

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

**** See "TSN Corner" on Last Pages ****

Net Manager: Steve Phillips, K6JT, Plano TX

(k6jt@arrl.net , 214-208-8900)

TEX Web Site: <http://k6jt.home.att.net/>

Assistant Manager: Rodney Baker, W5DY, Goliad TX

(w5dy@arrl.net)

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Sorry this edition is a bit later than usual. Just too many things going on with work and visitors from out of town. Hope you all have a Happy Easter.

Goliad County Fair Wrapup from W5DY



We got everything set up Thursday the 19th and got to operate some in the afternoon. Friday and Saturday, we operated from 1000 to 1800 central time. A great time was had by all of us and we made a few contacts on HF, VHF & UHF (175 total). It was very interesting, as the first 2 stations we heard on 20 meters (off of my G5RV) were Kuwait and Dubai. 4 of the guys are big DXers and this was a great thrill for them (me, I have been to both places and could visualize where they were). For anyone who needs a QSL card, send an SASE to WB4DAD. The cards have a picture of each of the missions in Goliad.

Three of the guys, Gene W5GXV, Bill KC4AA and Otto WB2RJB are originally from Goliad. It was like a reunion for them, seeing people from their childhood; old acquaintances, school buddies, even some old girl friends hi hi, etc. At age 68, Gene was the youngest of the six of us. The other 3 are Rodney W5DY, Skip WB4DAD and John G4KHM (John was visiting Bill in Georgia and wound up being our busiest operator).

We are already planning another event for next year, so look for the info when it appears in QST and CQ magazines. After getting the results from our post-event meeting (which lasted 2 hours), I am going to put an article in QST, so look for that as well. Hope to see everyone again next year and it was great this year.

73, Rodney W5DY

7290 Picnic is May 9th

A reminder that the 39th Annual 7290 Traffic Net Picnic to be held on May 9 at the Riverbend Park in Smithville, TX. Updated information is now available at the 7290 Traffic Net site http://www.7290trafficnet.org/mgxroot/page_10771.html. Traffic handlers from all over the state and maybe from out of state will be there. At this time, Rodney, W5DY will be the official TEX representative. I do not plan to attend this year due to my other obligations.

W1NJM Saga

Thanks to Sis, WD8DIN, the editor of the "Traffic Call" newsletter of the Hit and Bounce Net (HBN – 0730 CT, 7042 KHz), for passing along George Hart's saga of the "early days". Here's Part 24 of George Hart's recollections. Geo goes to W1AW and ARRL.

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 24 - Getting settled in preparation for ARRL

During the summer of 1938, while at State College, I came across a document entitled "Annual Report of the Officers and Directors of the American Radio Relay League, June 1938." Gil Crossley was an assistant director of ARRL and on the mailing list for this document. It was a fairly thick mimeographed booklet and most of the reports were of little interest to me, but I read avidly the "Report of the Communications Manager" in which he (F. E. Handy, W1BDI) described progress on a new Maxim Memorial Headquarters Station being completed in Newington, CT. One notation of particular interest was that they would be hiring a new operator when the station began operation in the fall.

I assumed I was not eligible because I had only a Class B amateur license and surely a commercial license would be required. However, the description of the fantastic array of kilowatt transmitters and the 7-acre antenna farm so fascinated me that I thought what-the-heck, I'll give it a try. I wrote Mr. Handy a letter expressing my availability and eagerness. Back came a lengthy letter by return mail saying, in effect, that he knew all about me (astonishing) and felt I had all the requirements except one: a Class A license would be required. But he assumed that with my experience and expertise this would be no obstacle. He suggested I pay them a visit, stopping on my way in New York to take the Class A license exam and that I come with the expectation of staying. The salary would be \$22 a week, subject to a raise in 6 months if my services were satisfactory. Even in 1938, \$22 a week was close to a starvation salary if there was no other source of income, but I cared nothing for the money; I was sure my mother would supplement it as and if necessary.

