

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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As some of you know, I've been missing many of the early net sessions for the last 2 weeks due to being with my uncle at a local hospital. He had been in the Intensive Care Unit in critical condition on life support for nearly 2 weeks with aspiration pneumonia. On Friday the 3rd, at the advice of his doctors, his wishes, and the wishes of my aunt, he was taken off the respirator and moved to another hospital room with oxygen and IV treatment continuing. He passed away on Saturday, the 4th. Family members have come in from other states and will continue to do so for a few days for the upcoming memorial service, so my time is somewhat limited. Thanks to all of you who were aware of this for your prayers and good wishes. Also thanks to those who jumped in to fill the voids in NCS and liaison duties while I was with him and my aunt and other family members.

Furthermore, I will be leaving for northern California on the 11th, returning late on the 22nd, to be with my parents and my wife's parents. None of them are doing very well and need our assistance and care. I will need fills for my regular liaisons, listed below, as well as the Friday and Saturday RN5 liaison slots that I often fill in the absence of a regular volunteer. In my absence, I have asked Floyd, N5EL, who checks into the net as much, or even more often, than I do to collect all NCS reports. Please send them to Floyd, who will forward them to me, starting on the 11th (including any earlier days if I am unable to QNI to get them due to family affairs this coming week).

I need volunteers to fill the following while I'm in CA. Please E-Mail me if you can help.

NCS Slots: **Wednesday, March 15th**, both early and late, **Thursday, March 16th**, early, **Wednesday, March 22nd**, early with possible late backup as well if the flight is delayed in arrival.

RN5 Slots: I have generally been covering the Friday slots, both early and late, and also some Saturday slots to back up Don. We still need regular liaisons on Thursday and Friday nights. **7 PM NCS Stations:** Please ask for an RN5 liaison station volunteer for both early and late sessions these nights as well as any other night when the regular liaison does not check in.

TCC Echo: QNI to CAN (see frequencies and times under the TEX Weekly Schedule chart) as "to PAN" on **Thursday, March 16th**. The regular NCS on CAN is Tom, KØSN.

Then meet Lanny, KØEZ, on 3652 at 22:10 to 22:15 local time to pass any traffic received from CAN. Lanny is in Colorado and usually has a good signal.

TCC Fox: **Thursday, March 16th**, 22:30 local, QNI to PAN on 3652 when the NCS, who is usually Scott, W7IZ, in Oregon calls for “station Fox”. Then meet Tim, N6SUZ, as assigned by the PAN NCS to receive any traffic for the CAN area. Received traffic can be routed via any convenient means or simply held until Friday and sent to the RN5 liaison (or on RN5).

Send me any TCC reports (just which station you met and the number of messages passed or QRU) and I will forward them to the proper place. Thanks in advance.

I am not sure how to fill the DFW liaison slots. Perhaps Martin, NV5D, or Si, K5JRN, can take some of that traffic in my absence.

I have heard nothing more regarding the policy about bulk messages in the past month. We have had numerous messages from the usual sources during the past month as well as some from Ray, K1JPG, in Florida, who had been off the air for several months. The volume has not been heavy, though, and I still believe we need this type of traffic in reasonable amounts.

Conditions were generally pretty good this past month, but with a few nights of long skip to plague us. NCS stations, please continue to ask a distant station (from you) to call for QNI to the net if you suspect “long skip” conditions are present.



I have been toying with the idea of creating a simple web site with TEX information and access to all the past newsletters. That project will have to wait a while, though, as you can understand from the foregoing discussion. If you have ideas or suggestions, I'd be happy to receive them from you via E-Mail. I have a couple of ISP accounts under which I can create the site.

Although I did not receive a complete “profile” from anyone for inclusion in this month’s newsletter, I did receive a couple pictures from Charlie, W5GKH, to share with you. The first picture, shown at left, came with a caption from Charlie as follows: “If you don't believe that I am 256 years old, here's how I looked in 1832 at age 82 when I was a Sergeant in the Texas Militia, 3rd Co. Austin Btn.”

(Sorry, Charlie, but I don't think color photography was quite that good 174 years ago, or did you sneak a digital camera into the time machine with you? – Ed.)

