

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

**** See "TSN Corner" and "RN5 Corner" on the Last Pages ****

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August 2015



It Has Been TEN (10) Years

This month marks the completion of ten full years that I have been manager of TEX. I suspect that may be a record. In the "old days", the net manager served for one, perhaps two, years and then another operator took it over. Any of you old timers recall a longer stint than a couple contiguous years for a single manager?

During that time I have written a newsletter EVERY MONTH except in 2008 and 2012 where there was a single February - March issue. In 2008 I was in California with my mother who was in the hospital and subsequently died. In 2012 I was busy with caring for my father, who was also hospitalized during February, and I simply forgot about the newsletter.

Now that I also have responsibilities as the Chair of the NTS Central Area Staff, my time is getting more and more squeezed. If anyone is willing to take over the TEX managership, please let me know. Otherwise, I can continue, with your support, but I believe I am going to switch to a bi-monthly newsletter. It takes many hours of my time each month to write and publish the newsletter. Hopefully it won't present a major problem, and the statistics for both months will be provided. That also means the TSN Corner and RN5 Corner will only come out every other month, but again statistics will be provided for both.

Rhombic Antennas on Chopmist Hill (Rhode Island) Help Win World War II

I received the following from Ken, K6CTW, who you may recall is an old friend of mine. Interesting reading, for sure. Thanks, Ken !

The bristling antennas, miles of wire and all the technicians are gone now, but the old Suddard Farm on Chopmist Hill in Scituate is still dotted with the ghostly reminders of one of World War II's best-kept and most important secrets.

For it was here on Chopmist Hill in March, 1941, that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under Commissioner George E. Sterling, established and began operating a top-secret, radio-monitoring station.

It was the largest in a nationwide network of 13 similar installations, and -- due to peculiarities of the terrain and certain atmospheric conditions -- it was the most effective. The station on Chopmist Hill could intercept distant radio signals with astonishing clarity, and in wartime, that was a critical advantage.

While Rhode Island joined the nation in home-front sacrifice -- severe gasoline rationing, ersatz chocolate and horsemeat instead of beef, to name a few -- the band of 40 radio operator-technicians from the FCC's Radio Intelligence Division (RID) conducted a superb spy operation that directly affected the waging and final outcome of the war.

Personnel in Scituate routinely monitored weather reports that were a key to troop movements and bombing missions in Europe. With uncanny frequency, the station intercepted the radio transmissions of German spys positioned in South America and North Africa. Chopmist's reception of North Africa was so good, in fact, that the station had no difficulty picking up -- and turning to good use -- radio transmissions between the tanks that comprised the Desert Fox's infamous Afrika Korps.

But to this day -- 40 years after Japan's devastating attack on Pearl Harbor and 36 years after the war ended -- few Rhode Islanders are aware of the spectacular battles fought on the little hill right in their own backyard.

"C'mon, you're pullin' my leg" or "You gotta' be kidding" typify the responses of skeptics when told or asked about the illustrious history of the North Scituate farm.

Originally, the station was set up in peacetime to police the airwaves for illegal radio transmissions and to assist in air-sea rescue operations. On one occasion, actress Kay Francis, en route home from a USO tour in Europe, was aboard a plane that was lost off the coast of Florida. No formal radio installation on the seaboard was able to pick up the pilot's signals, but the Chopmist Hill station did, and the monitors in Scituate directed the plane home safely.

As the war intensified, so did the role of the Chopmist Hill station -- and the secrecy surrounding it. The installation became a virtual mini-city, complete with its own power-generating station in the concrete blockhouse. Nearby stood a wooden barracks building that housed the RID crew. Antennas were everywhere, anchored by guide (sic) wires attached to heavy metal plates cemented to the ground.

The station itself was jam-packed with supersensitive radio receivers, transmitters and direction finders, and it was all so top-secret that not even the 40 technicians working there knew its purpose. Armed guards patrolled the area, and even visitors on official business could not approach the farm without a state police escort. Even the Narragansett Electric Company, which played a key role in establishing the Chopmist Hill station, didn't realize just what it was doing. Company crews were sent to the station with instructions not merely to install utility poles, but to sink them more deeply into the ground than normal, thereby ensuring that the tops of the poles would be below tree-top level and hidden from view outside the farm.

No sooner was the work completed than Thomas B. Cave, who supervised the facility for the RID, ordered all the poles moved to a different spot. "I thought we'd have a revolt on our hands in Scituate," said former commissioner Sterling. He is 87 now and lives in quiet retirement with his wife, Margaret, on an island in Maine's Casco Bay. "The folks at Narragansett (Electric Company) thought we were crazy. We called in their utility crews to dig holes and install a whole bunch of telephone poles. Next day, we called them back to move all the poles about two feet." Regardless of how much consternation and confusion the unexplained move may have caused, the relocated utility poles gave the station optimum radio reception. By the end of the war, the inconvenience was gladly forgiven anyway. When the role of the Chopmist Hill station was publicly explained, a Narragansett Electric official said, "Hell, if I'd known what they were doing up there, I would gladly have dug holes all the way to Cairo!"

But no one knew.

Clandestine messages, encoded cryptographically, were being intercepted and copied verbatim by radio operators working 24 hours a day, who would then relay the messages to Washington, D.C., for deciphering. Commissioner Sterling said during a recent interview that he has never been able to figure out why the United States was caught napping at Pearl Harbor 40 years ago tomorrow. He said that for several months before the December 7, 1941, attack, the Scituate monitors were routinely intercepting Japanese messages that indicated military action was pending.

RID supervisor Cave said that "Every three weeks, like clockwork, a Japanese submarine would surface in Tokyo Bay and broadcast to higher military headquarters the number of foreign ships that went in and out of the bay during the period" Cave recalls. The Scituate monitors helped thwart the Japanese attempts to bomb the United States with TNT-laden hot-air balloons. To keep track of the silent craft, the Japanese placed radio transmitters on board the deadly balloons. But the RID eavesdroppers heard the signals, related the information to Washington and U.S. fighter planes were promptly dispatched to destroy the balloons. In the entire course of the war, only a few balloons penetrated the electronic screen; one landed harmlessly in Wisconsin, and others drifted off into the Canadian wilderness.

One of the most important jobs of the Scituate station was to intercept German weather reports from Central Europe. Broadcast on such a frequency that they could not be picked up in England, the signals bounced across the Atlantic Ocean to Chopmist Hill. The information played a vital part in British planning for bombing raids against Nazi Germany.

Most amazing was the station's ability to intercept virtually all radio transmissions sent by German spies in South America and North Africa. In fact, said Cave, who is now 79 and lives in Holmes Beach, Fla., Wilhelm Hoettl, one of Germany's foreign intelligence area chiefs, affirmed during his interrogation by the U.S. Third Army in June, 1945, that German intelligence had not been able to establish a single wireless connection, either in the United States or England. It was the Chopmist Hill station that discovered installations of German transmitters on the West coast of Africa. Even the British, who had their own monitoring stations in the region, were totally unaware of the existence of the enemy stations. It wasn't long, said Cave, before the British, via Washington, were breathing down the necks of Scituate operators for more and more information.

Little wonder. During the seesaw battles between British forces and General Erwin Rommel's infamous Afrika Korps, the Chopmist Hill station frequently picked up coded messages containing battlefield strategy from the German military leader to his subordinate commanders. The information was relayed to the British, who under Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery defeated the legendary Desert Fox at El Alemein. "That's nothing," Cave said. "At one time, we saved the British liner Queen Mary, from being sunk with more than 10,000 Allied troops on board." The Queen Mary was docked in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil awaiting departure for Australia. German spies in South America learned the ship's sailing schedule and precise Southerly route down the Atlantic, around Cape Horn and across the Pacific Ocean. The information was radioed to Nazi forces in Africa, then relayed to German submarine wolf packs prowling the ocean. Orders went out to sink the pride of England's maritime fleet. "We intercepted the German transmissions, alerted the British, and they ordered the ship to change course," Cave said. "Who knows," he said with a chuckle, "maybe there's still a U-boat commander out there somewhere wondering where the hell the Queen Mary is."

On another occasion, the British asked the RID operators in Scituate to determine the nationality of a remote transmitter near the Aleutian Islands. It turned out to be a Russian station and, therefore, was spared the annihilation which was planned for the suspected Japanese facility.

Does it seem far-fetched? Is it asking too much to believe that a secret radio station up on Chopmist Hill in little old Rhode Island could have done so much so efficiently for so many? Early on, the U.S. Army was skeptical, too, Cave said, so Army officials challenged the RID operators on Chopmist Hill to prove themselves. RID supervisor Sterling picked up the gauntlet. He told Army brass that his operators could pin down the exact location of any station within 15 minutes from the time it began operating. So, the Army set up a phony station inside the Pentagon, without notifying the FCC, and began transmitting. Sure enough, the team on Chopmist Hill pinpointed and identified the source within seven minutes. Perhaps, like people, every place has its day in the sun, too. World War II was Chopmist Hill's. It could not be so again. "The problem with Scituate now is one of population growth," said Anthony M. Gates, a former Navy radioman now employed by the FCC as a program analyst in Washington. "There are a lot of new homes, buildings and factories in the area, all of which tend to produce extensive interference with radio signals," Gates said. "that was not the case during the '40's."

After the war, the station site was used as headquarters for Rhode Island's office of Civil Preparedness. The agency moved to Providence in 1965. Today, the rusting steel door to the blockhouse groans in protest every time farm owner Frederick Leeder goes inside to get some hay for his small dairy herd. The barracks building is gone, and its cement-slab foundation now serves as a platform for Leeder's large woodpile. The small concrete blockhouse is there, guarded still by its six-foot, barbed-wire topped hurricane fence. And nearby, a few stubby telephone poles still stand in the pasture next to Darby Road, like dedicated sentries ready to carry messages that will never come.

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Special thanks to John "Cranston John" O'Rourke W1LZY (first licensed April 1939)

George Hart Series

Here is the 32nd installment of the George Hart Series. George is not yet the Communication Manager.

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

*A journalistic history of the life and times in Amateur Radio of George Hart, W1NJM (SK)
by George Hart W1NJM*

Chapter 32 - George expected to be the logical successor to the Communications Manager position

This left the Communications Department with only two people - myself and Lillian Salter, our stenographer and pseudo-secretary, who was in that position long before I arrived on the scene. Not being a ham, Lillian certainly was not eligible for the position so I felt there was no alternative but to give the job to me or simply to phase out the department altogether. This didn't seem likely, because our field organization was still being maintained, SCMs were still being elected, some appointments were still being made, the CD was not dead. There was still plenty of work to keep one man and a stenog/file clerk busy. But on what basis? In May of 1942, with Ed Handy's departure imminent, the matter was taken up by the ARRL Board of Directors, and again I was bypassed. John Huntoon, W1LVQ, was made acting Communications Manager, I to be his subordinate. John was an assistant secretary, and much admired by almost everybody.

This time my humiliation was spiced with anger, and I decided to seek other employment, one of draft exemption if possible, or else just wait for the draft to catch up to me. My brother Ed, W3NF, was working as a code instructor at a naval school in Bedford, PA. I visited him and was introduced to the school supervisor. The school was set up for the purpose, but it was run by civilians on behalf of the Navy. They needed code instructors and seemed to feel I would fill the bill very nicely, so I made application. They told me the Navy needed CW operators so badly they were opening a school in Hollidaysburg PA. The super said chances were good that I would be draft-deferred, but there was no guarantee; it would be up to my local draft board. I left my application on file and then returned to Hartford. The day after I returned, John Huntoon came to me and explained that the ACM job had been wished on him, that he hadn't sought it, that he wasn't getting any increase in pay, that he was still an assistant secretary and as acting Communications Manager he would only be a figurehead; that I would actually be running what was left of the department. He also said that there would be no more weasel-worded title, that I would be the assistant Communications Manager and he would try to get me a raise. John, then as now, had a winning personality - I felt considerably mollified.

I didn't want to leave ARRL headquarters, or my little house on Highland Street, but I was still seething with anger and humiliation. I told John I had applied for a job to teach code for the Navy and, if accepted, intended taking it. John was as good as his word, about a week later two things happened. John was classified 1-A by his draft board and I received word from Keystone Schools that I was hired and was to report to the new school in Hollidaysburg PA in

three weeks. Still no promise of draft deferment. I told John of this development. He told me he was joining the Coast Guard, now part of the Navy, as chief petty officer stationed at Coast Guard training school in Atlantic City. The next day I was summoned into the office of the Great Man himself, Kenneth B. Warner, W1EH, ARRL Secretary and General Manager of the headquarters.

