

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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Long Skip Continues

As many of you have noticed, we are still having many nights of long skip conditions, both early and late. Thankfully we have also had some nights with good propagation.

Thanks to all of you for persevering in spite of the sometimes poor conditions. Everyone seems to have a good understanding of what procedures to use – NCS stations ask for others to call for check-ins and those who cannot hear the NCS are being relayed when they send their call and “QNP NCS”.

Keep up the good work. This dearth of sunspots just *can't* last that much longer (fingers crossed).

The W5TFB Saga Continues

Thanks to your feedback, Jack has provided us with yet one more chapter in the saga of his activities in the 50's and 60's. Thank you, Jack. Hopefully there will be more forthcoming in future months. Next month, look for Chapter 31 of the W1NJM saga.

Chapter 3: Jack Goes to Texas A&M and Manages NTX from W5AC

I now explain how I ended up at Texas A&M. An early January Saturday (1955), I was walking (bike had a flat) to work early in the morning. Not far from home, I saw Jimmy Malone and two other guys climb into his dad's new Chevy. Jimmy saw me and asked, “We are about to leave to go to A&M to take a scholarship test. Want to come with us?”

“I have to call my boss, but I think so.”

“You work at Texoma don't you? We can just swing by there.”

I said I did and got in the car. I told Frank. He said I should go. I had no intention of going to college, but I love taking those long timed tests. I had taken a test they called the Iowa Test in November and didn't miss a question. The test was to start at 1 and be over at 3, so we had plenty of time to get there.

The test was held in a big lecture hall in the chemistry building. I counted 312 seats in the amphitheater, a huge lab table at front, and a large periodic table on the wall above the blackboard. I got a seat a few rows from the front by the center aisle.

The test had four parts: reading, math, chemistry, and those annoying English questions that are mostly grammar, vocabulary and logic. The reading test had a long story about culturing bees, mostly technical stuff. I knew all of that because my father's sister in Grand Prairie kept bees. Uncle Lester worked for the post office but made more money selling honey and beeswax. I spent the previous summer there and learned all the tricks and jargon. So I skipped the story and answered the questions, and then turned to the math. That was a joke, and the chemistry was even easier with that periodic table in view.

That left English, which I did using an elimination strategy. That takes longer, but I had over an hour left when I started. I had to guess on only two of the questions.

On the way back they griped about the `unfair' test. I didn't say much. The Chevy went 65 all the way except in towns; back then the night speed limit was 55. We returned in time for me to catch late RN5. They didn't expect much comment from me. Their complaints were not specific enough to merit responses.

For three weeks, nothing happened. I forgot about taking the test. I bought a new bicycle. Then the next Monday before school I answered the telephone. It was someone representing A&M who wanted to come visit when my parents were there. He said he had an offer for me. I told him my father would be awake by the afternoon. Mother was between jobs so she would be there. He said that would be fine. I told him about 4 would be good.

I told Mother. She said, "What mess are you in now? You have to be at work this afternoon." "I can get out of that easily. Things have been slow."

The man arrived at 4 sharp. He was an Air Force officer. I suppose he was assigned to Shephard Field. He was wearing an aggie ring. I had never seen him, but I was only around the hangers and control tower.

After meeting the three of us, we went to the dining room where he opened his briefcase and made his pitch. It was an amazing offer: An Opportunity Award Scholarship – full room and board, tuition, all supplies including textbooks, 300 a semester in cash, and a guaranteed on campus job which fit my abilities. Mother, the family skeptic, asked, "Why is Jack getting this? He isn't going to college."

The man looked at her, surprised. "Jack took a test at A&M three weeks ago, and did well on it. In fact, his score is higher than has been recorded until now. He only missed one question on the entire test. His estimated reading rate is 220 words per minute with 100% comprehension. He is the first to answer correctly all the questions on three of the four divisions. That is, even when restricted to those subjects, no one who took the test this time had a perfect score on that part of the test."

Mother asked, "What is the population of people who took the test?"

The man said, "High school students seeking a scholarship. Over two hundred colleges participate, more than twenty thousand students. The test is designed by the Educational Testing Service."

Mother asked, "Who is funding this?"

"Except for the job, Howard Hughes. He is good for it.