Here is a photo made by my wife during the aftermath of Katrina. I was NCS on the 7290 H&W Net for several days.

73, Charlie, W5GKH

By the way, did you know that West Columbia, where Charlie lives, was once the capital of Texas before it moved to Austin? I didn't know that, either, until recently. Steve



TEX Net Topics:

Please join me in welcoming Martin, NV5D, who lives in Allen, about 2 miles from my QTH, and Rodney, W5DY, in Goliad (somewhere between San Antonio and Corpus Christi) to TEX.

Rodney is returning to TEX and NTS after a long absence, and writes the following: I became a ham in 1975 and didn't own a microphone for use on an HF rig until 1983. I was CW only. I found that SSB did have some merits, so I got involved in the TTN, doing liaison work to CW nets and eventually took a slot as NCS. Even now, I still don't get a lot out of talking on HF. But, working the traffic nets is different. When I was working CW only, I missed out on a lot that was happening on the SSB nets, so I started "talking".

I have been involved with the Texas CW traffic net since about 1979. In the early 80's, I got brave and started doing RN5, then it was easy to progress to CAN. I loved working guys from the east and west coasts, and we passed a lot of traffic back then. It was nothing to come from the region nets to Tex CW with 10 pieces of traffic.

Then, after the nets were over, the real fun began. Two other guys and myself started a CW rag-chew session after late Tex. This would go on for sometimes 2 hours each night. That is without a doubt, the best rag chewing I have ever experienced. We started out only using keys to send, but then the keyboard thing came out and two of us got

keyboards. The third guy had to get one in self-defense, because he couldn't send over 35 wpm with a keyer, hi hi. This keyboard stuff didn't last too long, 'cuz it just ain't CW.

Anyway, in 1991, I went to Kuwait to put out the fires, and this started my overseas working career and put a stop to ham radio. I was off the air from '91 until January of this year. It sure feels great to have a rig in the shack again. I bought just about everything off E-bay. Rig is an Omni V, antenna is a double G5RV, and I have a titan amp and 238 tuner on the way. Usually an amp no good for QSK CW, but once in a while it helps. I am NCS on TTN Wednesday night and getting tired of somebody saying "I can't hear net control", so the titan will fix that. 73, Rodney, W5DY.

Thanks, Rodney, and we're very glad to have you and Martin with us !

The following shows the current NCS and liaison station assignments. Look at all those "**Open**" listings! Please consider volunteering to fill one.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

| Local | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---------------|--------|---------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| NCS #1 | K5HHS | KA5KLU | K6JT | Open | K5HHS | AC5Z | AC5Z |
| Backup | | | N5EL | K6JT | N5EL | AC5XK | |
| NCS #2 | W5GKH | KA5KLU | K6JT | Open | N5PWG | Open | W5GKH |
| Backup | | | N5EL | K6JT | K6JT | AC5XK | |
| RN5 #1 | W5GKH | KA5KLU | W5TFB | Open | Open | AC5XK | W5CU |
| Backup | | | | AC5XK | K6JT | KA5KLU | W5GKH |
| RN5 #2 | W5GKH | KA5KLU | W5TFB | Open | Open | AC5XK | W5CU |
| Backup | | | | AC5XK | K6JT | W5CU | |

TEX/1: 3643 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 3643 at 22:00 local
 RN5/1: 3650 at 19:30; CAN: 3670 at 20:30; RN5/2: 3650 at 21:30 local

RN5 Backups: N5EL, K5JRN, K6JT, KJ9J, KA5KLU, K5RG, W5TFB, AC5XK, W5DY
 NCS Backups: N5EL, K5HHS, K5JRN, K6JT, KA5KLU, N5PWG, AC5XK, AC5Z

Statistics:

This month the most check-ins were again by Floyd, N5EL, who had a great QNI record with 48 out of 56 (86%), even more than my own QNI total. Way to go, Floyd!

