

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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May-June 2016



7290 Traffic Net Picnic

The 46th annual 7290 Traffic Net Picnic was held on May 28. Please check the net's web site at <http://www.7290trafficnet.org> for photos.

Since I was unable to attend, Rodney was good enough to read the speech I had prepared, which I will include in this newsletter for those of you who were also unable to make it. Thanks to Rodney for representing us all and providing the following synopsis:

The picnic and our presentations went well. I couldn't believe it, but John N5AUS only spoke for 9 minutes. That has to be a record for him. It turned out good though, because it allowed me to use all of my speaking time as South Texas Section Traffic Manager and as Assistant Net Manager of our Texas CW Traffic Net.

During my STM speech, I spoke about several topics, mostly ham radio trivia. One was the story about where 73 came from. Actually, there are 2 versions of the story, but the one about the 1873 rifle I don't really believe. There was a story about Al Capone and his lawyer "Lucky Eddie".

My speech ended with the story of the \$20 bill. I asked who wanted it. All hands went up. Then I crushed it and asked again "who wants it". Again, the hands went up. Then I dropped it on the floor, stepped on it and ground it into the dirt. I asked again "who wants it". Again, the hands went up. The \$20 bill still retained its value. That shows that people can be crushed, stomped on and ground in the dirt, but will still retain their value.

I read the letter Steve sent me about the NTS Central Area Staff of which he is the Chair. It was 3 pages long, but thankfully I was able to read it with only a couple of booboo's, so it did not take very long at all and seemed to be received very well.

Also included in the letter was what Steve wanted me to say about the Texas CW Traffic Net. Then at the end of all this, I told everyone about Jim W5FEA being the recipient of the Pfeiffer Pfist Award. I took the newly refurbished award out of the box and displayed it for all to see.

I was too busy just doing all that talking, so I did not get to take any pictures.

The TEX net members in attendance were: Doug NA5YO, Randy N5RL, Eric W9GVW, Skip KW5AS, Gary K5QOW and Rodney W5DY. Howard WD5IDB was there also.

Prepared Speech from K6JT

Good afternoon, and thank you all for coming. I apologize for not being able to join you again this year due to the care of my 91 year old blind and disabled father. My regular elder sitter decided to go out of town for the holiday weekend.

Thanks to Rodney for delivering my message to you all. I am sure he will do a great job and you will enjoy hearing his golden tones (smiley face).

I have several topics to discuss with you both as the manager of TEX and also as the Chair of the NTS Central Area Staff.

First off, I want to thank the liaison stations from the Texas CW Net who so ably carry traffic to and from the Texas Traffic Net and 7290 Traffic Net. In particular, I want to recognize the service of Jim, W5FEA, who is the regular early TEX liaison to the evening session of TTN, bringing outgoing region traffic to TEX and taking incoming Texas traffic back to TTN before the evening session ends, or to the 7290 net the next day. Many thanks also to Randy, N5RL, who is the regular late TEX TTN and 7290 liaison station, taking incoming Texas traffic from the region 5 net to one or both of those nets for delivery.

Thanks also go to Doug, NA5YO, and his wife Lucy, N5RLQ, for their efforts in generating traffic to all parts of the country, helping to keep NTS active, both the cycle 2 SSB nets and the cycle 4 CW nets.

Special thanks to George, K5BMR, and of course Jo Ann, KA5AZK, for their expert help in both the cycle 2 Central Area Net as well as accepting incoming traffic from the digital side for delivery in not only Texas, but also Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas via the fantastic coverage of the 7290 Traffic Net.

Finally, I cannot thank all of you members of the 7290 Traffic Net and Texas Traffic Net enough for your excellent service in handling and delivering the volume of traffic that comes into our area from the upper levels of NTS. I applaud you all. (Pause - applaud)

Now I will tell you about some of the things happening in NTS around the country.

As you may recall, we, the area staffs of NTS, were directed by the ARRL Programs and Services Committee to create a new NTS Manual last year. They had already split off the ARES portion of the Public Service Communications Manual and had a new ARES Manual produced entirely without notifying or even advising NTS leadership that they were doing so.

As part of their request, NTS was directed to come up with methods to handle FEMA ICS-213 forms in addition to the standard radiogram format.

We in the NTS leadership responded by authoring a new document, retaining much of the 1996 version of the NTS portion of the PSCM but also updating it with the ICS-213 information and bringing it up to date with current practices and a more readable style. That document was submitted to the Programs and Services Committee in January. To date, they have not acted to approve it or have it published on the ARRL Web site. The old versions of the PSCM and the Methods and Practices Guide are still there.

You should be aware that there are what we have come to call "NTS Haters" that are influential on the ARRL board and even new officers. However, we in NTS are actively working to overcome their undeserved scorn and elevate NTS to the place of honor at which it belongs. More on that later.

I diverge. Back to the new manual and MPG. I have made links on my K6JT.COM website to both the 2016 NTS Manual that was submitted to the ARRL and also the addendum to the NTS Methods and Practices Guide that calls out how to handle the ICS-213 messages on voice and CW as well as digital.

I know many of you who have seen the ICS-213 information are quite concerned about having to handle this form, which was never intended to be used for anything but a 3-carbon copy paper document at local Emergency Operations Centers. I can assure you that NTS will NOT be seeing these messages in any large part. The procedures exist purely to assist ARES personnel should they need to pass the data outside their local domain. Furthermore, we have defined the format so the ICS-213 data fits into the TEXT portion of a standard radiogram and procedures for handling them via digital means have existed for years in the NTS Methods and Practices Guide.

So do not be put off by the very time-consuming and difficult procedures that are defined for handling ICS-213 data, which can be viewed as something like a free-text E-mail message. The standard radiogram format remains our primary tool for passing message traffic of all kinds via voice, CW, and digital.

To emphasize how the radiogram is primary, I'd like to tell you a little about an upcoming exercise next week for which NTS was contacted directly (not via the ARRL) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA. There will be a nearly week-long FEMA and local Emergency Operations exercise in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and parts of Northern California in preparation for the possible slippage of what is known as the Cascadia Subduction Zone where the North American Plate sits atop the Oceanic plate for a long distance along the Pacific Northwest coast. It has been hypothesized that this plate will slip within the next 50 years, generating a magnitude 9, or more, earthquake and massive Tsunami. Since this is very close to the Pacific Coast, there will undoubtedly be massive destruction and loss of life and property as well as widespread infrastructure failures of telephone, power, water, and the Internet.

The NTS portion of this exercise, which is called "Cascadia Rising", is limited to passing messages from the Pacific area to the FEMA headquarters in Washington DC, and will take place on June 8 and 9. There is a practice run occurring today, even as you hear this. FEMA has agreed that ONLY the standard ARRL radiogram format will be used. Furthermore, they are considering taking action to specify that the ICS format is not to be used for any but local

operations. So if you are active in the ARES and county EOCs, you will likely see them and perhaps need to work with them in your county. But they will not be coming to NTS except under the most serious conditions where all communication other than radio is non-functional. And then, it is not likely they will be passed via other than NTS Digital.

I said the NTS portion of the exercise was limited... FEMA has asked us only for a proof of concept demonstration of how NTS can move messages from a widespread disaster area back to FEMA headquarters. We have set up to do this using mainly Transcontinental Corps operators, primarily on CW, but also to some extent on SSB, and NTS Digital. The traffic must move from the Pacific to Eastern areas as quickly as possible, so none of it will be handled via the existing nets at lower levels, although there might be some TCC linkup arrangements made through the daytime Central Area Net that meets on June 8. We in the central area have only a relay responsibility when propagation is poor for direct pacific to eastern traffic flow. So we are not really heavily involved.

So there you have a little inkling of what has been keeping those of us in the upper levels of NTS busy. I could go on about how successful the NTS booth was at Dayton, but I think you will be reading about that in other publications soon.

Now to return to Texas CW Net business...

Rodney worked very hard to re-do the Pfeiffer Pfist award plaques, and I am very pleased to congratulate and thank the 2016 recipient of this highest TEX award. Jim, W5FEA, is very deserving of this recognition for his tireless support of TEX as an NCS and Region 5 net liaison station as well as TTN and 7290 liaison. Jim also supports the Region 5 Net, where he has taken on some NCS duties.

What you also should know is that Jim has had a 100% attendance on TEX every month since October of 2013. Yes, that means he has been on every TEX early and late net every day for nearly 3 years straight. Truly amazing dedication.

OK, Jim. Here's your recognition for all that work. Now you can relax and take a night off once in a while (smile). (Make the presentation)

Thank you all for your attention and continued support of the National Traffic System.

73,
Steve K6JT
Manager TEX
Chair NTS Central Area Staff

Congratulations to Jim, W5FEA on his Pfeiffer Pfist Award



As you read above, Jim, W5FEA, shown here in a picture from the 2014 7290 Traffic Net picnic, was awarded the Pfeiffer Pfist award. Also as mentioned, Rodney did a great job of re-working the award to add more plaque name tags and restore all that were already present. The result is shown in the pictures that follow.

When I started researching information, I was astounded to find that Jim's 100% QNI record stretched back nearly 3 years !! During that time, he has regained his CW skills from years ago and is an important member of not only TEX, but also RN5, the Texas Traffic Net, and the 7290 Traffic Net. Thank you, Jim, for all your support!

Pfeiffer Pfist Award



Since it is difficult to read the plaque from the pictures, here is a list of recipients that are either still active or recently "retired": Charlie W5GKH 1995, Ed KS5V 1996 (SK), Doug KA5KLU 1999, Bert AC5Z 2000 (SK), Don AC5XK 2002, Jack W5TFB 2004 (retired), Steve K6JT 2005, Floyd N5EL 2006 (SK), Rodney W5DY 2007, Pat KD5TXD 2008-2009, Scott W5ESE 2010, Jay N5PWG 2011-2012 (SK), Randy N5RL 2013, Sam W5CU 2014-15, Jim W5FEA 2016.

40 Meters for Early TEX?

It has been up to each NCS station to choose whether to use 40 or 80 for early TEX since the middle of May. In my observation, most are still choosing to use 80. That is fine, and it works most of the time except when QRN is bad from T-storms in the area. In those cases, 40 is generally better, although there may be long skip zones to contend with. Perhaps it is time to try first opening the net on 7053 and only after assessing the state of 40, moving to 80?

Cascadia Rising NTS Exercise with FEMA

In the speech at the 7290 Traffic Net picnic, I mentioned the Cascadia Rising exercise to take place on June 8 and 9. Luck, WA4STO, was monitoring the 20 meter frequency and so was I in the event the TCC ops in Pacific needed a relay to reach the Eastern TCC ops. That turned out to not be needed, and we were quite pleased with what we could hear. The following “press release”, created by Joe, W3JY, gives you some of the details and more information is in the Operating section of this newsletter. A job very well done, and CW again proved itself as a robust and excellent mode of communication.

Press Release

For Immediate Release

11 June 2016

National Traffic System Supports FEMA’s Cascadia Rising

The ARRL’s National Traffic System debuted its new National Response Plan this past week during FEMA’s Cascadia Rising exercise. At the invitation of FEMA’s Disaster Emergency Communications Directorate, more than forty NTS members in the U.S. and Canada demonstrated the ability to relay situational awareness from a simulated disaster area covering the States of Alaska, Idaho, Northern California, Oregon and Washington to their National Response Coordinating Center at Washington, D.C.

Methods used during this proof-of-concept demonstration project included the NTSD digital network as well as traditional radiotelephone and radiotelegraph networks. All message traffic was transmitted and delivered over RF-only circuits using the universal radiogram format, selected for its proven network management tools and enhanced accountability standards.

The exercise proved the value of consistent, internationally adopted, standard procedures, practiced through regular traffic handling assignments. Some observers compared NTS radiotelegraph nets to the best of military and commercial operations. Transcontinental Corps ops displayed professionalism and skill operating CW under poor propagation conditions. An initial review of TCC traffic shows near perfect accuracy (>99%) with the random, five character groups used for message texts. Coast-to-coast traverse time averaged less than fifteen minutes. One message was relayed in less than one minute.

Cascadia Rising will be the first of many exercises with FEMA designed to enhance the ability of NTS to provide efficient and reliable disaster communications services, especially vital situational awareness in the early moments of a communications failure. NTS enjoys a culture of continual improvement and lessons learned from Cascadia Rising will be used to improve the National Response Plan and provide a basis of comparison for system performance.

Radio Amateurs interested in participating in NTS should check-in to a Section or local NTS net or contact their ARRL Section Traffic Manager. <http://www.arrl.org/sections>.

Additional information about NTS and Cascadia Rising may be found at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/NTS-CR/info> .

Contact:

Mr Joseph A Ames Jr, Chairman ARRL NTS Eastern Area Staff w3jy@arrl.org

The Origin of 73

Rodney passed along the following information about the origin of 73, which he addressed at the 7290 picnic. Some of you may have seen it before, but it is worth another look. Thanks, Rodney.

(Via Louise Ramsey Moreau, W3WRE, & Charles A. Wimer, KC8EHA)

The following is from Louise Ramsey Moreau, W3WRE:

The traditional expression "73" goes right back to the beginning of the landline telegraph days. It is found in some of the earliest editions of the numerical codes, each with a different definition, but each with the same idea in mind - it indicated that the end, or signature, was coming up. But there are no data to prove that any of these were used.

The first authentic use of 73 is in the publication "The National Telegraphic Review and Operators' Guide", first published in April 1857. At that time, 73 meant "My love to you"! Succeeding issues of this publication continued to use this definition of the term. Curiously enough, some of the other numerals used then had the same definition as they have now, but within a short time, the use of 73 began to change.

In the National Telegraph Convention, the numeral was changed from the Valentine-type sentiment to a vague sign of fraternalism. Here, 73 was a greeting, a friendly "word" between operators and it was so used on all wires.

In 1859, the Western Union Company set up the standard "92 Code." A list of numerals from one to 92 was compiled to indicate a series of prepared phrases for use by the operators on the wires. Here, in the 92 Code, 73 changes from a fraternal sign to a very flowery "accept my compliments", which was in keeping with the florid language of that era.

Over the years from 1859 to 1900, the many manuals of telegraphy show variations of this meaning. Dodge's "The Telegraph Instructor" shows it merely as "compliments." The Twentieth Century Manual of Railways and Commercial Telegraphy defines it two ways, one listing as "my compliments to you"; but in the glossary of abbreviations it is merely "compliments". Theodore A. Edison's Telegraphy Self-Taught shows a return of "accept my compliments". By 1908, however, a later edition of the Dodge Manual gives us today's definition of "best regards" with a backward look at the older meaning in another part of the work where it also lists it as "compliments".

"Best regards" has remained ever since as the "put-it-down-in-black-and-white" meaning of 73 but it has acquired overtones of much warmer meaning. Today, amateurs use it more in the manner that James Reid had intended that it be used - a "friendly word between operators". I hope that this helps you in some way...

73,

Charles A. Wimer
Amateur Radio Call: KC8EHA

W4SCO wrote:

Actually "73" was a term the old telegraph operators would use back in the old west days. It meant that they owned a Winchester 1873 rifle (their most prized possession) and that when they died they would give it to the other operator. Hence '73' meant I will will you my 73 rifle. "73s" meant you had more than one rifles that you would give to them (they were a really good friend).

Jim, N2EY wrote:

Hello--It's a nice story, but it has no basis in fact. The actual source of "73" and "88" was the list of numerical abbreviations used by wire telegraphers. These abbreviations were used in a manner similar to Q signals today. Here's a partial list of number abbreviations:

- ☒ 1 - Wait
- ☒ 2 - Important business
- ☒ 3 - What is the time?
- ☒ 6 - I am ready
- ☒ 7 - Are you ready?
- ☒ 12 - Do you understand?
- ☒ 13 - I understand
- ☒ 14 - What is the weather?
- ☒ 17 - Lightning here
- ☒ 19 - Form 19 train order (used by RR)
- ☒ 21 - Stop to eat
- ☒ 23 - All copy
- ☒ 24 - Repeat this back
- ☒ 30 - No more, end
- ☒ 31 - Form 31 train order (used by RR)
- ☒ 44 - Answer promptly by wire
- ☒ 73 - Best regards
- ☒ 88 - Love and kisses
- ☒ 92 - Deliver promptly
- ☒ 134 - Who is at the key?

Note that American Morse was used by landline telegraphers. The signal "30" in American Morse is "..._ . ____" (zero is an extra long dash). This was corrupted into a single character, "..._." which is usually thought of today as SK or VA, with the space between letters removed.

73 (never plural!) de Jim, N2EY

George Hart Series

Here is the second part of chapter 35 of the George Hart Series. Geo continues his newest 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 35B - Geo and WERS (Continued)

Once initial guidelines were set up, after what seemed interminable negotiations with and between innumerable government agencies, FCC came out with a set of Rules and Regulations for the War Emergency Radio Service.

This was not an Amateur Service organization and its R & R were not a part of the Amateur Radio Regulations (Part 12). Licenses were issued to the local governments (towns, boroughs, cities or counties) under officer thereof as trustee and administered by a communications officer and a radio officer. The latter was the head honcho of the assigned WERS operations.

WERS operators had special permits, for which holder must have either a commercial license or amateur operator license of any grade. All operation was restricted to the band 112-115 Mc. The detailed regulations would be too wordy to include here, but from the very beginning it appeared that amateurs would do most of the organizing, operating and the building of equipment for this new civilian defense system. So naturally the League, meaning mostly I, were heavily involved. And I was involved that is, at both a local, county, state and the federal levels.

I was not actually a leader at any of these levels. In my local Newington group the leader was Radio Aide Charlie McLeod, W1AVN. We operated under the auspices of the licensee, which was Hartford County; but I remember that a dispute arose as to whether a town or city within a county could be licensed independent of the county licensee.

This controversy was resolved when the FCC arbitrarily issued a WERS license to the Town of Manchester, Conn., independent of the Hartford County licensee. FCC contended that the Town of Manchester had met all requirements for licensing and they had no reason not to issue the license and refused to revoke it. The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) preferred licensing by counties but was not able to enforce this preference. As a consequence, the small cities, towns, boroughs, and the townships all over the country started taking out independent licenses...the licensing picture soon became a hodge-podge.

The League supported the OCD position, but only nominally. We took no overt action to try to persuade smaller entities to stay within their county organizations. I wrote an article or two in QST outlining the advantages of a county organization, but these were informational only, at the behest of OCD, not intended as propaganda.

Although active at the national level through QST, and through maintaining contacts in the federal government, I participated on my own time at the local level. I remember a request from the state veteran's hospital in Rocky Hill to conduct a class among this hospital's residents to enable them to qualify as WERS operators. I undertook this only with the understanding that the class would not be restricted to hospital residents or veterans. As a

result we had an initial enrollment of about forty pupils, which rapidly dwindled to about twenty. Most were people who had no concept of the requirements of communicators even at the commercial third class level, but all of whom were eager to make some kind of contribution to the war effort, an attitude that was typical of the times.

I brought them to third class commercial level competence and quite above it during the six-week course of once-a-week sessions of two hours each, and we thoroughly enjoyed it. At the conclusion I received a commendation from the head honcho of the hospital for my efforts. I received no pay or any other kind of compensation except my own self-satisfaction, nor had I expected any.

WERS was never put into effect, and not really a success. Of course there never was a need for a civilian defense effort in this country other than preparedness, so how it would have stood up under an actual enemy attack will never be known. In my estimation, however, it would not have been very effective mostly because of inadequate handling at the federal level arising largely from controversy between FCC and OCD, the former being part of the congressional or legislative branch, and the latter part of the executive branch, which were often at odds with each other.

WERS continued operation until after the Japanese surrender, and then was discontinued. Although largely operated by radio amateurs, it is not an amateur radio success story, principally for the reasons intimated above. Such being the case, it is just as well that it never was officially an amateur radio service.

Next in Chapter 36 - George gets Greetings

TEX Mailbox:

From **Sam, W5CU** Apr 28:

NTS Leaders, this is just a reminder that I am going to be splitting time between my OK QTH and a second QTH in southwest CO. We have our "other" second QTH in eastern OK up for sale and will be moving its contents west on May 20th. I anticipate staying out west until sometime in October, with maybe 2 or 3 visits back in OK for a week or so at a time during this time period.

I have been watching 80 and 40 closely for the past three weeks and have to say that continuing to meet my current NTS assignments from CO seems unlikely due to current band conditions - seasonal atmospheric noise levels and poor propagation. Also, with 40 proving to be unreliable, it seems many of the net controls are staying on 80, which is a hard push from 7-land at 0000-0200Z. I intend to give it a try, but I am not optimistic that I can continue and be effective.

All I can tell you is that I will give it my best shot. On the positive side, I will be running 600 watts to the same model of dipole that I use at the current QTHs strung between some tall ponderosa pines, and I will be operating at 7600' (if that means anything!).

Note that Sam is now on the air with a good signal as previously mentioned. Propagation will vary, and early TEX is probably not going to be possible, even on 40, but RN5 on 40 and Late TEX on 80 might work. We are very happy to have Sam whenever he can join us.

- . . . -

From **Tom, K4VIZ** on May 12:

This is a really cool video of WLW (Cincinnati) 500 KW transmitter used in the 30s.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbHjcwloTiY>

I watched the video and it is indeed very interesting - recommended. Thanks, Tom.

- . . . -

From **Jim, W5FEA** on May 31:

I appreciate what you wrote and Rodney's presentation of it at the picnic. Tried to find a way there but it just didn't work out. Fixing to be 77 and don't pay as much attention when I drive as I did once which is about to make me paranoid to be out on the highway any more, plus I absolutely cannot drive safely at night.

What the presentation says makes it sound great, but in reality there are many guys that do a lot more than I do. Sam, for example.....before he went to Colorado for the summer he was on 7290 as an NCS for a short period and anything that came up going out of state he would jump right in and offer to take it to RN5 and sound tickled to death to do it. Randy has no reservations in taking CW traffic.

My little part in it all probably is a little more calculated, getting stuff on 7290 which I know I can pass on TTN, taking TTN out of state to TEX and or RN5, picking up out of state from 7290 on the days George/Mary/Jo Ann/KF5IOU etc. aren't going to SSB CAN Mon, Wed, and Fri afternoons, and doing the TEX Liaison to/from TTN.

Used to be a really good CW op in terms of speed/copying in my head when Rodney (WB5TAY I think was his call then) and Larry W5SBE in Austin and some others gathered after the CW net and zipped along at 40 WPM...but these days sometimes I struggle to plod along at about 20 WPM. I've tried to get on up there which I think I can copy 30 to maybe a little more in my head but can't do much over 27 on the Bencher paddles and can't do that very long til it falls apart, which often happens at 21 WPM which is where my Eagle is set to send at.

Thank you and those who selected me for this award which I will cherish and look forward to participating in selecting the next recipient.

(Update June 13)

Have the award hanging on the wall right directly in front of me with the certificate Rodney sent me some time back just to the right of it, plus a little frame with my call sign from our 7208 group the first time we met at HamCom in Plano. Thanks again for the wonderful job Rodney did on the award update.

- . . . -

From **Ken, K5RG** June 9

I am departing for Pakistan today (Thursday, June 9th) with plans to tentatively return on July 5th (if not earlier). The plan is to trek to K2 base camp. There is no Internet but the expedition will have a satellite phone and should post some reports at <http://madisonmountaineering.com/dispatches/> . I will attempt to keep in touch with Camille so she should be able to post a few notices on Facebook.
73, Ken

- . . . -
From **Ken, K6CTW** June 12
Here is a cool link for your next bulletin!

http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=92864

Note that the date on this story is Jan 2016!

73 - Ken

This article says that the Navy has re-instituted Morse Code training - hooray for them !!

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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, has moved to Colorado for the summer / fall. He maintains his OK QTH as primary and will be back for the winter. However, his RN5 liaison skeds have been shown as "Open" for now. Sam is back on the air from CO and checked into RN5 with a very good signal, both sessions. So it is possible he may be able to cover some of the skeds. We will wait and see before making an assignment. Ken, K5RG, has once again gone to Pakistan to climb the mountain (to the K2 base camp, he hopes). He plans to return around July 5, so his sked is shown in red. Mike, W5TMO, is still off the air and no word has been received on his current status. Charlie, W5GKH, has given 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.

We have a lot of Open slots now, so please consider taking one or more of them. In the meantime, the backup stations are doing a good job.

CAN and PAN have both changed to 40 meters, as have both early and late RN5. 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	Open	N5RL	N5RL	NA5YO	Open
Backup	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5FEA	W5FEA
RN5 #2	W5FEA	NA5YO	K5RG	K6JT	K6JT	NA5YO	Open
Backup	K6JT	K6JT	W5CU	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT

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

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

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

April 2016:

Jim, W5FEA, with 60 out of 60 (100%) was again able to maintain “perfect attendance” toward making it 3 consecutive years. Rodney, W5DY, with 45 (75%) took second, and Randy, N5RL, with 43 (72%) was third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors to the net included Howard, WD5IDB, from OK, George, WB9SJZ, from IN, and Jim, K5TSK, from AR.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.5 per net session (1.5 last month). Net time averaged 10.6 minutes per session (compared to 8.9 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.5 per session (5.0 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (April 2016)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
KW5AS	Skip	5	5					
	Victoria	0						
W5DAE	Don	7	10					
	San Angelo							
W5CU	Sam	16	24		11			
*		8			7			
W5DY	Rodney	23	45	5	1			
		22		9	1			
W5ESE	Scott	2	2					
*		0						
W5FEA	Jim	30	60	8	2	25		
*		30			1	5		
K5GM	Pete	15	41					
*		26						
W9GVW	Eric	12	16					
*		4						
WD5IDB	Howard	0	1					
	OK	1						
K6JT	Steve	17	43	1			17	
*		26		21	11		26	

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
WA5PRI	Don	0	3					
	LA	3						
K1PKZ	Paul	6	6					
		0						
K5QOW	Gary	4	4			2		
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	4					
*		4			4			
N5RL	Randy	23	43	8	10	2		
*		20				17		
WB9SJZ	George	0	1					
	IN	1						
KD5TXD	Pat	9	9	8				
*		0						
K5TSK	Jim	2	2					
	AR	0						
NA5YO	Doug	6	12		6			
		6			6			
Totals		331		60	60	51	43	0
				100%	100%	85%	72%	0%
QTC 1		69	150					
QTC 2		81			Sessions:	60		
Time 1		344	635					
Time 2		291						

May 2016:

Jim, W5FEA, with 62 out of 62 (100%) again maintained his “perfect attendance”. Rodney, W5DY, with 49 (79%) was second, and Randy, N5RL, with 45 (73%) took third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors included Howard, WD5IDB, from Oklahoma, Bill, K5LN, from Roundrock, and Jim, K5TSK, from AR.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 1.9 per net session (2.5 last month). Net time averaged 10.1 minutes per session (compared to 10.6 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.4 per session (5.5 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (May 2016)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
KW5AS	Skip	2	3					
	Victoria	1						
W5DAE	Don	14	26					
	San Angelo	12						
W5CU	Sam	9	14		8			
*		5			5			
W5DY	Rodney	25	49	5	2			
		24		8	1			
W5ESE	Scott	1	1					
*		0						
W5FEA	Jim	31	62	11	5	22		
*		31		1	1	3		
K5GM	Pete	18	41					
*		23						
W9GVW	Eric	7	13					
*		6						
WD5IDB	Howard	2	2					
	OK	0						
K6JT	Steve	13	39				11	
*		26		22	15		26	
K5LN	Bill	1	1					
	Round Rock	0						
KB5NJD	John	5	5				3	
		0						
WA5PRI	Don	0	1					
	LA	1						

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
K5QOW	Gary	1	1			1		
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	2					
*		2			1			
N5RL	Randy	22	45	8	8	4		
*		23				23		
KD5TXD	Pat	7	7	7				
*		0						
K5TSK	Jim	2	2					
	AR	0						
NA5YO	Doug	8	16		8			
		8			8			
K6YBV	Bob	0	2					
	CA	2						
Totals		332		62	62	53	40	0
				100%	100%	85%	65%	0%
QTC 1		56	115					
QTC 2		59			Sessions:	62		
Time 1		343	628					
Time 2		264						

Operating:

As mentioned earlier, here is more information about the performance during the Cascadia Rising exercise, received from James Wades, WB8SIW, the architect of the exercise:

Today, I finished scoring the controlled injects on file against the same messages as delivered to the FEMA NRCC through the conclusion of the exercise. Based on an analysis of 15745 data points, NTS operators achieved an accuracy level of 99.998 percent. This score incorporates the entire messaging process, from initial transmission (or data entry in the case of NTSD), through all intermediate relay points through any final data entry for posting to the NRCC.

The scoring scale was actually more harsh than a linear relationship. For example, if more than one letter was missed in a group, for example two, the entire five letter cipher group was discarded. Three or more errors would have resulted in a message failure, but this never

occurred. Undoubtedly, the group would have performed even better with plain text communications. What can I say? This level of performance not only verifies the original statistical sample mentioned earlier, but proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that experienced NTS operators are truly the "cream of the crop." I'm even more impressed than I expected to be. This meets or exceeds professional standards.

CONGRATULATIONS to all! "ARL Fifty Six Performance"

...

I attached the April composite Central Area report to last month's statistics E-mail, so I will not include it here. Traffic was close to the same in May, as shown below.

NTS Central Area Activity for May 2016

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
RN5 Cycle 2	26	43	243	356	0.121
9RN Cycle 2	12	289	98	135	2.141
10RN Cycle 2	12	89	97	130	0.685
RN5 Cycle 4	60	162	347	659	0.246
9RN Cycle 4	48	94	161	340	0.276
TEN Cycle 4	59	130	219	482	0.270
CAN Cycle 2	13	156	119	431	0.362
CAN Cycle 4	30	169	160	432	0.391
TCC Cycle 2	39	137	37		95%
TCC Cycle 4	90	562	71		79%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1831	1552	2965	
NTS Digital			Received	Sent	
WB9FHP CADC 9RN		3583	1953	1630	
W5SEG RN5		826	489	337	
KMOR 10RN		604	303	301	
DRS Stations (19)		2815	1291	1524	
Total NTS Digital		7828	4036	3792	
Total Central Area		9659			

Until August, thanks for all your support of NTS and have a Great 4th of July holiday.
73, Steve K6JT

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



Photo Courtesy of VE3UU

Greetings From Northeast Texas

Thanks to all of you who checked in to the net the last 2 months, and a special thanks to the net control stations. Howard, WD5IDB, our Wednesday NCS, has started 2 new nets in Oklahoma:

OLN, the Oklahoma Liaison Net, Monday thru Friday on 3592.5 at 1830 local (Section CW Traffic Net), 13-15 WPM, all are welcome.

OTN, the Oklahoma Training Net, Mon-Wed-Fri on 28.150 MHz at 2045 CT (5-8 WPM) (OK City area)

TSN Activity Reports

Month	QNI	QTC	Nr. Operators
April 16 Sessions	48	16	5
May 11 Sessions	37	11	5

Net Control Stations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No Net	No Net	Carroll KB5TCH	Howard WD5IDB	Carroll KB5TCH	Sam KK4HCF	No Net

April 2016 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	16
SAM	KK4HCF	14
HOWARD	WD5IDB	12
JASON	KD5RQB	4
MIKE	WD0ESF	2

May 2016 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	11
HOWARD	WD5IDB	10
SAM	KK4HCF	9
JASON	KD5RQB	4
MIKE	WD0ESF	3

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 **7108**
Alternate Frequency 3567 (late) 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 48 of the **RN5 Corner**.

We are closer than ever having our Electric Grid brought down by an attack in which CW will be imperative.

More NCS and Liaison stations are needed and if you come on board I'll help you in any way you like.

Now during Hurricane season we may need to relay Emergency and Health & Welfare Traffic. Most people can't do these things and you'll be admired and appreciated for doing same. This season is supposed to be an active one for hurricanes in the Atlantic, according to the weather experts, so best be prepared. Have some form of emergency power ready, too.

I'm going to be more available now and will be monitoring 7108 during the day. Note that both sessions of RN5 now meet on 7108 for the summer season.

Thanks for your help and thanks to those who have returned to the Net.

We are very happy to have Ben, KZ8Q, back on the air from FL helping out with both NCS and CAN liaison positions. Jerry, W4SU, remains the "iron man" of RN5, taking much more than a fair share of NCS and CAN liaisons as well as being the sole support for AL traffic.

Heard Jack, K5WNU back on for a while but he went to MD and then to Alaska for some fishing. Back around June 24. Thanks to Dick, WA5CAV, for his continued coverage of LA on RN5 in spite of there no longer being a LA Section Net.

Sam, W5CU, has moved to his summer time Colorado QTH, and just recently finished putting up antennas and has started checking into RN5, both sessions, with a very good signal. We are hoping Sam will continue to support the net as long as conditions remain good from there. He is now shown in Red on the duty roster, and KZ8Q has not yet been added pending working out the details.

K5RG is away until around July 8.

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	Open (W5CU)	W4SU	W4SU	W4DLZ	Open (KZ8Q)
NCS #2	W5FEA	W4DLZ	Open (W5CU)	K6JT	W4SU	W4DLZ	Open (KZ8Q)
CAN TX	Open (W5CU)	NA5YO	Open (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	APRIL	MAY
SESSIONS	58	60
QTC	162	162
QNI	346	347
QTR	665	659
AVG QTC	2.8	2.7
AVG QNI	6.0	5.8
AVG QTR	11.5	11.0

The following roster shows stations coming to RN5 in the past 3 years and their states.

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*/CO	WA5PRI	DON	LA
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	KZ8Q	BEN	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