

# *The Texan*

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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## **TEX Website Move Complete**

The transition to the new TEX website at <http://www.k6jt.com/> is now complete. The Apple server is no longer active. Content is identical except links have been fixed to the movies and pictures from the 2006 7290 net picnic, Temple TX Railroad Museum (with larger size video), Hamcom 2007, and the 2008 and 2010 7290 picnics.

## **Hamcom in Plano, TX 2012**

The Hamcom convention was Friday and Saturday, June 8 and 9. I was able to attend a few sessions in between caring for my father. Jo Ann, KA5AZK, again gave a fine traffic handling tutorial. I always learn something in those sessions, if only how deficient my voice traffic handling skills are. There was a lot of interest in having a 2 hour session next year so that she could go into more detail and not have to rush through the materials. I think that would be a fine idea and would also allow for a short tutorial on the structure and operation of the National Traffic System. I might even want to present that part, if she could just get some slot other than 8 AM :-)

The only TEX member I saw was Ken, K5RG, who came over to my QTH to talk about digital traffic handling and how to use RMS Express to access Winlink 2K via HF as well as other topics of common interest. I know that Brian, N5BA, was planning to come, but I did not see him in the few sessions that I attended. The convention was very successful with overflow parking on the grassy areas having even more vehicles than in all the regular parking lots.

## **RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM**

Thanks to Sis, WD8DIN, the editor of the Hit and Bounce Net Traffic Call newsletter, we finally have another chapter in the saga from George Hart.

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

CHAPTER 35A - ARRL and the WERS (Geo continues his new duties at Headquarters)

Perhaps my chief function during this period between the closing of W1AW and my entry into military service was conduct of ARRL's part in the War Emergency Radio Service. Ever since Pearl Harbor, the League had been probing for some means of participating in the war effort through its amateur radio membership and all amateur licensees in general. While thousands of amateurs were pursuing their radio technology expertise in the armed services, many more, not eligible for military service, were at home itching for an opportunity to exercise skills.

An Office of Civilian Defense had been set up as part of the Executive Office of the President in the federal government. League executives, primarily President Bailey and Managing Secretary Warner, had made contact at the top level. The OCD was interested in using amateurs and amateur equipment for civilian defense communications purposes. The difficulty was in details of how such a system could be set up, and these details were delegated to lower levels of OCD.

The League was anxious to get amateurs involved in this effort to the maximum extent. As acting communications manager, I carried the brunt of details, including contact with working levels of OCD and the FCC. This meant many trips to Washington, the first one was to see President Bailey, who was then working for Office of Scientific Research and Development. Although an experienced communicator, no stranger to its organizational aspects. I was a neophyte in the crowded wartime Washington scene. George gave me some instructions in behavior, procedure and protocol to get me started. I got the feeling he was skeptical as to my ability to handle it, as I was myself. I never did get fully acclimated to the Washington government scene of bureaucratic predators, but managed at least to stay out of trouble as I went from office to office and became acquainted with working level officials of OCD, FCC, the U.S. Army Signal Corps, Naval Communications and several other government agencies involved in or concerned with the plans being proposed by OCD for a radio communications organization composed mostly of volunteer civilians, a majority being stay-at-home holders of amateur licenses or no-call LSPH (Licensed Since Pearl Harbor) licensees. Yes, FCC, after an initial hiatus, resumed issuing amateur licenses, although no on-the-air operation was permitted.

Next Chapter 35B - Geo and WERS (Continued)

### **TEX Mailbox:**

Received the following info from **Tom, K4VIZ**, that I think is important enough to pass along here. Thanks, Tom.

A doctor friend of mine sent me this today. I see that ads on TV where they say high fructose corn syrup is no different from regular sugar and your body cannot tell the difference. I have long held the belief that this is just plain NOT TRUE.

So, please take time to read this short report and give it some thought as to what you are constantly eating. I know it's difficult to avoid, as a LOT of foodstuff has HFCS in it. I think the 2 main reasons that high fructose corn syrup is so widely used is that it is cheaper than sugar and somehow the way your body metabolizes it, it doesn't end up satiating your appetite and you do not get the feeling of having had enough. Just something else to think about, as if you don't already have enough.

