

# 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 2017



## 7290 Picnic



The 7290 Picnic was held on May 27 at the SPJST Lodge in Beyersville (Taylor), Texas. While I was not able to attend, Rodney, W5DY, read half the speech I had prepared. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half, which was about RRI and how it came to be, was not presented at the request of Jo Ann, KA5AZK. She said she did not think the people there needed to hear it. I have included the entire speech below for your information. Rodney reported that only 4 were present from TEX including himself, Gary K5QOW,



Eric, W9GVW, and Doug, NA5YO. I have included a couple pictures that Rodney sent which were taken by Eric, W9GVW – one of Rodney giving the speech and the other of Rodney and Eric. More pictures can be found on the 7290 traffic net website at:

[http://7290trafficnet.org/mgxroot/page\\_10867.html](http://7290trafficnet.org/mgxroot/page_10867.html)

## 7290 Net Picnic May 2017

Thank you all for coming. I had planned to attend myself, but family matters have arisen that prevent it this year. Thanks again to Rodney, W5DY, for ably substituting for me and presenting this information to you on my behalf.

I am representing not only the TEX CW Net, which is now independent, just like the 7290 Traffic Net, but also as the Central Area Coordinator of Radio Relay International, or RRI.

More about RRI presently. First, as TEX Manager, I want to thank all of you on both the 7290 net and the Texas Traffic Net, for your continued support of traffic handling here in Texas and neighboring states. I particularly want to thank Jim, W5FEA, whom those of you on both nets probably know, for his dedication to moving out-of-state traffic to and from TEX with 7290 and TTN. Jim was the recipient of the Pfeiffer Pfist award last year and we believe he deserves to keep it for another year. I also thank Randy, N5RL, for his duties as liaison to TEX and particularly the 7290 Traffic Net. Right now Randy is undergoing treatment for cancer and is not able to either join everyone here or to be the primary liaison from the late TEX session. That is where incoming traffic arrives from the region and area nets, to be passed to 7290 by Randy, as he reliably did in past months. Thanks again to Jim for filling in that position until

Randy is again able. Randy is still active on early TEX as an NCS and Region 5 liaison station, but is generally not able to support the late nets. As always, a special thanks to Rodney, W5DY, for his excellent support as assistant manager of TEX.

The cycle 2, or daytime, Region and Area Nets meet only 3 days per week. I know some of you are active on the Region 5 net and particularly the Central Area Net. Both are now part of RRI, and continue to handle quite a bit of traffic in spite of the terrible conditions we have been seeing on 40 and particularly 20 meters for CAN. We can always use some more help there, but staffing is pretty stable, particularly since they only meet on 3 days.

As you might suspect, the evening (cycle 4) CW nets are having problems recruiting new operators. They still meet 7 days a week. Because CW is no longer a license requirement, the only ones who seem to be interested in learning it and improving their skills to the level needed to handle traffic are the contest operators. So I once again invite any of you who are here, many old-timers who did learn CW, to again give it a try on TEX at 1900 and/or 2200 Central time on 3541 KHz. The NCS and other stations will slow down to the speed you use to check into the net if you are still getting your fist back again. Many of you know Pat, KD5TXD, who was very active in past years. She has been having significant problems with her rig so has given up her NCS slots on TEX. We truly miss her and hope she will be back again once everything is working satisfactorily. She started out from scratch with CW and came up to a skill level of around 20 words per minute in a couple years with dedication and practice. So can you.

We have one new participant, Don, W5DAE, who is still trying to improve his CW skills. He checks into TEX most nights, both sessions, but he is having a bit of trouble with both sending and receiving. They are slowly improving, thanks to his determination.

I should also mention that the Digital Traffic Network is looking for more Digital Traffic Stations to help move messages from the digital system to the nets like 7290 and TTN where 95% of traffic gets delivered to its final destination. Note that over 90% of the traffic that comes in for delivery comes from the digital system. There are loaner units available to use with your rig. I also urge everyone to look into using Winlink for passage of traffic when conditions on HF are very poor as they have been lately. The DTN modems can be used with Winlink as well or as an interim measure you can also use TELNET, or direct Internet access. For more information see the RRI Digital Operations paper on my K6JT.COM website. Contact me with additional questions or needed guidance.

(Part 2, Not presented)

Our traffic world was shaken up last year around this time when the management at ARRL decided that they would be the only ones to control the National Traffic System. Action was taken, unjustly I might add, to remove the Chair of the Eastern Area Staff, Joe, W3JY. He was also removed from his position as the Section Manager of Eastern Pennsylvania. This caused quite an uproar, but we all continued to operate with the appointed (by ARRL) Chair, Bud, W2RU. An effort to try to hold an election for a new chair in Eastern met with some very caustic letters from the ARRL CEO, Tom, NY2RF, telling everyone that no, all NTS chairs would henceforth be appointed, not elected per the previously approved Terms of Reference documents in existence for all 3 areas. Along with that, both myself as Chair of the Central Area and Rob, K6YR, the Pacific Area Chair were effectively removed from office while they

(primarily Rick, K5UR, the new ARRL President) and others on the newly formed Programs and Services Committee would formulate what they called the new Second Century Plan for the traffic and emergency (ARES) services.

