

# The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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January 2008



## Happy New Year to All

I want to thank all of you for your great support during 2007. Thanks to you, TEX remains an excellent part of the National Traffic System. I wish all of you and your loved ones all the best in 2008, and thanks in advance for your continued support of TEX. December was a great month in terms of QNI and traffic totals, as you will see later.

## Not so Happy in California

I am sorry to report that the new year did not start off very well for me (I am still recovering from the flu) or my family. As I write this, my mother is in the hospital in Sacramento in the intensive care unit. She requires surgery to correct a rupture in the bowel (diverticulosis), but her heart is not quite up to it. She had a pacemaker installed yesterday and came through it well, with marked improvement, but there is still a long way to go. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated.

As a result, I will be leaving for California on Wednesday, January 9, and I will be gone the rest of the month to care for my blind father and (hopefully when all problems are resolved) my mother as she recovers from the ordeal. Please send all reports to Rodney, W5DY, in my absence. I may be able to use the station of Chris, AI6U, an old radio friend who lives in Sacramento to occasionally say "howdy" from there on late TEX, but my folks' care has first priority.

I will need coverage for my NCS slots on Wednesday early and Thursday late for the rest of the month (I may be back for the 31<sup>st</sup>) as well as my TCC skeds, but I'll manage that separately. Thanks in advance for your understanding and support.

## New STMs

Rodney, W5DY, has accepted the position of South Texas Section Traffic Manager (STM), as Doug, KA5KLU, is "retiring" to concentrate on his book writing. I believe the change is effective as of this month, January, so STX stations, you should start sending your station activity reports to Rodney now. We also have a new STM in the North Texas section.

Herman, KE5HYW, who is the manager of the DFW traffic nets, has taken over from Carolyn, KC5OZT, also effective this month.

Thanks to both Doug and Carolyn for their service. Please support your new STM with your TEX and other net activities, and send them an activity report each month, if you can. If you need help with the format or content of a SAR, by all means contact Rodney on the net or via E-Mail.

## **W1NJM Saga**

Again, 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 10 of George Hart's recollections. Geo gets to go abroad and meet the big boys.

## **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. Part 10.

## **MY FIRST "HAMFEST"**

I attended my first "hamfest" during this period. I don't recall just when, but it was in Allentown and Ed and I went together. Every person entering was given a whistle and exhorted to get acquainted by blowing Morse Code on the whistle. The place was a bedlam of whistles. I made a few acquaintances myself using this method -- hams I had contacted on the air but had never met personally. One was a ham from Bethlehem with whom I'd had several voice contacts during the weeks that Ed and I had experimented with loop modulation. He was a smooth talker and often mentioned "his girl," so I envisioned him as a handsome young swain of a wealthy family. But the man I met at the hamfest was a cripple in a wheel chair, quite young but very sickly-looking. It was a shocking and embarrassing confrontation, and I'm afraid I must have shown it. Future experience has shown that more often than not the hams you meet in person after long acquaintances on the air are nothing like you envisioned. I also at this hamfest met W2ZC, a high-speed operator who made the trip from Little Silver, NJ, on his Indian motorcycle. W2ZC had been a commanding signal which boomed high speed code over the air, and I envisioned him as an older man with a mustache and a commanding manner. But he turned out to be a slender young man about Ed's age. He gave a demonstration of sending on a Vibroplex "Bug" with all the weight removed and still maintain accuracy. I was greatly impressed. He invited anyone in the audience to come up and try it. I had received a Vibroplex key for Christmas and had spent many hours practicing on it so my sending speed was high -- but I had never tried it with all the weights removed. I stepped forward and gave it a try, and after a few faltering attempts, managed to send W3NF and CQ on the weightless bug. "By God, the kid's got it!" exclaimed W2ZC. It was a high point in my ham career up to that time, probably circa 1930.

The Allentown hamfest consisted of perhaps a hundred hams, but it was my first experience at that kind of gathering and I greatly enjoyed it. So when a couple of local hams with whom we had become acquainted suggested we attend a much larger ham get-together in Livingston, NJ, I urged Ed to accept the invitation. He said we might go, but we'd use our own

transportation -- meaning the little red flivver. When the time arrived, however, he said he had decided not to go, but no reason I couldn't if I wanted to. I was only a kid of 16, but by this time I had started getting out from under the yoke of Ed's tyranny. I called John Laughlin, W3AOD, and asked if I might go with his party. He said sure, but he wouldn't be driving. Another ham, whose name and call I have completely forgotten, would be driving his Packard sedan and a couple other hams I didn't know would be passengers also. They were all older men and a little doubtful if a "kid" would be a suitable addition to the group, but finally assented. They picked me up at our house one Saturday afternoon and we were off. The big Packard was running on only five of its six cylinders, but the driver a man about 25 and apparently well heeled, (wish I could remember his name and call) asserted that the engine would run well enough on five cylinders, and he'd have it looked into when we returned. This caused my first qualms about accepting a ride with practically strangers. We had no sooner crossed the river and were beyond Phillipsburg when the driver produced a bottle and passed it around. I was appalled. They didn't offer it to me, said I was too young to drink, but I began to see what kind of trip this would be. Prohibition was still in effect, but it wasn't very well enforced and almost anyone could acquire liquor. My family had a long history of abstinence. I'd had no experience whatever with liquor but was quite well aware of what its effects might be. During the trip to Livingston, the bottle was passed around several times, and by the time we arrived, neither the driver nor the other passengers were "feeling any pain." I had become quite apprehensive, but they kept assuring me that they could "hold their liquor" and I was in no danger.

When we arrived at the hamfest I found myself among complete strangers and wished I had not come. The usual whistles were prevalent, but not so much so as they had been in Allentown. I saw no one I knew or had even heard of except my drunken fellow passengers and F.E. Handy, W1BDI, and Ev Battey, W1UE, from ARRL headquarters in Hartford. I had never met either of them personally, had contacted W1UE on the air and knew of Handy as the ARRL communications manager; but they were surrounded by others trying to get their attention and I didn't feel I dared approach them. There were perhaps 300 in attendance, and again I was negatively impressed with the amount of drunkenness. When the program finally started it turned out to be a discussion of politics as it concerned amateur radio. Members of the audience kept interrupting the speakers and sometimes coming to the podium to make remarks to all in general. Much clapping, whistling, booing, and general pandemonium. Handy and Battey each had their turn on the podium but neither said much and I could see that they were generally disgusted with the conduct of the forum.

It eventually broke up. I wanted nothing so badly as to get out of there, but my companions wanted to "stick around for more fun." It was quite late when we finally got back on the road, the driver (I'll call him Bill) seemingly not so drunk as the others, the Packard still firing on only five cylinders. We had to stop twice to let one or more of the passengers out to throw up. Bill seemed less drunk than the others and very sympathetic to their illness. He even threw a backward glance at me as though to say, "Sorry about all this." The inside of the car started to smell of vomit and I started to feel a little sick myself. The whole disgusting experience taught me never again to put myself in the hands of strangers without a means of extracting myself.

Next in Part 11. The Great Change.

## TEX Mailbox:

**Jay, N5PWG**, wrote: "How does one ask for the sender to send the first letter of every word in order to check the check? Would "1st ltr" work or is there a better way? 73, Jay N5PWG

*Response:* This is a great question, thanks Jay. I don't know if there is an "official" method, but the way I always did the first letter sending when the check was questioned (after making sure the check was indeed correct as sent) was to send "QTB" followed by a pause and then by the first letter of each word or numeral group in the message. This is a much faster way than repeating the entire text. The receiving station can then ask for a fill in the normal manner for a word or section that was missed. If anyone knows a reference to the "official" procedure, please let us all know. Steve

**Pat, KD5TXD**, sent in another "book report". Thank you, Pat! She writes, "Hi y'all, should have read this book for last month's newsletter. It is a good holiday book".

I wasn't sure about bothering with this particular book, "Hello World" by Danny Gregory and Paul Sahre. I have seen a lot of very positive reviews for it. It is a book written about a ham and about amateur radio for the non-amateur. It is actually a book that non-ham family members really need to better understand their own ham.

"Hello World" is an examination of the lifetime contacts of W2OJW, Jerry Powell. The main resource for the book was Jerry's prized collection of QSL cards spanning a time from 1928 to 2001. Jerry was a DX'er and we get a look at each of his favorite contacts and a bit about what was going on in the world at the time.

