

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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January 2011



Happy New Year

I hope you all had a good holiday season and 2011 is treating you well so far. We did not have a large increase in traffic during the holidays, although there were some greeting messages. You may have noticed that there are very few N1IQI and W1GMF messages these days. Apparently they have switched to all digital dissemination of their traffic. At least that is how it is coming into the DFW area.

Arley (WB5NKC) and Pat (WB5NKD) have also slowed down a bit with their greetings to new hams and upgraders. I was a bit concerned about their health for a time, but Arley assured me they were both still doing all right and the lack of traffic was due to not very many new licensees.

So where does that leave us? It is definitely time to start generating more of our own messages through the system. I was able to send quite a few to stations I worked in the SS and 160 meter contests. I even got some nice replies from some of them even though I did not use HXC or HXE on the messages.

Are you active in other ham activities (e.g., straight key night)? You can easily look up addresses of stations you work via the ARRL website or QRZ.com. You can also easily look up phone numbers via whitepages.com or several other directory sources. I did find that only about 60% of my contacts had phone numbers listed, which cut down on the messages I sent (only to those with a phone number). A simple "thanks for the contact" type of message is all it takes and it would really liven up the nets. Did you enjoy an article in one of the ham magazines (or even non-ham magazines)? Originate a message to the author telling them so. They don't have to be a ham (although that makes looking them up a lot easier).

25 Years Ago in the Texan

Thanks again to Jo Ann, KA5AZK, for sending me an old issue of the Texan newsletter from 1986. I thought it would be interesting to reminisce a bit (fitting for this time of year) and enjoy some more nostalgia from the past...

The manager at that time was Gene, AE5I, and the newsletter starts off with:

To the Best Traffic Handlers in the World

Thanks to you gals and gents for the hard work during the past two years with your dedication to TEX, your volunteering for functions, and the faithful QNI of good traffic types. The net is still alive and kicking, as the best section net in the nation. All this in spite of the Net Manager.

I said to myself, when I took over TEX from W5CTZ, Gene, what have you done to yourself now? But with operators like you, I couldn't go wrong. Folks I do appreciate the work.

We've had a couple of good nominations for new Net Manager, WB4HML, AE5I, and WD5GKH (*Ed. Note: yes, that is our Charlie, now W5GKH*). WB4HML says he cannot run and AE5I is not available this time around. That leaves WD5GKH, who has four (4) nominations, as a great choice.

If you want to nominate anyone else, please let me know, as we plan to pick our man, or gal, at Kerrville in May.

End of quote

I can echo some of Gene's comments, in particular many thanks to all of you that regularly check in, handle net control, and the RN5 liaison duties. I do appreciate it. Special thanks to Rodney, W5DY, without whom my job would be a great deal more difficult (not to mention frustrating at times).

Question for Charlie, W5GKH: Did you take over as TEX manager in 1986 as the above seemed to indicate? If so, for how long?

Speaking of Charlie, here is his "bio" from that 1986 newsletter:

Charlie Ogilvie, WD5GKH (*now W5GKH*) was born and reared in Houston where he graduated from high school. He attended the institute on South Main where he met Wilma Slaughter, the YL who became his bride. During the four years he spent in Mississippi and Louisiana with a seismograph crew he became interested in ham radio. The purchase of a Hallicrafters S-40 and a code tape machine was the start.

The birth of the first of two daughters and two sons put plans on the shelf for thirty years. Thanks to the help and encouragement of WA5LKZ, a local ham, Charlie became a novice in 1977. The General ticket came the next April. He first checked into the Texas CW Traffic Net in the fall of 1979. Since then he has served as liaison to and from the Texas Traffic Net and as NCS on alternate Sunday nights.

Charlie retired from his job as night superintendent at Phillips Petroleum's Sweeney refinery and chemical complex on February first, 1985, after 36½ years with the company. About a year of that time was spent in Antwerp, Belgium, assisting in the start-up of a new ethylene plant for Petrochim. XYL Wilma remains gainfully employed as a teacher of trigonometry, analysis, and calculus at the high school in West Columbia.

Charlie's other hobbies include photography and music. He and Wilma served as West Columbia correspondents to the *Houston Post*, *Brazosport Facts*, and *Angleton Times*

newspapers. The possessor of a well equipped dark room, Charlie served as a wedding photographer as well as giving photo coverage of news events.

A former member of Local No. 65, AFofm, he played with bands locally around Houston and toured the Interstate Circuit with "College Capers of 1942", playing saxophone and clarinet in the orchestra.

Five grandchildren also occupy a lot of the time of Wilma and Charlie. Charlie is a member of the Brazosport Amateur Radio Club and the Rotary Club of West Columbia. He enjoys attending the ham picnics and conventions and hopes to see everybody in Kerrville this May.

Wow, how's that for a blast from the past? I would also like to note that Charlie has been the photographer at several of the 7290 picnics in Smithville at which I was in attendance. We're honored to have you still doing Sunday net control, Charlie, and hope you will continue as long as you are able.

The statistics given in the 1986 newsletter are also interesting. Total for the year showed the following averages: QNI 11 per session, QTC 6 per session, QTR 21 minutes per session. Contrast that to our December averages of QNI 5, QTC 2, and QTR 12. Things were definitely more "lively" on NTS 25 years ago before cell phones and the Internet, weren't they?

TEX Mailbox:

Heard from **Benny, K5KV**, who commented on last month's newsletter. I was also briefly able to talk with Benny on 2 meters using the Dallas club repeater. He had a good signal from way out there in Star. He was also able to QNI the late DFW traffic net. Benny wrote:

Just for the record books, I have 160M capability at both stations if you want to mark me on the list (*done*).

I found Ken K5RG's comment in your newsletter about spam supportive. I don't advocate dumping traffic after taking it but refusing spam in the first place is where it is at. I only wish all of NTS agreed with Ken regarding refusal of spam. I have missed activity on RN5 and CAN because I was told not to show up on RN5 if I would not take spam. What a shame.

73, Benny K5KV/5
Star Texas

Jim, W6LFB, sent along a good CW ops poem for our enjoyment. Jim wrote: Got this in on a slip of paper with QSL from W0NBP ("Navy Brass Pounder" - old Navy Radioman up in Ottumwa, Iowa):

In days of old, when ops were bold,
And sidebands not invented;
The word would pass by pounding brass,
And all were quite contented!

-Anonymous

73, Jim, W6LFB

Scott, W7IZ, sent in a link to an interesting web site. It documents the rescue of those aboard a ship, the Prinsendam, in 1980, thanks to receiving an "SOS" call on 500 KHz. An MP3 file of the Morse exchanges is also on the website and was quite interesting to hear. Various stations were on that frequency, each with a slightly different frequency offset to distinguish them by tone received. You can take a look (and listen) at <http://www.qsl.net/n1ea/>

Scott also passed along the following disturbing article link, originally sent to him by Ken, W7EKB (my Thursday India TCC contact). There is now some belief that the sunspots will NOT be coming back as we had hoped. In fact, according to the article, we may be in for another Maunder Minimum period. Arrrggghhhh ! I certainly hope not! Anyway, here is the link so you can read it for yourself. Have Kleenex handy if you are the emotional type...

<http://news.sciencemag.org/sciencenow/2010/09/say-goodbye-to-sunspots.html>

Pat, KD5TXD, had the following comments she sent along with the December TSN Corner:

Here is the TSN Corner for December. I am kind of glad that 2010 is over. Charles got a lump of coal for Christmas and a note that he better put up the antenna tower...or else. That seems to have motivated him. He is calling around for someone to dig the hole that I couldn't get dug by hand. I got down about 2 feet and ran into the hardest caliche subsoil in Kleberg County and gave up on digging by hand. Twenty years ago I could have gotten out the pick ax and dug that hole. I am getting OLD!! That was some months back.

I will try to at least do a bit of SKN tonight. We will see how things go. Thanks for putting up with me. 73!! Pat KD5TXD

TEX Net Topics

We still need help with the **12** open NCS/liaison slots, including **4** open *primary* NCS slots and **2** open *primary* RN5 slots on Saturday (all shown in **red**). Please consider taking one of these, or even just an open backup position.

Thanks again to Sam, W5CU, Scott, W5ESE, Tom, NK5Z, and Rodney, W5DY, we managed to get through the month missing only one RN5 net liaison.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

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

TEX/1: **3541**/7108 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 **3541** at 22:00 local

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

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

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, N5PWG, K5RG, NK5Z

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

Statistics:

Check-ins dropped slightly since last month. Traffic continued to be very low, but improved a bit since last month.

Rodney, W5DY, with 33 (53%) edged out Sam, W5CU's 32 (52%) for first and second. Tom, NK5Z, with 27 (44%) took 3rd. Thanks to all who checked in for your support.

Larry, KCOM, and Jeff, WB8WKQ, brought us some outside traffic once again. Other "visitors" included Herb, WR9H, from Illinois and Mac, KE5OK, from Arkansas. It was also good to hear Gary, K5QOW, with a very much improved (and very strong) signal.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.1 per net session (1.85 last month). Net time averaged 11.7 minutes per session (compared to 11.9 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.7 per session (4.85 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (December 2010)

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
N5BA	Brian	0	2						
		2							
W5CU	Sam	14	32		9	1			
*		18			10				
W5DY	Rodney	18	33	6		1			
		15		2					
N5EL	Floyd	17	17						
*		0							
W5ESE	Scott	12	12		2				
*		0							
W5GKH	Charlie	8	16	8	5				
*		8		8	4				
K5GM	Pete	1	1						
*		0							
W9GVV	Eric	2	8						
*		6							
WR9H	Herb	0	1						
	IL	1							
K5JRN	Si	2	2						
*		0							
K6JT	Steve	23	54	6			23		
*		31		12	7		31		

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
KA5KLU	Doug	4	4						
*		0							
K5KV	Benny	1	6						
		5							
W6LFB	Jim	1	1						
*		0							
KC0M	Larry	0	1						
	MO	1							
N5NVP	Jim	1	7						
		6							
KE5OK	Mac	1	1						
	AR	0							
N5PWG	Jay	7	12	5	4				
*		5		4					
K5QOW	Gary	13	15						
*		2							
K5RG	Ken	7	15						
*		8							
W5TMO	Mike	0	14						
*		14							
KD5TXD	Pat	5	10	5					5
*		5		5					5
WB8WKQ	Jeff	0	1						
	MI	1							
NK5Z	Tom	15	27	1	10				
*		12			10				
Totals		292		62	61	2	54	0	10
				100%	98%	3%	87%	0%	16%
QTC 1		51	131						
QTC 2		80		Sessions:		62			
Time 1		362	726						
Time 2		364							

The roster has been slightly updated (with 160 capability shown) since last month. It is about time to prune it down, I suppose, eliminating stations that did not check in for over a year (about half of those listed). If you are reading this and have not checked in recently, consider giving it a try in 2011.

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	N7NET	Scott	McKinney
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria (ex-KA8IXC)	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr
N5BA	Brian	Houston	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City OK
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
NV5D	Martin	Allen	* N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5SBE	Larry	Austin
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	N0SSS	Adam	Oklaunion
AA5IJ	Bob	Pasadena	KC5T	Bob	Houston
KA9IKK	Bill	Houston	W5TFB	Jack	College Station
AA5J	Lee	Arkansas	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
K5JRN	Si	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	AI6U	Chris	Sacramento (CA)
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
W5KNN	Ed	Bulverde (was KS5V)	* K5UN	Lee	Leonard
* K5KV	Benny	Star	K5WQG	Eddy	Tomball
W6LFB	Jim	Denton	* NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

Long skip has not been too much of a problem in the last couple weeks, at least not in my memory. But it can happen any night, so be alert.

Don't be afraid to bring Texas traffic to TEX, even though you know we don't normally have any outlets for it. Either Tom, NK5Z, or myself will be happy to take it from you to pass along to the 7290 net for delivery. Many thanks go to Jo Ann, KA5AZK, the manager, and especially George, K5BMR, the assistant manager, for helping with final delivery of many messages from RN5 that otherwise would not have an outlet. The 7290 net has an amazingly wide reach, with checkins regularly topping 100 for a given session. They are not afraid to take traffic for anywhere in Texas.

Since Scott, W5ESE, no longer checks in as CTTN liaison, I am wondering if that net still even exists? Please let me know. I am considering eliminating it from the statistic report and also from the net call-up.

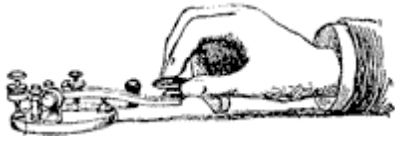
As mentioned earlier, we desperately need more traffic to keep things interesting. While we can't do much about the lack of incoming (from RN5), it is still up to us to start the ball rolling outward from Texas. Hopefully it will inspire ops from other states to do the same.

As you can see from this issue of the newsletter, there are not many articles or even net member feedback items. Do you have an interesting article or even Internet link? Send it along. Otherwise the newsletter becomes (sadly) similar to the nets these days – QNI, QRU, QNX ☹

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

Traffic held its own this month thanks to W5ESE and his kind Christmas greetings. Thanks, Scott, for all of your help and encouragement for each of us on TSN. Over the year we have had a lot of folks visit one or two times. We really appreciate that. A special thanks to our loyal core group of check-ins. Y'all are great and you are helping folks to learn about traffic handling. We have to have folks check in so we can demonstrate the format of a net and get new folks into the swing. Our brief visitors all get to experience how an NTS net works. Even folks who are just listening can hear exactly how it works. Join us any time. Our total QNI for 2010 is 1,610 check-ins. Thanks to all who made TSN a regular part of their evening.

December 2010 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	KE5LOT	Club	Fentress	TX
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	TX	WA5LOU	Lou	Kennard	TX
K5AVJ	Lynn	Abilene	TX	KC0M	Larry	Branson	MO
KD5CB	Mike	Hillsboro	TX	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
WB9CIS	John	Morton	IL	WA5MUF	Bill	Stafford	TX
ND0CW	David	Newburg	ND	N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX
K6CD/5	Joe	Katy	TX	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr	TX
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis		WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
K5END	Larry	Spring	TX	AA5NZ	Web	Goldthwait	TX
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	K4OSO	Milt	Rockville	VA
WD0ESF	Mike		KS	K9PUI	Rich		IN
WB9FLU	Bill	Columbus	IN	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
WB5GFU	Al	Alamo	TX	KA8RTS			
KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park	TX	N0SSS	Adam	Oklunion	TX
AE5GT	Clint	Wimberley	TX	KI5T, KC5AML	Wade		LA
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
WR9H	Herbert	Rockford	IL	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
KE5HCM	Patti	Kerville	TX	KA5TJS	Allen	San Augustine	TX
KA8IXC	Dan	Victoria	TX	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	KD5VGJ	Jay	Flower Mound	TX
W5JBV	Mike	Panama City	FL	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
K5JE	Earl	Claremore	OK	W4VLL	Victor	Pembroke	VA
K7JHM	John	Price	UT	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
K6JT, W0CXX	Steve	Plano	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
W5JKK	George	Bethany	OK	KM5YQ	David	Irving	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	NK5Z	Tom	Conroe	TX
KT4KL	Alton	Bandera	TX	KD5ZLB	Edwin	Shreveport	LA
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX				
KB5KWO	Steve	Norman	OK				

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. I will be trimming the roster come

January so if you want to keep your place on the TSN roster, be sure to check in. See you on the air!!

TSN Activity Report for December, 2010

Total Sessions 31, Total Check-ins 129, Total Traffic 31 by 13 different operators.

December QNS

October	Callsign	Name	QTH
31	WB5NKC	Arley	OK, Oklahoma City
31	WB5NKD	Pat	OK, Oklahoma City
14	AA5JW	Carl	TX, Stafford
14	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills, TX
9	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	TX, Kingsville
8	KD5MMM	Phil	TX, Fentress
7	KB5TCH	Carroll	TX, Douglassville
6	W5ESE	Scott	TX, Dripping Springs
3	KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park, TX
2	AA5J	Lee(Chuck)	AR, Cabot
2	W5DY	Rodney	TX, Goliad
1	K4VIZ	Tom	AR, Conway
1	K5KV	Benny	TX, Star

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

December 31, 2010