

# *The Texan*

Newsletter of the Texas CW Traffic Net (TEX)

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

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November-December 2023

## **7290 Traffic Net Picnic Award**

The 7290 Traffic Net picnic was held on October 28. Although no TEX regulars were able to attend, Jon, KZ5Z, was awarded the Whitney Nugget. His name and call are shown on the 7290 net Whitney Nugget web page along with a history of what the nugget means. It is awarded each year for distinguished unselfish service to Amateur Radio and the 7290 Traffic Net. Congratulations, Jon. Your service to TEX, RN5, and the 7290 Traffic Net is outstanding and much appreciated. See [https://www.7290trafficnet.org/\\_mgxroot/page\\_10742.html](https://www.7290trafficnet.org/_mgxroot/page_10742.html).

## **N5RLQ SK**

Our condolences to Doug, NA5YO, on the passing of his wife, Lucy, N5RLQ, who was active on the 7290 Traffic Net for many years. Doug was the manager of TEX when I first checked in and he subsequently asked me to take over being TEX manager in August 2005.

Lucy was not active on CW but supported Doug. From her bio on QRZ she wrote: I have been a ham since 1990. I am a retired Licensed Vocational Nurse. My primary interests are Dxing, Contesting and fishing with my husband/NA5YO. My QSL card has a picture of San Jose Mission in San Antonio where I grew up... *Rest in Peace, Lucy.*

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

Here is the next excerpt from Jack's book. They return home from the chess tournament and do some more cooking together. Jack proposes marriage and Sue accepts, but with caveats.

Monday morning, later. Sue got up. I rolled over to see the clock: 6:30. We had not slept together this long since I arrived. She just had to pee and got back in bed. I was facing the other way, so she just cuddled up to my back. I was just about to doze off when the alarm clock woke me up. I rolled over on my back, deciding to let it wake Sue up. She reached over me and hit the snooze button, staying on top after. I held her and she melted into me. Her soft gray hair loosely covered my face. I whispered, "Coffee?"

She lifted herself up on her elbows. "Kiss me first." I rolled her over on her side so she could hold me too and kissed her. Then I turned off the alarm, dressed, and went to the kitchen.

I got the coffee pot out of the dishwasher, ground coffee, and filled the cone with hot filtered water from the sink. I thought again about getting a quick hot water supply for myself. I did an easy calculation, and found that it would save about 18 hours a year, but those were really waking-up hours, so what is their monetary value? Anyway the coffee was ready and I took two cups upstairs.

Sue was wearing a long probably cotton flannel gown, resting in the chair by the door. I put her cup on the end table next to the chair. She said, "This weekend was exhausting, and I didn't even do anything. Any ideas for breakfast?"

"I was thinking about Eggs Benedict on whole wheat pan toasted buttered bread slices. It is usual to serve it over English muffins but I think bread would work. If you decide on that I should go now to make Hollandaise sauce. Otherwise an omelet can be ready almost instantly."

"I have never had Eggs Benedict prepared at home. There are some English muffins in the freezer, on the left side behind the sherbet. Can it be ready by 8?"

"Easily if you can help a little. Would Mae like some?" "Probably. Does it warm gracefully?" "Yes and no. It is about a tenth butter. It does not store in the icebox well, but you can keep it out for up to four hours and warm it. No more though, because the egg yolks have not been completely cooked."

So I went down and got busy. I started a medium saucepan with a quart of hot water and one T vinegar on high heat to poach the eggs, and got out a stick of butter and eight eggs. I put the eggs in a colander over the hot water, now boiling, to warm them. The frozen muffins went to the microwave for 30 seconds. I separated and buttered them, then to the warming oven on a lightly buttered cookie sheet at 180 degrees. The eggs were warm so I removed them to the stainless counter.

Sue came in and I gave her a warm hug. Warmed me more than her. I asked her to separate two eggs, putting the yolks in a saucepan, beat with a wire whisk until creamy and sticky. I got out a small skillet, put a trivet in it and just covered it with hot water. This went to one of the medium burners on high. The yolks were ready. I cut two 1 T pieces of butter. Sue knew what to do. She put the saucepan on the trivet and beat the eggs. After a minute she put one of the chunks of butter in to keep the yolks from cooking, and in another minute the other, and turned off the fire after the other had melted. I put the pan on the stainless counter to cool. Meanwhile I just melted the remaining butter in another small saucepan while Sue extracted the juice of a lemon and 2 t white wine and beat into the egg yolks. The water was boiling so I carefully slipped six eggs in the water and reduced the heat to simmer. Meanwhile Sue was slowly beating the melted butter into the egg mixture.

I got out the ham and cut six thin slices and put them on the English muffin halves, put these on warmed plates two to a plate, then removed the poached eggs with a slotted spoon to top the ham, after which Sue spooned generous amounts of Hollandaise on top. I looked at the clock: 7:45. "Do you want to dress now or eat first?"

"Eat." I poured more coffee and sat across from her to eat. "This is amazing. And so simple." "Two reasons: The fresh eggs, and the fresh Hollandaise. Hollandaise does not store

or reheat well. The stuff in a grocery store is not close. Remember that I didn't invent this. If you are in a hurry, you can do almost as well if you use warm mayonnaise but it won't have the buttery flavor."

Sue finished and went up to dress. I still had one left, so I put it and Mae's two in the warming oven. It was still warm, but I set it on 120 just to be sure. Sue came down, hugged me, and went through the door to the office without going outside. Handy.

At the chess set I went over her game with Craig. It was easy to imagine what would happen if Craig had White. I had reached the point of Black's 11th move, 11 . . . b5 when Mae came downstairs. "There is breakfast. Coffee or OJ?"

She looked at the board. "Oh! Black missed 11 . . . a5."

"Yes, I saw that after two hours of going over the game. At first I thought Black had no good move." It is interesting that she said 'Black' instead of 'Craig.' After the game it is just abstract chess.

"It is not easy to see. I didn't see it during the game. What is for breakfast? I could be hungry. All I had last night was a bowl of gumbo. Craig ate like a starving pig."

We went to the kitchen, I got out the food and served her, and she said, "Coffee." After eating half of the first one, she asked, "What is this? What's in it? It is so rich."

I told her, and how it is made. "Sue helped. She is a cook." "Did you tell her yet?" "No." She looked disappointed. "What difference would it make if I did?" "I don't know, but you will never know until you tell her. If nothing else it would make her happy." I noticed she had finished her coffee. "OJ now?" "You are just changing the subject. I'll get it."

"If you need either of us at school for any reason just call." "I will, but I don't think there will be any trouble. I forgot to tell you that I talked off the record with a Justice Department lawyer Friday. I couldn't tell him anything he didn't know except what happened after school Monday. He only had an outline of that. Dr. Owens would not tell him what I told her. So I gave him the only detail he was missing, how I subdued Mr. Wills. He chuckled when he heard it. I had left that out of the written account."

Then he said, "Mr. Wills is claiming you had a weapon."

Mae held up her right arm, her hand making a fist. "But I told the lawyer I never had any martial arts training, just know how it feels to have the wind knocked out of you. If you are a hundred pounds overweight it probably hurts more. At least he was on the floor, and I got the key and escaped. I didn't even step on him."

I noticed it was after 8:30 and asked if she was going to school. "Why wouldn't I? I'll make dinner tonight if you tell her." I said deal. She got up and left.

I went back to the kitchen, put up the clean dishes, loaded it with this morning's. That easy dish makes a lot of dirty dishes. Counting the coffee pot and cups it was full, so I started it.

I went to the sitting room and got their copy of Modern Chess Openings (two editions later than mine, now three volumes), and found the King's Indian. I found the column (60) which was Mae's game with the colors reversed, and White does move 11 b4, but it isn't the same at all. Black's next move is 11 ... c6, which makes perfect sense. I also realized, or was starting to, just how deep her knowledge of theory (deep analysis of opening play) is.

I also looked at the English opening and found the move 1 c4 e5 was not really a disaster, with 57 columns devoted to it. So Mae just outplayed him. Here, the psychology is that she thought she had the advantage. I have never studied the English from White's side, and when I must defend against it I have always played the draw-ish symmetric version 1 c4 c5. The King's Indian defense is another I've tried, but for some reason it hasn't worked as well for me.

Sue returned from her meeting. I asked if there was any trouble, and she said all was well. Then I asked, "Two questions, unrelated. The easy one is how can we get hot water everywhere so quickly in this house?"

She said, "Everyone wants to know that. There is a 50 gallon water heater, propane, and a pump which circulates water through a manifold of well insulated 2 inch CPVC pipe to both floors. The kitchen link to the manifold is also well insulated 3 inch copper pipe containing an electrically insulated low voltage heating element. "At first we controlled that circuit with a thermostat, but found that to be unnecessary since the manifold would cool that water if the temperature rose too high. The kitchen hot water has been measured after a day of no usage and is about 160°, hot enough to mildly burn, but anyone with any sense will blend in some cold water.

"The return circulating water kicks in when the temperature at any take-off point falls below 120°. That much 2 inch pipe more than doubles the effective size (to 112 gallons) of the water heater so that four showers and dishwashing will not run it out of hot water unless some nut turns his shower on pure hot and leaves. All of society is based on the assumption that there are no nuts. The other building has a 30 gallon heater and a similar pumping system, but with only 3 inch pipe. And don't get cute, I know the world is full of nuts.

Next question?" "Chemistry, especially bio-. For example, you knew what ATP meant (Adenosine Triphosphate), and so probably know how it stores and releases energy. By the way, I knew what you did and tried to let you know I did."

