

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

Net Manager: Steve Phillips, K6JT, Plano TX
(k6jt@arrl.net , 214-208-8900 Cell)
TEX Web Site: <http://www.k6jt.com/>

Assistant Manager: Rodney Baker, W5DY, Goliad TX
(w5dy@arrl.net , 361-645-5107 Cell)

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7290 Picnic Report

Thanks, to Rodney, W5DY, for filling in for me at the 7290 picnic. Some things came up a couple days before that prevented me from attending. Also thanks to Rodney, we have this fine report of what transpired there. Note that more pictures are on <http://www.7290trafficnet.org>.

7290 PICNIC BEYERSVILLE TX MAY 30 2015

To start with, Mother Nature affected the event. Mustang Creek near Taylor flooded and the hotel where most everyone was going to stay had car height water. They even said it was over the computers in the main office, so that meant that people had to make other arrangements for a place to stay. There were 29 who said they would be at the Friday night dinner (only one did not make it) at the Golden Corral in Taylor. Most found a hotel in Hutto and others found hotels in other surrounding towns. There were 3 who had RV's and stayed behind the hall in Beyersville. This did not dampen the spirits of any of the folks I talked to.



One huge drawback was that Tom, W5UFO had an issue with his health the day before and couldn't make it. Well, for those who don't know, Tom is the guy who has the famous ice cream machine. Now that did put a small damper on the spirits of many folks.



Tom and his ice cream machine are legendary at the 7290 picnic.

Speakers were David K5RAV West Gulf Division Director, John N5AUS West Gulf Division Vice Director, Nancy K5NLM North Texas Section Manager, Rodney W5DY South Texas Section Traffic Manager, Rodney W5DY Assistant Net Manager of Tex CW NTS Section Traffic Net (had to wear 2 hats!) and Sharon KC8EO Texas Traffic Net Manager.



The picnic this year was dedicated to Wally W5WXI. 71 years ago, Wally flew over Normandy on DDay. He has been a big supporter of the 7290 net for many years. His dedication to the net and his service to our country are greatly appreciated.



In attendance for the Texas CW Traffic Net were Rodney W5DY, Doug NA5YO, Gary K5QOW, Eric W9GVW and Randy N5RL. Net appreciation certificates were presented to those that were there.

There were 9 other members who got certificates, but could not make the picnic (KW5AS, W5FEA, W5GKH, K5GM, K5KV, KB5NJD, K5RG, W5TMO AND KD5TXD). Their certificates were mailed to them. The Pfeiffer Pfeist award stayed with Sam W5CU who got it last year. The award and the attaching name plaque are full and there will need to be some work done on it. It will be ready for a recipient next year.

Steve K6JT had some last minute issues come up and was unable to attend. He did send me an email with what he wanted me to say on his behalf. I was lucky enough to somehow get this speech (and it was a speech!) on my tablet so I could read it to all in attendance. One nice thing about having me read it, Steve did not have to answer the throng on questions that surely would have followed. And, I made it very clear that if there were any questions to send Steve an email as I was not even going to attempt to answer them!

Someone did ask how Steve and I have stayed together so long as net and assistant managers. This was quite easy to answer. I simply told them about this old saying we had in the oilfield, in which Steve is the first part and I am the second. "If you can't dazzle them with brilliance, baffle them with bullshit" (the roof almost came down from the laughter).

It was voted on and approved to hold the picnic at this same place next year. The date will be posted on the 7290 website.



Eric W9GVW was going to have another of his very nice astronomy sightings for us, but again, Mother Nature got in the way. It was cloudy and there was nothing to see. Instead, Eric gave all who stayed a demonstration of his UFO.



I would like to thank all who support the Texas CW Net and will look

forward to seeing those who can make it to the picnic next year. There are still some of you whom I have not had the pleasure of meeting in person. In case anybody is going, I will be at Hamcom in Irving on Jun 12th & 13th. I am also going to try to make to Austin Summerfest, but that is a ways off yet.

Thanks and 73, Rodney W5DY

K6JT Speech Read by Rodney W5DY at the 7290 Picnic

Thank you all for coming and please accept my apology and my regrets at not being able to be there with you this year. I am sure that Rodney, W5DY, the assistant TEX manager, as well as a Member-at-large of the NTS Central Area Staff, can ably fill in for me. Thank you, Rodney.

As chairman of the Central Area Staff I wanted to let you all know what is happening and what is coming in the future to NTS.

The ARRL Programs and Services Committee has split apart the Public Service Communications Manual and has already sponsored a new ARES Manual from that section of the PSCM. They are asking NTS to produce an NTS Manual from the other portion of the PSCM. The introductory material telling how ARES and NTS are to work together has been lost in the process.

The P&SC has also directed NTS to incorporate handling the ICS-213 form in addition to the standard Radiogram form into NTS capabilities. ICS-213, for those of you not familiar with it, is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) form used for government communication. It is basically a paper document intended to be hand-written and passed around a local Emergency Operations Center (EOC). As long as it does not have to go outside that location, no problem. However, if it needs to be sent to another location, it must be converted to text, or sometimes scanned into a binary format like JPEG, and sent via radio. The ARES people most commonly do this via point-to-point connections using a program like FLDIGI with its FLMSG component to enter the ICS-213 information.

NTS comes into the picture when a point-to-point connection either cannot be made or the destination is far outside the local area. The P&SC has directed that the ICS-213 data be handled not only by digital means, which is of course the easiest, but also by voice and CW when no other routing to a destination is possible.

Lest you become concerned that we will have trouble with this and the Radiogram is going away, that is NOT the case. The NTS staff is working on the problem and methods to essentially wrap the ICS-213 data into a Radiogram as the text portion. Yes, there will be some new things to get used to, but all the skills you currently have in passing radiograms will still apply to handling this new information.

We had a teleconference with the ARRL P&SC this past Thursday evening to discuss the NTS requirements and clarify what they are expecting. We were assured that the splitting of the PSCM into two separate parts did not in any way indicate they were trying to do away with NTS. Our response was that we believe a top-level document that contains the Forward and Introduction from the old PSCM was needed that then linked to the two separate Manuals but also gave the basis for interoperation between the ARES and NTS. They were receptive to this idea, but of course tasked NTS with writing it.

We are also tasked with updating the Methods and Practices Guide (MPG), which as you may know has the detailed low-level description of how to format messages and how to send them. It is currently appendix B of the NTS portion of the old PSCM, and we received permission to

make it a separate document that could be referenced by both the NTS and ARES manuals. Naturally, all of the NTS and PSCM introductory materials, as well as the MPG, will be updated to include the ICS-213 methods along with advances that have occurred since the PSCM was last updated in 1996.

Other planned NTS documentation includes a NTS Users Manual that tells the ARES and other served agencies how to access and use NTS when needed to transfer information due to infrastructure failures. Several "Use Cases" will be included in this manual.

The P&SC gave Jan 1, 2016, as the deadline for NTS to incorporate the ICS-213 format and update documentation. There is a lot of work involved, and document updates typically take a long time. They worked for 9 months on the ARES Manual (without telling NTS they were doing so, by the way) and we now have only 7 months remaining before our deadline. As a result, we are going to try to produce a separate document detailing the ICS-213 procedures and circulate it early for input from the STMs and net managers as well as the NTS staff members. This can likely be done way before the deadline and at least satisfy their requirement to handle the ICS-213.

So some changes are coming, but I hope you will be receptive and help us keep NTS as a viable and important resource for not only the ARES, FEMA, and Homeland Security, but also all the other agencies, such as the Red Cross, with whom the ARRL has Memoranda of Understanding.

We are going to bring NTS into the 21st century and are grateful for your help and understanding.

73,

Steve K6JT

Manager TEX

Chair NTS Central Area Staff

Excerpt from W5DY Presentation as STM of STX at the Picnic

Example of what happens to a message brought to a net for an out of state station

Message for Utah brought to 7290 or TTN

No station to take traffic directly... Tex rep takes the message

He checks in to the Tex CW Net as TTN rep (this includes TTN and 7290)

TTN rep gives it to the RN5 rep

The RN5 rep takes it to RN5 and gives it to the CAN rep

The CAN rep takes it to CAN (Central Area Net) and gives it to station Echo (rep for PAN - Pacific Area Net - traffic)

Station Echo meets with station Golf (rep for traffic from CAN to PAN) and gives it to her/him

Station Golf takes it to PAN (Pacific Area Net)

Station Golf gives it to TWN (twelfth region net) rep

TWN rep takes it to the TWN region net and gives it to the Utah rep

Utah rep takes it to the Utah section net and gives it to a station in city of destination for delivery

Elapsed time from Tex CW net to Utah section net: about 4.5 hours
Message has been sent and received 8 times

An email or cell phone call would be much, much quicker. But what if all power is down? No can email or call. Help, who is going to deliver my message? Enter Ham Radio.

George Hart Series

Here is the 30th installment of the George Hart Series. We were wondering if Geo and Louise would get married or break it off.

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 30 - Then there was still Ms. Louise

Much to my astonishment, Louise accepted. We were married in March of 1939 and moved into a small apartment in Hartford. I hit Mr. Handy up for that raise he had promised and my salary was increased from \$22 to \$24 a week. This was hardly enough for one person to live on, but somehow we made it do, with a little financial assistance from my mother and one of Louise's doting uncles, until 1941, when U.S. entry into war changed everything.

We moved into our little "doll house" in Newington in April of 1941 - the house where I still live (June, 2001), although much expanded. It was a little four-room Cape Cod with a minuscule open side porch, but to us, after two years in a 2-1/2 room second floor apartment, it was paradise.

Here I established my own personal station after over 11 years as a licensed amateur. I had operated 3NF and W3NF, W8YA and W1AW, was still operating the latter, but now I was going to operate W1NJM, my new call as of early 1941. I still held W3AMR at the farm, but big brother Ed had moved back there and was established in his third floor apartment. When I visited "home," I operated W3NF. But at 66 Highland Street in Newington, I appropriated one of the two tiny bedrooms as my "shack" and set up a station of sorts. It wasn't much after operating W1AW for six hours a day, coming home to my breadboard junk heap was an anticlimax at best. I nevertheless took pride in at last being a whole amateur radio operator with a station of my own.

From that time until the present, except for my 2-1/2 years in service during the war, there has always been a W1NJM presence on the air and at the farm, after Ed moved out to southern New Jersey, W3AMR. So, although my ham radio operating career began in 1926, my ham radio station career began in 1941. Getting acclimated to married life did not come easy for me, and no doubt Louise, a shy young girl with a very sheltered upbringing cast among total strangers in a strange new city, had even more problems. Add to this my working hours from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. most of the time. We would have supper at the usual time, 6 p.m., with a couple hours of togetherness, then I would be off to work, a distance of about 5 miles.

She would go to bed at her usual time, 10 p.m. I would come home at 3:15 a.m. or so, usually waking her up. She would get up at 6, make her breakfast, then sit and read the newspaper or a book or do minor household chores until I got up about noon and we would have lunch together. On spring, summer and early fall afternoons we would usually stroll over to Elizabeth Park, only a few blocks away, sit on the benches, stroll among the bowers, and feed the ducks. In the winter we might go to a movie matinee or play cards. We definitely were not bored, We were young, newly married, very much in love and we tolerated the inconveniences. Within in a few months Louise settled into a pattern of staying up until I got home at about 3:30 a.m., then we would go to bed together, get up at noon, have breakfast, supper at 6 p.m.

Once we "got into the swing" it wasn't too bad. But once earlier, just a few days after our marriage (there was no honeymoon), I went to play pool with Fritz after work, a thing we used to do frequently before I was married. Fritz was unemployed (many thousands were, then) and he spent a lot of time with me at W1AW. When my shift was up at 3 a.m. we would go over to ARRL HQ in West Hartford, where the League had a sort of basement recreation room, and use the pool table therein, a gift of our then advertising manager F.C. Beekley, W1GS. On this particular night Fritz proposed a pool match, without thinking of my bride asleep in our apartment, I assented. We played pool until dawn. When I came home I found Louise in hysterics. She had awakened at about 3:30 a.m. and found my side of the bed empty. At 4 a.m. panic overtook her as she imagined the possibility of my lying dead electrocuted behind one of the relay racks at W1AW. We had no phone, it was four o'clock in the morning, and what was she to do? She lay in bed weeping and when I finally crept quietly into the apartment she got up; and flung herself into my arms. Not until then did I realize what an inconsiderate thing I had done. It brought home to me very strongly the responsibility of marriage, a lesson I never forgot.

WAR

In the main, however, married life continued serenely. WW-II started in September 1939, six months after we were married, but nothing much changed. I registered for the draft, as required, but did not expect to be called. I was a married man, almost 27 years old. Most people were of opinion that the Germans would soon be crushed and we would not be involved. But as time went on and the war took a turn for the worse for the Allies, who had the sympathy of most Americans, the draft quotas rose. Several people at HQ went into the service and others had the draft breathing down their necks. In 1940 I had been offered a commission in the Signal Corps but turned it down, aware of my responsibilities as a husband and having no lust for that kind of adventure. If I had taken it I would have probably wound up at the end of the war as at least a captain, more likely as a major or lieutenant colonel, assuming survival. To me, survival was the key. I was determined to tend to my personal responsibilities first, enter the armed services only if I had to. The work at W1AW went on, little affected by the war.

- *Coming in Chapter 31: World War II affects Geo*

TEX Mailbox:

Received the following from **Carolyn, KC5OZT**, who is the daytime CAN manager.

That was a moving story on Woody, so I checked the Find a Grave website to see if he had a memorial page, yet. He didn't, so I created one for him. Here is the link to it.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=146602621> .

Please let me know if there is anything you'd like me to add.

73, Carolyn KC5OZT

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Joe, W3JY, the Chair of the Eastern Area Staff sent this along. It is important to recognize the NTS and those who make special contributions.

The National Traffic System conferred its prestigious Special Service Award to two amateurs at the 2015 Dayton Hamvention.

The Special Service Award recognizes volunteers for outstanding service over a long period of time, selflessly given of themselves personally or professionally to the National Traffic System. The Pacific, Central, and Eastern Area NTS Committees determine recipients of the Special Service Award based on input from several sources. The award winner is honored with the Special Service Award Plaque, conferred and presented at Dayton, if possible, otherwise presented locally on behalf of the NTS by an ARRL high official.

A short conferral ceremony was mastered by Jim Wades WB8SIW, editor of QNI—the NTS Newsletter.

Kenneth W Jacobs KD6PGI of Hood River, Oregon won the SSA for his technical supervision and migration support of the NTS Digital Network's BPQ32 Modernization Project. The BPQ32 migration brings NTS a modern, multi-mode, packet switching environment capable of seamless integration with all AX.25 and IP based networks.

Mr Jacobs donated countless hours consulting to NTS on BPQ32 migration strategy, environment installation, operator support, and implementation of custom NTS functionality in collaboration with developer John Wiseman G8BPQ.

Mr Jacobs operates HF and VHF with an emphasis on emergency communications including a full service BPQ32 packet node, with BBS, APRS and a Winlink station. He lives with his wife and children in the beautiful Columbia River Gorge, where his is actively involved with church ministry.

Presenting the Award to Mr Jacobs locally, on behalf of NTS, will be ARRL Second Vice President Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF.

Joseph F Tracey KB3LNM ORS of Finksburg, Maryland won the SSA for his development and roll-out of the NTS Parser application. The NTS Parser allows ARES shelter operators, working under "Grid Down" conditions, to generate bulk Radiogram messages and inject them into the NTS HF Digital network using Winlink 2000.

An NTS "Winlink Target Station" receives the messages and delivers them via RF-Only paths to their delivery Sections, ordinarily within an hour.

Mr Tracey dedicated thousands of man-hours developing the NTS Parser, available in two versions, optimized for ARES Shelters Operations and NTS Target Station use, training operators on its use, testing the application under field conditions and building new features requested by the NTS.

An active ham, Mr Tracey is member of the ARRL and QCWA. He is a traffic handler in the MDC Section and volunteers with his local RACES. A former U.S. Navy man, he recently retired from the defense industry.

Presenting the Award locally, on behalf of the NTS, will be Jim Cross WI3N Maryland-DC Section Manager and former chairman of the ARRL Emergency Communication Advisory Committee.

Congratulations and Thanks to both Ken and Joe!

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James, WB8SIW, has published another fine issue of the QNI Newsletter. You can find it on the TEX website. Some very interesting topics, as always, including the following:

- The QSL Card Tradition
- The Radiogram Format for Weather Data Reporting
- Introducing Scouts to Morse Code
- Field Deployment Exercises—Fun and Training
- The ASTM Position
- Some Service Message Statistics
- Morse Code is Cool, Who Knew?
- Dayton Hamvention Coverage
- Sample Hybrid IC-213 forms requested
- NTS Ecom Response Teams?
- Mounting a Key for Mobile CW
- Using the RST Report to Your Advantage
- A NTS “Wildest Dream” Section Manager

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From **Joe, W3JY**: The National Traffic System will be the topic on this weekend’s QSO Radio Show program, broadcast world-wide on WTWW shortwave.

<https://twitter.com/qsoradioshow>

Show host Ted Randall, WB8PUM interviewed yours truly, W3JY, for two hours Monday evening, about ham radio, the meaning of life, and the NTS.

Ted is an enthusiastic supporter of the NTS mission. WTWW and his program reach an audience so vast it is hard for hams to conceptualize it. Apparently, a typical podcast of his radio program is downloaded more than 100,000 times and anywhere from 600 to 1,000 emails from around the world come in response to any given program. And snail mail, too.

He offered to have me back on his show to delve deeper into the NTS, which he believes taps into something much deeper than a simple message platform, as a kind of human community the Internet cannot simulate.

Of interest to the NTS specifically, he also offered to make his studio facilities available to produce professional quality audio and HD video promotional spots for the NTS.

My friends, Heaven smiles upon NTS this week – and yes, there will be more VERY EXCITING news to announce this summer. This is but a taste of what is coming to the NTS.

fortunas audentas juvat

VY 73 DE W3JY Joe

Note that the Podcast is also available on iTunes - I have subscribed and downloaded it - Ed

- . . . -

I received the following from **John, KB5NJD**, who is active on TEX and also the DFW Traffic Nets. He is also an official MF station operator and would like to have any of you who are at a Field Day site to give a listen for his (or other MF stations) signal and, as it says in the 2nd paragraph, send a radiogram to him and the ARRL reporting the activity.

Good Morning again,

As I stated a few weeks ago many of us that are active Part 5 stations on 630-meters are planning on repeating the Field day greeting event that has gone on for a few years now during ARRL Field Day. It seems the longer we do this, the more legs that grow on it, and participation has really increased.

The point of what we are doing is to make active, relevant signals available to existing Field Day stations (June 27 and 28 in 2015) that might have a large pool of operators (a general ham club, for example, set up at a portable site and using a hodgepodge of amateur antennas), many of which may still have no idea that anything is going on below the broadcast band. I have historically stressed that these stations use whatever antennas that they have on site, a dipole, a tribander, a vertical - whatever - as the impedance mismatch may help improve S/N enough for effective copy. Last year, I received about 60 reports about my signal from Texas and the surrounding areas in addition to an Argo screen shot of my signal from Neil, W0YSE / WG2XSV, who was living in UT at the time. My message was in normal, aural CW, 7-8 minutes long at about 17-18 wpm and ran for about 36 hours on a :00, :15, :30 and :45 minute schedule on 474.5. I plan on doing the same this year.

Reporting is important since we all like to know who is listening and how we are doing. I recommend in my message that stations copying the message send NTS traffic to the ARRL (I include their contact info). This does two things: it shows the ARRL that there is activity and interest and it gives the club incentive since they get points for generating and sending NTS traffic. I and others have also received email reports and that's fine too. On the few reports that came directly to me, I serviced NTS traffic on their behalf to the ARRL.

Last year, 2014, the following stations were listed in the announcements that were sent out:

WG2XKA in VT	472.5 Khz CW
WG2XJM in PA	473 KHz CW

WD2XSH/20 in OR 475 KHz CW
WG2XIQ in TX 474 KHz CW

Because of the late start to prep and planning in 2014, several other stations were not included in the announcement but were able to participate. I would like to make sure that everyone that wants to participate in 2015 be included in the announcement because I put a lot of value in the power of numbers when it comes to participation.

I have already asked the four stations listed above (in addition to others that are not listed but I knew they participated last year) if they will be participating this year and if they will be on the same frequency. I have heard from XKA so far and he will be on the same freq, for example.

If others are interested in participating or if previous stations would like to confirm their participation in 2015, please let me know ASAP of the frequency (and callsign to be used in addition to the transmission schedule and mode), hopefully not a freq that is already tentatively spoken for. I would like to be able to put together a communication to be distributed to various outlets and interested parties, including the ARRL, no later than 9am CT on Friday, June 19.

We have historically done this as a CW event but I also see value in perhaps introducing some digital modes if we can minimize regional interference so if you are a digital op, please give some thought into how you might contribute. Having a digital mode available might be very useful in this day and age when Field Day sites are often setup for PSK-31 and other sound card modes. Perhaps XSH/7 can fire up a special message with combination CW and PSK31 as he has done in the past.

Finally, I can't see any reason that this should be limited to 630-meters. If our brothers and sisters on 2200m are able to participate, please let me know what you are doing and I will add you to the distribution. This is a big year for MF and LF and any chance to get these bands before the masses can potentially be of value to us.

Please let me know by 9am CT on Friday, June 19, of you intentions to operate this years so I can begin sending emails. If you are participating, please plan on forwarding the final distribution to your local clubs.

Thanks so much! I will be in touch with regular updates.
73! John Langridge KB5NJD / WG2XIQ

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TEX Net Topics

All slots are filled with regular and backup stations. Thank you all very much!!! Vacation time has come upon us, and several regulars have been away. Thanks to all of you who have filled in when needed.

Note that TEX will continue to meet at the regular times on Field Day weekend, although we may need to move to 7108 for early TEX and 3595 (or 7108 again) for late TEX. NCS

stations should send a QNC indicating a frequency change on the primary frequency before moving the net.

Don't forget that your club can receive bonus points for sending and receiving FD traffic. Also note that W4DLZ (see RN5 Corner) has said he will monitor 7108 regularly during the FD weekend to pick up any traffic, so if your group's schedule does not permit taking a transmitter to check into TEX, perhaps you can give Frank the traffic.

Note that late RN5 has moved to 7108 for the summer season. 3567 is still a backup should there be long skip on 40 at that time. Late TEX remains on 3541.

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.

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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 considerably down compared to last month. All RN5 slots were covered and TTN / DFW representation were good. TSN coverage was again down because of Jason's work schedule. The numerous thunderstorms in May contributed to many stations not being able to get on the air and also fewer messages passed. Seemed like we had a T-storm every evening of the month, somewhere in Texas.

Jim, W5FEA, with 61 out of 62 (98%) was unable to make his "perfect attendance" due to a Thunderstorm right on top of him one net session. Randy, N5RL, with 37 (60%) edged out Rodney, W5DY, with 36 (58%) by 1 for second and third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors to the net included only Mark, AC5RN, from Marion.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 3.3 per net session (3.7 last month). Net time averaged 11.4 minutes per session (compared to 12.8 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.4 per session (6.3 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (May 2015)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
KW5AS	Skip	16	19					
		3						
W5CU	Sam	6	13		5			
*		7			6			
W5DY	Rodney	20	36	1	3			
		16		4	1			
W5ESE	Scott	1	1					
*		0						
W5FEA	Jim	30	61	5	2	27		
*		31		1		10		
W5GKH	Charlie	8	15	7				
*		7		7				
K5GM	Pete	5	11					
*		6						
W9GVW	Eric	6	6					
*		0						
K6JT	Steve	15	46	1			12	
*		31		6	12		31	

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
K5KV	Benny	13	33		3			
		20		5				
KB5NJD	John	7	7				7	
		0						
N5NVP	Jim	1	1					
		0						
K5RG	Ken	2	11					
*		9			4			
N5RL	Randy	24	37	9	10	2		
*		13				11		
AC5RN	Mark	1	1					
	Marion	0						
W5TMO	Mike	0	9					
*		9		8				
KD5TXD	Pat	8	8	8				
*		0						
NA5YO	Doug	9	18		8			
		9			8			
Totals		333		62	62	50	50	0
				100%	100%	81%	81%	0%
QTC 1		91	206					
QTC 2		115		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		375	708					
Time 2		333						

Operating:

It seems that some operators are still confused about who calls whom when sent off frequency to pass traffic. It is the receive station that selects the frequency on or within a KHz or so of the one assigned by the NCS (to avoid any QRM). The receive station then calls the sending station after sending QRL? and waiting a few seconds for a response.

Of course, if the two stations are to exchange traffic, then the order in which the NCS calls the stations to move off frequency should be used. The first station called by the NCS becomes the first receive station and should call the other station as described above.

There are also still some who send a message number back when sending QSL after receipt. Per the Methods and Practices Guide, that is incorrect. Do not send back the message number (e.g., QSL 123). A simple QSL is all that is needed. On voice, the same applies - it is incorrect to say "Roger 123". A simple "Roger" is all that is required per the MPG. Old habits are hard to break, of course.

Finally, note that "R", short for "Roger" on CW, does not mean "yes", it means (as on voice) "acknowledged" or "received". "C" means "yes". However, many of us have used "R" for years to mean "yes". I am still trying to break myself of that habit, in fact. Just something to think about. In particular, when asked QRV?, the preferred response is "C" "K".

NTS Central Area Activity for May 2015

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
RN5 Cycle 2	42	74	359	502	0.147
9RN Cycle 2	12	229	52	145	1.579
10RN Cycle 2	20	200	163	303	0.660
RN5 Cycle 4	62	184	435	425	0.433
9RN Cycle 4	54	134	153	320	0.419
TEN Cycle 4	60	121	185	422	0.287
CAN Cycle 2	13	163	97	419	0.389
CAN Cycle 4	31	266	182	416	0.639
TCC Cycle 2	24	111	24		
TCC Cycle 4	93	131	84		
Total Voice/CW Nets		1613	1734	2952	
NTS Digital			Received	Sent	
KBOOFD		1619	938	681	
WB9FHP		2612	1437	1175	
W5SEG		712	312	400	
DRS Stations (18)		1570	707	863	
Total NTS Digital		6513	3394	3119	
Total Central Area		8126			

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 issue of the Texas Slow Net corner by welcoming Howard WD5IDB from Edmond, Oklahoma to the Texas Slow Net. Howard checked into the net on May 1st. Welcome to the net Howard and please check in as often as you can.

I want to thank Sam KK4HCF for picking up the net on May 30th for Mr. Carroll KB5TCH, who was attending the 7290 picnic.

Once again this month I was not able to be real active on TEX or TSN due to a busy work schedule. Hopefully pretty soon things will slow down and I will be able to get back to the nets.

TSN Activity Report for May 2015

Total Sessions: 26 Check-ins: 80 Total Traffic: 20 by 11 different Operators

May 2015 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	23
SAM	KK4HCF	17
JIM	W5FEA	10
PHIL	KD5MMM	8
SKIP	KW5AS	6
HOWARD	W5IDB	6
JASON	KD5RQB	4
STEVE	KB5KWO	2
SCOTT	N7NET	2
MIKE	WD0ESF	1
JOE	AC5BE	1

June 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
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
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 41 of the **RN5 Corner**.

As you know, we have changed the late RN5 frequency to 7108 on 40 meters. With all the storms in May, the QRN was terrible on 80 and propagation wasn't very good either. 40 meters has less QRN when there are storms. So far, propagation has been good with no long skip yet.

With all the news about monitoring of landline and cell phones as well as Internet email by the government, it makes you think... maybe amateur radiograms are more secure than the public utilities. Of course, messages are still delivered by phone or sometimes email, so that is the vulnerable point.

As I told you in an email sent out recently, I plan to be monitoring 7108 during Field Day Week End for your FD Traffic. If you don't get me right away I may be away from the shack since I plan to be in and out. Will try to be there at a quarter till and a quarter after each hour. Will also send beacons when I'm on, such as QSX FD TFC. Of course, we will try to hold RN5 nets on 7108 during the regular schedule on both Friday and Saturday nights. We will also need to support CAN. No word on any official changes of frequency for CAN, but they may also use 7108 to avoid the FD QRM on 7052.

We still have several open positions. If you're interested in any of the open positions or taking any of my skeds, I'll assist you in any way, talking you through it on the telephone if needed. An NCS Station doesn't have to go to CAN when there is no rep assigned, but it is much appreciated if you do.

Thanks again to all of you who support the net and keep up the good work. A special thanks once again to Jerry, W4SU, and Ben, KZ8Q, for filling in the majority of the open slots.

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	WA4ZPZ
CAN TX	Open	NA5YO	Open	W4SU	W4SU	NA5YO	W5CU
CAN RX	Open	NA5YO	W4AGL	K6JT	WA4ZPZ	NA5YO	Open
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	(KZ8Q)	Open	Open	Open

May 2015 Statistics

SESSIONS	62
QTC	184
QNI	435
QTR	425
AVG QTC	2.9
AVG QNI	7.1
AVG QTR	6.8

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