I had spoken with KB only once before, at the 1938 HQ Christmas party in the basement at 38 La Salle Road. On that occasion he had sought me out, shook my hand, and expressed regret that we hadn't met before, wished me a Merry Christmas and handed me an envelope, then returned to the festivities. In the envelope I found a crisp new ten-dollar bill. It was a custom to give every employee a bonus at the Christmas time, and mine was the minimum. Far from being disappointed, I was delighted. Of course I had seen KB around the office many times but never before had any reason to engage him in conversation. It would not be an exaggeration to say I held him in great awe, and in this instance I approached his sanctum sanctorum in "fear and trembling."

Coming in Chapter 33 - George settles in to his new position with the ARRL.

TEX Mailbox:

Received the following from Benny, K5KV:

We have a long time TCC op in the hospital and hopefully Pete K5GM will recover soon. Looking at the sked list, we have seven of our ops handling multiple skeds per week, Pete included.

Anyone in Central Area NTS wanting to try a hand at a cycle 4 TCC sked please let me know. Even if your NTS experience is limited, you can learn. Code speed is not as important as accuracy. The only thing that is hard to overcome is QRP and a poor antenna. Anyone with antennas for 80/40/20 meters can do it. If you have an amp and a beam, your sked partner on the other end of the sked will love you. A working telephone is required when fill-in ops need to set up skeds quickly.

Please let me know if you can help. Please forward to anyone you think can help.

73

BENNY K5KV

CENTRAL AREA CYCLE 4 TCC DIRECTOR

We all certainly hope and pray for a speedy and complete recovery for Pete, K5GM - Ed.

- . . . -

I'm sure you all heard the news about the Pluto fly-by. Thanks to George, K5BMR, for the link, you can see some of the pictures taken at http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/newhorizons/main/index.html

- . . . -

Received the following link from Tom, K4VIZ. As he says, quite impressive. I suspect the fellow doing the keying was in the military (in Germany) since he is apparently sending 5 character groups. Tom wrote: Check this old guy speeding along on a straight key:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPsgEdmlUf0>

No sidetone monitor though so can't really tell how it sounds. Looks pretty impressive though...

. . . .

TEX Net Topics

Sam, W5CU, is still commuting to Midland, TX, on his consulting job. He anticipates that the contract will be completed before too long, but in the meantime please continue to cover his Wednesday and Sunday RN5 skeds on TEX as well as checking into RN5 as TX / OK. Sam advises that he will be gone until after Labor Day but hopes to be home more after that.

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown on the following page (for easier printing of a single page). Wednesday late RN5 backup TEX liaison was accepted by Ken, K5RG, since he is on RN5 as the DRN5 rep anyway. Thanks, Ken. Note that Ken has a TCC sked around 2215, so please excuse him before that time if at all possible.

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(Could sure use some more inputs for the TEX Mailbox !!)

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	N5RL	KD5TXD	KD5TXD	N5RL	W5FEA	W5GKH
Backup	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	K6JT	W5FEA
NCS #2	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	K5KV	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT
RN5 #1	K5KV	NA5YO	W5CU	N5RL	N5RL	NA5YO	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5FEA	W5FEA
RN5 #2	K5RG	NA5YO	W5CU	K6JT	K6JT	NA5YO	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	K5RG	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT

TEX/1: **7053**/3541/7108 at 19:00 CT; TEX/2 **3541**/3595/1841 at 22:00 CT

RN5/1: **7108**/3567 at 19:30; RN5/2: **7108**/3567/3598 at 21:30 CT

TSN: **3570** - 19:45 CT; CAN: **7052**/7108/3552/3595 - 20:30 CT; PAN: **7052**/3552 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K5GM, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, NA5YO

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, W5TMO, KD5TXD

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
N5BA	Brian	Houston	AC5P	Mike	Bartlesville OK
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
W5DH	Tom	Dallas	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
W4DLZ	Frank	Florida	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
W5FEA	Jim	Graham	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
K5GM	Pete	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
K5JRN	Si	Austin	NE5V	Chris	Liberty Hill
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
N7KRT	Jeff	Victoria	K6YBV	Bob	Placerville CA
* K5KV	Benny	Star	W5YE	Brian	Harlingen
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	NA5YO	Doug	San Antonio
N7NET	Scott	McKinney	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

Traffic and check-ins were about the same as last month. Time in session was less. Thanks to all NCS stations for keeping the net crisp and closing it as soon as possible once traffic has been routed. Note that there is no need to keep the net open more than about 6 or 7 minutes when no traffic is listed and all liaisons have reported in.

All RN5 slots were covered and TTN / DFW representation were good. TSN coverage was low, but not zero, due to Jason's work schedule.

Jim, W5FEA, with 62 out of 62 (100%) was again able to have "perfect attendance". Randy, N5RL, with 46 (74%) was second. Benny, K5KV, with 40 (65%) took third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors to the net included Dick, WA5CAV, from LA, Jim, N0JL, from IA, and Lan, KC7RUN, from OK.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 3.4 per net session (3.5 last month). Net time averaged 11.0 minutes per session (compared to 12.3 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.8 per session (5.7 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (July 2015)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
KW5AS	Skip	10	11					
		1						
WA5CAV	Dick	1	1					
	LA	0						
W5CU	Sam	4	9		3			
*		5			4			
W5DY	Rodney	17	38	3	2			
		21		5	1			
W5FEA	Jim	31	62	6	4	24		
*		31				3		
W5GKH	Charlie	6	12	6				
*		6		6				
K5GM	Pete	17	30					
*		13						
W9GVW	Eric	1	1					
*		0						
N0JL	Jim	1	1					
*	IA	0						
K6JT	Steve	15	44				14	
*		29		10	13		29	

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
K5KV	Benny	14	40		6			
		26		4	1			
KB5NJD	John	4	4				4	
		0						
N5NVP	Jim	0	1					
		1						
K1PKZ	Paul	1	1					
		0						
K5QOW	Gary	2	2					
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	11					
*		11			3			
N5RL	Randy	24	46	7	7	2		
*		22				19		
KC7RUN	Lan	1	1					
	Norman OK	0						
KD5RQB	Jason	6	6			1		6
		0						
W5TMO	Mike	0	8					
*		8		6				
KD5TXD	Pat	9	9	9				
*		0						
NA5YO	Doug	9	19		9			
		10			9			
Totals		357		62	62	49	47	6
				100%	100%	79%	76%	10%
QTC 1		109	212					
QTC 2		103		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		348	681					
Time 2		333						

Operating:

Propagation has been hit-or-miss lately. Frankly, it is the worst I have seen in over 50 years of operating, all but about 10 years of it on the CW traffic nets (I was VHF-only when I moved to Texas in 1993 and did not get back on HF until about 2003 due to work and antenna restrictions).

Yes, I've experienced long skip on 80 and 40, but normally during sunspot minima, not the maxima we are supposedly now having. During previous maxima, I recall 10 meters being open well into the night with very low power needed for transcontinental contacts. Now 10 is dead, and even 20 meters, also good into the evening in the past, is also nearly dead during most of the daytime and overnight. This is causing great difficulties for the cycle 2 Central Area Net. Even 40 meters has been very poor in the daytime, again causing lots of problems for the cycle 2 nets, including the 7290 Traffic Net.

My theory is that we have so MUCH solar activity now that the E-layer, which normally absorbs low frequency signals (why 80 is always dead during the day) has become even more heavily ionized such that there is absorption up into much higher frequencies. Evidence includes how good 40 gets later in the evening, well after dark. I've been watching the ratings at <http://www.bandconditions.com> during the day and night. Generally terrible during the day on all bands (in the Red Zone) and only gets good an hour or so around and after dusk when 40 and 30 go into the "green" zone. 30 drops out pretty fast after that as 80 rises. 20 remains in the Red zone. Has anyone read anything about this from other sources? Please let me know if so.

I have no idea what this will evolve into during the fall and winter months. I can only hope it will improve, at least for us in the northern hemisphere, as the effects of the solar radiation become less. I don't recall exactly when it got so bad during the day, but I know my attempts to contact the digital hubs before late in the day have been completely unsuccessful since about April or May. I also know from the cycle 2 CAN reports that 20 has been terrible most of the spring and continues to be that way as summer passes by.

What this all means is that we need to be very sensitive to conditions for early TEX on 40 meters. NCS stations need to move to 80 if signals appear to be much weaker than they should. I recently requested that the net move back to 80 for the early session, but then the band conditions changed again and it was OK for another week or two. We will leave it on 40 as the primary for now. But be alert for a change to 80 needed.

The poor conditions have also severely impacted traffic totals, as can be seen from the composite reports that I produce each month for all of our Central Area nets. Even digital has fallen off, probably also due to inability to have good connections during the daytime.

As you can see by comparing this month's composite with last month, traffic was again less overall. Time to start generating some "Happy Labor Day" or at least some type of messages to friends and relatives. Thank you messages for a QSO you have had are always good, too, assuming you can find a phone number (becoming more and more difficult these days). I note that Doug, NA5YO, has been active sending out radiograms urging activity on NTS and several Eastern Area stations have recently started sending them out, too. Of course, there are also the Welcome messages coming from K6HTN and K6FRG from Pacific. Note that Glenn, VE3GNA, is off the air as he is in the process of moving to a new QTH, so we are not seeing much of his traffic now, some of which has been taken over by other Eastern stations. Have not seen much from Peter, DL4FN, recently. He may be participating in what is fairly common in Europe - a 4 week vacation during this time of year. Those Europeans sure know how to put things in perspective and set priorities, don't they?

NTS Central Area Activity for July 2015

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
RN5 Cycle 2	46	39	486	509	0.077
9RN Cycle 2	14	226	58	160	1.413
10RN Cycle 2	23	147	164	273	0.538
RN5 Cycle 4	52	151	395	405	0.373
9RN Cycle 4	52	88	148	311	0.283
TEN Cycle 4	60	124	191	500	0.248
CAN Cycle 2	14	107	101	399	0.268
CAN Cycle 4	31	225	241	398	0.565
TCC Cycle 2	42	85	35		
TCC Cycle 4	93	145	93		
Total Voice/CW Nets		1337	1912	2955	
NTS Digital			Received	Sent	
KB0OFD		1530	835	695	
WB9FHP		2177	1270	907	
W5SEG		840	509	331	
DRS Stations (19)		1691	678	1013	
Total NTS Digital		6238	3292	2946	
Total Central Area		7575			

Until next month, 73, Steve K6JT

TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3570.0 KHz +/- QRM
 Website: <http://www.k6jt.com/tsn/>
 Net Manager: Jason KD5RQB, tsn.3570@aol.com



Photo Courtesy of VE3UU

Greetings From Northeast Texas

Ron KX5C from Silsbee, Texas checked into the net on July 16th. It was good to hear Ron on the net again.

I received this email from Jim W5FEA on July 6th. *Well, I totally missed TSN Wednesday last week, which leads me to believe I need to back away from some things....I have too many happening very close to one another. If you have anyone to take TSN this Wednesday evening that will be fine, if not I'll get it, but after that I need to resign the NCS position. Thanks for allowing me to serve in the position and I hope perhaps more folks will learn of the net. Take Care, Jim W5FEA.* Jim, as net manager of Texas Slow Net, I want to thank you for your service to the net.

This month I had to make a tough decision regarding the Texas Slow Net. Currently there are only 4 NCS and to keep the net going on a daily basis the current NCS are having to take multiple nights. Some nights there was just the NCS. Which can be very frustrating to take time out of your schedule and no one checks-in. Until there are some new NCS the Texas Slow Net is changing from daily to 4 nights a week.

Before I close this month's newsletter, I do want to wish Mr. Carroll KB5TCH an early Happy Birthday (Aug 28th).

TSN Activity Report for July 2015

Total Sessions: 23 Check-ins: 74 Total Traffic: 22 by 10 different Operators

July 2015 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	21
SAM	KK4HCF	17
JASON	KD5RQB	13
PHIL	KD5MMM	7
HOWARD	WD5IDB	6
SAM	K5OAI	5
MATT	K5TTN	2
JIM	W5FEA	1
JOE	AC5BE	1
RON	KX5C	1

August 2015 Net Control Stations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No Net	No Net	Carroll KB5TCH	Phil KD5MMM	Jason KD5RQB	Sam KK4HCF	No Net

TSN Roster (December 2014 to December 2015)

Callsign	Name	QTH
KW5AS	Skip	VICTORIA, TEXAS
AC5BE	Joe	MATAGORDA, TEXAS
KX5C	Ron	SILSBEE, TEXAS
W5DY	Rodney	GOLIAD, TEXAS
WD0ESF	Mike	MEDICINE LODGE, KANSAS
W5FEA	Jim	GRAHAM, TEXAS
W9GVW	Eric	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
KK4HCF	Sam	MARYSVILLE, TENNESSEE
WD5IDB	Howard	EDMOND, OKLAHOMA
N7KRT	Jeff	VICTORIA, TEXAS
KB5KWO	Steve	NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
KD5MMM	Phil	FENTRESS, TEXAS
N7NET	Scott	MCKINNEY, TEXAS
K5NTT	Matt	WALDO, ARKANSAS
K5OAI	Sam	SAN ANGELO, TEXAS
WD4PLB	Walter	ROCKSPRINGS, TEXAS
KD5RQB	Jason	ATLANTA, TEXAS
KB5TCH	Carroll	DOUGLASSVILLE, TEXAS
W5VBD	George	TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Silent Keys

Floyd	N5EL	2013
Dave	W5VXI	2014

Stop by any evening Tuesday through Friday on 3570kHz at 7:45p.m. CT.

This is a great place to learn how to handle traffic on CW. If you are a voice net traffic handler, this is a great addition to your amateur radio skill set. See you on the air!!

73,
Jason KD5RQB

RN5 Corner

Region Net 5 (Daily) 1930 CT on **7108** and 2130 CT on **7108**
Alternate Frequency 3567 (early) or 3598 when conditions warrant
Serving TX, OK, LA, AR, MS, TN, AL, and FL
Frank Thrash W4DLZ (W4DLZ@ARRL.NET)
RN5 Net Manager

Hello guys and welcome to Edition 43 of the **RN5 Corner**.

It seems like Murphy camps out at the Thrash household, just waiting for an opportunity to assert his nasty ways. I have been off the air for several weeks now, waiting for my rig to be repaired. It has been shipped and should be back soon, perhaps before you even read this.

What happened was that a new puppy that came to live in the animal shelter that my wife runs (and I work in much of the time) got into the radio room and started chewing on the microphone cord plugged into the rig. You guessed it - power shorted out and caused damage so the rig would not even come on. Fuse did not blow. No, the puppy was not hurt by it, only me. Guess that is also supposed to be a lesson to me to not have a microphone plugged in, only the CW key...

Sam, W5CU, will be gone until after Labor Day. He reports that his consulting job, which has kept him away from home during the week, is expected to wind down after that and he hopes to be able to be at home more, filling his old slots whenever he is. Meanwhile, they remain as open positions in the Duty Roster.

We desperately need more of you to try out your hand at NCS and CAN liaison. Heard from Jack, K5WNU, who is interested in giving the NCS job a try and perhaps a CAN liaison. Hoping Jack will be able to do so, but he does travel as part of his job, and may not be available on a regular basis. We really need to recruit some more operators. Those of you holding things together are much appreciated.

Please talk it up in your section nets and try to recruit some more ops to come to RN5 as liaison stations (and then hopefully once they get an idea of how it all works, to fill in one of the open NCS or CAN liaison slots).

73, Frank W4DLZ
RN5/4 CW Net Mgr.

(Schedule, statistics, and roster on the next page)

RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	KZ8Q	W4DLZ	Open	W4SU	W4SU	W4DLZ	Open
NCS #2	KZ8Q	W4DLZ	Open	K6JT	W4SU	W4DLZ	WA4ZPZ
CAN TX	Open	NA5YO	Open	W4SU	W4SU	NA5YO	Open
CAN RX	Open	NA5YO	W4AGL	K6JT	WA4ZPZ	NA5YO	Open
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

July 2015 Statistics

SESSIONS	52
QTC	151
QNI	395
QTR	405
AVG QTC	2.9
AVG QNI	7.6
AVG QTR	7.8

The following roster shows stations coming to RN5 in the past 3 years and their sections.

Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	Section	Call	Name	Section
W4AGL	JIM	FL	K5KV	BENNY	TX
WA4BAM	JOHN	FL	K8KV	BEN	FL
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	N5NVP	JIM	LA
W5CU	SAM	OK*	K4PG	KEVIN	FL
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	KZ8Q	BEN	AL
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	K5RG	KEN	TX
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5FEA	JIM	TX	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	W4SU	JERRY	AL
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
K5GM	PETE	TX	K5WNU	JACK	MS
W8IM	DEAN	FL	NA5YO	DOUG	TX
K6JT	STEVE	TX	WA4ZPZ	TOM	AL

* When W5CU is not present on Late RN5, OK traffic may be sent to the TX station

** K4VIZ is no longer active. Send AR to the TX station for the 7290 net (do not use DRN5) 73, Frank W4DLZ