"Yes, I know and knew. Your 'ATP?' was sharp. In Germany, Chemistry is taught in the tenth grade, and Organic Chemistry in the eleventh. And calculus as well. You can opt out of Organic by taking Biology. I took Organic. I also enrolled as a special student and took Biochemistry and Ordinary Differential Equations at USL. In the DE class I learned that Engineering students are almost all idiots."

"No argument here, although you find a gem now and then. Thank you. Did you take any other courses at USL?"

"Just business courses, not in your league. One accounting course."

“How are the eggs digesting? That dish is filling.” “I’ll say. In spite of all the fat I don’t feel all that sinful, but I wouldn’t want that every day. I never know how something is digesting, just when it isn’t. While we’re at it, is there anything you can’t cook off the top of your head?”

“Most desserts. I don’t know if mixing drinks counts, but I don’t know any of those. I only know a few sauces, but then I only use a few. I noticed you know how to make Hollandaise sauce.”

“Yes, you made it easy by setting up the double boiler and giving me cold butter to keep the eggs from cooking. If you can make it to the final add warm butter step you’re home free. I’ve never put white wine in it, but lemon juice is standard. I have put vinegar instead of lemon juice; you can tell the difference. It is easier than making a dark roux.”

“Oh, that reminds me, you must have my gumbo. Perhaps tomorrow. Do you have any okra? Put up is just fine.”

“I think a few pints, in the back left of the pantry, a low shelf. I don’t use it much. That is one of the few things I can. Okra stands up well to partial cooking and canning.”

I let there be a pause, maybe a minute. Then, “Walk?” “Yes. Give me a minute to change.”

I went out and waited in the sun. There was a strong surface breeze from the south. We would be walking directly into it unless Sue had some other plan. She came out wearing a navy blue cashmere long-sleeved low V-neck sweater, a tight maroon knee-length skirt that was flared at mid thigh level, and comfortable-looking white tennis shoes with mid-calf navy blue socks. She had her hair in a bun. She looked great. I was going to need more clothes.

I asked, “How did you do all that so quickly?” “Oh, I had them all laid out ready to go in case you asked me out. Watch out for the hair; it is mostly bobby pins. I have set off metal detectors with my hair like this.”

I told her I liked it.

We headed off towards the school. That was the only uncomfortable part of the trip. Elsewhere there were sidewalks. After we got on level ground we joined hands. I was chilly in the strong breeze, but she said the sweater was lightweight but warm. It was hard to not look at the V. I have always had trouble with that.

When we passed the school we turned west and walked a few blocks until we ran out of town. The houses were old, looked like from the post war building boom in the 50s. We turned south again, I asked Sue what that smell is.

“You’ve heard of Tabasco Sauce?” “Yes. I even make a fair imitation. It takes a surprisingly large number of peppers to make a cup of the stuff.”

“What do you think it would be like to make gallons of it every day?” “Oh. Mae said it burned her eyes sometimes.” “Yes. Some people have allergic reactions to it.” “Do you? Does it bother you?” “Not at all.”

It was not unpleasant, just had no business in the air in such a high concentration. I decided it was as good a time as any to get a home cooked Mae meal. "There is something I've been wanting to say but I'm almost afraid to... I love you."

"And I love you, always have." She stopped, so I did. She put her arms around my neck, and we kissed. I was holding her, you sort of have to.

"I guess we really are love birds now." She said, "How come? Who says?" "Just the dictionary. A lovebird is a small greenish short-tailed African parrot, noted for close bonding and mutual preening between mates. They are popular as cage birds. The other, human, lovebirds are known to display affection in public. I don't think holding hands qualifies, although it probably did once. Maybe it does. What do you think?"

"Of course it qualifies."

"Well it could show fondness or tender feelings, perhaps not so strong as affection, but we're way past that now."

"Yes, we are." She paused, then, "Ten to one you told Mae." "Yes. How did you know?" "Because she suddenly quit pushing us together." "I didn't know she was." "I know. That blind spot must be sex-linked. I never knew a man who could tell or a woman who couldn't."

"Now that you mention it I told her because she was leaning on me a little. Maybe a lot." "I got that too, and that also stopped. I knew you loved me before we slept together. I was almost certain when you did two things: You taught John to use the choke and gave him back the money, and you came here with us."

"I never intended to keep the money. And after I knew how out of it he was I told him about the choke. That was not about you at all. Coming here, sure. Only an evil cad would have done that without love, and I have never been either. I admit I wasn't sure we could work out together until something happened after I got here. You wouldn't guess or calculate what it is if you tried for a month, but any man would. If you decide to try, you have a month, only one guess, and no hints. You can consult with others, even Mae, or use computers or your library." "I wouldn't bother. If you want to, tell me."