"Here is a written offer for your records, signed by the president and the chairman of the board of regents. Three of the departments, English, Chemistry, and Physics, would like to interview Jack. All his expenses will be covered if he chooses to travel to be interviewed."

At this point, my father said, "He will study Electrical Engineering."

The man accepted that. Times were different then. He gave me another paper to inspect. It was a letter of intent committing me to attend A&M. I said, "I sign nothing until my lawyer approves."

The man smiled, and said, "I wouldn't expect you to. The deadline for your decision is March fifteenth. Does anyone have a question?"

No one did, and he departed. I said, "I should get to work now." I hopped on my new bicycle and was there before five.

The lawyer approved, and I arrived at A&M in late August. I took only clothes and my McElroy bug. I had a voucher for books and supplies, and bought everything I needed. I knew what I was going to take from the catalog. That was Friday. Everyone else went away, so I filled a notebook with the solution to every exercise in the 'college' algebra textbook. It was weaker than my high school course. They wouldn't let me test out of anything. On the first day of class I handed in the notebook, which led to my relationship with E.R. Keown, who taught me mathematics from 4 to 6 every school day. I also got in his graduate course on infinite Abelian groups.

My job was working for EE repairing instruments. There was a brisk business in replacing meter movements and rebuilding current shunts that had been destroyed. Almost none of that work was interesting, but I did it well. Too well, because word got out and physics hired me to work on a project involving particle physics and another in nuclear magnetic resonance research. So I quit the EE job with the provision that if they had a problem they couldn't solve I would be there to help.

The ham club had a station on campus (W5AC). The transmitter was a surplus BC-610, 400 watts (and 400 pounds!) 2-18 mc., AM and CW, although this one had dreadful key clicks and some chirp. The receiver varied. The only one I remember was a National HRO-60. I used the station to talk to my girlfriend in Wichita Falls every Saturday at 5 on the NTO net frequency. I used that spot because the net started at 1730, so we had to get off (as intended). The 610 was good at clearing the frequency. The club had a dipole at 60 feet fed with 72 ohm KW twinlead. That and the true 100% modulated 400 watts was heard well in north Texas and Oklahoma. I thought it interesting to have an HT-4 (the amateur version of

the 610) talking to an HT-20 (at my home). I was far too busy to do any traffic work. Twice someone snared me just before the net started and gave me one for someone on campus. I found a place to live where I could operate from home in 1960. I was working on two masters degrees, in math and physics. My advisor in physics left after a squabble over something I didn't understand, so I took two more courses to get a non-thesis degree. I remember the conditions, especially late, on RN5. W4OGG was manager, and came up with a brilliant idea to hold the late session at 0630 (CST) instead of 2130. It wasn't just the skip, it was the horrible QRN from the gulf. I think that idea is still a good one. The skip and noise shut down late NTX.

Dave (OGG) had to be away for some reason and I worked as acting manager the summer of '60. There were no problems. Notable ops were Butch K5BSZ (later N5GB, now SK) Houston and Marv K5ABV, Austin. When I went to Rice the next year Butch and I played bridge together once a week in addition to sporadic traffic work.

The Phone Booth

Serving Our Country

by Scott Laughlin / N7NET

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I'd been an active member of Oregon Army MARS only a couple of years when the '91 Gulf War began. The Internet was still a military secret, leaving MARS the primary mover of Health and Welfare Traffic to and from combat zones.

The rig I used was a third-hand Swan 400 tube-type transceiver. They were notorious for drifting off frequency. Mine was no exception. And it became known as the "Swooping Swan. The only means for keeping the VFO stable was to leave the power on and the filaments glowing, and with that came the heat. My cramped Yellowstone travel trailer, where my MARS station was housed, became a Turkish bath before my fifty, or so, messages were handled and I was done for the evening.

One of my regular message originators was a local fellow calling himself James. His son, Bob, was assigned to an armored division in Europe, and James voiced concern for the Gulf War and how that might affect his son.

Though we never met and shook, he and I became well acquainted during the weeks that passed. During the Air War, Bob's inbound messages were often a daily event. Then, one day, and without explanation, his traffic came to an abrupt halt.

I assumed Bob was home on leave until the phone rang one evening. James was fit to be tied. MARS was his only electronic link with his son, and it no longer worked.