Subject: Princeton Study Discovers 1 Sweetener SUPERCHARGES Getting Fat

<http://www.losethebackpain.com/blog/2012/04/30/princeton-study-discovers-1-sweetener-supercharges-getting-fat/#.T74ZAYXnxcc.mailto>

**Scott, W7IZ**, sent along this link to a very useful site. Very handy for amateur radio operators, if you work even a little DX!

<http://24timezones.com/>

As you know, I forwarded the info received from **Dean, W8IM**, about the Museum Ships Weekend that was held June 2 and 3. Hope some of you were able to participate. I did get on myself for a short time on CW. The only station I heard (and worked) was K1USN. I also monitored PSK-31 and did see one other station but conditions were so poor that I never did get a good receipt of the call.

Received the following from **Pat, KD5TXD**, on June 5. Sure is nice to be associated with an astronomy department with the right equipment!

Tonight we had an astronomy open house to view the Venus transit at the university. I actually got a couple pictures before the clouds rolled in.



Venus is the dark byte at lower right.



Venus all the way onto the sun.

73, Pat, KD5TXD

**Rodney, W5DY**, is again working the Texas Water Safari event. Hopefully we will have a little report from him for next months' newsletter.

**Tom, K4VIZ**, in AR read "Dark Signals" and also greatly enjoyed it (see last months' newsletter for Pat's "Book Report"). He also recommends the book "A Time to Die", which is about the Russian's loss of the Kursk submarine in 2000. In fact, Tom was so engrossed in the book that he lost track of time and was late for one of his RN5 NCS slots !

### TEX Net Topics

Thanks to Benny, K5KV, taking several open slots (Thursday and Saturday NCS and early RN5), we now have all primary NCS slots filled. There are a few backup slots still open

(shown in **yellow**) but only **3** open liaison slots, all of them for Late RN5 on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday (all shown in **red**). Since Rodney and I are backup for these, we usually have them covered, but there are times when both of us are unavailable. If you are willing to take any of these or any of the open backup slots, please let me know.

Thanks also go to Pete, K5GM, Randy, N5RL, and Ken, K5RG, for taking many of the NCS and RN5 liaison assignments for Charlie, W5GKH, while he was off the air due to antenna support problems. Happily, Charlie got everything fixed and is now back in operation. Thanks also to all of you who responded to my requests for assistance when Sam, W5CU, was out of town or the regular NCS/liaison was going to be unavailable.

### TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>NCS #1</b>	W5GKH	N5RL	KD5TXD	KD5TXD	N5RL	K5KV	W5GKH
Backup	<b>Open</b>	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5CU
<b>NCS #2</b>	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	K5KV	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	<b>Open</b>	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	W5CU
<b>RN5 #1</b>	W5GKH	N5RL	W5CU	K5KV	N5RL	K5KV	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	<b>Open</b>	W5DY	<b>Open</b>	W5ESE	W5ESE	W5GKH
<b>RN5 #2</b>	W5GKH	<b>Open</b>	W5CU	<b>Open</b>	K6JT	<b>Open</b>	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT	W5GKH

TEX/1: **7053**/3541/7108 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 **3541**/3643/1841 at 22:00 local

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

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

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, W5TMO, KD5TXD

### Statistics:

Traffic and checkins were both down, compared to April, even though we did have 2 more sessions. No RN5 slots were missed (*thank you*).

Randy, N5RL, again had outstanding participation with 56 out of 62 (90%) taking first, followed again by Rodney, W5DY, in 2nd with 34 (55%). Scott, W5ESE, with 24 (39%) was again 3rd. Thanks to all of you who checked in for your support.

We had one visitor to the net: Kyle, KD5EIU, in Austin. Sadly, Gary, K5QOW, is off the air due to a lightning strike near his home putting his radio out of commission.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 1.7 per net session (2.1 last month). Net time averaged 11.0 minutes per session (compared to 11.2 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.6 per session (5.1 last month).

### TEX Net Statistics (May 2012)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	9	17		7			
*		8			5			
W5DY	Rodney	12	34	1	2			
		22		5	3			
W5ESE	Scott	24	24		3			
*		0						
KD5EUO	Kyle	0	1					
	Austin	1						
W5GKH	Charlie	5	10	5	3			
*		5		5	3			
K5GM	Pete	5	10	1	2			
*		5						
W9GVW	Eric	11	11					
*		0						
K6JT	Steve	18	48	3	2		18	
*		30		13	19		29	
K5KV	Benny	1	4					
		3						
WA5MS	Marty	7	7					
*		0						
N5NVP	Jim	1	5					
		4						
K5QOW	Gary	1	1			1		
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	5	16	1	1			
*		11		1				
N5RL	Randy	29	56	13	11	9		
*		27		1	1	13		
W5TMO	Mike	0	19					
*		19		6				
KD5TXD	Pat	7	7	7				7
*		0						
KS5V	Ed	6	18					
*		12						
Totals		288		62	62	23	47	7
				100%	100%	37%	76%	11%
QTC 1		38	105					
QTC 2		67		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		330	681					
Time 2		351						

The roster, shown next, had no changes since the last newsletter.

## TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5BA	Brian	Houston	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
K5CZ	Ed	Temple	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	W5OMR	Geoff	Houston
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
K5GM	Pete	Austin	N0SSS	Adam	Oklaunion
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
AA5J	Lee	Arkansas	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
K5JRN	Si	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
* K5KV	Benny	Star	KS5V	Ed	Bulverde
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	* NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
N7NET	Scott	McKinney	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

\* Capable of 160 meter operation

### Operating:

There has been quite a bit of discussion regarding alternatives and work-arounds for the dwindling participation in many of the section nets in the RN5 area. In particular, the Ozark net, which is for AR and MS combined, is having problems getting enough NCS and (RN5) liaison stations. There are also reports that FL has a dearth of CW traffic handlers for a section net there. Those of you who regularly go to RN5 know that there is one, and only one, station in TN that ever checks in, Andy, W4SQE.

Many feel this is indicative of the impending demise of cycle 4 of the NTS (evening CW nets). I do not subscribe to that, although I recognize how "thin" coverage has become. We are still relatively "healthy" here in Texas, thanks to all of your support, but our coverage footprint is also pretty limited, primarily only the larger metropolitan areas of the state.

We are very fortunate to have the 7290 Traffic Net here with wide participation around Texas as well as stations in OK, LA, AR, and even MS checking in at times. They handle many times the volume of traffic of TEX or even RN5 each month. My deep gratitude for their assistance goes to Jo Ann, KA5AZK, the manager, and George, K5BMR, the assistant manager, for their support of Texas traffic handling and also TEX.

Look for more discussion of the wider problem with dwindling CW net participation in "RN5 Corner", which follows TSN Corner.

Until next month, 73, Steve K6JT  
(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](http://www.atcweb.com/tsn/Texas_Slow_Net.htm)  
 Pat Allison KD5TXD ( [pja@atcweb.com](mailto: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

TSN is struggling this month. As many of you already know our strongest member, Arley, WB5NKC, is off the air with medical issues. KB5TCH and I are splitting the duties as NCS. We don't have anyone who can call Tuesday night. Many on our TSN roster are seasonal and check in only when conditions are just right such as our FL and KS stations.

Our core members are just a few folks as you can tell by the activity reports over the months. We will keep plugging along. Please keep Arley and Pat in your prayers as they both deal with their medical problems. TSN really needs them back.

If you have time and are interested in helping us out, please drop me an e-mail at [pja@atcweb.com](mailto:pja@atcweb.com). We really need someone who can call the net on Tuesday. And it would be above and beyond the call of duty if someone could help with sending the training lessons. Thanks to all!!

### May 2012 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	TX	K9JWV	Jim	St. George	UT
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	K5KV	Benny	Star	TX
W5AS	Club Call		OK	K7KV	David	Auburn	WA
K5AVJ	Lynn	Abilene	TX	KB0LF	Fred	Murray	NE
N9AWP	Edward	Markleville	IN	W8LKI	Wolfe	Defiance	OH
WA4BAM	John	Miami	FL	K5MDK	Mike	Plano	TX
W4CCU	David	Pensacola	FL	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
ND0CW	David	Newburg	ND	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
AB0DK	Dave	Kirksville	MO	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
K5DMC	Jerry	Kiln	MS	K5OAI	Sam	San Angelo	TX
W5DPT	Louis	Deer Park	TX	K9PUI	Dick	Indianapolis	IN
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	KE5PYF	David	Fort Worth	TX
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells	TX
WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
WD9F	Woody	Springfield	IL	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
K5FAL	Curt	Edmond	OK	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
AG9G	Dwight		WI	WB5UPS	Ron	Port Neches	TX
K5GM	Pete	Austin	TX	N5UZ	Rick	Cedar Park	TX
AK4GY	Russ	Lewisberg	TN	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
WD5ILB	Bob	Azle	TX	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	WB8W	Bob	Cincinnati	OH
N0JL	Jim	Chilliecothe	IA	WB5WKQ	Jeff	Dryden	MI
K6JT	Steve	Plano	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	WJ5Z	Roy	Tyler	TX

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!!

### TSN Activity Report for May 2012

Total Sessions 29, Total Check-ins 108, Total Traffic 27 by 8 different operators.

#### May 2012 QNS

May	Callsign	Name	QTH	STATE
25	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglasville	TX
18	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
18	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
14	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
14	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
10	WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS
8	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
1	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX

**73!!**

**Pat KD5TXD**

**May 31, 2012**

(RN5 Corner Starts on the next page)



## **RN5 Corner**

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

Hello again and welcome to the fourth edition of the **RN5 Corner**.

Thanks to all who have filled in while I was stuffing my brains back into my head after having a losing argument with a pole. Still having some lingering problems, but it is improving and I have been back on the air a few times.

The hurricane season is fast approaching, so I wanted to remind everyone that we have an emergency calling frequency in place, per a 2010 agreement. The following is reprinted from that time:

You may recall me mentioning the RN5 Emergency Net on 3570... Our Net will be part of the Delta Division Emergency Net if called upon.

Richard NF5B, the CAN Chair, is Manager of the Delta Division Emergency Net..

The RN5 part of this operation consists of our calling on you skilled operators who are capable of handling any Traffic situation, be it CW, SSB Nets or digital, NCS, etc.

We may be called on to provide assistance if the need arises using cell phones, land lines, Health & Welfare, or communications support to a local ARES group.

I'm sending this again as things are starting to heat up in the tropics, as there are some depressions or disturbances starting up in the Gulf, Caribbean, and the Atlantic, and I hope many of you can participate when the need arises.

Many of us will meet on 3570 and monitor the situation or emergency. An alternate daytime set of frequencies will also be defined on 40 (likely 7108), 30, and/or 20 meters as needed. We will also contact you by E-mail unless you notify me you can't participate. More to follow, and I hope our services aren't needed, but lets be ready if they are.

Are all your E-mail addresses correct on the roster? If not, please let me know.

The RN5 Emergency Net on 3570 was started by Jim KB5W and Malcolm W5XX. We've lost Jim, an "iron man" if there ever was one, but we will try to carry on his tradition.

Thanks,  
Frank W4DLZ, RN5 Cycle 4 Mgr and WRRL 18

## **Another Net is in Danger of Extinction**

The following "discussion" is a composite of several E-mail chains.

This announcement was received late last month regarding the cessation of operation of the OZK net from K5DMC, mtn/ozk net mgr, Jerry Leake:

Announcement For AR Razorback Net and MS Section Phone Net Tuesday May 29 2012

Along with the National Traffic System, The Combined Arkansas and Mississippi CW Traffic Net has fallen on "Hard Times". The Net needs three qualified Net Control Operators from Mississippi and three qualified Net Control Operators from Arkansas to step up. These operators will be expected to call the net and act as Region Five representatives (Two evening sessions) one day per week. Unless six operators volunteer for these duties, the net will cease operations on Wednesday, June 13th 2012.

- . . . -

I then sent out the following:

I'm appalled at the thought of the ARK/MS Net being discontinued... what an affront to the likes of the memory of the greats KB5W, W5GHP, W5MI and many, many others as well as current great OPS. The former are probably "turning over" right now.

I need email addresses for ARK / MS stations ASAP. Don't have a mailing list for them here.

Any help appreciated... Frank W4DLZ

- . . . -

Tom, K4VIZ, had the following response: Well, Frank, I don't think it is an affront. I think even they would finally have to admit that it's over. We've been beating a dead horse here in AR for a while. There are no more CW operators left who want to do nets. Heck, I can't even get any help doing a 40 CW station for Field Day.

We can't have a net with ops who think that checking in once a month is going to keep things going. Of course, I know that many have work and family obligations and ham radio is a hobby. But the fact remains that many nights there are NO QNI.

It was fun while it lasted. I'll still do RN5 from AR and try to get traffic passed on the AR SSB net or my own telephone and I'm sure Jerry will do the same for MS. (*But we can't be there every night !*) Tom

- . . . -

It is sad to hear, for sure, but is this what the future holds?

Kevin K4PG

- . . . -

I share the same observations with these added thoughts of mine:

1. Public service is not supported by ARRL anymore.
2. Not even mentioned on the FCC exams.
3. The average age of the active operators in NTS is well above retirement age, virtually no new young blood.
4. Virtually all traffic I handle now is via HBN out of state, because the regionals have such poor representation and as for local traffic in Florida, over half I deliver via cell phone or email due to poor representation within the state. The same half dozen in Florida handle all NCS and regional net representations on both the medium speed and regular speed net. It is not fun or a hobby anymore!

73, Dean Sever W8IM  
R/O SS American Victory KKUI

- . . . -

While the Texas group (which is actually Texas and Oklahoma combined) is still plugging along, there are indeed few new ops that have joined actively with the net. Thankfully, there ARE some, but we have also lost operators due to the "age factor". Many on TEX are over 80, and an inspiration to me and others that they still do a great job on the nets.

I am wondering if it might be possible to combine AR, MS, and Louisiana into a combined CW NTS net? That would be up to those in all 3 sections, of course. Given that the AR/MS net is all but dead, it would seem the LA net is the logical lead. Sort of like a company buying out other companies and merging them together. Jim, N5NVP, as the manager of the LA net now that Benny, K5KV, has become a TEX'an (for which TEX is grateful, sorry Jim), what do you think about this?

The main problem, as pointed out by Tom, K4VIZ, is delivery stations. We are fortunate here to have an excellent SSB net, the 7290 traffic net, which operates 6 days a week on (of course) 7290 Khz from 10 to noon and (M-F) 1 to 2. There are over 100 QNI on the morning session and unlike many SSB nets, they DO like to handle traffic. Much of what comes in to TEX from RN5 (and digital) goes to the 7290 net for distribution thanks to some great liaisons like N5RL and K5BMR.

Do similar nets operate in MS and LA? Tom already mentioned one in AR.

The other alternative is to start implementing what Richard, NF5B, has been advocating and is outlined in Chapter 6 of the NTS Methods and Practices guide. Namely, digital target stations who can accept traffic (for AR and MS) and distribute it when no other outlet is available directly or via existing nets. See [http://www.wx4j.com/MPG6\\_NTSD\\_RADIOEMAIL.htm](http://www.wx4j.com/MPG6_NTSD_RADIOEMAIL.htm) for more information on this if you have not yet heard about it.

I am active in the digital realm and have agreed to be a target station. Gary, KB0OFD, the new central area digital coordinator, is now recruiting target stations who can use Winlink 2000 to handle traffic in their area. I have found that the NTSD system is sometimes the

ONLY way to move some traffic in lieu of an ARL Sixty Seven, no outlet, going back to the originator.

That said, I also need to stress that CW traffic handling is my much preferred method. Having been active on CW traffic nets since the early 1960's, I would sorely miss that part of our avocation. Digital traffic handling is just not as much fun, at least to me, but it is practical, since it is virtually the same as handling messages via E-mail, albeit with a radio link.

So all hope is not lost, as long as we are willing to make some adjustments along the way.  
73,  
Steve K6JT

- . . . -

I agree with the post from Steve K6JT. What he proposes is now the way we are headed and it is also as per Richard's NF5B's recommendations.

The Net for traffic in LA on SSB is the LTN on 3610 at 630 PM central time. This is in addition to the LCW CW Net at 7 pm (*note, corrected to 3573 at 6:45PM and 10:00 PM*).

I will be a Target Digital Station myself as Steve K6JT is. Go to the Link Steve mentions for more info on this.  
Frank W4DLZ

- . . . -

I have had the "no CW operators available or wanting to participate" problem here in Alaska for years.

That is why I went to a "Traffic Watch" operation instead of a regular "directed" CW net... Without operator participation, you can't have a net.

I continuously guard CW frequencies on three bands... frequencies 14050, 3540 and 7042 kHz. I have CW liaison stations in Washington and Oregon (K7BFL, W7IZ and W7GB normally) that know I am listening all the time on the 20 meter frequency. They call me when they have traffic for Alaska, and we swap incoming/outgoing at those times.

I am too far away to work the 40 or 80 meter Region 7 CW traffic nets, so the 20 meter link works out well for us here in Alaska.

I don't believe we should rely exclusively on the computerized digital networks... Those can have problems too... Better to keep some of the "direct" manual CW links going that depend on only the operators and the radios... Simpler and proven reliable. SSB is an awful way to handle written traffic, and I don't do it.

Perhaps the "traffic watch" idea would work out in some parts of the lower 48 where things have begun to go to hell... It is not difficult to pick a CW frequency and just leave the

receiver on all the time. If several stations across an Area do this, there could be someone listening virtually 24/7 that could take/relay traffic into/out of the area.

Perhaps this would now be a better way to approach it instead of relying on poorly attended or supported directed nets that nobody wants to use anymore. One advantage of the "Traffic Watch" operation is that no one operator or group of operators is pinned down to any certain time to operate... If they hear something listed on the watch frequency they can handle (deliver or relay), they just take it as it comes.

The more operators participating in the watch operation, the better.

Ed AL7N  
STM Alaska

- . . . -

I like that idea.  
Tom, K4VIZ

- . . . -

I LIKE IT AND NOTE THE CW FREQUENCIES USED IN ALASKA. I HAVE ZERO INTEREST IN SSB NETS.

BENNY K5KV

- . . . -

That makes sense and is essentially the way commercial marine radio works.

Dean Sever W8IM  
R/O KKUI

- . . . -

Thanks for the info and suggestion, Ed. Yes, a traffic watch will work no matter what infrastructure failures might occur. The problem is one of being able to listen for any great length of time. That is where the store-and-forward systems (or even the organized nets) have the advantage. Frank, W4DLZ, has a wireless "remote" pickup in his shack that will send the receiver audio to wherever he happens to be around the house. That is a possible solution for those who roam around their property. Frank (RN5 manager if you did not know) monitors 7108 much of the time, so it is almost like a traffic watch.

The NTSD (classic winlink, not WL2K) can (and does) operate without Internet capability. WL2K does, however, need Internet capability so that messages can be inserted at any node and are then available at any other node. There are several nodes, though, so the redundancy is there should infrastructure fail at any one or even more of them. I can access WL2K via HF WINMOR – I don't have Pactor and am not interested in spending a kilobuck to

get one of those fancy modems. That generally means that no matter what local infrastructure failures occur, I can still get into the system and receive traffic. We also have a very fine VHF Packet RMS system in my county, so VHF access to Winlink is very easy. However, that is certainly prone to local infrastructure failures.

I guess the bottom line is that a combination of all methods to keep the traffic moving is likely to be the best approach, depending on the capabilities and availability of each operator.

Steve K6JT

- . . . -

al7n writes:

> I have had the "no CW operators available or wanting to participate"  
> problem here in Alaska for years.

> That is why I went to a "Traffic Watch" operation instead of a  
> regular "directed" CW net...Without operator  
> participation, you can't have a net.

Indeed, which is much as I proposed in a white paper I did for submission to the ARRL programs & services committee as well as for the emergency communications advisory committee. The only difference, I proposed that this be done at the region level, using ssb to get more operators during prime time who can participate. Meanwhile our cw ops can move to cw sub-bands to handle traffic, and help train the newcomers, as well as evangelize a bit about the value of cw. Lead 'em into the tent.

This would also negate such things as the delta and west gulf divisions have been required to do through memoranda of understanding regarding emergency nets to stand up after the hurricane or other disaster.

Download the white paper at:

<http://www.wpusa.dynip.com/files/FDIST/HAMNEWS/NTSFUTUR.ZIP>

or

<ftp://ftp.wpusa.dynip.com/pub/FDIST/HAMNEWS/NTSFUTUR.ZIP>

You'll need winzip or something similar to decompress it, load it in your word processor of choice, read or print it out.

Frank, be sure to share this with the rest of your group since I didn't get a full cc: list from this message via this reader.

73, Richard, NF5B  
Central Area Chair

- . . . -

I know it is a problem that has been coming to a head for years now. I am in agreement with all of you in a way but I am in more agreement with AL7N.

I think we should continue plugging along as we are and try to recruit new operators. Even if it means I have to rep other nets and NCS several times a week. I still think it is fun and I enjoy doing it.

Maybe someone will come up with an idea about generating a different kind of message that will hold the operators interest. I have thought and thought but I can't come up with any. Most people's thoughts are, "Why should I send my daughter a Happy Birthday message by amateur radio, when the cell phone call is free and you can call in a moment's notice?"

Let's just keep plugging along and fill spots when we can and if we can't well maybe someone else will. I just hate to give it up.

W4AGL, Jim Stewart

- . . . -

Hello Gentlemen,

I respectfully request that you e-mail me back and let me know what your Amateur Radio Callsign is. As the LA LCW Traffic Net Manager and also as a participant on the SSB & RN5 CW Nets I just like to know to whom the various messages are flowing.

An additional area of concern is that of trying to work, especially with, the MS & AR traffic net members in hopes of creating additional interests in the nets in these two states. I only have callsigns and e-mail addresses for eleven (11) AR and four (4) MS traffic net operators.

Right now my primary interest pertains to the AR/MS CW Traffic Net known as the OZK Net and all 15 of these operators may not even be members of OZK. Knowledge of your callsign will be of interest to me especially if you reside in either AR or MS. It hurts me to see this net on a low limb and I want to offer all the encouragement to members of these two states as I possibly can. In times of disasters the net for these two states would be of great significance. I am just heavy hearted that we are on the verge of losing this net.

A suggestion has been made that it might be possible to combine AR & MS with LA into a combined CW NTS net, but prior to pressing on to that end, I would first like to attempt reviving the AR/MS net. With this in mind I would like to encourage each CW operator to step up to the plate and support the CW NTS effort in your respective states. Thanks to all of you for any assistance you can provide.

73,  
Jim Bookter (N5NVP)  
LA LCW Net Manager

. . . .

So it looks like there is some interest in a Traffic Watch frequency (see the opening item, which comes close). Do you have other inputs / ideas? Please let me know ! Frank.

### RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	KJ4FDV	W4DLZ	W5CU	WA4ZPZ	W4QAT	W4DLZ	K4VIZ
NCS #2	KJ4FDV	W4DLZ	W5CU	WA4ZPZ	W4QAT	W4DLZ	K4VIZ
CAN TX	Open	WA4ZPZ	K4VIZ	Open	K4VIZ	Open	K5KV
CAN RX	Open	WA4ZPZ	Open	Open	W4DLZ	W4DLZ	W5CU
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

### May 2012 Statistics

SESSIONS	58
QTC	182
QNI	344
QTR	685
CAN TX REP	88%
CAN RX REP	90%
DRN5 REP	52%

The following updated roster shows active stations coming to RN5 from their various states.

### Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	State	Call	Name	State
W4AGL	JIM	FL	K5GM	PETE	TX
K4AKC	TOM	AL	W8IM	DEAN	FL
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	WA5JAN	JIM	AR/MS
W5CU	SAM	OK*	K6JT	STEVE	TX
AC5CW	ERIC	LA	KA5KLU	DOUG	TX
KO9D	BENNY	IN	K5KV	BENNY	TX
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	WA5LQZ	ALAN	LA
K5DMC	JER	MS/AR	K5MC	MICKEY	LA
WD4DNC	BARRY	FL	N5NVP	JIM	LA
AD4DO	JOHN	FL	WA4PIZ	JIM	AL
W5DTR	CURT	IL	W4QAT	PAT	AL
K1DW	DALLAS	LA	K5RG	KEN	TX
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	N5RL	RANDY	TX
NY4E	BILL	FL	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	W6SX	HANK	CA
KJ4FDV	TREY	AL	K15T	WADE	LA
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR/MS
KA4FZI	PHYL	FL	K6YR	ROB	CA
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	WA4ZPZ	TOM	AL

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