We had turned around and headed back. Now I understood why she had her hair up. The wind would blow it all over her face. I told her, "You asked for a cheese soufflé. I made it, with your help."

"You don't understand. I knew I didn't have enough Swiss cheese. I hid the nutmeg grinder. After you blended the cheese into the roux I knew you had won. If you had added the cheddar in largish cubes it would have turned into something that a cat turns a ball of yarn into. It was a test, not completely fair since you didn't know. You are a cook. The eggs Benedict this morning just confirms that."

It was Sue who didn't understand. "We're almost there. What happened after I went into the front room and sat on the couch?"

She had to think. "Oh. After I dried my hands I found you sitting on the couch, so I sat next to you. It was all I could do to not sit on your lap.

Another pause. "This can't be it." I said what. "You love me because I said you are a cook?"

"No. I'm as good as anyone at translating. What you said meant you accept me as a cook. I'm not sure we are significantly different as cooks. Your test showed me that you are a cook as well. You put the potassium bitartrate in with the egg whites and turned the oven down to 350° without being told. I don't really care whether you are a cook, but I need you to let me be one, and that is going to be easier if you have some confidence that I can do it. Now I know you do. And, by the way, we work as well together as anyone since Julia Child and Simone Beck. I've never had an acquaintance, much less an intimate, who worked with me cooking on an equal basis. If this continues the way it is headed then Mae is going to have to watch what she eats else she weighs 180 pounds by the time she leaves for college."

"She wants to go to Harvey Mudd and major in math."

"You could find one cheaper place that is almost as good, but not a better place. Rice is almost as good, better in some ways. No one else comes close. Well, Vanderbilt, but it is as expensive as Harvey Mudd."

"She wants out of the South. Can't blame her for that. And she wants to go to graduate school in France." "It is good to have long-range plans, but that is a trifle long even for me. She will learn if she is a mathematician at Harvey Mudd, probably in the second year, and she will have an advisor who cares for her future. That is what puts Harvey Mudd above all the others. You can get that anywhere but you have to work at showing what you have."

We had reached the school. I hoped it had been an uneventful day for Mae. She needed some calm, even rest, after the heroic victories across the board. Mae did not think they were all that great. To Sue, "Does she know I am a mathematician?"

"I don't know. If she were listening at dinner she must have heard you say you are, but maybe she wasn't hearing things because of Craig. I don't remember telling her, but maybe she overheard it. Anyone who knows mathematicians, or even just a little math, would strongly suspect you are a mathematician. You speak that language. I suppose you know what Disraeli said of your kind."

"Yes: 'Mathematicians are like Frenchmen. Whatever you say will be instantly translated into their own language, where it means something completely different.' Or some- thing like that." "That's pretty close."

We finally reached the mailbox. That last mile from the school is not easy. I got to carry the junk mail again. In the house I checked the time, saw that it was not quite 2, and asked Sue what she would do now.

"Make love." She took me by the hand again. She removed her clothes, folded the sweater and put it in a drawer, hung up the skirt, removed her shoes, and put her underwear and socks in a hamper. I bore you with this because it was performed so carefully, compared to my putting everything on the floor, which I did, giving me time to study, no, admire her. I

glanced at the clock, one of my worst habits, saw that it was 1410. That is why, or maybe because, I never wear a wrist watch.

In bed we were close, holding each other. She said, "This is making love too." I guess she sensed that my brain was working on a different problem, and was trying to tell me I didn't have to do anything, just hold her. I knew that, and told her I knew. My brain actually was working on an easy theoretical problem with difficult logistics. Namely, how was I going to turn the house in the woods over to Alan (my genius son), clean up the almost twenty year old mess, and rearrange a thousand little details which go with transplanting a man with roots that have grown 50 years to a place he would rather be. That is making too many leaps, so I started with something simple. I have always been direct, and as far as I knew Sue has been too, so I just asked, "Would you like to be with me forever?"

She said, quickly, "Yes, but it would have to be here for a while. At our age that may be all we have, a while."

*To Be Continued if there is still interest*

### **TEX / RN5 Mailbox:**

Please send in your feedback, gripes, and suggestions. The mailbox had a few inputs concerning TEX and RN5 for this newsletter.

Oct 22, Jon KZ5Z

Hi Steve. Hope that you are doing well. I had to move early TEX and early RN5 from 7.108 to 7.110 again tonight due to very heavy digital QRM. There seem to be more and more digital stations claiming 7.108 these days. Please remind folks in the next newsletter to look up or down two kc if they don't hear the nets on 7.108. I think everyone found me tonight. (This is OBE now with the move to 80, but always look up and down from the primary frequency for each net.)

