpedition as much as the next guy, but digital - all digital - typically stays above 3570. FT8 is totally incompatible with other modes including CW, and I would hate to see this become a trend. Our nets are limping along as it is and don't need this collateral damage.

73 / Sam W5CU

RRI Board, take note of this for the next board meeting - Steve

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Received the following "Blast from the Past" from **Pete, K5GM**. It shows that even 30 years ago we were facing some similar problems as today. Those active in IATN and CAN will certainly be interested. DTN has supplanted the BBS stations mentioned.

MARCH 1, 1989

RICK PALM K1CE, MGR. FIELD SERVICES DEPT.
ARRL

DEAR RICK:

LAST YEAR, OUR BUDGET REQUEST INCLUDED 1,000 FOR A TCC DIRECTORS MEETING AND FUNDS FOR A PAS MEETING IN 1989. AS YOU RECALL, YOU REPLIED THAT STAFF MEETINGS ARE NORMALLY HELD EVERY OTHER YEAR. BECAUSE YOU DID NOT MENTION THE TCC DIRECTORS MEETING, I TRUST THAT OUR BUDGET REQUEST WAS HONORED AND THAT THE MEETING CAN STILL BE HELD.

AT OUR PAS LAST YEAR, WE TRIED TO CONDUCT A TCC DIRECTORS MEETING OF SORTS, BUT FOUND THAT THERE SIMPLY WAS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES IN A MEANINGFUL MANNER. IN SHORT, AN AREA STAFF MEETING IS JUST NOT THE PROPER FORUM FOR A TCC DIRECTORS MEETING.

WE WILL ABIDE BY YOUR REQUEST NOT TO HAVE ANOTHER PAS MEETING UNTIL 1990, BUT I SUGGEST A PROMPT TCC DIRECTORS MEETING AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE IN 1989. DIGITAL MODES OF HANDLING TRAFFIC ON TCC SKEDS ARE ON THE INCREASE AND CHANGING SO FAST THAT IT SIMPLY IS NOT PRUDENT TO WAIT ANY LONGER FOR THIS MUCH-NEEDED MEETING.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE PACIFIC AREA WE ARE DOING 14 TCC SKEDS PER WEEK ON DIGITAL, AND ON OUR DAYTIME CYCLES OUR TCC PEOPLE ARE EXPEDITING THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC PICKED UP ON OUR 2ND SESSIONS BY BYPASSING TCC SKEDS ALTOGETHER AND PUTTING THE TRAFFIC FOR CAN AND EAN ON AMTOR BULLETIN BOARDS WHERE IT IS USUALLY CLEARED EVEN BEFORE OUR OWN CYCLE 4 NETS MEET. FURTHER, NTS PERSONNEL IN CAN ARE BYPASSING TCC SKEDS, AREA AND REGIONAL NETS BY USING THESE AMTOR BULLETIN BOARDS FOR EXCHANGE OF NTS TRAFFIC AT THE SECTIONAL LEVEL.

THESE DIGITAL USES BY NTS PERSONNEL ARE GOOD IN THAT THEY HASTEN THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC TO ITS DESTINATION, BUT REALLY SCARY BECAUSE A LOT OF THIS PROCEDURE IS UNCHARTED, UNPLANNED, AND NOT FORMALLY CONDONED BY ANY NTS STAFF AS YET. THE THRUST OF THE MEETING SHOULD BE TO RECOGNIZE THESE NEW ROUTES OF NTS TRAFFIC AND TRY TO MAKE SOME ORDERLY SYSTEM TO INCORPORATE THE GROWING TECHNOLOGY. AS SOON AS YOU APPROVE OF SUCH A MEETING, I WILL BE HAPPY TO FURNISH A PROPOSED AGENDA.

I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE MEETING BE HELD THERE IN NEWINGTON AT ARRL HEADQUARTERS, AND THAT ATTENDANCE INCLUDE ONLY ARRL PERSONNEL, AREA STAFF CHAIRMEN, TCC DIRECTORS, AND AREA OR REGIONAL DIGITAL COORDINATORS.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP RICK, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN NEWINGTON.

WILLIAM M. SMITH W7GHT, CHAIRMAN PAS

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Rob, K6YR, responded to this as follows: Howdy, Pete. Thanks for sharing. The folding-in of digital traffic ops finally worked its way into HQ's head in 2001. Before he retired as the PADC, Warren, KT6A, asked me to draft a set of NTSD guidelines that would prompt some standards and procedures across the three areas. With Warren's editing, the proposed document (see attached) was recommended and approved by the area staffs (and ARRL HQ) at a May 2001 (summit meeting outside Denver CO). See attached agenda.

Important changes seem to evolve, not spring to life. 73 Rob

Anyone wanting a copy of the documents referenced above, please let me know and I will email them to you - Steve

- . . . -

From **Randy, N5RL**: Well my recovery from my major surgery is coming along but not as fast as I want. I've got a new device on my body I need to deal with now too. Still limited in mobility and I am not bouncing back like I did when I lost my left kidney. I struggle just walking to the front door and back. Never thought I'd have to use a walker but I do now .. at least for now.. My oldest daughter is here now taking care of both me and my wife Martha, who like me has some serious medical and age related issues. She is on oxygen 24/7 among other things. Oh well, just the luck of the draw in us growing older I guess. Or maybe its my generation growing up when we did. I suspect and I am hoping that I will be much better in perhaps 6 months, the spring/summer of 2020. In the meantime I will keep my role on TEX to a minimum until such time as I feel I can handle more of what I was doing before. I'll be a regular check in of course as a net member. It seems we are a dying breed. 73 and hope you all can stay healthier than me and avoid what has caused me so much trouble.

Randy N5RL

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TEX Net Topics

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown below (as updated for N5RL).

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

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

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

	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	NM5M	Eric	Plano
N5BA	Brian	Houston	N7NET	Scott	Crossett AR
WA5CAV	Dick	Pineville LA	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	K9NY	Bill	Canyon Lake
W5DAE	Don	San Angelo	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	WA5PRI	Don	Thibodaux LA
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
* W5FEA	Jim	Graham	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT op)

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
KM0I	John	Hattiesburg MS	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KA9IKK	Bill	Katy	K5TSK	Jim	Pearcy AR
K5IX	Dave	Brackettville	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	W9VE	Don	Dallas
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
WA5MS	Marty	Argyle	K6YBV	Bob	Placerville CA

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

October 2019:

Don, W5DAE, with 60 of 62 (97%) was first place. Rodney, W5DY, was second with 58 (84%). Jim, W5FEA, was third with 42 (68%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

There were no visitors – all stations are on the roster.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 1.8 per net session (1.7 last month). Net time averaged 9.9 minutes per session (compared to 9.3 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.9 per session (5.1 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (October 2019)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	5	15	4	4			
*		10		4	7			
W5DAE	Don	31	60					
		29						
W5DY	Rodney	29	58	4	11	4		
		29		10	5	5		
W5FEA	Jim	20	42	14	7	20		
*		22			2	21		
K5GM	Pete	13	33		4			
*		20		3	3			
W9GVW	Eric	3	3					
*		0						
KA9IKK	Bill	5	6					
*		1						
K5IX	Dave	8	10					
		2						
K6JT	Steve	3	19	1			2	
*		16		14	9		16	
K5QOW	Gary	1	1					

*		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	6					
*		6			5			
N5RL	Randy	13	29	8	5	6		
*		16						
K5TSK	Jim	6	6					
		0						
W9VE	Don	5	5				5	
		0						
WB8WKQ	Jeff	0	12					
		12						
Totals		305		62	62	56	23	0
				100%	100%	90%	37%	0%
QTC 1		37	112					
QTC 2		75		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		267	613					
Time 2		346						

November 2019:

Rodney, W5DY, was 1st with 57 (95%), Jim, W5FEA, was 2nd with 49 (82%), edging out Don, W5DAE, who was 3rd with 48 (80%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support. Check-in totals were less than in prior months, largely due to Randy, N5RL's absence for his surgery.

The only visitor was Don, K7TFW, from Wyoming.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 1.6 per net session (1.8 last month). Net time averaged 9.1 minutes per session (compared to 9.9 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.5 per session (4.9 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (November 2019)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	5	13	4	4			
*		8		4	8			
W5DAE	Don	20	48					
		28						12
W5DY	Rodney	27	57	9	12	5		
		30		9	4	6		
W5FEA	Jim	25	49	16	12	25		
*		24			4	23		
K5GM	Pete	7	24	1	2			
*		17		4	4			
KA9IKK	Bill	9	12					
*		3						

K5IX	Dave	8	11					
		3						
K6JT	Steve	0	13					
*		13		13	7		13	
KB5NJD	John	1	1				1	
		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	3					
*		3			3			
N5RL	Randy	5	15					
*		10						
K7TFW	Don	1	1					
	WY	0						
K5TSK	Jim	3	3					
		0						
W9VE	Don	4	4				4	
		0						
WB8WKQ	Jeff	0	17					
		17						
Totals		271		60	60	59	18	12
				100%	100%	98%	30%	20%
QTC 1		34	98					
QTC 2		64		Sessions:		60		
Time 1		286	548					
Time 2		262						

Operating:

Not much to report beyond what was in Rodney's manager column. Poor propagation continues to be a problem on some sessions of TEX, while other times conditions are excellent with strong signals all around. NCS should always request others far away from your location to ask for QNI. Long skip is the main problem these days.

Additional NCS and liaison stations are needed, as seen in the duty roster. With Randy, N5RL, still recuperating and unable to resume duties, even more responsibilities are put on the most active stations, W5DY and W5FEA. Several of us other stations do help out, of course. Those who feel capable of doing NCS or liaison, please seriously consider taking on scheduled duties. Those who have current assignments, please consider taking on more. Any of the skeds noted as N5RL are available as well as any others that may better meet your nightly needs that are handled by Rodney or Jim. They won't mind giving up one or more assigned or backup slots. That would make a great Christmas present to them.

For 2020, we pray for more sunspots to appear to recharge the ionospheric layers we need for shorter skip conditions. NVIS antennas are also useful, taking advantage of the E-layer ionization that often stays for a time after sundown.

Here are the composite reports for the last 2 months for traffic handled at the region and above levels.

Central US Nets Activity for October 2019

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 th Call Area	13	23	63	103	0.223
Cycle 2 9RN*	13	276	72	71	3.887
Day 10 th Call Area #	12	12	33	129	0.093
Night 5 th Call Area**	49	59	195	354	0.167
Night 9 th Call Area	60	266	170	537	0.495
Night 10 th Call Area	59	59	148	281	0.210
Day Central US	13	87	84	219	0.397
Night Central US @	31	311	204	509	0.611
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	16	39		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	37	90	35		95%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1199	1043	2203	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
WB9FHP Central Area HUB		4575	2559	2016	
Digital Stations (13)		1800	565	1235	
Total DTN Digital		6375	3124	3251	
Total Central US		7574			
* 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 November 2019

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 th Call Area	13	39	64	121	0.322
Cycle 2 9RN*	13	344	74	98	3.510
Day 10 th Call Area #	11	12	35	100	0.120
Night 5 th Call Area**	52	50	181	353	0.142
Night 9 th Call Area	54	225	148	490	0.459
Night 10 th Call Area	55	45	117	216	0.208

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day Central US	13	110	74	206	0.534
Night Central US @	29	284	177	471	0.603
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	25	32		82%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	58	115	51		88%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1249	953	2055	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
WB9FHP Central Area HUB		4664	2564	2100	
Digital Stations (11)		1747	605	1142	
Total DTN Digital		5903	2944	2959	
Total Central US		6766			
* 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 your TEX 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, hope we all have a very Merry Christmas, a happy holiday season, a mild winter, and lots more sunspots in 2020.

73, Steve K6JT
TEX Newsletter Editor

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

Greetings From Northeast Texas

Jason, KD5RQB, has been able to return to operating on the air. Help is needed for more support of TSN. Jason calls up the net Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday when he is able. Please look for him.

Net Control Stations

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

TSN Activity Reports

Month	QNI	QTC	QTR	Nr. Operators
October no report				
November 12 Sessions	12	0	60	1

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 69 of the **RN5 Corner**.

Again, thank all you NC Stations for sending your reports. There were 13 reports missing for October and 8 reports missing for November, primarily for the early session. Please try to get the NC reports to me as soon after the session as possible. Thanks to those of you who go to CAN to pick up RN5 traffic and bring it to the late session.

Here is a list of the stations sending NC reports for October and November (in order from earliest date station first reported):

Oct: W5FEA 14, K6JT 7, W5CU 19, WA4ZPZ 5, W8IM 2, K5GM 2

Nov: K6JT 9, W5FEA 22, W5CU 16, K5GM 3, W8IM 1, K5RG 1

Thanks to all of you and please continue to fill in as you are able. 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.

You will note from the Nov. NCS list above that WA4ZPZ is no longer listed. Tom has resigned from all traffic handling and is no longer active, not even to check in. This is shown in the updated duty roster. Thanks to Tom for his years of service and we wish him a happy "retirement" from the traffic nets. This also leaves both day and night RN5 without an AL representative. The AL day net, managed by KI4ZZD, meets at 1000 CT on 3965 KHz, providing the only remaining AL outlet.

Jack, K5WNU, has been absent from the net due to taking care of his wife, who was in the hospital and is still in recovery a long distance away from their home.

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.

Thanks for your support of RN5. Special thanks to Sam, W5CU, and Jim, W5FEA, who handle many NCS slots as shown above. Thanks also to regulars WA5CAV, on nearly every session, K5WNU, N5RL, W5DY, K5GM, K6JT, and K5RG. John, KC4FL, continues to regularly check in from FL. Ben, KZ8Q, and Dean, W8IM, check in from FL some nights. Dean is using the high power radio club station remotely so he has also helped out by taking NCS when no other station is available.

Please continue to pass AR traffic to the TEX liaison station to take to the 7290 Traffic Net. DRN5 meets at 1025 CT on 7280 KHz, Mon, Wed, and Fri only.

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

RN5 Duty Roster

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

2019 Statistics

MONTH	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
SESSIONS	49	52
QTC	59	50
QNI	195	181
QTR	354	353
AVG QTC	1.2	1.0
AVG QNI	4.0	3.5
AVG QTR	7.2	6.8

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

* 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 since there is only an occasional AR liaison station there).

73, Steve K6JT

Newsletter editor and RN5 statistician