

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas CW Traffic Net (TEX)

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

Net Manager: Position Open (W5DY resigned due to poor health)

Newsletter Editor: Steve Phillips, K6JT, Plano TX
(steve@k6jt.com , 214-208-8900 Cell)
TEX Web Site: <http://www.k6jt.com/>

Assistant Manager: Position open



September-October 2022

7290 Picnic

Don't forget the 7290 picnic will be held on the 29th of this month (October) in Beyersville near Taylor. See <http://www.7290trafficnet.org/> for the most recent information.

Time and Frequency Changes

Although the Sunshine Protection Act passed the Senate, it did not make it to the House of Representatives for discussion and it would not be effective this year anyway. It could make daylight time effective nationwide (other than Arizona and Hawaii) year-round starting on November 5, 2023. So for 2022, we will go back to standard time on Sunday, November 6. If the act is passed by the House and signed by the President, this could be the last time we will have standard time for the 4 months of Nov-Feb, with daylight time starting on March 12, 2023.

Personally, I'd prefer to be on standard time all year, like Arizona does. But that is only my opinion. For now, we'll have to enjoy getting back our hour of sleep this November, possibly never to again have it after losing it on March 12. Sigh.

Accordingly, it will probably be necessary to move all nets that are currently on 40 meters back to 80 starting November 8. This includes early TEX, early RN5, and CAN. If conditions deteriorate on 40 before then, we may need to move earlier, and notification will be sent to all NCS and liaison stations should that occur. As always, all nets remain at the same local time after the clock change.

Excerpt from Jack, W5TFB's Book

Here is the next excerpt from Jack's book. Jack draws much closer to Sue.

Wednesday 21 November

It was morning again, so I had a quick shower and dressed in my clean clothes. Sue was downstairs in the kitchen with coffee and toast. I was going to have to make more bread

today. I poured coffee and sat across from her. She had not spoken, just good morning things. I decided to wait. (This is probably related to the last point, but I have a reason. I have never learned anything when I was talking.)

"You are good for Marie."

I didn't say anything, then, "Not really. She is delightful and brilliant, especially on her feet under duress. You heard the tape. She has something that can't be taught."

"Her father had it too. He was a musician, and her mother was a singer and played piano. He played clarinet and saxophone. They were good, and left Marie with me when she was two to go to New Orleans, then St Louis and New York. I got tired of questions so when she was seven I told her they had died. They might as well have.

"Her father could play anything, and both of them excelled at improvisation, but they were not much at taking care of their money, and were surrounded by booze and drugs. I don't know if they are alive."

I just said, "I see what you mean. Improvisation is an extreme form of thinking on your feet." There was a long silence, then Sue got up for more coffee, held up the pot, and I nodded so she topped off my cup. She said, "How are you after yesterday?"

"Tired. I had trouble sleeping, I guess too excited."

"Yes, I had some bad dreams. I don't usually even remember if I have dreamed, but this time I remember."

I said, "It would probably not be good to tell me. I don't believe they mean much of anything. For example, when I used to teach I had a recurrent dream. I was out in the hall just outside the classroom, and I would notice that I was naked. I told my shrink, and a whole hour was wasted on that."

"Freud would have had a ball with that one."

I smiled. This was not going anywhere, which is where I wanted to go. I will admit that I wanted to say, 'Since when have I been your man?' but that did not seem right either. Nothing did, so I was all for nowhere. It would be better if everyone said what they felt, but they don't, and I didn't think my being the first one would start a mass movement in that direction. It would be like Mae to say something like that.

Thinking of Mae may have made her materialize, for there she was in the kitchen. She poured herself some coffee and sat next to me. I said, "No OJ?"

"Maybe after I wake up. I keep going over the first game. You could have seen the complex combination coming. I admit there was a lot to calculate."

Remarkable! After all that exciting stuff yesterday, she was going over a chess game that took eight minutes to play. I asked, "When did you start playing?"

She gulped coffee. "When I was six, in Lafayette. The boy who lived next door taught me. I tried to play like he did, but he kept beating me until I found Chernev's book Logical Chess, Move by Move. It only has 33 games, but the annotation is clear. Grandma had a small collection of chess books, but many more than the public library. Her library has grown. It is the strongest chess library in Louisiana outside of New Orleans."

"Do you know how many ways there are to arrange pieces on the board legally?" "It must be a lot." "It is. Over 15 followed by 19 zeros. I don't even know the common name for a number that big." Mae said instantly, "One hundred fifty quintillion." Sue asked, "Do you want to go to school today?" Mae looked at Sue, right across the table, and asked, "Why wouldn't I?" "I don't know, but if you do it's getting late." That was true. Mae got up, put her cup in the dishwasher, poured OJ, and headed for her room. I looked at the clock on the range, and saw she has nine minutes. It was 831.

