The Texan
Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)
** See "TSN Corner" on Last Pages **

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W5CDX SK

As I relayed from Jim, N5NVP via E-mail a week ago, all of us in the NTS were very sad to learn that Wads, W5CDX, is now a silent key. Another dedicated traffic handler is gone. He was the (only) DRN5 liaison on RN5, maintained liaisons with CAN and RN5, and regularly used digital messaging via Winlink. Wads was also a regular checkin on late TEX, even though he lived in Louisiana. Many nights he would take outgoing RN5 traffic for us from late TEX.

He was truly a versatile ham and good traffic man. The old saying that trouble comes in threes seems to have come to pass for us in the central region of NTS. In a very short time we have lost Jim, Dave, and now Wads.

Rest in Peace, Wads. We miss you.

Book Traffic Discussions

There have been quite a few discussions about excessive book traffic (e.g., the W1GMF and N1IQI messages) in the upper levels of NTS. I participated in, and probably even started, one of those discussions within the RN5 / CAN community. In response to a comment by Tom, K4VIZ, I issued the first E-Mail. For those of you who were not involved, I have summarized some of the key points, concluding with my own suggestions on methods to reduce the workload when a lot of messages all come in a single night.

There are many opinions about these messages ranging from total disdain and the desire to completely eliminate them to thankfulness to the originating stations for keeping NTS at least a little alive. I fall into the latter category. I have seen what happens when we stop the flow of book traffic. Night after night of nothing but QNI QRU QNX makes for a pretty dull net.

First, the initial comment from Tom, K4VIZ, in the message he sent with the August RN5 report:

. . .
Thanks for all your participation and help.
We really need to get some volunteers for DRN5.

Also, lately the spam coming from W1GMF and N1IQI has often been refused. Need I say more on this subject?

Starting Sept 1, the new net manager for RN5 will be Frank / W4DLZ.

. . .

I responded to the reference to "spam" with the following, addressed to the same RN5 email list:

. . .

All,

While at times the load from book traffic (denoted as "spam" above) can become unmanageable, without it there is very little activity to hold the interest of section and local net participants or to give practice to the local nets. It is the policy of the Texas CW NTS net (TEX) to accept all incoming traffic. If there is no outlet for that traffic, then service messages back to the originator(s) are sent (which in itself generates some system traffic). Please do NOT "filter" any of the traffic destined for Texas from the bulk sending stations. Other section net managers can set their own policies as they deem appropriate.

Thanks and 73,
Steve K6JT
Manager TEX

. . .

So there you know where I stand. Some good comments were received in agreement, but I won't put them in here. Instead, I want to present the opposing viewpoints, probably the best of which came from Benny, K5KV, who is the manager of the Louisiana section net, and often joins us on TEX from his Star, Texas, "vacation" QTH.

. . .

(From Benny)

The article below my comments is clipped from the website listed below. This is from the webpage of the new NTS Chairman of the Central Area Staff, Richard Webb NF5B. Congratulations Richard. The complete newsletter link is at bottom of this email.

Please read the following and let's come up with some good ideas on how to limit bulk traffic on our nets.

My own idea is to limit the number of "bulk" messages any station can list on a net. If the eastern TCC can only list 2 "bulk" messages on CAN or the OK/TX station can only list 2 "bulks" on RN5, this problem will go away.

I know some will not support my idea. How about acknowledging all bulk traffic? When N1IQI, etc. is heard and kill it yourself? I think my first idea is better, but I cannot limit net traffic alone. Don't like any of my ideas, then replace my ideas with your better ideas!

Doing nothing is not an option if NTS cycle 4 is to survive.

I was CAN NCS Tuesday and EAN shows up with 11 bulks for RN5. The RN5 station was scared off by the volume and conditions. After the net I took them to RN5. It is not that important that I had to double up. It is very important that a new, active NTS member (the future of NTS) is scared off by this nonsense.

As the Louisiana CW net manager, it is a constant struggle getting stations to take RN5 duty. Guess what the reason is? For real fun ask them to help out on RN5 with CAN RX duty.

Phase 2 is to replace the bulk with quality routine traffic. We can start the change in the central area!

Benny K5KV

Please read Richard's article, "Possible solutions for the bulk book traffic problem", in his Brass Pounder's Quarterly newsletter, Volume 3, issue 2, available at:
http://home.earthlink.net/~bscottmd/bpq0302.htm

. . .

Scott, W5ESE, responded that he was sometimes embarrassed to deliver some of the messages and hoped there would be an answering machine to read it into. I must admit that I have felt that way on occasion as well. Here is another good input from a younger traffic handler. He represents the future of NTS, so his points are important to consider.

Greetings all!

I am one of the CW ops that will not go to RN5 a lot because of all the spam and a few other reasons which I'll get to in the email. I understand there needs to be some traffic to keep the nets active and ready for emergencies, but moving spam around is not for me. I am a 37 year old full time employee with a family. My CW skills are not as good as most of you on this list (you can put me on the bottom of the list when it comes to you guys hihi). If I come to RN5 and have to move 6+ spam and then receive more spam at a QRS speed that I can copy, I would be there for around 45 mins to 1 hr. After working all day I'd like to see my family some rather than spend time moving spam and making phone calls. I do enjoy taking traffic and checking into the nets though. I just don't enjoy spending a lot of my valuable time moving junk mail. Just my 2 cents from I guess one of the younger (best I can tell) folk hanging around CW traffic nets.

73
Wade, KI5T
. . .

And another response from Benny, K5KV:

I have enjoyed reading most of the comments from folks on this issue. I thought I was the only one who prayed the answering machine pick up when delivering these jewels from W1GMF. I have made the calls from work in hopes of getting the machine while the addee is also at work.

Some say we have to handle it. Handle all of it.   I have heard that for decades and this will be the early demise of NTS if we continue with this practice. Those whose calls are not on any roster helping with the chores but proclaim 'handle it all" annoy those of us who deal with this junk.

I have been handling traffic since 1966 and remember the good old days when NTS was operating the way its designers intended. We had every slot filled, live traffic and little or no spam.   It was an honor to be sent to region or area nets. Today net managers are struggling to fill in the voids in the schedule and not run off the remaining help with overload. If you go to CAN as TCC or as NCS, 3 out of 4 times you have to fill in for a missing RX station etc.

There is talk of changing BPL credit for these spam-0-grams, computer generated on the digital nets and dumped on the live people nets. I hope those opposed wake up and agree with some help on this issue.

Until they do, the NTS management can allow stations to refuse excessive counts of traffic. A station who will take CAN RX slot for six messages is 60 times more valuable to NTS than one who refuses under the existing "take it all" rules. I have heard it suggested stations can refuse more than six (6) messages on any net. I hope this idea becomes widespread. Some suggest just refuse W1GMF, etc.

This problem has been around for a decade and nothing has been done. All we hear is "handle it all" when any idea is suggested.

I know as a section CW net manager that no one will be fired or take a pay cut if individual stations set their own limits and continue working to keep NTS going. If the problem is ever officially resolved, the spam is gone and live traffic where the addee knows who sent the message abounds, then it will really matter what we do. In many areas NTS cannot continue to function if more stations give up and quit.

Just remember how much you are paid and how little anyone can reduce your pay. Please continue to help keep NTS working and support any change that helps that end.
. . .

Here is my response to all the inputs and Benny's last one just above:

Benny, et. al.
I guess I started this discussion with my response to Tom, so perhaps I need to go a little further. I understand your situation, and you do make some good points. I have copied your text in this email so that the original recipients can also see my response (I don't think "undisclosed recipients" can receive replies to a message).

I also do not enjoy delivering some of the messages and hope for an answering machine at times. Although my signal is not good enough (CC&R limitations here) to do much outside of TEX besides my 2 TCC functions per week and receiving from region when needed, I get lots of messages for the DFW area, recently also through digital messaging, that require handling — sometimes taking more than an hour per night. So I am not overly fond of the book traffic, but I do not think we should do away with it for the reasons I gave originally.

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I think we are seeing more of the eastern station bulk traffic because of the loss of digital NTS functionality in the central area. I do not have any specific ideas on how to help the TCC or area to region reps, other than perhaps throttling the originators (more below), but I do have a couple ideas that might ease the load on the region to section level stations, which appears to be one of your main concerns. For your consideration:

1. Stop sending addresses on bulk messages destined for other hams. This could also apply to the TCC / Area ops. Very few of us mail traffic these days, particularly the bulk traffic. That's what the "HXG" means — non-toll phone only. Send name, call, city, zip, and phone only (state is understood for region to section). If we need addresses, QRZ.com or the ARRL home page call lookup can provide them in the event they are needed to look up a broken phone number (whitepages.com does a good job there). While the zip code might seem to be superfluous, it sometimes allows us to determine the general location of a city whose name we may not be familiar with. Phone area codes tend to cover too wide an area outside metropolitan areas.

2. The section rep to region will likely be fairly knowledgeable about what parts of his/her state have outlets on the section net. We could help this process by compiling a list of zip codes (first 3 digits) and area codes indicating the metropolitan (or other) area they represent and distributing it to section net members. If there are more than 3 or 4 messages for a given section, and conditions are poor or the receiving station needs a slower sending speed, we could then streamline the process something like the following:

   • When sent off frequency, the incoming sender (from CAN or wherever) could first list message number, originating station call, destination call letters, destination city and 3 digits of zip to the section rep.
   • If the receiving station knows or believes there are viable outlets for the cities, then ask for the remainder of those messages by number.
   • If the receiving station knows there will be no outlets for the other traffic, then simply QSL the remainder of the list and use the message number and destination call letters in an ARL Sixty Seven back to the originator with "no outlet". The message numbers and calls can be put in one return message.

That would likely help some, but is little more than a "band aid". The higher levels are not helped at all. Even throttling the senders to say, a maximum of 4 per state (or section) per day would present a tremendous load on the TCC and area net operators.

I don't believe W1GMF or N1IQI are doing this for the glory, either. I have communicated with them in the past and both believe they are providing a genuine service to the amateur radio community. Arley, WB5NKC, also believes Pat's messages are providing a service. And they have valid points, although some recipients may not appreciate them, it seems worthwhile for those who do.

3. I think we need a new precedence for non-time-critical messages such as general greetings or notifications of license expiration months in advance. Routine just does not accurately portray these. How about something like "B" for bulk or "L" for low priority? Probably for CW, "B" is better since "L" could be mistaken for "R" under poor conditions. Then as net time runs out, the "B / L" messages are set aside for another session when there is more time. That unfortunately does put strain on liaison reps who themselves

don't have time to come to succeeding net sessions to move the traffic, but after a reasonable amount of time (2 days, 3 days, a week?), they themselves could originate the "sixty seven" for no outlet. We are supposed to handle messages within 48 hours in order to receive "credit" for them, but that requirement should be waived for the "B" messages.

Anyone else have some ideas on how to deal with bulk traffic without doing away with it? Let's keep the discussion going. We may just come up with some new ways to cope.
73,
Steve K6JT

P.S. Hmmm. As an afterthought, and to lighten the discussion a bit, perhaps "B" for Bulk could be coupled with "S" for Spam, making the precedence "BS" ☺

Finally, Rodney, W5DY, sent in the following observations about bulk traffic and the NTS:

I have received emails from several hams stating their views on bulk traffic. Most of our traffic handlers do not particularly enjoy handling these messages and some will even refuse to take them. But, in today's world, like it or not, they are the backbone of the NTS.

Cell phones and the Internet are the principle hindrance to ham radio traffic. This will not change. In today's environment, around 90% of our traffic is the bulk traffic and 7% are net reports. That leaves only 3% of "normal" traffic. Therefore, if we discontinue the bulk traffic, you will hear the three letters "QTC" replaced with "QRU" 90% of the time. Something needs help here so our traffic system can survive without the bulk traffic.

I have heard several suggestions for creating traffic over the past two years, none of which have sustained any consistency, and most fading away with time. Probably because of lack of interest or burnout, I don't know what. Well, folks, it is getting to the serious stage now. Either someone comes up with a means of creating another form of traffic origination or we just continue to deal with the bulk traffic, or we just shut down. I would like to hear some good ideas for message origination that are viable enough to last more than a few months and good enough to enhance the interest of traffic handlers.

A long time ago, I learned and started using two great quotes. "KISS" (keep it simple stupid) and "Simplicity is the essence of beauty". Remember these two quotes and see if you can think of a method of originating good messages.

Rodney Baker W5DY
South Texas Section Traffic Manager
Tex NTS Section Traffic Net Assistant Manager
TCC Member

W1NJM Saga

Thanks to Sis, WD8DIN, the editor of the "Traffic Call" newsletter of the Hit and Bounce Net (HBN – 0730 CT, 7042 KHz M-F, 7114 KHz S-S), for passing along George Hart's saga of the "early days". Here's Part 29 of George Hart's recollections, Geo recovers from power outages and schemes.

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

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

Chapter 29 - Then there was Ms. Louise & W1AW

Within a few days power was restored in Newington and W1AW went back into normal operation. Hal Bubb and Mr. Handy conferred at length on purchase of an emergency generator to be installed in the basement so that in event of another such power loss we could continue operation for emergency communication purposes. The outcome, after much negotiating, was the purchase of two Kato generators of 2000 watts each. One to be connected to each side of the incoming 220-volt line, sufficient to operate one of the W1AW transmitters at full power for 24 hours, if necessary; plus lights, oil burner and other ancillary necessities. Hal undertook the installation and did an excellent job of it. He also installed a battery-operated system of 6-volt lights controllable from the operating position so that in the event of power failure the operator would have enough light to go down and get the generators started. The latter had to be hand-cranked and proved to be difficult to start at times, but on the whole they were capable of serving their purpose.

I don't recall that another such an emergency ever occurred while this system was in place, although we tested it frequently. After WW II the Katos were sold and a larger system was installed capable of running all transmitters simultaneously at full power.   During the hurricane emergency I made my first real friend in Connecticut. This was Fritz Cowley, W1AOK, who visited the station with some other hams while I was checking on conditions. I gave them a conducted tour. Somehow the subject of conversation got on the amount of electricity the station must use and one of the visitors remarked that by creating a magnetic field around the electric meter one could slow it down and thus reduce his power bill. Fritz said with completely straight face that he had tried that and it had worked. One month he had applied so much power to that magnet that it had caused the meter to run backward and at the end of the month he got a check from the power company. Fritz was a master at straight-faced humor, the kind I have always appreciated, and we established a friendship that lasted until his death in the 90's.

The operation at W1AW in this period consisted of scheduled "broadcast" bulletins to all amateurs and "general contact" periods on scheduled frequencies. The bulletins were sent by CW, simultaneously on 160, 80, 40 and 20 meters, on schedules announced monthly in QST. I remember we used 3825 on 80 and 7150 on 40, but I don't remember our 160 or 20- meter frequencies. At the conclusion of the CW bulletins we would send the same bulletins on phone (voice), but this was a one-band-at-a-time proposition, since the modulator had to be hand-switched to the 160-meter transmitter and the bulletin read on that band. Then it would be switched to 80 (75) meters, then 20. There was no phone band on 40. At the beginning of each "general contact" period we would call a CQ on the announced W1AW frequency and stand by for calls. Given any kind of decent band conditions, one contact would follow another in rapid succession, for W1AW was not only well known but had a commanding signal. We had to be very careful not to conduct any kind of League business over the air; or any other kind, for that matter. It was strictly forbidden by both ARRL policy and FCC rules. Frequently we would be asked why an issue of QST had not been received, or why someone at

headquarters had not answered a letter, or the price of a League publication. Conversation had to be kept on a non-business basis. We were paid operators of an amateur station. This was not specifically prohibited by amateur regulations at the time (but was later), but conducting any kind of business over amateur radio was.

One time on 160-meters I was called by W8FCD, who said he was in Coudersport, PA. I said I had a girl friend in Coudersport and when told her name, "Dude," W8FCD said he knew her and offered to call her on the telephone for me. Coudersport is a small rural town, and Louise went to Dude's place and we had a sort of on-the-air reunion. On, subsequent nights this was followed by several similar contacts. Dude appearing not only willing, but also very happy for us to use his station for the purpose. I half expected to be told to cease this activity, but it never happened. What I didn't realize was the extent of listeners we had. Years later, I kept getting inquiries from fellow amateurs as to had I ever married the girl I used to talk to over W1AW. Louise and I were never officially engaged but we had a sort of mutual understanding. When I began to get reports from her mother and sister, who wanted her to marry me, that she was running around with a school teacher, I called her on the telephone with an ultimatum, either we get married or break off the relationship entirely.

- Next month, Chapter 30: Did they get married or break off?

Editor's Note: Chapter 30 is the last chapter I have to put into the TEXAN (just received it from Sis). Chapter 31 will appear after I receive it in the HBN Newsletter in another 3 months.

The Texas QSO Party
(From Scott, W5ESE – See **TEX Mailbox**)

The Texas QSO Party for 2009 will be held on September 26-27,1400-0200Z (9am-9pm) Saturday and 1400-2000Z (9am-3pm) Sunday. The ARRL Contest Branch declared 2009 to be the 'Year of the State QSO Party', which means the level of activity in this year's Texas QSO Party may set records.

Stations within Texas contact stations anywhere, and stations outside Texas contact as many stations in Texas as they can. Texas stations send a signal report and their Texas county. Stations outside Texas send a signal report and their state, Canadian province, or country. Phone contacts count 2 points; CW and digital contacts 3 points. For Texas stations, the number of QSO points is multiplied by the sum of different Texas counties, states, Canadian provinces, and countries worked.

Suggested frequencies for phone contacts are 25 KHz above the bottom of the General class segments (except for 10m, where the suggested frequencies are 28.3 – 28.5 MHz), for CW contacts, 40-60 KHz above the bottom of the band, and for VHF, 50.200 and 144.200 MHz. Email Cabrillo format logs to no5w@consolidated.net, or send paper logs to Texas QSO Party Committee, 6 Sweetdream Place, The Woodlands, TX 77381-6009.

The rules in detail are on the Texas QSO Party web site at http://txqp.net.

TEX Mailbox:

Charlie, W5GHK, reminds us that RN5 traffic listed on late TEX should be assigned by NCS to a volunteer and not automatically assigned to the rep from RN5. *Ed:* I have written about this in an earlier TEXAN, but we have some new NCS stations now that probably did not read about it. The RN5 representative's duty ends when he checks into late TEX. RN5 liaison is only for that night.

The best approach for the NCS is to look at the duty roster. If the RN5 station for the *following* night is on late TEX, then ask him to take it. Otherwise ask for a volunteer. Sadly, we no longer have Wads, W5CDX, to help us with DRN5.

Charlie also mentions that TTN is the best place to list traffic that is originated and destined within Texas. While that may have been true back when we had TTN liaison stations, we no longer have any regulars. So the only alternative is to list the traffic on TEX and hope someone can take it. Of course, DFW, Austin, and Houston traffic will generally have an outlet. I can also take San Antonio traffic and get it to Doug, KA5KLU, even if he does not check into TEX. So we do have the major metropolitan areas still covered pretty well.

Heard from **Lee, AA5J**, who writes: Hope things are going well with you and yours. I still have not set up my ARS, but hope to do so later this week. Looking forward to getting active again. Wow! 3 acres is too much to mow. Maybe I will plant pine trees... Howdy to everyone on TEX. 73, Lee AA5J

Scott, W5ESE, sent in a notice about the Texas QSO party. He writes: I've attached a short notice about the Texas QSO Party. I'm tentatively planning to participate QRP portable again, from a camp on a ridge in the Guadalupe mountains, handing out Culberson county.

Hope to hear some other CW traffic handlers participate this year. All contacts are certainly appreciated!

You also might want to consider having the early session of the net on 3643 KHz Saturday evening, September 26. 73, Scott W5ESE

*Thanks, Scott. The info on the QSO party for those who are interested was earlier in the newsletter, and **YES** we will need to hold the **early** session of TEX on 3643 September 26 local, but the late session can use 3541.*

Rodney, W5DY, reported on his "pets", which are very impressive. He writes: Here are a few pictures of the deer we are feeding. Three years ago, we started feeding Record Rack feed to our deer. The buck at the left was a scrawny little 4 point when we first started. Now, he is a 9 point and growing every year. He has a little brother who was a spike and now is a 6 point. The little ones (below, right) have just begun their feeding. Within the next 3 to 5 years, they will develop even better than the two brothers as they have been on the feed since birth.

The one (below, left) is a much older deer. Deer this size are scarce even in remote areas of Goliad county. This is probably the largest deer ever seen inside the city limits. The location of our feeding area is just outside the yard fence about 100' from the house. Sometimes we sit in the swing under our huge oak tree and watch them. The ones who have been coming for years pay us little attention as long as we don't move or talk too loud.

It has been fun watching the growth of these beautiful animals and we are looking forward to watching them for a long time into the future. It is one of the amazing things that occur here in Goliad county.

Ken, K5RG, has been busy with antenna work. He was able to resurrect (and re-mount) the 40 meter beam that was damaged by the high winds of Hurricane Ike a few months ago. Ken writes: Well I've gotten the 40 meter 3-element beam back on the tower and just less than a year from Hurricane Ike's anniversary. I decided that I would try to get it up on the tower using the built in gin pole that I have on the tower rather than hire a crane. I thought the problems would be getting it up over the house, raising it to the vertical so it would clear the nearby trees and then moving it back to horizontal when it got near the top. The plan was to take it slow and sure enough, it took three days.

I had repaired the beam while it was sitting on some saw horses and had the mast support wires (Phillystran) connected to a temporary piece of PVC (the mast support wires are normally connected to the mast). I thought getting it over the roof of the house would be the tough part but pulling it away from the house with a rope as the XYL cranked the gin pole hoist wasn't as tough as I thought, although I did bend one or two element tips but easy enough to straighten once I got it above the house roof.   Moving it to the vertical wasn't a problem because for reasons that I still don't understand, the unwieldy antenna had a natural tendency to roll even though I thought it was well balanced while on the saw horses. So getting it to the horizontal when it got near the top of the tower and ready to attach to the mast turned out to be the problem. After thinking about it for a day while the beam was lashed to the side of the tower, I figured if I transferred the mast support wires to the tower mast before I lifted it up on the tower platform at the top

would keep it from rolling. That turned out to be a good solution so on day two I got the beam up the last foot and connected to the mast.

Things I learned:
1. Make sure the antenna is well balanced or firmly constrained in all three planes (roll, pitch and yaw) for a big antenna even though it only weights about 110 pounds can easily get unwieldy very quickly.
2. Disassemble/disconnect anything that can be attached to the antenna when raised for as one lifts the antenna, it will catch on anything and everything in its path!!
3. Taking it slow is a good plan as long as one can count on the weather/winds not becoming a problem.

I have yet to hook the coax to the antenna since one of the items that got caught on the way up was the balun, but hopefully in a couple of days I will have it checked out and back on the air. 73, Ken K5RG

Whew, thanks for the narrative, Ken! Pretty scary pictures.

Scott, W7IZ, the STM or Oregon sent a reprint of an interesting article that appeared in Scientific American in August 1882. For your enjoyment, here it is. Thanks, Scott!

Requisites for a Good Operator

A correspondent writes that he is able to transmit forty-two words a minute, by the watch, for a considerable length of time, and to receive, without difficulty, the writing of a private line with forty offices, some of them occupied by Western Union operators, and he desires to know whether this degree of skill entitles him to be rated as a good operator.

Inquiries of this kind are often received, implying that ability to transmit and receive a specified number of words per minutes constitutes a standard by which a good or "first class" operator may be distinguished – an error very common to novices, and very mischievous. Speed, when combined with other qualifications, is certainly a very desirable accomplishment, but it is not the first requisite of telegraphic skill. Some of the men who have ranked highest in the profession have not been remarkable for speed. It is the old story of the tortoise and the hare over again; it is the steady gait and sound judgment that tell.

If the correspondent can transmit forty-two words a minute in good, ringing Morse, and can transcribe from a line at the same rate, making every letter unmistakably legible (not necessarily ornate); if he can quickly adjust his instrument to every variation in the circuit, particularly in bad weather, or on a faulty line; if in sending he exercises judgment, and gauges his writing to the ability of the receiver; if he has that peculiar telegraphic sense which enables him to instantly detect an error, even in a cipher message; if he never "breaks" except when in doubt as to the correctness of a word, and then always breaks; if his habits are irreproachable; if he has the good sense never to allow his temper to be ruffled by anything that occurs on the line; if he can do and be and suffer all this for nine hours a day, without leaving his chair, then he may justly claim to be a good operator.

If, in addition to these accomplishments, he can transmit forty-two words a minute with one hand, while "timing" with the other the messages he has sent, and can eat his frugal luncheon without suspending either of the other operations, he may be regarded as a first-class operator and will probably have no difficulty in obtaining a position at $70 to $80 per month.

All that is then necessary is for him to become thoroughly conversant with the properties of electricity, and the applications thereof, and he is reasonably certain (if he lives) to reach the top of the profession, the length of time required depending to a great extent upon the maneuvers of a certain gentleman in New York, Mr. Jay Gould. – *The Operator*.

Whew! Almost 38 cents an hour for that excellent work, assuming 6, 9 hour days per week. My only question is how anyone can go 9 hours without taking a bathroom break ???

Finally, **Scott, W7IZ**, also forwarded a copy of the WV1X article celebrating the 60th anniversary of the National Traffic System. It will appear in October QST. For those who do not receive QST, and would like to see the article, which even has a picture of George Hart circa 1989, let me know and I will E-Mail you a copy.

TEX Net Topics

We still have ***many*** open RN5 slots and 2 open NCS slots. If you have a reasonably good antenna and a code speed of at least 18 WPM, why not try giving one of these a try? We have *16* open NCS/liaison slots, with *8* open *primary* RN5 slots (all shown in **red**)! We urgently need at least a backup on Tuesday for early TEX NCS and either RN5 slot. Thanks to Sam, W5CU, Scott, W5ESE, Ken, K5RG, and Rodney, W5DY, we have managed to get through another month only missing one RN5 schedule.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

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

TEX/1: **3541** at 19:00 local; TEX/2 **3541** at 22:00 local
RN5/1: **3567**/7108 at 19:30; RN5/2: 3567 at 21:30 local
TSN: 3552 - 19:45 local; CAN: **7108**/3552 - 20:30 local; PAN: 7052/3552/3557- 22:30 local

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, KA5KLU, K5RG
NCS Backup: W5DY, N5EL, K6JT, KA5KLU, KD5TXD, AC5Z

Note that RN5 has changed back to 80 meters for the early session but CAN is still on 7108, although it may go to 3552 soon or at the discretion of the NCS.

Statistics:

Both traffic and check-in counts were down in August compared to July. Rodney, W5DY, with 35 (56%) took top QNI for the month, followed by David, KM5YQ, with 27 (44%), who edged out Scott, W5ESE with 25 (40%). Thanks to all who checked in for your support.

Please join me in welcoming **Tom, NK5Z**, from Conroe to TEX. We will have a mini-bio about Tom, who was a CW intercept operator in the Navy and is now getting back to Morse again, in an upcoming newsletter. It was good to see Tom, W5TV, checking in again from Nacogdoches. We also had Bob, AA5IJ, join us from Pasadena.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.3 per net session (down from 4.3 last month). Net time averaged 12.6 minutes per session (compared to 17.1 last month) as a result of the lower traffic count. Check-ins averaged 4.6 per session (5.2 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (August 2009)

Call		QNI	total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
KW5AS	Skip	4	5						
		1							
W5CU	Sam	10	18		8				
*		8			8				
W5DY	Rodney	15	35	2	5		4		
		20		4	12		2		
N5EL	Floyd	21	21						
*		0							
W5ESE	Scott	25	25	1	11			1	4
*		0							
W5GKH	Charlie	10	20	9	5				
*		10		10	5				
K5GM	Pete	3	3						
*		0							
W9GVW	Eric	3	3						
*		0							
AA5IJ	Bob	2	2						
	Pasadena	0							
K6JT	Steve	11	33	5	2		11		
*		22		7	5		22		
KA5KLU	Doug	3	4						
*		1							
WA5MUF	Bill	1	1						
*		0							
N5NVP	Jim	0	8						
		8							
N5PWG	Jay	5	13						
*		8		5					
K5RG	Ken	0	12						
*		12							
W5SBE	Larry	0	1						
		1							
W5TMO	Mike	0	18						
*		18							
W5TV	Tom	1	1						

Call			QNI	total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
			0							
KD5TXD	Pat		10	18	4		8			
*			8		5					
W5UFK	Ken		1	1						
*			0							
KM5YQ	David		14	27				2		11
*			13							9
AC5Z	Bert		16	16	10		1			
*			0							
NK5Z	Tom		1	2						
*			1							
Totals			287		62	61	9	41	1	24
					100%	98%	15%	66%	2%	39%
QTC 1			65	143						
QTC 2			78		Sessions:		62			
Time 1			427	779						
Time 2			352							

The roster has been updated with AA5IJ and NK5Z. Visitors are shown in the QNI list above.

TEX Roster

	Call	Name	Location / Notes		Call	Name	Location / Notes
	N5AF	Sam	Cleveland		WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
	KW5AS	Skip	Victoria (ex-KA8IXC)		N7NET	Scott	McKinney
	N5BA	Brian	Houston		KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
	W5CDX	Wads	Crowley LA		WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City OK
	W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK		N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
	NV5D	Martin	Allen	*	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
*	W5DY	Rodney	Goliad		K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
	N5EL	Floyd	Temple		K5RG	Ken	Houston
*	W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs		W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
	W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia		W5SBE	Larry	Austin
	K5GM	Pete	Austin		KC5T	Bob	Houston
	W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio		W5TFB	Jack	College Station
	AA5IJ	Bob	Pasadena		W5TMO	Mike	Austin
	KA9IKK	Bill	Houston		W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
	AA5J	Lee	Plano	*	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
	KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)		AI6U	Chris	Sacramento (CA)
	K5JRN	Si	Denton		W5UFK	Ken	College Station
	K6JT	Steve	Plano	*	K5UN	Lee	Leonard
	KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio		K5WQG	Eddy	Tomball
	W5KNN	Ed	Bulverde (was KS5V)		KM5YQ	David	Dallas
	K5KV	Benny	Star	*	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches (Lufkin)
	W6LFB	Jim	Denton		NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
	WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village		W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

Pretty much said it all at the top of the newsletter. Until next month, 73, Steve

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)
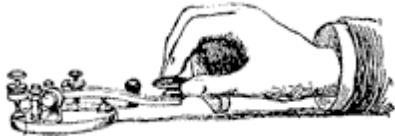
TSN Corner

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT

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

Hi to all!! Made it through another month. August had us holding our own with checkins. We had 154 checkins and 41 training lessons and messages passed.   Also, I am happy to report that we have our TSN web page back up. I am still pretty slow updating it. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the web page, please let me know. If you want to write an article or some advice to TSN members, let me know. We certainly have room and opportunity to do that.

August 2009   TSN Roster

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

Welcome to New and Visiting Stations

We had returning visitors KI5T, Wade, in Louisiana, and K5KV, Benny in Star, TX. Glad to have you stop by again. Please come as often as you can.   Thank you to KM5YQ, David, for

bringing us some extra traffic. The band was not always cooperative, but we appreciate the real traffic that you have been able to bring. Please continue to work traffic. We need the practice and it is fun to have something more than our training lessons to practice with.

Thanks to all who participated
We appreciate all who have checked into the Texas Slow Net. Hope you can continue to check in and participate. Please bring your friends who want to learn CW traffic handling. Our net control stations will try to slow down to your sending speed. Please list a message for one of your friends or family members. Handling CW traffic is a learning by doing sort of thing.

TSN Activity Report for August, 2009
Total Sessions 31, Total Checkins 154, Total Traffic 41 by 16 different operators.

August QNS

QNI	CALL	NAME	QTH
31	WB5NKC	Arley	OK, Oklahoma City
31	WB5NKD	Pat	OK, Oklahoma City
20	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	TX, Kingsville
16	AA5JW	Carl	TX, Stafford
13	KM5YQ	David	TX, Irving
12	W5ESE	Scott	TX, Dripping Springs
11	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills, TX
8	KD5MMM	Phil	TX, Fentress
5	KB5TCH	Carroll	TX, Douglassville
1	K5KV	Benny	TX, Star
1	KI5T, KC5AML	Wade	LA
1	KW5AS	Skip	TX. Victoria
1	N5PWG	Jay	TX, Pasadena
1	N5XGG	Joe	TX, Colmesneil
1	W5AG	Arch	LA, Lafayette
1	W5DY	Rodney	TX, Goliad

73!!
Pat KD5TXD
September, 2009