

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

**** See "TSN Corner" on Last Pages ****

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Pacific Area Resolutions Regarding Book Traffic

As a follow-up to the Book Traffic discussion in last month's newsletter, I received the following information from JV, AD0A, the Pacific Area TCC director, as originally published by Rob, K6YR, Pacific Area Staff chairman. I have edited it to only focus on the items related to book traffic.

2009 Rocky Mountain Division Conference NTS Meeting Results

At the 2009 Rocky Mountain Division Convention NTS Leadership Meeting and Public Service Net Forum, a number of resolutions and recommendations came forward to the NTS Pacific Area Staff for consideration and forwarding to the Central and Eastern Area Staffs. Out of these propositions it is hoped that a consensus could then be sent to ARRL headquarters for review and approval, as appropriate. Thanks to Jerry, AD0A, and Lanny, K0EZ.

The following resolutions and recommendations were forwarded to the Pacific Area Staff on June 13, 2009. Seven replies were received and are summarized below.

Robert Griffin, K6YR, Pacific Area Staff Chair

RESOLUTIONS:

- It is recommended that ARRL revise NTS guidance to indicate, "If delivery resources are overwhelmed or non-existing, bulk messages originated in quantity for the purpose of training may be cancelled, without a requirement to service the originating station."
- ARRL adopt a message handling instruction of HXX to read: " Delivery and servicing of this training message is not required if resources are overloaded or non-existent after 7 days from origination" and would be used by originators of volume routine traffic.

SUMMARY OF PACIFIC AREA STAFF COMMENTS

- New Message Handling Instruction (HXX):

One commented that the very nature of volume routine messages argues against any service-message requirement. Therefore, the HXX is not needed.

One response expressed a view that “many other NTS traffic stations not involved in emergency traffic will be put off if the training traffic (volume routine messages) is curtailed” with another HX. The present list of HXs is sufficient to cover the range of situations.

Another response also felt that there was no need for a new handling instruction, but agreed with the guidance proposal that would allow volume routine messages to be cancelled in certain circumstances (system overload; no outlet(s)).

Another commented in agreement with the above responses, but expressed doubt about the need for the guidance to be formalized, since common sense by both the message originators and those in the relay/delivery circuit release volume routine traffic for what it is. At least in normal conditions, this type of message keeps the system “oiled.”

One comment had no particular problem with a new HX, but felt that the proposed instructions for use of HXX by the originator should not be required (“change ‘would’ to ‘could’ in the instructions”).

- Revise NTS Guidance to allow volume routine messages to be cancelled if delivery resources do not exist or are overloaded without a service message requirement.

Two comments strongly disagreed with this proposal. One felt that “every message requires resolution – either delivery or serviced.” The idea of a message just dropping out of the system seems counter to the system itself. If the system gets overloaded, either the delivery or servicing of a volume routine message can wait until normal conditions are restored. The other comment expressed the view that “a step toward canceling volume routine messages was a step closer to a policy of canceling any traffic.”

“Health and welfare traffic used to be where the amateur could and did shine. In 'today's' world, there is NO organized H & W traffic offered and/or supported. ARRL can do something about this if they would. I hope these recommendations will spark some comments and hope!”

(End of PAS resolutions)

So it appears that our neighboring Pacific Area traffic handlers generally agree with the sentiments of the Central Area NTS members in that there are diverse opinions. It is worth noting that following last month’s discussion about book traffic among the Central Area group, the messages from W1GMF and N1IQI appear to have bypassed the CW NTS cycle. I have not seen any of these messages yet this month (October) although I have seen some service messages going back to them from the DFW local net members, which implies that their traffic, at least into Texas, is arriving via the SSB nets. CW traffic appears to have “dried up”.

W1NJM Saga

Thanks to Sis, WD8DIN, the editor of the “Traffic Call” newsletter of the Hit and Bounce Net (HBN – 0730 CT, 7042 KHz M-F, 7114 KHz S-S), for passing along George Hart’s saga of the “early days”. Here's Part 30 of George Hart's recollections, We were wondering if Geo and Louise would get married or break it off.

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

A journalistic history of the life and times in Amateur Radio of George Hart, W1NJM, by George Hart, W1NJM.

