

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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January – February 2017



Sorry for the Delay

This issue is a bit delayed. A severe case of the flu laid me out for 5 days – could hardly get out of bed, let alone get on the air or work on this newsletter. Yes, I had a flu shot – the heavy-duty one for us old dogs, but it obviously didn't have the right virus strain for the bug that got me. I read that the CDC has noted 1200 new cases of flu per week are occurring in widespread, near epidemic proportions. I hope none of you get caught by this really nasty one. The only advice I can give is to stay away from anyone who is coughing a lot with sinus issues. That is how it started with me, and I thought it was just an allergy at first, but by the 2nd day, wham, out cold.

Many thanks to Rodney, W5DY, and Jim, W5FEA, for covering all my NCS and Liaison functions while I was incapacitated.

Long Skip Abated Somewhat

After several weeks of terrible propagation conditions, it seems to be coming back to at least an acceptable level for TEX on 80, both early and late. Signals are often below normal levels, but at least we are generally not completely wiped out by long skip. RN5 and CAN seem to still be having a bit of trouble with poor signal levels.

Some Stories by Vic W7VSE

It has been a while since we've had some stories written by Vic, W7VSE. Thought you all would enjoy them as a change of pace. While they may not be directly related to amateur radio, Vic is a great story teller and they are always entertaining. Thanks again, Vic.

OL' "LEAD PENCIL"

My hometown, Waurika Oklahoma, was built on Beaver Creek in Southern Oklahoma. Beaver Creek empties into Red River, which separates Oklahoma and Texas. Red River empties into the Mississippi River, which goes to the Gulf of Mexico. After reading Mark Twains' books about Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn, some of us kids talked about building a boat, putting it in Beaver Creek and going all the way to New Orleans. This was during the Great Depression and none of us had the wherewithal to accomplish that feat. But after WW2, Howard Andrews, son of George Andrews, came back and fulfilled our dream. While

he was in the water, he was out of touch for a couple of weeks and they worried about him. But he showed up in New Orleans. I'm not sure he got the recognition he deserved, but I really admire him for doing that. I guess I am a little jealous.

I was an only child, and my mother died when I was four. Her mother and father raised me. We lived across the alley from the Hurt family for a few years. Quentin and Wayne were brothers and a few years older than me. I visited them quite a lot and grew up with them. They were both like the brothers I never had, and the whole family treated me like I was one of their own. Mama Hurt was an excellent cook. She cooked at the Harper Hotel on South Main Street for a long time. She made the best cornbread that I have ever tasted. I spent a lot of time at their house, and enjoyed many a delicious meal with them. I would tag along when their Dad, John Hurt, would take them down in the timber on Beaver Creek to cut firewood. They would do all the sawing and axe work. My job was to climb up and sit on a tree branch, or log and hold it down, while they cut it into firewood with a crosscut saw. We also went swimming in Beaver Creek often. Quentin owned a little "Jenny" and we all got to ride her from time to time. That little donkey didn't like to go away from home, but we learned to take a big nail with us and prod her on the shoulder to get her to go. Sometimes there would be three of us riding her. Once we got her going, I think she realized we were going to the ole swimmin' hole, and she would almost break into a trot as we got close to the Creek. We would have to jump off her back as we got to the creek as she would not slow down and immediately went right into the water on a hot summer day. She liked to swim too.

John Hurt taught me how to swim. I think I was about eight or nine years old and one day we were swimming down by the bridge on the road to Sugden, south of town. The spring rains had the creek overflowing its banks. There was one spot where the water was about waist deep for a grownup, but was too deep for me to wade in. John Hurt took me out about 10 feet from shore and left me alone in the water, and went over to the shore. I was dog paddling and scared. He kept coaxing me to swim to him, and I finally did. After that I had no fear of the water and swam every chance I got.

Many years later, Quentin Hurt told me a story. He said someone found a new way to catch fish. They discovered that an old field telephone put out a high voltage when you cranked it – that's the way it rang the bell on the other end of the wire. Someone figured out they could take two wires from that telephone, and put them out in the water on each side of a boat, and when they cranked the phone, the voltage would go through the water and any fish between the two wires would be paralyzed and come to the surface. You could just pick them up and put them in the boat. Of course, this became illegal, but there weren't many Game Wardens in those days and they still secretly got away with their "shocking machine" fishing now and then.

Quentin said that he and Cliff Stewart were fishing one day from a boat down at the mouth of Beaver Creek, where it ran into Red River. Apparently there was a fairly large body of water in that area. He said they put the wires out in the water on each side of the boat and cranked on the handle of the phone for a few minutes, and soon one huge catfish rolled up to the surface. Quentin reached out to pick it up and the fish was so big and heavy, it pulled him right out of the boat into the water. He had his arms around the body of this fish. He said that fish was as big as he was, and its whiskers looked as big around as a lead pencil and were about a foot long! He fought with that fish for a few minutes but the fish was too much for

him. It flapped out of his arms and swam away. They named it “Ole Lead Pencil.” He said they went back to that same spot many times, but never saw Ole Lead Pencil again.

Something like 60, or more, years later, I was communicating with Tom Brown down in McQueeney, Texas. Tom and I went to school together and were good friends. He owned and ran a successful business there in McQueeney for years and was one of the earliest people to learn to operate a computer. One day I got a letter from him, and it had a picture of two men holding a huge catfish. When I first looked at the picture, I wondered if someone had finally caught Ole Lead Pencil. The picture was taken at Lake Texoma. The fish was so big it took the two men, together, to pick it up and hold it for the photograph. I looked closer at the men, and got the shock of my life! The man that was holding the upper part of that giant catfish, was me! This really had me worried. Was I ever at Lake Texoma? Am I losing my mind, and cannot remember something of this magnitude?

I called Tom on the telephone and told him of my dilemma and asked him about the picture. He laughed, and told me he simply super-imposed my face over the man’s face in the photo with his computer. What a relief to find this out.

Tom has long since gone to a better place, and I miss him, but sometimes I think I can still hear him laughing.

Bunkin Layton (Vic Seeberger)

Great Grandparents

This is part of the story of four of my great-grandparents. We have 4 great-grandmothers and 4 great grandfathers, you know. I feel very fortunate to have known two of my great-grandmothers. They were both born in the early 1800s and survived the civil war. We visited them many times.

My mother and father were divorced when I was an infant. My mother died when I was four years old and my mother’s father and mother raised me (my maternal grandparents). I was never around or knew any of my father’s family until I was middle-aged, but I was acquainted with a lot of my mother’s family.

My maternal grandmother was the only mother I ever knew. Her name was Cora Rebecca (Lee) Layton. She was born on a plantation in Mississippi in 1874 and lived until 1961. Her dad, my great-grandfather, was William Walter Lee. He fought for the Confederates and survived the war. He was at Appomatox Court House when Robert E. Lee surrendered. He died around 1910 and is buried in the Lee family plot at Bowie, Texas. His widow, my great-grandmother Lee, lived on until the 1940s and is also buried in Bowie, Texas. She was cared for in her later years by her youngest son, Tom Lee. We visited them often.

My maternal grandfather, William Oscar Layton who helped raise me, was the only father I ever knew. His father, my great-grandfather, was John Clifton Layton. He also fought for the Confederates during the Civil War. However, in one of the battles – we are not sure which battle—he was shot in the head and placed in a dead pile. They had so many casualties during that war that they had to pile the bodies up like cordwood until the fighting ceased and they could safely bury them. Someone, we are not sure who it was, found him and examined

him. He had a pulse, so they pulled him out of the dead pile, and he survived. I, and a whole bunch of descendents of John Clifton Layton would not be here to tell this story if that someone had not found him and rescued him. We are all forever indebted to that person or persons, John Clifton Layton had a union slug embedded in his skull. They removed that slug and he survived. He lived until around 1910 and is buried in Alvord, Texas, not far from Bowie, Texas. His widow, my great-grandmother, Ladowski (Gibbs) Layton, lived into the 1940s also, and we visited her often at her home in Alvord. She is buried in Alvord, next to John Clifton Layton.

We have kind of a family joke about the Union slug that struck great-grandfather John Clifton Layton. That slug was dented flat on one side. Did that bullet hit something else and ricochet to hit his head, or was his head hard enough to flatten that bullet? I guess we will never know for sure.

My cousin, Walter Layton is a retired U.S. Deputy Marshall. He is the proud owner of that Union slug. I saw it when I visited him in Fort Worth, Texas years ago. Walter is in an identical spot on the family tree below John Clifton Layton that I am, and shares my feelings about being thankful for that friend (or relative) that saved John Clifton's life and ours.

Also, while I was being raised by W.O. Layton and Mama Cora Layton in Waurika, Oklahoma (about seven miles from the Texas State line), I attended Waurika schools and graduated from High School with my grandparents name of Layton. My grand mother nicknamed me Bunkin, so I used the name Bunkin Layton all through school. My grandmother started me in first grade when I was 5 years old and gave my name as Bunkin Layton. After high school, I had to use my real name as I went into the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) and then enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in June 1941. After four years and four months of World War II, I worked for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for thirty years. Having never seen my birth certificate, I used the name of Victor Bunkin Seeberger all those years. Once, when I was about 50 years old, I visited an Uncle, F. G. Seeberger Sr., in Houston, Texas, (My birthplace) and I was able to obtain my birth certificate. I learned that my middle name was OSCAR.

Just recently, I had to renew my Oregon Driver's license. Things have changed quite a bit since I renewed about 10 years ago. The lady at the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles sent me back home to get that birth certificate and my social security card. I was worried they would not be happy with my changing my middle name, but she assured me that it happens a lot and they accept it. Now I am about to be 89 years old and I have a driver's license that is good until 2018. I'm not sure I will be good until 2018, but

MY DRIVER'S LICENSE WILL !!

Victor Bunkin Seeberger

And finally, something related to amateur radio...

THE MORSE TELEGRAPH NETWORK

I worked about three and a half years at the FAA radio station, KSF, The San Francisco Overseas Station, during the Korean-war period (1950 to 1954). After the war, that FAA station was no longer needed, so my job was abolished, and I was transferred to FAA radio

station, SLC, in Salt Lake City, Utah. I was a Watch Supervisor there for almost a year. The FAA was in the process of changing all the CW (Morse code) communications over to voice and Teletype. This hurt my feelings. I had been working and enjoying CW since 1941 and liked it so much I wanted to keep using the code. So, this encouraged me to get a book and learn enough radio theory and regulations to pass the FCC exam for my General Amateur radio license, (W7VSE), in late 1954. I bought a surplus WW2 aircraft transmitter and receiver, from another "Ham," and constructed my own antenna, quite a technical achievement, for me, as I had only known how to be an operator for the previous 13 years.

When I finally got the amateur station ready, I found out how to load the transmitter by hooking it up to a 100-watt light bulb. With the telegraph key closed in the transmit mode, I adjusted until the light bulb got to maximum brightness. Then I stopped adjusting, connected the output to the antenna, and the transmitter was ready to be used -- obviously putting out power enough to make that light bulb bright. I then connected the transmitter to the antenna and, in Morse code, called "CQ", (general call, ready to talk with anyone) .

This was a special event in my life and I was secretly hoping that my first contact would be with a distant station in some faraway land. A station did immediately answer me. It was another amateur, of course, but he was only across town a couple of miles in the city limits of Salt Lake City! Oh well, at least it worked, and during the next few months I was on the air quite a bit and made many more contacts.

Then I bid on, and was accepted for a job with the FAA at the Medford Airport, which was a combined Station and Tower. This would give me a chance to break into Air Traffic Control. Also, it meant coming home for my wife and kids. We arrived in Medford around Thanksgiving in 1954.

One of the other watch Supervisors at SLC was named Lloyd Byers and he had been a longtime Ham. His call was W7MY. He had helped me get started. We got along, and had a lot in common. So we made an oral agreement that we would get together on the ham bands when I got set up in Medford. In a couple of months, I put up an antenna, got in touch with him and we began a daily schedule on 40 meters, (I think). We both worked shifts so we were home in the daytime quite a bit and every day at a given time we would call each other. Some days there was no answer, but a majority of the time we had a daily schedule (Sked). After several months of this, we had just about learned all there was to learn about each other. I found out that he had worked a short time using the original Morse Telegraph code, just as I had when I worked for Western Union for almost two years. I suggested that we use the Landline Morse code in our conversations to improve our proficiency in that code. He thought this might be illegal. So, I told him we could identify ourselves, as required, with the International Morse code, to make the FCC happy, and converse in landline code. He agreed this should be OK. We did this on a regular sked, every day, for several years, and it was fun!

At this point, I'd like to point out that back before radio or telephone was invented, Morse telegraph was the "only kid in town". Everything was handled by Morse telegraphy. There were thousands of active Morse operators handling messages over telegraph wires that covered the whole continent. Newspaper copy, Stock Market reports, and a multitude of other information were sent by hand over those copper wires.

It was a momentous improvement in communications. Before the Morse code, all communications were handled by Stagecoach, and briefly by Pony Express, which was still using horses to move information around. The Morse code was probably a bigger advancement in communications then, than the recent invention of the computer, is today. (I bet someone would want to argue that point.)

President Lincoln communicated with the generals and others in command of the armies during the Civil war (1860s era). Morse code possibly shortened the Civil War and saved many lives.

Those telegraph company's poles and wires, which covered the continent, would provide leased-wire space for the new-fangled telephone companies that came along after the telephone was invented. Later on, the telegraph was forgotten and we started calling them "telephone" poles.

Some weeks or months after W7MY and I started using the landline Morse on the air, someone broke in on us, using the same code, and asked us what was going on. It was a ham that had earned his living at one time using the original Morse code. We welcomed him and told him we were trying to improve our skill at the telegraph code and invited him to come back on our sked. He taught us a lot, and I think he spread the word, because other ex-telegraphers started showing up. Soon it got so crowded Lloyd and I, and some others, would need to move off to different frequencies in order to talk to each other. It became a regular net and had some assigned Net Controls. The net met in the mornings and again in the evenings.

These old guys sure knew how to organize. They formed a club, elected a President and a Secretary and they named it, "The "Western Amateur Radio Morse Code Network". The secretary, Linda, WB6ZSE, mailed a newsletter, in November 1974, and listed all of us. There were FORTY-FIVE active members at that time, and 6 "Silent Keys" (Deceased hams). (I have a list of members, available on request). One of the members was W6FZZ, his name was Samuel F. B. Morse III, and he was a direct descendant of the man that invented the Morse code, back in 1844. I talked with "Frank" quite often. He was a very skilled operator in either telegraphy, or International Morse code. Once I talked to him on phone. He lived in Southern California at the time. But when I heard him speak, it was like a letter from home. He had a distinct Texas drawl, and of course, I was born in Texas, and we all had that same drawl.

I learned more about using Morse telegraphy in just a few months on that net, than I had ever learned while I worked a wire for almost two years at Western Union. I don't know how long the club lasted. I became interested in working traffic, chasing foreign countries, working all states, trying to work all 3036 counties, etc., on the Ham bands, and didn't go to the net very often. I finally quit altogether. I retired from the FAA, after 30 years service, in 1977.

I would imagine that all, or most of, those old Morse telegraph operators have gone to the Great Telegraph Station in the sky by now. But I know we all had fun while it lasted.

And I am proud to say that Lloyd Byers and I were the "cause of it all!" I feel honored to have been a part of the club, and to have known so many of those Grand old Morse Telegraph Operators.

TEX Mailbox:

Jim, W5FEA, shared some observations and insights: Seems like there has been a lot of traffic of late or perhaps just getting more involved, not sure. In fact, I probably need to back off some because it's getting to the point where I have made some mistakes, which should not happen.

I did find out emailing something to a Winlink address with //wl2k in the subject line doesn't get it to Winlink looking like it did on the email. Sent a message that way and the letters at the end of each email line ran together with the first letters of the next line and the lines ran clear across the Winlink page. A little more versed with using Winlink now. Winlink to Winlink and email to email.

But that's not all, got a "G" where there should have been a "C" in the handling instructions on a message, and I should have known better because the sender always sends it with a "C", but I didn't notice it.

Not too far back I actually changed the word "fraternity" in a message to "community" which was a no no. I had told whoever gave it to me I already had the "text" and then rehashed it with the wrong word in the place of what was supposed to be there. In fact, it's probably not a good idea to tell the sending station you already have the text because NX9K just changed hers. The message is nearly the same but not exactly the same. There's that "comma" again.

Have been picking up some traffic on 7290 and taking it to what usually is a sure thing for delivery on TTN, but most of the TTN traffic comes in via TEX CW Net while TTN is in progress and I have to rush through getting the traffic and take it to TTN before they sign off at 7:30 central time.

The guys at TTN have been very helpful. WE5TXS, Net Manager for TTN, basically services all of West Texas, or at least 89 or so counties out there, so that works out great. KF5KOE, Jerry down at Taylor, will pick up things in his general area and sometimes beyond. The cooperation between the two Nets works out great.

TTN, by the way, is back operating at 3.873 after spending some time on 3.878, but all for naught. They had moved to get out of AM'ers in the Northeast but ended up in more AM'ers up frequency as well, although much of the interference disappears on "73". So they moved back the other day and, guess what?, back in the midst of AM'ers again. Do any of you remember when The Texas Traffic Net was on 3.961 (way back there).

Rusty, the TTN Net Manager, called ARRL and as I understood was told "tough luck", don't look for them to help with the problem.

So, guess I'm going to have to back off on handling some traffic. Sometimes I feel sorry for Randy, N5RL, who gets a workout on RN5 when I show up with between 4 to 6 going Out of State at a time. Maybe that will help some because like I said, it's getting hard to keep up any more.

73, Jim

- . . . -

Received the following from **Hank, W6SX** on Dec. 29 and wanted to share it with you all. Hank and I used to be neighbors when I lived in Huntington Beach and he down the hill in Fountain Valley. He was RN6 manager at that time. I was sorry when Hank dropped out of traffic handling. He always had a great signal here in Texas. Hank wrote:

I'm retired from traffic handling, but that doesn't mean that I don't care or that I'm not paying attention.

ARRL, please consider the following.

NTS above local and section level no longer exists in central and pacific areas. Replaced by Radio Relay International.

NTS in eastern area is barely hanging on.

The writing is on the wall. NTS is essentially dead. NTS will never be revived.

I suggest a Path Forward.

Effective dd mmm yyyy, NTS is no longer an operational part of ARRL. All NTS functions have been assumed by Radio Relay International, a group of very dedicated and capable traffic handlers. ARRL looks forward to working with RRI to further the EmComm and public-service aspects of amateur radio.

Time to gracefully accept and acknowledge reality.

73,

Hank, W6SX

- . . . -

Ken, K5RG, in responding to some questions from me also sent along some additional news as follows:

I am still wondering what all of this accomplished in relation to furthering the cause of traffic handling (*the incorporation of RRI*) but I have confidence in your abilities to pull it all together. What I have seen as a glimmer is the full incorporation of the digital methods but I still think that Winlink will end up the dominant force since it is being incorporated into local emergency operations. I've come to the conclusion that the days of emergency operations existing on single quantity messages is over since the network interfaces have become so ingrown into any emergency organization. Even live video is becoming the norm if not a requirement so such things like high speed multimedia networks will also become the norm.

On the personal side, the fixup tasks for K5RG have begun to pile up. I've avoided for over a year fixing the IC-7800's CI-V circuit (to initiate an SMD repair takes more than a stiff drink) which has meant that the replacement antenna switching equipment hasn't been installed since it will depend on a CI-V signal to the yet to be incorporated Station Master. The current antenna switch at the top of the tower had a relay failure on the 80 meter antenna so I was finally forced to climb the tower and switch the 80 meter delta antenna over to a unused

antenna switch port. The climbing gear is still in place awaiting some good weather and completion of some more important fix-it tasks on the home front. I like you have an elderly parent to take care of and although nothing like your situation, it still means I have two houses to maintain. This week's task is the installation of some grab bars in the bathroom. Camille's new car has also spawned a number of tasks like selling two cars and doing some repairs on her 2000 Corvette so I have something to drive!!

I also thought I had an intermittent failure on the 40 meter beam which only showed up at power levels above 600 watts. But I have now begun to see a PW-1 linear intermittent failure in the metering circuitry that only appears on 160/80/40 meters with the linear's automatic tuner switched on that might be the same as the intermittent associated with the 40 meter beam. I will have to reconfirm the situation but I don't think I have the problem with the linear's tuner turned off. Since all of the SWR's are quite reasonable at my operational frequencies, I can do without the tuner but it does begin to fold-back to not allowing more than 500 watts output at some traffic net frequencies. (Yes I know it is a problem a lot of operators would love to have!!). The real problem is that I hate to send a 200 pound piece of equipment to ICOM since the shipping and insurance alone is over \$100. I need to get over this and just take care of it!! I also have a somewhat similar failure with the FT-1000D since the CAT circuitry took the same over-voltage problem as the ICOM gear (anything hooked to the computer got nailed over a year ago with a nearby lightning hit that must have come thru the TV/Internet Comcast cable). I know how to fix that by just replacing the control board (of which I have two ready to go along with a third solution of replacing the multiprocessor chip that is the normal failure mechanism but again yet another even smaller SMD repair process).

So nothing but excuses but hopefully the new year will bring about a renewed thrust to resolve all of these minor fix-it problems.

Happy New Year to all,
73,
Ken K5RG

- . . . -

Many of you know that **Randy, N5RL**, underwent surgery on Feb. 7 to determine the extent (and hopefully treat) bladder cancer. He wrote the following on Feb 9: Fellas I am okay but somewhat incapacitated right now. Its difficult to operate and so I will not be on the net for the next week or so. I'll get back as soon as I can. 73 !

Randy

I am happy to report that Randy was able to get on the air this past week and has resumed his NCS and liaison slots. We are all praying for a good outcome for you, Randy.

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TEX Net Topics

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown on the following page (for easier printing of a single page). Some changes have been made to both. Doug, NA5YO, is now covering the Tuesday RN5 skeds and no longer Saturday. Saturday is now shown as Open. Thanks to all who are helping out and also the backup stations for those slots that are open or with the regular station unavailable. We have a lot of Open slots now, so please consider taking one or more of them.

Randy, N5RL, has been off the air recovering from surgery for bladder cancer. We pray that the cancer was completely removed and Randy will heal soon. Meanwhile, thanks to Jim for covering his NCS and RN5 slots as well as taking TTN traffic on late TEX.

CAN and WAN (renamed from PAN) and RN5 continue all on 80 meters. Probably will not change to 40 before the next newsletter comes out.

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TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5DY	(N5RL)	KD5TXD	KD5TXD	(N5RL)	W5FEA	Open
Backup	W5CU	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5FEA
NCS #2	W5DY	K6JT	Open	Open	Open	W5DY	Open
Backup	W5CU	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	W5FEA	K6JT
RN5 #1	W5CU	NA5YO	K5GM	N5RL	(N5RL)	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5FEA	W5FEA
RN5 #2	W5CU	NA5YO	K5RG	K6JT	K6JT	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5FEA	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT

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

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

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

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

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K6JT, K5RG, N5RL, 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	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
WA5CAV	Dick	Pineville LA	WA5PRI	Don	Thibodaux LA
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	W5QLD	Ron	Corpus Christi
W5DAE	Don	San Angelo	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 op)
* W5FEA	Jim	Graham	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
K5GM	Pete	Austin	K5TSK	Jim	Pearcy AR
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
K5JRN	Si	Austin	NE5V	Chris	Liberty Hill
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
N7KRT	Jeff	Victoria	K6YBV	Bob	Placerville CA
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	NA5YO	Doug	Palacios
N7NET	Scott	McKinney	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

December 2016:

Jim, W5FEA, with 62 out of 62 (100%) continued his "perfect attendance" into his 4th consecutive year. Rodney, W5DY, came darn close with 61 (98%) for 2nd, and Pete, K5GM, with 49 (79%) was 3rd. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors to the net included JV, AD0A, from CO (my IATN Golf contact); George, AG5CZ, from Houston; Greg, K5EDM, from AR; Scott, W7IZ, from OR; Eric NM5M, from Plano; and Luck, WA4STO, from NE. Welcome to all !

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.2 per net session (2.2 last month). Net time averaged 11.7 minutes per session (compared to 11.2 last month). Check-ins averaged 6.0 per session (5.6 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (December 2016)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
AD0A	JV	0	1					
	CO	1						
W5CU	Sam	8	17		6			
*		9			8			
AG5CZ	George	1	1					
	Houston	0						
W5DAE	Don	21	44					
		23						
W5DY	Rodney	31	61	7	3			
		30		9	4			
K5EDM	Greg	0	1					
	AR	1						
W5FEA	Jim	31	62	9	5	27		
*		31				3		
K5GM	Pete	24	49		5			
*		25						
W9GVW	Eric	3	3					
*		0						
W7IZ	Scott	0	1					
*	OR	1						
K6JT	Steve	10	37				10	

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
*		27		22	12		27	
W6LFB	Jim	10	10				1	
*		0						
NM5M	Eric	0	1					
	Plano	1						
K1PKZ	Paul	5	5					
		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	6					
*		6			5			
N5RL	Randy	23	46	8	10	4		
*		23				22		
WA4STO	Luck	1	1					
	NE	0						
KD5TXD	Pat	7	7	7				
*		0						
K5TSK	Jim	10	10					
	AR	0						
NA5YO	Doug	4	6		2			
		2			2			
Totals		369		62	62	56	38	0
				100%	100%	90%	61%	0%
QTC 1		54	134					
QTC 2		80		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		392	727					
Time 2		335						

January 2017

Jim, W5FEA, with 62 out of 62 (100%) maintained his "perfect attendance". Pete, K5GM, with 43 (69%) took second, ahead of Rodney, W5DY, with 40 (65%), who took third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors included JV, AD0A, from CO, and Frank, W4DLZ, from FL.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.2 per net session (2.2 last month). Net time averaged 10.6 minutes per session (compared to 11.7 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.0 per session (6.0 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (January 2017)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
AD0A	JV	0	1					
	CO	1						
WA5CAV	Dick	0	1					
	LA	1						
W5CU	Sam	11	21		8			
*		10			10			
W5DAE	Don	19	37					
		18						
W4DLZ	Frank	0	1					
	FL	1						
W5DY	Rodney	21	40	8	4			
		19		9	4			
W5FEA	Jim	31	62	10	2	25		
*		31		1		5		
K5GM	Pete	22	43		3			
*		21						
W9GVW	Eric	1	1					
*		0						
K6JT	Steve	12	36				12	
*		24		21	11		24	
W6LFB	Jim	9	9				2	
*		0						
K1PKZ	Paul	1	1					
		0						
K5QOW	Gary	5	5			4		

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	1	4					
*		3			3			
N5RL	Randy	17	35	8	11	2		
*		18				18		
KD5TXD	Pat	5	5	5				
*		0						
NA5YO	Doug	3	6		3			
		3			3			
Totals		308		62	62	54	38	0
				100%	100%	87%	61%	0%
QTC 1		58	136					
QTC 2		78		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		349	660					
Time 2		311						

Operating:

An update to the Traffic Operations Manual mentioned in the last newsletter has been completed and is undergoing review as the final release candidate, version 5. This is still in the review and approval cycle, but you can get a copy at:

<http://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/73013707/RRI%20Ops%20Manual%202017%20RELEASE%20CANDIDATE%20rev%203.pdf>

Please do not distribute this widely until a final approved version (By the RRI Board of Directors) is released. You can continue to send me comments for any major problems found.

You will note that I have been using my Dropbox Public folder to hold documents that are linked via many of these newsletters. The newsletters themselves are hosted on k6jt.com, but because I have a very limited space allocation, nearly all other documentation is on Dropbox. Starting some time in March, Dropbox is discontinuing their Public folders. I have still not figured out what to use instead, but am negotiating for more space on k6jt.com among other options. Once Dropbox discontinues Public access (the files remain intact but only I can access them myself), then ALL links in ALL previous newsletters and even those on the TEX website other than the newsletters will cease to work. They provide a new way for me to link

to the files, but when you try to access those links, it comes up with a very confusing and clumsy interface that requires either your own Dropbox account or direct download of the file rather than being able to view it in place in your browser.

You can see what this looks like by accessing the link to the Central Area Status white paper (RRI-001) on the k6jt.com website. By the way, that document has been recently updated along with a new RRI Digital Operations white paper (RRI-002), which is also accessible via the k6jt.com website (but in the Dropbox public folder). Some significant changes to the digital operations include update to the new Central Area Digital Manager Don, KM0R, and Robby, former W5SEG, changing his callsign to KK5QT.

Here are the composite reports for the last 2 months for traffic handled at the region and above levels. Cycle 2 RN5 is now RRI affiliated. Only cycle 2 9RN and cycle 4 TEN remain NTS affiliated. All of the Digital Traffic Network is RRI. Some reports were either only partially complete or missing altogether due to illness of the respective managers.

NTS Central Area Activity for December 2016

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5th Call Area	13	44	113	138	0.319
Cycle 2 9RN*	13	557	103	137	4.066
Day 10th Call Area #	13	98	118	136	0.721
Night 5th Call Area	62	112	266	431	0.260
Night 9th Call Area	53	110	122	314	0.350
Cycle 4 TEN*\$	53	97	165	440	0.220
Day Central US	13	323	103	400	0.808
Night Central US	30	244	223	581	0.420
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	240	38		97%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	93	109	70		75%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1934	1321	2577	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
WB9FHP Central Hub/9th		2760	1583	1177	
W5SEG 5th Call Area HUB		308	180	128	
KM0R 10th Call Area HUB		1066	606	460	
Digital Stations (14)		2895	1446	1449	
Total DTN Digital		7029	3815	3214	
Total Central US		8963			
* NTS affiliated, all others Radio Relay International affiliated					

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
# Manager in hospital - no report possible - used last month's again					
\$ Report not received - last month's totals used					

Central US Nets Activity for January 2017

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5th Call Area	13	44	112	173	0.254
Cycle 2 9RN*	13	429	110	123	3.488
Day 10th Call Area #	1	9	8	20	0.450
Night 5th Call Area	36	80	285	418	0.191
Night 9th Call Area	55	134	165	365	0.367
Cycle 4 TEN*\$	0	0	0	1	0.000
Day Central US	13	254	114	392	0.648
Night Central US (partial)	9	88	67	148	0.595
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	179	39		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	93	149	65		70%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1366	965	1640	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KM0R Central/10th HUB		389	202	187	
KK5QT 5th Call Area HUB		306	161	145	
WB9FHP 9th Call HUB		2705	1482	1223	
Digital Stations (13)		2398	1052	1346	
Total DTN Digital		5798	2897	2901	
Total Central US		7164			
* NTS affiliated, all others Radio Relay International affiliated					

Until April, thanks for all your support of TEX. While we may be off to a little rocky start in 2017 with the poor propagation and illness, I am confident it will improve soon.

73, Steve K6JT

TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Tuesday - Friday) 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

I want to start this issue of the Texas Slow Net Corner by wishing Rodney W5DY a Happy Belated Birthday!!!

As we start 2017, I would like to look back on some of the things that has happened since I became Net manager. The Texas Slow Net changed from a weekly net to a Tuesday through Friday Net. But it has not been all bad news for TSN. Don W5DAE from San Angelo has been checking into the net on a regular basis.

I hope everyone had a Happy New Year. The New Year has been pretty exciting for Texas Slow Net.

David K8PKN from Orwell, Ohio and Ed K3QZ Canonsburg, Pennsylvania were first time check-ins to the net. Joe AC5BE from Matagorda, Texas, Randy N5RL from San Antonio, Larry KC0M from Branson, Missouri, and Mike WD0ESF stopped by for a visit. It was good to hear them on the net.

TSN Activity Reports

Month	QNI	QTC	Nr. Operators
December 18 Sessions	67	16	6
January 15 Sessions	64	15	11

Net Control Stations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No Net	No Net	Carroll KB5TCH	Howard WD5IDB	Carroll KB5TCH	Sam KK4HCF	No Net

December 2016 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
HOWARD	WD5IDB	17
CARROLL	KB5TCH	16
SAM	KK4HCF	15
DON	W5DAE	13
JASON	KD5RQB	5
MIKE	WD0ESF	1

January 2017 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	15
HOWARD	WD5IDB	14
SAM	KK4HCF	13
DON	W5DAE	11
JASON	KD5RQB	5
DAVID	K8KPN	1
ED	K3QZ	1
JOE	AC5BE	1
RANDY	N5RL	1
LARRY	KC0M	1
MIKE	WD0ESF	1

TSN Roster (January 2016 to December 2017)

Callsign	Name	QTH
AC5BE	Joe	MATAGORDA, TEXAS
W5CBP	Chris	ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
W5DAE	Don	SAN ANGELO, TEXAS
W5DY	Rodney	GOLIAD, TEXAS
WD0ESF	Mike	MEDICINE LODGE, KANSAS
W9GVW	Eric	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
KK4HCF	Sam	MARYSVILLE, TENNESSEE
WD5IDB	Howard	EDMOND, OKLAHOMA
KB5KWO	Steve	NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
KC0M	Larry	BRANSON, MISSOURI
N5NVP	Jim	SCOTT, LOUISIANA
K8PKN	David	ORWELL, OHIO
K3QZ	Ed	CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
N5RL	Randy	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
KD5RQB	Jason	ATLANTA, TEXAS
KB5TCH	Carroll	DOUGLASSVILLE, TEXAS

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

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

Hello guys and welcome to Edition 52 of the **RN5 Corner**.

Tom, WA4ZPZ, is still having problems with his rig. His slots in the duty roster are still shown in Red until the rig can be repaired (by the manufacturer) and returned to him. Doug, NA5YO, has stopped taking his Saturday night skeds but will now take the Tuesday slots.

Sorry to report that your manager once again fell and sustained some significant injuries. In the process of treating those, some issues with the heart were found. Those have been diagnosed and surgery is scheduled for late March to get a defib/pacemaker unit that is supposed to fix things. In the meantime, I have sufficiently recovered physically so I will again check into the net as often as I can.

Was reading in February QST about the use of Twitter with amateur radio. I am considering setting up a Twitter account for use of RN5. Is anyone else interested in joining me there? I've also heard that the Yahoo Group TFC-OPS is a good one on which to exchange information about handling traffic. Finally, everyone on RN5 is welcome to join the RadioRelay Yahoo group, since we are all part of RRI. All participants in RN5 are welcome to register as RRI Operators. See <http://www.radio-relay.org/> where you will find a link to the registration form. Some nice certificates are being produced by Luck, WA4STO, the RRI Training and Recognition chairman.

As always, we need NCS and Liaison stations and hopefully also more ops as hurricane season approaches. Some additional work toward preparing for this is being done by the Radio Relay International staff and more information will be coming in the future. Note that the new RRI Operating Manual release candidate version is available now for review and comment. See the link in the TEX Operating section for the document.

As always, thanks to Jerry, W4SU, without whom RN5 would not function, and Ben, KZ8Q, who is helping out from FL. Great to hear Sam, W5CU's, potent signal from OK. Also good to have Jack, K5WNU, back in town and checking in with the net. Dick, WA5CAV, is on nearly every night in spite of there no longer being an LA CW net. Thanks to all of you for your support of RN5.

See the new duty roster. Some changes have been made.

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	W5FEA	W4DLZ	W5CU	W4SU	W4SU	W4DLZ	WA4ZPZ
NCS #2	W5FEA	W4DLZ	W5CU	K6JT	W4SU	W4DLZ	WA4ZPZ
CAN TX	WA4ZPZ	NA5YO	Open	W4SU	W4SU	Open	W4SU
CAN RX	W5CU	NA5YO	Open	K6JT	WA4ZPZ	Open	W5CU
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

2016-17 Statistics (Partial Jan report due to Illness)

MONTH	DECEMBER	JANUARY
SESSIONS	62	36
QTC	112	80
QNI	266	285
QTR	431	418
AVG QTC	1.8	2.2
AVG QNI	4.3	7.9
AVG QTR	7.0	11.6

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

Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	State	Call	Name	State
W4AGL	JIM	FL	K6JT	STEVE	TX
WA4BAM	JOHN	FL	N5NVP	JIM	LA
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	WA5PRI	DON	LA
W5CU	SAM	OK*/CO	KZ8Q	BEN	FL
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	K5RG	KEN	TX
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	N5RL	RANDY	TX
NS7E	ART	TX	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	W4SU	JERRY	AL
W5FEA	JIM	TX	K5TSK	JIM	AR
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	K5WNU	JACK	MS
K5GM	PETE	TX	NA5YO	DOUG	TX
W8IM	DEAN	FL	WA4ZPZ	TOM	AL

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

** K4VIZ is no longer active. Send AR to K5TSK or the TEX station for the 7290 net (do not use DRN5)

73, Frank W4DLZ