

# *The Texan*

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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I cannot believe that another month has gone by! With all the happenings in my family, including a 12 day trip to 6-land to be with my parents, I missed quite a lot of net activity. But I knew what was going on the whole time, thanks to Floyd, N5EL, who kept me supplied with net reports and general interest news via E-Mail. Many thanks to Floyd and also to the rest of you for filling in where necessary and keeping things running smoothly. I really do appreciate it. I will be needing to go help out my parents more often now, probably every 3 to 4 months, as they are house-bound and not doing very well. At least I am assured that TEX will continue its excellent operation in my absences, thanks to your dedication.

Speaking of Floyd, did you notice the change in the header above? Floyd has consented to take over as assistant manager. Don, AC5XK, still has a young family (recall how those teenagers needed extra shepherding?), so he has trouble even making the net very often, much less taking on extra chores. Many thanks to Don for all his help, advice, and encouragement the past several months (since last August when we took over the reins). He will still be a major part of TEX and continues as the South Texas Section Traffic Manager, so I continue to depend on him for advice on traffic matters.

Floyd's primary duty will be to collect net reports, as he started to do last month. From now on, NCS stations can send reports either to him or to me directly, as is most convenient for you in order to assure the most timely delivery. I use an Excel spreadsheet with a Visual Basic for Applications program that I wrote to actually put together the records and calculate the statistics, making data entry much faster, easier, and less error-prone.

As an aside, I have modified the VBA program and spreadsheet to track TSN liaisons, starting this month. You have probably noticed they have been absent. Now that we have a regular TSN representative (thanks, Pat), please continue to report the TSN liaison in net reports and they will now be part of the monthly record.

While I've not heard anything more regarding the bulk message policy, I have noticed a definite drop-off in the amount of incoming traffic, particularly on the higher level nets such as RN5, CAN, and even my TCC PAN <-> CAN schedules. I am not sure if there is a relationship between the two, but there could be. I notice that the bulk messages

from the east are still coming in via the SSB nets such as TTN, albeit slowly. Perhaps it is time for us all to do some message originations with handling instructions such as HXE (get reply and send back) to other states. Do you have friends and relatives in other states? Most of us do. Consider originating a greeting message or two each week to a different place so that we can keep the region and area nets (not to mention TCC) exercised a bit more. The last few times I've checked into RN5 and CAN, it has been a "QRU all around" type of session, which is not very interesting. I'm not advocating sending "bulk" traffic to persons unknown, just to your own friends and family members, ham or non-ham. Of course, if all your family is here in Texas, that makes it a bit more difficult to do. If you work someone out of state, send him/her a "thanks for the QSO" message, if nothing else. You can get ham's addresses from QRZ.com or the ARRL website and phone numbers from <http://www.att.com/directory/>. Since you receive this newsletter via E-Mail, I **know** you have Internet connectivity.

As far as I know (in my limited presence in Texas), conditions were generally pretty good this past month, but with a few nights of long skip to plague us. I again remind NCS stations to ask a distant station (from you) to call for QNI to the net if you suspect "long skip" conditions are present. Evidence of long skip is when signal levels of known stations differ significantly from what they usually are. I have trouble with W5TFB and N5EL (both less than a couple hundred miles away) when long skip is present while San Antonio, at a distance of > 250 miles away, comes in stronger than usual. The 10 PM session is more susceptible than the 7 PM session, although it can start as early as that.

We return to Daylight time on April 2<sup>nd</sup> (possibly before you receive this newsletter). I have no plans to switch net operation to 40 meters yet. The 7 PM session may be a bit difficult due to there still being a significant amount of D-layer absorption on 80 meters, so signals will likely be weaker and noise louder, but the skip on 40 is likely to be too long for us to use. Remember that the net continues to meet at the same **local** times – 7 and 10 PM Central. But they will be 1 hour earlier UTC, at 0000Z and 0300Z.

As with TEX, the entire NTS maintains the same local time startup. According to information sent by Jim, KB5W, the RN5 manager, the early session of RN5 will switch to 40 meters on April 9 (Sunday local time). **RN5 liaisons, note this carefully.** Jim sends the following: "We need to anticipate shifting the early RN5 session to 7045 kHz. This is primarily due to the fact that, with DST in effect, sunset in Oklahoma and Texas won't occur until about 1945 or so in their area. This will make it difficult to use 3650 kHz early for them. So, let's use 3650 next week (April 2 through 8) if possible and shift the early session to 7045 on Sunday the 9th. You know the problems we have with SSB, digital and just plain QRM up there. All stations should be ready to go looking for NCS up or down. NCSs should find the hole nearest the base frequency and go from there. 73, Jim KB5W.

I received some interesting inputs from fellow TEX members this month to share with you. First off, I got an interesting anecdote from Jim, W6LFB, who keyed off of Charlie's "256 year old" picture last month: A lady at the circus was captivated by the claims of a

"snake oil" salesman (bearded and gray-headed, but passable for 50 or 60) to be 115 years old; appearing younger allegedly due to use of the oil. The lady pulled his youthful assistant (appearing 20-ish) aside, and whispered, "Is he REALLY 115???" To which the younger man replied, "Shucks, lady, I dunno - I've only been with him 75 years!"

Is that your secret, Charlie? Snake Oil? Naw. More likely transformer oil, or even perhaps valve or slide oil (see the following).

Charlie also sent in another picture, this one from 1942 (oops, he goofed – this one clearly shows he was fibbing about being 256 years old). It shows the Rice (University, I assume) dance band wherein Charlie is playing some instrument. Since I've never seen him in person, I had no luck in guessing which one he might have been, but I am sure some of you might be able to help. Please let me know which one you think is Charlie. He sent along some other info (following my incorrect guess) that at least eliminates some of them...



Here are Charlie's hints: The lead trumpet player is Johnny Dyson. He is still active on the music scene in Houston fronting three groups: a six piece combo, a sixteen member

dance band and a fourteen piece jazz outfit. Sitting next to Johnny is Gabe Martel who later played with Alvino Rey on the west coast. The drummer is Curly Lewis who plays with a small group called the Over the Hil Gang. They can still be heard at various places on the Westheimer strip. The 16-year-old tenor and bari sax player on the front right is Bill Ainsworth. The most talented musician I have ever known, Bill later went on to play with Paul Whiteman and Tommy Dorsey. All of the group were members of local 65 of the AFM in Houston. I played with local club bands and other bands for a while before hanging it up. In the late 70's I played with a local Brazosport group along with my eldest son. I no longer play. Also, note that I am not wearing a dress.

Hmmm. From his wording, I think we can eliminate the piano player, although that chap does seem to have a beard, something Charlie still favors. So it has to be one of the other 3 sax men, the bass player, the 3<sup>rd</sup> trumpet player, or the 'bone man. What do y'all think?

Thanks, Charlie. I'm really curious – please submit your best guesses to me via E-Mail and perhaps together we can “solve” the puzzle. Are any others of you ex (or current) musicians? I have observed a correlation between musical ability and conversance with Morse code. I myself played trumpet, also semi-professionally while in late high school and college, for many years.

Although I did not receive a complete “profile” from anyone for inclusion in this month's newsletter, I did receive an activity list and picture from Roger, K5HHS, to share with you. Don't you just love his new keyer, which he is quickly mastering?



Hello all. I'm Roger, K5HHS. I am net Mgr of DTTN, which meets from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on 7285 kHz, Monday through Saturday. I am also net control on Mondays and when needed other days. Pat, KD5TXD, is my assistant net manager and helps out also on days when needed.

I am the assistant Net Manager for TTN, which meets on 3873 kHz from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Monday through Sundays. I'm also net control on Saturdays. Jim Bomer, W5IM, is the net manager. I also check into the ARTS net on 7052.1 kHz from 6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m., which meets Monday through Sunday. I'm also active on OTN, the Oklahoma Training Net, which meets at 5:20 p.m. Monday through Saturday on 7120.6 kHz. TSN, the Texas Slow Net, meets at 7:45 p.m., Monday through Saturday on 3719 khz. As you all know, I'm also active on TEX.

73, Roger K5HHS

## TEX Net Topics:

While we've already touched on net topics in the preceding, there are still some more newsy items this month.



At the top of the list is the Pfeiffer Pfist award, shown at the left. Many of you know more about this than I do, but basically it was started in 1991 by Harry Pfeiffer, W5CTZ. Although Harry is no longer active on TEX (I see he is still licensed with expiration in 2008, but I know nothing beyond that about him), the tradition has continued each year to present the award to the station on TEX who has done the most to materially contribute to the success of the net or who has consistently been a strong net supporter. Possessing CW excellence is also a requirement, as you can read on the plaque.

I was the recipient last year, selected by Doug, KA5KLU, the net manager. As NM, it was my responsibility to select the 2006 winner. It did not take much consideration to come up with this year's winner. I am pleased to announce that **Floyd, N5EL**, in Temple is the 2006 Pfeiffer award winner! Don, AC5XK, also concurred in this choice.

Congratulations, Floyd !!!

Floyd is not only an ace on CW using either a bug or keyer, but he has been very helpful in taking / delivering the "orphan" traffic we get.

West Texas remains a problem with zero stations located there, so Floyd has essentially become the West Texas liaison for TEX. He has also assisted with fill-ins for NCS and RN5 when needed and of course you know about his consistent "winning" of the most QNI each month.

It is hard to read all the names on the plaque, no thanks to my poor photographic skills, but of those still active, past winners include: 1995, Charlie, W5GKH; 1999, Doug, KA5KLU; 2000, Bert, AC5Z; 2002, Don, AC5XK; 2004, Jack, W5TFB; and 2005, Steve, K6JT.

The plaque is traditionally awarded at the “7290 Picnic” in Smithville, TX (near Bastrop off highway 71). This year, the picnic will take place on May 27. While I have not finalized plans yet, there is a chance that I (and Floyd) will be able to make it to that event for the presentation and also to chat with our traffic brethren. More details will appear next month.

The following shows the current NCS and liaison station assignments. Note that a few changes have again been made. Bert has taken back his Thursday night slot and Charlie has reclaimed the Sunday early slot for NCS. Roger, who is more than a bit “overextended” in his traffic activities (see his list of nets a couple pages back), has asked to be excused for a while, so Rodney picked up Monday NCS. That leaves 3 open NCS slots, one early and two late. RN5 liaisons are still lacking on Thursday and Friday. Additionally, Don, AC5XK, is having some trouble making the Saturday slots. I also made a couple minor changes to backups. Please consider filling one or more of the open slots.

### TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>NCS #1</b>	W5DY	KA5KLU	K6JT	AC5Z	<b>Open</b>	AC5Z	W5GKH
Backup	W5GKH		N5EL	K6JT	N5EL	AC5XK	
<b>NCS #2</b>	W5GKH	KA5KLU	K6JT	<b>Open</b>	N5PWG	<b>Open</b>	W5GKH
Backup			N5EL	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	
<b>RN5 #1</b>	W5GKH	KA5KLU	W5TFB	<b>Open</b>	<b>Open</b>	AC5XK	W5CU
Backup				AC5XK	W5DY	W5TFB	W5GKH
<b>RN5 #2</b>	W5GKH	KA5KLU	W5TFB	<b>Open</b>	<b>Open</b>	AC5XK	W5CU
Backup				AC5XK	K6JT	K6JT	W5GKH

TEX/1: 3643 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 3643 at 22:00 local  
 RN5/1: 3650 at 19:30; CAN: 3670 at 20:30; RN5/2: 3650 at 21:30 local

RN5 Backups: N5EL, K5JRN, K6JT, KJ9J, KA5KLU, K5RG, W5TFB, AC5XK, W5DY  
 NCS Backups: N5EL, K5HHS, K5JRN, K6JT, KA5KLU, N5PWG, AC5XK, AC5Z

### Statistics:

This month the most check-ins were again by Floyd, N5EL, who had a great QNI record with 55 out of 62 (89%). Jack, W5TFB, had the next highest with 44, and Pat, KD5TXD, was a close 3<sup>rd</sup> with 42. Thank you all for your excellent support. Jack’s participation is especially significant considering he had to send his primary rig (Orion) back to Ten-Tec for repair, so he is “getting by” with his older rig (Omni V or VI?) in the interim. His computer is also down, so E-Mail does not work. I keep threatening to send him one of my old Macintosh computers (the oldest one is nearly 20 years old and still works) so he could at least get his E-Mail, but he just smiles and says “no thanks, I’ll have the PC running ‘real soon’ now”.

**TEX Net Statistics (March 2006)**

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN
Call		QNI						
N5BA	Brian	1	3					
		2						
W5CDX	Wads	2	6					
*		4						
AC5CI	Homer	26	27					
		1						
W5CU	Sam	6	10		5			
*		4			4			
NV5D	Martin	1	1					
		0						
W5DY	Rodney	15	28		1	8		
		13			2			
N5EL	Floyd	26	55	2			2	1
*		29		1			2	1
W5ESE	Scott	11	12					
*		1						
W5GKH	Charlie	8	16	1	4	4		
*		8		8	4			
K5HHS	Roger	14	14	9		7		
*		0						
KJ9J	Newt	17	17					
*		0						
K5JRN	Si	0	1					
*		1					1	
KD5JSS	Dennis	4	4					
		0						
K6JT	Steve	13	30	6			13	
*		17		8	5		16	
KØKJ	Eric	3	4					
*		1						
KA5KLU	Doug	8	14	5	5	2		
*		6		5	6	1		
N5NVP	Jim	0	3					
		3						
W9PC	Mark	1	1					
		0						
N5PWG	Jay	1	7					
*		6		4				
K5RG	Ken	4	15					
*		11						
W5TFB	Jack	25	44		10			
*		19			6			
KD5TXD	Pat	22	42			7		
*		20				15		
K5UN	Lee	12	13					
		1						
AC5XK	Don	7	19		4	1		7
*		12		5	4	9		12

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN
Call		QNI						
AC5Z	Bert	19	19	8				
*		0						
Totals		405		62	60	54	34	21
				100%	97%	87%	55%	34%
QTC 1		80	136					
QTC 2		56		Sessions:		62	100%	
Time 1		495	822					
Time 2		327						

TEX Net Stations (QNS)

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
KF9AS*	Megan	Dallas	KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio
N5BA	Brian	Houston	W6LFB	Jim	Denton
W5CDX	Wads	Crowley LA	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
AC5CI	Homer	Caldwell	KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	N5NVP	Jim	Leesville LA
NV5D	Martin	Allen	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	W5RCP	Ron	Houston
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	N5SIG	Randy	Huntsville
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	KC5T	Bob	Houston
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5TFB*	Jack	College Station
K5HHS	Roger	Mathis	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
KB5IZO	David	Irving	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
K5JRN	Si	Denton	K5UN	Lee	Leonard
KD5JSS	Dennis	Temple	KS5V	Ed	Bulverde (SA)
K6JT	Steve	Plano	AC5XK	Don	San Antonio
KA5KAB*	Carl	Baytown	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches (Lufkin)
KØKJ	Eric	San Antonio			

\* Stations with unknown or not working E-Mail addresses.

**Operating:**

Y'all are doing a fine job, in general. I might just advise some of the newer net members to listen carefully to how the "old timers" move off frequency to handle traffic and then report back to the NCS when they are done. Also, please always call the other station on frequency before moving off when told to QNV by the NCS. NCS's, always ask for both an early and late RN5 liaison volunteer if nobody answers the "QNA" call. Until next month, see you on TEX !

73, Steve K6JT