

# The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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December 2011



## Long Skip !! ??

After finishing late TEX on Dec 7Z, I was quite unhappy to note that we seem to have had our first long skip night of the season. Conditions started to deteriorate on late RN5 and went downhill rapidly after that. Rodney, W5DY, with his "big dog" amplifier was the only one I could hear (W5TMO and N5RL checked in with Rodney, and he reported they were also quite weak). It happened again on Dec 8Z, but not until about 5 minutes into the late net. If this continues, we may need to go to our 160 meter backup frequency to pass traffic.

I was hoping we would have enough sunspots now to prevent this from happening, but I guess that is not the case. Anyway, when conditions are like that on late TEX, there is nothing to do but hold all traffic and close the net, hoping for better conditions the following day. Sigh!

## Short Newsletter Month

This is a short newsletter month, but there are quite a few stories in the TEX Mailbox. I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year in 2012. Here's hoping the new year will bring us some new TEX members and that those of you who check in regularly will continue to support the net and refine your skills. I do appreciate all of your support. How about trying a new NCS or RN5 liaison in 2012? Can't hurt.

### TEX Mailbox:

**Sam, W5CU**, sent in a copy of a TEX net roster from 1983. Sam wrote: I thought that you might find this exchange interesting, or at least the attachment: a TEX roster circa 1983. My tour of duty as TEX manager had ended I believe in 1980 when I took a job in Tulsa and left my old hometown of Lufkin. You will see some familiar names and/or calls on it, I bet. It was a big net back then; 15 or 20 checkins were not uncommon. Many of them came from TTN, where we recruited the SSB ops and nursed them along on CW. That is how I became active on CW in the late 70s, recruited by Ken W5UGE (now K5RG), Pete W5UJJ (now K5GM), Tom N5TC and others from the fone nets. 73/ Sam W5CU

Thanks, Sam. I won't insert the roster here, but I want to note the following stations were on it, many of whom are still active or have been active on TEX in the last 8 years (and some

who have become Silent Keys in the interim): N5AF, Sam; N5DKM, Rodney (W5DY); WD5GKH, Charlie (W5GKH); K5GM, Pete; AA5J, Chuck (Lee, now in AR); W5SBE, Larry; W5TFB, Jack; KS5V, Ed; KV5X, Sam (W5CU); and AC5Z, Bert (SK). If any of you want a full copy, let me know and I will send one to you.

.-.-.

**Mike, W5TMO**, sent in a picture of his 1923 vintage Vibroplex Blue Racer in response to my inquiry about what key he was using. Mike wrote: I have attached a picture of the Blue Racer. It is dated 1923, not 1928 as I said the other night. I have one other older, dated 1923, and 4 others from the 40s and 50s. Not a bad find for a garage sale stop? One thing I have found about these is that they want to go faster than I do. They are all in ok condition. I probably would not want to sell any of them. The pack rat in me I guess. I believe the first Blue Racer was made in 1914.



My family was living near Omaha when I drove my Cushman Eagle to the courthouse in Omaha for the General test. The temp was about -15 degrees and my hands were so cold I could barely hold the pencil during the exam. The examiner never smiled or said a word to

me- just "Passed" . When I passed I borrowed enough money from my father to buy a (*Johnson Viking*) Ranger, I mowed grass and shoveled snow for 3 years to pay back every penny. When I got the kit I was amazed that the components actually had long leads. I had been scavenging parts from tv sets. Most of the components had leads less than 1/4 inch by the time I got them off the old tv chassis. My father would drive me around before daylight on trash days looking for tvs and radios. Very cold Nebraska winter mornings.

I had built a sweep tube transmitter and had an old Hallicrafters POS receiver (no bandspread or BFO, I had to put another radio next to it and tune it to heterodyne the CW signals). After I passed the Novice exam I was bootlegging on 40 meters every night. One evening the FCC field guy came to our house and had a talk with my father. He wanted to confiscate my transmitter but when he saw it (built on a pine board, coil wound on a toilet paper tube) he relented and told me to clean up my signal and stay off the air until the license came. He became my Elmer.

Guess we could write books on our early ham years. Luckily my parents were understanding. I have enjoyed participating in TEX. Hopefully we can meet sometime.  
vy 73, Mike

.-.-.

