

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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April 2010



Pfeiffer Pfist Award Time

The 7290 picnic will take place next Saturday (April 24) in Smithville. Traditionally, the Pfeiffer Pfist award is presented at this event. This year is no exception – we will have the Pfeiffer Pfist presentation during the TEX portion of the meetings (currently scheduled for 2 PM on the program).

I am happy to announce that the 2010 recipient of the Pfeiffer Pfist is **Scott, W5ESE**. Congratulations to you, Scott, and our thanks for your many years of service to TEX. Scott regularly fills “open” RN5 slots and has also “pinch hit” as an NCS of late. The award is also presented to operators that consistently send clear and accurate CW. Scott certainly qualifies in that category as well.

Unfortunately, Scott had already planned a backpacking trip to West Texas before the picnic date was announced, so he will not be present to accept the award. Pat, KD5TXD, the prior recipient, has agreed to accept the award on Scott’s behalf.

As of this writing, it **does** appear that I will be able to attend the picnic, barring any unforeseen problems with my father (or my aunt, who will be helping out with him next weekend). Current plans are to drive down on Friday with my wife, Grace, and stay at a hotel in Bastrop. Let’s hope we have good weather for the weekend.

Rodney and Pat will be there, along with Jay, possibly Ken, and possibly Charlie. Tom, NK5Z, who has been stricken with severe back problems, hopes to be well enough to attend, too. Hope to see as many of you as can make it there in Smithville. The 7290 picnic is always a happy event, and there will be activities in Bastrop for the non-ham YLs, too.

The North Texas CW Traffic Net, 1950-1955

Many thanks to Jo Ann, KA5AZK, of 7290 net fame for sending me some old **Texan** newsletters. The following article is reprinted from the April, 1986, issue and was written by none other than **Jack, W5TFB** ! It gives some insight into how the NTS got started and functioned in the early days. For you relative newcomers, note that in those days, novices were limited to crystal control and 75 watts input, CW only on 3700-3750 on 80 meters (also a slice on 40 and 15). The license was not renewable – upgrade to General within a year or go QRT. On with the nostalgic tale...

The National Traffic System (NTS) started in Fall, 1949. NTX, a North Texas CW traffic net, met on 3657 at 2000 MWF. Many sections had nets meeting 1900-2000 at least MWF, so NTX was a typical net. W5ARK was net control (which then meant manager). Members in 1949 included W5BKH, W5ASA, W5ARK, and W5GZU. I include only these since they are the only ones I remember. NTX moved to 3830/1900 to fit with the NTS. W5CWV was Oklahoma Route Manager (RM) and manager of OLZ, which to this day (*in 1986*) meets on the same frequency. OLZ was the first "official" traffic net I regularly checked into. In the summer, OLZ (Oklahoma) served as clearing-house and performed the function RN5 would have, had it been active. For six months I had been active in traffic work (on TLJ – a trunk line) and with W4PL (the Hit and Bounce Net).

In late 1950, I started a novice net, which met daily at 1830 on 3735 (a popular surplus crystal frequency). NTX met M-F on 3760 after being forced to move when the 75 meter phone band expanded. W5SRO replaced W5ARK as manager of NTX. This change proved to be significant. Active members in NTX included ARK, ASA, KPB, SRO, TFB, TGV, and UTW. In September, manager W5SRO assigned NCS and RN5 liaison duties on a daily basis. Graduates of the Novice Net became active on NTX: TKB, TYU, UMA, and UYP. I became a true believer in the NTS; I am sure the delegation of duties by our NTX manager was responsible. (The first NCS mentioned in QST for NTX other than the manager was TGV, a graduate of my novice net. I felt proud).

In 1952, W5SRO had to resign as NTX manager and I took over. We had fair statewide coverage and were 99% or better on RN5 and on the independent nets. W5UMY (of South Texas) was regular on NTX. Through 1953, there was very little in North Texas activities (QST) about NTX, but we do get mentioned twice in Traffic Topics: once for being "most consistent" on RN5, and once for including novice members. (At 1910 each night, we listened for QNI from 3735. Several novices were regular, and of those, most became members of NTX when they got their General Class tickets. This was easier then when novices were crystal controlled and everyone had separate transmitter and receiver.)

NTX operated year-round but still only M-F. I regularly met W4PL in the early morning. Three trunk lines were merged into UTL (*another trunk line*) by former 9RN manager W9TT. These were not easy times for NTS, but NTX survived.

NTX moved to 3770 to escape a VE3 AM phone net in 1954. W5AHC and ACK became active. NTX was the de facto state net, taking all Texas traffic from RN5, but still RN5 counted South Texas missing. The summer schedule of RN5 and NTX remained MWF, but we went to a six day schedule in the fall.

1955 was my last year as NTX manager. NTX was 100% on RN5 through August that year (my last for a while). Trev, W5KPB, became NTX manager. (I heard Trev on the 7290 net the other day!).

If I may be permitted a personal observation, I would add that the SCM plays a much greater role in encouraging and supporting the NTS than I had realized at the time. While preparing this outline, I read again the section activities of all RN5 sections during the period 1948-56. The North Texas SCM lent scant support to serious traffic at any level, particularly NTX, which was clearly among the most progressive nets in the country. We had an active training

program and regular representation on RN5, on the independent 75 meter NTO net, to the trunk lines, and to W4PL. We held daily code practice sessions. I published 3 bulletins, which were sent to the SCM. The lack of attention we received did not seem odd at the time. I guess we were all too busy to notice.

Nomenclature changes: SCM is now SM, RM is now STM. Look for more "blasts from the past" in upcoming newsletters – ed.

TEX Mailbox:

Scott, W7IZ, commented on the story last month about landline Morse. Scott wrote: Very interesting about Dave Phillips, he used to check into the nets but have not heard him for awhile. Vic W7VSE will love it because he does landline Morse and some traffic to CAN is generated by him at 'Railroad Park' in Medford, OR.

Scott also later reported that Vic had a stroke and was in the hospital for several days. He is now out and hopes to be back on the air in a week or two. Vic is a liaison station and also NCS on PAN. Rodney, W5DY, connects with him each weekend.

Received feedback from **Bud, W2RU**, who was a key participant in the correspondence that appeared in last month's newsletter. Bud wrote: Thank you for letting me know about this. Please keep me posted, and I will certainly try to help with directors in the Eastern Area. I belong to the same contest club as the New England director, and he's a pretty "savvy" guy. OTOH, I'm not sure how much help can be expected from the Atlantic Division (my own), but I will make contact with others who can help with that better than I can.

There's a suggestion buried in the correspondence you forwarded that is very good, I think. Ask for the phone segment to start at 3700 (or maybe 3675). That might generate a "compromise" of 3650. My fear, otherwise, is that if someone asks for 3650, they might get 3620 or 3625.

Overall, however -- Outstanding!!!!
73,
Bud, W2RU

Scott, N7NET, reports that he is going to be active on a "QRP-dition" across Texas. Scott wrote (last month): Next month Barb and I will begin exploring the Butterfield Overland Mail Road across Texas. We call it a QNC Event and I'll be sending CW and SSB from various places in Texas using my portable QRP station.

This morning I received a 59 report from VE3BZW in Ontario, Canada, 1150 miles on 4 watts SSB, a solar-powered battery, and a G5RV Jr. That certainly won't earn a thousand-miles-per-watt certificate, but it's almost a free lunch.

Update: Due to an injury to his wife, the trip has been postponed until autumn

Bert, AC5Z, reported his status as of late March. He wrote: I have had most of the chemotherapy and radiation treatments, with a few remaining. This should finish me

up on April 6th with treatments, and then into brain MRI's to determine what has been accomplished with the work that has been done.

Three doctors are checking as I go along to see that I don't cut radically "offline" due to prescribed medicines that are supposed to control my condition throughout the treatment, and so far they have. "Good thinking" has come from meeting a couple guest women who have related lives of a number of years surviving since finishing their own cancer treatment years, one over 18 years!!

73, Bert AC5Z

We're all pulling for you, Bert. Hope you will be back with us on TEX real soon now!

Pat, KD5TXD, had a nice visit with **Floyd, N5EL**, in late March. Pat wrote: Hi Steve, had a great visit with Floyd last Friday. He has been in a great deal of pain from his back and has lost a lot of weight. However, his spirits were up. He had just had the MRI and was waiting for the results when we visited.

We spent time in his shack and then went to see Norm. Norm is also hanging in there and seemed pretty chipper for 92.

Here is news about Floyd's up coming surgery. "Hi Pat, can't tell you how much I enjoyed our visit and so happy we did as much as we could. Yesterday PM the hospital called to tell me they have me scheduled for a procedure on next Friday 26th at 12:30. My son and his wife Bonnie are to take me and stay while it's performed. Sounds pretty simple with sedation for about 3 to 4 hours with most of that time." I sure hope this works out perfect for Floyd.



Pat took a picture of Floyd while there (above, right). Received an update that the procedure went well and much of the pain has been relieved. But Floyd reports being quite tired, at least partly due to having lost so much weight.

It has been encouraging to hear you on TEX again, Floyd, sounding pretty upbeat. Sure hope the procedure will solve most of your back issues and you will be relatively pain free for many years.

Tom, NK5Z, will be out of action for a while. Like Floyd, Tom has some serious back problems. He writes: I needed to let you know that I will not be able to make any of the nets for a while. I am down in my back and cannot sit upright for any length of time. I tried to work the radio yesterday but the pain was too much. So if you will, please fill my slots for RN5 until I can get this thing resolved. Take care and I will keep you informed of what is going on and when I can return.

Tom followed up just a few days ago after attempting to check into TEX one evening: Thought I would give you all a little update on what is going on with me. I have bone spurs and lots of swelling in my back that doesn't seem to be going away. I had an operation a few years back for the same thing and it is just going to flare up every once in awhile. I am taking lots of muscle relaxers but it doesn't seem to do much good. I checked in yesterday on the early session and was hoping that I could continue as I was before. But that just isn't the case I guess. The problem is that I can't stand or sit for very long at any one given time. Just hope it is a little better before the picnic gets here. We are still planning on attending but will play it by ear when the time comes.

73,
Tom, NK5Z

Thanks for all your efforts, Tom. Just take care of yourself and hopefully we will be able to see you at the 7290 picnic.

Scott, W7IZ, passed along a link to a neat website that has digitized audio from old 78 RPM records made by the U.S. Army Signal Corps for training of radio operators in WW II. The link is:

[http://www.archive.org/details/U.S. Armed Forces Institute Basic Radio Code ca1942](http://www.archive.org/details/U.S._Armed_Forces_Institute_Basic_Radio_Code_ca1942)

Thanks, Scott. I found it quite interesting. Over on the right side of the web page you can see the different "records" and listen to the content. Just for fun, I took the "Signal Corps Code Aptitude Test", which is on the first 3 sides (about 12 minutes total). I'd be quite interested in comparing my results with any of you TEX'ans who also want to try it. The test consists of playing 2 different strings of code, sometimes with real characters (which makes it easy) but sometimes with just strings of dots and dashes, at various speeds. You record Y (yes) or N (no) if the 2 strings match or do not match. Here were my results, excluding the 4 practice ones:

NNYNYNNY NNNNNNNYN
YNYNYNNY NNNNNYNN
NYNN
(Part 2)
YNNNNYYN NYNYNNNN
YNYNNNNN YNNNYNNY
NY

Noteworthy is that the "don't match" were way more frequent than the "match". They were pretty tricky about it, too, with just one element different out of a string. I'd be interested if any of you get the same or different results. There were a few of them that I wasn't sure about but chose intuitively. 73, Steve

Ken, K5RG, has been busy "remodeling" his operating position. I hesitate to call it a "shack", as you can see from the picture ☺ Ken writes: Is this the conclusion after 50 years of a hobby gone amok? Looks to me as if it has gotten out of hand with 7 receivers, 4 transmitters and two linear amps. Anyway, the shelf project has been on the task list for many years. So hopefully this will satisfy the current and future operating needs. We'll see.



Equipment List:

HQ-145C
Johnson Ranger (AM Station)
Johnson Courier
APRS/Davis Weather System
FT-1000D
FT-736R
SCS PTC-IIpro
IC-7800 (the main rig)
Icom PW-1 (box hidden off to the right)
MFJ-495 Memory Keyer with a K8RA
Iambic Paddle

Misc speakers, scanner, controllers, dummy load, computer interfaces, NCS Multi-Switcher (not shown, not hooked up for now), even the tower shows up in the background!! You should see the other side of the shack (test bench that collects dust as far as I can conclude).

73, Ken K5RG

Very impressive, thanks Ken, and the Hammarlund and Johnson equipment bring back fond memories of my own early days – Ed.

Tom, K4VIZ, who many of you may know from his RN5 activities, was hospitalized with a heart attack last week. I'm happy to report that he is now back home again and can resume his traffic activities. Tom reported (just today) the following: I got "sprung" this afternoon. I'm home resting and taking blood thinners. I really missed a big bullet. They say 1 in 5 or 6 croak when they get what I got, so I'm really lucky. Thanks for the calls and prayers. 73, Tom / K4VIZ

TEX Net Topics

We still have **12** open NCS/liaison slots, with **4** open *primary* NCS slots and **3** open *primary* RN5 slots (all shown in **red**)! With Tom, NK5Z's recent problems, we also need to temporarily cover the Tuesday and Thursday RN5 slots until he is well enough to resume net operation (yellow highlighting). Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday are still in dire need of regular NCS stations for early TEX. I have trouble getting home in time during the week to cover these, so if you don't hear anything at 7, keep listening, as I may have to start the net a few minutes late. Alternate NCS stations, please go ahead and pick up control if you don't hear anything by a couple minutes after 7.

Thanks to Sam, W5CU, Scott, W5ESE, Tom, NK5Z, and Rodney, W5DY, we managed to get through another month without missing any RN5 schedules.

It is getting a bit rough for Rodney and me to fill all the open slots, so please jump in where you can and help. Better yet, try out a regular NCS or open liaison slot.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	<i>Open</i>	KD5TXD	<i>Open</i>	N5PWG	<i>Open</i>	W5GKH
Backup	<i>Open</i>	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	<i>Open</i>	KD5TXD	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	K6JT
RN5 #1	W5GKH	<i>Open</i>	W5CU	NK5Z	N5PWG	<i>Open</i>	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	NK5Z	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5ESE	W5ESE	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	NK5Z	W5CU	NK5Z	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5DY	K6JT	N5PWG	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: **3552/7108** - 20:30 local; PAN: **3552/7052/3557**- 22:30 local

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, KA5KLU, K5RG, NK5Z

NCS Backup: W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, KA5KLU, KD5TXD

Statistics:

Check-ins were about the same as last month, and traffic count was up slightly. Tom, NK5Z, again had 1st place QNI position with 45 (73%). Rodney, W5DY, with 28 (45%) came in 2nd. Mike, W5TMO was a close 3rd with 26 (42%). Thanks to all who checked in for your support. I have noticed that April QNI has dropped off some. Please try to check in when you are able, particularly to the early session. Incoming RN5 traffic often goes begging on the late session as well.

Larry, KC0M, visited from Missouri, bringing traffic. Larry appears to be the “greeter” for the 7290 net, sending thank-you messages to new stations who check in there. See the “Operating” section for Larry’s standard text.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.6 per net session (up from 2.5 last month). Net time averaged 12.5 minutes per session (compared to 13.1 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.9 per session (down from 5.2 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (March 2010)

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
N5BA	Brian	1	1						
		0							
W5CU	Sam	12	21		9				
*		9			9				
W5DY	Rodney	16	28	7	2				
		12		3	2				
N5EL	Floyd	8	8						
*		0							
W5ESE	Scott	21	21	2	3				2
*		0							

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
W5GKH	Charlie	10	20	10	5				
*		10		10	5				
W9GVW	Eric	2	3						
*		1							
AA5J	Lee	1	1						
*		0							
KJ9J	Newt	3	3						
*		0							
K5JRN	Si	11	11						
*		0							
K6JT	Steve	13	44	4			13		
*		31		10	7		31		
W6LFB	Jim	7	7						
*		0							
KC0M	Larry	1	1						
	MO	0							
N5NVP	Jim	1	18						
		17							
N5PWG	Jay	7	12	4	5				
*		5		4					
K5RG	Ken	9	19						
*		10							
W5TMO	Mike	0	26						
*		26							
KD5TXD	Pat	5	9	4					4
*		4		4					3
AC5Z	Bert	7	7						
*		0							
NK5Z	Tom	26	45		7				
*		19			8				
Totals		305		62	62	0	44	0	9
				100%	100%	0%	71%	0%	15%
QTC 1		65	158						
QTC 2		93		Sessions:		62			
Time 1		398	776						
Time 2		378							

The roster has not been updated since last month.

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	N7NET	Scott	McKinney
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria (ex-KA8IXC)	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr
N5BA	Brian	Houston	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

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
AA5IJ	Bob	Pasadena	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KA9IKK	Bill	Houston	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
AA5J	Lee	Arkansas	* KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	AI6U	Chris	Sacramento (CA)
K5JRN	Si	Austin	W5UFG	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)
WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga			

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

Arley, WB5NKC, has sent out new text for one of the messages he and Pat distribute all over the country. Here is what Arley provided, modified per suggestions from other traffic handlers:

(TEXT FOR GEN, ADV, AND EXTRA – most current modified version)

R HXG WB5NKD 19 OKLAHOMA CITY OK (CURRENT DATE)

BT
LEARN HOW TO RELAY MESSAGES
BY AMATEUR RADIO X THEN
TRAIN OTHERS X YOU DEVELOP
LIFETIME FRIENDS X 73
BT
PAT WB5NKD
AR

(TEXT FOR TECHS AND NOVICES – did not change)

R HXG WB5NKD 25 OKLAHOMA CITY OK (CURRENT DATE)

BT
WELCOME TO AMATEUR RADIO X
EXPLORE THE MANY PARTS OF
THIS GREAT HOBBY X GIVE
MORSE CODE A TRY X
IT IS GREAT FUN 73
BT
PAT WB5NKD
AR

For those of you who receive the 7290 net messages for delivery, here is the standard text currently being sent by KC0M:

Nr xx HXG KC0M 22 Branson MO (current date)

bt

Thanks for joining us on
the 7290 traffic net X
we appreciate your participation and
hope to hear you again
soon 73

bt

The 7290 traffic net

Until next month, 73, Steve

(TSN Corner will return next month – Pat, KD5TXD, has been busy riding the rails ;-)