Unfortunately, I was only a cog in a large wheel. My job was to communicate through other MARS operators. Like a bucket brigade, a 25-word message was passed from operator to operator until it reached a Gateway station where it and hundreds of others would be transmitted to the Middle East by digital means. We were at war, and using military frequencies. The inner workings, operator identities, and their locations were open to public discussion.

At my request, James provided a dozen addresses we'd used on previous occasions, and each evening I sent a message to one of those older destinations. However, in time, each one returned with the same response: unknown.

My suggestion that Bob's division might be en route to the Middle East, and that radio silence would be the general order, was not what James wanted to hear.

I felt James' anxiety. His concern brought back the grief that families suffered during the Vietnam era. But I couldn't dwell on the negative side and allow myself to lose focus. There were other folks in the same boat as James. Keeping the traffic moving was my priority. Days passed, the phone in my sweatshop continued ringing, and a host of messages to and from other GIs continued without interruption.

Then one evening, when the phone rang, James was on the line. His voice was so shrill I was unable to follow him.

"I heard from Bob. He's okay. He called me collect from Iraq," he repeated more slowly "Called you collect...from Iraq? How so?"

After flushing out a group of Iraqi soldiers, and chasing them out of Kuwait, Bob had spotted a pay phone next to an abandoned service station. There was a dial tone, so that's where he made the call.

"Really! I'm surprised that a phone in the middle of a war zone still worked. How long did you talk?"

"Only a minute or two. Bob's tank commander was pretty nervous about being in Iraq, and ordered Bob back aboard."

James and I chatted until my call waiting tone was activated.

The radio traffic between James and his son resumed that week. But not long after Bob's collect call troops started coming home and my sweatshop duties returned to a prewar level.

Several months later, after the numbers were tabulated, we Oregon MARS radio folks were credited with the passing of more than ten thousand messages.

People my age are limited in the ways they can serve their country, but possibilities still exist. I'm proud to have found a way.

Thanks, Scott, for a truly inspiring story

TEX Mailbox:

The 'ol mailbox is empty this month, largely due to the holiday greetings and other activities, I am sure. Did anyone participate in Straight Key Night to any great extent? My only contact was with Rodney just before the late TEX session (both using bugs). See TSN Corner for a description of Pat, KD5TXD's SKN activities.

I did receive the following from another local ham (AD5KE), and I think it is important enough to put in this section as a caution to all TEX'ans:

2010 Census to Begin

With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is underway as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist?

The BBB offers the following advice:

If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.

REMEMBER, NO MATTER WHAT THEY ASK, YOU REALLY ONLY NEED TO TELL THEM HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE AT YOUR ADDRESS.

While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, **YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION.** The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information is **NOT** with the Census Bureau.

AND REMEMBER, THE CENSUS BUREAU HAS DECIDED NOT TO WORK WITH ACORN ON GATHERING THIS INFORMATION. No Acorn worker should approach you saying he/she is with the Census Bureau.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by e-mail, so be on the lookout for e-mail scams impersonating the Census.

Never click on a link or open any attachments in any e-mails that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFO WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

TEX Net Topics

We have **12** open NCS/liaison slots, with **5** open *primary* RN5 slots (all shown in **red**)! We really need Tuesday help for early TEX NCS and the RN5 slot. Thanks to Sam, W5CU, Scott, W5ESE, Tom, NK5Z, and Rodney, W5DY, we have managed to get through another month without missing any RN5 schedules.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

| Local | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| NCS #1 | W5GKH | Open | KD5TXD | AC5Z | K6JT | AC5Z | W5GKH |
| Backup | Open | W5DY | W5DY | W5DY | KD5TXD | W5DY | W5CU |
| NCS #2 | W5GKH | Open | KD5TXD | K6JT | N5PWG | W5DY | W5GKH |
| Backup | K6JT | K6JT | K6JT | Open | K6JT | Open | K6JT |
| RN5 #1 | W5GKH | Open | W5CU | NK5Z | Open | Open | W5CU |
| Backup | W5DY | NK5Z | W5DY | Open | W5ESE | W5ESE | W5GKH |
| RN5 #2 | W5GKH | NK5Z | W5CU | NK5Z | Open | Open | W5CU |
| Backup | W5DY | Open | W5DY | K6JT | K6JT | W5DY | W5GKH |