Chapter 30 - Then there was still Ms. Louise

Much to my astonishment, Louise accepted. We were married in March of 1939 and moved into a small apartment in Hartford. I hit Mr. Handy up for that raise he had promised and my salary was increased from 22 to 24 a week. This was hardly enough for one person to live on, but somehow we made it do, with a little financial assistance from my mother and one of Louise's dotting uncles, until 1941, when U.S. entry into war changed everything. We moved into our little "doll house" in Newington in April of 1941 - the house where I still live (June, 2001), although much expanded. It was a little four-room Cape Cod with a minuscule open side porch, but to us, after two years in a 2-1/2 room second floor apartment, it was paradise.

Here I established my own personal station after over 11 years as a licensed amateur. I had operated 3NF and W3NF, W8YA and W1AW, was still operating the latter, but now I was going to operate W1NJM, my new call as of early 1941. I still held W3AMR at the farm, but big brother Ed had moved back there and was established in his third floor apartment. When I visited "home," I operated W3NF.

But at 66 Highland Street in Newington, I appropriated one of the two tiny bedrooms as my "shack" and set up a station of sorts. It wasn't much – after operating W1AW for six hours a day, coming home to my breadboard junk heap was an anticlimax at best. I nevertheless took pride in at last being a whole amateur radio operator with a station of my own.

From that time until the present, except for my 2-1/2 years in service during the war, there has always been a W1NJM presence on the air and at the farm, after Ed moved out to southern New Jersey, W3AMR too. So, although my ham radio operating career began in 1926, my ham radio station career began in 1941.

Getting acclimated to married life did not come easy for me, and no doubt Louise, a shy young girl with a very sheltered upbringing cast among total strangers in a strange new city, had even more problems. Add to this my working hours from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. most of the time. We would have supper at the usual time, 6 p.m., with a couple hours of togetherness, then I would be off to work, a distance of about 5 miles.

She would go to bed at her usual time, 10 p.m. I would come home at 3:15 a.m. or so, usually waking her up. She would get up at 6, make her breakfast, then sit and read the newspaper or a book or do minor household chores until I got up about noon and we would have lunch together. On spring, summer and early fall afternoons we would usually stroll over to Elizabeth Park, only a few blocks away, sit on the benches, stroll among the bowers, and feed the ducks. In the winter we might go to a movie matinee or play cards. We definitely were not bored. We were young, newly married, very much in love and we tolerated the inconveniences. Within in a few months Louise settled into a pattern of staying up until I got home at about 3:30 a.m., then we would go to bed together, get up at noon, have breakfast, supper at 6 p.m. Once we "got into the swing" it wasn't too bad.

But once earlier, just a few days after our marriage (there was no honeymoon), I went to play pool with Fritz after work, a thing we used to do frequently before I was married. Fritz was unemployed (many thousands were, then) and he spent a lot of time with me at W1AW. When my shift was up at 3 a.m. we would go over to ARRL HQ in West Hartford, where the League had a sort of basement recreation room, and use the pool table therein, a gift of our then advertising manager F.C. Beekley, W1GS. On this particular night Fritz proposed a pool match, without thinking of my bride asleep in our apartment, I assented. We played pool until dawn. When I came home I found Louise in hysterics. She had awakened at about 3:30 a.m. and found my side of the bed empty. At 4 a.m. panic overtook her as she imagined the possibility of my lying dead electrocuted behind one of the relay racks at W1AW. We had no phone, it was four o'clock in the morning, and what was she to do? She lay in bed weeping and when I finally crept quietly into the apartment she got up; and flung herself into my arms. Not until then did I realize what an inconsiderate thing I had done. It brought home to me very strongly the responsibility of marriage, a lesson I never forgot.

WAR

In the main, however, married life continued serenely. WW-II started in September 1939, six months after we were married, but nothing much changed. I registered for the draft, as required, but did not expect to be called. I was a married man, almost 27 years old. Most people were of opinion that the Germans would soon be crushed and we would not be involved. But as time went on and the war took a turn for the worse for the Allies, who had the sympathy of most Americans, the draft quotas rose. Several people at HQ went into the service and others had the draft breathing down their necks. In 1940 I had been offered a commission in the Signal Corps but turned it down, aware of my responsibilities as a husband and having no lust for that kind of adventure. If I had taken it I would have probably wound up at the end of the war as at least a captain, more likely as a major or lieutenant colonel, assuming survival. To me, survival was the key. I was determined to tend to my personal responsibilities first, enter the armed services only if I had to. The work at W1AW went on, little affected by the war.

Coming in Chapter 31: World War II affects Geo

Editor's Note: This is the last chapter I have to put into the TEXAN. Chapter 31 will appear after I receive it in the HBN Newsletter in a few months.