Both myself and Rob were contacted by K5UR and offered the appointment as chairs of our respective areas. I questioned him about what part we would have in helping to formulate the new plan. I was told that no, we would have no part in it but would be subject to the orders of himself and the Programs and Services Committee to be carried out without question.

I did think about it overnight, but decided I could not in good conscience accept such a position with no say in how things should be formulated in the traffic realm. So I turned him down, as did Rob, K6YR. He launched on a quest to find other stations who would accept the position on those terms, helped by Bud, W2RU, but neither met with any success.

Needless to say, this infuriated the former members of the respective Central and Pacific staffs including the digital coordinators. A partial shut-down of the system ensued, completely for digital, but we continued to maintain the CW and SSB higher level net operations, although many participants at the higher levels also took a "vacation". This continued during August last year while we all were trying to determine what to do next.

The Central and Pacific staffs along with the digital stations decided that we should take matters into our own hands. Thus was born Radio Relay International and its digital part, now called the Digital Traffic Network, or DTN. Pacific was renamed Western and we remained as Central, but all the Terms of Reference documents were re-written. The former position of Chair was renamed Coordinator to better reflect what was expected of the position holder. RRI and DTN have been growing and enthusiasm is still quite high. All of the Western Area participants in both cycles and digital are part of RRI at the region and area levels. The former Transcontinental Corps operation was renamed Inter-Area Traffic Network, or IATN. In Central, all digital is DTN and all but 1 cycle 2 net (9th Region) and 1 cycle 4 net (10th region or TEN) are officially part of RRI. Those 2 retain their ARRL affiliation, but we all continue to work together.

In the eastern area, it is not so clean-cut, largely because there was a Chair active there. However, all but 1 of the digital hubs there are now DTN. There is a new RRI Eastern area net in cycle 4, and Region 3 is also formally RRI. The daytime cycle 2 nets in Eastern remain largely ARRL affiliated. Nearly all of them support the RRI Eastern area net, however, and we all continue to work together to handle traffic.

We decided early-on to not disturb the section and local net structures, leaving them under the control of the ARRL Section Traffic Managers and Section Managers. However, many nets have declared independence. RRI is formulating a process whereby those nets below region level that want to become affiliated may do so, but there is no real need for that. Individual operators can become Registered RRI Operators at their request. That makes them eligible for various awards and recognition as well as being on the email list for the QNI Newsletter, which has now become the official journal of RRI. We have also been working with CQ Magazine, and there is a chance that they will include a traffic column, written by RRI volunteers. There is also nothing to prevent an individual from participating in both the ARRL-affiliated NTS nets and the RRI operations. We continue to all work together. The major difference is that RRI officials and operators do NOT have to be ARRL members. Some

operators have, in fact, withdrawn from the ARRL, even some life members, in protest of how shabbily the traffic nets and structures have been treated.

As of this time, there is no Second Century Plan that has come forth from ARRL. It was supposed to have been announced and released by the end of last year. We are still waiting. Although there is no specific proof available, it is widely suspected that ARRL was trying to form a close partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA. The upper level (at that time) NTS operators who participated in the Cascadia Rising exercise to supply situational awareness messages direct to FEMA did an absolutely outstanding job, which was never recognized or even mentioned by any ARRL publication. We do know that the FEMA representatives who worked with us on Cascadia Rising were exceptionally pleased with our performance. We also know that some of them were equally aghast at the terrible treatment given to us by ARRL. As a result, it is possible that FEMA has told the ARRL they do not want to be affiliated and thus the envisioned Second Century Plan has not materialized. Meanwhile, RRI is forging ahead to establish working relationships with various EMCOMM groups and we believe FEMA will also be interested as we progress.

What does this mean to you who operate primarily on the 7290 Traffic Net and Texas Traffic Net? You are largely unaffected by the higher-level goings on. That is a good thing. Let's just concentrate on handling traffic, something we all enjoy and are interested in. RRI will be there to provide both the outgoing as well as incoming message paths for you to use. There is also a truly International group within RRI. The digital system has direct links to Europe and other links are being established with Australia and Oceania, primarily using digital and CW operation.

Thanks for your attention. I invite you to go to the Radio dash Relay dot ORG website for more information about RRI and my K6JT.COM website for information about TEX and general Central Area and digital information.

73, Steve K6JT  
TEX Manager  
Coordinator Central Area Staff of RRI

### **W5DY Lightning Strike**



Rodney's tower was hit by lightning on June 1. His antennas were destroyed along with the radio power supply. The radio was also damaged, but the extent of the damage is not yet known since it was sent out for possible repair. He is using his backup rig for now at reduced power, and he has put



up a new antenna. The pictures show his lift machine (so he does not have to climb the tower) and his new antenna installation.

## **Another Story by Vic W7VSE TRIP TO RUSSIA**

I'd like to report to all those who are skeptical: CW IS ALIVE, AND WELL! During the two week period of August 4 to August 18, 1995, I was privileged to be a member of the USA Amateur radio team and competed in "Friendship Radio Games '95, (FRG-95), in Khabarovsk, (pronounced Ha-bar'o-visk"), Russia.

Portland, Oregon and Khabarovsk, Russia are Sister Cities. The USA and Russian Amateur Radio Clubs decided to have the Friendship Radio Games (FRG) and compete with each other in Morse code receiving and transmitting, and The Fox Hunt, a DX Contest, and a DX pileup contest. (Explained later).

I was offered a spot in the 1991 FRG competition at the Seaside, OR, Ham convention. Our team won two gold medals. The next year, 1992, we won at least two Silver medals. I missed the Seaside Convention in 1993. My wife was very ill and passed away that year.

Then I was offered a spot on the USA team in 1995 to go to Russia, and I accepted. A Japanese team also came to Russia, so we had four countries competing: Russia, Canada, Japan, and the USA.

Bud Larson, W7LNG, from Medford, was also asked, and he accepted. We traveled together. We only had to pay for our Airline tickets to and from Seattle, Washington. A Russian AEROFLOT aircraft picked us up in Seattle and flew to Anchorage, AK. And then down to Khabarovsk, which is way over in Eastern Russia, south of Siberia, and north of Vladivostok. Then, two weeks later, they flew us back to Seattle.

The Russians were wonderful hosts. They put us up in the downtown Intourist Hotel, and paid for our meals the first week, and the second week we each were guests of one of the Russian Amateur families. They furnished our room and board, and transportation while we were there. They had arranged a variety of tours and entertainment for our spare time. They kept us busy, and showed us a fine time.

FRG-95 had five categories of competition: (1) A Morse Code speed copying contest. (2) A Morse Code transmitting speed contest. (3) A DX contest (a CW code congested pile-up contest). (4) CW, or Phone, contest, on the air, to see who could correctly record the most stations in the given time limit, and (5) The Fox hunt.

The CW (code) receiving contest consisted of five-letter code groups sent from a machine, starting at 16 WPM segment and increasing segment speeds up to 40 WPM, or so. There were no numbers or punctuation in the 5-letter code groups, just letters in English.

The tapes were well prepared, and the audio was excellent in good headphones. A 32-position code room, with individual headphones for each contestant was provided. They even furnished me a typewriter and isolated me, and one Russian amateur, in a different room, so the chattering of our typewriters would not bother the other contestants who were copying with pencils.

Over the years, when I was practicing copying plain language, I learned to copy a word or so behind the sender. If he made an error, you did not write it down. I had not copied five-letter code groups since WW2, 50 years ago, but the old knack of keeping up with the sender came back. We must have done well, because our team won a Silver Medal in this category.

The CW transmitting contest was at a different location. We were on the stage of a small theater type building, complete with seats for an audience to observe and hear our performance. There were tables and chairs for us on the stage with an oscillator and amplifier loud enough to be heard throughout the whole building. They had hand keys, and "Bugs" (Semi-automatic, hand keys) for us. I wished that I had brought my own "Bug" that I had used for many years, but I had to adjust and use the one they furnished.

The text we had to transmit was in plain English, with no numbers or punctuation. We took the stage and transmitted one at a time, of course. I was the second operator to transmit, and, after I finished, I was a USA judge for the rest of the program. There was one Judge selected from each country that participated. We were judged, not only on our sending speed, but our spacing and skill at sending good readable code. Here again, I don't think I did an outstanding job, but with the help of the other members, again, we were winners of the Silver Medal.

The DX contest (In Ham language, DX means a foreign country) was back at the same place that the CW receiving contest was held. Again we used the 32-position wired code tables, and all contestants were hearing the same computer-generated pile-up of radio signals from approximately 70 Stations with different calls. Each calling station had a different tone, different signal strengths, and varied from very faint signals to normal signals to booming signals, all calling at the same time. Your job was to write down as many of the call signs you could read in the given time limit of the contest. It was almost exactly like an actual DX pile-up, and all those 70 stations were trying to contact you, as though you were a rare Country. It was very frustrating. Our team won another Silver Medal.

The DX HF (High Frequency) contest was on another hot August day, and it was a long day. We began at 10AM and finished at 830PM. There were six teams participating. The USA and Canada had two teams each, and Russia and Japan each had one team. There were six Russian Amateur stations used for this contest. Some of them had high-powered transmitters. Some stations had bigger, better antennae than the others. To make things fair for all the teams, each team spent one hour at each location. There was a lot of time used in traveling from one location to another. The Russians had obtained special call signs for this event that had never been used before. UE0CA and UE0CF were given to each of the six teams for use in the contest. These call signs had never been heard on the Amateur bands before, and should have offered a rare contact for all the world to hear.

The contest was to see how many stations you could actually contact, exchange call signs and signal strength reports and write the contact in your log during the hour you were at one of the stations. We could only use 15 and 20 meters (21,000Khz & 14,000Khz), and I think this skipped over a lot of nearby stations. The band conditions were lousy that day. All the stations were operating at the same time, so you had to be careful and not get too close to one of the other contester's frequency. Your signal would be extremely loud because you were so close to them.

We contacted mostly Russian and Japanese stations, as that was about all we could hear. Our team had 134 contacts the last hour, but it was not enough to win a medal in this category.

The Fox Hunt was a contest to locate hidden transmitters. It was held about 20 miles out in the country. They transported us in an Air-Conditioned bus to a tourist hotel. (I didn't want to get off that cool comfortable bus). The Russians had hidden six little code-identified transmitters in a park near the resort. They said it was a park, but it looked more like a jungle to me. The teams were all issued little portable three-element, YAGI-type pistol grip, hand-carried antennae that were very directional, and they had portable meters that indicated all the way from no signal to maximum signal. These were for finding the hidden transmitters, which would transmit a CW signal for one minute and then be off the air for a while and return for another minute. You could hold the antenna like it was a pistol, and aim it in any direction. If it heard a signal, the meter would indicate. By carefully moving the antenna from side to side, you could find the maximum reading, indicating the direction to the transmitter. As you moved toward the transmitter, you kept taking readings. When you passed by the hidden transmitter the needle would indicate its direction, and with luck you could find where they hid it. Writing down the location, you would then try to locate another transmitter. The contest was to see who could find the most hidden transmitters in the shortest amount of time.

Finding these five transmitters would have been much easier out in the clear. But they were hidden in the jungle of that park that only had a myriad of wandering, narrow paths. Although you could easily get a bearing on a transmitter, getting to it was a nightmare. The Russians had selected the most difficult place in the world to find a hidden transmitter. The Direction Finder would give you good solid readings, but they indicated that you should go right into the impossible bramble bush, and the path ahead went at right angles to where you wanted to go. This required you to go down the path and search for a path that would go in the direction of the transmitter. Sometimes this required going a quarter of a mile, and even circling the transmitter before you could find a path that would take you to it.

The hidden 144Mhz (2-meter) transmitters call signs, in code, were: MO-E, MO-I, MO-S, MO-H, and MO-5. A sixth transmitter was simply MO, and was at the starting place. It was needed too, because most of us were lost when the time to quit arrived. So you could "Home" in on MO, after your time was up, and hopefully find your way back out of the jungle. Each of us was also equipped with a map of the area and a compass, and with a little help, we all made it back safely.

I suspect the Russians had an advantage over the rest of us, as they lived nearby and may have been more acquainted with the park (Jungle) than we were. This was the first time I had ever been on a "Fox Hunt" and I didn't do very well in the allocated time. I think I could have found all five of them if they would let me spend the whole afternoon there. The rest of our team didn't do very well either, and we did not win a medal in this category.

That evening we had a dinner and party at the resort hotel where we were staying. They prepared a very nice dinner and there was plenty of vodka and champagne at all of our tables. After we had finished dinner, someone asked me to get up and tell a story. I was feeling no pain after partaking of the refreshments, so I got up and told a funny story, called "The Sharp Suit," I had been telling this particular story each year for several years at the Seaside convention. Each year, my friends would want me to tell it again. It is a story you have to

visually observe, to really understand and appreciate. To tell this joke, you have to be very physical and demonstrative as you tell it. Some of my ham friends had urged me to tell it on stage, when everyone was in audience at the Convention, but I had refused.

It was a long joke, and as I was telling it, I would say part of the joke, and pause. Then an interpreter would repeat that part of the joke in Russian, and another interpreter would then tell it in Japanese, and they both tried to mimic my physical movements. The Russian and Japanese interpretations of my story must have been funnier than my English version, because all the Russians and Japanese were laughing loudly and applauding. Then someone told me that the interpreters were having trouble finding an appropriate word for "Sharp" (as in "Sharp Suit") in the Russian and Japanese languages. It must have taken 20 minutes, or more, to tell and demonstrate that joke, but finally, after it was all over, and all the roaring laughter and applause subsided, I sat down and had another drink.

A little later, a Russian, named Boris, brought out his guitar and sang a beautiful song in Russian. He was good, and everyone enjoyed it. He then asked if anyone else would like to play his guitar or sing a song. I was still feeling no pain, so I volunteered and played his guitar and sang one of Kenny Rodger's country music songs that I had learned, "The Gambler." Everyone seemed to like it.

It was a fun night, and one to be remembered. They transported us back to town that evening, (and I'm glad I was not driving the bus.)

The awards and farewell dinner occurred the night before we were scheduled to go home. It was another fine dinner with plenty of refreshments. It was held at a nice Japanese Café. There were about 40, or so, of us there and we had the whole place to ourselves.

The award speeches all seemed too long, as they had to be translated from English to Russian and again in Japanese. This made them three times as long. We all managed to live through that, however, and it was very rewarding and humbling experience to have three Silver Medals hung around my neck. Seeing the others receive their medals was great too. The Russian cameras covered all the events, including the awards ceremonies. After the awards we had dinner, and after that they had some "special" awards. I received a box of fine Russian chocolates and a beautiful little hand-made vase, and was awarded "Mr. Entertainment" or "Mr. Congeniality", I'm not sure which, but here again, I felt rewarded and humbled. This was a total surprise.

The Russian team won most of the gold medals and more medals than any other country. But that comes with the "home field advantage" I suppose. They were really good in all the contests, and deserved the medals they won.

Next day we had to say goodbye to a lot of special Russian friends. The families that had taken us in for room and board for a week, and the Russian amateurs, now all seemed like close friends. They all came to the airport to see us off. This was a touching experience, and a few tears were shed here and there. This lasted about an hour, I think, but finally we did some hugging, and said our goodbyes. With a lump in my throat I boarded the IL-62 AEROFLOT jet aircraft for the many hour journey back to Seattle, and then home.

The next Friendship Radio Games were scheduled in Japan as "FRG-97." The Japanese would have to work very hard to beat the outstanding treatment we received while in Russia, at "FRG-95."

Vic Seeberger, W7VSE

**TEX Mailbox:**

**Jim, W5FEA**, wrote on June 2: My Antenna is partially blown down from Sunday's very windy day. The rope holding the center of the antenna up in the tree broke and it is further down in the tree, that has the north end of the antenna about seven feet off the ground, the other end is 10 maybe 12 feet up in a tree.

I had a 16 foot round wooden pole I had used to get the center of the antenna up as high as I could but it has deteriorated and broke pretty much in half.

I've gotta go to the hardware store/lumber company and see what I can come up with. When I used to live in North Graham on the side of a hill that had a water tank at the top, I had two, two by fours with a two by four bolted between them and attached to the side of the house, but I have a fast growing tree right at the West side of the house I can tie something to, but not sure what it is going to be.

Update, May 12: Still haven't figured out what to do with my antenna. The center is about 15 to 18 feet up in a tree and the ends come down to about 10 feet. Can't get the ends up any more but wish I could get it up to about 32 feet at the center. Think the only thing working for me now is ground conductivity, which is at or very near the max on land.

Take Care, Jim W5FEA

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**From JW, WB8SIW:** (May 14) A special "Dayton Hamvention" issue of the QNI Newsletter is available on <http://www.qni-newsletter.net/> . There is some important news in this issue!

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**Rodney, W5DY** wrote on May 15: I have included a file I made which shows the past PP recipients. It is shown below.

Hope you can make it to 7290. I have already told Jo Ann I would be there. I will probably drive up Sat morning. Last year I did not make the Friday dinner and most likely won't make it again this year. I am listed as speaking at 1330, so I will be there for lunch on Saturday.

On the medical stuff, the cardiologist told me today that they made an error when they said I had congestive heart failure. That was not the case at all. So, that is good. He still wants to run some tests and find out for sure what caused me to have to go to the hospital. I am scheduled for the first ones on the 31st, after the picnic. The first one is a stress test and I will not pass that one. I doubt if I will even finish the test, hihi.

73, Rodney

Pfeiffer Pfist Award Recipients

1991 W5CTZ HARRY PFEIFFER  
1992 W9OYL DALE HARTLEY  
1993 W5VMP ART EVANS  
1994 W5OWV KEITH WRIGHT

1995 WD5GKH CHARLES OGILVE  
1996 KS5V ED LAROSE  
1997 AE5I GENE SMITH  
1998 K5MXQ GEORGE LYONS  
1999 KA5KLU DOUG GOLLIHAR  
2000 AC5Z BERT FISHER  
2001 NONE  
2002 DON PERESE AC5XK  
2003 NONE  
2004 W5TFB JACK BRYANT  
2005 K6JT STEVE PHILLIPS  
2006 N5EL FLOYD BUMPUS  
2007 W5DY RODNEY BAKER  
2008 KD5TXD PAT ALLISON  
2009 NONE  
2010 W5ESE SCOTT MCMULLEN  
2011 N5PWG JAY SICARD  
2012 IN MEMORY OF N5PWG  
2013 N5RL RANDY LAVENDER  
2014 W5CU SAM SITTON  
2015 NONE  
2016 W5FEA JIM JONES  
2017 NONE

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**Randy, N5RL**, wrote on May 22: I likely won't make it to the Picnic. I have treatment today and the effects linger. I don't want to go and be feeling sick. Still getting over last Monday's treatment. Next year I'll be there. 73 !

Randy N5RL

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## **TEX Net Topics**

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown on the following page. No major changes have been made to either, but we definitely need more help from those of you willing to accept a regular spot. Rodney and I are doing more than we should have to do, and Jim fills in the other gaps. Thanks to all who are helping out and also the backup stations for those slots that are open or with the regular station unavailable. We have a lot of Open slots now, so please consider taking one or more of them. We particularly need more NCS stations (7), but RN5 liaisons (4) are also lacking.

Sam, W5CU, will be spending more time in CO this summer, making arrangements to rebuild his house that was destroyed there by the attic explosion and fire. He is attempting to find a rental place that will allow him to put up antennas again so we may hear him from CO.

CAN and WAN (renamed from PAN) and RN5 have all moved to 40 meters. Conditions continue to be poor during the daytime, but 40 meters has been working well for evening RN5 (both sessions) and CAN. Still no plan to move early TEX to 40 since conditions are acceptable, for now, on 80.

### TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>NCS #1</b>	W5DY	N5RL	Open	Open	N5RL	W5FEA	Open
Backup	W5CU	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5FEA
<b>NCS #2</b>	W5DY	K6JT	Open	Open	Open	W5DY	Open
Backup	W5CU	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	W5FEA	K6JT
<b>RN5 #1</b>	W5CU	Open	K5GM	N5RL	N5RL	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	N5RL	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5FEA	W5FEA
<b>RN5 #2</b>	W5CU	Open	K5RG	K6JT	K6JT	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5FEA	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT

TEX/1: **3541**/7053/3595 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; WAN: **7052**/3552 - 22:30 CT

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

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K5GM, K6JT, K5RG, N5RL

### TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	* N7NET	Scott	McKinney
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
N5BA	Brian	Houston	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
WA5CAV	Dick	Pineville LA	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	WA5PRI	Don	Thibodaux LA
W5DAE	Don	San Angelo	W5QLD	Ron	Corpus Christi
W4DLZ	Frank	Florida	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
* W5FEA	Jim	Graham	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT op)
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	K5TSK	Jim	Pearcy AR
K5JRN	Si	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	NE5V	Chris	Liberty Hill
N7KRT	Jeff	Victoria	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	K6YBV	Bob	Placerville CA
WA5MS	Marty	Argyle	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

\* Capable of 160 meter operation

**Statistics:**

**April 2017:**

Jim, W5FEA, with 60 out of 60 (100%) continued his “perfect attendance”. Don, W5DAE, with 58 (97%) was a close 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rodney, W5DY, and Pete, K5GM, tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> with 48 (80%). Don continues to improve his CW skills and has been checking into TSN as well. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors to the net included Ernie, NM5M, from Plano and Bob, K6YBV, from CA. It was good to hear Marty, WA5MS, check in again after a long absence from his new QTH in Argyle. Welcome to all !

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 1.9 per net session (2.2 last month). Net time averaged 9.8 minutes per session (compared to 10.5 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.4 per session (5.2 last month).

**TEX Net Statistics (April 2017)**

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	5	9		4			
*		4			4			
W5DAE	Don	30	58					
		28						
W5DY	Rodney	25	48	10	3			
		23		7	3			
W5FEA	Jim	30	60	10	10	19		
*		30		1	5	26		
K5GM	Pete	22	48	2	4			
*		26		1				
W9GVW	Eric	2	2					
*		0						
K6JT	Steve	7	33				7	
*		26		21	13		26	
W6LFB	Jim	2	2					
*		0						
WA5MS	Marty	12	12					
		0						
NM5M	Ernie	0	2					

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
	Plano	2						
K1PKZ	Paul	3	3					
		0						
K5QOW	Gary	11	11			9		
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	5					
*		5			4			
N5RL	Randy	21	24	7	9	1		
*		3				1		
KD5TXD	Pat	1	1	1				
*		0						
K5TSK	Jim	2	2					
	AR	0						
K6YBV	Bob	0	2					
	CA	2						
Totals		322		60	59	56	33	0
				100%	98%	93%	55%	0%
QTC 1		33	114					
QTC 2		81		Sessions:		60		
Time 1		306	591					
Time 2		285						

### May 2017:

Jim, W5FEA, with 62 out of 62 (100%) maintained his "perfect attendance". Don, W5DAE, with 55 (89%) took second, and Rodney, W5DY, with 52 (84%) was a close third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

There were no visitors.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.0 per net session (1.9 last month). Net time averaged 10.1 minutes per session (compared to 9.8 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.2 per session (5.4 last month).

### TEX Net Statistics (May 2017)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	8	16	1	4			
*		8			7			
W5DAE	Don	27	55					
		28						
W5DY	Rodney	26	52	11	8			
		26		10	4			
W5FEA	Jim	31	62	9	7	16		
*		31			2	30		
W5GKH	Charlie	0	1					
*		1						
K5GM	Pete	24	42		5			
*		18						
W9GVW	Eric	2	2					
*		0						
K6JT	Steve	10	37	1			10	
*		27		21	14		27	
WA5MS	Marty	1	1					
		0						
K1PKZ	Paul	1	1					
		0						
W5QLD	Ron	4	4					
		0						
K5QOW	Gary	14	14			13		
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	6					
*		6			4			
N5RL	Randy	20	25	9	7	1		
*		5						
K5TSK	Jim	5	5					

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
		0						
Totals		323		62	62	60	37	0
				100%	100%	97%	60%	0%
QTC 1		35	121					
QTC 2		86		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		333	624					
Time 2		291						

### Operating:

Field Day will be here soon (last weekend this month). Plans are to hold TEX on the alternate frequency of 3595 for both sessions. RN5 will likely be on 7108, as usual, both sessions. Due to the extra points that can be gained by sending traffic, we will probably have a few messages, including those that our own members generate from their field day sites. I plan to operate from W5ROK, the Rockwell Collins club station in Richardson. Please no FD contacts during net times, just traffic. OK after net, of course.

Conditions have been pretty good at night, including use of 40 meters for RN5 both sessions. Contrast this to relatively poor conditions during the daytime on all bands. We will remain on 80 for the time being, both sessions. 40 may be useful on early TEX for passing traffic between distant stations, but I have not heard the need for that on any session recently. Thankfully, there has been little problem with long skip for a few weeks now.

Here are the composite reports for the last 2 months for traffic handled at the region and above levels. Only cycle 2 9RN and cycle 4 TEN are not RRI affiliated. All of the Digital Traffic Network is RRI. Some reports were only partially complete due to illness or resignation (cycle 4 CAN) of the respective managers.

### NTS Central Area Activity for April 2017

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5th Call Area	14	34	114	150	0.227
Cycle 2 9RN*	12	481	81	132	3.644
Day 10th Call Area	4	15	34	35	0.429
Night 5th Call Area	60	86	306	510	0.169
Night 9th Call Area	58	213	143	373	0.571
Cycle 4 TEN*	60	125	251	440	0.284
Day Central US	12	263	91	325	0.809
Night Central US (partial)	20	219	152	449	0.488

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day Inter-Area Traffic	36	176	34		94%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	90	242	66		73%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1854	1272	2414	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
WB9FHP Central Hub/9th		955	480	475	
W5SEG 5th Call Area HUB		427	146	281	
KM0R 10th Call Area HUB		2853	1651	1202	
Digital Stations (14)		2696	993	1703	
Total DTN Digital		6931	3270	3661	
Total Central US		8785			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					

### Central US Nets Activity for May 2017

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5th Call Area	14	49	115	166	0.295
Cycle 2 9RN*	13	540	102	139	3.885
Day 10th Call Area	6	13	37	39	0.333
Night 5th Call Area	62	74	298	422	0.175
Night 9th Call Area	58	202	154	360	0.561
Cycle 4 TEN*	62	110	245	460	0.239
Day Central US	14	242	110	355	0.682
Night Central US (partial)	29	268	221	557	0.481
Day Inter-Area Traffic	56	188	54		96%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	92	79	62		67%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1765	1398	2498	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KM0R Central/10th HUB		543	272	271	
KK5QT 5th Call Area HUB		418	72	346	
WB9FHP 9th Call HUB		2599	1509	1090	
Digital Stations (13)		2436	920	1516	

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Total DTN Digital		5996	2773	3223	
Total Central US		7761			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					

Until August, thanks for all your support of TEX. Alerts will be sent out if there are any changes during the next 2 months. Have a great summer.

73, Steve K6JT

## TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Tuesday - Friday) 1945 CT 3570.0 KHz +/- QRM

Website: <http://www.k6jt.com/tsn/>

Net Manager: Jason KD5RQB, [tsn.3570@aol.com](mailto:tsn.3570@aol.com)



Photo Courtesy of VE3UU

### Greetings From Northeast Texas

Last month we had two "old timers" check into the net. Jim W5FEA from Graham, Texas and Ron KX5C. It was good to hear them on the net.

The 7290 Picnic was held May 27, 2017, in Taylor, Texas. Carroll KB5TCH made plans to attend the yearly event.