It was early August, 1938. Mr. Handy sent me a copy (free) of the ARRL License Manual and I started boning up on the Class A questions. I had already passed the 10 w.p.m. code test (with "one hand behind my back") but the technical questions were a different matter. I was so worried that I spent long hours memorizing the answers and entered the Federal Building in lower Manhattan in "fear and trembling." The test, much to my astonishment, consisted of

questions worded exactly the same as in the License Manual. Having memorized the answers, I breezed through it. I'm sure I made 100%. On to Hartford!

I'd never been in New England before so the route was unfamiliar. Somehow I managed to get on the Merritt Parkway, which then was completed only so far as Westport, and the spanking new roadway was enshrouded in a dense fog. I had to creep through Bridgeport and New Haven on U.S. Route 1, and when I arrived in the northern outskirts of New Haven it was 11 p.m. I stopped at a diner for coffee and pondered whether to continue the journey in the fog or hole up at a motel for the night. It figured to be only an hour's trip to Hartford on U.S. 5, but it had been a long hard day and I was exhausted. Nevertheless, I decided to continue. The fog became less intense as I went inland but it still made progress slow.

Finally I saw a sign pointing to Newington and West Hartford and took the side road, figuring I could find a hostelry of some kind and be nearer my place of work in the morning. It was already after 1 a.m. and I became completely lost, and saw no sign whatever of any motels or hotels or a "tourist home." Finally I drove toward the brightest lights, made increasingly evident by the thinning fog and found myself in downtown Hartford. It was nearly 3 a.m. and the streets were deserted, but still I saw no hotel signs as I wandered aimlessly around. Finally, down a side street I saw a sign: "New Savoy Hotel." I turned down the street and parked my open Willys roadster on the street in front of the hotel, grabbed my suitcase and wearily lugged it inside. The New Savoy was by no means the best hotel in Hartford, as I perceived the minute I entered it, but I was in no mood to be fussy. I went to my room, which looked out over Trumbull Street, ran the tub full of water after staring down a roach who peered at me out of the drain, took a bath and hit the hay. It was 3:30 a.m.

I awoke the next morning to the rumble of trucks and honking of horns on the street outside and discovered it was 10 o'clock. After becoming fully awake, I called Mr. Handy at the Headquarters offices in West Hartford. During the ensuing conversation he must have cleared his throat at least 20 times, one of which was preceded by a silence when I told him where I was. Yes, he knew where it was, but I sensed a prim disapproval. He proposed to come down and take me to lunch, after which we would see if we could find a place for me to live. He arrived shortly after noon, took me to his house on Brookline Drive in West Hartford where we were served lunch by Mrs. Handy, after which we sat perusing the morning Courant "Rooms for Rent" section. We then boarded his old Oldsmobile sedan and visited several potential addresses, all of them private homes, all of them at prices too high for me. Imagine paying five dollars a week just for a room to sleep in! I had three dollars tops in mind, but there appeared to be nothing of this nature available, at least not in any section of town Handy considered suitable.

Our final visit (I could sense Mr. Handy's growing impatience) was to a house on Annawan Street in Hartford where Hal Bubb, W1JTD, lived. This was not on the list, but Mr. Handy thought she might have a vacant room, since it was a big house. Hal was not at home, but we met Mrs. Allen, a very gracious widow lady perhaps in her sixties, who said she did indeed have a vacant room but it was her guest room and she had not intended renting it. Mr. Handy talked her into it, assuring her I was a person of good family and would be working with Hal, whom Mrs. Allen apparently held in great esteem. She proposed four dollars a week, the same rent Hal was paying. The room was just across the wide corridor from Hal's, on the second floor facing the street. The rent was still higher than I wished to pay and the room was

not so nice as the ones we had inspected in West Hartford, but I decided to take it. I paid her for a week in advance and the fully furnished room was mine.

Coming in Chapter 25 - Geo Introduction and ARRL Tour

TEX Mailbox:

Thanks to **Pat, KD5TXD**, we have another interesting Book Report: “The Secret Wireless War – the story of MI6 Communications 1939-1945” by Geoffrey Pidgeon is another look at the intelligence gathering, code breaking and information dissemination of the British during World War II. A lot has been written about the Enigma and code breaking but this author rounds out the communications efforts by including the gathering and distribution of the information. I am looking at this book from the Morse Code point of view.

My heroes in this story are the people listening to the code transmissions under really poor conditions, copying fast code accurately, and providing the raw material for the code breakers to work with. There were thousands of them and they probably don't get the credit they deserve.

The Enigma was a commercial encoding machine before the war. The author describes it in minor detail. The preamble of the messages sent contained setting information to be used to decode the message. The listeners, both German and Allied, had to get those first few blocks of characters exactly the first time. The need for fills was frowned upon.

MI6 (Section VIII) was headed by Richard Gambier-Parry, a ham radio operator and former Philco employee. He gathered the best and brightest from the electronics world and the telegraphy world to do the job. There is a lot of interaction with the Marconi company of the time. Gambier-Parry recruited the best “telegraphists” he could find. Many came from the British Navy as they were required to be both “telegraphists” and wireless engineers.

After the best and brightest were scooped up it was time to train young people for the job of copying Morse code. Potential Morse code listeners were put through IQ and personality tests before going through a rigorous 19 week training which covered the code, wireless procedures, and electromagnetism, as well as some good old fashioned military marching. After all this training, only experience was needed to create crack code copiers out of teenagers. Both young men and young women went through the training to serve in the war effort.

The Germans tried to hide their signals next to broadcast stations or in other noisy areas hoping to throw off the listeners. They would often QSY to a secondary frequency after initial contact or in the middle of a transmission. Our code listeners were so good that they simply spun their dial until they heard the recognizable fist of the station they were tracking. They weren't concerned with the call signs of the stations as they could identify their target simply by the fist.

Also, one of the specific jobs taken on by the MI6 groups was to monitor agents' fists on a regular basis. They wanted to be able to identify the person, their agent or the German agent, for sure. They didn't want to get tricked by someone posing as their agent sending false

information. Just as we know our pals by the sound of their fist long before we hear the call sign, the listeners of MI6 knew the fists that were sending information to them.

There is a description of the equipment used by agents and field units. I noted that they mentioned "time-honoured, amateur 6V6 Crystal Circuits"(honoured...Brits spell funny). The standard key used for transmitting by MI6 was a Marconi key. Now if I can just find one of those at a ham fest I would be a happy camper. The "aerials", or antennas, were generally wire antennas which made me feel good as that is about all I have to use down here in the Wild Horse Desert.

Amateur radio operators pop up throughout the story. At the writing of the book, Bob King, a VI and member of RSS, is a ham operator who has kept in touch with many of the SCU/RSS members. Now that is a QSL card I would love to get.

The author has included lots of hair-raising stories from agents and units in the field. Life was a bit exciting for many of them. They worked all fronts of the war effort.

I had this book for a long time before reading it. I didn't realize how much I would enjoy it including mention of the Q call for "I am being bombed." I guess if you hang a ? on the end of that it becomes, "Are you being bombed?", Hi Hi!! If anyone would like to read this real history story, let me know and I will lend you my book.

Thanks and 73!! Pat KD5TXD

So what is the Q code for being bombed, Pat??? Thanks once again for an entertaining narrative.

Scott, N7NET, reports that he has moved but does not have his antenna working yet. He writes: I've moved to McKinney. The swimming pool is no longer a problem. I may be able to participate in some manner with a random wire. I have permission to hang an antenna and have hung it, but as yet, no permission to run a coax from the house. Another possibility--I may wind up becoming a stationary mobile with a Hustler. It could be worse.

73 de Scott/n7net/qrp

Scott also sent in this interesting story that he originally published in his QNC journal. Thank you, Scott!

Memories of Morse code By Wayne K. Brown (USAF Ret.) Copyright 1991
Published in "The Texan" by permission. Originally published in QNC, the CW Journal.

In 1943 Uncle Sam decided he wanted me in the military service. World War II was going on and many received the same greeting that came to me.

After a very short (less than two weeks) basic training at St. Petersburg, Florida and a battery of aptitude tests, it was decided that radio operator/gunner was where I would best fit. Knowing nothing of either radio operating or gunnery, I went to Madison, Wisconsin where the radio Operator/gunnery School was located. Eyesight problems precluded gunnery, so high speed Morse code had another pupil.

Beginning Morse code was with a pencil-penmanship suffered because of speed printing required. Once a certain speed (I think it was 25 words per minute) was attained, pupils switched to a typewriter. Luckily, I already knew how to type (as a civilian teletype operator), so my code speed picked up. My top speed of 65 words per minute was enough to earn number three in a class of 30, or so. (*Whew! That's as fast as a teletype! – Ed.*)

During radio operator's school, sometimes to break the monotony of copying code for long periods, the sender would start sending PE777 PE7 JA. These letter and numerals have the same rhythm as the song, "The Old Grey Mare," and gave comic relief. Sometimes on the midnight shift (the school operated 24 hours a day) students would literally fall asleep while copying code, (especially on a typewriter). The instructor would observe the student and switch that one position to a much higher speed. It never failed to wake the student.

Upon graduation, class members were sent to various places, some overseas, and some stateside. I wound up at the southern tip of Iceland in a small village called Vik (Cove in English). A radar station, weather station, and a radio station, plus aeronautical navigation equipment made up the international military force located there. The only radio operation at Vic was a once-a-day broadcast of the local weather conditions-sent in numerals only. So, proficiency in alphabet Morse code suffered.

Iceland, located near the Arctic Circle, is directly beneath the brilliant Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis), which had a direct effect on radio communications - static. Added to that, snowstorms in the form of small, snow pellets, which add another type of static - white noise. And, of course, it was wartime, so Germany was jamming all radio frequencies. Trying to copy Morse code with all of that going on was just about as easy as walking a tight rope blindfolded. This was my baptism by fire at radio operating.

Morse code is an interesting communication means. It is composed of a tone broken into segments-short segments are dots and long segments are dashes. Each letter, number, and some punctuation marks are assigned a combination of sounds. The tone is adjustable to suit the preference of the operator. But in those days there was no adjustment to tune out static or jamming.

Some funny things happened during that period. A flight of bombers was coming from Greenland to Iceland on their way to England. The distance was so great that the "point-of-no-return" was reached before Iceland was. A radio operator was using Morse code with the incoming planes when a puzzled look came across his face. Turning to the shift supervisor, he asked, 'what is dit dit dit dah dah dah dit dit dit?' The supervisor about fell through the floor. He grabbed the headsets off the operator's head, pushed him off the seat, and answered the international distress call himself. That was the first time that operator had ever heard a distress call. No doubt, he recognized it the next time.

Bert, AC5Z, sent in some useful information entitled, "How to install a Red Neck Home Security System". Some good ideas here, for sure 😊

1. Go to the Goodwill Store and buy a pair of men's work boots, size 14-16 (well used).
2. Place them on the front porch along with a copy of Gun and Ammo magazine.

3. Put a couple of BIG dog dishes next to the boots and magazine.

4. Leave a handwritten note on your door that reads:

Hey Bubba! Big Jim, Duke, Slim and Me went for more ammo.... be back in about 1 hour. Don't mess with the pit bulls--they got after the mailman this morning and messed him up real bad. I don't think Killer took part in it, but it was hard to tell from all the blood. Anyway, I locked all the dogs in the house. And remember they don't bark until it is too late! Just wait outside till we get back. Cooter

Floyd, N5EL, reminds us to be sure to vote in May to keep the Homestead tax cap for 65 and over. When the lawmakers voted for a one-third reduction in school property taxes beginning in 2006 and to be completed this year, they forgot about the homestead exemption for senior citizens and people with disabilities. So an amendment is on the May ballot to correct this error.

Pat, KD5TXD, and OM Charles, WB5IZD, dropped in to see Floyd, N5EL, on their way back from Stephenville. Pat writes: We got in late last night from our mini trip up to Stephenville and a swing by Temple. It was fun and maybe too fast.

Charles gave his presentation Friday afternoon at Tarleton on the revival of the TAMUK telescope. He did pretty well on that. The session that his presentation was part of was full of people giving talks on their research. I wanted so much to hear these talks because they were mostly about the Magnetosphere and Ionosphere. However, it was way way way over my head. I could just as well have been a cabbage sitting in that audience for all I was able to gather on their scientific research.);

During the rest of our stay in Stephenville I played tourist. I hiked about a mile and a half to downtown Stephenville from the university. It was a perfect day. I took gobs of pictures, visited historic places, went on a nature walk, and did my best not to spend a bunch of money at the too cute shops. Charles' presentation was scheduled for the afternoon so I planned on hiking back about lunch time. I didn't fully realize that Stephenville's downtown really is down from the university. That brisk mile and a half that I thought was such an easy walk was really all down hill. So I trudged up hill for a mile and a half to get back to the university. Had to stop at McDonalds half way to catch a salad and gain some strength to make the final part of the climb. I got back just in time. Thank goodness I didn't buy all the souvenirs I was thinking of buying.



Then, the very best part of our trip was a stop in Temple to see N5EL, Floyd. He sure looked chipper. We picked up his telegrapher pal, Norm, and headed to the train depot. We talked and talked and played with all the keen telegraph stuff. I am so very envious of their communications room at their train depot. Our whole little Kingsville depot could fit in their communications room. I took lots of pictures and have ideas for things to try to do for our Kingsville Depot.

Hopefully Floyd and Norm have recovered from our visit. Here is a picture of Floyd. Catch you all on TEX. 73!! Pat KD5TXD

Scott, W7IZ, passed along information from wv1x@arrl.org that the special ARRL National Traffic System Resources page has now been posted on the ARRL Web site.

It is a part of the "Amateur Radio Public Service" Web page. To find it, click on this link -- <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pubservice.html> -- and scroll down the page a bit to find "National Traffic System Resources."

Scott, W5ESE, passed along information that he just received (as of May 8) from the Austin ARC mailing list that Pete, K5GM, was hospitalized and will probably be off the air for a while. Thanks, Scott.

Pete had his gall bladder removed last Sunday after running a fever for a few days and then being overcome by excruciating pain. He developed an infection afterward, so is being treated with antibiotics in the hospital. Not sure when he will be released (or if he has been already). We wish you a complete and fast recovery, Pete.

TEX Net Topics

We still have open RN5 liaison slots. Please consider filling one or more of the open slots as a regular or even backup station. We still have **12** open NCS/liaison slots, with 6 open *primary* RN5 slots (all shown in **red**)! Thanks again to Sam, W5CU, Scott, W5ESE, and Rodney, W5DY, who have been filling the majority of the openings.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	AA5J	KD5TXD	AC5Z	K6JT	AC5Z	W5GKH
Backup	Open	Open	W5DY	W5DY	KD5TXD	W5DY	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	AA5J	KD5TXD	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	Open	K6JT	Open	K6JT	Open	K6JT
RN5 #1	W5GKH	W5CU	Open	AA5J	Open	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	AA5J	W5DY	Open	W5ESE	W5ESE	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	W5CU	Open	AA5J	Open	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	W5DY	W5GKH

TEX/1: 3552 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 3552 at 22:00 local

RN5/1: 3567/7045 at 19:30; RN5/2: 3567 at 21:30 local

TSN: 3552 - 19:45 local; CAN: 3552/7052 - 20:30 local; PAN: 3552/3557/7052 - 22:30 local

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, AA5J, K6JT, K5RG

NCS Backup: W5DY, N5EL, AA5J, K6JT, KD5TXD, AC5Z

Statistics:

Traffic count improved again this past month, and so did QNI. Rodney, W5DY, with 50 (81%) again took top QNI for the month, followed by Lee (nee Chuck), AA5J, with 33 (53%). Pat,

KD5TXD, and Floyd, N5EL, tied for 3rd with 27 each (44%). Thank all of you who checked in for your support.

It is nice to see Mike, W5TMO, checking in from Austin on a regular basis. Please welcome him to TEX and we are glad to have you, Mike.

Had a few visitors this month including: Scott, W7IZ, from Oregon, who is a regular contributor to *The Texan*, and Kevin, K4PG, from FL. Also good to see Doug, KA5KLU, being able to check in a little more often.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 3 per net session (up from 2.2 last month). Net time averaged 15.2 minutes per session (compared to 14.1 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.8 per session (up from 5.5 last month). Early TEX has the most participation with late TEX often having only 2 or 3 QNI. Remember that late TEX is where the incoming RN5 traffic is listed, so please try to keep your eyes open just a little longer and give a listen.

We don't like to leave the RN5 liaison stations with traffic still "on the hook". They did their duty and deserve to be cleared for the next night. NCS stations on late TEX, if you will be checking in the next evening, consider taking any undelivered traffic to early TEX the next day. Perhaps it is time to create an "Early TEX" liaison on late TEX to help offload the RN5 reps. In particular, note that Charlie, W5GKH, needs to be "emptied" on Monday evening and we also like to clear Sam, W5CU, whenever he is good enough to bring us RN5 traffic.

TEX Net Statistics (March 2009)

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
N5AF	Sam	2	2						
		0							
W5CDX	Wads	0	7						
*		7							
W5CU	Sam	9	18		6				
*		9			8				
W5DY	Rodney	26	50	1	8		6		
		24		5	8				
N5EL	Floyd	27	27						
*		0							
W5ESE	Scott	2	2		4			16	10
*		0							
W5GKH	Charlie	11	21	10	6				
*		10		10	6				
K5GM	Pete	2	2						
*		0							
W9GVV	Eric	7	9						
*		2							
W7IZ	Scott	0	1						
	OR	1							

AA5J	Chuck	19	33	4	7		1		11
*		14		4	4				6
KJ9J	Newt	13	13						
*		0							
K6JT	Steve	10	39	2			9		
*		29		5	4		26	1	
KA5KLU	Doug	6	7						
*		1			1				
W6LFB	Jim	5	5				1		
*		0							
WA5MS	Marty	1	1						
*		0							
WA5MUF	Bill	2	6						
*		4							
N5NVP	Jim	4	11						
		7							
K4PG	Kevin	2	2						
	FL	0							
N5PWG	Jay	7	14						
*		7		3					
K5RG	Ken	4	12						
*		8							
W5TMO	Mike	1	10						
*		9							
W5TV	Tom	2	2						
		0							
KD5TXD	Pat	15	27	5		13			
*		12		4					
AC5Z	Bert	24	24	9					
*		0							
Totals		357		62	62	13	43	17	27
				100%	100%	21%	69%	27%	44%
QTC 1		76	184						
QTC 2		108		Sessions:		62			
Time 1		500	942						
Time 2		442							

The roster, which follows on the next page, has been updated with Mike, W5TMO, and also AA5J's new CW moniker (Lee). Note the names and QTH's for the visitors are shown in the statistics table.

TEX Roster

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

Not Capable of operating in 3600-3700 band; * Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

As always, be sure to tune up and down from net frequency 2 or 3 KHz to look for the NCS should there be QRM on 3552 at startup time. I normally move up a half KHz, and others seem to prefer moving down a half or so. For contest weekends, also check 3643.

With summer approaching, we may need to use an alternate 40 meter frequency, particularly when there are T-storms with attendant high QRN in the area. At least one night recently, CAN had to move to 40 due to the very high noise level. It was noteworthy that all stations were clearly heard on 40 after the move whereas almost nobody could copy anything on 80. Fortunately, Jim, KB5W's massive signal got out the word to QSY. TEX, being more close-in, would probably not fare well on 40 as yet due to skip, but it is something to keep in mind.

