

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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February 2011



Short Newsletter Month

In keeping with the every-other-month full newsletter started a few months ago, this one will be a bit shorter (it *is* February, after all). I did receive some feedback and other news since last month, so there is a TEX Mailbox section in addition to the statistics and roster.

A special **thanks!** up front to Rodney for taking over when I was (very) sick with the flu for almost a week.

CTTN is no more

As sent in an E-mail to net control stations, effective immediately, CTTN (Central Texas Traffic Net) is eliminated from the net call-up sequence, and statistics will no longer be reported for it. Rodney, W5DY, confirmed this and provided the following additional information:

CTTN no longer exists. I have not been able to find anyone who can get it going again. They developed repeater problems a couple of years ago and have not been able to come up with a solution. In the period of inactivity, there seems to be a great loss of interest by the former members, so I guess it is done for.

TEX Mailbox:

Heard from **Tom, K4VIZ**, a regular on RN5 from AR, in response to my plea last month to originate some traffic to family and friends. Tom wrote: I generated 4 pieces of original traffic. NONE has yet to be delivered. We are done for, dinosaurs. 1 to Rhode Island, 2 to Georgia, 1 to Mass. Not a really good average for message delivery.
Tom / K4VIZ

As a follow-up, **Frank, W4DLZ**, the RN5 manager wrote the following: Hello All, Recently myself and others have encouraged NTS members to originate traffic to friends, family members and other Hams. Use RadioGrams instead of EMail when you can... and I have begun to see real traffic being originated and sent.

Tom K4VIZ and others have been putting traffic of this type into the system lately and we've been very pleased to see this. It's especially needed now as ARRL is definitely taking a close look at NTS and each of us need to do a good job.

Now you need to know that I am extremely upset !!! Tom is Livid !!

Over a week ago K4VIZ, Tom, originated four NTS messages to family members. They were put on EAN, going to Holden, MA, Woonsocket, RI, Atlanta and Rome GA.

Not only has the traffic not been delivered, but K4VIZ hasn't been serviced back... NADA!!

This is Horrible, the worst thing that could happen!! I may ask Tom to let me resend the traffic with HXD instructions. I am going to find out what happened and hope this is not now a Laissez-Faire attitude by NTS people. Hopefully just a few, but one rotten apple spoils the barrel!!

If this is the way the Members feel about delivering traffic then I recommend NTS be shut down!!!! This is from me, a guy who sent his first RadioGram as a Novice in 1954... 57 years ago.

(From a follow-up email)

I'm informed the two GA messages have finally been delivered. The addressees asked replies be sent and none have, so far. The messages were sent on the 9th of January and two were just recently delivered in GA (Jan 16).

As far as I'm concerned this is too long. We are supposed to demonstrate to the ARRL that NTS is a viable substitute for delivery of messages when the infrastructure goes down. A wise old Sage recently told me, this was a Hobby, not a paying job. But Sage, Nowhere does the FCC say Amateur Radio is a Hobby, instead FCC says in the rules it is a public service only...

Having said all this I again ask you to generate traffic to friends and associates preferably using HXD/E. Thanks again.

Frank W4DLZ RN5 Mgr

Let's not let this happen here! Be diligent and timely about relaying or delivering traffic you receive or servicing back to the originator when you are unable to do so. Ed.

Jim, W6LFB, now has 160 meter capability. He wrote: You can put an *asterisk* by my call for 160M capability. Not a big sig - shorted out the coax at the bottom of my 80M dipole, and run it thru an MFJ tuner. An MFJ "artificial ground" is also indispensable for this. Apex of dipole is only 25 feet, but just got an e-mail QSL from KL7RA (QSO on one of the 160M contests) so must be working!!

In response to last months' "biography" and question about the "old days" of TEX, **Charlie, W5GKH**, responded: Yes, things were different back then. Instead of the problem of trying to

fill the slots on TEX, the problem was trying to fit in the operators that wanted to fill one. At one time, I gave up one of my slots to an operator who wanted to be NCS.

Also, back then, the term of office for net manager was 2 years. Some time after that N5TC, Tom Comstock, appointed me as South Texas Traffic Manager, a position I held for 12 years. I used to mail reports to the ARRL before email came about.

A footnote to my bio: when I was on tour with College Capers of 1942, my roommate was the lead trumpet player in the orchestra, Lon Pace from Plano. I lost contact with Lon after that, and now I wonder if Lon is still alive and playing in the DFW area. He would be a year or two older than I am.

73, Charlie

Pat, KD5TXD, has quite a few things going on. Here are her inputs: Hi All, I should maybe update everyone on the status of Charles' antenna tower. I am sure you remember me talking about the wonderful crank up/tilt down 51 foot antenna tower that I purchased for Charles for Christmas half a decade ago... It's the one I hang laundry on to dry. Well, over the Christmas holiday Charles had a fellow come out with one of those wonderful scoopi machines and they dug the most beautiful 4 foot by 4 foot by 5 foot deep hole for the antenna tower base. The sides were perfect. The corners were exactly 90 degrees. It was a wonder to see.

Then it rained. They had covered the hole with corrugated tin roofing material thinking that would keep the water out. Well, any water coming straight down was properly deflected. No one considered the water that dribbled along the ground, zig zagging and drooling into the hole. It had been really dry here. We really needed the moisture. We had a lovely slow rain for a couple days. It was only a couple of inches of nice slow rain. It was perfect to quench the parched Wild Horse Desert. It dribbled and drooled and filled up the 4 foot by 4 foot by 5 foot deep hole.

When it stopped raining I went out and peeked under the corrugated tin to see if the hole was OK. When I saw the amount of water in the hole and the perfect sides of the hole slowly oozing and falling into the hole I realized I needed to step back from the edge lest I fall in and never be seen again, really never seen again. Now, this would be great if I wanted to trap javelinas and bathe them. It is a danger to wild life and people life, too. Charles confiscated my largest tarp that I use for covering my plants when it is going to freeze and put that over his hole to keep any more water from coming in.

So, that has been a few weeks...most of January. Today Charles went to the hardware store and purchased a little drill attachment that can be used to pump water out of stuff, like fish ponds. You attach a hose to both ends, turn on the drill and a mini pump starts pumping the water. Oh, yes, Charles had to buy a new drill to do this. For some unknown reason the old drill wasn't good enough. Charles has been pumping and pumping and pumping water for about an hour now. No indication of any decrease in the water in the hole. A little dribble is coming out the exit hose. It is going to be a while longer before he gets this hole drained. ...and it looks like it is going to rain today. Thanks and 73!! Pat KD5TXD

P.S. Why do I always think of the Three Stooges when Charles and I are working on a project?

Pat was also able to get up to the Austin area to visit **Floyd, N5EL**. Pat wrote: Some folks may know that I am working on a book. It is a pictorial history of Kingsville. I have been spending way too much time in the South Texas Archives hunting for old pictures. There was a photographer named Jimmie Dodd who was a Kingsville native and took a lot of pictures from the late 1930's until some time in the 1960's. I needed his pictures to round out the book. His collection was sold to UT Austin for some annoying reason. That meant I needed to make a trip to Austin to get permission to use some of his pictures. Can't go to Austin without taking a side trip to see my code buddy N5EL, Floyd.



I got up to Austin on Monday, Jan 31st before the great winter snow storm of 2011. Monday was the most beautiful day with 70° temperatures and sunshine. Tuesday I was scheduled to spend the day at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History viewing negatives. Dang, it was nearly freezing on Tuesday morning. Thankfully it had not started to rain. I studied and studied the weather and figured I could still get up to see Floyd in Temple. And Floyd promised that he would not let it snow on me.

Got up bright and early Wednesday morning to only 18°. It has been a really long time since I have been that cold. I had to warm up my little car, just like folks in Minnesota do all the time, before starting the drive up to Temple. I made it safely and arrived on Floyd's doorstep about 9:30a.m. Oh, it was grand to see Floyd. He was looking great. He has managed to gain back some of the weight he lost last year but he is still pretty thin. As always, his smile is at least as wide as he is (see picture above).

We sat around the shack for a while discussing code keys, code, sounders and anything else we hadn't been able to visit about for a while. Floyd has been working on getting me to learn LandLine Morse code. He has several sounders set up in his shack and it was great fun to see them all. A couple of the sounders have resonator boxes. I am just green with envy over those resonator boxes. We have one at our railroad museum in Kingsville.

After a good visit we called Norm to see if he was available to go out to lunch. Norm is Floyd's LandLine code partner at the Temple Railroad Museum. Norm is 93 now and needs a scooter chair to get around. They don't get to demonstrate LandLine Morse much any more but they still hang out together for the occasional lunch or breakfast get together, and visits on the phone. Turns out, the day of my visit was Floyd and Wilma's wedding anniversary, Groundhog Day. Floyd reminisced about all the good times they had in their long marriage. Floyd misses Wilma a lot.

I wish I could have stayed longer, but I had to get back to Kingsville in time to call the TEX early net. I just barely made it in the door in time for the net. All that terrible cold weather followed me home. I had to call the net with my straight key because my bug was so cold its dits had gotten out of adjustment. I am sure some folks were wondering why my sending was so much poorer than normal. It was a good finish to a fun trip. The best part was visiting N5EL.

73, Pat KD5TXD

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. The Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday early NCS slots are most critical since I can seldom get home in time during the week and Rodney has other events some of those nights during the month.

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

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**/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, N5PWG, K5RG, NK5Z

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

Statistics:

Check-ins were up some since last month (thank you!). Traffic continued to be very low, dropping even more since last month.

Tom, NK5Z, with 42 (68%) edged out Rodney, W5DY's 41 (66%) for first and second. Gary, K5QOW, with 26 (42%) took 3rd. Good to see Gary checking in often from TTN in support of that liaison. Thanks to all who checked in for your support.

We had one visitor, Loy, NY4G, check in from South Carolina. Also happy to again hear Marty, WA5MS, checking in after a long absence.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 1.7 per net session (2.1 last month). Net time averaged 11.9 minutes per session (compared to 11.7 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.2 per session (4.7 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (January 2011)

Call		QNI	total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	10	21		7			
*		11			7			
W5DY	Rodney	21	41	8	2			
		20		6	2			
NE5E	Dave	0	1					
*	San Antonio	1						
N5EL	Floyd	24	24					
*		0						
W5ESE	Scott	22	23					
*		1						
NY4G	Loy	1	1					
	S. Carolina	0						
W5GKH	Charlie	9	18	10	6			
*		9		9	4			
K5GM	Pete	4	4					
*		0						
W9GVW	Eric	2	5					
*		3						
AA5J	Lee	0	1					
*		1						
K5JRN	Si	1	1					
*		0						
K6JT	Steve	20	44	5	3		20	
*		24		8	7		24	
KA5KLU	Doug	1	1					
*		0						
W6LFB	Jim	3	3					
*		0						
WA5MS	Marty	2	2					
*		0						
N5NVP	Jim	0	4					
		4						
N5PWG	Jay	8	13	4	4			
*		5		4	2			
K5QOW	Gary	21	26			10		
*		5						
K5RG	Ken	8	21					
*		13						
W5TMO	Mike	0	18					
*		18						
KD5TXD	Pat	4	8	4				4
*		4		4				4
NK5Z	Tom	23	42		9			
*		19			9			
Totals		322		62	62	10	44	8

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
				100%	100%	16%	71%	13%
QTC 1		42	106					
QTC 2		64		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		394	738					
Time 2		344						

The roster has been slightly updated (with more 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	Oklunion
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:

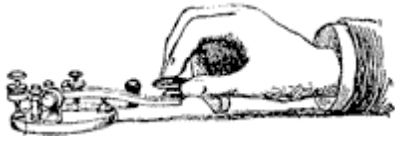
Long skip has again started to plague us on late TEX. The last 2 nights were very difficult, and tonight (Monday) was a complete wipe-out.

On nights when I am late NCS, I intend to try again calling up the net on 1841 KHz around 6 or 7 minutes after 10 when long skip is evident and few (if any) stations are heard. Of course, only those noted in the roster as having 160 capability will be able to participate.

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
 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

We are off to a good start for the New Year. I have cleaned out the Roster, but we have some new callsigns to welcome and celebrate. Glad to have K5FAL with us, and K9JWV. Please make visiting TSN a good habit. If your name is not on the list, be sure to check in with us soon and get back on the TSN Roster. I am keeping a few of you, such as K6JT, in hopes that you will visit TSN on occasions. Join us any time. Thanks to all who made TSN a regular part of their evening.

JANUARY 2011 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
K5AVJ	Lynn	Abilene	TX	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
ND0CW	David	Newburg	ND	N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr	TX
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
WD0ESF	Mike		KS	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
K5FAL	Curt	Edmond	OK	AA5NZ	Web	Goldthwait	TX
KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park	TX	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	TX	N0SSS	Adam	Oklunion	TX
WR9H	Herbert	Rockford	IL	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
KE5HCM	Patti	Kerrville	TX	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
K6JT, W0CXX	Steve	Plano	TX	KD5VGJ	Jay	Flower Mound	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
K9JWV	Jim	St. George		W4VLL	Victor	Pembroke	VA
KT4KL	Alton	Bandera	TX	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX	WB5WKQ	Jeff	Dryden	MI
KB5KWO	Steve	Norman	OK	NK5Z	Tom	Conroe	TX
KC0M	Larry	Branson	MO				

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 January, 2011

Total Sessions 31, Total Check-ins 127, Total Traffic 30 by 16 different operators.

January 2011 QNS

QNI	Callsign	Name	QTH
31	WB5NKC	Arley	OK, Oklahoma City
31	WB5NKD	Pat	OK, Oklahoma City
19	AA5JW	Carl	TX, Stafford
10	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	TX, Kingsville

QNI	Callsign	Name	QTH
7	W5DY	Rodney	TX, Goliad
7	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills, TX
5	KB5TCH	Carroll	TX, Douglassville
5	KD5MMM	Phil	TX, Fentress
2	AA5J	Lee(Chuck)	AR, Cabot
2	K5FAL	Curt	OK, Enid
2	W5ESE	Scott	TX, Dripping Springs
1	K4VIZ	Tom	AR, Conway
1	K9JWV	Jim	UT, St. George
1	KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park, TX
1	ND0CW	David	ND, Newburg
1	WB5WKQ	Jeff	MI, Dryden

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

February 10, 2011