Jerry's experiences mirror a lot of what many hams encounter. There is a break between his early years on the radio of about 8 years. The author has no idea if Jerry was on the air or distracted by other things. One guess was he was going to college getting his degree and preparing for life. This is a common sort of break from radio. I also found that this empty time was the solar minimum. So, Jerry's favorite ham communication, DX, might have been a bit on the lean side.

Along with the beautiful QSL cards the author has pulled a bit of history out for us to match to the cards. One I found particularly interesting was from the Navy ham shack on Kwaj, close to the site where the US conducted aerial nuclear tests. The hams on Kwaj reported that 20 meters snapped off during the explosion of the nuclear test and returned about half an hour later with a strange warble. What an interesting eye witness report of the effect on the ionosphere.

Other notations include the beginning of MARS and RACES. Many of Jerry's contacts included stations that participated in MARS or RACES. There were many military contacts from many hot spots around the world. Many of the later cards were from famous DXpeditions.

The thing that touched me the most was the journey that the album of QSL cards made. Jerry instructed his son to contact a ham radio dealer to properly dispose of his radio gear after his death. The dealer hauled everything away including the binder of QSL cards. These QSL cards ended up on a table in a flea market where the author, a non-ham at the time,

purchased them. I don't think hams realize the treasures of personal and family history they hold in their simple collection of QSL cards. Maybe we need to draw our families in more to our hobby so they can share directly in the adventure. I wish amateur radio operators would each write a bit of autobiography centered on their radio experiences. Especially the old timers, they are each a page out of history and should be remembered better by family and fellow hams. We share these amateur radio stories about ourselves when we get together at hamfests and the like, but maybe we need to write them down, too. "Hello World" is a cool book that the family would really enjoy.

73!! Pat KD5TXD

**Chuck, AA5J**, sent in an interesting link to an article about using VHF for emergency communications via digital modes. I know many of you are also active in ARES, so check it out at: <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/hteller/emcommup.htm> . They report using PSK63 at 100 WPM to cover an area within 100 miles of the NCS of the EMCOM nets. Certainly don't have worries about skip on those frequencies! Thanks, Chuck.

**David, K7IZ**, has sadly (for us) left the TEX domain. Sorry to see you leave, David, but best of luck in your new QTH. He writes: "I am moving back to 7 land after Christmas, so I won't be a TEX member anymore, but I would like to keep receiving your excellent newsletters. I am initially renting a house in an HOA, but plan to buy eventually, so it may take me several months to get back on 80 meters, but when I do I will try to check in on the occasional night when the late session has long skip.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the TEX brass pounders."

73, David Eckert, K7IZ  
Tucson, AZ

**Pat, KD5TXD**, sent in another of her usual excellent reports, this time about Straight Key Night. She writes: "Straight Key Night in the Wild Horse Desert"

This year I got an early start on SKN. I napped all afternoon on New Years Eve. So by 00:00z I was ready to go. I tuned up on 40 meters and was greeted by the chatter of a thousand straight keys, well, maybe dozens. I copied along for a bit and discovered that I could actually follow along with most of the QSO's, unlike last year when I had to hunt and peck for a QSO that was slow enough for me. Still I have trouble when they are all jammed up together picking out the individual signals. I need more practice.

I started answering CQ's and carried on good conversations. Y'all would be proud of me. Then I located a spot to make my own CQ call and even got an answer. However, I lost my spot pretty quick when stronger stations moved in. I don't think they could hear my little K2 signal. Just wait until Charles gets his new antenna tower up with the thousand element beam antenna that will focus down to the inch and send out a flaming signal so I can make my own ionospheric conditions. Oh, I can't wait!!! Neither can Charles.

Floyd gave me a land line so we could get together for a quick QSO. It was great fun to hear him. I skipped early TEX because I was having so much fun causing trouble on 40 meters. I

did manage to check in on TSN and late TEX. I know y'all aren't into QSL cards like I am, especially on the traffic net, but those I contacted will get one anyway. Hi Hi!!

By 09:00z I couldn't keep my eyes open and feared that I might fall asleep with my hand on the key so I went to bed until 13:00z. Well, that wasn't enough sleep for this old woman but I will make up for it after SKN is done.

I got back on the K2. There weren't many people on yet. I warmed up 40 meters for the crowd again. Then I moved to 20 meters and found a spot to call CQ. Slowly the band opened up and I started to get answers and heard folks trying to horn in on my tiny spot on the band. One fellow popped in to say good morning and I had talked to him before midnight on 40 meters. He only gets one QSL card out of me even though we talked on two bands.

Guess what!!! I am no longer the slowest thing on the CW bands. I actually had to slow down for some folks on my hand key. Thanks to all the guys on TEX for helping me all these months. It was fun to visit with the old timers. My name, Pat, is gender neutral so they tended to greet me as "OM" and ask my age. I still haven't gotten used to that. Many said I have a good fist. I figure they are being polite, but I love it anyway. Also, visited with several who had not been on CW in years. They were struggling like I used to. I felt like an old timer, myself.

About mid morning I called a fellow up in Minnesota. His QTH was near where I grew up. We had a good laugh about the weather. He reported 4 degrees. I told him I was planning on moving south'er because it was only 52 degrees in the Wild Horse Desert. How quickly we become wimps after moving down here to Texas.

I still have a few hours left. Charles is insisting on being fed today so I have to take a break and cook lunch. I can't understand...I fed him last year...that should be good enough, right?? Now, when he is contesting I feed him at his rig. So, why can't he bring me lunch at my rig?? Fair is fair, right??

After lunch I will see if I can warm up 15 meters or maybe even 10 meters. We had a lovely C8.3 solar flare in the wee hours of December 31. That might have wakened up the ionosphere. I will be rested up for early TEX on Wednesday. See y'all then.

73!! KD5TXD

What a great narrative, many thanks, Pat! And congratulations on becoming an "old timer" at this CW stuff!

### **TEX Net Topics**

Those RN5 liaisons, Wednesday through Friday early and Wednesday through Saturday, late are still open and available. Rodney has been a real trooper about taking most of them, and I have taken a few, but we certainly can't continue to let Rodney get "burned out" and, as you read earlier, I won't be here much longer this month. If you are able, please take one (or more) of the open RN5 slots. If you can take only one, early or late, that is fine. NCS stations are reminded to always ask for an RN5 volunteer on the early session if no regular scheduled station is there. If possible, also ask for both early and late RN5 volunteers. Note the yellow

highlighting of my call in the schedule, too. I will need someone to take all of those slots in my absence this month.

**TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule**

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>NCS #1</b>	W5DY	KA5KLU	K6JT	AC5Z	KD5TXD	AC5Z	W5GKH
Backup	W5GKH	<i>Open</i>	KD5TXD	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY
<b>NCS #2</b>	W5GKH	KA5KLU	KD5TXD	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	K6JT
<b>RN5 #1</b>	W5GKH	KA5KLU	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>	W5ESE	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5DY	KA5KLU	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>	W5GKH
<b>RN5 #2</b>	W5GKH	KA5KLU	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5DY	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	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

TSN: 3552 at 19:45 local; CAN: 3552 at 20:30 local; PAN: 3552 at 22:30 local

RN5 Backup: W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, KA5KLU, K5RG

NCS Backup: W5DY, N5EL, K6JT, KA5KLU, N5PWG, KD5TXD, AC5Z

Note: Although “backup” stations are listed above, anyone is welcome (and encouraged) to take the RN5 or NCS duty slots when it becomes necessary. If you don’t hear anyone open the net within 2 - 3 minutes of start time after tuning up and down 3 KHz looking for the NCS, please go ahead and QNG. Be careful, though, as skip may be present.

**Statistics:**

This month Rodney, W5DY, again took top honors with QNI of 42 (68%). He was followed by Pat, KD5TXD, with 38 (61%), Floyd, N5EL, with 34 (55%). Sam, W5CU (27) and Ken, K5RG (25) were close to that 50% mark, too. Thanks to everyone for your support.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic was way up, over 50% more than in November, and QNI improved too over last month. Traffic averaged 3.9 per net session. Net time averaged 16.5 minutes per session. Check-ins averaged 5.9 per session. A very good month.

**TEX Net Statistics (December 2007)**

Call		QNI	total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
KB0AII	David	1	1						
		0							
N5BA	Brian	3	4						
		1							
W5CDX	Wads	0	7						
*		7							
W5CU	Sam	18	27		9				
*		9			8				
W5DY	Rodney	22	42	5	10				
		20		5	11				
N5EL	Floyd	22	34						
*		12							

Call		QNI	total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
W5ESE	Scott	9	9		3			6	3
*		0							
W5GKH	Charlie	8	17	5	3				
*		9		9	4				
K5GM	Pete	3	4						
*		1							
W9GVW	Eric	5	8						
*		3							
AA5J	Chuck	3	6						
*		3							
KJ9J	Newt	13	13						
*		0							
K5JRN	Si	6	6				1		
*		0							
KD5JSS	Dennis	1	1						
		0							
K6JT	Steve	26	55	3	2		26		
*		29		5	4		29		
KA5KLU	Doug	5	9	4	4	1		3	
*		4		4	4	1		3	
K5KV	Benny	5	6						
		1							
W6LFB	Jim	1	1				1		
*		0							
AA0NI	Daniel	0	1						
		1							
KA5NNG	Mike	1	1						
		0							
N5NVP	Jim	0	7						
		7							
N5PWG	Jay	1	7						
*		6		4					
K5RDW	RD	8	8						
*		0							
K5RG	Ken	9	25			1			
*		16							
KD5TXD	Pat	22	38	4		14			21
*		16		4		10			16
A16U	Chris	0	2						
*		2							
W5UFK	Ken	3	3						
*		0							
KM5YQ	David	0	1						
*		1							
AC5Z	Bert	23	23	10					
*		0							
Totals		366		62	62	27	57	12	40
				100%	100%	44%	92%	19%	65%
QTC 1		145	242						
QTC 2		97		Sessions:		62	100%		
Time 1		594	1021						
Time 2		427							

Note also that the liaison percentages are much improved, particularly TTN, thanks to Pat, who took note of the note in last month's newsletter to include other nets, such as 7290, in reporting "TTN" liaison. CTTN was down, since Scott was away much of the month.

The roster, which follows, is slightly modified from last month. It was nice to have Benny, K5KV, with us from Star again this month.



## TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5BA	Brian	Houston	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
W5BYQ	Earl	Houston	# N7NET	Scott	Allen
W5CDX	Wads	Crowley LA	AAØNI	Daniel	Oklahoma City OK
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
NV5D	Martin	Allen	# N5NVP	Jim	Leesville LA
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	* N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	K5RG	Ken	Houston
AA7FY	Mark	Fort Worth	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	KC5T	Bob	Houston
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5TFB	Jack	College Station
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
KA9IKK	Bill	Houston	* KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
AA5J	Chuck	Plano	# W5U FK	Ken	College Station
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	* K5UN	Lee	Leonard
* K5JRN	Si	Denton	KS5V	Ed	Bulverde
K6JT	Steve	Plano	K5WQG	Eddy	Tomball
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	# KM5YQ	David	Irving
K5KV	Benny	Star	* AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches (Lufkin)
W6LFB	Jim	Denton			

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

### Operating:

I received some very good operating tips and info, thanks to the efforts of Richard, NF5B, who published the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of the Brass Pounder's Quarterly newsletter. I will reprint one of his articles here, but will let you read the rest of them at

[http://home.mindspring.com/~1\\_qnc/w4zjy/bpq01.htm](http://home.mindspring.com/~1_qnc/w4zjy/bpq01.htm) , contents include:

Editor's corner  
NTS news briefs

General articles: An interesting ares exercise

NTS Training: Creative error signals

Handling instructions: Misused and misunderstood

NTS outreach: National Traffic system let's use it! (An article by JV, AD0A, which was submitted to the ARRL but did not make the ARES bulletin)

How to submit an article

Where to get BPQ

The one I have selected for inclusion here is the "NTS Training: Creative error signals", since it struck a chord. I am sometimes guilty of mis-using the "?" signal to indicate an error in sending. I can usually figure it out when one of you uses it from the context, but it does get confusing if you repeat a while word that is *different* the second time! Read on. My own vote is to use the .. .. (di dit short space di dit – which is a "Y" in American Landline Morse, as

Floyd, N5EL, will tell you) instead of the "standard" 8 dits. I'll try to cultivate that habit myself. I also highly recommend you read the "Handling instructions" article, as it contains useful tips and information. Finally, the article by JV, AD0A is a good one.

### WHAT I LEARNED ON THE WAY FROM TRAFFIC NETS ... by the "C.H.O.P." Creative Error Signals

"Variety is the spice of life," so the saying goes. And for many of us working the CW traffic airwaves, it seems we have come up with some creative ways of transmitting an error signal. Some may not be very effective.

The CHOP has heard the question-mark (?), and dits numbering four (ugh!) and, seemingly, a couple of dozen -- just to vent apparent operator frustration!

The proper prosign is, of course, eight-dits for an error. Certainly the question mark should be suspect. The question mark is supposed to be punctuation. But in traffic work it can be used when the sender wants to repeat a word, number or callsign for emphasis or clarification, not as an error prosign. Using ".-.-." leaves the receiving station guessing whether

1. the sender means message text punctuation (Never! Send the word "query."),
2. a repeat is coming, or
3. an error has been made.

You may have noticed several of the old Navy operators, or their proteges, using a pair of two dits (. . .), particularly when an error has been made by an NCS or sent in a message text. One would have to go way back in the USN Radiotelegraphy Procedures Manual to find even a hint of this practice, but its still out there, and I frankly think it works fine. For one practical reason: when sent, it does not break the rhythm or flow of the transmission like five (or more) dits, if properly sent.

Right after the error, pause briefly (for a possible QSK Break signal from the receiving station who may have spotted the error), then send ". . .", and another brief pause, and pick up with the word or number fumbled over.

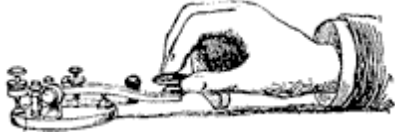
The CHOP is pretty keen on proper operating practices and will sound off over departures from such practices. But its not a science, and if it is effective, use it. 73, the CHOP

### **Carry On!**

That's it for this month. Please carry on in my upcoming absence in your usual professional way. Let's keep TEX a thriving community and valuable asset to NTS and the public at large. Jump in and help when it is needed. Don't be afraid ... just ask Pat, KD5TXD, about how to overcome the jitters when doing NCS work. She's getting better each week. Try out one of those open RN5 slots. It really does not take that much time, and signals are generally OK at 7:30 and 9:30. You don't have to be a "speed demon" -- check in at the speed you want to receive a response, and ask for QRS when you don't understand NCS instructions or when taking traffic.

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)

Scott McMullen W5ESE

TSN Net Manager

Hope everyone on the net had a wonderful Christmas and New Year holiday.

Here is a list of stations that have participated in the Slow Net in recent months. David, KM5YQ, has offered to help by serving as one of our Net Control Stations. Many thanks to the NCS stations who have helped maintain TSN; WB5NKC, KB5TCH, and now KM5YQ.

### Net Stations (QNS)

Call	Name	City	State	Call	Name	City	State
W5BYQ	Earl	Houston	TX	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
WX5CW	Chris	Ruston	LA	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Leesville	LA
K5ECI	Bill	Enid	OK	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia	AR
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	KI5T	Wade	Walker	LA
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
K6JT	Steve	Plano	TX	W5TFB	Jack	College Station	TX
K5KV	Benny	Prarieville	LA	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
WA5LOU	Lou	Kennard	TX	AD5VC	Dana	Baton Rouge	LA
KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX	KM5YQ	David	Irving	TX
KD5RSS	Fred	Haskell	OK	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX

### FISTS – The International Morse Preservation Society

FISTS is the largest organization of CW enthusiasts in the world, and it sponsors a variety of operating events and awards. FISTS look for each other on or near designated calling frequencies. It was founded in Great Britain in 1987 by Geo Longden, G3ZQS, but has a large and active membership in the United States. You may hear their special club callsign on the air at times: 'KN0WCW'. More information about the FISTS is available on their web site at <http://www.fists.org>.



### December Activity Report

TOTAL SESSIONS 31

TOTAL CHECKINS 116

TOTAL TRAFFIC 34

BY 16 DIFFERENT STATIONS

*The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT*