

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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Storms, Earthquakes, and Amateur Radio

As I write this, tropical storm Eduardo is pounding away at Houston and environs. Hopefully there will be minimal damage. This just on the heels of hurricane Dolly, which made landfall further south. In fact, Dolly came very close to Pat and Charles' QTH in Kingsville. They had prepared for the worst and, in fact, did suffer power outages and flooding all around the area. Fortunately the antennas and house survived. Here are some excerpts from Pat's description of what transpired, just before and after the storm passed through a bit south of them...

(23 July, 14:16) Dolly has officially made landfall 50 miles North of Brownsville, but if you look at the radar for the last few hours, most of the red and orange rain areas are between me and Corpus Christi. We have had a couple inches of rain in the last couple hours (remember, this is a desert). The northern band of the storm has been pounding the area with rain and by the looks of things it will continue to pound us for the rest of the day and evening. I am pretty sure I won't make the nets tonight. All local EOC's are activated for tropical storm/hurricane activities. Yesterday everyone was kind of ho-hum and made plans for Dolly to go to Brownsville or south. Dolly took just a tad of a turn north and we are really wet. Ah, the puny plans of men in the face of Nature. I am inflating our survival rafts at the moment...

(23 July, 18:00) Such excitement. The reports on power outages in the Valley are significant. 50-70% of people without power. People are stranded on South Padre Island without power and the causway is closed. Trapped like rats... We have had several slight power outs and I expect we will totally lose power sometime this evening. I have counted 4 storm bands that crossed over our place in Ricardo south of Kingsville today. We have not had the thunder and lightening that I expected. Charles spent the day at our Kleberg County EOC. He got to listen in on all the conference calls and action.

There are significant power outages in the valley. We have two new EOC stations activated this time. One of our newer hams down in Brooks Co. brought up amateur radio for Brooks County EOC. We also have the Bishop city EOC up and running with amateur radio. I am extra pleased with the gear at Bishop. It was the station of a dear friend who became SK a couple years back. His widow donated his gear to the Bishop EOC. Charles and I mounted the radios, tuner and power supply in two excellent Zero cases that were donated by a local ham. It is lockable so it can be easily stored at the EOC or taken out portable to any location. Turned out pretty cool. So, if my internet comes back on you might get this note, too.

(25 July, 21:30) Finally everything back working again. Been a bit tuckered out. I don't sleep well when we have storms. We had no damage here, thankfully. Only got about half the plywood up over the windows. Totaled almost 6 inches of rain and the cow pasture is flooded. The areas around Corpus got about the same amount of rain. The region was under tornado watch and/or warning for most of Wednesday and part of Thursday. There were a couple tornados around but they touched down out in farm land and didn't bother anything important. Crops are probably mostly ruined, though. Many things were ready to harvest, such as cotton, but the fields are flat and under water. By the time they can get the equipment into the fields it will be close to a total loss, I fear.

Highway 77 going south is one long convoy of supplies and trucks for repair of power lines. This morning I counted 20 power company bucket trucks in a row while I was waiting to cross 77. Everything was ready to deploy south soon as the weather let up and it is rather dramatic to see them on the move. There was one supply truck that overturned on 77 near our place. Boxes of supplies all over the road and the southbound lanes closed for a while.

South of us is a lot of nothing. It is the Wild Horse Desert. Kenedy county has about 300 people and 60,000 head of cattle. However, the great new Wind Farm is being built in Kenedy County so I am anxious to hear how they survived all the wind. Man, if they had those wind towers up and running we may have been able to power the entire state for a decade or two with all the wind from Dolly. Wilacy, Cameron and Hidalgo are well populated and pretty much totally without power. I talked to some evacuees today who live on South Padre. There seemed to be limited evacuation calls before the storm. A lot of places are still picking folks out of flooded areas. It was nice to know that not all of the South Padre Island folks were trapped like rats. These folks packed up and left before the storm and were playing tourist in Kingsville till things dry out down there.

During the worst of the storm they had no phone service at the EOC's down there and were relying on amateur radio. Corpus Christi hams kept the IRLP system open and connected on the 147.100 machine for the duration of the storm. I don't know what repeater they were able to keep open and on IRLP in the Valley. Corpus hams were relaying NWS data between Florida NWS and Brownsville. The Corpus hams are stand up folks and did a great job. They do a lot of serious practice when the sun is shining, so they are cool when the storms come. We were relaying on our 146.68 machine from Jim Wells and Brooks counties into the Corpus NWS and 147.100. Some of the folks just can't quite reach the 147.100 from that far out. On a side note, there were two emergency nets running on IRLP. The net control for part of our Dolly activation was in New York working as net control for an emergency up there. The two nets actually blended well and were able to assist each other using IRLP. It takes some skilled, professional amateurs to keep that in order. With the nodes open we could listen in on both nets.

The exciting aftermath of all of this seems to be a galvanization of the amateur community here. We are terribly spread out. The local 146.68 machine performed beyond our greatest hopes. Club members had been beefing it up over the past few months and it reached farther than it ever has reached. Our Kingsville club has members in Hebbronville, Realtos and Falfurrias as well as Alice. Our friend in Realtos had some damage but he has decided he is going to upgrade his license. Our friends in Falfurrias all want to join RACES. The hospital in

Alice is getting set up with amateur gear. We had planned a VE testing session for Wednesday July 30 and it sounds like Dolly has provided some extra resolve to our folks in outlying areas to upgrade or to get licensed. Our job now is to play Elmer to these folks and get them solidly in the loop.

Charles and I drove over to Corpus to the STARC club meeting Thursday night, so I wasn't on TEX. The rain was pretty much over but our usual routes were still closed due to flooding so we picked our way around the flooded areas. We drove past miles and miles of flooded fields. The whole area looks like one big lake, but it is just flooded fields. There were a lot of very tippy looking power poles but none totally down. One area had a bucket truck parked by the power pole holding it upright so that the string of poles wouldn't all go over. That was the only reason power didn't go out to that part of Corpus. It was good to eyeball our pals in Corpus after all the stress of the previous day. There was very minor damage in Corpus and lots of rain. Our usual route, Chapman Ranch Road (remember the goat story), was closed. All this area is flat as a pancake and will take a couple more days to drain off. We have driven Chapman Ranch before, after storms, when we probably should have picked a different route. Water will be crossing the road for miles and miles. If you can see the yellow line you keep going. If you can't see the yellow line you turn around. These storms are always considered terrible disasters, but they also carry blessings. Parched fields get a chance to absorb rains that sometimes have to sustain agriculture for a whole season. People come together to help each other. We find more links in our amateur radio community. And... Charles is finally convinced to get some real storm shutters for the house. Thank you, Dolly!!

73!! Pat KD5TXD

And thank you, Pat, for a great description of how amateur radio is so very important when disaster strikes.

I also received a description of what transpired in California in the aftermath of the 5.4 level (pretty strong) earthquake there near Los Angeles. Ken, K6CTW, the manager of RN6 and an old friend of mine, was very close to it all. Here is an excerpt of his description from his RN6 newsletter:

As all of you probably know (and the So. California stations probably all felt) we had a little earthquake this past week (5.4 centered about 8 or so mi. from my office at work). This should be a good "wake-up call" to all of us out here in the earthquake areas of the West Coast (yes that includes our Oregon, Washington and BC readers too). My wife notes that our landline phone was out for outgoing calls for an hour (my house is about 18 mi from the epicenter) and her cell phone showed "no service" for a slightly longer period. The only communication I had to her was through my office phone (which is VoIP) and that is because it connects back to the phone company trunks in Texas. So the most reliable form of local communication was, once again, ham radio! I verified this because I went to the car and all the repeaters were still up and running (that I could normally hit from the parking lot at work) and I could hear some stations on 40 meters!

This little "wake-up-call" was an especially good thing because when I got home and checked my two gel-cells (backup power for the K2 and my dual band handheld) I found that one was not only "dead" but would no longer hold its charge! Oh well, glad I found it had failed when I didn't need it! I've since replaced it with one that IS working. Hope this helps all of us to

remember that we hams really will be the most reliable form of communication in a major disaster and we should all make sure that we are up to that challenge with our equipment and our preparations.

Well put, Ken, and thanks for the reminder.

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 16 of George Hart's recollections. Geo meets Xley, the real McCoy.

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 16.

PENN STATE AND COLLEGE RADIO STATION W8YA, PART THREE

On my second visit to W8YA, just a day or so later, I found Prof. Gil Crossley and Jim Beaver there. Jim was a mild-mannered but very assured Senior, the student manager of the station and Crossley's assistant. I liked him instantly.

Gil Crossley gave me a hearty greeting, said Walter Hawk had told him about me and if I lived up to my reputation I would be the best CW operator on the staff. This time I had brought my "bug" with me and, at his insistence, I gave him a demonstration.

Although not much of a CW operator himself, Gil seemed fascinated with those who were, and I certainly fulfilled that role. He was a man in his late thirties, slightly rotund, very hearty, very knowledgeable in electronics and highly devoted to the station, W8YA. The station was licensed to the college, with Crossley the faculty member in charge. I learned later that he was not a licensed amateur. The college had previously held an experimental license (W8XE), but this had been converted to a special amateur license provided for by the Federal Radio Commission, Department of Commerce, the predecessor of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Such licenses were available to educational institutions and had "Y" calls. Later, when the FCC took over, this changed -- only individuals or duly constituted amateur radio clubs could receive amateur licenses. More about this later.

For some reason, perhaps solely because of my CW ability, Crossley took a liking to me and very early in my first semester broke precedent by giving me a key to the station, subject to certain restrictions. Walter Hawk, who became a good friend, broke me in on all aspects of the operation. So there I was, in the middle of my Freshman year, privileged to enter the station at any time and use its facilities.

For most of the eleven semesters I attended at Penn State, I remained on the Radio Station Staff. WPSC was never re-licensed; the old transmitter was a fixture in the operating room for many years, in fact I don't remember its ever being removed during my tenure, but as far as I know it was never put on the air again.

When the FCC took over from the FRC, it determined that amateur station licenses would no longer be issued to institutions, only to bona fide amateur radio clubs with one of its licensed members as the trustee and legally responsible for its operation. Under this development, it was naturally expected that Gil Crossley would obtain an amateur license and a Penn State Radio Club would be formed with Gil as station trustee, so that W8YA could continue in operation pretty much as before. But Gil remained steadfastly opposed to formation of a club, even (perhaps especially) one sponsored by the college. He did however, manage to get an amateur operator's license and somehow managed to get assigned the call letters W8YA. Thus W8YA became his personal call and the station property, owned by the college, continued operation as before, with Gil as the faculty member in charge of the Radio Station Staff. This is how things remained during my tenure at Penn State, which ended in late summer of 1938.

Coming Next, Geo relates more of Gil's prowess.

TEX Mailbox:

Heartfelt condolences to **Scott, W5ESE**. His father passed away on Saturday, July 5. As you may have noticed, he was away for a few days in Kerrville to spend time with his mother and help with a few things. As Scott noted, "Seems to be a tough year for CW net managers!".

Pat, KD5TXD, had time to send in another of her now famous book reports. Pat writes:
Book Report: "In Marconi's Footsteps 1894 – 1920 EARLY RADIO"
By Peter R. Jensen

This is a great history and travel book I accidentally found in the TAMUK library. I guess it is what is called a "coffee table" book. Wish I had it on my coffee table just for the excellent pictures of original old equipment and replica equipment.

The author made this into almost a travel guide for Amateur Radio Operators by going to Guglielmo Marconi's birth place and the various locations where he studied and worked. There is even a bit of investigative archeology when the author sought some tangible remnants of the first transatlantic radio transmission. He managed to identify the antenna base and guying blocks at Poldhu, UK.

It took six years, from 1901 – 1907, to develop a reliable radio system for transatlantic communications. An interesting CW note is the transatlantic cable telegraph system could only work about 22 wpm, but Marconi's wireless could allow a transmission rate of 30 wpm.

At the Clifden station site buildings and generators were set up to deal with the ultimate electrical consumption of 300 KW to drive the spark-generated radio signal across the Atlantic. In our modern age it is hard to believe this amount of power was fueled by burning peat from a neighboring peat bog. Hmm...wonder if I can run my car on peat? All of these 1910-1920 efforts were going to the extreme in wave lengths; 11,140 meters for daytime transmissions and 5,800 for night time.

This book includes lots of excellent details about the Marconi station on the Titanic, excellent descriptions and drawings of induction coils, coherer detector, tuners and other equipment of

the age. There are detailed descriptions of the building of the replica equipment. It's an excellent peek back in the history of our hobby and our beloved CW. 73, Pat, KD5TXD

Sam, W5CU, was traveling again last month. He was gone July 12th through the 19th. Sam again thanks all of the TEX stations who picked up OK traffic on RN5 in his absence. Thanks to Charlie, W5GKH, for covering Sunday RN5 and thanks to TSN and also Ken, K5RG, who was able to take some of the WB5NKD traffic for relay. 73 guys de W5CU



Pat, KD5TXD, sent along some pictures of how she has remodeled the telegraph display for the Kingsville train museum. You may recall that Floyd, N5EL, is active with his local museum as well, providing demonstrations of the telegraph equipment from yesteryear. Here is one picture of Pat's latest work and a little description:

This shows the display after I put in the board with the equipment connected up. I used TV twin line to run power under the display case, a wall wart for power, and an external code key connected to make the display work. The sign on the bottom left has the diagram of the telegraph main line. Next is the drawing and description of the "crowfoot" battery. Next is the local sounder and its description. Then a key and description. Finally on the right is the relay and its description. Notice the large white sign next to the resonator box; that is a display of American Morse characters. I also hope to get a one page handout ready to give to kids with American Morse Code and the pictures and descriptions of the equipment.

Bill, KA9IKK, was off the air for a while. He writes: It was nice to check in with you at W5ROK during the Field Day session of the TEX CW net. Just after FD my antenna tuner started exhibiting jumpy SWR readings and I was not able to tune up my dipole. This kept me off the air for much of July. I finally traced the problem to a loose solder connection on the tuner's inductor coil and all is well again. Now if we could only fix the band conditions...

73's, Bill KA9IKK

Ed, KS5V, has changed callsigns. He is now **W5KNN**. Hope to hear you on TEX again soon, Ed, with the new call. The roster (and your E-Mail) have been updated accordingly.

Scott, W5ESE, has had some rig problems. He writes: I'm working on repairing a dead sidetone on my rig, so have been reduced to QRP for a while. That's why I haven't been able to operate at the region level for some time. Hope to be able to get it fixed soon. 73, Scott

TEX Net Topics

The RN5 slots from Wednesday through Friday are still open. As noted above, Scott is unable to be backup or to take his regular Saturday slot. Please, if you have the time, consider filling one or more of these slots as a regular (or even backup).

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

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

TEX/1: 3552 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 3552 at 22:00 local
 RN5/1: 7045/3567 at 19:30; RN5/2: 3567 at 21:30 local

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

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, K5RG
 NCS Backup: W5DY, N5EL, AA5J, K6JT, KD5TXD, AC5Z

Statistics:

Things picked up slightly this past month, largely due to more incoming N1IQI and W1GMF traffic via the evening CW NTS. Rodney, W5DY (48, 79%) and Pat, KD5TXD (33, 54%) swapped places from last month for first and second top QNI. Thanks to everyone for your support.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.3 per net session. Net time averaged 13 minutes per session. Check-ins averaged 5 per session. Note that we missed one early TEX session and one additional RN5 session. Hopefully we can again have 100% for both this next month.

TEX Net Statistics (July 2008)

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
W5CDX	Wads	0	13						
*		13							

W5CU	Sam	9	19		7				
*		10			7				
W5DY	Rodney	18	42	1	8	1	1		
		24		2	12				
N5EL	Floyd	20	20						
*		0							
W5ESE	Scott	17	17		3			16	10
*		0							
W5GKH	Charlie	9	18	9	6				
*		9		8	6				
K5GM	Pete	5	5						
*		0							
K5GP	Gene	0	1						
*		1							
W9GVW	Eric	7	7						
*		0							
KA9IKK	Bill	3	5						
		2							
AA5J	Chuck	6	10	4	1				
*		4		3					
K6JT	Steve	19	48	4	2		19		
*		29		14	5		29		
KA5KLU	Doug	2	2						
*		0							
K5KV	Benny	3	6		1				
		3			1				
N5NVP	Jim	4	9						
		5							
KE5OK	Mac	1	1						
		0							
K5RG	Ken	8	25		1				
*		17							
KD5TXD	Pat	18	33	4		18			
*		15		4		13			
W5UFK	Ken	0	1						
*		1							
KS5V	Ed	4	7					1	
		3							
KZ5V	Gene	0	1						
*		1							
AC5Z	Bert	17	17	8					
*		0							
Totals		307		61	60	32	49	17	10
				98%	97%	52%	79%	27%	16%
QTC 1		58	141						
QTC 2		83		Sessions:		61	98%		
Time 1		435	808						
Time 2		373							

The roster, which follows, has been updated with Ed's new call.

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
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	Scott LA
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	* N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
AA7FY	Mark	Fort Worth	K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
K5GM	Pete	Austin	KC5T	Bob	Houston
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5TFB	Jack	College Station
KA9IKK	Bill	Houston	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
AA5J	Chuck	Plano	* KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	AI6U	Chris	Sacramento (CA)
* K5JRN	Si	Denton	# W5UFK	Ken	College Station
K6JT	Steve	Plano	* K5UN	Lee	Leonard
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	K5WQG	Eddy	Tomball
W5KNN	Ed	Bulverde (was KS5V)	# KM5YQ	David	Irving
K5KV	Benny	Star	* AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches (Lufkin)

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

Still no word about Jay, N5PWG, or Jack, W5TFB.

Operating:

Scott, W7IZ, passed along some new texts that we have started to receive from Pat, WB5NKD, up in OK city. They are as follows, for your information:

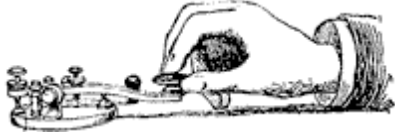
(FOR TECH LICENSES) R HXG WB5BKD 25 OKLAHOMA CITY OK (Date)

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

(FOR GEN. ADVANCED & EXTRA LICENSES) R HXG WB5NKD 21 OKLAHOMA CITY OK (Date)

TO HELP IN PUBLIC SERVICE
 HELP TRAIN OTHERS HOW TO
 RELAY MESSAGES X TRAIN FOR
 DISASTERS X GAIN LIFETIME FRIENDS
 73
 BT
 PAT WB5NKD
 AR

Until next month, 73, Steve
 (TSN Corner appears 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

Net QNI was down a little over last month (100 versus 103), owing in part to the holidays. We had a larger number of different stations participate, though (11 over 8 last month). I'm glad that a few more of you could make it to participate in TSN this month.

I regret to have to report that my Dad passed away last month. I was with him and my mother at the time, for which I'm grateful. So I was absent from the net more than normal. I will need to make frequent visits to spend some time with my mother in the coming months. I have a sister who lives outside the country, so I'm the only other one in the immediate family within the country. I'll be absent from the CW nets more than normal over the next few months, taking some long weekends to accomplish this.

You may have noticed that my signal is not very strong recently. I'm working on repairing a dead sidetone in my transceiver. As a result, I have been checking in to the CW nets with a QRP rig.

Pat was in the hospital for a couple days early in the month, but is out now. We're glad to have her and Arley back on the net. Carroll, KB5TCH, and Carl, AA5JW, served as NCS for two sessions in Arley's absence. Thanks a lot for helping out, Carl!

I got to see Pat, KD5TXD, and meet Jim, N5NVP, at the ARRL Texas State Convention, which was in Austin on August 3. It was wonderful to meet/see you. Rodney, W5DY, was there, too, but regrettably, we never crossed paths.

Here is a roster of stations that have participated in the Slow Net in recent months.

Net Stations (QNS)

Call	Name	City	State	Call	Name	City	State
K0CMH	Craig	St. Louis	MO	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia	AR
WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS	KI5T	Wade	Walker	LA
AG9G	Dwight	Phillips	WI	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
AE5GT	Clint	Wimberley	TX	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
AA5J	Chuck	Plano	TX	AD5VC	Dana	Baton Rouge	LA
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
K5KV	Benny	Prarieville	LA	KM5YQ	David	Irving	TX
WA5LOU	Lou	Kennard	TX	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches	TX
KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX				



FISTS 'Get Your Feet Wet Weekend'

A couple on-the-air events are coming up in September that I thought might appeal to TSN members. The first is the FISTS CW Club's 'Get Your Feet Wet Weekend', which occurs September 12-15

(0000Z-0000Z). The Fists wanted to create an on-the-air event to replace the ARRL's old 'Novice Roundup' contest (the last of which was held in 1995). The intent is to have a low key, friendly operating event, emphasizing sending slowly and clearly, and sending the exchange in order. No memory keyers or computer generated sending are allowed. Participants categorize themselves as 'Newcomer' or 'Experienced'. Suggested frequencies are 3558, 7110, 14110, 21110, and 28110 KHz. It's not necessary to be a member of the FISTS to participate. Consider helping the FISTS have a successful contest by handing out some contacts. I've made some contacts in this one, and it does generate a lot of activity. The rules in full are available at <http://www.fists.org/getfeetwet.html>

The second September event is the 'Texas QSO Party', which I'll discuss in next month's column.

July Activity Report

TOTAL SESSIONS 31

TOTAL CHECKINS 100

TOTAL TRAFFIC 19

BY 11 DIFFERENT STATIONS

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT