

# The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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January 2007 \*\* Revised - See TSN Corner Pages at End \*\*



Happy New Year TEX'ans! I hope you all had a great holiday season. We have completed the transition to our "squeezed" 80 meter bandwidth. While there has been more QRM and the need to move the net frequency a few times since the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, we are managing to get by so far. Of course, there have not been any contests to contend with since the change. More about this later.

Traffic increased significantly this past month, running 50% more than it was last year at this time. That is largely thanks to the efforts of Scott, W5ESE, who contacted the W5 QSL bureau (<http://www.okdxa.org/buro/>) and has been the focal point for receiving information from some of the card sorters about needed envelopes and postage for received DX QSLs. Thanks also to many of you who are working with Scott to distribute these messages. I have delivered a few of them and can report that the recipients are very happy, in general, to receive the notifications.

Thanks also go to Rodney, W5DY, Doug, KA5KLU, Jack, W5TFB, and Si, K5JRN, for filling in for me when I had to take yet another unexpected trip, this time to northern Arkansas for the funeral of my brother-in-law, who was taken by a stroke less than a week before Christmas. I will need to go back to help my sister-in-law put things in order in early January, so I'll again be asking for some assistance on an individual basis.

## Elimination of Morse Code for HF access a "Done Deal"

For those of you who chose to do other things besides keep up with Ham Radio news, note that the FCC has come out with another Report and Order that eliminates the requirement for Morse code proficiency at any speed for all license classes. This will take effect in early 2007, date not yet known. You can read about it on the ARRL web site at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/12/19/101/?nc=1>

As an aside, the ARRL had requested that the 5 WPM be kept for Extra Class, but the FCC said "no". Also note that the ARRL had petitioned the FCC to restore the 3620 to 3635 segment for automatic digital (WinLink) station operation. Instead, the FCC

further chopped off CW bandwidth by allocating 3585 to 3600 for this purpose. I am starting to get the idea that some of the folks at the FCC are mad at the ARRL as a result of the lawsuits concerning BPL. Thus, they are not heeding any of the requests coming in on other issues. They are certainly hostile to the CW mode.

There was an interesting article in the New York Times regarding Morse Code and the elimination of requirements through a link on Jack, WØUCE's web site. The link is:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/27/business/27morse.html?ex=1167886800&en=b53d88e01be66bb6&ei=5070&emc=eta1>

The link to Jack's web site is in the next section.

### **An Alternative NTS Plan**

Jack, W5TFB, always the able mathematician (professor emeritus of mathematics at Texas A&M) decided to apply his expertise to the problem of how to fit all the NTS nets into the remaining 60 KHz or so of bandwidth available on 80 meters. I collaborated with him on refining and documenting the essentials of the plan. Jack, WØUCE, was kind enough to put the information on his web site as a link entitled "Saving Cycle 4", which you can access at:

<http://4rnc4.homestead.com/SavingCycleFour.html>

WØUCE's matrix of NTS CW nets, which you can find at:

<http://4rnc4.homestead.com/80mCWNETMATRIX.html>

has also been significantly updated. Thanks to his efforts, the changeover to new frequencies this past month went a lot smoother than they would otherwise have. Nevertheless, Jack, W5TFB's proposals for discussion could provide significant advantages to the NTS operations, including compressed timeline, more "available" side frequencies for the region and area nets to use and no self-induced QRM from other NTS operations on any of the net primary frequencies. Of course, rag-chewers and digital operations will still be in the same band, so nothing is ever going to be "ideal".

It is going to take quite a while for all of us to adjust to the new "squeezed" allocations. NCS stations are reminded to *never* send stations UP 3 KHz from TEX since the Minnesota NTS net is operating there at the same time as TEX. Always use Down 3 as the first side allocation and down 6 as the second. If both stations are able, you might even tell them to go to 3643 to pass traffic. I've frequently listened there during TEX and found the frequency to be clear of SSB stations.

Late TEX NCS stations are also again reminded to either QNF by 0425 or change to another frequency to leave 3552 clear for PAN, the Pacific Area Net. I have observed

this to be working pretty well, keeping the frequency in use to discourage “CQ’ers” ahead of the PAN time.

I have also observed that many of the region and area net NCS stations are still using up and down 5 KHz increments to assign side frequencies. In the crowded spectrum, this should probably be changed to be up and down 3 KHz or even less in order to keep the frequency “footprint” of the net as small as possible. All of these considerations are taken into account by Jack, W5TFB’s proposals, so I urge you to take a look and give some feedback.

Note that the roster lists all stations that are capable of operating in the 3600-3700 range after December 15. This includes the majority of regular net participants. Thus, we may possibly use 3643 as the net frequency on CW contest weekends. I will try to keep an eye on the upcoming contests (please, those of you who are avid testers, send me an E-Mail about ones you see coming). I will then send out a notice to all TEX members to use 3643 as the net frequency on Friday and Saturday nights for the major (CW) contest times. I’ve also noticed that weekends are exceptionally busy anyway with nary a hole to drop into down frequency from TEX.

### **Long Skip and 160 Meters**

Some of us have again tested out 160 meters with relatively poor results this past month. The signals on 80 have been far stronger than those on 160. With only a few exceptions, primarily during nights following the mass coronal ejection that took place, conditions were usable at both 7 and 10 PM. Short skip is still an issue (i.e., skip out to about 150 miles) on many nights so NCS stations should ALWAYS ask a station in the other part of the state to give a “net call” or “call for QNI”, even if you don’t think the skip is causing problems. Make use of distant stations for QNB of traffic wherever possible.

### **Feature Story**

I received some interesting inputs this past month. Here is a piece from Rodney, W5DY, that I am sure you will all enjoy. Many thanks, Rodney.

## **TEXAS WATER SAFARI** **WORLD’S TOUGHEST BOAT RACE**

### **History:**

Legend has it that back around 1962 Frank Brown and Bill “Big Willie” George decided to take their “V” bottom boat, without a motor, from San Marcos to Corpus Christi. They accomplished their mission in about 30 days and decided that other people should have the opportunity to experience the same journey. So in 1963 they set up the first Texas Water Safari.

The Safari is a long, tough nonstop, marathon canoe racing adventure, which traverses 260 miles of challenging rivers and bays. Although the rate varies from year to year depending on water conditions, in previous Safaris as few as two teams out of sixty starters managed to reach the finish line. Many participants enter the Safari with no intention of winning, but with aspirations of joining the elite group of

finishers and earning the coveted Texas Water Safari patch.

Entrants must have all provisions, equipment, and items of repair in their possession at the start of the race. Nothing may be purchased by or delivered to a team during the race except water and/or ice. Each team must have a team captain (18 years old or older) whose responsibility it is to follow the team by vehicle (car, truck, or bicycle) to keep track of their location and condition and give them water and/or ice. During the Safari, teams may not receive any assistance of any kind except verbal. Teams must be prepared to travel day and night, nonstop to be competitive, but teams who occasionally stop for sleep have been able to reach mandatory checkpoint cutoff times and cross the finish line by the 100 hour deadline.

Texas Water Safari Org. is a non-profit organization that schedules and promotes several marathon canoe races in Central and Southern Texas each year, culminating with the 262-mile Texas Water Safari.

### **Good advice to all entrants:**

Remember, The Texas Water Safari is a marathon race both mentally and physically strenuous. See your doctor before planning to participate. You must prepare yourself, your boat, your Captain and colleagues; study the course. This is a general guide only. What is often suggested by others is not necessarily the best, or even the safest alternative for YOU. Only you can take the responsibility of judging your own physical capabilities and skill level. The Safari is a grueling, and often dangerous, endurance race. Please think, plan and act responsibly.

### **Public Service Event for Hams:**

Ham radio operators, mainly from Austin, San Antonio, Victoria, Yorktown and Port Lavaca make up the communications group for this race. There are hams with stations set up at all the checkpoints down the rivers (San Marcos and Guadalupe) from Aquarena Springs in San Marcos (start) to Seadrift (end), where the communications center is. There are 13 checkpoints along the 262 mile route of the race. Usually, the stations at the checkpoints are manned by at least 2 hams at a time. UHF and VHF repeaters and linked repeaters are used for communication. Packet is the main mode for passing information downriver. There is a general database set up, so all that has to be done is record each boats time in and out of every checkpoint. This info is entered into the packet database. All hams with access to the database can see where any certain boat is at any given time, at least as far as knowing which checkpoints they are between. Most often, nobody knows what they are doing between checkpoints.

If you have ever worked this race before, then you know what I mean when I say: "This is the toughest boat race in the world and the toughest non-emergency public service event you will ever work".

The first time I worked this race was in the late 70's or early 80's. I've slept since then and can't remember. I do know that I was in my pickup at the Victoria, TX checkpoint located in the city park at their boat ramp there. I got there Sunday morning (race starts Saturday morning) to get things ready. Took my push-up pole in order to be able to work the checkpoints just above and below me direct if needed. I didn't know just how this thing worked, but I do know that I took that push-up pole down and went home on Thursday afternoon. In those 4 days, I think I might have had 4 hours of sleep. I took plenty of tube steaks (Vienna sausage), chips and water, so I had enough to eat. The mosquitoes were atrocious; it was hot (90's at night, 100's in day). One day it rained and made things miserable (complete area is dirt which turned to mud). Back then, we didn't have the use of packet. All communication was done via UHF or VHF and if there was a repeater around that you could get into, so much the better. Luckily, we had 2 good ones on the lower part of the race. It was like a 2 stage deal. There was no communication with the hams working the upper part of the race. The repeaters just didn't stretch far enough back then. Also, there was a lot of running back and forth from checkpoint to checkpoint gathering data, etc.

A lot was learned in those early years of providing communication for this race. One thing for sure, after the first time we worked the race, the Texas Water Safari people saw how invaluable our service was. We have been asked to return and help every year. One of our hams, Harvey WB5MCT, who coordinates the communications for the race, was asked to serve on the Texas Water Safari board of directors. This has

really been a big help to everybody concerned. At least 3 meetings are held in order to plan each year's race. Having one of us there as a member has really made things work easier.

I personally learned never to try to do it in a pickup again. The next year I had a camper. Still doesn't cure the "no sleep", but at least I am more comfortable, have a better variety of food and drink, and can watch the mosquitoes outside the window instead of feeling them as they bite, hi hi.



Various pictures along the 262 mile Texas Water Safari race.



One of the campers I used to have. I worked checkpoints from Hochheim to Tivoli for over 25 years. Starting this year, I drive to the checkpoints, starting with the first one, making sure all is ok at each one and checking our portable digipeater stations set up at various points along the route.

**Now for the funny part!!!!:**

Anyone interested in helping out next year, call or email me and I'll put your name on the waiting list!!!!!!  
73, Rodney, W5DY

**TEX Mailbox:**

From Pat, KD5TXD, the following is a picture of her sounder and key, custom mounted along with Pat's description:



This is a Foote Pierson & Co. RR sounder patented in 1917 and probably used around 1934. The key is my 1918 Bunnell-S, which I will use on SKN this year. I will have to disconnect the sounder so I don't go crazy listening to that instead of the rig. HI HI!! There is a notation on the underside of the sounder mount that leads me to believe that this sounder was used on the C. B. & Q. railroad. I am not the best at tracking down such

information, or generating proofs, so for my personal amusement I will imagine that it was used there. I am sure of the age on the Bunnell key as 1918 – turns out to be the only year they put the "-S" on the logo stamped on the keying lever. I think they make a fun pair.

The base is Texas Ebony (sometimes called Ironwood). The pen and pencil are turned from the same piece of wood. The wiring runs under the base in grooves I routed so there is a minimum of wiring visible on the top. The battery is tucked into a spot I routed out under the base. You can just see the battery under the sounder in this picture. Even after I took the sounder apart and polished every speck of it and put it back together, it still works. That is a true testament to the workmanship of the past that this sounder could actually survive my tampering.

Oh, yes, I am using a picture like this for my SKN QSL cards. Anyone who has the misfortune of contacting me on SKN and enduring my slow code will be rewarded with a home made QSL card with my sounder and key on it. I already have 16 cards made and it doesn't take much to make a mess more. If band conditions cooperate I might just run the whole 24 hours.

One of our local hams volunteers at the Kingsville RR museum. He does not believe that a sounder and bug can be used together. So, in true "wise acre" fashion, I will take my sounder and bug to our ham breakfast to prove to him that the bug and sounder work together (recall we saw Floyd using one in the movie at the Temple RR Museum). I can't wait to be a show off. Just hope my battery holds out. Maybe I better take a spare battery. I have left enough length to the wiring so I can disconnect the Bunnell and connect my bug for demonstration purposes.

73 to all and Happy New Year. Hope to work you on Straight Key Night – Pat, KD5TXD.

The following are excerpts from Ken, K5RG's Christmas Greetings.

So what news at the shack of K5RG? I am still trying to get my retirement resolutions underway which were to bring the shack and the antennas in particular back into their design configuration. The project currently underway is a 3-element 40 meter beam that has been in my garage since 1988 (now you know the source of the problem). The 7 - 30 MHz log periodic that I had modified by removing the 40 meter dipole portion will have to wait for its reconstruction. It has been on the ground for 10 years but the good news is that we didn't have any major hurricanes while it was down. When I get the beams back up in the air, I highly recommend that you increase your house and flood insurance. Hurricane Rita did inflict some minor damage on the antenna farm which eventually required some major tree trimming work in order to get the 80 meter delta loop and 40 - 10 windom antenna back in the air. The restoration of the Johnson Ranger that has been in work for 4 years was finally completed. I had the panel and cabinet professionally redone from bare metal and thus I suspect I have one of the prettiest AM transmitters in Texas today. I have yet to lash it up to the linear since we installed an RF output control behind where the crystals used to be located so we're not done yet but all that remains is the operational testing.

My big adventure to the mountains of Broad Peak and K2 in Pakistan did not go exactly as I had planned in June. The expedition was to have lasted for 6 weeks, but I returned home after only two weeks. No big problems, the short trip to Pakistan was enjoyable but a number of small concerns developed at the outset and worse of all, I suffered a Big Mac attack! My short answer was that I got homesick but once the thoughts of returning home exceed those of going forward, it is time to let fate take over. One side item, Pakistan is an Islamic Republic and I believed their diet would better match mine as compared to the Buddhist/Hindu cultures of the eastern Himalayas. I was correct except for one small issue - the only thing that doesn't have curry powder and hot pepper oil was the toilet paper. Since I don't like hot and spicy foods (and neither does my doctor), I lost 5 pounds even before the expedition got off to a true start. Granted the menu became much blander in the mountains, but it still wasn't Burger Tex!

Somehow I was talked into being president of the local ski club and the Club's activities keep me busy. We're off to Park City, Utah in the second week in January. A sad note was the loss of our cat, Saber. Would you believe coyotes in suburban Houston?



However, another stray that we've named KC (for Ken's Cat since I didn't have the heart to take him to the SPCA) showed up a few weeks prior to Saber's loss so the Goodwin's still have a pet on the premises. The picture at left shows KC in front of the rig.

I wish you a great Holiday season and a healthy, prosperous New Year. 73, Ken, K5RG

Thanks, Ken, and I'm sorry to learn of your loss of Saber. Every cat is unique. KC looks very content, though. Hopefully you are keeping KC as a "house only" cat.

From Jim, KB5W, (RN5 Manager): The ARRL has dropped the printed version of the ARRL Net Directory, but it is available on line at:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nets/client/netsearch.html>

I did a few searches and was happy to see that TEX is listed there with all the most current (frequency) information. Other nets listed do not have updated data, such as CAN. Use the directory with caution when searching for NTS and other CW nets. It might be better to look for frequencies on the WØUCE matrix at the link given earlier in this issue. Note that TSN has again changed frequency. It now meets at 8 PM on 3552. Scott, W5ESE, is the net manager.

### TEX Net Topics

The following shows the current NCS and liaison station assignments, which have not changed since last month.

#### TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>NCS #1</b>	W5DY	KA5KLU	K6JT	AC5Z	W5TFB	AC5Z	W5GKH
Backup	W5GKH		W5TFB	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	
<b>NCS #2</b>	W5GKH	KA5KLU	K6JT	K5UN	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup			W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	W5TFB	
<b>RN5 #1</b>	W5GKH	KA5KLU	K5UN	K5UN	W5TFB	W5TFB	W5CU
Backup			W5TFB				W5GKH
<b>RN5 #2</b>	W5GKH	KA5KLU	K5UN	K5UN	W5TFB	W5TFB	W5CU
Backup			W5TFB				W5GKH

TEX/1: 3552 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 3552 at 22:00 local  
 RN5/1: 3567 at 19:30; RN5/2: 3567 at 21:30 local  
 CAN: 3552 at 20:30 local

RN5 Backup: W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5JRN, K6JT, KA5KLU, K5RG, W5TFB, K5UN  
 NCS Backup: W5DY, N5EL, K5JRN, K6JT, KA5KLU, N5PWG, W5TFB, K5UN, AC5Z

Note: Although "backup" stations are listed above, anyone is welcome to take the RN5 or NCS duty slots when so motivated and it becomes necessary.

### Statistics:

This month Pat, KD5TXD, had the most QNI with 48 (77%) with Rodney, W5DY, second at 43 (69%). Bert, AC5Z, and Ken, K5RG, tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> with 22 each.



The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic was more than DOUBLE last month's rate, averaging 4.1 per net session. Net time averaged a little over 17.6 minutes per session, up significantly, due to the increased traffic and those nights where skip made operation difficult with lots of QNB required. Check-ins were up, too, averaging 6.3 per net session.

**TEX Net Statistics (December 2006)**

			Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
KB0All	Dave	0	2						
		2							
N5BZ	Bob	0	1						
		1							
W5CDX	Wads	0	4						
*		4							
AC5CI	Homer	5	5						
		0							
W5CU	Sam	10	16		5				
*		6			5				
NV5D	Martin	1	1						
		0							
W5DY	Rodney	21	43	4	3	9			
		22		6	4	1			
N5EL	Floyd	11	13						
*		2							
K0EZ	Lanny	0	2						
*		2							
W5ESE	Scott	14	14					9	
*		0							
W5GKH	Charlie	7	15	4	4	2			
*		8		8	3				
K5GM	Pete	2	3						
*		1							
AA5J	Chuck	1	4						
*		3							
KJ9J	Newt	18	19						
*		1							
K5JRN	Si	8	14				1		
*		6					2		
K6JT	Steve	24	51	4			24		
*		27		4			27		
K0KJ	Eric	3	5						
*		2							

			Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
KA5KLU	Doug	13	19	5	5	3		2	
*		6		4	5	1			
K5KV	Benny	2	6						
		4							
W6LFB	Jim	3	4						
*		1							
KA5NNG	Mike	1	1		1				
		0							
K4PG	Kevin	2	2						
		0							
N5PWG	Jay	4	10						
*		6		5					
K5RG	Ken	9	22						
*		13							
W5TFB	Jack	12	19	4	6				
*		7			5				
W5TV	Tom	3	3						
		0							
KD5TXD	Pat	26	48			2			26
*		22				1			22
W5UFK	Ken	4	5						
*		1							
K5UN	Lee	8	16		8				
		8		4	8				
KS5V	Ed	1	1						
		0							
K5WN	Dave	0	1						
*		1							
AC5Z	Bert	22	22	10					
*		0							
Totals		391		62	62	19	54	11	48
				100%	100%	31%	87%	18%	77%
QTC 1		135	253						
QTC 2		118		Sessions:		62	100%		
Time 1		581	1092						
Time 2		511							

You will note there are quite a few new calls in this table. We had visitor check-ins from Dave, KB0All in Minnesota, Bob at K5BZ, the Midland Volunteer Examiner team ARC, Lanny, K0EZ, in Colorado, who is my TCC Echo contact station on Thursday evenings, Mike, KA5NNG, in AR, who used to be fairly regular on TEX years ago, Kevin, K4PG,

from Florida, and Dave, K5WN, who checked in once from San Antonio. It was also good to again have check-ins from Benny, K5KV, from his vacation QTH near Star (West Texas), and Ed, KS5V, who used to be a regular.

Please also join me in welcoming to TEX Chuck, AA5J, who is in Plano, just a couple miles from my QTH.

Undoubtedly the “compression” of the CW band had an influence on the larger number of visitor check-ins this last month. As it says in the net preamble, “all are welcome”. While our primary focus is traffic handling, the camaraderie of fellow CW experts is a major fun part of NTS net operation.

The following is an updated TEX member roster. NCS stations please note the 3600-3700 and 160 meter capability notations.

### TEX Roster

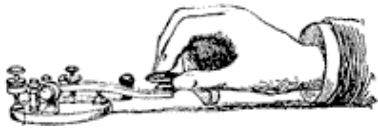
Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
# N5BA	Brian	Houston	# K5KV	Benny	Star
# W5CDX	Wads	Crowley LA	# W6LFB	Jim	Denton
# AC5CI	Homer	Caldwell	# WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
# W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	# N7NET	Scott	Allen
# NV5D	Martin	Allen	# KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
# *W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	# N5NVP	Jim	Leesville LA
# N5EL	Floyd	Temple	# *N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
# *W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	# K5RG	Ken	Houston
# AA7FY	Mark	Fort Worth	# KC5T	Bob	Houston
# W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	# W5TFB	Jack	College Station
# K5GM	Pete	Austin	# W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
# AA5J	Chuck	Plano	# *KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
# KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	# W5UFK	Ken	College Station
# *K5JRN	Si	Denton	# *K5UN	Lee	Leonard
# KD5JSS	Dennis	Temple	# KS5V	Ed	Bulverde
# *K6JT	Steve	Plano	# AC5XK	Don	San Antonio
# KØKJ	Eric	San Antonio	# *AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches (Lufkin)
# KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio			

# Capable of operating in 3600-3700 band

\* Capable now or soon will be for operation on 160 meters

Just a few words about **operating** in our new “smaller pond”: NCS stations, please move at least 500 Hz away from a QSO on or near 3552 at net startup time. When sent off frequency to handle traffic, always send “QRL?” a couple times and listen for a response before calling the station who has traffic for you. As with net frequency, move off at least 500 Hz from a QSO on or near the side frequency you were sent to.

73 and I hope we all have a wonderful 2007, Steve K6JT (P.S. TSN Corner Follows)



## TSN Corner

Scott McMullen W5ESE  
TSN Net Manager

### Welcome

Best wishes in the New Year to all the members of the Texas CW and Texas Slow Nets. I recently agreed to serve as the net manager for the Texas Slow Net. First of all, I would like to thank Louis House, KD5GM, for his long service to the Slow Net as my predecessor, as well as Arley Garvin, WB5NKC and Carroll Johnson, KB5TCH, who have served as net control stations on TSN for longer than I have been a participant.

The Texas CW Net has had a newsletter for over a year, and I believe that it has helped that net's participants get to know each other better, so I would like to try something similar for the Slow Net. I felt that contributing a Slow Net column to the TEXan made more sense than a standalone newsletter, and Steve has graciously agreed to "host" us.

Here is a list of the stations that have been active on TSN in the last months:

Net Stations (QNS)

Call	Name	City	State	Call	Name	City	State
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
AD4DX	Willis	Asher	KY	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
WD9DWE	Dennis	Seymour	IN	K9PUI	Dick	Indianapolis	IN
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	K5RDW	Ronald	Vilonia	AR
W2EAG	Mark	New Bern	NC	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
WB9FIU	Rusty	Westport	IN	KJ2V	George	Crossville	TN
KD5GM*	Louis	Deer Park	TX	W5VDM*	Bill	New UIm	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	AB0WR	Tim	Topeka	KS
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
N5KWB	Tom	West Monroe	LA				

\* need email address

If anyone has addresses for the members that I lack them for, please pass them along.

### Frequency Change

Most of you have probably noticed that we've changed frequencies a couple times now. We now are meeting on 3552 Khz at 20:00 Central Time. This is the same frequency that is used by TEX and CAN. On balance, I think that it will work well for us, and may actually help QNI. Contest weekends are my biggest concern, although 20:00 is a bit earlier than when 80m really gets "cooking".

## **Web Page**

I put together a simple web page for the Texas Slow Net. The URL for it is here:

[http://geocities.com/scottamcmullen/Texas\\_Slow\\_Net](http://geocities.com/scottamcmullen/Texas_Slow_Net)

If you have suggestions for how I might improve the site, I'd be happy to hear from you.

## **Oklahoma Training Net**

Our sister training net in the ARRL West Gulf Division is the Oklahoma Training Net, which meets daily at 17:20 local time on 7120.6 Khz. Everyone is welcome to check in. OTN presents a great opportunity for anyone who doesn't have an 80 meter antenna, but who is interested in learning about CW traffic handling.

## **December Activity Report**

TOTAL SESSIONS: 31  
TOTAL CHECKINS: 124  
TOTAL TRAFFIC: 38  
TOTAL NUMBER OF DIFFERENT STATIONS: 17

That's all the news I have for this month. My best to everyone in the New Year.

73

Scott  
W5ESE

*The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT*