

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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June was a busy month with the Hamcom convention and Field Day activities as well as lots of traffic. It was great to once again see Pat, KD5TXD, and her OM Charles, WB5IZD, at Hamcom. Pat spent quite a bit of time looking for more “unloved code keys” to restore and did indeed find some.

Hopefully you noticed the short report on Roger, K5HHS, in last month’s newsletter along with his E-Mail address. I hope you were able to communicate with him. I am very sad to report that Roger is now a Silent Key. He joined the “Big Network” on June 23rd as a result of complications from acute Leukemia. The following is an excerpt from his obituary in the newspaper, followed by some comments gathered from E-mails flowing back and forth after the news went out. We do miss the “dit-man” (73 dah did dah, di di di di dit, di di di dit, di di di dit, di di di dit).



In Memoriam, Roger Killingsworth, K5HHS, SK.

Roger Preston Killingsworth was born on March 10, 1943 in Harlingen, Texas. Roger passed away in a Mathis Nursing Home on June 23, 2006. He graduated from Harlingen High School in 1962. He joined the U.S. Navy in February 1963 and served his country until he was discharged in January 1967. He attended both basic training and six months of Radio School in San Diego.

His first duty station was Taipei, Taiwan. His second duty station was aboard the Herbert J. Thomas DD833, homeport at Mare Island, California. The Thomas departed for Hawaii enroute to Vietnam where it provided air support and ground support for land bases, soldiers and marines. It was part of the “Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club” and also patrolled the shores off North Vietnam. After leaving the service, he went to work for Deluxe Check Printers in Houston, Texas. He retired from there in 1995 and moved to Mathis, Texas where he could be close to his brother, Ron.

He joined the VFW and served as Commander, member of the American Legion and also became an amateur radio operator handling network and hurricane emergency communications. He is survived by his brother, Ronald (Patricia) Killingsworth of

Mathis, Texas; nieces, Sherri (Donnie) Watkins of George West, Texas and Janet (Edwin) Stantz of LaPorte, Texas; and nephews, Jeffrey Killingsworth of Corpus Christi, Texas and Clayton McCulloch of Castroville, Texas; two grand nieces and 9 grand nephews.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, June 27, 2006 at the Cenizo Hill Cemetery in Mathis with Pastor Bob Eads officiating.

Miscellaneous Comments from E-Mails responding to the news: From Pat, KD5TXD (who kept us all informed of Roger's status): DTTN will send flowers to the funeral. Thank you for all the support for Roger over these weeks. There is a big empty spot on the nets and we are really going to miss Roger. From W5ALL, Alfred: Really sorry to hear of his passing. Will truly miss him on the nets. I will always remember him for the times he was NCS on the West Gulf Coast emergency net during and after Katrina. From Garland, K5VY: It is with great sadness to note Roger's passing. To say he'll be missed is an understatement from this station. Roger devoted a great amount of both time and energy to the DTTN and the TTN as well as his efforts in emergency traffic handling. The Great Chief Operator Upstairs has now gotten a great assistant. 73 & condolences to all of us who will find a Roger shaped void in our net operations. From Floyd, N5EL: Even though I never met Roger in person I did exchange a lot of CW traffic with him and had a lot of respect for his hard work in the nets. I learned radio from my Twin brother Lloyd in WW2 who was radioman aboard a seagoing tug with me for almost 4 years out in the Pacific and went on to do a 22 year career. I quit after 8. From one sailor to another, God Speed Roger!!

Pat, KD5TXD, sent along the following in case you want to pass along your condolences to the family: Hi to all. Jim, W5IM, just sent me the mailing address for Roger's brother so we can send cards to the family. Ron Killingsworth, P.O.B. 1106, Mathis, TX 78368. Thanks to all and see you on the nets. 73! Pat KD5TXD

Notes for July:

I will again be traveling to northern California (Sacramento) this month to help my home-bound parents. This is something that I will be doing now probably every 3 to 4 months for the foreseeable future, as their condition is not good. I will be gone for 2 weeks, from the 10th to the 24th of July. I need some fill-ins for my Wednesday early and late and Thursday late NCS spots on the 12th, 13th, 19th, and 20th. Any help with DFW traffic in my absence is also much appreciated. I will be coordinating subs for my Thursday night TCC Echo and Fox schedules separately.

In my absence, NCS stations please send your reports to Floyd, N5EL, who will see that I get them.

We also need a substitute RN5 liaison station for this coming Thursday and Friday (6th and 7th local) as Lee, K5UN, will be out of town for management meetings.

Speaking of Lee, he has been busy cooking up traffic-related tools. Take a look at his web page: <http://www.k1nt.com/radiogram.asp> . He has created an editable radiogram form to fill out. When the "send" button is pressed, the data is sent to him. Pretty slick, and it should be quite useful in disaster communications for health and welfare traffic from anywhere the Internet reaches. Lee adds:

The form is still in development, but see what you think about the page – a message is sent to my mailbox when the send button is pressed. I still have to put validation code behind the form and do some other things, but thought you might enjoy what I have been up to in my spare time ☺

To be honest, I haven't worked out everything yet, like input sources. However, I plan on having several forms, one for the general public (this one) and maybe another which could have clickable ARL links. Maybe two or three that are for amateur use only, that could be used by clubs at fairs or other public exhibitions.

I have built a database to drive logic for routing and delivery for future development. I really need to sit down with someone to determine how it could be used to its full potential and not just be a random page ... I have also registered RadioGram.US and will use this as the site for search engines and advertising.

If you have any comments or suggestions, contact Lee on TEX, or fill out the form and send it to him! ☺

I did not receive any new inputs, pictures, or mini-biographies since last month, so that's about it for featured articles. Please send in your station info, mini-bio, or just comments. It's your newsletter, too.

TEX Net Topics:

As you know, we switched back to 3643 for the 7 PM net after several weeks of unstable operation on 40 meters. That does seem to be working better. While signal levels are sometimes low on 80 meters for the far north to far south, everyone has at least been copyable here at my QTH. Don't forget that if traffic is difficult to pass on 80, ask the NCS to send you to 40 to try, particularly for far north/south contacts. For close-in (within 200 miles), 40 will probably not be very useful.

The following shows the current NCS and liaison station assignments. Lee, K5UN, has been doing a good job with his new Thursday and Friday slots. Jack, W5TFB, has added Saturday evenings to his Wednesday RN5 liaison lineup. Thank you Jack! That fills in all RN5 liaison slots. We still have 3 open NCS slots, one early and two late. Recall that early Friday slot used to be Roger's before he became acutely ill. Please consider filling one or more of the open slots on a regular basis. For now, things have been working out all right with Rodney, W5DY, filling in most nights as the backup. I would really like to have a replacement for my backup on Thursday night late since I have a TCC schedule at 10:15 that is hard to make on time if there is much traffic listed.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5DY	KA5KLU	K6JT	AC5Z	Open	AC5Z	W5GKH
Backup	W5GKH		N5EL	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	
NCS #2	W5GKH	KA5KLU	K6JT	Open	N5PWG	Open	W5GKH
Backup			N5EL	K6JT	K6JT	W5DY	
RN5 #1	W5GKH	KA5KLU	W5TFB	K5UN	K5UN	W5TFB	W5CU
Backup					W5DY	KA5KLU	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	KA5KLU	W5TFB	K5UN	K5UN	W5TFB	W5CU
Backup					W5DY	KA5KLU	W5GKH

TEX/1: 3643 (7143 backup) at 19:00 local; TEX/2 3643 at 22:00 local
 RN5/1: 7045 (3650 backup) at 19:30; RN5/2: 3650 at 21:30 local
 CAN: 7052 (3670 backup) at 20:30 local

RN5 Backups: W5DY, N5EL, K5JRN, K6JT, KA5KLU, K5RG, W5TFB, K5UN, AC5XK
 NCS Backups: W5DY, N5EL, K5JRN, K6JT, KA5KLU, N5PWG, AC5XK, AC5Z

Several of you commented on Ken, K5RG's adventure mountain climbing in Pakistan. Thankfully he has returned safely and is once again checking in from Houston. Hopefully he'll send in a short narrative about his adventures there for a future issue.

Noticed how many bugs are showing up on net? Friday late is the official "bug night", but Pat, KD5TXD, seems to have developed a new relationship with hers, preferring it to the keyer. She's really doing a nice job with it, too. Rodney has also been using his bug every night, but not out of choice – seems his keyer up and died on him. But the bug sounds great, Rodney. Sure glad Floyd, N5EL, came to the 7290 picnic and was able to adjust both Pat's and Rodney's bugs for optimum performance.

Nice to hear Eric, K0KJ, checking in again from San Antonio. Notice that his signal is improved? I asked about that and it seems Eric got a new rig. Sounds great, Eric!

Also nice to hear Si, K5JRN, checking in more from Denton. Thankfully the skip on 80 has not been bad, so I can hear him very well over here about 45 miles away.

Statistics:

This month the most check-ins were again by Floyd, N5EL, who had 54 out of 60 (90%). Rodney, W5DY, had the next highest with 45 (75%). Pat, KD5TXD, and Jack, W5TFB, tied for 3rd with 39 each (65%). Again, thank you all for your continued support. The complete list of stations and traffic totals is shown in the following table. We handled a LOT of messages (285). That is nearly 5 for each and every net session. Of course, those nights with 18 or 19 brought in by Doug, KA5KLU, certainly help boost the averages. Strange how Rodney seems to get stuck being NCS on most of those ☺

TEX Net Statistics (June 2006)

Call		QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
W5CDX	Wads	0	7						
*		7			2				
AC5CI	Homer	6	6						
		0							
W5CU	Sam	6	9		4				
*		3			2				
W5DY	Rodney	21	45	7	1	4			
		24		2	2				
N5EL	Floyd	25	54	1			4		
*		29		1			1		
W5ESE	Scott	6	8						
*		2							
W5GKH	Charlie	8	15	4	4	4			
*		7		7	4				
K5GM	Pete	2	2						
*		0							
K5JRN	Si	6	13				1		
*		7					1		
K6JT	Steve	23	50	6			18		
*		27		13			23		
K0KJ	Eric	2	6						
*		4							
KA5KLU	Doug	17	23	4	6	8			
*		6		4	5	4			
N5NVP	Jim	0	7						
		7							
N5PWG	Jay	4	9						
*		5		3					
K5RG	Ken	1	8						
*		7							
W5TFB	Jack	22	39		7				
*		17			7				
KD5TXD	Pat	19	39			2			19
*		20							20
W5UFK	Ken	0	2						
*		2				1			
K5UN	Lee	18	28		8		3		
		10			8		2		

			Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
AC5XK	Don	5	5			1		4	
*		0							
AC5Z	Bert	18	18	8					
*		0							
Totals		393		60	60	24	53	4	39
				100%	100%	40%	88%	7%	65%
QTC 1		198	285						
QTC 2		87		Sessions:		60	100	%	
Time 1		520	909						
Time 2		389							

TEX Net Stations (QNS)

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
KF9AS*	Megan	Dallas	KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio
N5BA	Brian	Houston	K5KV	Benny	Star
W5CDX	Wads	Crowley LA	W6LFB	Jim	Denton
AC5CI	Homer	Caldwell	WA5MUF*	Bill	Watauga
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
NV5D	Martin	Allen	N5NVP	Jim	Leesville LA
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
K5EJL	Joe	Austin	W5RCP	Ron	Houston
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	N5SIG	Randy	Huntsville
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	KC5T	Bob	Houston
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5TFB*	Jack	College Station
KB5IZO	David	Irving	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
K5JRN	Si	Denton	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
KD5JSS	Dennis	Temple	K5UN	Lee	Leonard
K6JT	Steve	Plano	KS5V	Ed	Bulverde (SA)
KA5KAB*	Carl	Baytown	AC5XK	Don	San Antonio
KØKJ	Eric	San Antonio	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches (Lufkin)

* Stations with unknown or not working E-Mail addresses.

Operating:

I have noticed a definite increase in the skill and competence of all of you on the net in the last few months. Seems like everyone is doing a fine job and getting better all the time. Just a reminder about not needing to send the message number when you QSL a received message, and that QNB means to relay from one to another; QSP means to take a message for delivery. I still hear those misused from time to time, but old habits do die hard. Understandable. Until next month, 73, Steve K6JT