TEX/1: **3541** at 19:00 local; TEX/2 **3541** at 22:00 local

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

TSN: 3552 - 19:45 local; CAN: **3552**/7108 - 20:30 local; PAN: **3552**/7052/3557- 22:30 local

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, KA5KLU, K5RG, NK5Z
NCS Backup: W5DY, N5EL, K6JT, KA5KLU, KD5TXD, AC5Z

Statistics:

Check-ins were about the same as October, but traffic count was way down. Seems fewer folks are sending radiogram greetings these days. Tom, NK5Z, maintained his 1st place position with 46 (74%). Rodney, W5DY, with 32 (52%) came in 2nd, and Mike, W5TMO again captured 3rd with 27 (44%). Sam, W5CU, came close to Mike with 25 (40%). Thanks to all who checked in for your support.

It was nice to hear Brian, N5BA, and Tom, W5TV, checking in again after a long absence. Visitors included Mike, KA5NNG, and Mac, KE5OK, both from Arkansas. We also had Jeff, WB8WKQ, check in from Michigan with traffic. Jeff is the EAN TCC rep on Thursdays when I check into CAN as the PAN TCC rep and is usually readable here in north Texas.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 1.6 per net session (down from 1.92 last month). That number is the lowest in memory for a December. Poor conditions had something to do with it, but there just wasn't much coming in from RN5. Net time averaged 12.2 minutes per session (compared to 12.9 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.9 per session (down from 5.1 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (December 2009)

| Call | | QNI | total | NCS | RN5 | TTN | DFW | CTTN | TSN |
|--------|---------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| N5BA | Brian | 0 | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| W5CU | Sam | 13 | 25 | | 11 | | | | |
| * | | 12 | | | 10 | | | | |
| W5DY | Rodney | 15 | 32 | 6 | 3 | | 2 | | |
| | | 17 | | 7 | | 1 | | | |
| N5EL | Floyd | 14 | 14 | | | | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | | |
| W5ESE | Scott | 11 | 11 | | 4 | | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | | |
| W5GKH | Charlie | 9 | 18 | 9 | 5 | | | | |
| * | | 9 | | 9 | 5 | | | | |
| K5GM | Pete | 3 | 3 | | | | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | | |
| W9GVW | Eric | 3 | 3 | | | | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | | |
| AA5J | Chuck | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | | |
| KJ9J | Newt | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | | |
| K5JRN | Si | 3 | 3 | | | | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | | |
| K6JT | Steve | 14 | 45 | 5 | 2 | | 14 | | |
| * | | 31 | | 7 | 6 | | 31 | | |
| W6LFB | Jim | 4 | 6 | | | | | | |
| * | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| N5NK | Rondel | 0 | 4 | | | | | | |
| | | 4 | | | | | | | |
| KA5NNG | Mike | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 0 | | | | | | | |
| N5NVP | Jim | 0 | 5 | | | | | | |
| | | 5 | | | | | | | |
| KE5OK | Mac | 2 | 2 | | | | | | |
| | | 0 | | | | | | | |
| N5PWG | Jay | 2 | 6 | | | | | | |
| * | | 4 | | 4 | | | | | |
| K5RG | Ken | 6 | 16 | | | | | | |
| * | | 10 | | | | | | | |
| W5TMO | Mike | 2 | 27 | | | | | | |
| * | | 25 | | | | | | | |
| W5TV | Tom | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | 0 | | | | | | | |
| KD5TXD | Pat | 10 | 17 | 4 | | 3 | | | 8 |
| * | | 7 | | 4 | | | | | 3 |
| WB8WKQ | Jeff | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|-----|-------|-----------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | | | total | NCS | RN5 | TTN | DFW | CTTN | TSN |
| Call | | QNI | | | | | | | |
| | MI | 0 | | | | | | | |
| AC5Z | Bert | 16 | 16 | 7 | | | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | | |
| NK5Z | Tom | 21 | 46 | | 6 | | | | |
| * | | 25 | | | 10 | | | | |
| Totals | | 305 | | 62 | 62 | 4 | 47 | 0 | 11 |
| | | | | 100% | 100% | 6% | 76% | 0% | 18% |
| QTC 1 | | 27 | 101 | | | | | | |
| QTC 2 | | 74 | | Sessions: | | 62 | | | |
| Time 1 | | 388 | 758 | | | | | | |
| Time 2 | | 370 | | | | | | | |

The roster has not been updated since last month.

TEX Roster

| Call | Name | Location / Notes | Call | Name | Location / Notes |
|---------|---------|----------------------|----------|--------|----------------------|
| N5AF | Sam | Cleveland | N7NET | Scott | McKinney |
| KW5AS | Skip | Victoria (ex-KA8IXC) | N5NK | Rondel | Zephyr |
| N5BA | Brian | Houston | WB5NKC | Arley | Oklahoma City OK |
| W5CU | Sam | Edmond OK | N5NVP | Jim | Scott LA |
| NV5D | Martin | Allen | * N5PWG | Jay | Pasadena |
| * W5DY | Rodney | Goliad | K5RDW | RD | Vilonia AR |
| N5EL | Floyd | Temple | K5RG | Ken | Houston |
| * W5ESE | Scott | Dripping Springs | W5ROK | Steve | Richardson (K6JT) |
| W5GKH | Charlie | West Columbia | W5SBE | Larry | Austin |
| K5GM | Pete | Austin | KC5T | Bob | Houston |
| W9GVW | Eric | San Antonio | W5TFB | Jack | College Station |
| AA5IJ | Bob | Pasadena | W5TMO | Mike | Austin |
| KA9IKK | Bill | Houston | W5TV | Tom | Nacogdoches |
| AA5J | Lee | Arkansas | * KD5TXD | Pat | Kingsville |
| KJ9J | Newt | Pharr TX (winter) | AI6U | Chris | Sacramento (CA) |
| K5JRN | Si | Austin | W5UFK | Ken | College Station |
| K6JT | Steve | Plano | * K5UN | Lee | Leonard |
| KA5KLU | Doug | San Antonio | K5WQG | Eddy | Tomball |
| W5KNN | Ed | Bulverde (was KS5V) | KM5YQ | David | Dallas |
| K5KV | Benny | Star | AC5Z | Bert | Nacogdoches (Lufkin) |
| W6LFB | Jim | Denton | * NK5Z | Tom | Conroe |
| WA5MS | Marty | Highland Village | W5ZD | Pat | Kingsville (KD5TXD) |
| WA5MUF | Bill | Watauga | | | |

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

Hope you had a great Christmas and we will all enjoy good health in this New Year. How about a New Year's resolution to bring more traffic to TEX?

Until next month, 73, Steve

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)



TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3552.0 KHz +/- QRM
http://www.atcweb.com/tsn/Texas_Slow_Net.htm
 Pat Allison KD5TXD (pja@atcweb.com)
 TSN Net Manager

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT

Greetings from the Wild Horse Desert – home of your TSN Manager

Here are the stats from December. Thanks to everyone who checked in with TSN and helped us with training lessons. Numbers are a little down this month. It is a perfect opportunity to make a New Years resolution to check in more and bring traffic.

December 2009 TSN Roster

| Call | Name | City | ST | Call | Name | City | ST |
|--------------|--------|------------------|----|--------------|---------|------------------|----|
| N5AF | Sam | Cleveland | TX | WA5LOU | Lou | Kennard | TX |
| W5AG | Arch | Lafayette | LA | WX4MAP | Marc | | AL |
| KW5AS | Skip | Victoria | TX | KD5MMM | Phil | Fentress | TX |
| K8BBM | Dave | | SD | WA5MS | Marty | Highland Village | TX |
| AC0BU | Carson | | IA | WA5MUF | Bill | Watauga | TX |
| KD5CB | Mike | Hillsboro | TX | KA9MZJ | Roy | | IL |
| K6CD/5 | Joe | Katy | TX | N7NET | Scott | McKinney | TX |
| WB9CIS | John | Morton, IL | | N5NK | Rondel | Zephyr | TX |
| K0CMH | Craig | St Louis | MO | WB5NKC | Arley | Oklahoma City | OK |
| WX5CW | Chris | | LA | WB5NKD | Pat | Oklahoma City | OK |
| W5DY | Rodney | Goliad | TX | N5NVP | Jim | Scott | LA |
| N5EL | Floyd | Temple | TX | W8OLO | Bob | | OH |
| K5END | Larry | Spring | TX | K4OSO | Milt | Rockville | VA |
| W6EOD | Steve | Baker | FL | K9PUI | Rich | | IN |
| W5ESE | Scott | Dripping Springs | TX | N5PWG | Jay | Pasadena | TX |
| WD0ESF | Mike | | KS | K5RDW | RD | Vilonia | AR |
| W3FAF | John | | MN | KI5T, KC5AML | Wade | | LA |
| WB9FLU | Bill | Columbus | IN | KB5TCH | Carroll | Douglassville | TX |
| AG9G | Dwight | | WI | W5TMO | Mike | Austin | TX |
| WB5GFU | Al | Alamo | TX | KA5TJS | Allen | San Augustine | TX |
| KD5GM | Louis | Deer Park | TX | KD5TXD, W5ZD | Pat | Kingsville | TX |
| AE5GT | Clint | Wimberley | TX | K1TXU | Ernest | | CO |
| WU3H | John | | CO | K8UV | Rich | | MI |
| KA8IXC | Skip | Victoria | TX | AD5VC | Dana | | LA |
| AA5J | Lee | | AR | K4VIZ | Tom | Conway | AR |
| W5JBV | Mike | Panama City | FL | KD5VGJ | Jay | Flower Mound | TX |
| K5JE | Earl | Claremore | OK | W5VXI | Dave | Caddo Mills | TX |
| K6JT / W0CXX | Steve | Plano / IA | TX | NH7WB/5 | Joe | | HI |
| W5JKK | George | Bethany | OK | KJ5XF ?? | Dave | | LA |
| AA5JW | Carl | Stafford | TX | N5XGG | Joe | Colmesneil | TX |
| W5KCM | Randy | Watauga | TX | KM5YQ | David | Irving | TX |
| N1KSN | Andy | | WI | NK5Z | Tom | Conroe | TX |
| K5KV | Benny | Star | TX | AC5Z | Bert | Nacogdoches | TX |
| KE5LOT | Club | Fentress | TX | KD5ZLB | Edwin | Shreveport | LA |

Welcome to New and Visiting Stations

Great to have WB9CIS and KD5ZLB join us this month. Please invite your pals who like CW or want to brush up on CW to join us on TSN. The Texas Slow Net is great for learning about

traffic handling by copying the lessons, which are in NTS format. It is a safe place to do some practice before you jump into the wild world of traffic handling.

I heard many stations out for Straight Key Night. I got a late start because we attended a New Years party at the Ice House (museum). However, I had my vintage Lionel J-36 Bug hooked up, sans Christmas bow. I had the bug cranked down as slow as possible for that key. I can go from 80 – 10 meters with the K2, but stuck with 80 and 40 due to conditions. Charles' vertical blew down in the bad winds we had Christmas Eve. We were not able to get that back up in time for SKN, so I did not do a lot of true DX work. No matter, it was fun all round.

The farthest I was able to contact with my puny antenna was New Jersey. I heard some fun sounding rigs including a vintage Collins who was rag chewing with a fellow whose rig drifted a significant distance. They carried on a fine conversation with the drifter moving back and forth to stay on frequency. When they signed with each other I jumped in to work the Collins station. I didn't get anywhere near the contacts I wanted. Guess I am getting old as I fell asleep fairly quickly.

Bring some traffic to TSN. It is good practice. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

TSN Activity Report for December, 2009

Total Sessions 31, Total Checkins 124, Total Traffic 23 by 14 different operators.

December QNS

| QNI | Callsign | Name | QTH |
|-----|--------------|---------|----------------------|
| 31 | WB5NKC | Arley | OK, Oklahoma City |
| 31 | WB5NKD | Pat | OK, Oklahoma City |
| 13 | AA5JW | Carl | TX, Stafford |
| 11 | KD5TXD, W5ZD | Pat | TX, Kingsville |
| 10 | N5NK | Rondel | TX, Zephyr |
| 10 | W5VXI | Dave | Caddo Mills, TX |
| 7 | KD5MMM | Phil | TX, Fentress |
| 4 | KB5TCH | Carroll | TX, Douglassville |
| 2 | KD5ZLB | Edwin | LA, Shreveport |
| 2 | W5ESE | Scott | TX, Dripping Springs |
| 1 | K5KV | Benny | TX, Star |
| 1 | N5NVP | Jim | LA, Scott |
| 1 | NK5Z | Tom | TX, Conroe |
| 1 | WB9CIS | John | IL, Morton |

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

January 1, 2010