If any of you are in need of some old books about tubes, etc., **Scott, W7IZ**, forwarded the following link where you can get more information:

[http://www.tubebooks.org/technical\\_books\\_online.htm#General%20Electrical%20Engineering%20Books](http://www.tubebooks.org/technical_books_online.htm#General%20Electrical%20Engineering%20Books)

.-.-.

**Jo Ann, KA5AZK**, sent an early notification about the 2012 7290 net picnic. Jo Ann wrote: Since we are changing picnic sites this year I thought it might be a good idea to get an early

start on directions and hotel and motel information. A map along with a small list of hotels and a motel are now on the net's web site of <http://www.7290trafficnet.org/> for your use. Also there is info on the site itself. More information will be coming as the time grows closer. We hope you be able to attend.

73, Jo Ann KA5AZK  
7290 Traffic Net Manager

.-.-.

I heard **Tom, K4VIZ**, on RN5 one night using a keyer, which surprised me. Those of you who regularly go to RN5 know that Tom uses a bug and has a great "southern swing". Upon asking him about it, Tom sent the following picture of a key that he rebuilt for another ham. He was testing it that evening. Tom wrote: It is a Hi Mound Compound key made in Japan in the 80's and weighs 8 pounds. What a monstrosity.



*Tom also sent a video of him using the key, but it is too large to include here. If you are interested, let me know and I'll forward it.*

.-.-.

**Scott, W7IZ**, also forwarded the following information from **Marcia, KW1U**, regarding international traffic (I assume to countries with whom we have a 3rd party agreement):

Greetings all,

I hope you had a nice Thanksgiving and are gearing up for the Christmas holidays. I also hope you will encourage your nets participants to send holiday greetings via radiogram. Regarding international traffic, as you know since the de-activation of the International Assistance and Traffic Net, we have encouraged folks to send international traffic to WX4J via 4RN. Earl has been running a WL2K station and in the beginning offered to try to find outlets via that network for international traffic. It became very difficult to do so however as he said most stations were mobile and unwilling to take traffic, assuming you could find one who spoke English. Earl began calling these radiogram recipients via Skype. However the availability of Skype to anyone on the internet has led Earl to discontinue this service. At present we have no formal outlets for international traffic. If anyone wishes to assume this as a project or wants to make any suggestions. let me know.

73, Marcia KW1U

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**Frank, W4DLZ**, the RN5 manager sent the following link to a great video, made in the UK. It tells the story of how hams there were used in WW II as intercept listening stations to monitor German traffic. I highly recommend you take a look, as it is very interesting:

<http://www.eafa.org.uk/catalogue/5108>

*Thanks, Frank.*

.-.-.

**Floyd, N5EL**, has had some health issues that prevent him from checking in very often.

*We hope for some relief for you, Floyd, and look forward to hearing you on as often as your condition permits.*

.-.-.

A couple more forwards from **Scott, W7IZ**. I've looked at both and they are very good. I was so impressed with the virtual choir that I actually bought one of the albums on iTunes.

1. West Texas photos: Wyman Meinzer graduated from Texas Tech. When he graduated, he moved back to his ranch near Benjamin, TX so he could begin his photography.

He lived in a dugout for quite a few months, to be in the middle of the roadrunners, coyotes, and snakes. Tremendous work.

If you're from West Texas and love the outdoors..or not, this will stir your heart!  
Be sure to turn on your speakers:

<http://player.vimeo.com/video/22132017?title=0&byline=0&portrait=0>

2. And now the virtual choir:

These are 'Virtual Choir' pieces. The first link tells how it came about; the other two links get you to longer performances, one with 185 voices and the second with over 2000. He takes each individual video, synchs the audio and turns them all into a virtual choir!

Very nice stuff!! 73, Scott W7IZ

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyLX2cke-Lw&feature=relmfu>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7o7BrlbaDs&feature=relmfu>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WhWDCw3Mng&feature=fvwrel>

.-.-.

Finally, as the NCS and liaison stations know, **Sam, W5CU**, suffered a retinal detachment on Sunday. He had surgery on Monday to repair the problem, and it was initially successful, but a re-detachment occurred on Tuesday. As a result, a more aggressive treatment was required, resulting in Sam being unable to be on the air for several days. His last email tells the story best: Retina detached again late this afternoon. I am one of the one in ten where the Scleral Buckle surgery does not successfully re-attach the retina. So I'm back into surgery at noon tomorrow for the so-called Vitrectomy, where a gas bubble replaces the vitreous between the lens and the retina and forces the retina to behave. I will have to lay horizontal for most of the time the next five days, then look at the world through this bubble for several months until it dissolves. Again, the surgery is not as bad as the longer recuperative period, but I will have a good nurse in the house and will be taking all these restrictions seriously. Thanks for your concern. 73, Sam

*We certainly hope and pray for the best for you, Sam.*

## TEX Net Topics

We still have **14** open NCS/liaison slots, including **3** open *primary* NCS slots and **7** open *primary* RN5 slots on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (all shown in **red**). Please consider taking one of these, or even just an open backup position. The RN5 liaisons are sorely needed. It is not difficult, in fact easier than being NCS, so don't be shy. NCS stations are reminded to always try to recruit an RN5 liaison station on early TEX especially for the early session. Either Rodney or myself often monitor / take the late session.

Be alert for long skip conditions to again plague us on the late session, as noted at the start of this newsletter.

### TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>NCS #1</b>	W5GKH	N5RL	KD5TXD	<b>Open</b>	N5RL	<b>Open</b>	W5GKH
Backup	<b>Open</b>	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5CU
<b>NCS #2</b>	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	<b>Open</b>	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	<b>Open</b>	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	W5CU
<b>RN5 #1</b>	W5GKH	<b>Open</b>	W5CU	<b>Open</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Open</b>	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	<b>Open</b>	W5DY	<b>Open</b>	W5ESE	W5ESE	W5GKH
<b>RN5 #2</b>	W5GKH	<b>Open</b>	W5CU	<b>Open</b>	K6JT	<b>Open</b>	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT	W5GKH

TEX/1: **3541**/7053 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 **3541**/7108/1841 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, K5RG, KA5KLU

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, N5RL, K5RG, W5TMO, KD5TXD

### Statistics:

Traffic was about the same as last month, but check-ins were down. Rodney, W5DY, with 46 (77%) took first, followed by Randy, N5RL, with 42 (70%). Sam, W5CU, with 38 (63%) took 3rd. Nice showing, all ! Thanks to all of you who checked in for your support.

It was good to hear Benny, K5KV, checking in from his Star, TX, QTH.

We had visitors including John, KB5NJD from Duncanville, and Don, W4WJ from Fredricksburg, as well as Jeff, WB8WKQ, who brought us some traffic from MI.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.5 per net session (2.4 last month). Net time averaged 12.3 minutes per session (compared to 13.1 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.8 per session (5.2 last month).

### TEX Net Statistics (Nov 2011)

Call		QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
N5BA	Brian	0	1					
		1						
K5CZ	Ed	1	1					
	Temple	0						
W5CU	Sam	19	38		12			
*		19			9			
W5DY	Rodney	25	46	3	8	1		
		21		2	6			
N5EL	Floyd	2	2					
*		0						
W5ESE	Scott	17	17		2			
*		0						
W5GKH	Charlie	9	19	9	5			
*		10		9	5			
K5GM	Pete	3	5					
*		2						
W9GVW	Eric	2	2					
*		0						
K6JT	Steve	19	49	6	1		19	
*		30		10	9		30	
KA5KLU	Doug	4	4		1			
*		0						
K5KV	Benny	3	7					
		4						
WA5MS	Marty	1	1					
*		0						
KB5NJD	John	1	1					
	Duncanville	0						
N5NVP	Jim	2	8					
		6						
K5QOW	Gary	5	5			4		
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	3	10		1			
*		7			1			
N5RL	Randy	22	42	8				
*		20						
W5TMO	Mike	0	20					
*		20		9				
KD5TXD	Pat	4	4	4				4
*		0						
KS5V	Ed	1	2					
*	Bulverde	1						
W4WJ	Don	1	1					
	Fredricksburg	0						
WB8WKQ	Jeff	0	2					
	MI	2						
Totals		287		60	60	5	49	4
				100%	100%	8%	82%	7%
QTC 1		44	153					
QTC 2		109			Sessions:	60		
Time 1		317	736					
Time 2		419						

The roster is shown on the next page. NCS stations please keep a copy handy since we have had some new additions lately.

## TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5BA	Brian	Houston	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
K5CZ	Ed	Temple	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	W5OMR	Geoff	Houston
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
K5GM	Pete	Austin	N0SSS	Adam	Oklahoma
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
AA5J	Lee	Arkansas	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
K5JRN	Si	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
* K5KV	Benny	Star	KS5V	Ed	Bulverde
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	* NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
N7NET	Scott	McKinney	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

\* Capable of 160 meter operation

### Operating:

As mentioned earlier, NCS stations on early TEX, please try to always have an RN5 liaison station for the early RN5 net, even if there is no traffic going to RN5. There could be traffic from other states in RN5 that needs to be picked up. However, if nobody can be recruited, it is more important to have a liaison on late RN5 to pick up traffic incoming from the Central Area Net. Any "leftover" traffic from the early session can also be picked up then.

Recall also that there is no outgoing RN5 liaison on late TEX. The incoming RN5 rep is not the one that should be given any outgoing traffic unless he is also the scheduled RN5 liaison for the following day (see the Weekly Schedule table). Ask for a volunteer to take the traffic to early TEX the next day. There will always be a day delay in handling that traffic.

Note that there is a daytime RN5 net on SSB that can also be used to pass urgent traffic (10:30 and 15:30 on 7280). Also, if you have traffic for other Texas, Oklahoma, or Louisiana destinations, and you are home during the day, try the 7290 Traffic net between 10AM and noon or 1 to 2 PM.

Until next month,  
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](http://www.atcweb.com/tsn/Texas_Slow_Net.htm)  
 Pat Allison KD5TXD ( [pja@atcweb.com](mailto: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

We held our own this month. Thank you to our faithful regulars. We missed one net night because I was not home and Arley had bad weather and could not power up his rig. Our regulars are welcome to call the net if the regular net control is not there and Arley can't back us up. You all know how it is done so give it a try. You don't need to worry about a training lesson on nights like that, just give a try at calling the net. You will be surprised at how well you do.

Also, we picked up a few new visitors in November. Band conditions must have been particularly good. Welcome to K5DMC, Jer in Kiln, MS, K5MDK, Mike in Plano, K7KV, Dave in Auburn, WA, and KB0LF, Fred in Murray, NE. If you folks hear us on, please check in again. We love to have your participation.

### November 2011 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	KB0LF	Fred	Murray	NE
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	TX	W8LKI	Wolfe	Defiance	OH
W5AS	Club Call			KC0M	Larry	Branson	MO
K5AVJ	Lynn	Abilene	TX	K5MDK	Mike	Plano	TX
N9AWP	Edward	Markleville	IN	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
W4CCU	David	Pensacola	FL	N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX
ND0CW	David	Newburg	ND	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr	TX
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS	AA5NZ	Web	Goldthwait	TX
WD9F	Woody	Springfield	IL	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
K5FAL	Curt	Edmond	OK	KE5PYF	David	Fort Worth	TX
K5GM	Pete	Austin	TX	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells	TX
K5DMC	Jer	Kiln	MS	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
W5DPT	Louis	Deer Park	TX	N0SSS	Adam	Oklaunion	TX
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglasville	TX
AK4GY	Russ	Lewisberg	TN	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
WR9H	Herbert	Rockford	IL	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
KE5HCM	Patti	Kerville	TX	WB5UPS	Ron	Port Neches	TX
WD5ILB	Bob	Azle	TX	N5UZ	Rick	Cedar Park	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	KD5VGJ	Jay	Flower Mound	TX
K6JT, W0CXX	Steve	Plano	TX	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
N0JL	Jim	Chilliecothe	IA	W4VLL	Victor	Pembroke	VA
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
K9JWV	Jim	St. George	UT	WB8W	Bob	Cincinnati	OH
KT4KL	Alton	Bandera	TX	WB5WKQ	Jeff	Dryden	MI
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX



Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
K7KV	David	Auburn	WA	NK5Z	Tom	Conroe	TX
KB5KWO	Steve	Norman	OK	WJ5Z	Roy	Tyler	TX

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, 2011

Total Sessions 30, Total Check-ins 125, Total Traffic 28 by 15 different operators.

### November 2011 QNS

November	Callsign	Name	QTH	STATE
30	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
30	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
16	WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS
15	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglasville	TX
12	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
7	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
6	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
2	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
1	K5AVJ	Lynn	Abilene	TX
1	K5DMC	Jer	Kiln	MS
1	K5MDK	Mike	Plano	TX
1	K7KV	David	Auburn	WA
1	KB0LF	Fred	Murray	NE
1	N0JL	Jim	Chillicothe	IA
1	W5DPT	Louis	Deer Park	TX

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

December 7, 2011