

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas CW Traffic Net (TEX)

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

Net Manager: Position Open (W5DY silent key)

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September-October 2023

7290 Traffic Net Picnic

The 7290 Traffic Net picnic will be held on October 28, just a couple weeks away. Here is what Jo Ann, KA5AZK, wrote:

It's hard to believe it is picnic time again. This year's picnic is special for us as we are celebrating our 70th year of net operations. I hope as many net members from 7290, TTN, and TEX as possible will be able to join us to help celebrate.

We will be using the Lodge building at Beyersville, TX, just out of Taylor on October 28. Maps and other info are on the net's website at <http://www.7290trafficnet.org/> . As you will see there, we will be doing a lot of eating. Our caterer again this year will be Thrall Country Diner, and we really enjoy his barbeque. Jim, W5IM is taking reservations, which will be \$19 per person.

Hope you will be able to attend. Will send a program if they are ready in time.

73, Jo Ann KA5AZK
7290 Traffic Net Manager

Excerpt from Jack, W5TFB's Book

Here is the next excerpt from Jack's book. Mae ends the chess tournament victorious. For those who know the game, there is an abundance of technical information.

I said to Sue, "Thank you, I will bear that in mind for next time. Back to Mae, she is not unique, nor is the problem restricted to females, although it seems females have the edge, that is to say they use it more, but society may force them into it by severely limiting the choices women have. Yet they develop the habit in Middle School (formerly Jr. High), surely long before these adult world concerns appear. I believe they do it because having the power is fun, and I think it started when they were little girls who could control their daddies. You didn't do that, although your body was so perfect I thought there should be a statue like you in a garden somewhere."

“Thank you, but I thought I was fat and was afraid of my unusual breasts which attracted unwanted attention. Marie did not have a daddy around to control. If she uses that as an adult it will have to be an original, for she has never seen anyone I know of act that way. Don’t expect Mae to change into sexy clothes or put on makeup just to distract Craig. Anyway I don’t think it would work.”

“No, on reflection I agree it wouldn’t. Craig has told me how he can concentrate so intensively. However, he is denying himself valuable clues which come from the behavior of his opponent. I noticed you have a book by Pal Benko, Winning with Chess Psychology. Mae has probably read it, because that element of the game has played a major role in her approach. In all but the first game she knew something about the style of her opponent, and in the first game she was assuming that the players preferred open games. Every opening I know of has a sound closed defense, that against an aggressive damn the torpedoes approach is a sure winner. Mae and I talked about this at some length. After the first round she had some evidence that gave her a hint. Craig told her how to beat the player she played in the fourth round, but she stuck with her first choice, 1 c4, the English opening.”

“Don’t you think that is a good sign?”

“Oh yes.”

“What do you do against 1 d4?”

“Lately, the King’s Indian. If White does not play 9 a3 then I have never lost, although draws are common. I don’t know how to handle the a3 move, but it is rarely played. The first 8 moves are 1 d4 Nf3 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Bc2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 This is the critical point in the opening. White has at least 9 good moves and 5 more safe ones. I think the best is 9 a3, but evidently no one agrees with me. It is surprising that this advance, which is on the Queen side, effectively takes the g7 Bishop out of the game. He can end up with a long diagonal all to himself, for White has time to move everything off of it. Most King’s Indian players would never think of exchanging their sacred Bishop for a Knight, but I think that is the best move. In any case this line takes accurate play. For example 9 a3 Nd7 10 b4 f5 11 Bb2 fxe4 12 Nxe4 Nf5 13 Re1 Nf6 14 Bd3 Nxe4 15 Rxe4 Qf6 16 Qd2 Ng7 17 Rae1 Nh5 =.

As you can see, White may be overextended but the way the pawn chains interact makes it hard for either player to gain an advantage.”

Sue sighed. “No, actually I can’t ‘see.’ Marie can do that, I don’t know how. I think someone wants you. I’ll be in our room.”

There was a clock problem in a 4–5 section. I went to the bullpen and asked if they had one, and took it. The clock that failed was an LCD smart one, so I had no idea how much time they had used, and they didn’t either, so I gave each of them half the time left until the next time control, and left. That is what the book says to do. I think I may have been called because they didn’t know how to get another clock.

It was about time for the last round, Seniors, to begin. I went into the skittles room and made the announcement that the pairings for the final round were posted. There was not a mad dash to the room. Most of them were exhausted and sleepy. After they were settled down and had their clocks set Mr. Leland started the round.

There was nothing to do but stand around. The awards were going to be given out as soon as the final standings were available, and with this crew that would be a minute after the last game was reported. We decided Friday it would be appropriate for the director of the section to give out the awards, and he would be the man who handled the lower numbered boards, assisted by the director of the other room when there were two rooms. I would just introduce the man. The awards are presented in the skittles room. You did not have to be present to win—you would be notified by mail/email where you can pick up the trophy, and the cost of shipping it if that was not feasible. Having been to many of these things I knew any imaginable cost, no matter how small, was not justified. Of course I wasn't a kid.

The round 5 Seniors were finishing, but it was taking longer than round 4. None of the top three boards had reported, as expected. I hoped I would not be called in to make a ruling there. I am not as cool as Craig, and hope I never am.

There had been a problem I forgot to mention, this time in the 6–7 group. A player with an obvious win had fallen asleep, and the opponent had let his clock run out without trying to awaken him. The rules are clear. If the director determines that one side has a win, then the game goes to that player. If the director can't say the game is clear, then the player who did not try to wake her opponent or call the director gets a loss and the sleepyhead gets a draw. It turns out it made no difference at all in the tournament standings, for they were each 1-0-3. It may have made a difference to the players.

If this had not been the last round I would have warned the guilty player that what he had done is not ethical, and he could be disqualified if he did it again, but that didn't apply. This kind of problem is rare in kids.

There was another problem, this time in the lower board number room in the 6–7 bunch. It happened that one of the players did not show, and the player present refused to start the clock. The session directors disagreed on what to do. I told them what the rule is, and by not starting the clock he was willfully disobeying the rule. If he decides to obey the rule, then both clocks will be set for half the time remaining for the next control, and the player will start the clock. Otherwise the player will receive a loss, the clock started, and if the late player arrives before the first time control s/he will win. The point is you have to obey the rule even if it is to your advantage, and not starting the clock will foul up the timing of play, and possibly the whole tournament. He did what he was told and won by time forfeit. I assumed the opponent was a friend.

They came out. Mae was smiling. Craig had his inscrutable serious still playing look. I could see he was dazed. They turned in the result.

Mae said, "He let me have the King's Indian reversed. I started 1 g6 thinking that might not scare him. I had planned the first four moves, which I can make with my eyes closed and can't be prevented. When I finally looked at the board I was amazed. I had it, and unless I die or something Craig is toast. Here, look at the score while I go pee."

Craig said, "I didn't play badly. Toward the end I was in time trouble; Mae had only used 22 minutes. If I can be said to have blundered it is my eleventh move; I thought her 11th move was weak, but in a few moves I realized she was inviting 11 . . . b5 , which looked so good at the time. I thought she would move 11 a4 to prevent b5. I knew I was a tempo behind but I

'knew' her preference for closed positional games would save me. After 12 Ne3 my game turned hellacious. I hate to admit it but she beat me with psychology, which I didn't believe in."

"Yes, I see that." I didn't say anything more because he was not all there. He is not used to losing. At least he lost to an unknown (for a while; I am going to send this game to Chess Life if Mae will permit it. Actually, technically the score belongs to the tournament management.)

I said, "She got a Sicilian reversed in round 4 after 1 c4 , and a King's Indian reversed from you. Actually, it is that missing tempo that beat you. Almost the same thing happened there. She has done her homework, using their great library and Fritz 6. There is not a lot to do in New Iberia. No one in the household watches TV."

Mae returned, calmer now. I asked, "Did you know your first move 1 g3 has a name, the Benko System, after Pal beat both Tal and Fischer using it in the same event in the early 60's. It is really R'eti's opening. Why didn't you move 11 a4 ?"

"I was a move ahead. If he had White I would have." Craig just shook his head. He knew this was not a fluke. She is good, probably better than he is. Today, definitely.

Everyone had finished. The results were posted and it was time for the awards. It takes about 5 minutes to organize everything. I excused myself and went to call Sue. She was there but sounded sleepy. I told her to come down to the tournament room. She never says stuff like "Why?" or even "OK, but why." What she said is "Be right there." I went to the Skittles room and announced the awards were about to be made. They must have known it because a big cart with the trophies was rolled in. Say that to a K-6 or so group and you have to jump out of the way.

Everyone was there that wanted to be, so I introduced Mr. Leland after thanking the kids for making the tournament a success. Sue came in and I led her to chairs near the back. When they hand out trophies they start with the lowest winning players. There were 17 winners, so it took a while. They are experienced. When they got to the top 4, I could see that Sue was getting excited. When Craig was awarded second Sue was stunned. And then there was Mae. Leland said a few words about how she came out of nowhere and defeated the best players in this event. Then he gave her first place. It was heavy.

Then Leland said now we will award the Louisiana trophies. He turned that over to the president of the Lafayette Chess Club. There were six in all, and naturally Mae had another first place. It was a little taller than the open one, but not as heavy.

Ruth and Craig came over to congratulate Mae. Craig said, "You outplayed me." "Yes, I suppose I did."

"You told me you would. Not using those words, but that's what you meant."

"And so I did. Certainly not intending disrespect when I told you. I just played better than you did in this one game. I knew you couldn't resist driving my well-placed Knight away; you didn't see that b5 would cause your Queenside to collapse because your c pawn can't be defended. And e3 is not a bad square for the Knight. We can't let it affect our friendship. Chess is only a game. When you recover you will know that my understanding of the game

can be used to improve your game. If you didn't know the moves and held your father's opinion of the game I would still find you attractive. Chess has brought us together, but we are not chess."

Craig tranced. Then, "As far back as I can remember, I have always been more chess than human."

Mae said, "There is so much of you that you can be both."

After a pause, I said, "I'm going back to New Iberia. I'll be in the orchard resting until you arrive."

Mae didn't realize that it would be 15 more moves before the c pawn fell. She just sensed the weakness in Black's Queenside the advance would cause. I set up the board in my mind and then realized Craig really had no good move, that because of that he was going to lose another tempo no matter what he did. I left. We had already checked out of the hotel.

Sunday evening it only took 35 minutes to make the trip. I had a blanket and sleeping bag in the car, and got those out and went back in the woods far enough so I could just barely see the house. I didn't have to go as far as that to not be seen. I spread the sleeping bag unopened on the soft mulch, covered myself with the blanket, the bag folded over for a pillow, and surrendered to sleep. It was about 6:30.

Something woke me up. From the stars I decided it was about 10, then realized I was thinking the stars in College Station, and I tried to correct for that, but decided why worry. I heard something, then saw a light filtering its way through the woods. I rolled up the bag and folded the blanket, and in the bright moonlight walked toward the light. I said, not too loud, "Hello." There was an answer that sounded like Sue.

I saw the light clearly now. "It was sweet of you to look for me."

"I didn't want you to spend the night out here. Anyway I have something else in mind. We had dinner, not in the hotel. Ruth drives a Lexus SC. She had the top down. Marie and Craig were squeezed into the tiny rear seat, but neither complained. I was a little disappointed by the jittery ride. We went to a restaurant near the four corners."

"Isn't that the intersection of five fairly important streets? Why do they call it 'four corners?'" "I don't think anyone knows. Maybe some Cajun who couldn't count. Anyway it was nice. We didn't miss you. We were all jabbering in French and enjoying it. Not a word about chess, thank goodness. I think we were all chessed out. The food is more like you would expect. There wasn't even a paper menu, it was written in chalk on a blackboard. It was good but not remarkable. I think you would have liked the crayfish gumbo."

"Craig and Mae got along even better than before, more like equals. Before it was not as symmetrical. Craig has as sharp a wit as Mae, and knows more idiomatic French than either of us."

We were about to the house. I said, "I can leave this stuff outside on the porch. It is not exactly dirty, but smells like mulch, not a bad smell in the woods but not good in a house." We went in the house and Sue led me upstairs. "I have my Monday morning meeting."

I said I know. "We should sleep now(?)" I left just a hint of an implied question that Sue would not miss.

"Something like that." We entered her room, and she asked if I wanted to wash off the woods. "Well, it is more the grimy chess, but yes."

Sue pinned up her hair, which I liked because she has such a lovely neck. We undressed and headed for the shower. This time she wanted me to wash all of her, not just her back, and said that she would return the favor. I said OK. The water was always hot right at first. I would ask tomorrow how. I knew the cheapest way, but this seemed hotter quicker.

