

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

**** See "TSN Corner" and "RN5 Corner" on the Last Pages ****

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July 2015



Summer is Here

Yup, it is definitely summer. Not only are the temperatures near 100 during the day but there are signs of some long skip happening on 40 meters. On a recent early session, Jim, W5FEA (NCS) and I were unable to hear each other. We are about 110 miles apart, so definitely the skip was long. W5DY and NA5YO were loud and clear up here. NCS stations should keep that in mind and continue to ask distant stations to make a net call once or twice during the net. You can also send stations who cannot hear each other to 80 to pass traffic.

This will be a shorter newsletter. Many things going on vying for my time. Thanks to those of you who filled in last month when I had company come in from 3 states for a "little" family reunion (20 people).

George Hart Series

Here is the 31st installment of the George Hart Series. The Second World War starts.

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

*A journalistic history of the life and times in Amateur Radio of George Hart, W1NJM (SK)
by George Hart W1NJM*

Chapter 31 - World War II affects Geo.

Now, as a married man, I wanted to get back all the time that Hal Bubb owed me for the many times I had worked his shifts, and I presented him with my record of some hundreds of hours. He was greatly taken aback but promised to fulfill his obligations and started doing so by showing up in the middle of my shift and telling me I could go home. I went along with this for a time, then I told him that since I had worked for him at times he had requested, I wanted him to make time at my convenience, not his. He took this with little grace and said we'd do it his way or not at all. After all, he was my boss. He never did make up all the time he owed me, and the relations between us were strained after that -- for that and other reasons, I was out for a Sunday drive with Fritz Cowles, his girl Marge and Louise when the announcement came over the car radio that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor.

I had never heard of Pearl Harbor. That evening Hal came to our house and told me not to come to work on the next evening because amateur radio was off the air "for the duration" – an expression that became increasingly common during the next couple of years. So the next morning I checked in at Mr. Handy's office at 38 La Salle Road and was told the FCC had granted W1AW special permission to continue operating but only for the purpose of contacting amateurs violating the close down order and for sending special bulletins pertaining to the League's efforts to have some of the public service work by amateurs continue.

So Hal and I spent the next few days to that end. It was surprising how many amateurs continued operating nonchalantly after war had been declared. When we contacted them, they seldom gave us an argument, though occasionally someone would declare he had special permission to continue operating for civil defense purposes.

Our bulletins continued on the normal schedule. Within two or three days all the amateur bands were practically deserted, but W1AW kept on operating well into January, until someone at HQ called the FCC and asked them how long they wanted us to continue operating. The person contacted in Washington expressed astonishment that we were still on the air and ordered us to cease operating at once.

Meanwhile, Hal Bubb had left to accept a job at Pratt & Whitney aircraft. I was "chief operator" at W1AW for a month, or a little over, until the station could be suitably "mothballed". W1AW remained shut up and silent for the duration. I went to work at La Salle Road doing clerical stuff, with the prospect of being out of work. I began to think it was time for me to "join up," as several of the HQ staff were doing, since there seemed little future for me at ARRL HQ. The 1940 Army Signal Corps offer of a commission was no longer available, although the Army was still conferring commissions on qualified civilians, in other categories.

Commissions in the Navy were being offered, however, and I forthwith made application, went to New York for an interview and was accepted pending a physical examination. Alas, my eyes failed to pass the test. My sympathetic examiner tried for a waiver but was turned down.

Commissions were available only for officers of the line, not for administrative officers. The former had to have 20-20 eyesight without glasses and mine were 20-30. I returned home greatly disheartened, feeling unwanted, except possibly as a buck private in the Army; I continued working at ARRL HQ as a clerk in the Communications Department under Ed Handy.

Ev Battey, Ed's right hand man, was a lieutenant in the naval reserve and he left the staff even before Pearl Harbor. Joe Moskey, W1JMY, took Ev's place as the assistant communications manager. Joe seemed puzzled that I didn't seem to mind, even though I was on the staff before he was. I said I thought Ed preferred him.

"Maybe so," Joe said, "but you had a legitimate claim and you should have stuck your oar in;" "I've been in the boondocks at W1AW," I said. "You've been right here and are much better qualified. You're the right man for the job."

"You'll never get anywhere," Joe admonished me, "if you don't assert yourself. You've been licensed longer than me, have had a lot more ham radio experience, and you're older. I can't figure out why you didn't say something. Don't you want to get ahead?" It wasn't the first time I had been criticized for lack of aggression. Ev Battey had made some kind remarks about me to Mr. Handy, which I had accidentally overheard, but Ed replied that I seemed to lack initiative and drive. I knew that Ed much preferred Joe and if I had protested Joe's promotion ahead of me I knew I would have been turned down. Should I have protested anyway? I knew I wouldn't have, even if I had not overheard Ed's remark about me. So maybe they were right. Maybe I did lack drive, but that was part of my make-up. It didn't make me feel any better, but there it was.

Joe left the staff shortly thereafter to take a job in the defense industry, which would give him a draft deferment. There was no one to promote over me so I assumed this time I was certain to back into the promotion. Instead, Ed made me "assistant to the communications manager" and my status remained that of low subordinate. Again I failed to protest and felt greatly humiliated instead of angry. I "took it lying down" and my self-respect took a nosedive.

But the worst was still to come. Ed Handy was also a naval reservist, a lieutenant commander, but his request for active duty was denied because of poor eyesight. In mid-1942, however, he received a visit from a major in the Army Directorate of Communications, who had been ordered to recruit him as a staff officer in the directorate with rank of major, equivalent to a Navy lieutenant commander. Ed had no Army experience but felt he had to accept if he wanted to serve in the armed forces during a time of war, and he was assured by the recruiting officer that they badly needed officers with his qualifications.

Coming in Chapter 32 - Increased war demands cause the League Communications Manager position to come open -- wait until you hear what happened.

TEX Mailbox:

Received the following from Scott, W7IZ. It really does illustrate why we do what we do and things like this help make it all worthwhile...

Hi Gang

Tonight it was my great pleasure to pass an unusual NTS message, first one for me, first for W7VSE and also first for NA7G:

Background: Vic W7VSE operates the telegraph station at Railroad Park, a Theme Park, in Medford, OR. Standard message form is ARL Fifty One Railroad Park, followed by personal message.....

A young lady sent the following to her boyfriend in Cheyenne, WY, following ARL 51: YES X I WILL BE YOUR WIFE X I LOVE YOU BT CHRISTINA

Now, how cool is that? VERY COOL!! Thanks Vic for sending the traffic, Jim for relaying.
73/Scott W7IZ

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Received the following link from George, K5BMR, the assistant manager of the 7290 traffic net. This is an excellent site and seems to be pretty accurate. I have monitored this while trying to pass digital traffic and was amazed that as the propagation went up, the speed of the digital transfer also went up (and vice-versa). It is updated dynamically every 30 seconds or so, depending on changes and time of day.

<http://www.bandconditions.com/>

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That's all we have for this month's letters pertaining to TEX and CW traffic handling. Please send in your thoughts, gripes, or suggestions to share with everyone in this section of the newsletter. 73, Steve

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TEX Net Topics

Sam, W5CU, is now an independent consultant and was offered a new project that takes him away from home (to Midland, TX, in fact). It may work into a long-term project, so we are looking for volunteers to take his Wednesday and Sunday RN5 slots. In the interim, backup stations (W5DY, W5FEA early, K6JT late) have been handling the skeds. Note that Sam also has Wednesday RN5 NCS and Sunday CAN assignments that those of you who are active at that level may be able to help with. Also see RN5 Corner for more information. He may be able to set up a station in Midland if the project turns into a long one, but that will not occur for a while. We wish Sam the best of luck with his new venture, and we certainly do miss him.

OK traffic may be sent to K6JT or the 7290 (TTN) net liaison station if I am not available. RN5 liaison stations should continue to check in as TX and OK.

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown on the following page (for easier printing of a single page). No updates were made since last month, although W5CU is shown in Red.

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TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	N5RL	KD5TXD	KD5TXD	N5RL	W5FEA	W5GKH
Backup	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	K6JT	W5FEA
NCS #2	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	K5KV	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT
RN5 #1	K5KV	NA5YO	W5CU	N5RL	N5RL	NA5YO	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5FEA	W5FEA
RN5 #2	K5RG	NA5YO	W5CU	K6JT	K6JT	NA5YO	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT

TEX/1: **7053**/3541/7108 at 19:00 CT; TEX/2 **3541**/3595/1841 at 22:00 CT

RN5/1: **7108**/3567 at 19:30; RN5/2: **7108**/3567/3598 at 21:30 CT

TSN: **3570** - 19:45 CT; CAN: **7052**/7108/3552/3595 - 20:30 CT; PAN: **7052**/3552 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K5GM, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, NA5YO

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, W5TMO, KD5TXD

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
N5BA	Brian	Houston	AC5P	Mike	Bartlesville OK
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
W5DH	Tom	Dallas	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
W4DLZ	Frank	Florida	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
W5FEA	Jim	Graham	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
K5GM	Pete	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
K5JRN	Si	Austin	NE5V	Chris	Liberty Hill
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
N7KRT	Jeff	Victoria	K6YBV	Bob	Placerville CA
* K5KV	Benny	Star	W5YE	Brian	Harlingen
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	NA5YO	Doug	San Antonio
N7NET	Scott	McKinney	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

Traffic and check-ins were about the same as last month. All RN5 slots were covered and TTN / DFW representation were good. TSN coverage was again zero because of Jason's work schedule.

Jim, W5FEA, with 60 out of 60 (100%) was again able to have "perfect attendance". Randy, N5RL, and Rodney, W5DY, tied for 2nd with 42 (70%). Benny, K5KV, with 29 (48%) was third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors to the net included Dick, WA5CAV, from LA and Bob, K6YBV, from CA.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 3.5 per net session (3.3 last month). Net time averaged 12.3 minutes per session (compared to 11.4 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.7 per session (5.4 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (June 2015)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
KW5AS	Skip	10	11					
		1						
WA5CAV	Dick	1	1					
	LA	0						
W5CU	Sam	6	16		5			
*		10			6			
W5DY	Rodney	21	42	2	3			
		21		4	5			
W5ESE	Scott	2	2					
*		0						
W5FEA	Jim	30	60	5	2	27		
*		30				6		
W5GKH	Charlie	10	19	10				
*		9		9				
K5GM	Pete	6	15					
*		9			1			
W9GVW	Eric	1	2					
*		1						
K6JT	Steve	15	42				3	
*		27		6	10		27	
K5KV	Benny	7	29		4			
		22		4				
KB5NJD	John	22	22				22	

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
		0						
N5NVP	Jim	1	1					
		0						
K1PKZ	Paul	1	1					
		0						
K5QOW	Gary	1	1					
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	3					
*		3			1			
N5RL	Randy	23	42	7	9	2		
*		19				15		
W5TMO	Mike	0	7					
*		7		7				
KD5TXD	Pat	6	6	6				
*		0						
NA5YO	Doug	7	17		7			
		10			7	1		
K6YBV	Bob	0	1					
	CA	1						
Totals		340		60	60	51	52	0
				100%	100%	85%	87%	0%
QTC 1		93	207					
QTC 2		114			Sessions:	60		
Time 1		375	739					
Time 2		364						

Operating:

Everyone is doing a good job, and I have no new "hints" this month. Be aware of the potential for long skip, especially on early TEX, and follow the guidelines for requesting net calls given at the front of this newsletter. It should also be noted that excessive calling for net calls by other stations should be avoided since it serves no purpose and wastes net time. Choose the station(s) furthest away, who have the strongest signals, and ask them to do the net call, once or twice is enough. We have been using the shorthand "QNI" to request the net call for some time now, and most stations seem to understand this.

As you can see by comparing this month's composite with last month, traffic was significantly less overall.

NTS Central Area Activity for June 2015

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
RN5 Cycle 2	44	34	380	467	0.073
9RN Cycle 2	13	259	56	153	1.693
10RN Cycle 2	22	189	138	265	0.713
RN5 Cycle 4	60	168	406	425	0.395
9RN Cycle 4	51	97	150	321	0.302
TEN Cycle 4	56	134	160	499	0.269
CAN Cycle 2	13	72	87	359	0.201
CAN Cycle 4	29	215	167	419	0.513
TCC Cycle 2	39	55	34		
TCC Cycle 4	90	95	87		
Total Voice/CW Nets		1318	1665	2908	
NTS Digital			Received	Sent	
KB0OFD		1788	1013	775	
WB9FHP		2455	1340	1115	
W5SEG		786	460	326	
DRS Stations (18)		1657	819	838	
Total NTS Digital		6686	3632	3054	
Total Central Area		8004			

Until next month, 73, Steve K6JT



Photo Courtesy of VE3UU

TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3570.0 KHz +/- QRM

Website: <http://www.k6jt.com/tsn/>

Net Manager: Jason KD5RQB, tsn.3570@aol.com

Greetings From Northeast Texas

I want to start this Month's TSN Slow Net Corner by welcoming Sam K5OAI from San Angelo, Texas to the Texas Slow Net. Sam checked in on June 20th. Welcome to the net Sam and please check-in as often as you can.

Another new check-in we had during the month of June was Matt K5NTT from Waldo, Arkansas. Welcome to the net Matt and please check in as often as you can.



The 45th Annual 7290 Picnic was held in Taylor Texas on May 30, 2015. Carroll KB5TCH attended the picnic. He is shown with Donna in the picture.

TSN Activity Report for June 2015

Total Sessions: 22 Check-ins: Total Traffic: 21 by 12 different Operators

June 2015 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	22
SAM	KK4HCF	14
JASON	KD5RQB	9
JIM	W5FEA	9
HOWARD	KB5IDB	6
PHIL	KD5MMM	5
JOE	AC5BE	3
MATT	K5NTT	1
SAM	K5OAI	1
STEVE	KB5KWO	1
SKIP	KW5AS	1
MIKE	WD0ESF	1

July 2015 Net Control Stations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Open	Carroll KB5TCH	Carroll KB5TCH	Jim W5FEA	Phil KD5MMM	Sam KK4HCF	Carroll KB5TCH

TSN Roster (December 2014 to December 2015)

Callsign	Name	QTH
KW5AS	Skip	VICTORIA, TEXAS
AC5BE	Joe	MATAGORDA, TEXAS
W5DY	Rodney	GOLIAD, TEXAS
WD0ESF	Mike	MEDICINE LODGE, KANSAS
W5FEA	Jim	GRAHAM, TEXAS
W9GVW	Eric	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
KK4HCF	Sam	MARYSVILLE, TENNESSEE
WD5IDB	Howard	EDMOND, OKLAHOMA
N7KRT	Jeff	VICTORIA, TEXAS
KB5KWO	Steve	NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
KD5MMM	Phil	FENTRESS, TEXAS
N7NET	Scott	MCKINNEY, TEXAS
K5NTT	Matt	WALDO, ARKANSAS
K5OAI	Sam	SAN ANGELO, TEXAS
WD4PLB	Walter	ROCKSPRINGS, TEXAS
KD5RQB	Jason	ATLANTA, TEXAS
KB5TCH	Carroll	DOUGLASSVILLE, TEXAS
W5VBD	George	TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Silent Keys

Floyd	N5EL	2013
Dave	W5VXI	2014

Stop by any evening on 3570kHz at 7:45p.m. CT.

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!!

73,
Jason KD5RQB

RN5 Corner

Region Net 5 (Daily) 1930 CT on **7108** and 2130 CT on **7108**
Alternate Frequency 3567 (early) or 3598 when conditions warrant
Serving TX, OK, LA, AR, MS, TN, AL, and FL
Frank Thrash W4DLZ (W4DLZ@ARRL.NET)
RN5 Net Manager

Hello guys and welcome to Edition 42 of the **RN5 Corner**.

I am sorry to report that I became sick a few days before Field Day and as of this time I am still not fully recovered. Some sort of virus that the doctor could not identify got both me and my wife, so we were in a world of hurt for several weeks. My apologies for not being able to guard 7108 on Field Day as I had planned to do. Just too sick to even get out of bed at that time.

As you may know if you read the TEX newsletter information above, Sam, W5CU, is no longer able to help out on RN5 due to a new project that keeps him away from home all week. We especially need some new NCS and CAN liaison stations to fill his Wednesday and Sunday slots, since he may be off the air, other than occasional trips home, for several weeks if not months, depending on the progress of his project.

I have also been informed that Ben, KZ8Q, has purchased property in Florida and will be leaving Alabama for there soon. Ben, along with Jerry, W4SU, have been almost single-handedly keeping the net alive with their filling NCS and CAN liaison slots. Ben has said he will continue to support RN5 from his new location, but he will be off the air for a while until he can complete his move and put up new antennas.

We now have even more open positions, as you can see from the Duty Roster. Sam's slots now show as open, and while Ben only had Monday NCS slots as official assignments, for which he is now shown in Red, as most of you know, he has been covering CAN and NCS many other nights, as well as providing DRN5 liaison.

We desperately need more of you to try out your hand at NCS and CAN liaison. Jerry can not, and should not, be required to fill in all the missing slots (and we are deeply indebted to him for all his service). If we do not get some new volunteers for these positions, I am afraid that RN5 is in grave danger of becoming another casualty in the ever shrinking NTS voice / CW net system.

Please consider this and how important NTS is, and has been, to you over the years, and let me know when you are ready to try out one of the open positions. I, and others such as Jerry and Steve, stand ready to assist you in whatever way you need.

73, Frank W4DLZ
RN5/4 CW Net Mgr.

(Schedule, statistics, and roster on the next page)

RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	KZ8Q	W4DLZ	Open	W4SU	W4SU	W4DLZ	Open
NCS #2	KZ8Q	W4DLZ	Open	K6JT	W4SU	W4DLZ	WA4ZPZ
CAN TX	Open	NA5YO	Open	W4SU	W4SU	NA5YO	Open
CAN RX	Open	NA5YO	W4AGL	K6JT	WA4ZPZ	NA5YO	Open
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

June 2015 Statistics

SESSIONS	60
QTC	168
QNI	406
QTR	425
AVG QTC	2.4
AVG QNI	6.7
AVG QTR	7.8

The following roster shows stations coming to RN5 in the past 3 years and their sections.

Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	Section	Call	Name	Section
W4AGL	JIM	FL	K5KV	BENNY	TX
WA4BAM	JOHN	FL	K8KV	BEN	FL
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	N5NVP	JIM	LA
W5CU	SAM	OK*	K4PG	KEVIN	FL
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	KZ8Q	BEN	AL
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	K5RG	KEN	TX
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5FEA	JIM	TX	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	W4SU	JERRY	AL
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
K5GM	PETE	TX	K5WNU	JACK	MS
W8IM	DEAN	FL	NA5YO	DOUG	TX
K6JT	STEVE	TX	WA4ZPZ	TOM	AL

* When W5CU is not present on Late RN5, OK traffic may be sent to the TX station

** K4VIZ is no longer active. Send AR to the TX station for the 7290 net (do not use DRN5) 73, Frank W4DLZ