

# The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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February 2009



## A Little Improvement in Conditions

There were some improvements in band conditions late in the month, thankfully. Early TEX has settled down somewhat and late TEX is generally always OK. There are exceptions, of course, so NCS stations are still encouraged to ask the farthest distant station from your location to solicit QNI to the net.

## Goliad County Fair

Rodney, W5DY, reports that from March 19-22 he (and others) will be operating a special station from the Goliad County Fair using callsign W5G. They already have printed QSL cards, ARRL has been notified, and now they just have to get the word out to as many as possible. Mark your calendar and listen for them, hopefully with good propagation. They will be operating 80, 40, 20 and 15, along with vhf/uhf. Details will appear in next month's newsletter.

## 7290 Picnic

Yup, it's getting close to picnic time again! Jo Ann, KA5AZK, the net manager reports that this year's 7290 picnic will be held at the same location, Riverbend Park, in Smithville on May 9. Details will appear in upcoming newsletters. At this time, Rodney plans to attend but my status is still unknown due to the need to care for my father, who is still living with us. Please let me know (via E-Mail or on the net) if you think you will attend this year so we can compile a list. Already heard from Bert, AC5Z, who would like to attend if some others are going.

## 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 22 of George Hart's recollections. The WLM Fort Myer operation and a visit to a burlesque show.

## **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 22.

### **Chapter 22 - The WLM Fort Myer operation**

At Fort Myer, two transmitters were used for WLM. One of them, at about 400 watts, was used exclusively for AARS on 3497.5 (WLM) or 3680 (W3CXL). This transmitter was designated M and was not a commercial make but had been built by Ed Day. I was impressed at the rack-and-panel construction and Ed's obvious familiarity with construction techniques. In retrospect, it seems strange that he was only a private, but this was a peacetime Army and I wasn't familiar with rank designations then. The other transmitter used for WLM was a commercial make rated at 1000 watts. It was used by WAR during the day but available for WLM at night. This transmitter was designated L. These two transmitters were in a corner of a room containing a vast array of more powerful WAR transmitters used for official Army dispatches to points all over the world. WLM was devoted entirely to AARS and handled no official Army traffic. Communication between the operating, transmitting and receiving sites was undoubtedly available by telephone but for frequency-changing purposes a telegraphic horn was used.

On my first visit I was very conscious of this horn blaring away, sending things like CW, A56, which meant nothing to me, but occasionally a worded message was sent. I was told that each transmitter at Fort Myer had a letter designation and was capable of being tuned to certain frequencies designated for regular Army (WAR) or AARS (WLM) use. If the operator at WLM wanted a transmitter on 6990, he would go to the horn position and send L69, then back at the operating position he would tune the receiver to 6990 and hear the transmitter being activated. Ed Day told me that occasionally, when they were having trouble reaching WVQB in Hawaii, they could get one of the higher power transmitters on 6990. The M transmitter was used exclusively for AARS. The L transmitter was used for WAR in the daytime, WLM at night. All the others, from 1 to 10 KW, could be tuned to 6990 if needed and if available.

Once during a visit to Washington I was invited to observe an evening of operation at WLM including a meal at the mess hall. It was a most interesting experience. I not only observed the operation but actually operated WLM/W3CXL (probably against the rules). In between schedules I sat around jawing with the operators and wandering around observing some of the WAR operations. Most of the positions were closed down, but several were still operating. WLM was about the only position that was operated manually. The rest used tape - white, 1/4 inch tape, which flowed rapidly, down a channel in which the Morse Code signals being received at almost unbelievably high speeds (over 400 w.p.m.) were recorded in a squiggly line. The tapes were later run through another channel at a slower speed and deciphered, some in five letter code groups, some in plain language. I say a "slower" speed but by this I don't mean low speed. Some of the veteran operators could "copy" it at speeds up to 90 w.p.m. This was strictly visual copy from the code recorded in squiggly lines, not the audible code to which I was accustomed. It was called "reading slip" and I noticed that most of the operators wore glasses, some of them thick. "Reading slip," a lost art after RTTY and other methods came into use during and after WWII, was murder on the eyes.