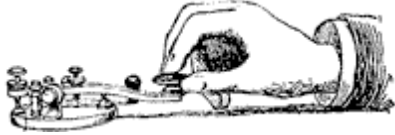
Note that there is a message circulating on the Internet saying that San Luis Obispo county in California has banned all amateur radio transmissions (but not antennas, since PRB-1 covers that). This was meant to be a (very poor and not funny, in my opinion) April Fool's joke. If you receive it, do not be alarmed and do not forward it. It is a hoax.

I hope you all have (or had) a Happy Easter.

Until next month, bring on those sunspots!

73, Steve

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)



TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3552.0 KHz
http://mysite.verizon.net/ressvuir/Texas_Slow_Net.htm

Lee Mayfield AA5J (AA5J@Verizon.net)
 TSN Net Manager

The daily average QNI for March was 5.23, about the same as last month.
 Daily QTC in March was 1.33, again about the same as last month.

TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	State	Call	Name	City	State
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	TX	WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	TX
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	KA9MZJ	Roy	Loda	IL
K8BBM	Dave	Selby	SD	N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX
AC0BU	Carson	Corydon	IA	AA0NI	Dan	Oklahoma City	OK
KD5CB	Mike	Hillsboro	TX	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
K0CMH	Craig	St. Louis	MO	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
WX5CW	Chris	Shreveport	LA	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	W8OLO	Bob	Marengo	OH
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	TX	K4OSO	Milt	Rockville	VA
W6EOD	Steve	Baker	FL	K9PUI	Rich	Indianapolis	IN
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia	AR
W3FAF	John	Mahtomedi	MN	K5RST	Ross	Zapata	TX
WB9FLU	Bill	Columbus	IN	N0SSS	Adam	Oklaunion	TX
AG9G	Dwight	Phillips	WI	KI5T	Wade	Walker	LA
AE5GT	Clint	Wimberley	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
WU3H	John	Calhan	CO	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
KA8IXC	Dan	Victoria	TX	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
AA5J	Chuck	Plano	TX	K8UV	Rich	Manchester	MI
W5JBV	Mike	Panama City	FL	K1TXU	Ernest	Colo. Springs	CO
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	AD5VC	Dana	Baton Rouge	LA
K6JT	Steve	Plano	TX	KD5VGJ	Jay	Flower Mound	TX
W5KCM	Randy	Watauga	TX	NH7WB/5	Joe	?	?
N1KSN	Andy	Menasha	WI	KJ5XF	Tony	Austin	TX
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
WA5LOU	Lou	Kennard	TX	KM5YQ	David	Irving	TX
KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches	TX

Thank You

Thanks to all of you for participating in the Texas Slow Net. We look forward to your continued participation in our Texas CW nets. Bring your friends who want to learn CW traffic handling. Net Control Stations will slow down to your speed.

TSN Activity Report, March 2009

TOTAL SESSIONS 30*, TOTAL CHECKINS 157,
TOTAL TRAFFIC 40, BY 21 DIFFERENT STATIONS

CALL	HANDLE	QTH
WB5NKC	Arley	OK, Oklahoma City
WB5NKD	Pat	OK, Oklahoma City
AE5GT	Clint	TX, Wimberley
AA5J	Lee (Chuck)	TX, Plano
AA5JW	Carl	TX, Stafford
W5ESE	Scott	TX, Dripping Springs
W5AG	Arch	LA, Lafayette
KD5MMM	Phil	TX, Fentress
KB5TCH	Carroll	TX, Douglassville
W5DY	Rodney	TX, Goliad
KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	TX, Kingsville
WA5MUF	Bill	TX, Stafford
KD5CB	Mike	TX, Hillsboro
KD5VGJ	Jay	TX, Flower Mound
N5PWG	Jay	TX, Pasadena
N5XGG	Joe	TX, Colmesneil
W5TMO	Mike	TX, Austin

* No net session 31 March due to Thunderstorms in Oklahoma City (and my having missed net).

73,
Lee, AA5J

PS. Ask Arley about the \$20 bill he found over a three month time span.... Seems he found one half of the bill in January, and then the other half in March.

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT