

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

Net Manager: Steve Phillips, K6JT, Plano TX
(k6jt@arrl.net , 214-208-8900 Cell)
TEX Web Site: <http://www.k6jt.com/>

Assistant Manager: Rodney Baker, W5DY, Goliad TX
(w5dy@arrl.net)

September 2012



Early TEX Frequency

Other than the solar event that made 40 meters nearly unusable for a couple days, we seem to be OK with keeping early TEX on 7053 KHz. Let's keep it there as the primary starting frequency until we go back to standard time (November 4 this year) or conditions become such that long skip prevents its use. NCS stations can always move to 3541 if needed and/or send stations there to handle traffic if they cannot adequately hear each other on 40. Who knows, with the sunspot maxima approaching (supposed to be in February next year), 40 may remain usable long after the time changes and is much quieter when thunderstorms are nearby. However, this sunspot cycle is proving to be relatively calm compared to prior years, particularly with respect to use of 10 meters. At least I am hopeful that the MUF will remain well above 10 MHz even through the winter.

7 Years and Counting

This issue of the newsletter marks the start of the 8th year that I have been your TEX manager (started in August 2005 when Doug, KA5KLU, resigned). I guess we are now "common law" married, having passed the 7th year. Although my wife has complained a lot about my messing up her TV and her computer speakers, as well as the time spent on TEX and publishing this newsletter every month, we have managed to stay married as well (34 years this month).

I am wondering if it might be time for me to pass along the baton to another station. I don't know what any previous records may have been, but judging from information that Charlie, W5GKH, sent to me from previous TEX newsletters, all managers mentioned had the helm for 2 years or less. Perhaps one of you out there is interested in assuming the managership and injecting some new and fresh ideas? If so, please let me know. I could not have done it this long without the help of very able Assistant Managers, including (currently) Rodney, W5DY, Floyd, N5EL, and Don, AC5XK. Thanks to all of you.

No, I am not resigning. I will continue as long as nobody else comes forward, health and other factors permitting. I might be amenable to continuing to publish a newsletter every month or two, even if not the manager, just to help hold things together. Does that make it easier to consider? Send me an email if you have suggestions or are interested in taking it.

TEX Mailbox:

Received an E-mail from **Dean, W8IM**, who is active on RN5 from Florida and a licensed commercial CW operator. You may recall his inputs in past issues regarding the “Night of Nights” operation. He forwarded the Maritime Radio Historical Society newsletters, August and September issues, which you can read, along with other newsletters on their website:

<http://www.radiomarine.org> . Look for the link to the newsletter archive and take a look at numbers 11 through 14. They contain quite a bit of interesting information including a video from a “Night of Nights” operation. If you are like me, you will love the history of the commercial side of Morse Code.

Scott, W7IZ, sent along a link to a website where you can listen to old time radio dramas. There are hundreds of different shows available there, all for free. Most of us on TEX are old enough to remember listening to these either as kids or as parents back in the 40’s and 50’s. The link is:

<http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/> . Note sure why the site is called “dumb.com”, but those radio dramas have provided hours of enjoyment for my blind father, and that’s certainly not a dumb thing. Thanks, Scott !!

Wanted to mention that the book “Dark Signals” from **Si, K5JRN**, is now available in electronic format on Amazon.com. You may recall that Pat had a “Book Report” about it a few issues back. I purchased a copy for download to my iPad (Kindle format) and I can also highly recommend it. Si did a wonderful job relating all the happenings at that time, so good that I felt like I was there with him in the radio room. Highly recommended.

Heard from **Tom, W5DH**, who has been busy grandparenting, so not as active on the air. Tom wrote: Hey Steve, thanks for the note. The issue has been that my Daughter delivered twin boys about 3 months ago, albeit a bit early. They are now doing fine but for a while our world as we knew it went on a long vacation and there just was no time for any radio activity with any semblance of regularity. Had no problems with the nets or their traffic. Found TEX to have great hospitality. I really appreciate your interest and will be sliding back into things soon.

Heard from **Richard, NF5B**, by way of **Frank, W4DLZ**. Wanted to pass along the change of time for the Central Area Night Watch net for those of you who may be interested. Richard wrote: Also, for those who are interested: As of October 1 we’ll be bumping start of Central Area Night Watch (3807.5) back to 0200Z to better catch those who may have missed outlets on late cycle 4 region and section nets. A poll of regulars on CANW were in favor of this change.

Thanks again for your continued efforts on behalf of NTS and public service amateur radio.
73, Richard Webb, NF5B
Chair, ARRL Central Area Staff

Scott, W7IZ, passed along information about the in-work AMSAT-UK satellite FITSAT-1 including the fact that it will be flashing out messages in Morse code. Take a look at:

<http://www.uk.amsat.org/2037> and tell me what you make of the example message they show. Must be British English, 'cause it does not make much sense to me (4 dashes, followed by a period and C E R N E E).

Got a tip from **Jeff, WB8WKQ**, who is the Eastern Area TCC Director about a potential new TEX recruit, **John, N5DWI**, in Houston. Sent him an E-mail but have not heard back yet. If any of you run across him on the air, please point him to the TEX website.

TEX Net Topics

There are some additional backup slots open (6 shown in **yellow**) and now **5** open liaison slots (all shown in **red**). Due to having problems with his eyes, Charlie, W5GKH, has asked to be relieved of his Monday night RN5 slots. He is still able to be NCS on Sunday and Monday. If you are willing to take any of these open primary or any of the open backup slots, please let me know. Thanks to Sam, Benny and Rodney, we have managed to cover all the RN5 sessions so far, but it is getting pretty thin.

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown on the following page (for easier printing of a single page). NCS stations should have a copy of this handy both to remind you of your skeds and to easily look up names of stations you may not be familiar with. There were no changes to the roster since last month.

Statistics:

Traffic was up but checkins were slightly down from July. No RN5 slots were missed.

Randy, N5RL, again had outstanding participation with 50 out of 62 (81%) taking first, followed by Benny, K5KV, again in 2nd with 43 (69%). Rodney, W5DY, with 27 (44%) was again 3rd. Thanks to all of you who checked in for your support. It was another good month.

We had only one visitor to the net: Robert, K5LYT, from Corpus Christi. Larry, KC0M, in MO again checked in with traffic for us. It was good to have Geoff, W5OMR, again checking in after an absence of several months.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the table following the roster. Traffic averaged 3.2 per net session (2.8 last month). Net time averaged 12.9 minutes per session (compared to 12.0 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.1 per session (5.7 last month).

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TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	N5RL	KD5TXD	KD5TXD	N5RL	K5KV	W5GKH
Backup	<i>Open</i>	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	K5KV	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	W5CU
RN5 #1	<i>Open</i>	N5RL	W5CU	K5KV	N5RL	K5KV	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5ESE	W5ESE	<i>Open</i>
RN5 #2	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>	W5CU	<i>Open</i>	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	W5DY	K6JT	<i>Open</i>

TEX/1: **7053**/3541/7108 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 **3541**/3643/1841 at 22:00 local

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

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

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, W5TMO, KD5TXD

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5BA	Brian	Houston	N7NET	Scott	McKinney
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
K5CZ	Ed	Temple	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
W5DH	Tom	Dallas	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
W4DLZ	Frank	Florida	W5OMR	Geoff	Houston
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	N0SSS	Adam	Oklaunion
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
AA5J	Lee	Arkansas	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
K5JRN	Si	Austin	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	KS5V	Ed	Bulverde
* K5KV	Benny	Star	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	* NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

TEX Net Statistics (August 2012)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	9	16		5			
*		7			4			
W5DH	Tom	1	1				1	
		0						
W5DY	Rodney	16	27		1			
		11		4	1			
W5ESE	Scott	19	19					
*		0						
W5GKH	Charlie	8	16	8	5			
*		8		8	5			
K5GM	Pete	10	22		1			
*		12						
W9GVW	Eric	6	6					
*		0						
K6JT	Steve	19	49	1			18	
*		30		7	21		30	
K5KV	Benny	21	43	5	11			
		22		4				
K5LYT	Robert	1	2					
	Corpus Ch.	1						
WA5MS	Marty	2	2					
*		0						
KC0M	Larry	0	1					
*	MO	1						
N5NVP	Jim	0	6					
		6						
W5OMR	Goeff	4	4			2		
		0						
K5QOW	Gary	12	12			11		
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	1	14					
*		13						
N5RL	Randy	25	50	8	8	9		
*		25				20		
W5TMO	Mike	0	19					
*		19		8				
KD5TXD	Pat	10	10	9				9
*		0						
Totals		319		62	62	42	49	9
				100%	100%	68%	79%	15%
QTC 1		78	197					
QTC 2		119		Sessions		62		
Time 1		398	797					
Time 2		399						

Operating:

The official NTS position is to not start the net on top of an ongoing QSO. It is permissible to announce (once) a move in frequency (e.g., TEX up a half or TEX down one), but we should not deliberately QRM the ongoing QSO. A 500 Hz frequency change is generally sufficient with today's receivers (you DO have a narrower filter for CW, don't you?) Then start the net up or down normally. A reminder to all stations that the net frequency is the NCS frequency, not necessarily the normal published frequency. Be sure to tune up or down a couple KHz if you arrive late before deciding the net is already closed (or before starting it yourself). The QSO that was on net frequency may have already ended.

Also see the information in RN5 Corner about use of 40 meters and NCS / station practices. It can equally apply to TEX operation when long skip is present, by changing the state groups to North Texas versus South Texas stations. Rarely have I seen skip so long that Rodney, W5DY, who is 300 miles from me, is completely blanked out. It has happened a couple times but that is rare.

Finally, yet another reminder about what I guess is a "pet gripe" of mine, and that is the incorrect use of QSP versus QNB.

It is pretty simple -- QSP means you can handle a message free of charge (i.e., to relay it via another net or deliver it yourself without paying for postage).

QNB means you are relaying something between 2 stations on the net. That could be relaying someone trying to check-in that the NCS can't hear, or you were assigned by the NCS to be a relay for some traffic between one station and another that cannot copy each other direct. That is QNB, not QSP.

An easy way to remember it is that QSP applies to you directly, while QNB applies to 2 other stations besides you.

Until next month, 73,

Steve K6JT

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)



TSN Corner

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

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT

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

TSN is holding steady. Thanks to KB5TCH and KD5MMM we have kept the doors open for our net. Welcome to our visitor N4OLN, Gary in Conyers, GA. Visit TSN often.

I have trimmed our roster to reflect folks who have participated this year. It is a little easier to handle and more realistic. As always, everyone is welcome.

If you have time and are interested in helping us out, please drop me an e-mail at pja@atcweb.com. We really need someone who can call the net on Tuesday. And it would be above and beyond the call of duty if someone could help with sending the training lessons. Thanks to all!!

July 2012 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
K5AVJ	Lynn	Abilene	TX	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
WA4BAM	John	Miami	FL	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
AB0DK	Dave	Kirksville	MO	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
W5DPT	Louis	Deer Park	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	K5OAI	Sam	San Angelo	TX
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	N4OLN	Gary	Conyers	GA
WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS	K9PUI	Dick		IN
AG9G	Dwight		WI	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells	TX
K5GM	Pete	Austin	TX	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
N0JL	Jim	Chillicothe	IA	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
K6JT	Steve	Plano	TX	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
K5MDK	Mike	Plano	TX				

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!!

TSN Activity Report for August 2012

Total Sessions 30, Total Check-ins 88, Total Traffic 26 by 9 different operators.

August 2012 QNS

August	Callsign	Name	QTH	STATE
30	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglasville	TX
23	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
12	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
12	WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS
5	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
2	W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX
2	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
1	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
1	N4OLN	Gary	Conyers	GA

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

September 3, 2012

(RN5 Corner Starts on the next page)

RN5 Corner

Region Net 5 (Daily) 1930 CT on **7108** and 2130 CT on **7108** or 3567
Alternate Frequency 3567 (early) or 3598 when conditions warrant
Serving TX, OK, LA, AR, MS, TN, AL, and FL
Frank Thrash W4DLZ (W4DLZ@YAHOO.COM)
RN5 Net Manager

Hello again and welcome to the Seventh edition of the **RN5 Corner**.

First, Congratulations to Tom, WA4ZPZ for keeping the Alabama CW Net going !
I understand all his NCS and Liaison slots are filled. Great Job Tom !!

Wouldn't it be nice if RN5's NCS and Liaison Slots were all filled...

I'd like to address our missing of sessions.

Yes, we are starting to miss Net Sessions. Every Net session needs to be called, even if the NCS is the only station on the Net. That hardly ever happens, but even if no one checks in, call the Net anyway and send me the report that way. Anyone can do it - just send RN5 QND QNZ QNN (your call) QNI K More later about what to do when long skip seems to be happening.

There are some stations that won't call the Net, perhaps because you are too shy, or you are afraid you might be stuck with going to CAN. To these stations I say call the Net, even if you don't have CAN liaison reps, call the Net. Ask for CAN reps but if no one volunteers, there is no need to go yourself. If you can only call the early or the late session that's OK, just call a session. I understand you may not want to be officially listed as a regular NCS. That's OK, too. Just fill in when you are there and when you can.

Another thing to remember. If a station checks in on the early session with RN5 AREA traffic and there isn't a station from that state, ask them if they can come back to the late session and see if a station to take the traffic shows up. If they cannot come to the late session, ask for a volunteer to hold the traffic. If a station doesn't show up on the late session, send to a DRN5 volunteer (or rep as on Wednesday). If no DRN5, give it to me or K6JT as we are Digital go to stations. If neither of us are there, give it to the TX representative with instructions to give to K6JT on TEX or email the traffic to either one of us, preferably to our Winlink address (W4DLZ@Winlink.org or K6JT@Winlink.org). **NOTE: Due to anti-spam filtering in WL2K, the subject line MUST start with “//WL2K R” (then any regular subject info - no quotes and yes a space between K and R) for the message to go through from an Internet address.** At least we will receive it via radio that way. There is no reason anyone should be stuck with leftover traffic unless you yourself choose to hold it.

If there is any outbound traffic on the late Net and there isn't a DRN5 station, remember you can go to 3807.5 SSB and give the outbound traffic to CANW. If that is not practical for you, it can ALSO be sent to K6JT or W4DLZ at the Winlink addresses above.

Remember there is no Daytime CAN on Tues, Thurs or Sat and Sunday. The traffic will go quicker on CANW or to the goto Digital stations. CANW ' CAN NIGHT WATCH ' operates

from 0200 to 0400 ZULU on 3807.5 KHZ. CANW Modes are SSB, CW and Digital. I will be an NCS there after I repair my AMP.

Also now that Trey has left for college, we have Monday Night open NCS slots, and liaison stations are needed for Monday Nights. Any help?

Thanks to ALL

FRANK W4DLZ RN5/4 CW Net Mgr.

Late RN5 on 40 Meters

We are still attempting to meet on 40 meters for late RN5. However, long skip is starting to move in by that time on some nights. This is not all bad, though, since RN5 stations are widely distributed and propagation between the westernmost states (TX, OK, LA, AR) and easternmost states (MS, AL, FL, TN) is actually better than it would be on 80 meters. The trick is to make use of this, and for NCS stations to be aware of the limitations. When long skip is worst (i.e., greater than 300 miles), be aware of the following:

MS, AL, FL, and TN stations will likely not be able to hear each other well or at all. TX, OK, LA, and AR stations also will not be able to hear each other. But those in the western 4 states can readily copy those in the easternmost states and vice-versa.

So what to do? Assuming there are representatives present from each of the two major blocks of states, the NCS should check in those who hear him. Then ask the strongest of those heard to do a net call. Repeat that a few times during the net. All stations should be able to at least hear one other station.

If you are monitoring and you don't hear the NCS, do NOT just continue to transmit your call and "QNP NCS". Wait to see if you hear anyone else check in. If so, wait a little longer for someone you hear to call for QNI. Check in then.

But what if you don't hear anyone at all after a couple minutes? Well, there may not be an NCS or the net may have moved to 80. Check 3567 for activity. If nothing there, and you think there may not be an NCS, go ahead and call the net yourself. Better to have more than one NCS than none. Yes, there might be some QRM heard by others, but they can tell you about it pretty quickly.

If you DO hear other stations check in, but no net call is heard for a reasonable time (2 to 3 minutes into the net), as soon as you hear another station turn it back, wait about 10 seconds and then send your call and "QNP NCS". Wait a little for someone to relay in your QNI. If nothing for a minute or so, try again until you get a response.

Yes, that sounds like a lot of trouble, but it CAN work. The NCS can have others relay instructions for stations with traffic for each other but can't hear each other to QSY to 80 meters to pass their traffic.

The alternative is, of course, for the NCS to move the net to 80 meters. Unfortunately that is not ideal, either, unless you (the NCS) also ask a station far from you to send a QNC about moving to 80 to be sure those who don't copy you get the word. There might also be times

when both bands are dead. Nothing we can do about that. However, sending traffic to W4DLZ or K6JT at their Winlink addresses will ALWAYS work and is the ultimate backup.

RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	Open	W4DLZ	W5CU	WA4ZPZ	W4QAT	W4DLZ	K4VIZ
NCS #2	Open	W4DLZ	W5CU	WA4ZPZ	W4QAT	W4DLZ	K4VIZ
CAN TX	Open	WA4ZPZ	K4VIZ	K5KV	K4VIZ	K5KV	K5KV
CAN RX	Open	WA4ZPZ	Open	K6JT	W4DLZ	W4DLZ	W5CU
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

August 2012 Statistics

SESSIONS	59
QTC	187
QNI	436
QTR	796
CAN TX REP	93%
CAN RX REP	90%
DRN5 REP	15%

The following roster shows active stations coming to RN5 from their various states.

Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	State	Call	Name	State
W4AGL	JIM	FL	AA4HT	BOB	FL
K4AKC	TOM	AL	W8IM	DEAN	FL
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	WA5JAN	JIM	AR
W5CU	SAM	OK*	K6JT	STEVE	TX
AC5CW	ERIC	LA	KA5KLU	DOUG	TX
KO9D	BENNY	IN	K5KV	BENNY	TX
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	WA5LQZ	ALAN	LA
K5DMC	JER	MS	K5MC	MICKEY	LA
WD4DNC	BARRY	FL	N5NVP	JIM	LA
AD4DO	JOHN	FL	K4PG	KEVIN	FL
W5DTR	CURT	IL	WA4PIZ	JIM	AL
K1DW	DALLAS	LA	W4QAT	PAT	AL
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	K5RG	KEN	TX
NY4E	BILL	FL	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
KJ4FDV	TREY	AL	W6SX	HANK	CA
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K15T	WADE	LA
KA4FZI	PHYL	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	K6YR	ROB	CA
K5GM	PETE	TX	WA4ZPZ	TOM	AL

* When W5CU is not present on Late RN5, OK traffic may be sent to the TX station