

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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March-April 2016



7290 Net Picnic - May 28

The 46th annual 7290 Traffic Net Picnic will again be held at the SPJST Lodge just outside of Taylor, Texas on May 28. Pictures and a map are on the web site. There will be the regular catered BBQ at 4 PM that you are invited to attend. The menu will include brisket, sausage and all the trimmings from the same caterer that we have been using. The cost will be \$15.50 per plate again this year. Tom W5UFO will also be there with his homemade ice cream.

Please check the net's web site of <http://www.7290trafficnet.org> for details as they become available. Looking forward to seeing you all. 73, Jo Ann KA5AZK
Manager 7290 Traffic Net

Is it Time for 40 Meters?

Conditions have been somewhat disturbed for the past weeks, so I have not wanted to switch early TEX to 40 just yet. Let's give it a try, though, starting on Sunday evening, May 1 local. NCS stations should attempt to start the net on 40 (7053) after that but move to 80 if problems are encountered. Stations who may not be able to hear each other because they are too close may be sent to 80 to pass traffic. Be very sure to ask at least one other station, preferably one more than 200 miles away, to do a net call or two during the course of the net. As always, late TEX remains on 80 meters.

HAM SPAM ???

by Steve Robeson K4YZ

The following item was submitted to the League as either a "Correspondence" submission or as an "OP-Ed" piece, however they choose to use it, but I also felt compelled to share it the principals, both immediate and organizational, for the National Traffic System, as well as my fellow net control stations.

I invite and entertain your comments. All addressees please feel free to share it with my original authorship acknowledged.

73, Steve Robeson, K4YZ, Winchester, TN

When “we”...the Radio Amateur community, promote the virtues of our avocation to others, one of the leading benefits of the service is our ability to communicate in emergencies. “When All Else Fails, Amateur Radio” has become a popular by-line on tee-shirts, in our journals, on coffee cups, and when promoting ourselves to the media.

One of the hallmark features of that credo used to be the Amateur’s ability, even pride, in being able to “pass traffic”, whether by voice, Morse Code, or any of the various data modes up to its delivery point. But as technology has pushed more-and-more of that traffic to digital modes, our voice and CW nets have become almost barren of traffic... ANY traffic, save for “Hi John” exchanges between check-ins, announcements of up-coming hamfests or recent passings of silent keys. In other words, we’re losing those skills that are at the very basis of validating the continuance of the Amateur Radio Service to the community. We’re actually talking ourselves out of a reason for being!

Among the few exceptions has been a phenomena that some of our members have come to refer as “ham spam”... Messages generated by other Amateurs addressed to newly licensed or recently up-graded Amateurs congratulating them on their accomplishment. Many are from other nets or Amateur Radio social organizations inviting recent check-ins to come back often, wish them birthday greetings, etc.

As one of the alternate net control stations for the Tennessee Single Sideband Traffic net, I’ve received several direct complaints from various members, some of them close friends, complaining about the “ham spam” traffic slowing down traffic net check-ins. Until recently, I really didn’t know how to respond to these “complaints”, other than to acknowledge the participant’s issues. But a recent personal incident has given me a perspective on this issue that I wish to share with the community.

Specifically, I accepted one of these “ham spam” messages congratulating a fellow with a local address, but otherwise unknown to me, on his recent upgrade to General. I dutifully called the number provided, spoke with a family member who agreed to pass it on, and called it a day. The very next day I received a call from the Amateur to whom the original message had been addressed, and what followed was a very productive and satisfying conversation about a great many things involving Amateur Radio, including traffic handling, all of which the recipient hadn’t known about despite having been licensed since the late 1990’s. He was grateful beyond words for the original message and the “scoop” I’d passed on to him as a product of our new conversations.

We have since developed a very good friendship. He’s been to my home a couple of times and we’ve shared several QSO’s on both VHF and HF. He’s decided to become more active in several different aspects of the hobby. The point of the matter is that had it not been for that “ham spam” message opening that door and giving me the chance to introduce myself to a fellow Amateur I’d not previously known and offer (him, in this case) an avenue to ask questions, bounce ideas off of someone else, and learn about the greater Amateur Radio community, he might not have taken those initiatives!

We should remember, folks, “NTS” stands for “National Traffic System”. These nets are not organized as social events or meant for casual QSO gatherings. They’re SPECIFICALLY

organized for the purpose of supporting traffic handling and all that that entails. If nothing else, “ham spam” offers an opportunity for training. It’s traffic! It’s a message that was originated, sent by, and is now on the delivery end of the Amateur Radio National Traffic System!

Let’s also remember another long-forgotten practice of traffic handling. IT’S NOT THE HANDLING OR DELIVERING STATION’S PREROGATIVE TO QUESTION THE PROPRIETY OF THE MESSAGE OR ITS CONTENT! That is the obligation of the ORIGINATING station. It is OUR responsibility to handle the traffic exactly as received. Add nothing...take nothing. Also, let’s remember that today’s “ham spam” is practice for tomorrow’s health and welfare message from another “Katrina” incident or similar tragedy, and our ability to quickly AND efficiently move those messages may be the only life-line another human being has to their loved ones. No, “ham spam” isn’t that traffic, but its practice for the day it is, and that, in my mind, makes it worth the effort alone.

The American Radio Relay League sponsored “Elmer Award” I received from my new friend Glen Aussiker, KE4LBS, is the other! Just one “ham spam” message created a new friendship and opened new doors for an Amateur that was otherwise oblivious to one of Amateur Radio’s oldest and most honored traditions.

So next time you think of it as “spam”, try a new perspective. It’s NOT “spam”...it’s an opportunity!

George Hart Series

Here is the first part of chapter 35 of the George Hart Series. Geo continues his new duties at Headquarters.

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 35A - ARRL, Geo and the WERS

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 in Chapter 35B - GEO and WERS (Continued)

New Cycle 4 TCC Director - WA4STO

I am pleased to announce that Luck, WA4STO, accepted the nomination as the new cycle 4 TCC director and was subsequently confirmed by the Central Area Staff. The last newsletter gave information about the TCC skeds available. I will repeat some of that here in case you missed it from the Operating section. Luck still needs help filling the following slots, although he has done much of it himself in the past month.

Friday: TCC Echo and Foxtrot
Saturday: TCC Foxtrot
Sunday: TCC Echo and Foxtrot

TCC Echo - Checks into CAN and takes traffic for the Pacific area. Meets the TCC Golf station from Pacific either during CAN or after the net to send the received traffic.

TCC Foxtrot - Normally checks into the Pacific Area Net (2230 local), although that is not required as long as an arrangement is made with the TCC India station from PAN to receive traffic for the Central area either after PAN or even the next day using, for example, 20 meters. The Central area traffic may be passed via a region net to CAN, or to delivery nets if appropriate, the next day.

New QNI Newsletter

James, WB8SIW, and Kate, K6HTN (assistant editor) have done another great job on the May issue of the QNI Newsletter, which you can access at:

<http://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/73013707/QNI%202016-5.pdf>

Topics include:

- Telephone Company Telegraphy
- When the World Stopped Talking
- "Ham Radio Now " and Journalistic Integrity
- FLMSG and Radiograms
- Mysteries of the Date-Time Group
- A Traffic Experiment
- Final Details Released—Cascadia Rising and NTS
- Using Bulk Traffic to "Ping" the NTS
- The Good Ol' Days
- Traffic Totals during the "Golden Age"

TEX Mailbox:

From **Pat, KD5TXD**: For the first time ever, the TEX newsletter made me sad. I rarely ever get on the voice nets any more. I call early TEX Wednesday and Thursday. I am sure I have frustrated folks with how slow my code is and how often I just don't get what is sent the first time. My fault. However, I stick with this for one reason.

Back during Katrina I was active on the voice nets and just getting in on the fringe of the CW nets. It was late at night, and I took a health and welfare message that no one else was around to take, or able to take, or whatever. People had been working hundreds of messages. I don't remember the exact text of the message. It was from a family in the affected area. It said something like, "We are 5 safe x house destroyed x cars destroyed x. The phone number was out of state. It cost me money to make the call, but I committed to make the call when I took the message, no matter what. I dialed the number, not at all sure what to expect. I explained that I had a message from _____. A breaking voice told me to read the message. I read the message and listened while a tearful, very relieved family thanked me. We hung up. And that was that.

I understand the world changes, priorities change, life changes. One thing more that I love and respect is fading away before my eyes. I keep my fingers in the game as long as I can, for all my failings, because of that one message. Maybe I can come up with something happy for the mail box later on. Thanks to all. 73!! Pat KD5TXD

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From **George, K5BMR**: TNX for sending the TEXAN...

The comments made by K5KV and W7EKB are of main concern...

I will re-read and make sure I understand what is taking place but on first brush, I tend to agree with them about one thing... The delivery function is the biggy... We try to get it done correctly but it is not easy and when a delivering station gets a bad response from the recipient, they give up...

73, George

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From **Bill, KA9IKK**: Hi Steve, long time since I have been active on TEX due to time and antenna restrictions. However, I do read the TEX newsletter and wanted to make a few comments regarding the current demise of NTS. I feel the biggest issue facing NTS is the perception by the general public that the our service is no longer needed. With modern cell phones, e-mail, facebook, etc, why use NTS? The usual response by hams is that during disasters NTS can get messages through. While this is true, I'm not sure how much H&W traffic is actually passed during disasters.

If NTS wants to survive it will need to do a better job of marketing itself. NTS needs to make its presence known by reaching out more to the public and not just to the ham community. This could be accomplished by setting up NTS radiogram booths at state and county fairs so visitors can send greetings to family and friends. This could also be done at museums and other public places that have a high visitor rates.

Another area for NTS to get involved in would be the various boy and girl scout camps that are active every summer. Many of the camps do not allow cell phones and NTS would be a perfect way to get a message from a scouter back to mom and dad. I think this has been done at the National Jamborees but they only occur every 4 years or so.

These are just a few ideas I had and wanted to share them. Hope everyone on TEX is doing well and will try to get back on the air when I am able.

73, Bill KA9IKK

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From **Pat, KD5TXD**: Hi Steve, I haven't had any stories for you in some time. One of the things I have been doing lately is turning pens and trying to sell them at our local farmers market. That can be pretty dull at times. I have started packing some of my sounders and keys to amuse the veggie buyers as they pass by my booth.

I keep a key and sounder hooked up to a battery. When young folks stop by, (you know, young folks, under 40) I point out that my key and sounder are representatives of the original text messaging technology. Generally they say, "Huh??" At that point I dive into a dissertation of the railroad telegraph system and Morse code.

Every now and then I have a true treat when a kid walks up and actually knows what it is. The kid has never actually seen one, but read about the telegraph system in school ... obviously a nerd. That gives me a chance to launch into a discussion of the modern uses of CW in amateur radio. Some come back every month to see what kind of crazy stuff the white-haired old woman has out to see. I don't sell a lot of pens.

Also, there are a couple ex-amateur radio operators who have stopped by. They let their license lapse. I start my yapping about the telegraph and ease into how easy the amateur tests are now days, where they can get practice tests, and where to go take the amateur radio test again. Seeds are planted...

One of my radio mentors, WB5RFQ, moved to Bellville some time back. We keep in touch. He knew that I have a soft spot for CW, code keys, and telegraph sounders. So, he and KD5KAD, his XYL, were out browsing at the local antique store. He spots a sounder in an



original telegraph sounder box on an arm, took a picture of it, and e-mailed me the picture. That sounder, box, and arm made me think of Floyd again. 'RFQ didn't have any idea the trouble he had caused. I made some inquiries, and turned the matter over to Charles just before Valentine's Day. Most women want diamonds and gold for Valentines Day, or at least flowers and chocolate. I wanted the telegraph gear.

Charles purchased it for me. How romantic!!! We didn't want it shipped to us as that would have been a great potential for damage. So we went on a road trip up to Bellville to fetch my present. We also got to have an eyeball QSO with 'RFQ and 'KAD. Hadn't seen

them in ages. We all had lunch and yapped about Kingsville and the hams we all know from the area. They were part of our infamous Sunday morning ham breakfast crowd. Too many of our group have become SK over the years. It was bitter sweet to remember them and the good time QSOs past.

So, I am passing along a pic of my new toy. It is a Western Union Sounder 1-A 4-OHM beauty. The box and arm are in great condition. The key is a broken, junk, Japanese ball bearing key. I will replace that with a pretty key. Charles and I tenderly put power to the sounder and it works like a champ. 100 year old technology rules!!!! It works on 1 volt. This is the kind of sounder that was in an office with lots of operators, all with sounders, working messages. The 1 volt was supplied by a gravity battery. I am not sure I want to make one of those, too messy. To make my new acquisition truly authentic I must still find an old Prince Albert tobacco can. I am going to try to set this up so I can take it safely to the farmers market. I am planning on running two sounders to demonstrate the telegraph system. Too bad I don't have someone like Floyd down here to do a proper demo.

Enjoy the pic. Thanks and 73!! Pat KD5TXD

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Received the following from **Charlie, W5GKH**, on Feb. 15: Saturday afternoon, my wife fell and suffered a fractured pelvis. During evaluation in the ER, the doctors discovered a serious heart problem. She is currently in ICU in Brazosport Regional Health Hospital in Lake Jackson. I will not be on the air again tonight and I'm not sure about the future at this time.

The following update was received on Feb. 21: My wife is now in a rehab section of a skilled nursing facility in Angleton (about 15 minutes from here). I will be going there this evening and will not make either net. 73 Charlie

We pray for healing for your wife and peace and strength for you, Charlie.

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Received the following from **Jim, W5FEA**, on Feb. 26: Talked with Don, KF5QKJ (now W5DAE), on the phone Friday evening and he shared this information with me.

Any station having direct contact with him on TEX he would prefer you continue to send at the same speed you generally use on the net. Don can copy about 12 or 13 words per minute, but then he has to write it down or he loses out on what he is copying. He has a code reader which reads code well (assuming you space your words well) and he believes he can copy better and quicker if you will do that.

Don is working on getting his speed up but as we all probably know that takes some time unless you work on it all the time.

I also tried to explain that the process of the net was to dismiss each station that checks in and that normally we would send his suffix, bid him good night/QNX/etc after which he would say GN (good night) or whatever de callsign.

From what he said I think he at one time way back was associated with some Navy nets or something where when stations were released they simply sent two "dits" and were gone, which is what Don has been doing when he recognizes you are attempting to dismiss him. Apparently the slow sending of his suffix isn't computing with him and it may be better to send his entire call at regular speed (and if you hear two "dits" that means he is gone), or he might say good night/73 or something and sign his call.

Oh, one other thing, K5TSK who is Jim from Arkansas has checked in to TEX a time or two, as well as RN5. At some point he may become a regular on RN5 and possibly TEX. At this time however Jim and his wife are concerned with his daughter Jamie who has just undergone a double lung replacement at a hospital somewhere here in Texas. Word was she was not doing as well as had been hoped but was progressing.

Thanks and 73, Jim W5FEA

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Finally, I received the following from **Dave, WB2FTX**, and wanted to share it with you because it is especially significant to our NTS operations on 80 meters, although it speaks primarily about RTTY / Data privileges. But that also helps free up more space for CW NTS usage.

ARLB007 FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition That Seeks 80/75 Meter Adjustments

The FCC has put the ARRL's January Petition for Rule Making (RM 11759 - found on the web at, <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/view?id=60001374190>) on public notice and invited interested parties to comment on what the League has called "minimal but necessary changes" to 80 and 75 meters. The ARRL petitioned the FCC to fix a "shortfall in available RTTY/data spectrum" that the Commission created when it reapportioned 80 and 75 meters 10 years ago.

The League's petition asked the FCC to shift the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3600 kHz to 3650 kHz. The proposed change received strong support from ARRL members, and the ARRL Board of Directors

adopted it as policy at its July 2015 meeting. At that time the Board also agreed to seek RTTY and data privileges for Novice and Technician licensees within their current 15 meter CW subband, and to do the same on 80 meters, depending on the outcome of the 80/75 meter subband revision.

The petition asks the FCC to make the following changes to the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules, with respect to 80/75 meters:

- * Modify the RTTY/data subband, so that it extends from 3500 kHz to 3650 kHz.
- * Modify the phone/image subband, so that it extends from 3650 kHz to 4000 kHz.
- * Make 3600-3650 kHz available for General and Advanced Class licensees, as was the case prior to 2006.
- * Make 3600-3650 kHz available to Novice and Technician licensees for telegraphy - consistent with existing rules permitting Novices and Technicians to operate CW in the 80, 40, and 15 meter General and Advanced RTTY/data subbands.
- * Modify the rules governing automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS), to shift the ACDS segment from 3585-3600 kHz to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans.

According to the ARRL, the FCC R&O in Docket 04-140 released in 2006 departed substantially and without justification from the rules proposed in the FCC's so-called "Omnibus" Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), with respect to 75 and 80 meters. Among other actions, the resulting changes expanded voice privileges on additional frequencies in various bands, including 75 meters. The FCC shifted the phone/image subband from 3750-4000 kHz to 3600-4000 kHz, trimming the 80 meter RTTY/data subband from 3500-3750 kHz to 3500-3600 kHz and substantially changing "the entire dynamic of this band," the League said.

Although the Omnibus R&O had indicated that incumbent licensees would not lose any operating privileges, some clearly did, the ARRL has pointed out. The most substantial adverse effect of the "unexpected and vast expansion" of the 75 meter phone/image subband, the League said, was the elimination of access to 3620-3635 kHz by ACDS.

The Omnibus R&O rule changes limited 80 meters to 3500-3600 kHz, and no longer authorized RTTY and data emissions above 3600 kHz. That the Omnibus R&O did not modify Part 97.221 of the rules to provide for ACDS "was clearly an oversight by the Commission."

After the FCC denied a subsequent ARRL Petition for Reconsideration, the Commission replaced the inadvertently deleted 3620-3635 kHz ACDS segment with 3585-3600 kHz.

"Far from fixing the problem created by the error in the Omnibus R&O, the moving of the inadvertently deleted digital subband downward in frequency below 3600 kHz made the situation in the 80 meter RTTY/data subband even worse than it was," the ARRL said. The

result has been a shortfall in available RTTY/data spectrum at 80 meters (not to mention CW NTS frequencies).

"ARRL has analyzed the regulatory limitations as part of a comprehensive effort to make more efficient the use of those HF allocations, especially with respect to encouraging further experimentation and proficiency in narrowband digital communications technologies," the League said in concluding its Petition. "The recommendations for modified band plans developed by ARRL necessitate the few, but important regulatory changes proposed."

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TEX Net Topics

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown on the following page (for easier printing of a single page). Several changes have been made. Sam, W5CU, will be home much of the time until the next newsletter, so his slots are restored to normal. Mike, W5TMO, is off the air until construction of his home upgrade is completed. Charlie, W5GKH, has told Rodney he will likely have to give up his NCS slots on Sunday and Monday, which leaves them open. Friday late (bug night) NCS is still open. Jim, W5FEA, has taken the Monday late RN5 slot, since he is also the RN5 NCS that night. Thanks to all who are helping out and also the backup stations for those slots that are open or with the regular station on vacation.

Note that KF5QKJ has changed his call to W5DAE, which is now represented in the roster. Don, WA5PRI, has started checking into TEX from LA. I was told the LA CW net has now disbanded so we will be happy to include them in the TEX net along with Sam, W5CU, from OK. Other LA stations that may be checking in include Francis, WD5CFM, and Ed, WA5EID, although I have not yet added them to the roster.

CAN is in the process of changing to 40 meters, as is early RN5, although that has not yet happened officially. Those frequencies are shown in **bold** under the schedule table.

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TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K6JT, 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 | K1PKZ | Paul | Tom Bean |
| WA5CAV | Dick | Pineville LA | AC5P | Mike | Bartlesville OK |
| W5CU | Sam | Edmond OK | WA5PRI | Don | Thibodaux LA |
| W5DAE | Don | San Angelo | K5QOW | Gary | Reagan Wells |
| W5DH | Tom | Dallas | * K5RG | Ken | Houston |
| W4DLZ | Frank | Florida | N5RL | Randy | San Antonio |
| * W5DY | Rodney | Goliad | W5ROK | Steve | Richardson (K6JT op) |
| * W5ESE | Scott | Dripping Springs | KD5RQB | Jason | Atlanta |
| W5FEA | Jim | Graham | W5TMO | Mike | Austin |
| W5GKH | Charlie | West Columbia | KD5TXD | Pat | Kingsville |
| K5GM | Pete | Austin | W5UFK | Ken | College Station |
| W9GVW | Eric | San Antonio | NE5V | Chris | Liberty Hill |
| K5JRN | Si | Austin | WB8WKQ | Jeff | Michigan |
| * K6JT | Steve | Plano | K6YBV | Bob | Placerville CA |
| N7KRT | Jeff | Victoria | NA5YO | Doug | San Antonio |
| * W6LFB | Jim | Denton | W5ZD | Pat | Kingsville (KD5TXD) |
| N7NET | Scott | McKinney | | | |

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

February 2016:

Jim, W5FEA, with 58 out of 58 (100%) was again able to maintain “perfect attendance”. Rodney, W5DY, with 41 (71%) took second, and Randy, N5RL, with 38 (66%) was third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors to the net included Jim, K5TSK, from Arkansas, and Dave AB5S, from Nevada, TX.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 1.9 per net session (2.8 last month). Net time averaged 9.8 minutes per session (compared to 10.4 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.2 per session (5.9 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (February 2016)

| Call | Name | QNI | Total | NCS | RN5 | TTN | DFW | TSN |
|--------|---------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| KW5AS | Skip | 2 | 2 | | | | | |
| | | 0 | | | | | | |
| WA5CAV | Dick | 0 | 1 | | | | | |
| | LA | 1 | | | | | | |
| W5CU | Sam | 14 | 22 | | 7 | | | |
| * | | 8 | | | 4 | | | |
| W5DY | Rodney | 21 | 41 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| | | 20 | | 5 | 1 | | | |
| W5FEA | Jim | 29 | 58 | 7 | | 21 | | |
| * | | 29 | | 1 | | 4 | | |
| W5GKH | Charlie | 4 | 8 | 4 | | | | |
| * | | 4 | | 4 | | | | |
| K5GM | Pete | 11 | 26 | | | | | |
| * | | 15 | | | | | | |
| K6JT | Steve | 10 | 35 | | | | 10 | |
| * | | 25 | | 19 | 12 | | 25 | |
| K5KV | Benny | 6 | 9 | | 1 | | | |
| | | 3 | | | | | | |

| Call | Name | QNI | Total | NCS | RN5 | TTN | DFW | TSN |
|--------|-----------|-----|-------|-----------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| W6LFB | Jim | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | |
| K1PKZ | Paul | 7 | 7 | | | | | |
| | | 0 | | | | | | |
| KF5QKJ | Don | 7 | 7 | | | | | |
| | | 0 | | | | | | |
| K5QOW | Gary | 11 | 11 | | | 6 | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | |
| K5RG | Ken | 1 | 7 | | 1 | | | |
| * | | 6 | | | 4 | | | |
| N5RL | Randy | 20 | 38 | 7 | 8 | 2 | | |
| * | | 18 | | | | 15 | | |
| K5TSK | Jim | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| | AR | 0 | | | | | | |
| KD5TXD | Pat | 8 | 8 | 8 | | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | |
| AB5S | Dave | 2 | 2 | | | | | |
| * | Nevada TX | 0 | | | | | | |
| NA5YO | Doug | 8 | 16 | | 8 | | | |
| | | 8 | | | 8 | | | |
| Totals | | 300 | | 58 | 58 | 48 | 35 | 0 |
| | | | | 100% | 100% | 83% | 60% | 0% |
| QTC 1 | | 53 | 113 | | | | | |
| QTC 2 | | 60 | | Sessions: | | 58 | | |
| Time 1 | | 313 | 569 | | | | | |
| Time 2 | | 256 | | | | | | |

March 2016:

Jim, W5FEA, with 62 out of 62 (100%) again maintained his “perfect attendance”. Randy, N5RL, with 46 (74%) took second. Rodney, W5DY, with 41 (66%) was third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors included Howard, WD5IDB, from Oklahoma, Greg, WB5LXJ, from Garland, and George, WB9SJZ, from Indiana.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 1.5 per net session (1.9 last month). Net time averaged 8.9 minutes per session (compared to 9.8 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.0 per session (5.2 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (March 2016)

| Call | Name | QNI | Total | NCS | RN5 | TTN | DFW | TSN |
|--------|------------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| KW5AS | Skip | 6 | 7 | | | | | |
| | Victoria | 1 | | | | | | |
| W5DAE | Don | 5 | 7 | | | | | |
| | San Angelo | 2 | | | | | | |
| W5CU | Sam | 15 | 24 | | 14 | | | |
| * | | 9 | | | 8 | | | |
| W5DY | Rodney | 20 | 41 | 6 | 1 | | | |
| | | 21 | | 10 | 2 | | | |
| W5FEA | Jim | 31 | 62 | 9 | 1 | 24 | | |
| * | | 31 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| K5GM | Pete | 11 | 31 | | | | | |
| * | | 20 | | | | | | |
| W9GVW | Eric | 3 | 6 | | | | | |
| * | | 3 | | | | | | |
| WD5IDB | Howard | 0 | 1 | | | | | |
| | OK | 1 | | | | | | |
| K6JT | Steve | 11 | 37 | | | | 11 | |
| * | | 26 | | 20 | 8 | | 25 | |

| Call | Name | QNI | Total | NCS | RN5 | TTN | DFW | TSN |
|--------|---------|-----|-------|-----------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| W6LFB | Jim | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | |
| WB5LXJ | Greg | 0 | 1 | | | | | |
| | Garland | 1 | | | | | | |
| K1PKZ | Paul | 6 | 6 | | | | | |
| | | 0 | | | | | | |
| K5QOW | Gary | 10 | 10 | | | 4 | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | |
| K5RG | Ken | 1 | 8 | | | | | |
| * | | 7 | | | 5 | | | |
| N5RL | Randy | 25 | 46 | 10 | 8 | 3 | | |
| * | | 21 | | | | 18 | | |
| WB9SJZ | George | 0 | 1 | | | | | |
| | IN | 1 | | | | | | |
| KD5TXD | Pat | 6 | 6 | 6 | | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | |
| NA5YO | Doug | 7 | 14 | | 7 | | | |
| | | 7 | | | 7 | | | |
| Totals | | 309 | | 62 | 62 | 51 | 36 | 0 |
| | | | | 100% | 100% | 82% | 58% | 0% |
| QTC 1 | | 46 | 94 | | | | | |
| QTC 2 | | 48 | | Sessions: | | 62 | | |
| Time 1 | | 290 | 554 | | | | | |
| Time 2 | | 264 | | | | | | |

Operating:

Nothing additional this month for this section since the HAM SPAM article is excellent and the new QNI Newsletter elaborates on several topics. Recommended reading.

...

I attached the February composite Central Area report to last month's statistics E-mail, so I will not include it here. There was a significant increase in NTS Digital traffic and a moderate increase in voice/CW traffic in March.

NTS Central Area Activity for March 2016

| Net | Sessions | QTC | QNI | QTR | Rate |
|---------------------|----------|-------|----------|------|-------|
| RN5 Cycle 2 | 36 | 52 | 332 | 419 | 0.124 |
| 9RN Cycle 2 | 13 | 260 | 120 | 125 | 2.080 |
| 10RN Cycle 2 | 13 | 96 | 106 | 120 | 0.800 |
| | | | | | |
| RN5 Cycle 4 | 60 | 168 | 345 | 673 | 0.250 |
| 9RN Cycle 4 | 45 | 65 | 142 | 275 | 0.236 |
| TEN Cycle 4 | 57 | 138 | 252 | 469 | 0.294 |
| | | | | | |
| CAN Cycle 2 | 13 | 209 | 126 | 291 | 0.718 |
| CAN Cycle 4 | 30 | 167 | 221 | 341 | 0.490 |
| | | | | | |
| TCC Cycle 2 | 26 | 167 | 25 | | 96% |
| TCC Cycle 4 | 93 | 239 | 82 | | 88% |
| | | | | | |
| Total Voice/CW Nets | | 1561 | 1751 | 2713 | |
| | | | | | |
| NTS Digital | | | Received | Sent | |
| WB9FHP CADC 9RN | | 5130 | 2690 | 2440 | |
| W5SEG RN5 | | 715 | 419 | 296 | |
| KM0R 10RN | | 570 | 288 | 282 | |
| DRS Stations (20) | | 4063 | 1935 | 2128 | |
| | | | | | |
| Total NTS Digital | | 10478 | 5332 | 5146 | |
| | | | | | |
| Total Central Area | | 12039 | | | |

Until June, thanks for all your support of NTS.
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

(February) I want to start the month of February Texas Slow Net Corner by welcoming David AB5S from Nevada, Texas to the Texas Slow Net. David checked into the net on February 19th. Welcome to the net David and please check in as often as you can.

Jim N5NVP from Scott, Louisiana checked into the net on February 25th. It was good to hear Jim on the net.

I also want to introduce our newest net control station. Howard WB5IDB is the new Wednesday evening NCS. Thanks for taking the position Howard.

TSN Activity Reports

| Month | QNI | QTC | Nr. Operators |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|---------------|
| February 15 Sessions | 49 | 14 | 8 |
| March 18 Sessions | 64 | 18 | 8 |

Net Control Stations

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|
| No Net | No Net | Carroll KB5TCH | Howard WD5IDB | Jason KD5RQB | Sam KK4HCF | No Net |

February 2016 QNS

| Name | Callsign | QNI |
|---------|----------|-----|
| SAM | KK4HCF | 15 |
| CARROLL | KB5TCH | 14 |
| JASON | KD5RQB | 9 |
| MIKE | WD0ESF | 6 |
| DAVID | AB5S | 2 |
| STEVE | KB5KWO | 1 |
| SKIP | KW5AS | 1 |
| JIM | N5NVP | 1 |

March 2016 QNS

| Name | Callsign | QNI |
|---------|----------|-----|
| CARROLL | KB5TCH | 17 |
| SAM | KK4HCF | 17 |
| HOWARD | WD5IDB | 14 |

| | | |
|--------|--------|----|
| JASON | KD5RQB | 10 |
| HOWARD | WD5IDB | 3 |
| SKIP | KW5AS | 3 |
| MIKE | WD0ESF | 2 |
| RON | KX5C | 1 |

TSN Roster (November 2015 to December 2016)

| Callsign | Name | QTH |
|----------|---------|-------------------------|
| KW5AS | Skip | VICTORIA, TEXAS |
| KX5C | Ron | SILSBEE, TEXAS |
| W5CBP | Chris | ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO |
| W5DY | Rodney | GOLIAD, TEXAS |
| WD0ESF | Mike | MEDICINE LODGE, KANSAS |
| W9GVW | Eric | SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS |
| KK4HCF | Sam | MARYSVILLE, TENNESSEE |
| WD5IDB | Howard | EDMOND, OKLAHOMA |
| KB5KWO | Steve | NORMAN, OKLAHOMA |
| KD5MMM | Phil | FENTRESS, TEXAS |
| N5NVP | Jim | SCOTT, LOUISIANA |
| KD5RQB | Jason | ATLANTA, TEXAS |
| AB5S | David | NEVADA, TEXAS |
| KB5TCH | Carroll | DOUGLASSVILLE, TEXAS |

Stop by any evening Tuesday through Friday 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 and 2130 CT on **3567**
Alternate Frequency 7108 (early) or 3598 when conditions warrant
Serving TX, OK, LA, AR, MS, TN, AL, and NFL
Frank Thrash W4DLZ (W4DLZ@ARRL.NET)
RN5 Net Manager

Hello guys and welcome to Edition 47 of the **RN5 Corner**.

We are getting close to losing our Grid...

In Fact, NHS Task Force Executive Director Dr. Peter V. Pry says the EMP threat is growing and the state of the US electrical grid has become very vulnerable.

EMP pulse attacks are becoming more certain.

Can't pass along more data at this time, suffice it to say we really need CW and Boat Anchor gear and/or solid state gear tucked away in an air tight microwave oven for protection.

We need to get some old gear on the air and ready for backup operation.

Just thought I'd cheer you up a bit.

Tom, WA4ZPZ, is still waiting for the leaking power company device to be fixed. The engineer came out and replaced what he thought was the problem, but it did not eliminate the high noise level, so Tom is now waiting for other equipment that was ordered to be installed by the power company. Now that the time has changed, Tom cannot operate on any early nets or even CAN because it is still light and he is forbidden to put up his antenna until after dark by the homeowner association and deed restrictions.

Good to hear Jack, K5WNU back on again. Also want to thank Dick, WA5CAV, for his continued reliable coverage of LA on RN5. And, of course, the net would not exist without all the hard work of Jerry, W4SU, taking CAN liaisons and NCS positions that would otherwise be missing.

While Andy, W4SQE, checked in a few times, he has not been on that much. TN traffic may be given to the TEX liaison station to give to K6JT, since he has outlets via the daytime RN5 net in TN. Of course, on Wednesdays, K5RG is the DRN5 liaison in addition to being the TX rep and can take the traffic directly.

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 | W5FEA | W4DLZ | W5CU | W4SU | W4SU | W4DLZ | Open (W4SU) |
| NCS #2 | W5FEA | W4DLZ | W5CU | K6JT | W4SU | W4DLZ | Open (W4SU) |
| CAN TX | Open (W5CU) | NA5YO | W5CU | W4SU | W4SU | NA5YO | Open |
| CAN RX | Open (W5CU) | NA5YO | W4SU | K6JT | Open | NA5YO | Open (W4SU) |
| DRN5 | Open | Open | K5RG | Open | Open | Open | Open |

2016 Statistics

| MONTH | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
|----------|----------|-------|
| SESSIONS | 57 | 60 |
| QTC | 174 | 168 |
| QNI | 353 | 345 |
| QTR | 672 | 673 |
| AVG QTC | 3.1 | 2.8 |
| AVG QNI | 6.2 | 5.8 |
| AVG QTR | 11.8 | 11.2 |

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 | K8KV | BEN | FL |
| WA4BAM | JOHN | FL | N5NVP | JIM | LA |
| WA5CAV | DICK | LA | K4PG | KEVIN | FL |
| W5CU | SAM | OK* | WA5PRI | DON | LA |
| W4DLZ | FRANK | FL | KZ8Q | BEN | AL (FL) |
| 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 | K5TSK | JIM | AR |
| K5GM | PETE | TX | K4VIZ | TOM | AR** |
| W8IM | DEAN | FL | K5WNU | JACK | MS |
| K6JT | STEVE | TX | NA5YO | DOUG | TX |
| K5KV | BENNY | 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