

# The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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June 2014



**A busy month indeed...**

## **Wrapup: 44th Annual 7290 Traffic Net Picnic**

The 7290 Traffic Net Picnic was held on May 31, as scheduled. I was able to attend and so were 8 other TEX net members. It was great to see everyone. Here's a picture of the TEX group:



Front Row, left to right: Charlie W5GKH; Pete K5GM; Rodney W5DY  
Back Row, left to right: Gary K5QOW; Randy N5RL; Doug KA5KLU; Steve K6JT; Jim W5FEA; and Eric W9GVW.

The Pfeiffer Pfist award presentation was done by Randy, N5RL, last year's recipient, and Steve, K6JT in the absence of Sam, W5CU, who is the 2014 recipient. Congratulations to Sam !!! Sam had planned to be there but something came up a week or so ahead of time that prevented him from going. Sam did attend Ham-Com in Plano on June 14 and received the award there (described below).

It is always gratifying to see so many traffic handlers all together. Many thanks to Jo Ann, KA5AZK, for all her hard work in organizing the event and putting it on each year. You can find several pages of pictures already posted on: [http://www.7290trafficnet.org/\\_mgxroot/page\\_10824.html](http://www.7290trafficnet.org/_mgxroot/page_10824.html) . Our thanks to Jim, W5FEA, for taking many pictures and also Doug. They both sent some to Jo Ann that are posted, as well as pictures from Jo Ann and other attendees.

It was a pleasure to meet Pete, K5GM, after so many years of CW conversations. Pete was good enough to bring some copies of TEXAN newsletters, rosters, and other info dating back to 1976. I have plans to scan them and post them for viewing (when time permits) via the TEX website along with some other pictures that Jim, W5FEA, and Doug, KA5KLU, sent to me that are not on the 7290 net website. Note also that Jim, W5FEA, has posted several on his QRZ.com page.

It was also great to meet Doug in person for the first time and see Charlie, Rodney, Gary, Randy, Jim, and Eric once again (who all came last year, too).

Thanks to everyone for coming. This was the best attended, as far as TEX is concerned, picnic in many years.

### ***Wrapup: Ham-Com June 13 and 14***

The Ham-Com ARRL West Gulf Division Convention was held June 13th and 14th at the Plano Centre in Plano, TX. On Saturday, Jo Ann, KA5AZK, presented her tutorial on message formatting and handling, followed by my presentation about the NTS. There was no time to present the CW Net operation slides that I had prepared during the 11 AM to 1 PM extended traffic session. Unfortunately, we were given that slot opposite the ARRL Forum where Riley Hollingsworth (former FCC official) was giving the "keynote" presentation to an overflow crowd. Thus, our attendance was not as good as in past years, probably no more than about 25 people. Well, I read that there were only 29 at the Dayton Hamvention Traffic presentation, so we did not do all that bad by comparison.

Following the traffic session, the Pfeiffer Pfist was presented to Sam, W5CU, outside the room in the hallway. On the next page is a picture of Sam accepting the award from Steve, K6JT, and a picture of Benny, K5KV, Sam, and Jim, W5FEA, who were also there to congratulate Sam.

For those of you who may not remember, the Pfeiffer Pfist award was originated by Harry Pfeiffer, W5CTZ, back in the 1990s. It was originally given to the member who had a good sending "fist". In the past few years we have augmented that to also include a member who helps the net by liaison and/or NCS duties as well as having a good fist.



The previous recipients of the award nominate and vote on the new recipient. This is the 20th year that the award has been presented. We're out of room on the plaques, so either we have another 10 slot add-on made or this will be the last year it is awarded.

While some of you may say that Sam is not even in Texas, he is as much a part of TEX as any of the rest of us, doing liaison to RN5 on a regular basis and even filling in as NCS on occasion when required. You have also heard his fantastic sending ability, often at 35 wpm, and he can take traffic at that speed as well. Congratulations again, Sam, a most deserved recognition of your skills and assistance to TEX.

For those of you who are interested, the Hamcom NTS (and also CW Net) presentation slides may be accessed via the TEX website links. I believe Jo Ann has posted her slides on the 7290 net website.

### **New Issue of the QNI Newsletter**

James Wades, WB8SIW, was also busy presenting at a Traffic / NTS forum at the Dayton Hamvention. You can read all about it, which is quite interesting, in his June Newsletter, accessible via the TEX website. This is highly recommended reading for all. Some new and fresh ideas were presented that will be discussed by the Area Staff officials. Topics include:

1. Marking the Board - A history of telegraphy
2. Dayton Hamvention NTS Forum Report
3. NTS Forum Powerpoint slides
4. Adapting the Emergency Exercise Cycle to your ARES Nets
5. The Birth of Portable Consumer Electronics
6. NTS Sense of Humor?
7. On the Road
8. Linda Ronstadt?
9. The Lord God planted a Garden

I am sure you will all find much of interest in this issue. Thanks to James (and also Kate, K6HTN) for their efforts in publishing this great newsletter.

## **W7VSE and Amateur Radio (Part 2, Conclusion)**

This is part 2 of last month's story from "Uncle Vic", W7VSE. Thanks again, Vic, for sharing your stories with all of us.

- . . . -

Here in Oregon, the Portland Amateur Radio Club (PARC) sponsors a yearly convention at Seaside, OR. Attending this get-together was real fun – getting to meet face-to-face with Hams you have talked to over the years. And they have various seminars and meetings that can be attended if you like.

I'd been going to this convention for several years and one day my telephone rang. It was a member of the PARC. He told me he was on the committee of the Radio Club, and that I had been recommended by several people, who said I was qualified, to give a seminar on Traffic Handling, and he wanted to know if I was interested in doing that. I told him I thought those people that recommended me were probably trying to get out of doing it themselves. He assured me that they were not. I told him I didn't think I was qualified to do a seminar, in fact, I wasn't sure I could even spell "seminar."

After I got off the phone with him, I did some thinking about this. I came to the conclusion that it was a good idea for attracting more amateurs to help us on the traffic nets and someone should do it. So, I called him back on the phone and told him, if he still wanted me, I would take a crack at it. He told me to go for it, and he would put me on the roster of Seminars, and help in any way he could.

I spent the next month or so making notes and devising things that I should talk about, and by the time to go to the convention, I think I was ready. I had quite a list of things to discuss and my fingernails were bitten off up to my elbows worrying about it, but I was about as ready as I could get.

The seminar was posted as being from 11AM to Noon on a Saturday. About twenty or so people showed up. When we all got assembled, I told them part of the story above and I said that I didn't know everything about traffic handling, but with a session of questions and answers, maybe we could all learn something, including me. So we carried on for almost an hour and they had some questions that I could answer and some that I could not. I told them that I would contact ARRL HQ and resolve the questions for which we did not know the answers. Later, I did work some problems out.

When the meeting was over, I was thinking that I hadn't done a very good job, but several of the hams came up and patted me on the back and told me what a good job they thought I had done. I think they were just glad that I was doing it and not them, but it was very rewarding for me. Next year, we had two sessions, one on the Basics of handling message traffic on the NTS, and one hour on advanced traffic handling. After a couple more years, we went back to just one hour-long seminar. The idea worked and we did recruit some more Hams to the NTS.

Years later, I quit going to the conventions, and I received a lot of phone calls and letters, trying to get me to come back and do it some more. But, remember the saying, "all good things have to come to an end".

One day at work, a man named Dave Phillips called the Airport Control Tower for some information and I talked to him a short while. One of the things he mentioned was that he was a retired Morse Telegrapher and Dispatcher for the Southern Pacific Railroad. I told him that I had worked a couple of years for Western Union and mentioned the Amateur Morse Telegraph net that we had got started on the ham bands. I mentioned the fact that a lot of retired Morse Telegraphers were checking into that net. A couple of years or so later, Dave called me on the phone and told me he was organizing a local Medford Chapter of the International Morse Telegraph Club and asked me if I would like to join. I was retired at the time, and told him yes. We got together and at the first meeting of the Chapter, elected all the officers, except one. We needed a secretary. To keep things rolling, I told them that I would fill in as secretary until they found someone else. I did that job for a couple of years or more. Finally Dave's wife, Beth Phillips took pity on me, and took the secretary's job. That got me off the hook.

Dave Phillips had an Amateur Radio license, WB7VSN. I asked him why he decided to become a Ham. He reminded me of what I had told him about the Morse Telegraph Radio Club on the air when he called the FAA Tower years ago. So he studied the book and got his ticket and had many happy hours talking with those old time Morse Operators that are mentioned elsewhere in my stories.

One year, the school system was putting on some movies of the early days of Railroading in Oregon at the Library at Jacksonville, Oregon. I got selected by the Club to set up a Morse station and demonstrate the Telegraph to some 5th graders from schools all over southern Oregon. I had a desk with a Morse sounder and key and a wire running to another room, We would send back and forth and the kids eyes would open wide when the sounder was clacking from the back room. I told them that could be a wire to anywhere, Washington, D.C. or Miami Florida. They were impressed.

I think we had about a thousand kids, in groups of 15 to 20 with 2 teachers as chaperons of each group. The following year we did it again and I think there were about 1200 kids that year. The groups of kids would watch the movie and then stop by my Morse demonstration desk. I would give them a short spiel about the history of Morse Telegraph. I didn't have the same speech for every group, but there was one part I repeated each time a group stopped by.

These kids were all fifth graders, and about 11 years old. I would tell them, "Samuel F.B. Morse invented the Morse code in 1844, I remember it well, I was there." The kids wouldn't blink an eye and they accepted what I'd said, but the teacher/chaperons would have trouble, trying to keep from laughing out loud. I remember one group, especially. After my speech, they lingered a few minutes and one of the little girls was standing right in front of my desk. I asked her if she thought that I was actually around in 1844? She looked puzzled, and you could almost see the wheels turning 'round in her head. Finally, she looked at me and said, "You're an OLD man, aren't you?" She still believed my story.

Medford's population has been increasing as the years go by. Years ago, they had to abandon a Sewer Treatment plant because it was too small to accommodate the larger amount of people. Some Railroad Clubs saw their chance and were able to obtain the site

from the city and they made it a recreational park with miniature trains running on an oval track of about one-half mile in length. The train rides are free. We accept donations from the public. We presently have five clubs at the park. The miniature railroad has trestles, overhead bridges, and a tunnel. It has grown into quite a popular place to take the kids, grandkids, and old folks to ride the small trains. They even have one train with a platform car on it. They can load a wheel chair on that car, lash it down securely, and give a thrill to people who otherwise would not be able to ride the little trains.

Just recently, they have constructed another smaller track for the little kids and the tiny engines are brightly painted with a large smiling face on the front and "Thomas the Train" on the side. The little kids fall in love with Thomas.

I belong to the Morse Telegraph Club, and we have built three Telegraph stations, about fifty yards apart, connected by Telegraph poles, with glass insulators, supporting 6 bare large copper wires that connect the three Telegraph stations. Just like the good old days, when almost every communication job was handled by use of the Morse code. The park is open from 11AM to 3PM on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month from April through October. The public can come into any of the three stations, write a telegram, and it will be sent in the original Morse code on the telegraph wire to one of the other stations, and they can pick up their free telegram to take home. We also accept free telegrams for anywhere in the USA or Canada, and some other countries. I bring these telegrams home, and put them into the NTS on the Ham bands and they are delivered by telephone when they reach their destinations.

RR Park also has various railroad cars that can be visited. They are standard size rolling stock that have been restored. There is a Caboose, a Flanger (snow-removal car), boxcars, to name a couple, and several others. There is a Railroad Museum, and a building where the public can operate the little model trains and see many other things. They sell snow-cones, hot dogs and other goodies.

But the old original Morse code operators are getting to be extremely rare. We are considering a change of our three stations over to the International Morse code and perhaps recruit some Amateurs to keep the three stations running. Most of the public would not realize the difference. It would still be Morse code. The mode that is used to handle the messages is not as important as the message itself. But it remains to be seen if we will be able to continue our presence at the park.

Time will tell. Come and see us if you are in the area!  
73, Vic Seeberger W7VSE

### **George Hart Series**

Here is the 18th installment of the George Hart Series. Geo suffers the trials of a station op at W8YA.

### **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 18 - PENN STATE AND SOME OF THE HI-JINKS THAT OCCURRED AT W8YA.

I have many stories to tell about my experiences at W8YA from late 1932 through most of the summer of 1938, interrupted briefly by a semester at University of Michigan in 1936-7. One, on the lighter side, was the "electric chair" designed and put into operation by Walter Hawk. In the operating room of the station building were two identical very heavy, very sturdy straight-backed wooden chairs used by whoever was operating the station. The members of the staff had become accustomed to leaning back on the two back legs of these chairs while operating or conversing.

Gil several times expressed concern that "one of these days" someone was going to lean back too far, the back legs would slip and the occupant would land on the hard wooden floor, with possible injuries. So Hawk decided to take action to discourage the habit.

He drove two spikes through the seat of the chair, hammering the heads flush with the wood of the seat. The chairs had a flange around the seat extending a few inches downward, so that the mechanism under the seat would not be visible. This mechanism consisted of a dry cell battery, a small spark coil of the type used in the ignition system of Model T Fords, and a pendulum mechanism by means of which the spark coil would be energized if anyone tilted the chair backward. Only one of the two identical chairs was so equipped. After catching a few of the staff members leaning back and getting a sharp jolt through the seat of their pants, the practice became to inspect the chair before sitting down to operate. Then Walt and one or two of his colleagues, including Gil Crossley himself, started conspiring to catch others off guard, usually by calling the intended victim into the workshop while the chairs were switched. Upon returning, the victim would sit on the wired chair, at which time the perpetrators would try to entice him to lean backward on the chair's hind legs thus setting off the spark coil.

I got caught twice. The first time was before I knew the chair was wired, after which I was careful to look before I sat. The second time was after Gil Crossley had given us a lecture about after-dark urinating off the boardwalk between the station building and the studio. There were no sanitary facilities in either building, the nearest restroom being in the power plant up the embankment and across the railroad tracks. Gil said the area between the station and the studio was beginning to smell like a barnyard and ordered the practice (indulged in only at night) stopped.

It was not only a nuisance but a little hazardous, especially after dark, to have to go all the way over to the power plant for relief, and when Gil was not present, we frequently violated the order, only going further off the boardwalk into the weeds. But this particular night Gil and several staffers were in the workshop while I was operating and nature's call overtook me, so I had to make the trip.

While I was absent the chairs were switched. When I came back and resumed operating I found some of the staffers standing around me. When I asked what the hell, Walter Hawk said some of the newer guys wanted to watch a real expert operating the key, and maybe I could give them a few pointers. So I tilted the chair back, knowing confidently that I had inspected it when I first came in, and got the jolt. Gil participated fully in the merriment that followed. After that I never again sat at the operating position without first inspecting the chair.

But almost always when a new staff member or visitor arrived, the entire staff present tried to trick him into sitting in the electrified chair.

W8YA was involved in a lot of traffic handling in those days. In fact, traffic handling was a major part of amateur operating then, as attested by Clinton B. DeSoto in his "Two Hundred Meters and Down." As the crack CW op on the staff, I undertook much of this work. One night I came in to try to clear some traffic headed west.

Walter Hawk and Jim Faries were in the workshop grinding crystals at the time. I sat down, "fired up the rig" and, after tuning around a bit, called "CQ WEST." After repeating this several times, I finally received a call from W9YB, which I recognized as the call of the amateur radio station at Purdue University, which we had contacted many times. I explained that I had ten messages going west, and the operator at the other end said, simply, "GA" (go ahead).

So I sent the ten messages, pausing after each one for his QSL (Acknowledgement of receipt). After the last message, I thanked him profusely, to which he replied, "You're quite welcome, and say George, if you want to see our station, step into the next room."

It took a moment for the import of this to sink in, then I put down the headphones and went into the workshop, where I found Walt and Jim hunched over their little crystal oscillator, convulsed with laughter.

"You bastards!" I yelled. "Didn't you even copy the messages?" This caused the laughter to intensify.

*COMING IN CHAPTER 19. Geo tangles with AARS.*

#### **TEX Mailbox:**

From **Jason, KD5RQB**: Please send an email out that I am looking for operators from the North, South, and West Texas Sections to volunteer as relay stations on the Texas Slow Net. There are nights that other than the NCS, it is just me and Mr. Carroll KB5TCH, and we are just 13 miles apart. I have some concerns about this situation that weak stations may try to check-in and we may not hear them, which defeats the purpose of TSN. Anyone interested please contact me at [tsn.3570@aol.com](mailto:tsn.3570@aol.com) subj: Relay Station

Thanks,  
73, Jason

- . . . -

Heard from **Hank, W6SX**, regarding my response to John last month on how to list traffic. I had an AA after each item, which is something I learned many years ago on NCN. Hank wrote: "What's with the AA's? Seems to go against the 'briefest' goal".

73, Hank, W6SX

*OK, OK, OK, so you can leave out the AA's between each item's listing. Sigh.*

- . . . -

I heard from several of you regarding what Robby, W5SEG, wrote about the group meeting before DTTN. I think this input from **Doug, KA5KLU**, epitomizes the responses:



I agree with Robby's assessment 100 percent on 7285. I refuse to associate with this group. An individual does not choose what color he will become, God does that. But an individual surely does control the kind of attitude he sports through life. My rule book says race, religion and politics are not spoken on Amateur Radio. Lots of other topics to talk about.

I told Lucy the same thing... these guys sound like CB'ers. That's always been the reason for keeping Amateur Radio technical, to keep the low lifers off a great hobby.

73, Doug//KA5KLU

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**Pat, KD5TXD**, had another take on what Robby said along with a story of her own... She wrote: I had an interesting e-mail from a fellow ham. He is a CW fan and was my very first CW contact. Back then he recorded our QSO and sent me the text he copied. Needless to say it didn't match what I wanted to send. But that is in the past and I'm sure I have improved at least a little since then.

K5AVJ made contact with WB5UDA, recorded the audio of that QSO, and gave these comments:

"His (WB5UDA) CW signal was warbling or FMing. He likes it 'cuz it's distinctive ... I didn't care for it."

Also, "He's also an ARRL Official Observer (OO)."

The transmitter is a Conar ... 25 watt unit from the 50s & 60s.

So, does this mean that WB5UDA is ignoring FCC Part 97.1.c by having such a distinct signal to the frustration of other operators? "§97.1 Basis and purpose. ... (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art."

Hmmm...WB5UDA certainly isn't encouraging excellent signal quality even by my lowly standards.

This little interaction with my pal made me think of W5SEG's comment in the latest newsletter. Apparently, back in the good old days before KD5TXD, WB5UDA would have been written up for his warbling signal and received a pink slip. W5SEG is talking about some bad operator practice he has encountered. These folks on 7285 before the Daytime Texas Traffic Net probably would have received pink slips, back in the good old days, for their activities.

I used to be very active on the DTTN. I have not listened in some time and might just tune in to the net before they start, and check for myself about what is going on. If the OO's have not been notified they should be. If the OO's have already pink slipped the offending operators then there isn't much to do other than to bemoan the disintegration of amateur society. Perhaps we need to bemoan the disintegration of civilization itself.

The band conditions on DTTN have always been really poor. It doesn't improve, at least in my area, until 7290 kicks in. DTTN is part of the reason I spend most of my time on CW. Y'all

have heard my story of calling the DTTN on a particularly poor day. The only signal I could hear was Arley, WB5NKC, on CW in OKC. Back then I could not copy CW even though I passed my 5wpm test. Hearing Arley, clear as a bell, that morning brought me to CW.

Robby is lucky and diligent to have such good equipment, antennas and conditions to actually hear anyone on 7285 prior to DTTN starting. Too bad what he hears is so discouraging.  
73, Pat KD5TXD

*Pat also attached an MP3 file of the audio. I have heard signals like that (back in the 60's for sure). It is called a "chirp" and usually results from poor voltage regulation of the oscillator tube as the final amplifier tube draws current. Tube?, You say. Yup, that's all we had back then. Even the voltage regulators (such as 0A2) were tubes.*

- . . . -

Many of you will remember **Jack, W5TFB**. When I started getting bounce messages from his email account, I contacted his son and found that Jack was in the hospital, quite ill, for several months. He is now recovered but has moved from his original QTH and is living in an apartment with no radio capability. Thanks to his son's response, I obtained his phone number and called him and had a very nice chat. He has no Internet capability, so the only way to contact him is via telephone or USPS mail. If you want his phone or address, please contact me and I will send it to you. I am sure he would enjoy getting calls from you.

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## **TEX Net Topics**

There are 3 backup slots open (shown in **yellow**), all for RN5 liaison, and no open NCS slots. Please check the duty roster and advise if you are no longer willing to take the positions you are scheduled for on a regular basis. Also please advise if you are interested in filling any of the backup slots.

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown on the following page (for easier printing of a single page). The Duty Schedule was not updated since last month.

***If you are scheduled for an NCS or Liaison slot, and you cannot make it, if at all possible, please notify both K6JT and W5DY (see email addresses and cell phone number at top of page 1) as soon as you can before the net meeting so that the backups can be alerted. Thanks to those of you who have been doing this.***

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### TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>NCS #1</b>	W5GKH	N5RL	KD5TXD	KD5TXD	N5RL	W5FEA	W5GKH
Backup	W5FEA	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT	W5CU
<b>NCS #2</b>	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	K5KV	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	W5CU
<b>RN5 #1</b>	K5KV	N5RL	W5CU	KA5KLU	N5RL	KA5KLU	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	W5DY	Open	W5ESE	W5ESE	Open
<b>RN5 #2</b>	K5KV	K6JT	W5CU	KA5KLU	K6JT	KA5KLU	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	W5DY	K6JT	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**/3552/ 7108/3595 - 20:30 CT; PAN: **7052**/3552 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, K5GM, K6JT, KA5KLU, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, W5TMO, KD5TXD, W5FEA

### TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5BA	Brian	Houston	N7NET	Scott	McKinney
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
W5DH	Tom	Dallas	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
W4DLZ	Frank	Florida	W5OMR	Geoff	Houston
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	AC5P	Mike	Bartlesville OK
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
W5FEA	Jim	Graham	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
K5GM	Pete	Austin	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
K5JRN	Si	Austin	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
N7KRT	Jeff	Victoria	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
* K5KV	Benny	Star	K6YBV	Bob	Placerville CA
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	W5YE	Brian	Harlingen
WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

\* Capable of 160 meter operation

## Statistics:

Checkins and traffic were considerably up from last month. Thanks to all of you who have been generating some traffic. We still need to generate more ourselves to keep things interesting. All RN5 slots were covered and TTN / DFW representation were very good.

Jim, W5FEA, with 62 out of 62 (100%) continues his "perfect attendance record" another month. Randy, N5RL, with 50 (81%) captured second, and yes, Jason, KD5RQB, with 44 (71%) made a great effort to take third. Jason reports he has some CW decoding help now from MFJ and he continues to work on his sending technique. Note that the TSN column of the statistics has been brought back thanks to Jason's participation. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

The only visitor to the net was Dick, WA5CAV, from our neighboring Louisiana.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 3.5 per net session (2.2 last month). Net time averaged 13.9 minutes per session (compared to 11.7 last month). Check-ins averaged 7.2 per session (6.4 last month).

**TEX Net Statistics (May 2014)**

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
N5BA	Brian	1	1					
		0						
WA5CAV	Dick	1	1					
	LA	0						
W5CU	Sam	11	26		8			
*		15			8			
W5DY	Rodney	18	36	2	1			
		18		3	2			
W5ESE	Scott	7	7					
*		0						
W5FEA	Jim	31	62	5		21		
*		31				3		
W5GKH	Charlie	8	16	8				
*		8		8				
K5GM	Pete	7	20					
*		13						
W9GVW	Eric	6	6					
*		0						
K6JT	Steve	17	48		1		2	
*		31		5	7		30	
KA5KLU	Doug	9	19		9			
*		10			9			
N7KRT	Jeff	11	11					
		0						
K5KV	Benny	13	39		4			
		26		5	4			
KB5NJD	John	26	28				26	

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
		2						
K5QOW	Gary	5	5			4		
*		0						
N5RL	Randy	27	50	9	9	4		
*		23				15		
KD5RQB	Jason	22	44			1		22
		22						22
W5TMO	Mike	0	19					
*		19		10				
KD5TXD	Pat	8	8	7				
*		0						
K6YBV	Bob	0	1					
		1						
Totals		447		62	62	48	58	44
				100%	100%	77%	94%	71%
QTC 1		98	218					
QTC 2		120			Sessions:	62		
Time 1		470	860					
Time 2		390						

### Operating:

I will be leaving on June 26, returning about July 7, to visit my daughter in South Carolina. My sister will be here from California to care for our father in my absence, and it is the only time she could manage to get off work to do it, so I have to take the opportunity while I am able. Note that means I will miss Field Day, which is June 28 and 29. TEX should meet as usual on June 28, but using the alternate frequencies of 7108 early and 3595 late.

I will be in touch separately with some of you to cover my TEX, RN5, and CAN NCS slots in my absence as well as my RN5 liaison slots and TCC Echo and Foxtrot skeds. All net reports should be sent to Rodney, W5DY, who will forward them to me. While I will not have radio capability, I will have E-mail and Winlink 2K (TELNET) access while I am away.

Until next month, 73, Steve K6JT

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)



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

Jim N5NVP from Scott, Louisiana brought traffic to the Texas Slow Net on May 16th. Carroll KB5TCH picked up the traffic and delivered it. Jim, thanks for the traffic and please check-in with us as often as you can. Thanks Carroll for picking up and delivering the traffic.

I want to thank Jeff N7KRT for filling in for in Mr. Carroll KB5TCH on May 30, 2014. Mr. Carroll was out of town attending the 44th Annual 7290 Picnic in Taylor, Texas. I will have more on the 7290 Picnic in next month's Texas Slow Net Corner.

### TSN Activity Report for May 2014

Total Sessions 31 Total Check-ins 101 Total Traffic 31 by 9 different operators.

#### May 2014 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
Jason	KD5RQB	31
Carroll	KB5TCH	28
Phil	KD5MMM	10
Jim	W5FEA	5
Jeff	N7KRT	19
Rodney	W5DY	1
Mike	WD0ESF	3
Sam	KK4HCF	3
Jim	N5NVP	1

#### May 2014 Net Control Stations

Name	Callsign
Carroll	KB5TCH
Phil	KD5MMM
Jason	KD5RQB
Jim	W5FEA
Jeff	N7KRT

#### May 2014 TSN Roster

Name	Callsign	QTH
Jason	KD5RQB	Atlanta, Texas
Carroll	KB5TCH	Douglassville, Texas
Pat	KD5TXD / W5ZD	Kingsville, Texas
Phil	KD5MMM	Fentress, Texas
Rodney	W5DY	Goliad, Texas
Mike	WD0ESF	Medicine Lodge, Kansas
Sam	KK4HCF	Maryville, Tennessee

Scott	W5ESE	Drippings Springs, Texas
Jim	W5FEA	Graham, Texas
Joe	AC5BE	Matagorda, Texas
Steve	KJ6T	Plano, Texas
Dave	AB0DK	Kirksville, Missouri
Benny	K5KV	Starr, Texas
Jim	N5NVP	Scott, Louisiana
Gary	K5QOW	Reagan Wells, Texas
Randy	N5RL	San Antonio, Texas
Mike	W5TMO	Austin, Texas
Larry	W5LPD	Katy, Texas
Jeff	N7KRT	Victoria, Texas
Arley	WB5NKC	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Pat	WB5NKD	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Paul	K1PKZ	Tom Bean, Texas
Carl	AA5VE	Texarkana, Texas
Roy	W5JZ	Tyler, Texas
David	W5TRX	Justin, Texas

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!!

Until next month

73,  
Jason KD5RQB

(RN5 Corner Starts on the next page)

## **RN5 Corner**

Region Net 5 (Daily) 1930 CT on **7108** and 2130 CT on **7108**  
Alternate Frequency 3567 (early/late) 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 28 of the **RN5 Corner**.

Yes, it is true... I just could not get used to the new W4FWT call. So I now have my old W4DLZ back again. Please update your address books, etc.

Thank you all for your great help in filling in while I was in the hospital. Thankfully the gall bladder surgery was successful and I am healing up pretty well.

As I've said in the past, if anyone is interested in taking over the net manager's position, please let me know and I will happily turn over the reins to you. Meanwhile, please keep those net reports coming. I was not sure I would be able to piece things together for last month's report after being away for so long, but with all your help, I was able to do it.

We still need a Sunday NCS station, which Sam, W5CU, has been handling most of the time (thanks again, Sam!). Monday and Sunday still need CAN RX slots, while Monday thru Wednesday need TX slots. I do appreciate all of you who are doing your part and filling in when needed. If there is no CAN TX station, but you are an RX station, please fill both slots that evening. There is so little traffic these days that there is rarely a need for separate TX and RX stations.

We need more traffic. Here is something I received from Hank, W6SX, who sent it originally in response to Jim, K9JM, the RN6 manager.

We need traffic generators, ... Jim and I go back fifty years to our days on W2RUF's New York State net. The problem then was not enough traffic. Still is.

Here we go again with the ninety-nine per-centers. Ninety-nine percent of us don't routinely bring traffic when we check into nets. And, then we get on the internet and whinge about the one-percenters who do. If people don't like the kind of traffic being generated, then people should generate some they do like.

For historical perspective here is something I wrote for the Morning Watch bulletin in 1967:

Yes indeed, Morning Watch is in trouble because of no traffic. This problem is not unique to MW and has led to the closing of many good independent nets such as ESN and UTL.

What follows is not meant as a criticism of MW, but is simply a commentary. During February, I checked into MW 19 times. At least 15 of these mornings, I brought traffic. Not once was I given any traffic in return. In fact, since I got back on the air last summer and began checking into MW again, I have never been given any traffic.



A net cannot hope to attract and hold new members with a record like that. Very well then, what can we do about it?

First, I am a supporter of NTS and don't believe in bypassing it. By this I mean that if I receive traffic performing an NTS function, I should not distribute it through MW. Even though MW would often be faster, this traffic should generally stay in NTS and be handled per CD-24.

My own philosophy regarding net work has always been that one will never get anything out of it unless he puts something in. Based on this philosophy, I always make an effort to have traffic every time I check into any net. Naturally I don't make it, but I do come close.

I think this same idea would help MW. If every station made an effort to bring one message, and if the net control stations made an effort to distribute this traffic equitably, MW would thrive.

end quote

We have met our enemy and he is still us. Are you part of the problem or part of the solution? If you're part of the problem, bring one message every time you check into a net.

ARF,

Hank, W6SX

Mammoth Lakes, California

Elevation 8083 feet in John Muir's Range of Light

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	W5CU	W4SU	W4SU	W4DLZ	Open
NCS #2	KZ8Q	W4DLZ	W5CU	K6JT	W4SU	W4DLZ	Open
CAN TX	Open	Open	Open	KA5KLU	W4SU	KA5KLU	W5CU
CAN RX	Open	W4DLZ	W4AGL	KA5KLU	W4SU	KA5KLU	Open
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

### May 2014 Statistics

SESSIONS	62
QTC	171
QNI	421
QTR	602
AVG QTC	2.7
AVG QNI	6.7
AVG QTR	9.7

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	AA4HT	BOB	FL
WA4BAM	JOHN	FL	W8IM	DEAN	FL
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	K6JT	STEVE	TX
W5CU	SAM	OK*	KA5KLU	DOUG	TX
AC5CW	ERIC	LA	K5KV	BENNY	TX
KO9D	BENNY	IN	K8KV	BEN	FL
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	N5NVP	JIM	LA
WD4DNC	BARRY	FL	K4PG	KEVIN	FL
AD4DO	JOHN	FL	KZ8Q	BEN	AL
W5DTR	CURT	IL	K5RG	KEN	TX
K1DW	DALLAS	LA	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
NY4E	BILL	FL	W4SU	JERRY	AL
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	W6SX	HANK	CA
KJ4FDV	TREY	AL	KI5T	WADE	LA
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
KA4FZI	PHYL	FL	K5WNU	JACK	MS
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	K6YR	ROB	CA
K5GM	PETE	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 on RN5. Send AR traffic to the TX liaison station

73, Frank W4DLZ