Been staying busy with minor emergencies lately; broken water lines, natural gas lines and water well problems plus broken down vehicles. My old Chevy with almost 400 k miles on it finally blew the transmission and my '75 F100 is in the shop getting the brakes and exhaust fixed. I choose to drive old cars so this is to be expected. The well people are coming tomorrow, I hope. I'm still able to cover most nets and will let someone know when I can't. Sam did the two early nets for me on Friday because I was late getting home from some plumbing work at my mother's old house 20 miles from here. Guess it is better to stay busy. I have recently resigned from the hospital board and rural Emergency Services Board.

Yes I like working on old things but I'm not much of an expert at anything. I have a few older radios I try to keep going but I'm by no means a technical expert. I had an old 1955 Ford when I was a kid. It was a great little car but I traded it to a friend for a 1958 Chevy convertible with a 348 truck engine in it that didn't even make it to my house. A year later I was still seeing the little Ford going down the road. Live and learn, hi.



Glad to help out on the nets as much as I can. CW is still fun for me. I'm a little disappointed at some of the ops out there these days but guess that is just a reflection of life in general. I'm not sure why the growth of digital on 7.108. I thought there were suggested frequencies for FT8 and such which were lower than 108 but now it just seems to be spreading everywhere like a fungus, hi. I've had a few hecklers but I just try to ignore them the best I can. I think ham radio is still one of the world's greatest pastimes but I think the relaxed requirements may not have been a good thing for the hobby in general. I've been watching events unfold in Israel. If I were a little younger I'd probably volunteer to go back on duty with my old civilian group but my skills have deteriorated and so has my health. I better leave it to the younger folks. Best wishes for good health. 73, Jon KZ5Z

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Nov 15, Jon, KZ5Z

Propagation on 7.108 seems to be getting a little long now. We have been doing ok so far but Sam is now very weak here on Early RN5. Also the foreign broadcast is getting stronger. TTN has moved the last half of their evening hour net to 80 meters and the whole evening TTN will go to 80 on Friday if all goes well. They also have a new net manager according to W5OMR, Geoff. The new TTN net manager is WB5KUO, Craig. You might wish to ask others how they think we are doing on the 40 meter frequency. 73, Jon KZ5Z

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Nov 17, Randy, N5RL

I had no QNI for the early session of TEX tonight and it may be time to start using our 80 meter frequency of 3541 Khz for both early and late sessions. Given where we are in the calendar year, I recommend we do that. Unless I hear otherwise, I will call next Tuesday early net on 3541 Khz and we will see how it works. 73 !

Randy N5RL

*We officially moved early TEX and early RN5 to 80 meters shortly after Randy and Jon reported the problems noted above.*

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Nov 27, Jack, K5WNU reported he was finally back on the air as of this date. We are sure happy to have you back on RN5, Jack.

- . . . -

Nov 27, Ken, K5RG

Camille (XYL) and I will be leaving for Cairo, Egypt on Sunday, December 3rd returning on Monday, December 18th at 2 PM, hopefully in time for my Monday FOX sked with W6QZ.

Being out of pocket should only be the stance for the weeks of December 4th and December 11th unless I get drafted into Israel's army and sent to Gaza. Good planning?? I actually arranged this trip to see the pyramids in late 2019. The Viking Cruise line cancelled 4 times due to COVID constraints which also impacted their ship construction schedule. They have been very good dealing with this series of issues.

This week before I depart (November 29th local), I will start CAN on 3552 kHz. My reason for starting CAN on 7052 kHz in the last few weeks has been street light RFI that oddly enough

was bandwidth limited, from 3.5 to 3.8 MHz. I've never seen this happen with sodium vapor street lights which when in the state of failing, generate RFI from 1 - 200 MHz. The power company in Houston (Center Point Energy) has an automatic street light reporting web page and the street light is usually repaired in two days. For some reason they have sent me false repair messages for the last two months when I can easily tell nothing was corrected. CenterPoint normally replaces a sodium vapor light with an LED light when a problem is reported thus it is very easy to see a change. And of course the RFI never went away. But it was only on 80 meters so until CAN & WAN moved to 3552 kHz it wasn't a big problem. In addition the noise blanker on the ICOM IC-7800 did an excellent job knocking the noise spikes way down. After lighting a fire under CenterPoint, it was finally corrected last week. Naturally as soon as it was fixed, four more street lights further away, blinking on and off, generating RFI were found when I was checking the one bad street light near the shack. But this time it was broadband noise, even worse at the higher frequencies, which is normally the case. The first bad light was only a ¼ mile away and getting it replaced has been an improvement since the RFI was reduced (+10 over S9 down to S5). Hopefully the remaining street lights repairs will take care of the remaining RFI when they are repaired/replaced. December is normally a bad RFI month with all of the Xmas lights so this may be mixed in with the remaining noise.

73, Ken K5RG

*Hoping you have a great (and safe) trip, Ken. Thanks for the RFI information. Might help others track down their noise if it appears.*

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Nov 29, JW, WB8SIW

Hello Gentlemen:

This morning, RRI completed a fully executed Memorandum of Agreement with AUXCOM USA. The agreement is essentially identical to that developed for REACT International, with some minor changes to make it more focused on ham radio functions.

AUXCOM USA is a rapidly growing alternative to the ARRL ARES program. It has over 3500 members and is recognized by FEMA and similar government agencies as a professional-grade alternative to past amateur radio programs. They are interested in developing a bi-lateral relationship, which would involve integrating their members into the RRI traffic system, with RRI providing training and guidance. Special emphasis would be placed on participation in the Digital Traffic Network through the recruiting of additional Digital Traffic Stations and other DTN volunteers. AUXCOM USA also operates a number of wide-coverage nets, which could serve as an additional resource for RRI to both collect and distribute traffic, particularly in those states that do not currently have functional traffic systems or states in which leadership is unwilling to cooperate with the broader system.

*Although TEX and all nets below the region level are not part of RRI, RN5 and CAN are, and we may be getting traffic from the Auxcom participants. This is a good addition to our traffic handling capabilities.*

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Nov 29, Jon, KZ5Z

W0ZV, Tom from eastern MO has checked into TEX the last two nights. He is a great CW and net op and it is good to have someone from Missouri check in. Hope he continues to stop by. Also it is great to have Jack, K5WNU back. Hope you are doing well. 73, Jon KZ5Z

- . . . -

Dec 13, JW, WB8SIW

A new issue of the QNI newsletter is now available. Unfortunately the QNI website (QNI-newsletter.net) is no longer working so in the interim I will put a copy of this issue on the TEX website for your access. I don't have much space, so it will only be there for a couple months. When a different hosting site is set up, I will put a link to it in lieu of the newsletter.

Volume 12, Issue 1 Contents include:

1. WAR!
2. The Abusive Spouse
3. The Lie of Omission
4. RRI—AUXCOMM USA MOU
5. An All-Band Antenna for Small Yards
6. The Post Office Net
7. The Wrong ICS-213?
8. Registered Radio Operator Meetings
9. Postal Telegraph and the 1920s Florida Land Boom
10. Common Denominator Modes

See <http://www.k6jt.com/QNI%202023-12%20Final-Approved.pdf>

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## TEX Net Topics

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown below. If you are willing to take any of the open positions or want to change your assignment, please advise so the schedule may be updated. We are still missing primary coverage for 3 NCS, 2 RN5/1 and 1 RN5/2 slots.

Based on reports, 40 meters was no longer working well for early TEX and RN5, so both of them reverted to their 80 meter frequencies (3541 and 3567 respectively).

The late sessions continue on 80 meters. This time of year often means changes to propagation on the higher frequencies, so it is usual to move to 80 for all evening nets some time after the time change back to standard (on November 5 this year). CAN and WAN have moved back to 80 again (3552).

### TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NC 1	Open	N5RL	Open	W9VE	N5RL	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	Open	Open	KZ5Z	N5RL	Open	No Net	Open
NC 2	K5IX	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	Open	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	Open	Open	KZ5Z	KZ5Z	KZ5Z	No Net	Open
RN5 1	N5RL	KZ5Z	Open	KZ5Z	Open	No Net	KZ5Z

Backup	Open	Open	KZ5Z	Open	Open	No Net	Open
RN5 2	W5CU	K6JT	K5RG	K6JT	Open	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	Open	KZ5Z	W5CU	KZ5Z	Open	No Net	Open
TTN/7290	Open	N5RL/KZ5Z	Open	KZ5Z/N5RL	Open	Nada	Open

TEX/1: **3541**/3593/7108 at 19:00 CT; TEX/2 **3541**/3593/1841 at 22:00 CT  
RN5/1: **3567**/7108 at 19:30; RN5/2: **3567**/3598/7108 at 21:30 CT  
CAN: **3552**/3590//7052/7108 - 20:30 CT; WAN: **3552**/7052 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: K5RG, N5RL, KZ5Z, W5CU  
NCS Backup: K5RG, N5RL, KZ5Z, W5CU, W5FEA, K5IX

### TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	* K5KV	Benny	Star
N5BA	Brian	Houston	* W6LFB	Jim	Denton
WA5CAV	Dick	Pineville LA	WA5MS	Marty	Argyle
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK, /0 CO	NM5M	Eric	Plano
N5CXX	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)	N7NET	Scott	Crossett AR
W5DAE	Don	San Angelo	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
W5DY	Rodney	Silent Key 3/31/23	W5OMR	Geoff	San Antonio
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5FEA	Jim	Graham	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
K5GM	Pete	Tennessee	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
KM0I	John	Hattiesburg MS	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
KA9IKK	Bill	Katy	W9VE	Don	Dallas
* K5IX	Dave	Brackettville/Del Rio	WB5VIH	Dave	Merkel
K5JFB	Jim	Fort Worth	NA5YO	Doug	Palacios
K6JT	Steve	Plano	KZ5Z	Jon	Springer OK

\* Capable of 160 meter operation

### Statistics:

#### October 2023:

Don, W5DAE, was first with 51 (100%), Jon, KZ5Z, was second place with 48 (94%), and Randy, N5RL, was third with 29 (57%). Thanks again to all who checked in.

Visitors: CO2OSP, Felipe, from Havana, Cuba

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note there were 51 sessions reported out of a possible 52 (no Saturday nets). Traffic averaged

0.94 per net session (0.58 last month). Net time averaged 9 minutes per session (8.3 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.1 per session (3.4 last month).

### TEX Net Statistics (October 2023)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
W5CU	Sam	15	16	1	1		
*		1					
W5DAE	Don	25	51			1	
		26					
W5FEA	Jim	1	6				
*		5					
K5IX	Dave	12	21				
		9		2			
K6JT	Steve	0	12				
*		12		12	8		12
W5OMR	Geoff	10	10			10	
		0					
K5RG	Ken	1	5				
*		4			4		
N5RL	Randy	14	29	2			
*		15					
CO2OSP	Felipe	1	1				
	Havana	0					
W9VE	Don	7	8	5	1		7
		1					
KZ5Z	Jon	23	48	17	22	3	
	OK	25		12	14	4	
Totals		207		51	50	18	19
				98%	96%	35%	37%
QTC 1		13	35				
QTC 2		22		Sessions:	52		
Time 1		254	459				
Time 2		205					

### November 2023:

Randy, N5RL, was 1<sup>st</sup> with 45 (88%), Jon, KZ5Z and Don, W5DAE, tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> with 44 (86%), and Dave, K5IX, was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 22 (43%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in.

Visitors: Don, AA6GA, CA, Deroy, AA5R, in Austin, and Tom, W0ZV, in MO

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note that there were 51 sessions reported out of a possible 52 (no Saturdays). Traffic averaged 0.69 per net session (0.94 last month). Net time averaged 9 minutes per session (9 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.1 per session (4.1 last month).

### TEX Net Statistics (November 2023)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
W5CU	Sam	12	13	1	1		
*		1		1	1		
W5DAE	Don	21	44				
		23					
W5FEA	Jim	2	5				
*		3					
AA6GA	Don	0	1				
	CA	1					
W8IM	Dean	1	1				
*	FL	0					
K5IX	Dave	9	22				
		13		4			
K6JT	Steve	0	14				
*		14		14	9		14
W5OMR	Geoff	8	8			8	
		0					
AA5R	Deroy	2	2				
*	Austin	0					
K5RG	Ken	1	6				
*		5			5		
N5RL	Randy	23	45	7			
*		22					
W0ZV	Tom	2	2				
	MO	0					
W9VE	Don	15	16	3			14
		1					
NA5YO	Doug	0	1				
		1					
KZ5Z	Jon	21	44	14	21	2	
	OK	23		7	11	8	
Totals		224		51	48	18	28
				98%	92%	35%	54%
QTC 1		2	52				
QTC 2		50		Sessions:		52	
Time 1		240	457				
Time 2		217					

## Operating:

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

Note that while TTN stands for Texas Traffic Net, it is used in reporting to indicate both TTN (which meets in the evening) and the 7290 traffic net (which meets in the morning / early afternoon).

40 meters no longer works well for early TEX and RN5, as noted earlier in this newsletter. So we are back to the 3541 and 3567 frequencies for both sessions of those 2 nets. In past years with poor sunspot activity, there was often long skip on the late session of TEX, so we established a secondary frequency on 160 meters (which only a few net members can use). There will probably not be a need to use 160 this year.

Note that if conditions on 80 do exhibit skip, there is absolutely no use in trying 40 since the skip zones will be even longer there.

With the time change back to standard, we are no longer bothered by the contesters on Wednesday and Thursday evening late sessions, some consolation for losing the use of 40 meters for the early nets.

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Here are the composite reports for the last 2 months for traffic handled at the region and above levels. Traffic totals were up both months, closer to the normal values this time of year. VE1IJ and NX9K/N9VC continue to supply traffic to handle.

### Central US Nets Activity for October 2023

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	12	27	43	56	0.482
Day 9 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	13	144	65	60	2.400
Day 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	13	10	59	77	0.130
Night 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area**	52	224	179	499	0.449
Night 9 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	49	305	187	414	0.737
Night 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	56	53	194	359	0.148
Day Central US	13	124	102	255	0.486
Night Central US @	31	450	167	427	1.054
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	70	39		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	78	158	75		96%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1565	1110	2147	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		417	227	190	

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
N9VC Central Area 9RN/TEN		4688	2146	2542	
Digital Stations (11)		262	138	124	
Total DTN Digital		5367			
Total Central US		6932			
@ 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 2023

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	11	25	48	58	0.431
Day 9 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	13	156	68	58	2.690
Day 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	11	5	45	60	0.083
Night 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area**	52	202	181	474	0.426
Night 9 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	52	277	194	407	0.681
Night 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area #	52	45	150	300	0.150
Day Central US	13	120	116	338	0.355
Night Central US @	30	432	158	421	1.026
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	84	39		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	81	159	81		100%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1505	1080	2116	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		358	196	162	
N9VC Central Area 9RN/10RN		4376	1915	2461	
Digital Stations (11)		303	173	130	
Total DTN Digital		5037			
Total Central US		6542			
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					



Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
** Nominations open for manager, thanks to NC Stations for statistics					
# Estimate – no report received					

DTN Access:

KE5YTA Pactor 1800-0600 CT Mon/Tue and Tue/Wed, Wed 1800 to Mon 0600

Center Frequencies: DTN 3591, 7103, and 14098; RMS Winlink 3.589 and 7.1024

N9VC Pactor + VARA 24/7 except when on HF Nets

Center Frequencies (both Pactor/VARA) 3591.9, 3593.9, 7102.4, 14110.4

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

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, and Good Health in the new year 2024.

Until February, 73, Steve K6JT

TEX Newsletter Editor and Statistician

## **RN5 Corner**

RRI Fifth Call Area Net (Daily) 1930 CT on **3567** 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 still open for Net Manager

Hello all and welcome to Edition 93 of the **RN5 Corner**.

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

Jack K5WNU, was off the air until late November after a storm brought his antenna down in October. Thankfully he got some help around Thanksgiving, the antenna is back up, and Jack is again on RN5. Jon continues to either check in or control nearly every RN5 session. Sam, W5CU, is back in Oklahoma and helps by bringing traffic from CAN and running some NCS slots. Sam and Jon are the only ones who take outgoing RN5 traffic to CAN. We need more help with CAN liaisons.

Here is a list of the stations sending NC reports for October and November (in order from earliest date station first reported that month). Thanks to everyone for supporting RN5. NCS slots are filled, thank you very much. There are many empty CAN liaison slots.

October: KZ5Z 32, W5CU 12, K6JT 8

November: KZ5Z 27, K6JT 9, W5CU 15, K5WNU 1

Thanks to all for your support of RN5, especially regulars WA5CAV, W5CU, K5WNU, KZ5Z, K6JT, N5RL and K5RG. John KC4FL, Dean W8IM, and Ben KZ8Q, also check in from FL some nights.

Please continue to pass AR traffic to the TEX liaison station to take for the 7290 Traffic Net. If there is no TEX liaison, these may be sent to the 7290 Traffic Net manager, KA5AZK at Winlink dot org (also see below for subject line restrictions). OK traffic can now be sent to Jon, KZ5Z. Jon also checks into TEX so TX traffic can be sent to him if no other TEX liaison.

Jon reports if anyone needs another outlet for Alabama or Tennessee traffic, K4OTM from San Angelo will often take those. He is on the 7290 net almost every day.

TN traffic can be sent to Jim, WA4VGZ, who is the manager of daytime RN5 and located in TN. Use WA4VGZ@Winlink.org. For Winlink addresses via E-mail, be sure to put //WL2K as the first 7 letters (including space) in the subject line. AL traffic can be handled by sending it to Don, WV5Q@Winlink.org. Don is a digital traffic station located in MS, but he has connections with AL SSB nets for passing traffic.

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

### RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	K5WNU	K5WNU	W5CU	K5WNU	K5WNU	(No net)	KZ5Z
NCS #2	K5WNU	K6JT	W5CU	K6JT	K5WNU	(No net)	KZ5Z
CAN TX	Open	Open	W5CU	Open	Open	(No net)	Open
CAN RX	Open	Open	W5CU	K6JT	Open	(No net)	Open
DRN5	Open	K6JT	K5RG	K6JT	Open	(No net)	Open

### 2023 Statistics

MONTH	October	November
SESSIONS	52	52
QTC	179	181
QNI	224	202
QTR	499	474
AVG QTC	3.4	3.5
AVG QNI	4.3	3.9
AVG QTR	9.6	9.1

The following roster shows stations coming to RN5 in the past 5 years and their states.

### Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	State	Call	Name	State
WB5BNV	FRED	MS	K6JT	STEVE	TX
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	WD5JTZ	MIKE	LA
W5CU	SAM	OK / CO	WB4LAL	IKE	AL
W4DLZ	FRANK	(SK)	KZ8Q	BEN	FL
W5DY	RODNEY	(SK)	K5RG	KEN	TX
W5FEA	JIM	TX	N5RL	RANDY	TX
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
K5GM	PETE	TN	K5WNU	JACK	MS
W8IM	DEAN	FL	KZ5Z	JON	OK / (TX)

\*\* 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