TEX Mailbox:

As promised last month, here is a "mini bio" from **Tom, NK5Z**: I hope it didn't sound strange when I said I can copy a lot faster than I can send. I am a little rusty on both but am working on it every day. Hope to be up to speed with a few more weeks practice on the key and it should also help my copying ability. I was a Manual Morse Intercept Operator in the Navy and did that for my entire career. I retired from the Navy in March of 1984 but didn't get back into Amateur Radio until 2000.

I initially got into Amateur Radio in the late 70's while stationed at Misawa Japan and my novice callsign was WD5IXR and also KA8TR, which was an Affiliated Military Radio Station call. I didn't have much time to enjoy the hobby because I was going out to sea so much. I

had not thought about the radio equipment for a long time after retiring from the Navy, and I couldn't remember the last time I had renewed my ticket. When I finally looked for my license, I discovered it had unfortunately expired in 1995. I was traveling a lot to Mexico for the company I was with and decided to start studying in early 2000. So on the flights to Mexico and on the return flights back home I would read the study material.

By March I felt I was ready to take the tests and had made arrangements with Sammy Neal/N5AF with the SHARK group in Cleveland to take the tests at one of their sessions. I returned from Mexico the night of the testing session, my wife picked me up from the airport and we were on our way to Cleveland. When I arrived it was late but they were still testing as luck would have it, so I took the Novice, Tech, and General and passed all three. I wanted to take the code test that night but by then it was after midnight and all the VE's were pretty tired and had to get up early for work the next day. I was able to schedule the code test a couple of weeks later and passed the 5 words a minute test. I remained a General as KD5JLV for almost two years before taking the test and advancing to Extra and then applied for and received the vanity call NK5Z in July of 2002.

I wanted that callsign because it was easy to send in CW but not so sure that was a wise decision because everyone wants to change my call to N5KZ ☺. I really wanted to take the Advanced and Extra tests before they changed the rules but just didn't have the time because I was still traveling a lot. I enjoy all aspects of Amateur Radio and in the past couple of years have gotten into the digital aspect of the hobby. I work packet locally quite a bit and have an RMS Packet Server Station for anyone who can connect to it for their use. I also have an RMS HF Pactor Station set up but it doesn't get much use, probably because of the restricted height on my HF antenna and the poor coverage. I also scan several frequencies with a different HF Pactor station that I use for receiving NTSD traffic from several stations coast to coast and am a designated Digital Relay Station.

So there you pretty much have my short history with Amateur Radio. It has been a long time since I had checked into the net but wanted to get back into CW. I was using a keyboard for a little while but didn't much care for it. My brother recently got his ticket and even more recently upgraded to General and I wanted to give him some incentive to learn CW. I know I can't push him into CW, but was thinking that if there is something that his younger brother can do that he can't, it may just be the right motivator, ☺ ... Anyway, I will check in when I can and glad to meet everyone on the net. Take care and all the best. Tom, NK5Z

Ken, K5RG, had "another antenna story" in addition to the impressive 40 meter beam repair of last month. Some ideas for the rest of us on support structures and geometries. Ken writes: Another story I forgot to run past you is regarding the lack of rain in Texas. Seems that with the low rainfall, the pine bark beetles have been on a rampage and I've just lost another of my great dipole antenna supports to the beetles. We've lost three tall pine trees within a 1000 yards of my tree (they are all a nice shade of red now). I lost another pine tree just after I had topped so it still remains as an antenna support but I only planned to use it a year before taking it down (before it rots away and becomes unsafe to take down).

So over the years I've lived at this location, I've lost three pine trees to beetles, one to lightning (which the beetles took care of a year later after being hit) and one due to Hurricane Ike. I've got one tall one that I use for an antenna support that I have now started using a systemic insecticide (at \$100 an application with no evidence that it will help) to see if I can

keep it from the beetles. I guess I will also make sure it stays reasonably watered since it looks like the lack of rain stressed all of the pine trees in the area which were then attacked by the pine bark beetles. You don't appreciate the tall pine trees until you lose them and then realize how much it might cost to replace with a comparable antenna support.

My plans are to put up two 20 foot structures to support the two base triangle ends of the Delta Loop (with the critical feed point still up in the 80 foot tower). So it looks like the ends will lose some height but if I put the supports at the ends of my lot, the geometry of the situation with long ropes from the supports to the antenna insulators, it will minimize the loss in altitude. I am also planning on having a 160 meter antenna since I see that one can lay out a dipole in the shape of a delta loop and still have it work. I just could not figure out another way of having a 280 foot dipole without having to ask the neighbors if I could use their trees (not a good plan!!).

73, Ken

Scott, W7IZ, Oregon STM, forwarded the following announcement from ARRL HQ concerning our new Central Area digital coordinator and other news. Thanks, Scott.

Subj: Welcome to Dave, K4WWV, as Central Area Digital Coordinator.

Hello, NTS Central Area Staff Members and Friends. After the latest round of nominations for the open NTS Central Area Staff positions, here is a status report.

Dave Colvett, K4WWV, of Bertrand, Missouri, is the only nominee for the NTS Central Area Digital Coordinator. Accordingly, I am pleased to announce that Dave, K4WWV, is the new NTS Central Area Digital Coordinator.

Congratulations, Dave! His e-mail address is: k4wwwv@arrl.net.

For the open Member at Large position on the Central Area Staff, there are two nominees: Benny Owens, K5KV, and Jim Lasley, N0JL.

Thanks to Benny and Jim for your interest in this position.

At the request of Richard, NF5B, the Central Area Staff Chair, I will be conducting an election soon by sending a ballot to the voting members of NTS Central Area Staff. Please watch for it. This term of office for the open Member at Large position continues through the end of 2011.

So far, there are no nominations yet for the open Central Area TCC Director, Cycles 1 & 2, position. Thanks, everyone, for your support of the ARRL National Traffic System, celebrating its 60th anniversary.

73, Steve Ewald, WV1X
Supervisor, Field Organization Team

Note: I heard from Dave, K4WWV, who is eager to do a good job as digital coordinator. I believe he will be a great asset to NTS. He has no CW traffic experience, only SSB nets, so he will depend on those of us in NTS Cycle 4 to augment the digital system.

Pat, KD5TXD, has been busy. She writes: *News from the Wild Horse Desert*

Well, I bet y'all think I must have been eaten by a wild javelina. Sorry to be away from TEX so much. Let me bring you up to date on some adventures here.

Our local ham club is in the middle of a Technician class. I have been rounding up club members to present parts of the Technician manual to our class. The class is pretty lean this time around. We had promoted the class to the police and fire departments. They had been asking us to do another class, but then when we set the time and date, they didn't show.

We decided to go ahead with just two class members. One is a professor in the Geo Science department who has been in a teaching overload for years. He has finally gotten a semester where his load is light enough for him to study for the Technician test.

The other initial class member called me a couple nights before the class started. She asked if the class was just for men. I nearly dropped the phone but managed to compose myself enough to assure her that the class was open to everyone. We met on the first class night. She is a retired real estate lady. We told her that if she can pass the real estate exams she will certainly be able to pass the Technician test.

We just finished the third of five class sessions Tuesday Oct 5. We have added two more to the class. We have a couple people studying by themselves on the side. If this keeps going each week we might actually have a full class by test night. Review night will be a serious evening as we have to make sure everyone is up to speed on the lessons they missed. I will be reporting to you on this next month.

Next adventure has been building over several months. As many of you know I have been volunteering at our 1904 Kingsville Train Depot Museum for about a year and a half. Several months back a visitor and former resident of Kingsville cornered me and insisted on knowing why Kingsville has never had a Railroad Festival. We talked for some time about the idea. I haven't a clue about Railroad Festivals.

So, foolish me, I start mentioning the idea of having a Railroad Festival around town never thinking anyone would take me seriously. The first reactions I got were very negative, "what a silly thing to think of having, etc.". I figured I was safe in mentioning it several more times as no one would like the idea and therefore I had no fear of being put to work helping to create a Railroad Festival. The second go around of mentioning how much fun and profit would come to our little Kingsville if we just had a Railroad Festival found the reactions mellowed significantly.

It must have been the phrase "fun and profit" that perked up their ears. Well, I am a glutton for punishment and made the suggestion to the assorted powerful people for a third time. They started to get kind of excited in a good way. This week I got to have a sit down with the power people at the Kingsville Convention and Visitor Center. I carefully explained what a train is and why it would make a fun festival. Suddenly we were "brain storming", tossing wild ideas around, and assigning tasks to complete. For some crazy reason they have assigned tasks to me. That wasn't supposed to be part of the deal. I was supposed to fade into the background now, but they actually expect me to do some work. Hi! Hi!

Not so sure I like the task assigning section of the brain storming session. One of my tasks is to find a near by Railroad Festival in the next few months and attend it, you know, for research. None of us have a clue what a Railroad Festival should look like. So I am supposed to find a festival, attend in person, and get the answers.

I have also been shanghaied into writing and maintaining the KCVB web page. I am not a computer kind of gal. I don't like computers. I am not fond of the Internet either. How in the world did I get myself into this mess? So I started tinkering around on the web page and writing articles about local events. So far I have avoided totally erasing all of their web page. I am pretty much putting all the articles on "The News" page. In fact I am behind on getting news articles up on the page. I will have several more that need to be up by the end of the week. This web page, <http://www.kingsvilletexas.com/>, will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about Kingsville but were afraid to ask. If you click on "The News" you will see my articles. About half the articles on the page are written by me. My name is not on all of my articles because I couldn't figure out how to put my name on there until just yesterday. See, I told you I am not a computer kind of girl.

Oh, yes, just remember, this Railroad Festival thing really started because of CW. CW is the reason I am in this mess. CW got me started volunteering at the Depot.

These are just some of my excuses for not being on TEX much this month. That problem will be fixed soon. Thanks to all for helping me out, especially Charlie, who saved my bacon on Wednesday's early TEX. 73!! Pat KD5TXD

Rodney, W5DY, submitted the following regarding copper wire facts:

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, New York scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, in the weeks that followed, a California archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet, and shortly after, a story in the LA Times read: 'California archaeologists, finding traces of 200 year old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers.'

One week later, the Port Arthur News, a local newspaper in Texas reported the following: After digging as deep as 30 feet in his pasture near Kountz, TX, Bubba Brown, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Bubba has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Texas had already gone wireless.

Just makes you proud to be from Texas !

Heard from **Marty, WA5MS**, who has had some antenna problems, resulting in not being able to get on 80 meters. He hopes to have it resolved soon and will check in when he can.

TEX Net Topics

We have **16** open NCS/liaison slots, with **8** open *primary* RN5 slots (all shown in **red**)! We urgently need at least a backup on Tuesday for early TEX NCS and either RN5 slot. Thanks to Sam, W5CU, Scott, W5ESE, Ken, K5RG, and Rodney, W5DY, we have managed to get through another month only missing 3 RN5 schedules.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	Open	KD5TXD	AC5Z	K6JT	AC5Z	W5GKH
Backup	Open	Open	W5DY	W5DY	KD5TXD	W5DY	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	Open	KD5TXD	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	Open	K6JT	Open	K6JT
RN5 #1	W5GKH	Open	W5CU	Open	Open	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	W5DY	Open	W5ESE	W5ESE	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	Open	W5CU	Open	Open	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT	W5DY	W5GKH

TEX/1: **3541** at 19:00 local; TEX/2 **3541** at 22:00 local

RN5/1: **3567**/7108 at 19:30; RN5/2: 3567 at 21:30 local

TSN: 3552 - 19:45 local; CAN: **7108**/3552 - 20:30 local; PAN: 3552/7052/3557- 22:30 local

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, KA5KLU, K5RG

NCS Backup: W5DY, N5EL, K6JT, KA5KLU, KD5TXD, AC5Z

Notes: RN5 has changed back to 80 meters for the early session. No official notification has been received regarding CAN, which was on 7108 on Oct. 1Z, although it will likely go to 3552 soon or at the discretion of the NCS. Note also that PAN has officially moved back to 3552 at 10:30 PM local time. Since we have moved to 3541, there is no longer a need to close late TEX before 10:30.

Statistics:

Traffic count was about the same as August, as were check-ins. Mike, W5TMO, with 27 (45%) took top QNI for the month, even though he checked in only on the late session, missing only 3 of them. Thanks, Mike! He was followed by Tom, NK5Z, with 24 (40%), who edged out Rodney, W5DY with 23 (38%). Thanks to all who checked in for your support. Hope to see those who have been relatively inactive check in a bit more often now that summer activities are winding down.

It was good to see Si, K5JRN, checking in again. Are you in Austin now, Si? We also had Ken, W5UFG, join us again after a few weeks absence. It was also good to have Benny, K5KV, with us for a week or so from his Star, TX, QTH. Thanks to Benny for helping cover some of those vacant RN5 slots, too!

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.5 per net session (slightly up from 2.3 last month). Net time averaged 13 minutes

per session (compared to 12.6 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.6 per session (same as 4.6 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (September 2009)

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
W5CU	Sam	7	13		6				
*		6			5				
W5DY	Rodney	10	23	4	4	2			
		13		3	4				
N5EL	Floyd	17	17						
*		0							
W5ESE	Scott	19	19		5				5
*		0							
W5GKH	Charlie	9	18	9	7				
*		9		9	7				
K5GM	Pete	7	7						
*		0							
K5JRN	Si	1	1						
*		0							
KD5JSS	Dennis	0	0						
		0							
K6JT	Steve	15	44	6	4		15		
*		29		10	12		29		
KA5KLU	Doug	1	1						
*		0							
K5KV	Benny	3	9		1				
		6			2				
WA5MUF	Bill	2	2						
*		0							
N5NVP	Jim	0	4						
		4							
N5PWG	Jay	7	21						
*		14		4					
K5RG	Ken	3	19						
*		16							
W5TMO	Mike	0	27						
*		27							
KD5TXD	Pat	4	8	3		3			1
*		4		4					
W5UFK	Ken	2	2						
*		0							
AC5Z	Bert	17	17	8					
*		0							
NK5Z	Tom	14	24						
*		10							
Totals		276		60	57	5	44	0	6
				100%	95%	8%	73%	0%	10%

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
QTC 1		56	148						
QTC 2		92		Sessions:		60			
Time 1		382	780						
Time 2		398							

The roster has not been updated since last month, but is provided here for your convenience.

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria (ex-KA8IXC)	N7NET	Scott	McKinney
N5BA	Brian	Houston	KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
W5CDX	Wads	Crowley LA	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City OK
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
NV5D	Martin	Allen	* N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5SBE	Larry	Austin
K5GM	Pete	Austin	KC5T	Bob	Houston
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5TFB	Jack	College Station
AA5IJ	Bob	Pasadena	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KA9IKK	Bill	Houston	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
AA5J	Lee	Plano	* KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	AI6U	Chris	Sacramento (CA)
K5JRN	Si	Denton	W5UFG	Ken	College Station
K6JT	Steve	Plano	* K5UN	Lee	Leonard
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	K5WQG	Eddy	Tomball
W5KNN	Ed	Bulverde (was KS5V)	KM5YQ	David	Dallas
K5KV	Benny	Star	* AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches (Lufkin)
W6LFB	Jim	Denton	NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

We are starting to have some problems with long skip on late TEX. At least 2 nights in the past week have been "wiped out" with propagation skip zones in excess of 300 miles. I doubt if early TEX will be affected for a while yet, and late TEX may become better as time goes on.

For example, on Tuesday, the 6th, Rodney was about S6 here, which is just above my noise level, at 10 PM. Could not hear Mike, W5TMO, check in at all. But by 8 minutes after 10, Rodney's signal came up to S9 +15 dB (and he reported mine also came up to where he had heard it on late RN5 at 9:30). So there was a shift in the skip zone between 9:30 and 10:15. Very interesting. I expect that "shift time" to become earlier as the sunlight time gets shorter. But it will return to become a problem once we go back to standard time and effectively hold the net an hour later. Also, RN5 liaison stations may have problems at 9:30 soon.

In any case, it will be intermittent and unpredictable for a while now, so be aware of that possibility. When you listen for late TEX and don't hear anything, wait for a while to see if you hear a station checking in. If so, send your call and "QNP NCS" a short delay afterward (to

give the NCS time to acknowledge the station). If you hear nothing after about 4 minutes, just send your call and the "QNP" blind. If you have checked in and can copy the NCS and hear someone saying "QNP NCS", send a hail sign to the NCS at the next solicitation of QNI and inform him of that fact.

As always, NCS's should choose a station the farthest from their location to call for QNI once no response is received to two or three calls for QNI after the opening callup. "Super stations" like K5RG can also probably be heard in spite of the absorption even when signals are skipping over, so Ken is a good one to also ask to call for QNI. Rodney also has a "big dog" amplifier that makes a big difference. If course, Ken and Rodney may not be able to hear the responses from our "puny" 100 watters ☺

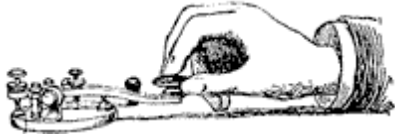
Also be aware that Charlie, W5GKH, has a local heterodyne source right on 3541, so he normally tunes down 200 Hz to 3540.8 or so to open the net on Sunday and Monday nights. Look for him there and please tune down (zero beat) his frequency to check in.