An amusing aside, in connection with the trips to Washington, having nothing to do with amateur radio: one of the customs observed during one evening while in Washington was attendance at the Gayety Theater, a popular burlesque institution in the Washington area for many years. "Pop" Crossley, while pretending to disapprove, tried to give the impression of tolerant indulgence and not only allowed us to attend but insisted on going with us, "to keep you out of trouble." After about my third trip to Washington with the staff, I began to suspect that he enjoyed these outings more than we did, so we entered into a conspiracy to show complete indifference and a preference for some other type of activity.

"I suppose you'll want to go to the Gayety tonight," he said, grinning at us. "I don't care anything about it, but if that's what you want, I'll go along."

It was hard to keep from convulsing when his face fell as we unanimously expressed disinterest and suggested attendance at an opera or some other kind of more dignified entertainment, or going to bed early.

"We've gone to the Gayety every year we've been down here," he said. "Of course I don't care anything about it but if some of you want to go, I'll tag along."

In the end, we all went to the Gayety, giving the impression we were yielding to his wishes, rather than the other way around. It didn't set well with Gil and he made some derogatory remarks in a jocular tone about our basic manhood.

Baiting Gil Crossley became a popular pastime among the Radio Station Staff during my years at Penn State. His wife was a buxom woman, mother of three children, one of whom acquired his ham license and became an acquaintance of mine.

Mrs. Crossley became known as Gil's "battle ax" because of her many visits to the station to get Gil to come home. I remember one afternoon at the station when I looked out the window and saw Navonne Crossley waddling up the boardwalk. Gil was in the workshop, so I called out, "Hey, Gil, here comes your battle ax!" Mrs. Crossley burst in the door and grabbed me by the ear.

"I heard that, George Hart!" she cried. I apologized laughingly. Navonne wasn't amused, but the incident started Gil laughing and soon she joined in.

Coming in Chapter 23: *Geo's year of debauchery and graduate studies in preparation for ARRL.*

### **TEX Mailbox:**

**Doug, KA5KLU**, sent in the following humorous (but hauntingly pointed) quote. As you may know, Doug writes novels about native Indians and their adventures, so he is somewhat of an authority on the subject.

Subject: Where did the white man go wrong?

Indian Chief 'Two Eagles' was asked by a white government official, 'You have observed the white man for 90 years. You've seen his wars and his technological advances. You've seen his progress, and the damage he's done.'

The Chief nodded in agreement.

The official continued, 'Considering all these events, in your opinion, where did the white man go wrong?'

The Chief stared at the government official for over a minute and then calmly replied. 'When white man find land, Indians running it, no taxes, no debt, plenty buffalo, plenty beaver, clean water.

Women did all the work, Medicine man free. Indian man spend all day hunting and fishing; all night having sex.' Then the chief leaned back and smiled...

'Only white man dumb enough to think he could improve system like that.'

*Hmmmm !*

Congratulations are in order to **Si, K5JRN**, who writes: Good old N5EL managed to hear my four-watt signal into a 50-foot piece of wire up on the roof, and I was able to check in again from Denton.

I got married again recently and moved to another house, so I don't have much of a setup right now, and I'm very busy these days. We may be moving to Austin in a few weeks. Once we do, I hope I will be able to have a better antenna. I'll try to stay in touch with the net once in a while and hope my very weak signal can be heard.

73, Si K5JRN

*Congratulations, Si, and we wish you the very best. Looking forward to hearing you from a new Austin QTH!*

**Sam, W5CU**, sent some more info about the combined AR/MS NTS net, which now meets at 6:45 p.m. and thus will not conflict with TEX. Net manager Tom, K4VIZ, who RN5 reps will recognize as a regular QNI there, wrote the following: Please consider checking in to the combined CW nets. It is the MTN and meets at 6:45 pm on 3.570 MHz every night. The frequency is usually much clearer at the 15 minutes earlier time. This is a combination of the Mississippi and Arkansas CW traffic nets. We need your input and check-ins to make these CW nets more viable and more fun. It's a lot more fun to have a net with 8 or 10 check-ins than 1 check-in.

