

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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Finally Back Home Again

Thanks go to all who covered for me while I was out marrying off my youngest daughter in Pennsylvania and then attending a 30th wedding anniversary celebration in southern California the following weekend. Both events were very enjoyable, but it is certainly good to be back home again. Traveling is not one of my favorite activities. The weather was beautiful in both places, although it was a bit cold for me in California (76 high, 66 low). Nothing like the Texas heat to keep the old bones moving.

I did not take a radio with me, not even a VHF HT, but then I would not have had any time to operate it if I did. Now to rest up and catch up with all the things that had to wait (like this newsletter).

5 Years Now

As of the first of August, I will have completed 5 years as your manager. The net has stayed alive, in spite of declining "real" traffic, and the loss of several members during that time who have gone to their heavenly reward. I will continue, thanks to the great support of Rodney, W5DY, our assistant manager, until someone comes forward who wants to assume the position. I note that my friend Ken, K6CTW, has just resigned as manager of Region Net 6. Ken also has been manager of that net for 5 years. I keep trying to talk him into moving to Texas, and I hope in time that will occur, giving us another good traffic handler on TEX, RN5, and CAN.

Recordkeeping and publishing this newsletter on a monthly basis do take a significant investment in time. I have considered changing to a bi-monthly schedule for the newsletter. Anyone have feedback on that?

I believe the newsletter is a great motivator for the net, which is why I have continued with it. Just look at the TEX website to see all the issues that have been published. However, it may be time for someone new to step in and shake things up a bit. We tend to become complacent after such a long time. New blood and a fresh outlook can sometimes work wonders.

Field Day

Field Day was held the weekend before I left for Pennsylvania. I participated with the W5ROK (Rockwell Collins ARC) group and had a good time knocking down contacts on 40 and 80 CW. Rodney operated from the W5DSC ("Dead Stinkin' Cow"), Victoria ARC and Scott, W5ESE, was again with the KE5LOT group. Floyd, N5EL, and Pat, KD5TXD, supported the net on the early session as well. Only Rodney and I made it to the late session. CAN and late RN5 were both pretty much wiped out by the FD QRM, however. FD messages continued to trickle in for over a week after the event.

*Also see **TEX Mailbox** for Pat's description of FD in the Wild Horse Desert.*

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

-by George Hart W1NJM

A journalistic history of the life and times in the Amateur Radio world of George Hart, W1NJM

Thanks to Sis, WD8DIN, and the Hit and Bounce Net for sending this chapter for our enjoyment.

Chapter 33 - George settles in his new position with the ARRL.

"Well," he said, after inviting me to sit down, "it's definite, Huntoon is going to the Coast Guard, and you're going to be our new Acting Communications Manager. You should have been appointed when Ed Handy left, but the Board didn't think you could handle the job. Can you?"

"I'm sure I could KB," I said. Everybody called him KB except the non-ham office personnel. "There isn't that much to it, now that we're off the air. But I have another job, now. I'm going to teach code at a Navy school in Pennsylvania. He stared at me and I felt exceedingly uncomfortable. "How come I didn't know about this?"

"I didn't know about it myself until yesterday, when I received a telegram from them. I'm to report for work in three days. I was going to inquire about a leave of absence today." KB's stare bore right through me. "Do you think you'll get it?"

"I don't see why I shouldn't," I said, with my voice shaking a little. "You gave Joe Moskey and others who went into war-related industry leaves of absence."

"That was different. Teaching code isn't exactly an industry."

"That's what John Huntoon will be doing isn't it?"

"Yes, but he'll be in the Coast Guard, a military service. You'll remain a civilian, won't you?" He didn't give me a chance to reply. "You expect to return here after the war?"

"I'd like to have the option," I said, then added in a low voice, "but not if I'm not wanted."

"Did this school in Pennsylvania offer you a draft deferment?"

“They said they’d try and there was a good chance, but they couldn’t guarantee anything.”

“Of course not. Are they paying more than you’re getting here?”

“A little. Not much.”

“Have you liked working for the League?”

I shrugged. “Very much. Amateur radio has been a big part of my life, and the League is amateur radio. That’s why I want to come back. This Pennsylvania job is only for the duration.”

“Or less. When the need for CW operators runs out, they’ll probably close the school. Have you thought of that?” I hadn’t thought of much of anything, except that I wanted to get out of this headquarters where it appeared I wasn’t really wanted and had little future.

But it was my own fault, I felt. Joe Moskey was right; if you don’t push yourself, you’ll never get anywhere; and I wasn’t the pushy type. I sat mute, not answering his question. He turned and looked out the window of his corner office onto La Salle Road and busy Farmington Avenue thoroughfare half a block away.

“Do I remember that you’re a college graduate?”

“Yes, Penn State. I graduated in 1936 and got my master’s degree in 1939.”

“Electrical engineering?”

“No. English composition. I consorted with a lot of engineers at W8YA, though.”

“That’s where Doc Woodruff teaches, isn’t it?”

“Yes. I didn’t see much of him though. Gil Crossley, an instructor, runs the station.”

“And yet, with two college degrees you took a job as second operator at W1AW at what - twenty-five bucks a week?”

“Twenty-two when I started. I’m doing a bit better than that now.”

He continued looking out the window while I sat there nervously fidgeting.

“George,” he said, finally. “You said something a while ago about being wanted. You’re not only wanted, you’re needed. The League is starting to break up. Almost half the staff has left, either drafted or in the defense industry.

“We have an important job to do in civil defense communication which is essential to the war effort, but we can’t do it if all our best people leave. John Huntoon, as acting communications manager, was slated to undertake some important federal government contacts which would

put us in good stead to assist the government in supplying crucial civil defense communications by those amateurs not eligible to serve in the Army or Navy.

“The draft won’t catch up to you for at least another year. If you stay on, I’ll up your salary to quite a bit more than that school will give you; and if the draft does catch up to you, I’ll get a hearing before your draft board.

“By that time, if all goes well, we’ll be well established in federal government circles, and I think we’ll have as good a chance as that school in getting you deferred, maybe better. What do you say?”

I was astounded to hear his voice break a couple of times as he made this offer. It made me realize how dedicated this man was to the League, amateur radio and the war effort.

I said I’d have to think about it. I had already decided to go to Pennsylvania. Now I had another decision to make. I had thought Louise would be delighted to be in Hollidaysburg for the duration; it was much nearer to Coudersport than Hartford, but she didn’t want to give up our nice little house in Newington. I had given her the impression that we could rent it for the duration and return to it after the war end. Although reluctant, she had agreed to this. Now, with this new development, we could remain where we were, and she was delighted.

There still remained the threat of the draft. We had heard that they were starting to draft young married men without children. We wanted children, eventually, but we had decided to wait until the war was over. Even if we started a child now, it would not change my draft status. I would still be childless as far as my draft status was concerned.

I wired the Keystone Schools turning down the job. It turned out to be a good decision. KB would not have given me a leave of absence and when the war ended or the Keystone Schools ceased operation, whichever came first, I would be without a job.

The crisis was over - temporarily, anyway. I became acting communications manager of a department of two people – Lillian Salter and myself. Lil was a spinster lady who had been Ed Handy’s stenographer and, you might say, interpreter, for several years prior to my arrival on the scene. She was very small, had a fiery temper, very little executive ability, a great deal of expertise in typing and figuring out Ed’s dictation and rough-drafting. Dictation was done on dictaphones using wax cylinders. Ed dictated most of his correspondence on these cylinders and Lil had the task of playing them back and transforming them into letters, which she would then take into his office for signature.

I had occasion to listen to one of these cylinders once and marveled at her ability to make sense out of them. Not only was the quality inferior, but Ed talked in machine-gun fashion in his high-pitched voice interspersed with frequent throat-clearing, ums, ahhs, and coughs.

Incredibly, Lil seldom had to inquire of him just what he was trying to say. When Ed rough-drafted a bulletin or a piece of expository writing, he pounded it out on his old No. 5 Underwood typewriter, single-spaced; after which he would go over it with soft pencil, crossing out parts and adding text here and there by scribbling in the narrow margins with lines and arrows showing where the substitute text was supposed to fit. Quite often he would run out of margin, and would scribble or type on a narrow strip of paper, which he would then staple

to the sheet. Lil once showed me a sheet from a rough-draft bulletin that he had just given her to be put into page form. It looked like a paper spider, a sheet of 8-1/2 by 11 paper with illegible scribbling all over it with several streamers stapled onto it.

I never thought they paid Lil enough for the kind of work she did. I probably wasn't too easy a boss to work for by ordinary standards, but after Ed Handy, Lil must have found working for me a great relief.

Coming in Chapter 34 - The ARRL Apparatus Bureau.

TEX Mailbox:

Please join me in welcoming **Gary, K5QOW**, *back* to TEX after an absence of over a quarter century. In response to my "welcome" message to him, Gary wrote: "Thanks for the welcome. I am not new to TEX or traffic handling in general. However, it has been a long time since I was active. 25 to 30 yrs ago I was a net control station on TEX, TEX SS and the Southwest Traffic net. We Methodist ministers move a lot so changes of locations and situations have interfered with my first love hobby, "Ham radio." I am now "located," that is, not under appointment, so I have been in this location 13 years, longer than any place my XYL and I have been since we married 46 yrs ago.

I did allow my license to expire several years ago but I started over this past April. I am glad to get the old call back (K5QOW). It was first issued to me as a novice in 1958, so I am one of the real "old timers."

I am a volunteer fire fighter and communications officer for our VFD (of course). As such, I am an elected delegate from the Middle Rio Grande COG to the Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Planning group in Austin. And as a local MACC team member, I needed to have the license back in force so that I could use amateur HF frequencies in that capacity. Two of our MACC teams will be (*were*) deployed to the Corpus Christi area July 7-9 for an Emergency Communications Preparedness exercise. I may be checking in to TEX from there.

My actual QTH is Reagan Wells. Our phone comes from Leakey and the mail from Uvalde. Concan is just about 7 or 8 miles away and easier on CW. I can handle traffic for Concan, Leakey, Reagan Wells and Uvalde.

Tnx es 73,

*Rev. Gary R. Curry, K5QOW
Located United Methodist Elder*

I heard from **Tom, K4VIZ**, regarding the "cell phone popcorn" video that I reported in last months' newsletter. Tom wrote: "Just for your info, the cell phone popcorn was a result of some neat "photoshopping". Actually, the popped corn was dropped in from above and the timing messed with. I saw this explanation somewhere recently, but in my advanced years, I don't remember where!!"

73,

Tom / K4VIZ

Just missed **Brian, N5BA**, at Hamcom it appears. Brian wrote: "Tried to get to the 8 AM class at Hamcom to have a quick eyeball QSO, but Jo Ann said I just missed you. You had to take off to feed your father.

I roamed the halls both Friday and Saturday, but tried to stay out of as much trouble as I could. Maybe next year.

73,

Brian N5BA

Pat, KD5TXD, sent in the following report about her Field Day experiences.

Field Day in the Wild Horse Desert 2010

The Wild Horse Desert Hams ARC gathered once again for Field Day at the Kingsville Convention and Visitors Bureau's Visitors Center. They have two of the nicest flagpoles in the town. The plan was to use the flagpoles to raise a dipole antenna. The only problem this year is one of the flagpoles' ropes was broken. That was a crushing blow to the antenna committee.

As the antenna committee stood at the base of the flag pole in mourning for their great antenna plan the CW committee made the bold suggestion that we load up the flag pole itself to see if it would work on one of the bands. The idea was met with skepticism at first. However, the technical gurus were deep in thought, pondering the possibilities.



Coax pressed to the flagpole with hose clamps

Suddenly one was rummaging through the parts box in the back of his truck. He pulled out several hose clamps. Another ham dashed off to get the coax. The final antenna committee member whipped together a batch of radials. With antenna analyzer in hand they bound the coax, center core exposed, to the metal flagpole using the linked hose clamps. The coax braid was attached to the radials. It was a 3:1 on 40 meters, and a 5:1 on 80 meters. Could we?? Is it possible to use the MFJ to tune this down more?

The antenna committee rushed into the building. They ran the coax through the coax port that they installed the previous year. The coax was attached to the tuner. The dials were spun and tweaked.

Closer...closer...closer...and matched. We were up and running on 40 meters using the flagpole. The first voice we heard was that of Jo Ann, KA5AZK, on the special Field Day edition of the 7290 net. We called and she heard us.



We had several other antennas up. But the flagpole was the treat of the day. Everyone had to try working a contact using the flagpole. The CW committee was totally pleased to be passing Field Day traffic on OTN later in the afternoon. Just remember, when your rope has broken, just load up the flagpole.



Radials spread at the base of the flagpole

Note there is a G5RV connected to the other flagpole.

73!! Pat KD5TXD

TEX Net Topics

Any help with the **12** open NCS/liaison slots, including **4** open *primary* NCS slots and **3** open *primary* RN5 slots (all shown in **red**)? Please consider taking one of these, or even an open backup position.

Thanks again to Sam, W5CU, Scott, W5ESE, Tom, NK5Z, and Rodney, W5DY, we managed to get through the month only missing one RN5 schedule (which was wiped out by Field Day).

CAN, early RN5, and PAN continue to use 40 meters as primary for the summer season. We have not had good conditions for using 40 meters on early TEX, so for now we will remain on 3541 as primary for both sessions.

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	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	Open	KD5TXD	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	Open	K6JT	Open	K6JT
RN5 #1	W5GKH	Open	W5CU	NK5Z	N5PWG	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	NK5Z	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, KD5TXD

Statistics:

Check-ins came up again, compared to previous months. Vacations and illness were the primary problems then. Traffic was about the same as last month, albeit continued low.

Rodney, W5DY, with 33 (55%) claimed top QNI spot, Scott, W5ESE, claimed 2nd with 31 (52%). Tom, NK5Z, captured 3rd with 26 (43%). Thanks to all who checked in for your support. I was happy to see the QNI count come back up a bit.

It was nice to see Ken, W5UFG, check in once again after a long absence. We did not have any visitors, but we now have a new regular op, Gary, K5QOW, who was on TEX many years ago and has rejoined once again.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.2 per net session (2.1 last month). Net time averaged 12.3 minutes per session (compared to 10.9 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.5 per session (up from 3.6 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (June 2010)

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
W5CU	Sam	9	19		6				
*		10			7				
W5DY	Rodney	16	33	5	1	1			
		17		5	2				
N5EL	Floyd	20	20						
*		0							
W5ESE	Scott	26	28	3	4				7
*		2			2				
W5GKH	Charlie	9	18	9	5				
*		9		8	5				
K5GM	Pete	2	2						
*		0							
W9GVW	Eric	0	1						
*		1							
K6JT	Steve	13	41	4	2		13		
*		28		8	4		28		
W6LFB	Jim	1	1						
*		0							
N5NVP	Jim	2	10						
		8							
N5PWG	Jay	8	14	5	4				
*		6		4	1				
K5QOW	Gary	4	6						
*		2							
K5RG	Ken	1	11						
*		10							
W5TMO	Mike	0	18						
*		18							
KD5TXD	Pat	11	19	4					4
*		8		5					5
W5UFK	Ken	1	1						
*		0							
NK5Z	Tom	12	26		8				
*		14			9				
Totals		268		60	59	1	41	0	16
				100%	98%	2%	68%	0%	27%
QTC 1		49	132						
QTC 2		83		Sessions:		60			
Time 1		371	736						
Time 2		365							

The roster has been updated to add Gary, K5QOW.

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

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

Rodney, W5DY, our assistant manager (and STM for STX) has an idea that will hopefully stimulate some traffic in the system. Rodney wrote the following:

Hello Net Managers and Lee,

I have devised a very short message that may help generate some traffic. I would like for you net managers to have your net controls give a QST on each of their nets for one week starting the 1st of August asking for participation in this project. To begin with, one week should be sufficient. If the project is successful, we may try it again for another week.

Since most (SSB) nets are one hour, the QST should be given at the beginning of the net and twice more during the net. For nets that last two hours, the QST should be given at the beginning of the net and four more times during the net.

The QST will be:

"QST from W5DY, South Texas Section Traffic Manager. We are asking everyone to send a message to a family member, friend or fellow ham. The message text is simply ARL Fifty, with HXC/E in the header".

For CW nets:

"QST de W5DY STX STM X We are asking everyone to send a message to a family member friend or fellow ham X The message text is simply ARL fifty with HXC/E in the header".

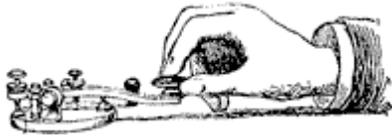
I would appreciate your input on this project, so please send me a message (preferred) or email me (if too long for a message) with any suggestions or criticisms. You may also use your email list of regular net participants to get the word out. I would like to keep things "radio" related, but in this age of Internet and cell phones, any way to get the word out is ok.

If you know of other net managers who would like to try this that are not included in this email, please let me know and I will get the info to them.

Thanks and 73,
Rodney W5DY

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

June saw many of us getting ready for and participating in Field Day. Hope you were able to work some Field Day traffic on CW. Conditions were the battle for my Field Day station K5WHD. Our Wild Horse Desert Hams set up shop at our local Visitors Center again this year. I was able to check into the Texas CW Net with some field day traffic, but W5ESE and I tried but just couldn't copy well enough.

There is always next year for Field Day. However, you don't have to wait until Field Day to send traffic. W5DY, our South Texas Section Traffic Manager has plans for all of us to generate and work some traffic. Be listening for his QST on the nets. Then get your radiogram pad out and compose some traffic to actually send to friends and family. NTS can't work without us actually sending some regular traffic. We can't just depend on folks like Pat and Arley (WB5NKD and WB5NKC) up in OKC to do all the heavy lifting for us. They make traffic every day. Now it is our turn to come up with some fun, individual messages for folks that we know.

June 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
KD5CB	Mike	Hillsboro	TX	KC0M	Larry	Branson	MO
WB9CIS	John	Morton	IL	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
K6CD/5	Joe	Katy	TX	WA5MUF	Bill	Stafford	TX
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr	TX
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	TX	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
K5END	Larry	Spring	TX	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
WD0ESF	Mike		KS	AA5NZ	Web	Goldthwait	TX
WB9FLU	Bill	Columbus	IN	K4OSO	Milt	Rockville	VA
WB5GFU	Al	Alamo	TX	K9PUI	Rich		IN
KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park	TX	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
AE5GT	Clint	Wimberley	TX	KI5T, KC5AML	Wade		LA
KA8IXC	Dan	Victoria	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
W5JBV	Mike	Panama City	FL	KA5TJS	Allen	San Augustine	TX
K5JE	Earl	Claremore	OK	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
K7JHM	John	Price	UT	KD5VGJ	Jay	Flower Mound	TX
K6JT, W0CXX	Steve	Plano	TX	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
W5JKK	George	Bethany	OK	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
KT4KL	Alton	Bandera	TX	KM5YQ	David	Irving	TX
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX	NK5Z	Tom	Conroe	TX
KB5KWO	Steve	Norman	OK	KD5ZLB	Edwin	Shreveport	LA

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.

See you on the air!! Bring some traffic to TSN. It is good practice.

TSN Activity Report for June, 2010

Total Sessions 30, Total Checkins 139, Total Traffic 35 by 10 different operators.

March QNS

Mar	Callsign	Name	QTH
30	WB5NKC	Arley	OK, Oklahoma City
30	WB5NKD	Pat	OK, Oklahoma City
18	AA5JW	Carl	TX, Stafford
17	W5ESE	Scott	TX, Dripping Springs
16	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills, TX
10	KD5TXD	Pat	TX, Kingsville
4	KD5MMM	Phil	TX, Fentress
4	KB5TCH	Carroll	TX, Douglassville
3	KB5KWO	Steve	OK, Norman
3	W5DY	Rodney	TX, Goliad

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

July 13, 2010