

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

**** See "TSN Corner" on Last Page ****

Net Manager: Steve Phillips, K6JT, Plano TX
(k6jt@arrl.net, 972-517-3332)

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

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

August 2007



Hello TEX'ans. As most of you know, I was gone for 3 weeks this past month instead of the planned 2. My father had surgery the 2nd week I was there, so I decided to stay a bit longer until he was able to resume taking care of himself and my mother.

Many thanks to all of you who jumped in to take NCS and Liaison slots in my absence. A special thanks to Jack, Doug, and Rodney for covering my TCC slots as well. It is good to be back again. I'm now convinced I need to set up some sort of Internet control of the station here so I can continue to operate when away for long periods of time. Due to the deteriorating condition of both parents, I anticipate having to spend more time in California caring for them in coming months.

Since I was gone most of the month, and I've not received many inputs, this newsletter will be shorter than usual.

80 / 40 Meters

It appears that with the shorter days, 40 meters is no longer reliable for local communication at 7 PM. After discussion with Rodney and Doug, I have decided to discontinue the 7 PM net callup on 7051, effective Sunday, August 5th. It seems that more often than not, the NCS has had to move the net to 3552 anyway after a callup on 40 meters.

So we are back to the "normal" 3552 KHz frequency for both the early and late TEX sessions. The 7051 frequency can still be used, if required, when distant stations (e.g., K6JT and KA5KLU) have trouble copying each other for passing traffic on 80.

As far as I know at this time, early RN5 and CAN will remain on 40 meters for now.

W1NJM Saga

Again, 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 5 of George Hart's recollections. George takes us through the trials and tribulations of a family in turmoil, as he and Bunch reap the side benefits.

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. Part 5.

BCI

Then BCI (broadcast interference) raised its ugly head. About this time broadcasting listening was just coming into its own, but the receiving equipment was rudimentary and very expensive. Bunch had a Radiola III using UV-199 tubes operated by 1-1/2 volt dry cells and "B" batteries, a typical setup of the day, but he never had it turned on when he was using the transmitter, so he didn't realize the havoc he was creating among the few nearby residents who had radios.

Our broad raw a.c. signal blotted them out, depending on how near they were. But of course no one knew the source of the offending interference. One of the nearest was our Uncle Sam, my father's younger brother who lived on College Ave. just below our house, perhaps 500 feet away. Sam had one of the early rudimentary radios, and he and his wife listened to it, or tried to, every night. For a long time he was troubled by interference from Bunch's transmitter without knowing the source, but one night during a visit to our house mention was made of Bunch's radio activities. Eventually Uncle Sam put two and two together. The next time he experienced the interference, he telephoned and complained to my father, who brushed him off. My father showed little interest in our radio activities at that time. But the next time Sam called there was a vituperative exchange resulting in a rare visit by Prof. Hart to our radio emporium.

"Papa" ignored the warning signals on the steps, and Bunch forbore activating the spark coil, somehow sensing the difference in approach. We weren't afraid of our father, but Bunch and I were at least in awe of him. He demanded to know if our radio activity could interfere with Uncle Sam's reception. Far from being apprehensive, Bunch seemed to delight in the prospect, probably because of his basic sadistic nature as a youth. Naturally, this didn't sit well with Papa, who then asked a lot of questions about the legality of Bunch's activities and the cause of the interference. At the end of the grilling, Papa said: "Well, I won't have Sam talking to me like that. How much would it cost to buy equipment that would not interfere with his radio?"

A shocked silence followed. Prof. Hart was a wealthy man by standards of the day (his net worth was estimated at \$400,000, which would be the equivalent of at least ten times that much in today's buying power), but he was not known as a spendthrift -- quite the contrary. I could see Bunch's struggle against asking too much and greed at asking too little. "Would a hundred dollars be enough?" asked Papa, impatiently. This was considerably above the maximum Bunch had expected, but he controlled his elation very well, replying mildly, "I think so." Whereupon Papa pulled out his wallet and peeled off five \$20 bills. I had never seen a \$20 bill before.

"Now I don't want to hear any more complaints about interference to Sam's radio," Papa said, ominously, and trudged down the steep stairway. Bunch gleefully fondled the crisp bills. "Do you know what we can buy with this?" he asked, but didn't wait for an answer. I can have one

of the best stations in the country. I'll go to New York, to Vesey Street and Courtland Street, and buy everything we need. That whole area is alive with stores that sell ham stuff."

"But will it stop the interference to Uncle Sam's radio?" I asked. "Who cares? But sure, I'll get a choke and filter condensers and rectifier tubes. We'll have a DC note!" A "DC" note meant a signal of musical quality, without the rasp of raw a.c. or the buzz of rectified but unfiltered a.c. There weren't many of them heard on the amateur bands in the late 20's. I was all set for the exciting trip to the Big City in Bunch's flivver, but Bunch ruled otherwise. Instead, he took George Suydam, 3OK, a young electrical engineering major at Lafayette. George and Bunch had become friends even before Bunch got his ham license, and Bunch felt George would be a more suitable companion. I pleaded that three could fit into the front seat of the little red roadster, but Bunch predicted I would be a nuisance.

"Let the kid come along," said George. But Bunch was adamant. I stayed home while Bunch took his \$100 bonanza and, with George, set out for "radio row" in New York. They set out early on a Saturday morning and spent the entire day in the city, also spent the entire \$100 plus a little extra that Bunch had saved from his allowance of \$3 a week. Does that sound like a petty amount? In 1927 it was a lot. I, because I was younger, only got \$2 and spent every cent of it plus whatever I could squeeze out of my mother. I ate a lot of candy and drank milk shakes. Bunch, at 17, started chain smoking, which eventually killed him 60 years later, but he cared little for sweets. George Suydam was a close friend of the family, spent a lot of time at our house on the campus, ate many meals with us, often slept over on a cot in Bunch's radio room. We all liked him, and he and Bunch (Ed) remained friends all their lives.

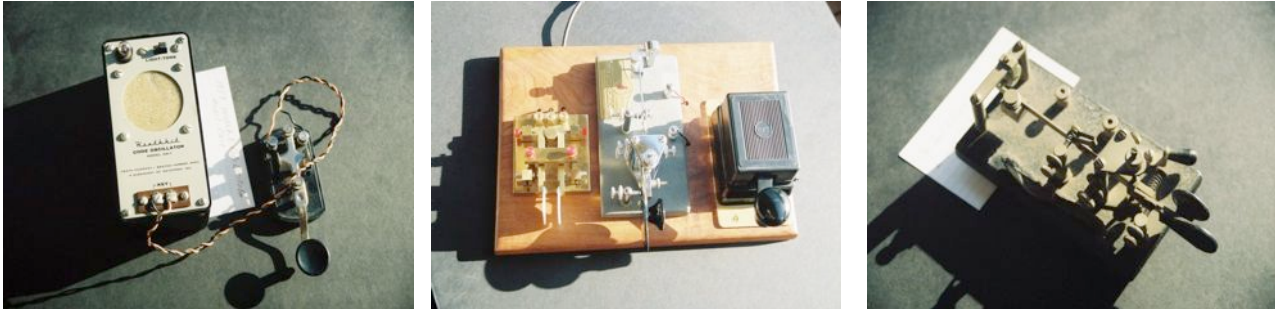
The two young adventurers returned after dark, the little Ford loaded with radio parts of many and varied kinds. Among the purchases was an RCA 852 tube and a special socket and stand for it. The 852 was a triode which could be used as a self-excited oscillator or as an amplifier. It consisted of a bulb with three glass extensions, one at the bottom which could be plugged into a standard 4-hole socket. The extension out the side was for plate voltage, with the grid lead coming out of the top extension. A special socket contained a holder to keep the tube steady. Another major purchase was a big Thordarson transformer with primary leads on one side and five secondary leads on the other. Accompanying literature said it was capable of delivering 1500 volts each side of center tap, with taps for 1000 volts, at a current load not exceeding 300 ma. The 852 was rated at a maximum of 3000 plate voltage with a plate current of 75 ma., but the nominal voltage was 1500.

Then there was a magnificent "helix" manufactured by R.E.L. (Radio Electronic Laboratories) to replace our oatmeal box inductance, a large variable Cardwell capacitor, a 20-Henry iron core filter choke, a 4 mfd. Flechtheim filter capacitor (we called them "condensers"), two 281 rectifier tubes rated at 450 volts, but the clerk at the radio emporium had assured Bunch they would withstand a much higher voltage - and a Jewell 300-milliampere meter for measuring our plate current, which we could not do before. Other purchases included a 10-volt transformer for the 852 filament, a small brown resistor to replace our liquid grid leak, a few tools, coils of wire, connectors and binding posts, and spring clips. Between the two of them, they hardly had a penny left, were dog tired but flushed with excitement.

Coming next in Part 6, The Great Discovery at 3NF.

TEX Mailbox:

I'm happy to report that Lucy, N5RLQ, Doug's XYL is now much better and able to resume her normal activities. Also, Charlie's XYL Wilma is recovering well after a couple days in the hospital. Here are more pictures sent by Pat, KD5TXD, that I saved for this newsletter:



From left to right, an old Heathkit code practice oscillator that she picked up at Hamcom, her mounting board and 3 keys on display, and a Lionel J36 bug that she also picked up at Hamcom. Thanks, Pat.

TEX Net Topics

We continue to have many openings for RN5 liaison and one NCS slot. If you are able, please take one (or more) of the open RN5 slots. A few changes were made since last month. Jack, W5TFB, is having some serious health issues and the medication he is taking makes it difficult for him to operate in the evenings. So I have taken him off the backup slots in the schedule until he is feeling better again. We do miss you, Jack.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5DY	KA5KLU	K6JT	AC5Z	Open	AC5Z	W5GKH
Backup	W5GKH	Open	KD5TXD	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY
NCS #2	W5GKH	KA5KLU	KD5TXD	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	Open	K6JT	Open	K6JT	Open	K6JT
RN5 #1	W5GKH	KA5KLU	Open	Open	Open	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	W5DY	KA5KLU	Open	W5ESE	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	KA5KLU	Open	Open	Open	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	W5DY	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	W5GKH

TEX/1: **3552** at **19:00** local; TEX/2 3552 at 22:00 local
 RN5/1: 7045 (3567 alternate) at 19:30; RN5/2: 3567 at 21:30 local
 CAN: 7052 (3552 alternate) at 20:30 local; TSN: 3552 at 19:45 local

RN5 Backup: W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K6JT, KA5KLU, K5RG, W5TFB
 NCS Backup: W5DY, N5EL, K6JT, KA5KLU, N5PWG, W5TFB, KD5TXD, AC5Z

Note: Although "backup" stations are listed above, anyone is welcome to take the RN5 or NCS duty slots when it becomes necessary.

Statistics:

This month Rodney, W5DY, took top honors with QNI of 49 (79%). Pat, KD5TXD, was 2nd with 40 (65%), and Doug, KA5KLU, was 3rd with 21. Thanks for all your support.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic and QNI were both down. Traffic averaged 2.8 per net session. Net time averaged 13.7 minutes per session. Check-ins averaged just over 4 per session.

TEX Net Statistics (July 2007)

Call		QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
N5BA	Brian	0	2						
		2							
W5BYQ	Earl	1	1						
		0							
W5CU	Sam	5	10		5				
*		5			5				
W5DY	Rodney	24	49	8	8	3	14		
		25		9	10		17		
N5EL	Floyd	13	17						
*		4							
W5ESE	Scott	14	17		4			8	3
*		3			1			1	
W5GKH	Charlie	8	16	4	5				
*		8		7	5				
K5GM	Pete	1	1						
*		0							
W9GVW	Eric	2	7						
*		5							
K7IZ	David	3	9						
		6							
K6JT	Steve	8	18	2	1		8		
*		10		2	2		10		
KA5KLU	Doug	12	21	4	7			10	
*		9		5	8			9	
N5NVP	Jim	2	3						
		1							
N5PWG	Jay	0	3						
*		3		2					
K5RG	Ken	9	18						
*		9							
W5TFB	Jack	1	1		1				
*		0							
KD5TXD	Pat	18	40	2		3			18

			Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
*		22		6		3			20
AC5Z	Bert	19	19	11					
*		0							
Totals		252		62	62	9	49	28	41
				100%	100%	15%	79%	45%	66%
QTC 1		76	171						
QTC 2		95		Sessions:		62	100%		
Time 1		462	850						
Time 2		388							

Here is an updated roster. Please join me in welcoming Earl, W5BYQ, in Houston to the net.

TEX Roster

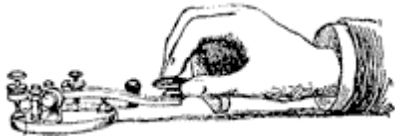
Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
# KBØAI	David	Minnesota	K5KV	Benny	Star
N5BA	Brian	Houston	W6LFB	Jim	Denton
W5BYQ	Earl	Houston	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
W5CDX	Wads	Crowley LA	# N7NET	Scott	Allen
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	AAØNI	Daniel	Oklahoma City OK
NV5D	Martin	Allen	KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	# N5NVP	Jim	Leesville LA
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	* N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	K5RG	Ken	Houston
AA7FY	Mark	Fort Worth	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	KC5T	Bob	Houston
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5TFB	Jack	College Station
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
KA9IKK	Bill	Houston	* KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
K7IZ	David	Bridge City	# W5U FK	Ken	College Station
AA5J	Chuck	Plano	* K5UN	Lee	Leonard
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	KS5V	Ed	Bulverde
* K5JRN	Si	Denton	K5WQG	Eddy	Tomball
K6JT	Steve	Plano	AC5XK	Don	San Antonio
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	* AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches (Lufkin)

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

I hope both conditions, traffic, and participation will increase this next month. We are still in the "summer doldrums", but please try to check in more often if you can. Thanks.

73, Steve K6JT

(TSN Corner follows on the next page)



TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3552.0 Khz
http://www.geocities.com/scottamcmullen/Texas_Slow_Net.html
Scott McMullen W5ESE
TSN Net Manager

Here is a roster of stations that have been active on TSN recently. A warm welcome to W5BYQ, Earl, and KD5MMM, Phil. Please join us on TSN as often as you can.

Net Stations (QNS)

Call	Name	City	State	Call	Name	City	State
W5BYQ	Earl	Houston	TX	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Leesville	LA
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	TX	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia	AR
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	TX	W5TFB	Jack	College Station	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
NN5L	Max	Dallas	TX	W5VDM	Bill	New Ulm	TX
KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX	KM5YQ	David	Irving	TX
WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches	TX

Notes from Arley and Pat

Arley and Pat have a few thoughts for this month:

EVERYONE TO BE SURE THE OUTSIDE WIRE CONNECTION IS PUT INTO A GLASS JAR, WHEN THEY CAN HEAR THUNDER WITH THEIR EARS. THINK SOUND WILL GO ABOUT 10 MILES? IF IT IS DARK, THEY CAN COUNT THE SECONDS BETWEEN THE FLASH AND THE SOUND.

BAND CONDX HAVE NOT BEEN GOOD WITH ALL THE QRN AND LONG OR SHORT SKIP. ALL NEED TO HANG IN THERE, DON'T THINK CHANGE TO 40 METERS WOULD WORK EITHER AT THE TIME THE TSN NET IS. IT HAS GOT TO GET BETTER.

REMEMBER ANYTHING LEARNED ON THE NETS, CAN BE USED AFTER THE NEXT DISASTER. THERE WILL BE MORE, WE JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN OR WHERE.

73 ARLEY & PAT

July Activity Report

TOTAL SESSIONS 31
TOTAL CHECKINS 126
TOTAL TRAFFIC 31
BY 11 DIFFERENT STATIONS

Thanks again to everyone that checked in during July!

73 Scott W5ESE

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT