

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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Daylight Time Changed March 14

As I wrote in an E-mail to all of you, we changed to Daylight Time on Sunday, the 14th. TEX remains at the same local time with these time changes, but UTC shifts an hour with early TEX now at 0000Z and late TEX at 0300Z. All other NTS nets in the Central Area also move in UTC time an hour earlier, including both RN5 and CAN.

Note that most of the rest of the world does not change to what they call "Summertime" until the last weekend this month. So if you have schedules with DX stations or relatives overseas, note this anomaly, brought on by an act of the U.S. Congress a few years back. Supposedly we save energy by switching early. But having the lights on early in the morning versus at night seems like a pretty poor way to "save". I guess you can tell that I do not like switching to Daylight Time. Takes me a good 2 weeks before my body adjusts. Sort of like having jet lag.

While early TEX is likely to have weaker signals to contend with, late TEX will probably benefit from the change with less chance of long skip setting in on the net.

Reminder: The 7290 Picnic is next month

Hope you will consider coming to the 7290 picnic on April 24. So far, I've only heard from Jay, N5PWG, about plans to attend.

Details are on the 7290 Net's web site of <http://www.7290trafficnet.org/> with more details being posted as they become confirmed.

Reminder: TEX Website has Changed

As of this writing, the old website will likely be inoperative, so please change your "favorites" URL for TEX to:

http://homepage.mac.com/sr_phillips/K6JT_TEX/

Note that those are underscore characters between sr and phillips and K6JT and TEX.

See the "Operating" section for additional news and happenings.

The Day Australia Called

By Scott Laughlin / n7net, Printed with Permission, Copyright 2008

Dave Phillips, WB7VSN, a native of Southern California, learned American Morse as a youngster. As soon as he learned how to reach the Los Angeles Southern Pacific Train Depot by city bus he was often found there awaiting an opportunity to operate an idle telegraph wire. By the time he'd graduated from high school, he was a station agent.



Dave at his Landline Operating Position

World War II interrupted his train career where he was General Douglas MacArthur's personal telegrapher. After the war he became a Southern Pacific train dispatcher.

After forty years he retired and became an amateur radio operator, as did many others who had spent their lives directing trains hither and yon by means of telegraph. But Marks and Spaces ran deeply in their veins and it wasn't long before they discovered that by using discarded 8-bit computers and modems their telephone lines would emulate Western Union wires. Soon, they were dialing one another and rehashing days of old while using American Morse.

In 1990 Phillips responded to the American Morse Club's urging and formed a Eugene, Oregon Chapter. A host of retired railroad and Western Union telegraphers quickly became charter members, including several women.

When Morse first came into use there were two codes—American and International. The United States chose American because of its many special characters that supported the livestock and grain markets, Wall Street and Baseball, not to mention railroads, Western Union, Associated Press, and the U.S. Postal Telegraph while the rest of the world selected International.

Both systems share many characters. However, C, F, J, L, O, P, Q, R X, Y, Z, all numbers, and all punctuations are different.

Dave, a master of both, never gave much thought to the differences. International was heard through the radio headphones while American was copied over the phone line. And he responded accordingly.

On 2 April 1991 the world celebrated Samuel Finley Breeze Morse's 200th Birthday. In keeping with the spirit of that festivity, Australia's counterpart to America's AT&T, as it was in 1991, provided 24 hours of free landline service to the Alice Springs Radio Club. After contacting everyone they knew on the continent, it seemed fitting to join the celebration at the Hotel Blackstone in Chicago, Illinois. Unfortunately, the only United States phone number they could find belonged to Dave Phillips in Eugene, Oregon.

Dave, having already enjoyed a dozen American Morse contacts that morning, was prepared when the phone rang. But after copying the initial message, he discovered that the fellow on the other end was sending him garbage. The A was okay, but after that he couldn't read enough characters to make one single word. Who was this guy, he wondered?

When the fellow turned the wire back, Dave sent an American Morse question mark, asking him to send everything again. But in International Morse the Australian read a DN. Alice Springs, totally confused, sent an International Morse question mark, which in American Morse was a period.

Sometimes, when old landline telegraphers, turned amateur radio operators, become excited they start mixing American and International characters, an incident commonly called "Box Car-ing." Dave, who had been involved in this confusion a time or two, recognized the problem and responded in International Morse.

The Hotel Blackstone phone number was sent to Australia and then Morse code laughter was exchanged over the wire, which is the same for both languages. HI HI. HI HI.

Thank you, Scott, for an interesting tale. Floyd, N5EL, upon reading this story, passed along the following: I recommend and encourage any who likes the rhythm of the code learn American Morse and find the pleasure of real rhythm. !!! The hardest part for me was catching onto the make and break of the sounder. It's so easy once you begin to hear it. Once you learn it use it to get proficient !!! Those of us who love it will keep it going... lets promote !!

Pat is being encouraged right along by me. A good place to do it is on any freq we can find clear and if necessary learn 3 or 4 characters, etc. at a time. Same rules apply and the only rule to be watched, as far as I know, is ID in International Morse, just like we do now. Pass this around to anyone who might be interested working with me on the air. If so, make contact. I'm not a pro but love the stuff as you well know.

Sadly though, our days seem limited at our Museum now because we just don't get asked much. We're hoping the spring school tours will bring us back. Norm is 92 now. 73, Floyd

TEX Mailbox:

Tom, NK5Z, corrected my caption for the picture that appeared in last month's newsletter. I incorrectly referred to it as a "Blue Racer". In fact, it is an "Original" model that was shown. Here is a picture of the "real" Blue Racer, alongside the Original. Tom additionally wrote: I have both bugs connected to the IC-PRO III and ready for service. The bug with the solder is a 1958 Original Deluxe that I purchased used on the Internet. The Blue Racer was what I had ordered from Vibroplex before I received the Original through the mail. By the way, the Blue Racer 2000 that I have is a slower key than the Original. Not sure why, but the Original without the



solder and only the two weights is probably about 8-10 or so words per minute faster than the Blue Racer with the same weights fully extended.

I have really enjoyed CW for the first time in many years and I honestly believe it is because of the group of great operators on the TEX CW NET. I don't think I would feel this way if I hadn't started checking in with you all. For that I am very glad that I have had the opportunity to meet everyone that I have on the air and maybe someday you all will make a good CW operator out of me... some day.

73,
Tom, NK5Z

Note that Pat, KD5TXD, and Floyd, N5EL, also collect (and use) multiple bugs, Tom.

Scott, N7NET, added some info regarding the bugs:

Vibroplex used to offer an accessory that lengthened the armature for slowing down the dit rate. It wouldn't be difficult to fabricate something.

There's been some discussion about keeping the bug in place while sending. The old land line telegraphers used to keep the rubber feet sanded down to live rubber and they'd spit on the feet and they'd stick to the table surface like a suction cup.

[http://www.qsl.net/n7net/72/73 de Scott/n7net/QRP](http://www.qsl.net/n7net/72/73%20de%20Scott/n7net/QRP)

Scott, W7IZ, Oregon STM and RN7 manager sent along this humorous story that showed up on the Elecraft reflector. Thanks, Scott!

MAN HOSPITALIZED WITH ANXIETY OVER HAM RADIO

Southland County Morning News

Southland -- A ham radio enthusiast was admitted to County Hospital today suffering from anxiety over what he perceived as serious problems with his new radio, authorities reported Tuesday.

Irv Stumpo, 55, of East Pharsalia, checked into the emergency room "in distress," according to the nurse on watch just before midnight Tuesday. "He was perspiring profusely and moaning over and over, 'My K-3 is no good, no good'," said Paula Stevens, a nurse at County. "He had enormous headphones clamped tightly on his head which we had a ton of difficulty removing, and he was also wearing ear buds," she said. "Isn't that strange? He was half incoherent but kept mumbling something about dynamic range and audio artifacts. I have no idea what that means."

Randy LaHood, a fifteen year emergency room veteran, said that during an examination Mr. Stumpo went into considerable technical detail about a radio he had recently purchased from Elecraft, a company that makes high-end ham radios. "He began by explaining that his radio had 'noisy receiver' and 'mushy signals'," explained Dr. LaHood. "From what I could gather, he had just spent a lot of money on a radio and hadn't actually noticed any of these problems

himself, but others in a internet group kept putting the ideas into his head," he said. Over a course of weeks, Stumpo became distraught over various imperfections in what Dr. LaHood said was a classic case of the power of suggestion.

The hospital records also said that Stumpo drew mathematical figures he labeled "AGC slope", and filled four pages by writing "AGC off", "Ear Isolation" and "K3" repeatedly. Hospital officials could not explain the cryptic scribblings.

Dr. LaHood said that Stumpo repeated the phrase "mushy AGC" for at least four hours while he waited for treatment. Other patients who were in the waiting room at the time moved to the other side of the room for fear he might endanger them. J. B. Archer was one of those in the waiting room at the time who had brought in his twelve-year-old son with a basketball injury. "Good ol' boy was pretty upset, I just told him it would be alright, but he wouldn't let up with 'I can't pick out the pileups'. I thought he had been involved in a big accident on the highway. Then he said other things like 'the impedance of my headphones' and 'ride the R. F. gain'. Then he started with 'diversity problem' and I thought maybe he was having trouble with racial relations. He was in terrible shape, I'll tell you that."

Rick Culver, president of a local ham radio club, told the Morning News in a telephone interview, "A lot of these guys spend five or ten thousand dollars on a radio they think is going to be absolutely perfect in every conceivable way. When it's not, they go into a panic buying lots of other accessories which promise to fix the issue they think they're having. This is followed by a deep buyer's remorse." He went on to recount a recent case which epitomized this effect. "We had one guy who had a radio that put out 95 watts instead of 100. He went berserk and ended up smashing his radio with a baseball bat. Not everyone gets that violent, but he never would have worried about it if it hadn't been for an internet forum that drummed it into his head twenty four seven that his radio was broken."

Hospital officials said that Stumpo was treated with sedatives and is being kept for observation.

Don't let this happen to you! – Try Ten Tec ☺ -- Ed

Lee, AA5J, relayed some mis-directed Plano traffic to me. He also wrote: I kinda miss Plano, well, except for the traffic and noise. This place is RF quiet, S0 most of the time. Surprising how hard it is to find stuff here in the Little Rock area. I have a 55' TeleTower and a 45' US Steel Tower laying in my back yard and can't find anyone to stand them up... Guess I'll have to enlist some of the other Old Goats around here. Means I have to have a BBQ & SUDS supper after the party. HI HI

Pat WB5NKD has been out of service, having cataract surgery, so Arley has been filling in for her. He has been sending me a LOT of Texas and Arkansas traffic. We don't have a good local NTS system here, so I have been taking most of it to RN5 and or DRN5. Also, KB0OFD has been sending me a lot of his Arkansas traffic on WINLINK.

73

Lee AA5J

Pat, KD5TXD, writes: We have been preparing for our Train Days of Kingsville celebration. I had not planned on getting pulled into the preparations as much as I have been. I made another trip to visit a model train show in Stafford on Feb 20th. It was a smaller event, but I am still stunned at how fanatical the train people are.

Charles had to work so I traveled with Eddie, our Kingsville Events Coordinator. I never knew there was such a job as Events Coordinator.

This time we had a vendor table. We weren't selling anything other than inviting people out to visit Kingsville for the event. Eddie and I manned the table for the day. I brought along a couple sounders and keys. That was the best idea ever. Everyone stopped at our table. They were drawn by the keys and sounders. The telegraph was a critical part of railroading back in the day so the model people loved getting a look at a working sounder.

I could have sold the sounders and keys three times over. I had not planned on selling anything so I had my favorite keys and sounders along. The folks loved hearing my museum stories about the telegraph system. I would draw the folks in and Eddie would pounce on them about our up coming Train Days of Kingsville. What a team!! Bottom line, it is all about CW!!

73!! Pat KD5TXD

Pat also reported that **Floyd, N5EL**, was diagnosed with 5 ruptured discs in his back – 4 in the lower back and one higher up. As a result, he will have a lot of trouble sitting up to get on the radio. We all hope and pray for relief and proper treatment for you, Floyd, and will look for you on the net whenever you are able to make it.

TEX Net Topics

We still have **12** open NCS/liason slots, with **4** open *primary* NCS slots and **3** open *primary* RN5 slots (all shown in **red**)! Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday are in dire need of regular NCS stations for early TEX. Thanks to Scott, W5ESE, for picking up some of these. I have made you the “official” backup on Tuesday now, Scott, considering the great job you have been doing. Jay, N5PWG, has really gotten the hang of NCS and RN5 operation. Thank you, Jay, for your efforts, too. Kudos go to ALL the regular NCS stations for your continued excellent performance – W5GKH, KD5TXD, N5PWG, and W5DY.

Thanks also to Sam, W5CU, Scott, W5ESE, Tom, NK5Z, and Rodney, W5DY, we have managed to get through another month without missing any RN5 schedules. Backup NCS stations, if you don't hear the net start by 3 minutes after the hour, even if it is not your night as alternate, please go ahead and call up the net. Be sure to tune up and down 2 KHz, though, and also check 3643 on Friday and Saturday nights to make sure there is no NCS.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	Open	KD5TXD	Open	N5PWG	Open	W5GKH
Backup	Open	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	Open	KD5TXD	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	Open	K6JT	Open	K6JT

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
RN5 #1	W5GKH	Open	W5CU	NK5Z	N5PWG	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	NK5Z	W5DY	Open	W5ESE	W5ESE	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	NK5Z	W5CU	NK5Z	K6JT	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	W5DY	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH

TEX/1: **3541** at 19:00 local; TEX/2 **3541** at 22:00 local

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

TSN: 3552 - 19:45 local; CAN: **3552**/7108 - 20:30 local; PAN: **3552**/7052/3557- 22:30 local

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, KA5KLU, K5RG, NK5Z

NCS Backup: W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, KA5KLU, KD5TXD

Statistics:

Check-ins were about the same as last month, but traffic count was back up, nearly double. Tom, NK5Z, maintained his 1st place QNI position with 49 (88%). Rodney, W5DY, with 34 (61%) came in 2nd. Jay, N5PWG and Mike, W5TMO tied for 3rd with 23 (41%), just edging out Scott, W5ESE, who had 22. Thanks to all who checked in for your support.

There were no visitors this month. However, I want to especially thank Jim, N5NVP, for helping us clear a lot of "orphan" traffic. You are a great resource and help, Jim. Thanks!

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.5 per net session (way up from 1.3 last month). Net time averaged 13.1 minutes per session (compared to 11.8 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.2 per session (up from 5.1 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (February 2010)

		QNI	total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
N5BA	Brian	3	5						
		2							
W5CU	Sam	11	18		7				
*		7			7				
W5DY	Rodney	19	34	7	2				
		15		5	2				
N5EL	Floyd	9	9						
*		0							
W5ESE	Scott	22	22	1	6				2
*		0							
W5GKH	Charlie	6	14	6	3				
*		8		8	4				
K5GM	Pete	1	1						
*		0							
W9GVV	Eric	2	3						
*		1							

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
KJ9J	Newt	4	4						
*		0							
K5JRN	Si	7	7						
*		0							
K6JT	Steve	13	41	5			13		
*		28		9	7		29		
W6LFB	Jim	1	1						
*		0							
N5NK	Rondel	0	2						
		2							
N5NVP	Jim	0	6						
		6							
N5PWG	Jay	13	23	3	3				
*		10		3					
K5RG	Ken	4	16						
*		12							
W5TMO	Mike	0	23						
*		23							
KD5TXD	Pat	5	8	5					3
*		3		3					3
AC5Z	Bert	5	5						
*		0							
NK5Z	Tom	24	49	1	7				
*		25			8				
Totals		291		56	56	0	42	0	8
				100%	100%	0%	75%	0%	14%
QTC 1		36	139						
QTC 2		103		Sessions:		56			
Time 1		340	734						
Time 2		394							

The roster has not been updated since last month.

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	N7NET	Scott	McKinney
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria (ex-KA8IXC)	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr
N5BA	Brian	Houston	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City OK
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
NV5D	Martin	Allen	* N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5SBE	Larry	Austin
K5GM	Pete	Austin	KC5T	Bob	Houston
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5TFB	Jack	College Station

AA5IJ	Bob	Pasadena	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KA9IKK	Bill	Houston	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
AA5J	Lee	Arkansas	* KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	AI6U	Chris	Sacramento (CA)
K5JRN	Si	Austin	W5U FK	Ken	College Station
K6JT	Steve	Plano	* K5UN	Lee	Leonard
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	K5WQG	Eddy	Tomball
W5KNN	Ed	Bulverde (was KS5V)	KM5YQ	David	Dallas
K5KV	Benny	Star	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches (Lufkin)
W6LFB	Jim	Denton	* NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)
WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga			

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

There is a movement afoot to have the ARRL petition the FCC to (at least) allow CW use of 3600 to 3800 by all license classes, General and above. As you know, 3600-3700 is currently Extra-only and is allocated to SSB use. This move was triggered by Pete, K5GM, who circulated a Yahoo group mail chain from the Eastern Area NTS. I picked up on it and contacted Mickey, K5MC, the Delta Division Director, as well as our own director, David, K5RAV. At David's suggestion, I contacted Dick, N6AA, the SW Division Director since I knew he was active on the Southern California (CW traffic) Net in years past when I was manager. Here are excerpts from the E-mail chain and a few of the Yahoo group postings for your information:

(E-mail chain from most recent to oldest)

Dick,

Thanks for the response. Anything you can do to at least, as you say, open up 3600 to 3800 to CW use by General and above classes would be much appreciated. If we can at least get that much pushed through, then it presents the opportunity to develop some "gentlemen's agreements" as to the use of that segment for voice / data / CW, per your other preference. That would be a great test of the concept. If it works, then the next step would be to push for that on all HF bands.

I am sure Directors David and Mickey will work with you on this as well as other directors who are either active or ex- CW traffic handlers. I believe David thought that you would be the best to broach the subject at a board meeting as you are the most senior in office of the 3.

I would be glad to get the Central and Eastern Area NTS staffs involved (Rob is already in agreement) if that would help. Please advise if there is anything more we can all do.

73,

Steve

Steve,

I am personally in support of opening up the 3600 to 3800 segment to all classes for CW and digital modes. Most of the time, those frequencies are fairly empty.

I believe the CW traffic people should be able to use them as they did previously, but also the phone operators. I see no benefit obtained by pushing the CW nets out of those frequencies, or restricting their operation to Extra Class licensees.

But then, I'm in favor of getting the FCC out of the business of making rules about how our bands should be segmented by mode or bandwidth. I believe we amateurs can manage our frequencies quite adequately as we now do on 160 meters, and as essentially the rest of the world does on all bands.

Note that this viewpoint is not shared by all ARRL board members. Many think American hams need government direction. The board sent the allocation by bandwidth proposal to the FCC a few years ago, with a split at 14112.5 kHz for example! I voted against the proposal, but was outvoted.

I'm not sure that having me sponsor a motion to accomplish what you want would lead to the result you would like, but I'll certainly talk to other board members about it.

73,

Dick Norton, N6AA

On Wed, Mar 3, 2010 at 9:56 AM, Steve Phillips <k6jt@arrl.net> wrote:

Howdy Dick,

You may remember me from the days when I was SCN NM in the mid to late 70's (and then SCN and RN6 NCS until I moved to Texas in 1993). I recall you were on SCN, I believe with the call W6DGH, during those days. I am now located near Dallas and am currently the NM for the Texas CW NTS (multi) Section Net. I'm contacting you at the suggestion of my division director (David, K5NAV) in the hope that we can get the league to sponsor something to the FCC to either "get back" at least 50 KHz (3600-3650) of the 80 meter band for CW and Digital use and/or to allow all license classes to operate CW in the 3600-3700 frequency range.

I don't know if you are still active in CW traffic handling, but if you are, then you have undoubtedly observed how difficult it is to conduct NTS business on weekends. I have included (below) a thread originated by the Eastern Area NTS staff describing some of the problems they face. We also have those sorts of problems in the Central area and, I know from my TCC Fox skeds where I QNI PAN, as well as an input to the thread from Hank, W6SX, the Pacific Area is also adversely impacted. The remaining "sliver" of 80 meters is simply not large enough to support the CW traffic nets and digital NTS (as well as other) stations without significant degradation of net operation, particularly on weekends.

At least 2 other division directors (K5RAV, as mentioned earlier) and Mickey, K5MC, the Delta Division director, will support some sort of League action in this matter. Rob, K6YR, the PAS Chair is also in favor, as are the EAS and CAS members.

Thank you for anything you can do to help us keep NTS alive.

73,

Steve K6JT

----- Forwarded Message

From: "Dr. David Woolweaver" <k5rav@ix.netcom>
Date: Tue, 02 Mar 2010 14:28:59 -0600
To: Steve Phillips <k6jt@arrl.net>
Subject: Re: 3600 Khz

Steve:

The best move would be to convince Dick Norton to offer a resolution to the Board at the July Board of Directors meeting directing the ARRL counsel to petition the FCC for a change in the band plan. I doubt if a specific isolated band plan change would be adopted by the FCC, but it is a start.

After thinking about it, it might be better to do some brain storming as to the best way to proceed. I think that I am correct in assuming that the FCC would not consider an isolated band plan change. There may be a much better way to proceed. In the meantime, get Dick on board.

David

Steve Phillips wrote:

Thank you, David. I think there are now at least 3 directors who would support this -- yourself, Mickey (K5MC), and most likely also Dick Norton (N6AA) the SW Division director. I remember he used to check into the Southern California (CW) Net when I lived there many years ago.

So how do we get such a move started? Likely need inputs from the Area Staffs of the NTS as well, all of whom are "on board" according to the message thread that was circulated.

73,
Steve

Steve:

Moving the Extra Class phone band to 3600 KHz was an error of judgment on the part of the FCC. The ARRL never asked for an expansion of the phone band to 3600 KHz. You were correct in assuming that. Frankly, I expected to see the FCC move the phone band to 3700 Khz to take in the abandoned Novice band. I was wrong.

I would support appealing to the FCC for a move to 3650 or, better, 3700 KHz. The segment 3700-3600 KHz is a great area for CW and digital operation. Thank you for including me in the distribution.

David

(Excerpt from Yahoo Group follows)

I don't know if you subscribe to this group, but here is an interesting discussion of NTS CW net frequencies. Put your oar in!

I have always felt that the limitation to Extra above 3600 was stupid; the phone band expansion to 3600 likewise; should have been 3650.

73

Pete K5GM

> 1a. EPA Net Move?

> Posted by: "N3SW" n3sw@arrl.net

> Date: Thu Feb 25, 2010 2:01 pm ((PST))

>

> We are considering moving the EPA CW net frequency higher up in the
> 80-meter band. We get quite a bit of QRM on 3537 which seems to be a
> popular calling frequency, and we have monitored 3570 at 7pm and 10pm ET
> and have not heard any net activity there. The "CW Net Matrix" that we
> used during the great net relocation of 2006 shows that frequency as in
> use by the "MST" or MTN" (both acronyms appear depending on where you
> look) which I believe must be Mountain States or Montana Net? Anyway we
> haven't heard them here.

>

> Any thoughts or advice from the group would be welcome.

> If this is the wrong forum for this query let me know where it should be
> directed.

>

> 73

> Scott N3SW - EPA NM / EPA STM

> 1b. Re: EPA Net Move?

> Posted by: "W2RU - Bud Hippisley"

> Date: Thu Feb 25, 2010 3:44 pm ((PST))

>

> Scott --

>

> This is probably "half" of the right forum for your query. I am taking
> the liberty of also posting your inquiry and my reply to the Eastern
> Area Staff reflector.

>

> FCC, aided and abetted by recommendations from ARRL, has crammed too
> much activity into the first 100 kHz of 80 meters. It's clear from
> listening to the second 100 kHz (3600-3700) that too much space was
> given to phone and other wideband modes. It would have been really nice
> if the digital modes now allowed in 3570 - 3600 had been put above 3600.

>

> But that's history. I mention it only to point out that your
> observations are not unique. It's impossible to find a frequency for a
> CW net on 80 that isn't guaranteed to be bothered by either digital
> stuff nightly or contest activity every weekend. As a matter of fact,
> while you are looking at moving the EPA CW net UP the band, I'm looking
> at the possibility of moving EAN DOWN the band! (But not as far as
> 3537....)

>
> ARRL's original "band plan" proposal for 80 had digital modes starting
> at 3580. That's one of the reasons I put EAN on 3577. Then they and
> the FCC threw us for a loop with the expansion of the digital segment
> down to 3570 when the final Notice came out. So I would say to you --
> be very careful about getting too close to 3570. I would listen at EPA
> net times for an entire week or two to get a sense of what kind of
> digital activity might be common there. If you use any side frequencies
> on EPA net, remember to account for those, too.

>
> Another possibility for EAN which I am also considering is to move EAN
> even higher, ABOVE 3600. The problem with this is that the FCC, in
> their infinite wisdom, only allows Extra Class operators up there --
> even on CW!!! However, that might be something that EAN could live
> with. But I doubt you'd want to put that limitation on your section
> net.

>
> I'm glad you sent your e-mail around -- I hope we'll get some further
> dialog that can benefit you and possibly other nets / net managers
> wrestling with the same issues.

>
> Bud, W2RU
> Manager, EAN C4
> Keeper of the 80-meter Net Matrix

> 1c. Re: EPA Net Move?
> Posted by: "Glenn Killam" ve3gna
> Date: Thu Feb 25, 2010 4:15 pm ((PST))
> Apparently on this side of the border Industry Canada subscribes to the
> K.I.S.S. principle. Our simplified band plan allows CW operation over
> the entire 75/80 meter band, with a few exceptions. Why FCC could not do
> likewise escapes me. If they want to place class restrictions on
> amateurs do so for voice operation only. CW should be allowed
> everywhere. As a for instance, the Atlantic Provinces Net (APN) still
> operates on 3654 khz with no problems nightly at 7 pm ET. I am sure that
> a nearby frequency could be found for EAN if it chooses to relocate.
> 73,
> Glenn

> On Feb 25, 2010, at 7:11 PM, WI2G wrote:

>
>> As a fellow victim of the 3570/3580 snafu (both nets I manage, ESS and

>> 2RN/4, meet on 3576), I echo Bud's sentiments. You may end up worse off
>> on 3570 than you were before; CW QRM is easier to deal with than that
>> from the myriad of digital modes out there, which eat a CW signal alive.
>> Seems to me that the ARRL is most unresponsive--again--to a situation it
>> had a big hand in creating. NPRM, anyone? I've seen 'em for reasons a
>> lot more frivolous than this.

>

> I, too, have thought about an NPRM. I would suggest this, however: I
> think I'd want to first let sympathetic members of the ARRL Board know
> of the reasons for our concerns and our intent. And I'd also want to
> have some input from Dave, K1ZZ, at ARRL HQ. I understand that there's
> a fair chance we'd be advised to "forget it", but at least we would have
> done our "due diligence", and no one could say we hadn't kept them
> informed. Even if all we managed to accomplish, as VE3GNA suggests, is
> to remove the Extra Class CW limitation from the 3600-3700 segment, it
> would be a worthwhile petition.

>

> Bud, W2RU

>

> On Feb 25, 2010, at 7:39 PM, Hank Garretson wrote:

>

>> Be careful about mixing apples and oranges--regulations and band plans.
>> FCC allows RTTY from 3500 to 3600 kHz. The ARRL Considerate Operator's
>> Frequency Guide suggests 3570 to 3600 kHz for RTTY.

>

>

> Both CAN and PAN are on 3552. The worse of both worlds. They get clobbered
> by CW during CW contests and RTTY during major RTTY contests.

>

> Until recently, Japanese RTTY stations were restricted to 3520 to 3525 KHz,
> and it was common for US stations to work them there, particularly in
> contests. The Japanese RTTY segments are now 3520 to 3530 kHz and 3599 to
> 3612 kHz (fat lot of good that does for US stations). US stations still go
> to 3520 to 3530 kHz in contests.

>

> My recommendation is something like 3560. High enough to avoid all but the
> most major CW contests and low enough to avoid all but the really major RTTY
> contests. As EAN knows all too well, 3577 is subject to lots of RTTY
> interference even during non-major contests.

>

> Good luck.

> 73,

> Hank, W6SX

>

> W2RU responded:

> Yes, I was over-simplifying the situation in the interest of brevity.

> My interpretation/recollection of what happened:

>

> 1. The FCC chose to drop the Amateur Extra phone band down to 3600,

> under the guise of aligning the boundary between the 80-meter and
> 75-meter bands with the general guidelines/recommendations for the three
> ITU regions: namely, no phone, SSTV, or other "wide" bandwidth
> emissions below 3600. Note: They were not required to do this; they
> CHOSE to do this, perhaps with ARRL recommendation (I'm too lazy to go
> back and look up the details of the ARRL proposal). And as we all know,
> there's PLENTY of phone operation BELOW the ITU recommendations in all
> the regions. In fact, despite the boundary cited by FCC in their
> regulations, Canada allows phone EVERYwhere. It's only the courtesy of
> Canadian operators that keeps our lower CW bands clear of strong phone
> signals.

>

> 2. The FCC then "went crazy", prohibiting anyone below Amateur Extra
> class from using the 3600-3700 segment -- regardless of mode. Since
> "Amateur Extra" is a uniquely USA category, clearly this had nothing to
> do with ITU guidelines, as VE3GNA has made clear with his summary of
> equivalent Canadian regulations in that segment.

>

> 3. The ARRL's original "Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide"
> specified 3580 - 3600 for digital modes. That was later and quietly
> expanded, probably because of undocumented and unpublicized pressure
> from somewhere. It would have been "Considerate" (to coin a phrase) if
> ARRL had bothered to check with other publicized users of the 3570 -
> 3580 segment before revising the "Considerate...Guide", don't you think?

>

> I'm fully aware that RTTY is allowed all the way down to 3500 -- I hear
> it all over the band in every major RTTY contest (about once every three
> weekends, on average, it seems). Personally, I think it would be much
> nicer if RTTY contests could operate above 3600. I bet the RTTY
> operators would enjoy not having QRM from CW stations just as much as CW
> stations would enjoy having some non-RTTY frequencies on those evenings.

>

> But RTTY is not the primary problem that EAN faces on a nightly basis
> (other than those major RTTY contests). Rather, it is the QRM from the
> "unknown" digital mode(s) being used nightly by operators who clearly do
> not listen by ear to what may or may not be on 3577 before they start
> up. I say "unknown" because I have a couple of popular digital logging
> programs here that are incapable of dealing with this crap.....errr,
> stuff. (I know, that wasn't very politically correct of me, was it?)

>

> So let me re-phrase my objections:

> 1. FCC was wrong to expand the USA phone band all the way down to
> 3600. (3650 would have been a very nice expansion.)

> 2. FCC was wrong to limit the segment 3600-3700 to Amateur Extra
> only. ALL licensees should be allowed to operate CW there.

> 3. FCC was wrong to prohibit the use of RTTY and other common digital
> modes above 3600, even while allowing SSTV and other image modes above
> 3600.

> 4. ARRL was wrong to propose/support those boundaries before, during,

> or after the rule-making came down.
> 5. ARRL was wrong to unilaterally, without notice to affected users
> of other modes, change its "Considerate" RTTY/digital segment lower
> boundary from 3580 to 3570.
> 6. ARRL continues to be wrong in not petitioning for revisions to
> some or all of the above.
>
> That's the "nice" version. In brief, the whole thing was, and remains,
> a crock and a sell-out of CW.
>
>>
>>
>> My recommendation is something like 3560.
>
> That's fine -- for ONE net in each time zone or area. Or a FEW nets
> between 3560 and 3570. With each section net having a side frequency or
> two, that would make it pretty crowded above 3550. Hank is right --
> given the present rules and digital operating patterns, 3560 (plus or
> minus) is kind of the obvious choice. But we can't ALL be there at the
> same time.
>
> Bud, W2RU
>

There you go. If you made it this far, you must be interested in this topic (or you are having insomnia). Send your thoughts and/or ideas to our director and your own Section Manager. E-mail addresses are in QST.

Until next month, 73, Steve

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)



TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3552.0 KHz +/- QRM
http://www.atcweb.com/tsn/Texas_Slow_Net.htm
 Pat Allison KD5TXD (pja@atcweb.com)
 TSN Net Manager

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT

Greetings from the Wild Horse Desert – home of your TSN Manager

Here are the stats from February. Thanks to everyone who checked in with TSN and helped us with training lessons. We held our own this month even with February being a short month. I always feel cheated in February. Hi!! Remember, if you hear someone checking in with QTC that means they have traffic they need to pass for delivery. Listen for the city they announce after saying QTC. If it is near you and you can deliver the traffic then let the net control know that you can QSP meaning take the traffic and deliver it. That is what the training is all about.

February 2010 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	TX	WA5MUF	Bill	Stafford	TX
KD5CB	Mike	Hillsboro	TX	N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX
K6CD/5	Joe	Katy	TX	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr	TX
WB9CIS	John	Morton	IL	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	TX	AA5NZ	Web	Goldthwait	TX
K5END	Larry	Spring	TX	K4OSO	Milt	Rockville	VA
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	K9PUI	Rich	IN	IN
WD0ESF	Mike	KS	KS	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
WB9FLU	Bill	Columbus	IN	KI5T, KC5AML	Wade	LA	LA
WB5GFU	Al	Alamo	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park	TX	KA5TJS	Allen	San Augustine	TX
AE5GT	Clint	Wimberley	TX	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
KA8IXC	Dan	Victoria	TX	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	KD5VGJ	Jay	Flower Mound	TX
W5JBV	Mike	Panama City	FL	W4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
K5JE	Earl	Claremore	OK	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
W5JKK	George	Bethany	OK	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
K6JT, W0CXX	Steve	Plano	TX	KM5YQ	David	Irving	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches	TX
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX	NK5Z	Tom	Conroe	TX
KE5LOT	Club	Fentress	TX	KD5ZLB	Edwin	Shreveport	LA
WA5LOU	Lou	Kennard	TX				

Welcome to New and Visiting Stations

Please invite your pals who like CW or want to brush up on CW to join us on TSN. The Texas Slow Net is great for learning about traffic handling by copying the lessons, which are in NTS format. It is a safe place to do some practice before you jump into the wild world of traffic handling. TSN is also a good spot to get warmed up for one of those contests. (Oooo, did I really say that??) Yes, with 15 and 10 meters opening more it is fun to wander down there to

tease the testers. There is nothing more frustrating to a tester than a CW op who wants to rag chew a little.

See you on the air!! Bring some traffic to TSN. It is good practice.

TSN Activity Report for February 2010

Total Sessions 28, Total Checkins 136, Total Traffic 24 by 15 different operators.

February QNS

Feb QNI	Callsign	Name	QTH
28	WB5NKC	Arley	OK, Oklahoma City
28	WB5NKD	Pat	OK, Oklahoma City
16	AA5JW	Carl	TX, Stafford
12	N5NK	Rondel	TX, Zephyr
10	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills, TX
9	W5ESE	Scott	TX, Dripping Springs
8	KD5MMM	Phil	TX, Fentress
6	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	TX, Kingsville
4	KB5TCH	Carroll	TX, Douglassville
4	KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park, TX
4	W5DY	Rodney	TX, Goliad
3	WD0ESF	Mike	KS
2	AA5J	Lee(Chuck)	AR, Cabot
1	NK5Z	Tom	TX, Conroe
1	K0CMH	Craig	MO, St Louis

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

March 9, 2010