I told Sue, "Mae continues to amaze me!" I got up and started making bread. I used the last of the whole wheat flour and had to fill in with a cup of bread flour. I put ww flour on my list. The high gluten stuff would not hurt but some would say the bread would not be as good for you. I decided to use three eggs instead of two; they were small eggs. I put two cups of skim milk and half a cup of water in the microwave just to take the chill off, mixed the dry ingredients, put on the dough hook, and when the milk was just barely warm started the mixer, adding liquid and eggs. Mae came down, kissed her grandmother and gave me a hug, and left. It was a good hug, just a little hesitant. I thought back and couldn't recall the last good hug I had enjoyed. Sue doesn't count.

I covered the dough and left it to rise on the counter. Since I was in no hurry it could rise longer, developing that rich nutty flavor that was missing in the first loaf.

Sue said, "We could go for a walk while it's still cool." I said OK. I washed my hands, put dishes in the dishwasher, and put up the mixer. She was ready to go when I came out of the kitchen. She had done something to her hair, maybe pinned it up, for I could see her neck from behind. Something else was different, but I couldn't isolate it. She looked younger somehow. Maybe it was the hair, or she wasn't worried like she was yesterday. I wanted to hold her. Probably the hug got me started.

She asked if I would like to walk to town. I told her I would walk anywhere with her. So we did. We walked by the school, which looked like everything was normal. It turns out that this town was a lot like College Station in the sense that there wasn't much of a town (although more than CS), just a disorganized collection of houses, stores, and what looked like warehouses. There was a fairly big road, labeled 31, which divided it in two, and which more or less followed alongside a murky river. The town was mostly west of the river. They called it the bayou, and I suppose it was, with weedy slow moving water and built-up banks on the west side. Maybe it was allowed to flood on the east side. We were obviously going somewhere. I tried to guess where. We came to a drugstore, and Sue asked if I was thirsty, that she was, so we entered. It had something I haven't seen for years, a soda fountain, complete with a soda jerk, in ordinary clothes but with a white apron. I wondered how they could afford to have a full-time person, although I suppose he can do other chores. In fact while we were there he attended the cash register by the door. Someone came in for cigarettes.

There were two booths, one occupied by a young couple, but Sue sat on a mushroom

seat at the counter. She said, "They have root beer." That sounded good, and Sue had a root beer float. Alas, the glasses were not fresh from the freezer, and were not as big and heavy as the mugs I remembered, but it was nice. I suppose the heavy prices made up for that. Of course that was 55 years ago. With average inflation of only 6% that would turn a nickel into about \$1.25.

We finished our treats. I left a portrait of Mr Lincoln and we went. Sue asked, "Should we go back now?" I said it was up to her, that we could go in that direction. I remembered the bread, and reminded her that it would need punching down soon. So that is what we did. We first walked one block west, I suppose fresh scenery, which lasted until we got to the school. The sweet she consumed apparently made her want to hold hands, which naturally I was all for. I had wondered why we hadn't on the way there. I worry too much, although that is not what I tell myself I am doing.

With that out of the way, a question I thought of last night surfaced. I didn't know exactly how to bring it up, so I just did. "There is going to be a scholastic chess tournament in Lafayette this weekend. Do you think Mae would like to play?"

"How did you learn that?"

"I'm a member of the USCF, and the announcement was in their magazine Chess Life."

"What is the USCF? I can guess what the US is, and C is probably Chess."

"Federation. I have agreed to direct the tournament. They expect about 300 entries. It is an open tournament and also the Louisiana state championship. Mae would play in the senior division, which is held in a small quiet room. There will be at least one master, Craig Cain from Dallas. He is a senior in high school. I know the Spring schools are sending four buses of kids. Mae will probably not win, but has a good chance of winning three of five games."

"How does it work?"

"They play five games, three on Saturday and two on Sunday. Everyone plays all five games. Suppose there are 40 entries. Players who are rated are ranked according to their rating, and unrated players such as Mae are added according to when they registered.

"In the first round, player 1 plays player 21, 2 plays 22, and so on. After the first Round the players are grouped according to their current score and, within a group, are paired like the first round was paired, except that no player ever plays the same opponent twice unless that is unavoidable, which it can be if there are few players in a section. There is another rule which overrides this rule, which is no one will play another if their score is more than 2 apart, unless this too is unavoidable. No player gets White more than three times or fewer than two. If there are an odd number of players a 'house man' is added, usually a player weaker than the average of rated players. If that is impossible the lowest player gets a bye and an automatic win, but no player gets more than one bye.

"The time control is 30/30 on Saturday and 30/60 on Sunday for the senior division players, 30/30 for all five games for the lower grade players. There are a lot of obscure rules which are documented in a book published by the USCF. A copy is in my car. If there are many players

then they can't play a round robin tournament. By the way, all of this is taken care of by a computer program, which also has rules for breaking ties.