Arkansas will still need to field RN5 reps and WA5JAN, W5DTR and K4VIZ will still continue with these slots. We also need to help Jim / KB5W, the MTN manager, with net control duties. So, what say, we all do our part to make CW alive AND WELL???

If you have any comments, pro or con, please feel free to let me know. Jim / WA5JAN was net control of OZK for 8-1/2 years and he has resigned to spend more time with his grandkids. 73, Tom Desaulniers K4VIZ / Conway, AR.

**Sam, N5AF**, has checked in a few times of late. He writes: Thanks for putting me on this mailing list. I appreciate it very much. This is the REAL amateur radio! I printed out some more CW net operating aids and drank a bottle of courage ( Dr. Pepper! ) and checked in to both TEX and TSN tonight. 73, Sam Neal N5AF

**Bert, AC5Z**, has had trouble with his keyboard keyer of late. You may have noticed some key bounce and other problems (sounds like perhaps some RF is getting into it, too, Bert?). Bert writes: My keyboard keyer started locking up so I had to put it aside and use the little MFJ 401D Econokeyer and paddles. Been out of practice for a while, and my hand coordination is sometimes a problem (which is why I use the keyboard), but at least it gets me on the air.

Bert is a trooper, though, and will tough it out as best he can while waiting for repairs. If he asks you to QNG when the going gets too rough, please do. Meanwhile, we can still understand his direction on the net in spite of the keying trouble. Thanks for your effort, Bert!

**Floyd, N5EL**, sent in an interesting link to a Walter Cronkite video on YouTube. I looked up Walter's call and found that he has a Novice license. The video is interesting, an ARRL production of "Amateur Radio Today", and you can see it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcNuOF94CV4> .

Also, Floyd wrote an article for his local club about sending CW by "foot". You can check out the Feb 2009 TARC bulletin at: <http://www.tarc.org/> . 73 all, Floyd, N5EL

*I think you will enjoy it – I did. Floyd admitted to me that while he did use the special key on SKN, he did not use his foot to send with it. ☺*

**Pat, KD5TXD**, has become a columnist for a local publication and is keeping busy at the Kingsville Train Depot. She writes: I have started writing a column for "South Texas Living". Turned in my third article this week. The topic is Kingsville, of course. My focus is on our little Train Depot. It is all for free, but it is fun. Writing is something I enjoy. This last week I had two school groups at the depot. I always get the shakes around kids but I am starting to get used to it. One little guy came up to me and pulled on my sleeve. He asked me, "How do you know so much?" That surprised me a bit and all I could do was say that I wasn't around in 1904 so I have to do a lot of reading to learn about the good old days. Well, teacher was within earshot of that remark and swooped in to hammer home the point about reading being very important. It was kind of cool. 73, Pat

You may have also heard Pat checking in on Monday and Tuesday from the Texas A&M University Kingsville (TAMUK) club station, W5ZD. Charles (her OM), teaches an astronomy class those nights so he asked Pat to come along. He jury-rigged an 80 meter antenna for her (her condition for coming along), which so far does not perform very well, but she is OK copy up here in the north when band conditions are not too bad. Hopefully the antenna will be improved in the coming weeks.

**Floyd, N5EL**, forwarded a reminder to those who have cell phones that they should register the numbers with the national do-not-call list so that telemarketers will not "eat up" your limited airtime minutes. Here is the info: REMINDER.... all cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sales calls..... YOU COULD BE

CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS. To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222.

It is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will only take a minute of your time. It blocks your number for five (5) years. You must call from the cell phone number you want to have blocked. You cannot call from a different phone number.

*Note: The website says the 5 year limit no longer applies. You can also use the web rather than calling. Visit <https://www.donotcall.gov> to do any of these things:*

- *to establish, renew, or verify your registration*
- *to file a complaint*

**Chuck, AA5J**, will be in Atlanta until Feb. 11, so fill-ins for his NCS and RN5 slots (Tuesday and Thursday, respectively) have been needed. More about Chuck in TSN Corner.

**Scott, N7NET**, reports that his son-in-law, Steven, has recently completed all the search and rescue classes offered locally. Last week he received his technician call, KE5ZBI. Now he wants to learn CW. Scott is very happy about that and is encouraging Steven to get into the NTS. We hope to have him start on TSN one of these days and perhaps cut his traffic teeth on the VHF DFW nets.

**TEX Net Topics**

There has been a little shuffling around of slots in the duty roster. Of particular note, Pat, KD5TXD, has swapped early TEX NCS duties with me (Wednesday / Friday). Some backup slots have also been changed or filled, so please look it over to see if you are affected. We still have open RN5 liaison slots. Please consider filling one or more of the open slots as a regular or even backup station. We still have **12** open NCS/liaison slots, with 6 open *primary* RN5 slots! Thanks to Sam, W5CU, Scott, W5ESE, and Rodney, W5DY, who have been filling the majority of them. Note that as an alternate, you are not obliged to perform the function, but if you are on the net and have sufficient time, when the primary is not present, please tell the NCS you will take it (in particular for the early RN5 liaisons).

**TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule**

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>NCS #1</b>	W5GKH	AA5J	KD5TXD	AC5Z	K6JT	AC5Z	W5GKH
Backup	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>	W5DY	W5DY	KD5TXD	W5DY	W5CU
<b>NCS #2</b>	W5GKH	AA5J	KD5TXD	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	K6JT
<b>RN5 #1</b>	W5GKH	W5CU	<i>Open</i>	AA5J	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	AA5J	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5ESE	W5CU	W5GKH
<b>RN5 #2</b>	W5GKH	W5CU	<i>Open</i>	AA5J	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	W5DY	W5GKH

TEX/1: 3552 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 3552 at 22:00 local

RN5/1: 3567/7045 at 19:30; RN5/2: 3567 at 21:30 local

TSN: 3552 - 19:45 local; CAN: 3552/7052 - 20:30 local; PAN: 3552/3557/7052 - 22:30 local

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

**Statistics:**

Traffic count improved this past month, and QNI was also a little better. Rodney, W5DY, with 50 (81%) again took top QNI for the month, followed by Chuck, AA5J, with 33 (53%) and Pat, KD5TXD, with 31 (50%). Thanks also to Sam, W5CU, Scott, W5ESE, Ken, K5RG, and Bert, AC5Z, who all had 20 or more QNI. Thank you all for your support – every checkin helps to keep the net alive and well.

Had some visitors this month including: Scott, W7IZ, from Oregon, who is a regular contributor of news items for this newsletter (also manager of RN7 and STM of Oregon); a return of Dan, AA0NI, from Oklahoma City; Mike, KA5NNG, from AR; Kevin, K4PG, from Florida, who is also a regular on RN5; Rick, KA8RTS, from Michigan; and Chris, AI6U, an old friend of mine from Sacramento, CA.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 1.9 per net session (up from 1.4 last month). Net time averaged 13.5 minutes per session (compared to 12.7 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.7 per session (up from 5.0 last month).

**TEX Net Statistics (January 2009)**

			Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
N5AF	Sam	2	3						
		1							
W5CDX	Wads	0	7						
*		7							
W5CU	Sam	18	28		11				
*		10			6				
W5DY	Rodney	27	50	1	9	1	3		
		23		4	9				
N5EL	Floyd	16	16						
*		0							
W5ESE	Scott	26	26		1			23	16
*		0							
W5GKH	Charlie	7	15	7	4				
*		8		8	4				
K5GM	Pete	2	2						
*		0							
W7IZ	Scott	0	1						
	OR	1							
AA5J	Chuck	17	33	4	5		1		9
*		16		4	4				9
KJ9J	Newt	16	16						