Her soap was Ivory bar soap. It used to be a real soap. By real I mean not a detergent. I know the dictionary now makes the two terms interchangeable. You can make soap by boiling animal fat with NaOH. It is nice because the hydrophilic Na end grabs the soluble dirt and the stearate chain is hydrophobic and goes for the oil. Sadly, modern Ivory is a detergent. Well, not too sadly because you don't get soap scum in high Ca and Mg water. When she was wet I soaped (detergented?) up my hands and started with her backside, all the way from her neck to her ankles. Then I turned us both around and did her front from her back. I don't know why, but that seemed better to me. I let her wash her own face, and just superficially washed her down there. She finished her face and washed my front from the front. It wasn't as erotic as I thought it would be. Then she let that rinse off and washed my back from the front. When she got down on her knees to wash my feet and back of my calves she said, "Well, well, what have we here?" That didn't really call for a reply. She knew what she had, just teasing really.

We dried each other. The last time I did laundry I did the towels, which were more dusty than dirty. She seemed more serious and I didn't know why, so I said, "A penny for your thoughts."

"It will cost more than a penny. I have been wondering what we are going to do with Mae."

"Are you asking me?"

"Yes."

"Leave her alone. She is the most self-motivated person I have met. I include myself. Let her correspond with Craig, email and an occasional phone call, if that's what she wants. Make a place somewhere for her trophies. I know enough about kids to know how much that would mean to her, even though it would be unlike her to ask for it. The dining room would be a good place. You could easily make room by moving around some knickknacks. Charles won a trophy in his first serious tournament. He slept with it. Above all, do not push her, but do let her go to nearby tournaments, not necessarily with kids, but only if she wants to. Chess is a difficult game, but Go is more difficult, and checkers, bridge, and poker are just as demanding as chess.

"In fact, Craig told me he may go to Vegas and turn Pro in poker. There is no future in this country for professional chess. You can't use four hours to televise a game, and jumping around between games would be confusing. She has the right attitude, but I would have said it slightly differently: Instead of 'chess is just a game,' how about 'chess is a delightful pastime.' There are thousands of kids that showed an aptitude for chess, that were put on a treadmill, and that, because of the importance they have let it play in their life, burn out, discouraged, and quit. I think Craig is close to being one. What he hasn't realized is that Mae taught herself, aided by your splendid library and a computer program named Fritz, and she

has an amazing memory. The last is not really a natural gift. A memory can only retrieve what has been put there, and hers contains a lot of chess stuff, but there is room for ordinary stuff too.

“One thing she has is rare in women. I have only met one other who has it. That is the ability to visualize things, for example a chessboard crowded with pawns and pieces. I can do that, but I have a hard time seeing ahead. She clearly demonstrated to me on our walk last night that she could. After our fourth move she said I had a lost game, but it was only 8 moves later that I saw it. So she is not just looking up things that Fritz has taught, she has a sense of positional play that exceeds mine and Craig’s. I don’t think I can tell you how brilliantly she played. After Craig’s eleventh move the game was over.

“Here is one more idea. After she gets her driver’s license, let her join the Lafayette Chess Club. Most Saturdays they have a three round tournament, starts at 9, G60 time control, then another round at 11, and the last round at 2, making the tournament finish by 4, probably a bit earlier. Plus scores (anyone as good as 2-0-1 or 1-2-0) get their entry fee back. The reason that it will be good is she can get experience with adult players, and if she is as good as I’m now sure she is, her rating with the USCF will increase. During the tournament I met two who are in the chess club and play regularly in the Saturday events. One is rated 2250 and the other 2133, so they are both better than I am. Plus it will be fun, and since the pool of players is small she will have a perfect setting to hone her psychological skills. They are more important the more you know about the style of your opponent. Until she learns to drive you could occasionally drive her. I’m sure sometimes you would find something to do in Lafayette for 6 hours on Saturday, and return about 4.”

“OK, we agree about how to handle the problem. Really my problem. I am not going to send something to the newspaper that starts for immediate release LAFAYETTE A New Iberia School student, Marie Barber, has . . .”

“That wouldn’t hurt anything, but she doesn’t need it. She has trophies as big as toddlers. If someone she knows needs to know she will tell. She will probably tell her English teacher and Linda who works in the office, perhaps others. If you did that you would be doing it for you, and I just met you again but doubt if you need to live vicariously through anyone.”

“No, and I know it puts pressure on the child when you excessively praise her. They need support when they fail, not praise when they wildly succeed, as she has done every single day since you have been here. The Lafayette Chess Club seems like a good idea.”

There she goes again. Nothing can be done. “I’m chilly. Let’s get warm.” So we crawled into bed. She was chilly too, but I know her dilemma. We must talk about it more tomorrow. It is not easy to have a child who is a genius. I just let the child be a genius, and I gathered Sue agreed. I remember that both Mr. Roberts and Konnie Jo thought we were at least real smart, which was good enough for us.

She snuggled up close, her head on my shoulder and left arm holding me tight, and fell asleep. My right hand was freezing but it slowly warmed, and I eased it into the small of her back. My mathematician tells me it can’t be that someone is aware of being held while asleep. What does he know anyway?

Monday 26 November My left arm or shoulder had gone to sleep. I could still wiggle my fingers, and I tried to move the shoulder around, but Sue just held me more tightly. So I held her back. I didn't want to wake her. Her experience had been more trying than mine, and I had a 3 hour nap in the woods. I couldn't see the clock which was on my side, without wiggling free, but who cared? The alarm was set for 7. I wondered who Mae would be this morning: The chess champ or the destroyer of dangerous people in power. Or just Mae, ready for anything life brings.

I thought it over. The 4th round player had given her a Sicilian with an extra move. She knew the first 10 moves or so, with variations, learned before she switched to the French. So she moved the black moves as she knew them, knowing that she had a free tempo up, and found an easy win.

Craig gave her a King's Indian reversed. He knew the book line, so he played the white moves, by the book. He was actually Black and so a tempo behind. Mae won both games at move 11; the rest was just a chore, cleaning up and being careful. So she won because she played better, and she could do that because she was better prepared. Craig actually had a good move I couldn't see at the time but it came to me later. I decided to see if it would work if the colors were not reversed. I saw that it did but much later.

My point is this proves nothing except Mae was playing against players who made a few weak moves, in Craig's case one. All it takes is one. Just because she beat a Master does not make her one, but her initial rating has to be about 1950, a high Class A. The next time either plays Mae they will be more careful. I still maintain that in a match between the two Craig would win.

I also wondered about Craig's plan to be a pro poker player. On the surface, poker seems to be a card game, and knowing all the probabilities and so on is needed. Actually, poker has two more equally important components: Psychology, and money management. True, in some situations one can calculate the best possible hand, or the best hand at an early point in the game. Calculating probabilities is silly. You do need to know the chance of hitting a straight or a flush, or improving two pair. I once called a small bet in five card draw with an ace and a king on suit and drew a full house. Won a nice pot. The very next hand (same game) I was dealt a pat ace high flush, raised before the draw with 4 callers who each drew 3. I checked and the next player bet the pot, was raised, and I called, each raising back and forth. I lost, was almost tapped. One had four of a kind. The other had a full house. I suppose if I were a great psychologist I would have folded. These particular players loved to bluff and threw chips in with two pair, raise with three of a kind. Against good players, even just one, I would have folded. It is the money and the psychology. The cards are there to provide a platform for the serious elements of the game.

Satisfied, or tired of all this, I went back to sleep. I hoped my arm would live to see the dawn.

To Be Continued if there is still interest

TEX / RN5 Mailbox:

Please send in your feedback, gripes, and suggestions. The mailbox had more inputs for TEX and RN5 this newsletter. Thanks.

Aug 13 KA5AZK

Thanks Steve and thanks for all you hard work on this newsletter. Hope you are doing OK. We are OK and still picking up storm damage. 73, Jo Ann KA5AZK

- . . . -

Aug 24 KZ5Z

Ham radio is going ok. I had rebuilt my triband yagi and hired a young man to get it mounted up on the tower again but it was hit by lightening and the SWR is sky high on 10 15 and 20. I've lost a lot of weight this year so I'm back to my tower climbing weight if I can get my strength up. May have to go up there and see if anything is obvious. Being retired I don't have a lot of excess funds for new antennas and equipment but hopefully it is something I can fix. In the meantime I'm spending all my time on 40 meters and below which works fine for the traffic nets. All and all everything is good. My health is holding for a 70 year old so just thankful for each day. Take care of yourself Steve. Very 73, Jon

- . . . -

Sep 7, K5WNU

While cutting grass this morning, I saw some wire on the ground and didn't know where it came from. I looked up and realized it was my antenna, LOL. Sooo, until I can round up some younger help to put it back up I'm afraid I'll be off the air. Sorry guys. If you want, you can email me MS traffic and I will be glad to deliver it

73, Jack

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Sep 10, KZ5Z, W5CU, and K5IX:

KZ5Z: Well, something happened to me today that hasn't happened in 42 years of being a ham. I have always preferred CW and have always considered it a gentleman's mode compared to a lot of things one hears on SSB. Tonight Dave, K5IX was attempting to pass a message to me for Leesburg, Florida. Someone kept sending ? when I was trying to copy Dave and when Dave would be answering me which was very confusing for both of us. I acknowledged the ? station and sent QRL. I finished receiving the message with a lot of difficulty due to the intentional QRM. After sending QNX to Dave the offending station was still there sending ? I asked "Do you have a call sign?" and got another ? So I ignored him and closed the net. Next he says "hello". I return with Hello de KZ5Z do you have a call sign. The response was "you suck". So I just said "bye". After that he said "someday". I'm still steaming about that encounter and it is a first on CW for me. Just wanted to let you all know in case you are interfered with by the same individual. Next time I will ignore him but I did not know if someone was genuinely trying to contact me or not. He had a strong signal and seemed to send CW pretty good at about 18 wpm or so. This was early TEX on 7.108. I did not hear him later on early RN/5 on the same frequency. 73, Jon KZ5Z

W5CU: Hey Jon, rogue CW stations are nothing new, unfortunately. I've experienced similar goobers on TEX, RN5 and CAN before. One...I hesitate to say station or operator... would hang out on 7050 and just lurk, and whenever CAN NCS moved stations down 2 this person would break the message you were sending by sending an m or s, obviously knowing that the sending station had QSK. You had a very similar experience with Mr. ?, and you're correct that if he comes again he should just be ignored. I send QRZ once, and if the station doesn't respond with a call sign, I just move on with the net or the traffic, as best I can.

When I did my tour of duty with ARRL, President Larry Price, who was one of the smartest hams and best wordsmiths I've ever known, told me that ham radio is a microcosm of current society, subject to the influence of the same saints and sinners that walk this earth among us

in our lives outside of radio. Once I believed that anyone that would take the time and trouble to learn CW was bound to be OK. I still believe that is mostly true, but there are exceptions. Anyone who doubts there are exceptions need only to listen to rare DX pileups (up lid, fu, etc) or regularly visit CW nets, contests or any organized activity where hams gather and appear to be doing good or having fun.

You're fortunate to have made it this long without experiencing an incident like this - it's still rare to have it happen on a net. Hang in there! 73 de Sam W5CU

K5IX: Jon, I appreciate your patience in taking my QTC. The QRM was frustrating indeed but we persisted. I must have gone QRT before the rudeness went full scale.

I'm a relative newcomer to TEX, but have been licensed 47 years. The TEX gang is just about the most gentlemanly group I've encountered. Tonight's incident was certainly an anomaly for me -- more akin to rare DXpedition-type deliberate QRM mayhem.

Thanks again for taking my QTC. Not an important message, but I'm just trying to stay proficient while contributing to the TEX traffic count.

Maybe I need to spend some time monitoring 75m SSB to desensitize myself to the wackos.
Dave K5IX
dit dit

KZ5Z response: Dave I'm glad to take your traffic any time. I enjoy sending and receiving and got to do it at my job for several years. It was disappointing to hear intentional QRM today but I guess that is just the way the world goes. We got through it just fine. I know that when I was trying to ask for a fill the lid would chime in and confuse things. Thanks for your patience as well. 73, Jon KZ5Z

Thanks to all of you for showing us how to handle such unpleasantness should it occur again.
73, Steve

- . . . -

Sep 17 KY2D

I'm saddened to report that Chuck W5KAV of Rochester, Washington passed away this morning. I just heard the news from Ray N3HYM who had been in touch with him often.

Ray has access to Chuck's systems and is helping with an orderly migration of the Pacific Area hub configurations to Rich's NS7K hub. That should be complete in a few days then W5KAV will be off the air.

Since the beginning of the Digital Traffic Network, Chuck served as the RRI Western area Digital Manager and was the system operator for the Western Area DTN hub. You may not have interacted with W5KAV directly but the W5KAV callsign probably appeared in the routing lines of many of the radiograms you picked up from the DTN. Essentially all digital traffic going into or out of the Western Area passed through his system. His knowledge and commitment will be missed very much. Rich, NS7K has assumed the duties of the Western Area hub.

While most operators on TEX and RN5 are not involved with digital traffic stations, some of you may remember Chuck from when he was in Texas years ago before moving to Washington - Ed

- . . . -

Sep 25 KZ5Z

I did lose an antenna in the storm but it was the backup trap dipole antenna that hangs on the tower at my house. My primary antenna fed with ladder line, which is 20 feet higher on the same tower, survived. I'll try to drop the broken one down and fix it. I have not used the inverted Vee at the main shack since the storm but will try that one out. It looks ok from the ground. Some trees were blown down and I had to take my chain saw out in the dark to cut enough of them away to repair the fence on my dog run. I have a large area set off for a dog that I keep separated from my yard dogs and about 50 feet of fence was down due to the trees. I was able to make temporary repairs and will get back out there with a chain saw later and finish cleaning things up. I had a relatively new 30 foot flag pole that had two 5 x 8 flags on it that was blown over. It had a large concrete base that actually had more concrete than called for and it was pulled up out of the ground. 73, Jon KZ5Z

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Oct 4 KW1U

Greetings to All and Happy Fall Season

I have written previously about the upcoming NTS Letter and now it is actually here! Some of you will have received this already as it went out to Field Appointees. To view it go to <http://www.arrl.org/nts-letter?issue=2023-10-03>. Those who are ARRL members will be able to opt in to receive future monthly issues. At the bottom of the newsletter are directions for how to do so.

73, Marcia KW1U

Nice job, Marcia. Note that this also deals with the NTS 2.0 changes of which TEX and RRI are not part of, but sending it on for your general information – Ed

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Oct 10 K5IX

(In response to asking if Dave would be interested and willing to try out taking a TEX NCS slot):

Hi Steve,

I am happy to help out; I am very interested in keeping TEX alive and well.

My availability for TEX/1 is unreliable, as that's right at dinner time and it would be a hard sell with Mrs. K5IX at first. But TEX/2 on Mondays would be a good fit to start with. Although I am traveling to W1-land 20-23 Oct for my son's defense of his PhD dissertation in Boston so I'd need coverage then.

Although I am not geographically blessed with exceptionally reliable 80m propagation, I can usually copy a couple of stations well enough for relays.

So let's start out slow with Monday TEX/2, see how it goes, and take it from there. Sure want to help out Jon --- he's been a rock star.

73, Dave K5IX

Thanks very much, Dave!

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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.

Thanks to Dave, K5IX, for taking on the Monday TEX/2 NCS slot. Note that he will be traveling on Oct 23 for his son's PhD dissertation in Boston. Good luck to your son, Dave, and congratulations to him on reaching that level of his education.

Randy, N5RL, has been out for another surgery and rehabilitation, so his slots may need coverage help. While he is now back home, he reports he is still recovering.

Based on reports, 40 meters continues to be working well for early TEX and RN5.

Suggested frequency is 7108 but digital and SSB have been observed on these so tune around. 7113 has also been used with some success.

The late sessions will continue on 80 meters. This time of year often means changes to propagation on the higher frequencies, so be prepared to move to 80 for all nets some time after the time change back to standard on November 5. CAN and WAN have moved to 40 but may need 80 again in the next 2 months.

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: **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

CAN: **7052**/3552/3590/7108 - 20:30 CT; WAN: **3552**/7052 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: K5RG, N5RL, KZ5Z, W5CU

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:

August 2023:

Jon, KZ5Z, was first with 53 (98%), Don, W5DAE, was second place with 51 (94%), and Randy, N5RL, was third with 29 (54%). Thanks again to all who checked in.

Visitors: None, but it was good to have Doug, NA5YO, check in again

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note there were 54 sessions reported out of a possible 54 (no Saturday nets). Traffic averaged 0.43 per net session (0.58 last month). Net time averaged 8.3 minutes per session (8.3 last month). Check-ins averaged 3.9 per session (3.4 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (August 2023)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
W5CU	Sam	4	5				
*		1					
W5DAE	Don	25	51				
		26					
W5FEA	Jim	4	21				
*		17					
K5IX	Dave	15	17				
		2					

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
K6JT	Steve	1	16	1			
*		15		14	9		15
K5RG	Ken	0	6				
*		6			5		
N5RL	Randy	13	29	1			
*		16					
W9VE	Don	9	10	4			9
		1					
NA5YO	Doug	1	1				
		0					
KZ5Z	Jon	26	53	21	25	4	
	OK	27		13	13	2	
Totals		209		54	52	6	24
				100%	96%	11%	44%
QTC 1		5	23				
QTC 2		18		Sessions:	54		
Time 1		235	446				
Time 2		211					

September 2023:

Jon, KZ5Z, was 1st with 49 (100%), Don, W5DAE, was 2nd with 46 (94%), and Randy, N5RL, was 3rd with 23 (47%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in.

Visitors: John, KD5GG, Iola

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note that there were 49 sessions reported out of a possible 52 (no Saturdays). Traffic averaged 0.58 per net session (0.43 last month). Net time averaged 8.3 minutes per session (8.3 last month). Check-ins averaged 3.4 per session (3.9 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (September 2023)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
W5CU	Sam	7	7				
*		0					
W5DAE	Don	22	46				
		24					
W5FEA	Jim	5	16				
*		11					
KD5GG	John	0	1				
	Iola	1					
K5IX	Dave	11	19				
		8					
K6JT	Steve	0	13				
*		13		13	9		13

W5OMR	Geoff	4	4			4	
		0					
K5RG	Ken	0	4				
*		4			4		
N5RL	Randy	9	23				
*		14					
W9VE	Don	8	9	5			8
		1					
KZ5Z	Jon	23	49	18	23	5	
	OK	26		13	13	2	
Totals		191		49	49	11	21
				94%	94%	21%	40%
QTC 1		4	29				
QTC 2		25		Posble Sessions:		52	
Time 1		215	415				
Time 2		200					

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.

40 meters continues to work well for early TEX and RN5. Sunspots are increasing along with better evening propagation on the higher frequencies, but this could change in the next month or two after the time changes back to standard on November 5.

As always, the nets will continue to meet at their same LOCAL time (1900 and 2200), which is going to be an hour later UTC (0100Z and 0400Z for TEX).

Again, special thanks to Jon, KZ5Z, who covers the majority of TEX sessions and RN5 both early and late.

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 August 2023

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 th Call Area	13	30	51	70	0.429
Day 9 th Call Area	13	218	82	79	2.759
Day 10 th Call Area	13	14	55	67	0.209
Night 5 th Call Area**	54	226	235	579	0.390
Night 9 th Call Area	53	343	196	382	0.898
Night 10 th Call Area	52	24	140	212	0.113

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day Central US	13	128	131	242	0.529
Night Central US @	31	464	162	428	1.084
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	75	39		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	82	226	81		98%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1748	1172	2059	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		270	168	102	
N9VC Central Area 9RN/TEN		4025	1679	2346	
Digital Stations (11)		211	105	106	
Total DTN Digital		4506			
Total Central US		6254			
@ 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 2023

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 th Call Area	8	17	33	42	0.405
Day 9 th Call Area	13	207	85	78	2.654
Day 10 th Call Area	12	14	45	58	0.241
Night 5 th Call Area**	51	162	190	487	0.333
Night 9 th Call Area	51	314	170	347	0.905
Night 10 th Call Area	54	40	152	273	0.147
Day Central US	13	118	115	212	0.557
Night Central US @	30	443	154	380	1.166
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	74	39		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	81	197	78		96%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1586	1061	1877	

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		393	232	161	
N9VC Central Area 9RN/10RN		4204	1685	2519	
Digital Stations (11)		184	84	100	
Total DTN Digital		4781			
Total Central US		6387			
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager, thanks to NC Stations for statistics					

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 Pleasant Autumn, a Happy Thanksgiving, and Good Health in these cooler months.

Until December, 73, Steve K6JT
TEX Newsletter Editor and Statistician

RN5 Corner

RRI Fifth Call Area Net (Daily) 1930 CT on **7108** and 2130 CT on **3567**

Alternate Frequency 3567 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 92 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, has been off the air since a storm brought his antenna down on September 7. Like many of us old timers (myself included), he is unable to work on putting the antenna back up without some help. So he is still off the air this month. Jon, KZ5Z, has filled in Jack's scheduled nights. Jon continues to either check in or control every RN5 session. Sam, W5CU, is back home in Oklahoma and helps out when he can. 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 August and September (in order from earliest date station first reported that month). Thanks to everyone for supporting RN5. NCS slots are filled, other than K5WNU being off the air. There are many empty CAN liaison slots.

August: KZ5Z 13, W5CU 11, K5WNU 21, K6JT 9

September: KZ5Z 33, K6JT 9, K5WNU 3, W5CU 6

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

K5WNU off the air currently.

2023 Statistics

MONTH	August	September
SESSIONS	54	51
QTC	226	162
QNI	235	190
QTR	579	487
AVG QTC	4.2	3.2
AVG QNI	4.4	3.7
AVG QTR	10.7	9.5

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