"You might wonder why everyone doesn't play everyone else. If there are 40 players, then that is 780 games, usually too many for a weekend tournament. The Swiss system only requires 100 games to be played, and certainly will select the best player in these games as winner, provided there is a clear winner.

"There are other ways to handle limited resources. In chess the resource is time, but in games like softball the resource is the number of fields available (courts for tennis). Double elimination tournaments are common in softball, and single elimination in tennis. A single elimination tennis tournament with 32 players will take five rounds, but is not much fun for the 16 players who lose in round 1. Back to tomorrow.

"Registration starts at 8 on Saturday, and the first round starts at 9. After that, in each section the next round starts as soon as all games of the previous round have finished and pairings for the next round computed. On Sunday play starts at 9 for the Senior division and at 10 for everyone else. The Lafayette tournament is going to be held in the downtown Hilton, which is unusual. Scholastic tournaments are usually held at a school."

"What do you mean by 'rating'?"

We had just reached the school. I took in about a gallon of air, and answered, "The USCF maintains a rating system. It is calibrated so that a player 100 points higher than another will win roughly 2 of every 3 games. The last time I looked I was rated 2100 or so. When I was younger it was higher, but not by much, I think 2160 at most. There are names attached to ranges of ratings. The only ones I know are C (< 1600) B (1600–1799) A (1800–1999) Expert (2000–2199), and Master (> 2199). I have not played Mae a serious game yet, but I think she will finish with a rating of about 1900, placing her above 99% of USCF members. Titles like Grandmaster and International Grandmaster are decided by other organizations. Garry Kasparov, who has the highest rating ever achieved, has a rating more than 2800. He is now retired. The rating system allows Kasparov to be compared to Fischer or even Morphy."

We arrived at the mailbox. Sue said, "The company has a drawer at the post office. Someone who lives close to the PO brings in the mail every day. All I get here is junk and bills." I told her I know the feeling.

She sorted the mail and handed me the junk. "One more question. Will you have to drive there twice?"

"No, as director I have a suite. I need to be there at eight Friday evening."

She fell silent. When she was a child that meant she had something to say that couldn't get by her checker. (I don't know what else to call it. I have one too.) I was sure I knew what it is. I wanted to ask that question as well. There are really only a few questions that fit any situation. I decided to give it a go. Nothing to lose. "What is it?"

Her grip on my hand increased. She could play that game, and did: "What do you think it is?" "I think you want to ask me if I would like company." "Well, would you?" "Let's wait until

we know whether Mae wants to play.” “You know she will. And?” “OK. I need to tend the bread, but we can talk while doing that.” She let us in. Sue went upstairs and I went to the kitchen. The bread was fine, so I tossed it on the counter and got all the bigger CO₂ bubbles out, put it back in the mixing bowl and covered it. About 30 minutes later Sue came back to the kitchen, a little flushed. I just said, “ATP?” This was a little surprise test.

She passed, “Adenosine triphosphate. I was running on ADP, probably because of the sexual tension.” Not to be outdone (and these are not real tests, more like probes), I continued, “Adenosine diphosphate. Bummer! Wouldn’t it be nice if we could relieve hunger by rubbing our tummy?”

“Cute, but there is still plenty of tension. You can almost smell it. How’s the bread?”

“Perfect. While diddling with it I had an idea. What if Mae and I drove to Lafayette Friday evening? The after dinner meeting with my crew (the people who actually do the work), which always lasts too long, I have to go over some of the not quite logical rules, and convince them that I will always be at hand in case they have a question. There are at least two blind players I know of, and they have special chess sets and a sighted person to announce the move. Some of the section directors (two per room) have not encountered that. There was the problem of house players. And I am always a basket case after.

“Mae will have a separate room. Then Saturday morning you could come. By then I will have found a bed and you will have your car. You do not want to be at a kids chess tournament all day long, and I’m sure you know what’s fun to do in Lafayette. Mae will be tied up most of the day.”

“Back to you. What if I left my closet door open tonight?”

“I thought about doing that myself. If that works out then we could solve two problems at once. Mae already thinks we are sleeping together and is all for it. She didn’t say it explicitly, not to me. The first day I was here, or maybe early the second, she told me you still love me. By the way, since when am I your man?”

“1951. And that will work out.”

I let it rest. This was more than enough for one day, and there is no way of knowing how the night will go. I was not worried about that. I found myself trying to remember the first time I slept with her. I could not. I’m sure I was terrible, but a little licking goes a long way. I can’t even remember whether that happened.

“You went away again. Are you afraid?”

“No, when I go away like that I am thinking. It is involuntary. Don’t worry, I don’t do it while driving. This time I wasn’t thinking about anything in the present, just something old that you will know soon. And I am not afraid of anything.” Sue said, “You always were.”

“Tell me now. Don’t leave anything out. I have the best BS filter on the planet.” Oh my, I can’t wiggle out of this one, and she knows anyway. How do women do that?

"It is a long story with no happy ending, apparently, possible."

"OK, you stab me with that doubt. What do you mean apparently? To me that means you harbor a hope that it is possible. I know something of what you are capable, but this is not what you do well. Even now, 55 years later, you suck at it. You will attack the problem intelligently, even when it is not that kind of problem. You have been around a short time and that has been your modus operandi here, as it was when we were children. Just let go, and turn off your great brain, and tell me. If I can help you with this other relationship I will, for your well-being is paramount, but I must know, now. We have an hour before Mae gets home and the rest of our lives to finish. You can ask me how I know a little biochemistry after."

"OK, first the condensed version. Did you know Anne Sue Porter?" "No" "How about Charlan Peach?" "Yes, not well. She was in my Texas History Class."

"She moved to California. The year after you left she was my sort-of girlfriend. She lived in the same block but on the other side of the alley. Her best friend was Anne Sue. Anne was the oldest of four, with a wonderful father and a couch-potato mother. Probably out of misery loves company we were attracted to each other. We had a date, my, probably her, first date, to go to a movie, but she fell ill, and I brought her flowers. They were just wildflowers, but I arranged them nicely in a vase I found a while back on a walk. Anne was a brownie, hair and eyes, 83 pounds and 5'5."

"I spent essentially all of my time at school and working, but I saw Anne (the first thing I did was lose the Sue, probably subconsciously because of you) in school and I went over to her house Sundays to cook. Anne was the only person in the house who cooked, and she liked the help. She had a sister a year younger who tried to help but who didn't understand the process. She was good at doing dishes and setting the table, things I didn't mind but can do without. I knew more than Anne did about why cooking works, but she knew how, and I learned a lot from her. If you spend time with someone regularly and it is fun then I guess you grow fond of, or love."

"I went to college in 1955. She was a Senior. I wrote her a letter every day and she wrote me when she could. She went to a different college but we still wrote regularly. We were married in 1958 and she went with me to College Station."

"I did well in school and had a generous scholarship. Anne did not have to work, but she did anyway, for the Texas Forest Service, the head Dr. Andy Anderson's secretary. She got to travel with him, both to the woods and to Austin (way out of the woods). I didn't really miss her because I could stay up all night, either working or doing math. I was even then a mathematician."

I continued, "That may be. I left College Station in 1961 to go to graduate school at Rice. I studied classical analysis, first on my own, then under Richard O'Neil, a Zygmund student, who came to Rice in 1962 fresh from graduating from Chicago. I got a Ph.D. in 1965 and was offered a post-doc at Chicago, but Anne would not go, so I took a position at Texas A&M. We had a daughter while in Houston and two sons while in College Station. The older son is a wealthy accountant living at 8,300 foot altitude in Colorado, and the younger one is a bona fide genius who makes a living as a free-lance computer programmer. He made more money

working the Y2K non-problem for insurance companies than I have made in my entire life. I think I have had more fun.

"In 1971 Anne decided she wanted another man. He was a good friend and my business partner, but he was all for it. His wife took too many sleeping pills and was in a coma for four days at home and died. (She probably died of dehydration. I doubt if she was brain dead.) He never called a doctor. (I learned about this years later.) Anyway Anne divorced me (almost trivial in Texas) and went with him. I still think we had a wonderful marriage. We made love every day we were together, even the last day, and she is still a good if not close friend. She later divorced him as well and married someone closer to her in intellect and orientation.

"I floundered around, tried to work but couldn't really. I was seriously involved with the library, and took on more work there. A chemist I knew had a complex problem that interested me. He had measurements (from gas chromatography data) that had several different overlapping humps. I made measurements on non-overlapping humps, first by hand and then by digitizing the data and, using a curve fitting program, determined that the humps are log-normal, which made sense physically. The PDE for the process is just the diffusion equation. That made the problem mathematically possible provided the mixed up humps had different parameters. I worked out the details and wrote a computer program to do the work. It was really just a $2n$ variable linear least squares problem, routine since the time of Lagrange. That got me interested in pattern recognition. We published our work in an obscure gas chromatography journal, or so I thought. The demand for that program exceeded anything either of us expected.

"I had two off and on girl friends, one who loved to dance (we went to Houston to dance about twice a week) and another, a little crazy and a sex fiend, who I actually married but got that undone when I found out about the drugs. And then I met a young woman who was as brilliant as you but sadly misplaced at Texas A&M. We got along well. She was as free a person as I have ever known. We hung out for a while, I guess about 7 months in all, and then she transferred to Berkeley. OK, we sort of lived together in the sense that we slept together more often than not. This is the hard-to-tell part of the story.

"This is the woman I think is out of my life, but one I can't forget. She lives in New Hampshire, is married, but called me in May this year and turned my world upside down. I love and despise her for doing that. She desperately needs to destroy me, yet she tells me she loves me. I wrote, or did for a while, newsy letters with hidden hints that I may love her. I couldn't help it without stopping cold. So I did. I wrote her twenty of those letters in all.

"Everything else is uncomplicated. I did marry again, and we had a son, Charles, who will graduate from UT Austin in December with a degree in Psychology, minor math. He is 20. He just did average in high school, but at UT he has one C, the rest all A's, and he almost never studies. Agnes decided she did not want to sleep together any more in 1991. I guess anyone gets to make that choice, so I started sleeping in the tower. Her mother died two years ago and she went to a lawyer we have used to make a document that would declare the income from investments from funds coming from her mother's estate not community property, and I said I would never sign that, but would agree to a divorce. Oh, almost forgot. Three years before that she bought a house in town and was living in it. She came out just fine, is worth more than I am, and will have a Ph.D. in a year. In Higher Education Administration."

Mae came in the house, and I put the bread in the oven. It was going to be better than my first loaves here. I asked Sue, "Doors still?"

She had an impish grin but said nothing and turned her hands over. I had no idea what that meant. If I did that it would mean, 'Beats me.' Mae came into the kitchen and said, "They have arrested Mr. Zieglar. Linda told me. They took away boxes and boxes of stuff from his office. Linda couldn't see what it was because the boxes were taped shut. What smells good? Bread?"

Sue said, "He just put it in. After you unwind Jack wants to tell you something. And ask. I think you will like it."

"OK, but I have a ton of homework. I need to do some of it now while it is still fresh." She left. The oven beeped that it had reached 450° again so I turned it down and removed the water. All was well, another 30 minutes. "Would you like to play chess? Say 30/30. We can suspend the game at any time to cook or talk to Mae."

"That would be good. Maybe redirect the tension." "Yes. You can have White. I need a drink of water." I saw Sue had moved 1 e4, expecting the French. I didn't let her down, but her third move, 3 Nd2, the Tarrasch variation, meant I would have to work harder. I lost once against this line in a Saturday Houston Chess Club 3 round Swiss playing Stormy. His knick-name described his style perfectly.

Sue blundered on move 15 and never recovered from it. She had a good game, a huge advantage in space and mobility, and I was cramped, but you get used to it if you play the French or Caro-Kann. I have tried the Sicilian (1 e4 c5) but it has been analyzed at least 25 moves deep, and you have to know hundreds of lines. Thousands.

Of course if your opponent hands you the game all you have to do is win it, which happened today. But her game was clearly lost, for my King and Knight would win her doubled pawns in just a few moves, giving me a protected passed pawn which she would have to give up her Rook for a Knight and leave me with a Rook and a pawn against a Bishop. She went into what bridge players call a trance, emerging from it by resigning.

I was setting up the board for another game when Mae came down. She asked, "Are you lovebirds going to feed me? I want some hot bread at least, with butter. And what is all of this about? The question I mean." Sue did not challenge the lovebirds thing.

I asked, "What is a lovebird?" Mae went to the kitchen. Sue went to the icebox and got out milk and the leftover lima bean and ham casserole, put in the microwave. Mae asked me a math question about factoring fourth degree polynomials, and I said unless they have at least one real root it involves trigonometry. If the polynomial has real coefficients and it has one real root it reduces to a degree three polynomial with real coefficients. As almost always is the case, she had an actual, not general, problem, and showed it to me. I told her Sue could do that one, and to ask her for hints. Sue glared at me, but looked at the polynomial. She asked Mae, "Have you tried small integers to see if they are roots? You know, since the leading coefficient is 1, that integral roots must divide the constant coefficient."

Mae just said, "Oh. It's obvious." To me: "When will the bread be ready?"

The timer sounded just then and I got it out of the oven and put on wire racks to cool. I said, "In 15 minutes."

I felt like there wasn't much time and wanted to know, and I knew Sue did as well, so I told Mae about the chess tournament in Lafayette with enough detail, told her she would have a private bedroom to stay there which would give her an advantage, especially on Sunday. "Would you like to play? I think you will do well. Sue will be there."

I think it is the last comment that decided it for her. She said, "Yes, but you must tell me more. After dinner I still have homework, so it has to be tomorrow." We finished the casserole and half of one loaf of bread. Mae said, "This is better. What did you do?"

I told her it was allowed to rise longer. I had some and it was better. "The first loaves had to be forced because there wasn't much time."

Mae went back to the library, and Sue and I put up everything, mostly in the dish- washer. I had enough sense to not ask about the door again. That was world-class dumb. And I tried really hard to turn off my brain. I asked Sue if she would like another game. She said, "No. Let's have a walk." She put her hand in mine and led me upstairs to her bedroom. Mae was sitting at one of the tables in the library facing east. In Sue's room there were candles flickering in the windows, only four but enough to illuminate the room. She said something that surprised me again, that she was not afraid of this old fantasy I harbor. She disrobed without ceremony, and I did as well.

She also slipped on a short cotton gown, nightshirt might be better. "Would you like one? There is never any heat at night." I said OK and put it on. I had never worn anything to bed and was surprised it felt so good. Then she said something I didn't comprehend, "This is not a test of anything. After what has happened so far this week we are exhausted." I guess she meant it was not a judge of performance, or whether either of us snores or wets the bed or something worse. Anyway I don't do performance.

It was cool in the house. I wanted to be warm, but Sue settled down on the left side of the bed, and I asked if I could have that side. She moved over and I climbed in. She said, "I never knew a man who liked the left side."

"I guess we will see if it works." I thought she must know few men, but then I thought I know none at all in this way. We were cuddling. I was just trying to warm up. It had been 14 years since I had even slept with another person in a house, let alone bed, but I fell asleep, deeply asleep. I must have needed it.

To Be Continued

TEX / RN5 Mailbox:

Please send in your feedback, gripes, and suggestions. The mailbox was pretty empty again this past month for TEX and RN5 business.

From Ken, **K6CTW** Aug 26: Steve - Just remembered, wasn't yesterday your B'Day? My

daughter's B'Day is a day before yours I think. Hope you had a really great day!

Thanks for keeping me on this mailing list as I always enjoy seeing what's going on in Texas (a.k.a. America).

I'm still working as I don't know what the future will bring. Remodeling the house (working pays the bills on that) but that also means the shack is out of commission till its done. Hopefully back on the air in the next month or so.

Till we next meet on CW

73 & God Bless - Ken Miller, K6CTW

Note: We were hoping for Ken to relocate to Texas, but that will have to wait for a while - Ed

- . . . -

Also from Ken, **K6CTW**, September 15, apologies to any others in California, but this was just too funny to pass up (and kind of contrasts with what we have hereabouts): Steve,

Here's a fun link you might enjoy!

73 & God Bless - Ken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApfBvkqI0II>

- . . . -

From Randy, **N5RL**, September 19: Hi Steve,

We have been running into continual digital operation and hence, QRM, on 7106. I'm not sure what it is but some of it is FT8.

These characters will start up even if we have already started the net. So we have been moving to 7108 rather than fight the digital QRM. We may have to move a bit more even but of course that is not a problem for a good CW op. I suggest we change the listed primary frequency from 7106 to 7108 ... that way all will be aware .. and anyone looking for TEX will be on the same page. 73 !

Randy N5RL

From K6JT: Yes, Randy, I think that is my fault for not pointing it out earlier. In fact the TEX Website and also the last newsletter listed the frequency as 7108, BUT all the earlier newsletters had listed 7106 in the list following the weekly schedule table. I just did not take notice and assumed it had been a typo long ago, so updating it to the same as early RN5 would be OK. Sorry for all the confusion that resulted until it got straightened out. Jon, KZ5Z, also mentioned the problems until he shifted to 7108. Hopefully that will be far enough away from the digital QRM, at least for now. Steve

- . . . -

From James Wades, WB8SIW, September 21:

Hello Everyone:

Today, we began the process of adding links to the RRI training classes and other presentations to our web page. They can be found on our publications page. Simply scroll

down to "Training Videos." Over the coming weeks, we will continue to add video recordings of our standard RRI training courses.

<https://radiorelay.org/publications>

Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

73,

Radio Relay International

Note that this is provided for those who may need further information and training. There are a lot of good documents and videos published by RRI. The website had to be changed following the passing of Joe, W3JY, since he was the one who was registered with the web provider - Editor.

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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, please advise so the schedule may be updated. We are missing coverage for 2 NCS slots (thanks to the backups for handling them) and 2 RN5/1 and 1 RN5/2 slots. The roster and schedule were updated. Early RN5 and early TEX continue on 40 meters (7108). Sam, W5CU, is back from Colorado. Jim, W5FEA, was very ill for a couple weeks and is slowly recovering enough to handle his slots and some TTN/7290 liaisons.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NC 1	W5FEA	N5RL	W5FEA	W9VE	N5RL	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	Open	Open	K5GM	N5RL	Open	No Net	W5FEA
NC 2	Open	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	Open	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	W5FEA	W5FEA	KZ5Z	KZ5Z	KZ5Z	No Net	W5FEA
RN5 1	N5RL	KZ5Z	Open	KZ5Z	Open	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	No Net	Open
RN5 2	W5CU	K6JT	K5RG	K6JT	Open	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	Open	KZ5Z	W5CU	KZ5Z	Open	No Net	Open

TEX/1: **7108**/3541/3593 at 19:00 CT; TEX/2 **3541**/3593/1841 at 22:00 CT

RN5/1: **7108**/3567 at 19:30; RN5/2: **3567**/7108/3598 at 21:30 CT

TSN: **3570** - 19:45 CT; CAN: **7052**/3552/3590/7108 - 20:30 CT; WAN: **7052**/3552 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: K5RG, N5RL, KZ5Z

NCS Backup: W5FEA, K5RG, N5RL, W5DY, KZ5Z

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	* W6LFB	Jim	Denton
N5BA	Brian	Houston	WA5MS	Marty	Argyle
WA5CAV	Dick	Pineville LA	NM5M	Eric	Plano
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK, /O CO	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
N5CXX	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)	N7NET	Scott	Crossett AR
W5DAE	Don	San Angelo	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
* W5FEA	Jim	Graham	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
K5GM	Pete	Tennessee	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
KM0I	John	Hattiesburg MS	W9VE	Don	Dallas
KA9IKK	Bill	Katy	WB5VIH	Dave	Merkel
K5IX	Dave	Brackettville	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Silent Key Feb 2022
K5JFB	Jim	Fort Worth	KZ5Z	Jon	Springer OK
K6JT	Steve	Plano			

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

August 2022:

Don, W5DAE, took first place with 49 (94%), Jon, KZ5Z, was a very close 2nd with 48 (92%), and Randy, N5RL, was third with 42 (81%), edging out Jim, W5FEA, who had 41. Thanks again to all who checked in.

Visitors: None

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note there were 52 sessions reported out of a possible 54 (no Saturday nets). Traffic averaged 1.1 per net session (0.7 last month). Net time averaged 11.5 minutes per session (10.8 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.8 per session (5.4 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (August 2022)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
N5BA	Brian	0	1					
		1						
W5CU	Sam	3	5		2			
*		2			2			
W5DAE	Don	22	49					
		27						

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5DY	Rodney	15	28					
		13						
W5FEA	Jim	17	41	5		17		
*		24				24		
K5IX	Dave	8	9					
		1						
K6JT	Steve	0	13					
*		13		13	9		13	
K5RG	Ken	0	5					
*		5			4			
N5RL	Randy	20	42	8				
*		22						
W9VE	Don	7	7	3			7	
		0						
KZ5Z	Jon	22	48	9	19			
	OK	26		14	13			
Totals		248		52	49	41	20	0
				96%	91%	76%	37%	0%
QTC 1		5	58					
QTC 2		53		Sessions:	54			
Time 1		281	597					
Time 2		316						

September 2022:

Don, W5DAE, was 1st with 51 (98%), Randy, N5RL, and Jon, KZ5Z, tied for 2nd with 49 (94%), and Rodney, W5DY, was 3rd with 33 (63%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in.

Visitors: None

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note that there were 52 sessions reported out of a possible 52 (no Saturdays). Traffic averaged 1.0 per net session (1.1 last month). Net time averaged 10.3 minutes per session (11.5 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.5 per session (4.8 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (September 2022)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	3	3		3			
*		0						
W5DAE	Don	26	51					
		25						
W5DY	Rodney	17	33			1		
		16						
W5FEA	Jim	2	4			2		
*		2				2		

K5IX	Dave	10	14					
		4						
K6JT	Steve	0	14					
*		14		14	9		14	
K5RG	Ken	0	5					
*		5			5			
N5RL	Randy	24	49	10				
*		25		1		1		
W9VE	Don	9	9	5			9	
		0						
KZ5Z	Jon	24	49	11	22			
	OK	25		11	11	3		
Totals		232		52	50	37	28	0
				100%	96%	71%	54%	0%
QTC 1		9	53					
QTC 2		28		Sessions:		52		
Time 1		296	534					
Time 2		265						

Operating:

As stated earlier, we may be changing back to 80 meters for early TEX and RN5 (and CAN) on or before November 8 when we go back on standard time. TEX will continue to meet at 7 and 10 local, but those will be 0100Z and 0400Z. We will get a break from the Wednesday contesters since they will continue to meet at 0300Z when we are on standard time.

Traffic count has come up, thanks to the efforts of Glenn, VE1IJ, who has completed his move and new antennas from Nova Scotia. We are also getting some from NX9K, which helps.

As mentioned last issue, there are several options for looking up phone numbers. After trying most of them, I have settled on CellRevealer.com as the very best to verify received phone numbers. The site not only identifies cell phone owner names but also landline phones. All for free. Highly recommended. However, I have had several phone numbers show up as in service that when called, have an out of service recorded message.

It is OK to leave the message on voicemail if you have verified the number belongs to the named person in the address of the message. You should leave your number as a call-back if they have additional questions, but it is not necessary to keep calling them yourself once you leave the message.

Here are the composite reports for the last 2 months for traffic handled at the region and above levels. Traffic totals went down in August but came back up in September.

Central US Nets Activity for August 2022

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 th Call Area	14	14	59	80	0.175
Cycle 2 9RN*	14	209	79	65	3.215
Day 10 th Call Area #	14	21	56	70	0.300
Night 5 th Call Area**	53	87	180	422	0.206
Night 9 th Call Area	51	320	172	310	1.032
Night 10 th Call Area	53	42	143	292	0.144
Day Central US	14	126	94	291	0.433
Night Central US @	31	316	158	323	0.978
Day Inter-Area Traffic	42	99	42		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	93	204	83		89%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1438	1066	1853	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		377	193	184	
N9VC Central Area 9RN/TEN		1730	698	1032	
Digital Stations (13)		314	162	152	
Total DTN Digital		2421			
Total Central US		3859			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager - thanks to NCS stations for statistics					

Central US Nets Activity for September 2022

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 th Call Area	12	13	35	60	0.217
Cycle 2 9RN*	13	179	75	72	2.486
Day 10 th Call Area #	12	22	43	63	0.349
Night 5 th Call Area**	54	123	203	500	0.246
Night 9 th Call Area	57	341	192	388	0.879
Night 10 th Call Area	43	51	128	255	0.200

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day Central US	13	134	76	285	0.470
Night Central US @	30	424	154	414	1.024
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	80	37		95%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	55	167	55		100%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1534	998	2037	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		566	287	279	
N9VC Central Area 9RN/10RN		2192	942	1250	
Digital Stations (14)		399	197	202	
Total DTN Digital		3157			
Total Central US		4691			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager, thanks to NC Stations for statistics					

DTN Access:

KE5YTA Pactor 1700-2400 CDT M-F, 24 hours Sat / Sun

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.

Enjoy the rest of Autumn and Happy Thanksgiving in November.

73, Steve K6JT

TEX Newsletter Editor and Statistician

TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Tuesday - Friday) 1945 CT 3570.0 KHz +/- QRM

Website: <http://www.k6jt.com/tsn/>

Net Manager: Jason KD5RQB, fallishere2@hotmail.com



Photo Courtesy of VE3UU

Greetings From Northeast Texas

Jason, KD5RQB, has been calling the net when he is able. Help is needed for more support of TSN. Jason tries to call up the net Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Please look for him.

Net Control Stations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
(No Net)	(No Net)	(KD5RQB)	(OPEN)	(KD5RQB)	(KD5RQB)	(No Net)

TSN Activity Reports

Month	QNI	QTC	QTR	Nr. Operators	Sessions
August 2022	13	1	102	2	12
September 2022	13	0	104	1	13

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
KD5RQB	Jason	ATLANTA, TEXAS
N5XGG	Joe	ROCK ISLAND, TEXAS
WB8YLO	Steve	TOLEDO, OHIO
KD5ZCQ	John	ATLANTA, TEXAS

Stop by any evening Tuesday through Friday on 3570kHz at 7:45 p.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 on **7108** and 2130 CT on **3567**
Alternate Frequency 7052 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 86 of the **RN5 Corner**.

Thanks again to everyone who is supporting RN5 and especially to the NCS stations for their reports. Most nights continue to be covered and reported (other than Saturdays, which remain optional).

Sam, W5CU, has returned to Oklahoma from Colorado and continues to support RN5 and CAN. No word from Pete, K5GM, about his status since he moved to TN.

Jack, K5WNU, will be visiting relatives on the east coast for a couple weeks in October. He recovered from storm damage to his antennas but still appears to be having some receive noise problems (cannot copy K6JT most of the time).

Jon, KZ5Z, is still doing an outstanding job by checking into or controlling nearly all RN5 sessions. He also helps out when Jack is not able to call up the net on his scheduled nights. Thanks, Jon!

Following is a list of the stations sending NC reports for August and September (in order from earliest date station first reported that month). Thanks to everyone for supporting RN5. We can really use CAN liaison help – there are still a lot of empty slots.

August: KZ5Z 22, K5WNU 16, K6JT 9, W5CU 6

September: KZ5Z 13, W5CU 7, K5WNU 23, K6JT 9, W8IM 2

Thank you all for your support of RN5, especially regulars WA5CAV, W5CU, K5WNU, KZ5Z, K6JT, and K5RG. John, KC4FL, Dean, W8IM, and Ben, KZ8Q, check in from FL some nights. It was good to hear Dean check in after the hurricane since his area was hit hard.

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, who is checking in regularly and has the 2 Sunday night NCS slots. Jon also checks into TEX so TX traffic can be sent to him if no other TEX liaison.

TN traffic can be sent to Jim, WA4VGZ, who is the manager of cycle 2 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	Open	Open
CAN RX	Open	Open	W5CU	K6JT	Open	Open	Open
DRN5	Open	K6JT	K5RG	K6JT	Open	Open	Open

2022 Statistics

MONTH	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
SESSIONS	53	54
QTC	87	123
QNI	180	203
QTR	422	500
AVG QTC	1.6	2.3
AVG QNI	3.4	3.8
AVG QTR	8.0	9.3

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	KZ8Q	BEN	FL
W4DLZ	FRANK	(SK)	K5RG	KEN	TX
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5FEA	JIM	TX	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K5WNU	JACK	MS
K5GM	PETE	TN	KZ5Z	JON	OK / (TX)
W8IM	DEAN	FL			

** 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