TEX Net Statistics February 2006

| | | | total | NCS | RN5 | TTN | DFW | CTTN |
|-------|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Call | | QNI | | | | | | |
| W5CDX | Wads | 3 | 7 | | | | | |
| * | | 4 | | | 1 | | | |

| | | | total | NCS | RN5 | TTN | DFW | CTTN |
|--------|---------|----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| AC5CI | Homer | 24 | 26 | | | | | |
| | | 2 | | | | | | |
| W5CU | Sam | 7 | 11 | | 5 | | | |
| * | | 4 | | | 4 | | | |
| NV5D | Martin | 5 | 5 | | | | | |
| | | 0 | | | | | | |
| W5DY | Rodney | 13 | 24 | | 2 | 5 | | |
| | | 11 | | | 2 | 1 | | |
| N5EL | Floyd | 20 | 48 | | 1 | | | |
| * | | 28 | | | 1 | 2 | | 2 |
| W5ESE | Scott | 5 | 6 | | | | | |
| * | | 1 | | | | | | |
| W5GKH | Charlie | 8 | 16 | | 5 | 2 | | |
| * | | 8 | | 8 | 5 | | | |
| K5HHS | Roger | 21 | 21 | 9 | | 12 | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | |
| KJ9J | Newt | 15 | 15 | | 1 | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | |
| K5JRN | Si | 1 | 2 | | | | | |
| * | | 1 | | | | | | |
| KD5JSS | Dennis | 2 | 3 | | | | | |
| | | 1 | | | | | | |
| K6JT | Steve | 19 | 46 | 8 | 3 | | 19 | |
| * | | 27 | | 9 | 5 | | 27 | |
| K0KJ | Eric | 1 | 2 | | | | | |
| * | | 1 | | | | | | |
| KA5KLU | Doug | 5 | 9 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| * | | 4 | | 4 | 4 | | | |
| W6LFB | Jim | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | |
| N5NVP | Jim | 1 | 5 | | | | | |
| | | 4 | | | | | | |
| N5PWG | Jay | 4 | 12 | | | | | |
| * | | 8 | | 4 | | | | |
| K5RG | Ken | 7 | 20 | | | | | |
| * | | 13 | | | | | | |
| W5TFB | Jack | 3 | 8 | | 3 | | | |
| * | | 5 | | | 4 | | | |
| KD5TXD | Pat | 15 | 30 | | | 6 | | |
| * | | 15 | | | | 13 | | |
| W5UFK | Ken | 1 | 2 | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|-----|-------|-----------|-----|-----|------|------|
| | | | total | NCS | RN5 | TTN | DFW | CTTN |
| * | | 1 | | | | | | |
| K5UN | Lee | 5 | 8 | | | | | |
| | | 3 | | | | | | |
| AC5XK | Don | 6 | 15 | | 4 | 1 | | 6 |
| * | | 9 | | 3 | 1 | 3 | | 9 |
| AC5Z | Bert | 16 | 16 | 8 | | | | |
| * | | 0 | | | | | | |
| Totals | | 358 | | 56 | 55 | 45 | 46 | 17 |
| | | | | 100% | 98% | 80% | 82% | 30% |
| QTC 1 | | 72 | 155 | | | | | |
| QTC 2 | | 83 | | Sessions: | | 56 | 100% | |
| Time 1 | | 473 | 857 | | | | | |
| Time 2 | | 384 | | | | | | |

Notes: Each station has 2 lines, the first is for session 1 at 7 PM and the second for session 2 at 10 PM. Similarly, the totals at the bottom are divided for each session. Percentages are calculated based on the total number of net sessions for all except “sessions”, which is based on total net meeting times.

TEX Net Stations (QNS)

| Call | Name | Location / Notes | Call | Name | Location / Notes |
|---------|---------|-------------------|--------|-------|----------------------|
| KF9AS* | Megan | Dallas | KA5KLU | Doug | San Antonio |
| N5BA* | Brian | Houston | W6LFB | Jim | Denton |
| W5CDX | Wads | Crowley LA | WA5MUF | Bill | Watauga |
| AC5CI | Homer | Caldwell | KB5NJD | John | Duncanville |
| W5CU | Sam | Edmond OK | N5NVP | Jim | Leesville LA |
| NV5D | Martin | Allen | N5PWG | Jay | Pasadena |
| W5DY | Rodney | Goliad | W5RCP | Ron | Houston |
| N5EL | Floyd | Temple | K5RG | Ken | Houston |
| W5ESE | Scott | Dripping Springs | N5SIG | Randy | Huntsville |
| W5GKH | Charlie | West Columbia | KC5T | Bob | Houston |
| K5GM | Pete | Austin | W5TFB* | Jack | College Station |
| K5HHS | Roger | Mathis | W5TV* | Tom | Nacogdoches |
| KB5IZO | David | Irving | KD5TXD | Pat | Kingsville |
| KJ9J | Newt | Pharr TX (winter) | W5UFK | Ken | College Station |
| K5JRN | Si | Denton | K5UN | Lee | Leonard |
| KD5JSS | Dennis | Temple | KS5V | Ed | Bulverde (SA) |
| K6JT | Steve | Plano | AC5XK | Don | San Antonio |
| KA5KAB* | Carl | Baytown | AC5Z | Bert | Nacogdoches (Lufkin) |
| KØKJ | Eric | San Antonio | | | |

* Stations with unknown or not working E-Mail addresses. Jack, W5TFB, still has only intermittent E-Mail capability.

Operating:

This month, I have documented the remaining “QN” signals. Refer to last month’s newsletter for general information. There may be a test, so read them carefully (i.e., I might use some on my NCS nights ;-) Until next month, see you on TEX !

73, Steve K6JT

Less Commonly Used QN Signals

| QN | Meaning | Usage |
|------|---|--|
| QNG | Take over as net control station | Normally used by the net manager or current NCS to ask another station to take over control of the net due to poor conditions, equipment problems, or time constraints. |
| QNH | Your net frequency is High | May be used by the NCS to inform a station checking in that his frequency is higher than a few hundred Hz from the NCS’s frequency. |
| QNJ | Can you copy me? Or Can you copy (station call) | An abbreviated method for an NCS to ask if one station can copy another if a relay is needed or by stations assigned to handle traffic. |
| QNK* | Transmit message for To | NCS uses this to direct a station to send a message. For example, if NV5D has one for RN5 and W5DY is the RN5 liaison, NCS would say “NV5D QNK RN5 W5DY” (usually followed by the frequency – up or down offset – to use). Optionally add “after xxx” if W5DY is currently receiving messages from someone else there – but see QNQ below for a better way in that case. |
| QNL | Your net frequency is Low | May be used by the NCS to inform a station checking in that his frequency is lower than a few hundred Hz from the NCS’s frequency. |
| QNM* | You are QRM’ing the net. Stand by. | NCS uses this to tell a station who is transmitting without permission to stop doing so (in a “nice” way). |
| QNN | Net control station is (when sent by NCS) or “Who is NCS?” (when sent by others) | Always used as part of the net startup by the NCS. Less commonly used to ask who the NCS is by a station checking into the net late. |
| QNQ* | Move frequency to and wait for to finish, then send him traffic for | Very abbreviated way to send a station off frequency where another station is currently handling traffic. Using the QNK example, QNQ would do this much more efficiently by sending “NV5D QNQ U3 W5DY RN5”. |
| QNR | Answer and receive traffic. | Might be used by the NCS when sending a station off frequency to receive messages (as opposed to sending them where QNK or QNQ is used). If W5TFB is up 3 sending traffic and N5EL has said he can QSP one that W5TFB has listed, NCS would send “N5EL QNR W5TFB U3”. |
| QNS* | Following stations are in the net (NCS follows with list). Or “Request list of net stations”. | The first form would be used by an NCS when making a report to the net manager. The second form might be used by a station that was just asked to QNG. |
| QNT | Request permission to leave the net for Minutes. | Used when a station knows there is traffic waiting, but he must leave to take a short phone call, take burning dinner off the stove, etc., and will return afterward. |
| QNW | How do I route messages for? | Used by a station with outgoing traffic that is unsure of how to list it. Normally used on higher level nets to distinguish between state, region, and area net destinations. |

* NCS usage only