*		0							
K5JRN	Si	1	1						
*		0							
K6JT	Steve	13	44	5			13		
*		31		5	8		31		
KA5KLU	Doug	2	2						
*		0							
W6LFB	Jim	5	5						
*		0							
WA5MUF	Bill	3	4				1		
*		1							
AA0NI	Dan	1	1						
*	OKC	0							
KA5NNG	Mike	1	1						
		0							
N5NVP	Jim	0	6						
		6							
K4PG	Kevin	2	2						
	FL	0							
N5PWG	Jay	5	19						
*		14		5					
K5RG	Ken	8	21						
*		13							
KA8RTS	Rick	1	1						
*	MI	0							
KD5TXD	Pat	19	31	5		18			
*		12		5		9			
AI6U	Chris	0	1						
*	CA	1							
AC5Z	Bert	20	20	9					
*		0							
Totals		355		62	61	28	49	23	34
				100%	98%	45%	79%	37%	55%
QTC 1		49	116						
QTC 2		67		Sessions:		62			
Time 1		476	836						
Time 2		360							

The roster, which follows on the next page, has been updated with Pat's "alternate" call from TAMUK. Note the names and QTH's for the visitors are shown in the statistics table.



## TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
N5BA	Brian	Houston	# N7NET	Scott	Allen
W5CDX	Wads	Crowley LA	KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City OK
NV5D	Martin	Allen	# N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	* N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
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	KC5T	Bob	Houston
KA9IKK	Bill	Houston	W5TFB	Jack	College Station
KA8IXC	Skip	Victoria	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)
W6LFB	Jim	Denton	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)
WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village			

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

### Operating:

Be sure to tune up and down from net frequency 2 or 3 KHz to look for the NCS should there be QRM on 3552 at startup time (which there seems to be quite often these days). For contest weekends, also check 3643, just in case.

I still hear quite a number of stations using "QSP" when they really mean "QNB". That is, unfortunately, the fault of some of the ARRL publications, I think. In the "old" days (and even now for the long definition), QSP means you are able to handle the message, either for relay (to another net) or delivery, without charge (i.e., toll calls, stamps, etc.). QNB means to act as a relay between two other stations. With poor band conditions, we often need that relay these days. So NCS stations should use QNB when directing someone to relay between two others or we can use QNB when requesting that someone relay our transmission to the NCS. Try to use QSP only when volunteering to take traffic or asking if someone can accept the traffic.

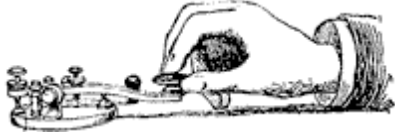
Note that there is another QN signal – QNJ – that can be used to ask if someone copies someone else. A response of "C" is appropriate for "yes", and a response of QNP for "no".

If you need a full list of the QN signals, check the TEX website. A link to the reference card published by ARRL is contained near the bottom of the web page.

Until next month, wish for even *more* sunspots !

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](http://www.geocities.com/scottamcmullen/Texas_Slow_Net.html)

Chuck Mayfield AA5J (AA5J@Verizon.net)

TSN Net Manager

Net QNI was up slightly in January, 143 checkins. 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
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	TX	WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	TX
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	AA0NI	Dan	Oklahoma City	OK
K8BBM	Dave	Selby	SD	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
AC0BU	Carson	Corydon	IA	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
W6EOD	Steve	Baker	FL	K4OSO	Milt	Rockville	VA
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS	K5RST	Ross	Zapata	TX
WB9FIU	Randy	Columbus	IN	N0SSS	Adam	Oklahoma	TX
KA8IXC	Dan	Victoria	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
AA5J	Chuck	Plano	TX	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	KJ5XF	Tony	Austin	TX
K6JT	Steve	Plano	TX	NH7WB/5	Joe	?	?
W5KCM	Randy	Watauga	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
WA5LOU	Lou	Kennard	TX	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches	TX
KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX				

### Mobile in Atlanta

Chuck, AA5J, has been in Atlanta, GA, for the last couple weeks. According to reports received, he has been able to QNI TSN on several occasions using his mobile station. Look for Chuck back in Texas again around February 11.

### Thank You

Thanks to all of you for participating in the Texas Slow Net. Will have more news next month. 73, Chuck, AA5J (/4)

### December Activity Report

TOTAL SESSIONS 31, TOTAL CHECKINS 143,  
TOTAL TRAFFIC 27, BY 14 DIFFERENT STATIONS

*The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT*