

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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Skip to the Loo

I apologize for the title, which somehow sticks in my memory as a song we used to sing when I was a child. Anyone else remember the words? Now that I am a bit older (uh, make that a LOT older), I recognize that "Loo" is British for the bathroom. I wonder if that had any significance in the childhood song...

At any rate, propagation skip has been plaguing us, starting when the time changed back to standard. Sometimes it hits early TEX, often before 7:10, and sometimes it hits late TEX, although I have noticed that propagation changes considerably between 7 and 10. There have been nights when I could not hear Sam, W5CU, who is less than 200 miles from me, on CAN at 8:30 or RN5 at 9:30. But by 10, he is up to S9+ on TEX. But we aren't always that lucky.

I mention this so NC stations will be sure to ask for "net calls" (or, in our over-abbreviated mode, "QNI") from other stations they can hear who check in. As in the past, it is best to pick a station as far away as possible to request the net call from, although any strong station may also be asked. The ideal is to have a station in the north and south give the call.

Most of you know that the "standard" method of calling for QNI, when asked by the NCS, is something like "TEX de (call) QNI K", followed by a brief pause and then repeat "TEX QNI K" once more. Respond to stations trying to check in or just send "N" if nothing is heard. That is the NCS's cue to pick up the control once again. If you do have stations check in, repeat their call and traffic list (or QRU) for the benefit of the NCS, who may not be able to hear them.

That's all there is to it.

Now, let's talk a bit about 160 meters. I have been able to get on 160 with the new OMNI's antenna tuner, and operated briefly in the 160 contest earlier this month. While my signal was probably about as strong as a QRP station using a decent antenna (my antenna is very poor), I did manage to work stations as far away as MN and FL, so it does function.

When skip is really bad (e.g., Houston and Dallas can't communicate), then 160 is probably the best option. Tentatively, I would like to recommend 1841 (easy to remember) as an alternate frequency to which stations may be sent to pass traffic. That assumes, of course, that someone can relay the instructions to go there.

If you have 160 capability (I have a record of those who reported it in the past – see the roster), please let me know and/or any changes in that capability since publishing them in the roster a couple years ago.

Short Newsletter Month

In keeping with the practice started a few months ago, this will be a short newsletter, primarily to report statistics and major topics (such as about skip above).

TEX Mailbox:

Heard from **Ken, K5RG**, after last months' newsletter. Ken wrote: I haven't fully digested your latest newsletter but I truly appreciate your cut at a synopsis of the ongoing proposals. The recent emails I've received from the RN5 gang never made it past the first few paragraphs.

You asked about WL2K. In actuality, all of my recent changes have been directed at putting my SCS PTCII-Pro to use (with dual VHF packet boards). I have had it operating on HF with my FT-1000D (along with NK5Z help) but the ultimate goal was to have a VHF/HF cross linked WL2K capability. (Especially for the boating community in the Clear Lake area since I believe the WL2K system is truly used by the boating community that have amateur radio licenses.) The operational goal was for emergency situations only since I have no desire to take on 24/7 station operation.

So yes, I have Winlink capability. I will now take a better look at your newsletter references. Again thanks for the outstanding effort to make sense of it for us time challenged people!!

As a side note on spam messages, I believe the NTS cannot abandon the "if you accept it, you must deal with it" policy. Any attempt to say this or that traffic is not allowed will lead to chaos. If people don't like spam, then don't accept it and if enough traffic handlers begin to boycott the spam, I contend it will dry up.

Ken K5RG

Mike, W5TMO, also commented on the last newsletter: Great newsletter this month. I sold my Jupiter also and came very close to getting an OMNI, but ended up with a used Orion 1. Can't remember why I decided that way, I guess I just woke up with it one day. I have some crazy work schedules coming up, but when things settle down again I would like to help out with NCS chores. I really enjoy TEX; too bad it is not more active with traffic. Thanks again for the newsletter, see you on the air. vy 73, Mike

Doug, KA5KLU, wrote in with the following: Been busy again. I've taken over all my mother's business and take care of that for her. She still lives at home but I take care of everything for her. She is 86 and in pretty good shape for her age. She can feed herself, bathe and take her medicine so trying to keep her in her home for as long as possible. I miss ham radio but at the end of the day I find very little energy left to do much but crash into my easy chair and watch a little TV before bedtime. But I will try and get on the radio as often as possible. Have to brush the dust off the equipment. It's nice and cool in the radio

shack now so don't have the heat to contend with. I play lead guitar in the church band so I make all the services on Sunday so it's a busy day as well.

Maybe I'll find some time to get involved with the 10 meter contest or the ARRL DX CW contest in February. I got a stack of rewards I've gotten but quit hanging them on the wall just throw them in a pile. I've enjoyed a lot of different aspects of ham radio that's what makes it interesting.

God Bless
73's Doug//KA5KLU

Jack, W5TFB, has made quite a few additions to his antenna article since last month. I have the most recent version on the TEX website. Check it out via the link in last month's newsletter. He has now come to a standstill with the installation, needing to remove a dead tree that could break the guy wires if it fell. A big job for one man alone to tackle.

Ken, K5RG, has input a request to the HamCom coordinator to place a small notice in their bulletin when it comes out. This is a "heads up" for everyone that we will have a breakfast on Saturday morning for those attending the convention (which is a big one this year). Thanks, Ken, for handling this. Here is what Ken submitted:

Date/Time: Saturday, June 11th at 9:30 AM

Location: IHOP Restaurant, 315 Central Expressway North, Allen, TX

Anticipated Audience: approximately 15 members of the Texas CW Traffic Net (TEX) (although the activity will be open to anybody wishing to attend, our desire is to just list it as a TEX (CW) Traffic Net event, anticipating that the Ham-Com Traffic Nets session will be scheduled at 8 AM on Saturday as in years past.)

Event Details: Social event, cash breakfast, no speaker - just a desire to have a listed 'social' event for the traffic net members attending Ham-Com.

Thanks, Ken Goodwin, K5RG

Heard from **Sis, WD8DIN**, the editor of the Hit-and-bounce net newsletter that HBN may be changing frequency. For those of you who are interested (I have listened in on HBN, but I'm rarely awake at that time), here is the info from Sis: From W2EAG, HBN Manager 3 December 2010. Mark is considering moving HBN permanently to the alternate frequency 7114 kHz, due to the morning band conditions, at times QRM by RTTY from 7035-7045 and Spanish SSB on 7045 kHz. If the change is made, there will be a QNC daily all week.

Check the website for updates. <http://hitandbounce.net> or <http://hitandbounce.net/shindig.html>

Merry Christmas ~ Happy New Year
73 ARF, Sis

TEX Net Topics

We still need help with the **12** open NCS/liaison slots, including **4** open *primary* NCS slots and **2** open *primary* RN5 slots on Saturday (all shown in **red**). Please consider taking one of these, or even just an open backup position.

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

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	Open	KD5TXD	Open	N5PWG	Open	W5GKH
Backup	Open	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT
NCS #2	W5GKH	Open	KD5TXD	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	Open	K6JT	Open	K6JT
RN5 #1	W5GKH	NK5Z	W5CU	NK5Z	N5PWG	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	W5DY	Open	W5ESE	W5ESE	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	NK5Z	W5CU	NK5Z	K6JT	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	W5DY	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH

TEX/1: **3541**/7108 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**/7052/7108 - 20:30 local; PAN: **3552**/7052- 22:30 local

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, N5PWG, K5RG, NK5Z

NCS Backup: W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, N5PWG, K5RG, KD5TXD

Statistics:

Check-ins improved (very) slightly since last month. Traffic continued to be very low, going down even more since last month. Did you operate in the 160 meter contest? If so, how about originating some messages to stations you worked? I am doing that myself.

Rodney, W5DY, with 34 (57%) bested Tom, NK5Z's 28 (47%) for first and second. Mike, W5TMO, with 23 (38%) edged out Scott, W5ESE and Sam, W5CU, both of whom had 22, for 3rd. Thanks to all who checked in for your support.

Larry, KC0M, Mike, KA5NNG, and Jeff, WB8WKQ, brought us some outside traffic and were the only "visitors". It was good to hear Brian, N5BA, check in again, now with a much-improved signal, also Dennis, KD5JSS, and Ken, W5UFG, who have been away a long time.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 1.85 per net session (1.9 last month). Net time averaged 11.9 minutes per session (compared to 10.8 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.85 per session (4.8 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (November 2010)

Call		QNI	total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
N5BA	Brian	1	1						
		0							
W5CU	Sam	12	22		8				
*		10			5				
W5DY	Rodney	17	34	5	4	1			
		17		5	1				
N5EL	Floyd	19	19						
*		0							
W5ESE	Scott	22	22	1					2
*		0							
W5GKH	Charlie	10	20	10	6				
*		10		10	6				
K5GM	Pete	1	1						
*		0							
W9GVW	Eric	2	2						
*		0							
K5JRN	Si	4	4						
*		0							
KD5JSS	Dennis	1	1						
		0							
K6JT	Steve	21	49	6			21		
*		28		8	7		28		
K5KV	Benny	0	4						
		4							
W6LFB	Jim	1	1						
*		0							
KC0M	Larry	0	1						
	MO	1							
KA5NNG	Mike	1	1						
	AR	0							
N5NVP	Jim	1	5						
		4							
N5PWG	Jay	7	16	3	3				
*		9		4	1				
K5QOW	Gary	5	7						
*		2							
K5RG	Ken	8	20	1					
*		12			1				
W5TMO	Mike	0	23						
*		23							
KD5TXD	Pat	4	8	4					4
*		4		3					4
W5UFK	Ken	1	1						
*		0							
WB8WKQ	Jeff	0	1						
	MI	1							
NK5Z	Tom	17	28		9				
*		11			9				
Totals		291		60	60	1	49	0	10
				100%	100%	2%	82%	0%	17%
QTC 1		50	111						

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
QTC 2		61		Sessions:		60			
Time 1		372	713						
Time 2		341							

The roster has been slightly updated (with 160 capability shown) 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	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5SBE	Larry	Austin
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	N0SSS	Adam	Oklahoma
AA5IJ	Bob	Pasadena	KC5T	Bob	Houston
KA9IKK	Bill	Houston	W5TFB	Jack	College Station
AA5J	Lee	Arkansas	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
K5JRN	Si	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	AI6U	Chris	Sacramento (CA)
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
W5KNN	Ed	Bulverde (was KS5V)	* K5UN	Lee	Leonard
K5KV	Benny	Star	K5WQG	Eddy	Tomball
W6LFB	Jim	Denton	* NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

Pretty much covered operating in the lead story of the newsletter, so I will simply take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a sincere desire for you to have a Healthy and Happy New Year in 2011.

I hope to hear you often on TEX. Let's start generating some more traffic to keep the nets alive and build up a little more interest. How's that for a New Year's resolution?

Until next year,

73, Steve

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)



TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3552.0 KHz +/- QRM

http://www.atcweb.com/tsn/Texas_Slow_Net.htm

Pat Allison KD5TXD (pja@atcweb.com)

TSN Net Manager

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT

Greetings from the Wild Horse Desert – home of your TSN Manager

Traffic was down a bit this month. We did battle with conditions and contesters and didn't always win. Remember, if you don't hear us on exactly 3552kHz, scoot up or down a bit until you find us. TSN will be close by somewhere, we are just trying to fit in with others who use the frequency as we are supposed to. Welcome to KE5HCM, Patti, and WR9H, Herbert, who visited this month. Join us any time. Thanks to all who made TSN a regular part of their evening.

November 2010 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	KE5LOT	Club	Fentress	TX
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	TX	WA5LOU	Lou	Kennard	TX
K5AVJ	Lynn	Abilene	TX	KC0M	Larry	Branson	MO
KD5CB	Mike	Hillsboro	TX	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
WB9CIS	John	Morton	IL	WA5MUF	Bill	Stafford	TX
ND0CW	David	Newburg	ND	N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX
K6CD/5	Joe	Katy	TX	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr	TX
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis		WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
K5END	Larry	Spring	TX	AA5NZ	Web	Goldthwait	TX
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	K4OSO	Milt	Rockville	VA
WD0ESF	Mike		KS	K9PUI	Rich		IN
WB9FLU	Bill	Columbus	IN	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
WB5GFU	Al	Alamo	TX	KA8RTS			
KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park	TX	N0SSS	Adam	Oklunion	TX
AE5GT	Clint	Wimberley	TX	KI5T, KC5AML	Wade		LA
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
WR9H	Herbert	Rockford	IL	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
KE5HCM	Patti	Kerville	TX	KA5TJS	Allen	San Augustine	TX
KA8IXC	Dan	Victoria	TX	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	KD5VGJ	Jay	Flower Mound	TX
W5JBV	Mike	Panama City	FL	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
K5JE	Earl	Claremore	OK	W4VLL	Victor	Pembroke	VA
K7JHM	John	Price	UT	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
K6JT, W0CXX	Steve	Plano	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
W5JKK	George	Bethany	OK	KM5YQ	David	Irving	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	NK5Z	Tom	Conroe	TX
KT4KL	Alton	Bandera	TX	KD5ZLB	Edwin	Shreveport	LA
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX				
KB5KWO	Steve	Norman	OK				

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!!

TSN Activity Report for November, 2010

Total Sessions 30, Total Checkins 123, Total Traffic 23 by 16 different operators.

November QNS

October	Callsign	Name	QTH
30	WB5NKC	Arley	OK, Oklahoma City
30	WB5NKD	Pat	OK, Oklahoma City
16	AA5JW	Carl	TX, Stafford
9	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	TX, Kingsville
8	W5ESE	Scott	TX, Dripping Springs
8	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills, TX
5	KD5MMM	Phil	TX, Fentress
4	KB5TCH	Carroll	TX, Douglassville
4	W5DY	Rodney	TX, Goliad
2	KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park, TX
2	W4VLL	Victor	VA, Pembroke
1	AA5J	Lee(Chuck)	AR, Cabot
1	KC0M	Larry	MO, Branson
1	KE5HCM	Patti	TX, Kerville
1	W5TMO	Mike	TX, Austin
1	WR9H	Herbert	IL, Rockford

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

December 13, 2010