Speaking of zero beat, it is a general rule that the NCS sets the frequency and you should attempt to get as close to that with your own transmission as possible. I normally use a 150 Hz receive filter to cut down on noise. While it has relatively wide skirts, I cannot hear signals more than about 250 Hz above my frequency and can't hear them at all if they are more than 120 Hz lower than me in frequency. So if you are trying without success to check in, and signal levels are reasonable, check your transmit frequency.

Until next month,

73, Steve

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)



TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3552.0 KHz +/- QRM
http://www.atcweb.com/tsn/Texas_Slow_Net.htm
 Pat Allison KD5TXD (pja@atcweb.com)
 TSN Net Manager

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT

Greetings from the Wild Horse Desert – home of your TSN Manager

This month has been really wild for me. My apologies to TSN for missing so many of our nets. Thank you to all who have been so faithful. Our checkins and traffic are a bit down this month. However, we have another new month to work on. Feel free to create some traffic to send to friends and family. Holidays are coming up and that is a great time to send some real traffic.

September 2009 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	TX	KE5LOT	Club	Fentress	TX
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	WA5LOU	Lou	Kennard	TX
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	TX	WX4MAP	Marc		AL
K8BBM	Dave		SD	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
AC0BU	Carson		IA	WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	TX
KD5CB	Mike	Hillsboro	TX	WA5MUF	Bill	Stafford	TX
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	KA9MZJ	Roy		IL
WX5CW	Chris		LA	N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	TX	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
K5END	Larry	Spring	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
W6EOD	Steve	Baker	FL	W8OLO	Bob		OH
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	K4OSO	Milt	Rockville	VA
WD0ESF	Mike		KS	K9PUI	Rich		IN
W3FAF	John		MN	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
WB9FLU	Bill	Columbus	IN	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia	AR
AG9G	Dwight		WI	KI5T, KC5AML	Wade		LA
WB5GFU	Al	Alamo	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park	TX	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
AE5GT	Clint	Wimberley	TX	KA5TJS	Allen	San Augustine	TX
WU3H	John		CO	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
KA8IXC	Dan	Victoria	TX	K1TXU	Ernest		CO
AA5J	Lee		AR	K8UV	Rich		MI
W5JBV	Mike	Panama City	FL	AD5VC	Dana		LA
K5JE	Earl	Claremore	OK	KD5VGJ	Jay	Flower Mound	TX
K6JT / W0CXX	Steve	Plano / IA	TX	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
W5JKK	George	Bethany	OK	NH7WB/5	Joe		HI
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	KJ5XF ??	Dave		LA
W5KCM	Randy	Watauga	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
N1KSN	Andy		WI	KM5YQ	David	Irving	TX
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches	TX

Welcome to New and Visiting Stations

It is great to have W5AG and N5NVP visiting again. Please invite your pals who like CW or want to brush up on CW to join us on TSN. The Texas Slow Net is great for learning about traffic handling by copying the lessons, which are in NTS format. It is a safe place to do some practice before you jump into the wild world of traffic handling.

A tad of news here in Kingsville: I have been volunteering at our 1904 Kingsville Train Depot Museum for about a year and a half. The thing that got me involved with the Depot is Morse Code. They have a couple old telegraph sounders and assorted keys at the museum. I have hooked some of them up so that visitors can see them working. For the last six months or so I have been hinting to folks that our little Depot needs to have a Railroad Festival. It seems that the idea is catching on. The powerful and connected people of Kingsville are starting to talk about a Railroad Festival. The whole thing started with a few dits and dahs. More on this adventure later.

TSN Activity Report for September, 2009

Total Sessions 30, Total Checkins 120, Total Traffic 26 by 11 different operators.

September QNS

QNI	CALL	NAME	QTH
30	WB5NKC	Arley	OK, Oklahoma City
30	WB5NKD	Pat	OK, Oklahoma City
13	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	TX, Kingsville
12	AA5JW	Carl	TX, Stafford
9	W5ESE	Scott	TX, Dripping Springs
9	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills, TX
9	KD5MMM	Phil	TX, Fentress
4	KB5TCH	Carroll	TX, Douglassville
2	N5NVP	Jim	LA, Scott
2	W5AG	Arch	LA, Lafayette

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

October 8, 2009