### TSN Activity Reports

Month	QNI	QTC	Nr. Operators
April 12 Sessions	37	12	6
May 16 Sessions	53	16	7

### 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 2017 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	12
DON	W5DAE	10
HOWARD	WD5IDB	10
SAM	KK4HCF	3
JASON	KD5RQB	1
ERIC	W9GVW	1

### May 2017 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	16
SAM	KK4HCF	16
HOWARD	WD5IDB	12
DON	W5DAE	4
RON	KX5C	2

JASON	KD5RQB	2
JIM	W5FEA	1

### TSN Roster (January 2016 to December 2017)

Callsign	Name	QTH
AC5BE	Joe	MATAGORDA, TEXAS
KX5C	Ron	SILSBEE, TEXAS
W5CBP	Chris	ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
W5DAE	Don	SAN ANGELO, TEXAS
W5DY	Rodney	GOLIAD, TEXAS
WD0ESF	Mike	MEDICINE LODGE, KANSAS
W5FEA	Jim	GRAHAM, TEXAS
W9GVW	Eric	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
KK4HCF	Sam	MARYSVILLE, TENNESSEE
WD5IDB	Howard	EDMOND, OKLAHOMA
KB5KWO	Steve	NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
KC0M	Larry	BRANSON, MISSOURI
N5NVP	Jim	SCOTT, LOUISIANA
K8PKN	David	ORWELL, OHIO
K3QZ	Ed	CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
N5RL	Randy	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
KD5RQB	Jason	ATLANTA, TEXAS
KB5TCH	Carroll	DOUGLASSVILLE, TEXAS
K5TSK	Jim	PEARCY, ARKANSAS

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**

RRI Fifth Call Area Net (Daily) 1930 CT and 2130 CT on **7108**

Alternate Frequency 3567 or 3598 when conditions warrant

*Serving TX, OK, LA, AR, MS, TN, AL, and NFL*

Frank Thrash W4DLZ ([W4DLZ@ARRL.NET](mailto:W4DLZ@ARRL.NET))

Net Manager

Hello guys and welcome to Edition 54 of the **RN5 Corner**.

Frank is back home again and has been getting on the air from time to time, including taking his NCS slots when he is able. We are all happy to know he made it through the surgery and rehabilitation successfully. He continues to improve, but is not back to what would be called normal yet.

Jerry, W4SU, has been acting as an unofficial assistant manager for RN5 for several months now as Frank has been out of action. Jerry has been collecting the net reports and producing the monthly composite. Thank you very much, Jerry, and please continue until Frank indicates he is ready to resume those duties.

Sam, W5CU, is in Colorado as of this writing. He is looking for a place to rent where antennas are permitted while he is overseeing the reconstruction of his home there, which was destroyed by the explosion and ensuing fire. We hope to hear him back on the air again soon, either from CO or his OK home QTH.

Jack, K5WNU, was gone most of the month of May, first for an Archery Bear Hunt in Alberta and then a short trip to the Smokies. He is now back home again and has been regularly checking into the net to pick up any MS traffic, of which there has not been a great deal.

Dick, WA5CAV, continues to support RN5 for LA, even without an operating CW net there to help offload traffic. We think Dick delivers most of what he receives himself. Thank you, Dick, for your continued fine work.

John, KC4FL, has been regularly checking into RN5 from FL. Keep that in mind when you get some FL traffic. NFL has been part of RN5 for quite a while and we can pass traffic for the state to John (or Ben, KZ8Q) in lieu of routing it through the Eastern Area and Region Net 4 for the small amount that trickles in these days.

We need NCS and Liaison stations as you can see from the duty roster. Thanks to those of you (primarily Jerry) for filling in the open slots or those due to absences. The net, both sessions, remains on 40 meters for now. Conditions have been very poor lately, and traffic is only coming in as a trickle from CAN as a result. Thanks to all of you for your support.

73, Frank W4DLZ  
RN5/4 CW Net Mgr.

(Schedule, statistics, and roster on the next page)

### RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5FEA	W4DLZ	W5CU	W4SU	W4SU	W4DLZ	Open
NCS #2	W5FEA	W4DLZ	W5CU	K6JT	W4SU	W4DLZ	WA4ZPZ
CAN TX	Open	Open	Open	W4SU	W4SU	Open	W4SU
CAN RX	W5CU	Open	Open	K6JT	WA4ZPZ	Open	W5CU
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

### 2017 Statistics

MONTH	APRIL	MAY
SESSIONS	60	62
QTC	86	74
QNI	306	298
QTR	510	422
AVG QTC	1.4	1.2
AVG QNI	5.1	4.8
AVG QTR	8.5	6.8

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

### Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	State	Call	Name	State
W4AGL	JIM	FL	K6JT	STEVE	TX
WA4BAM	JOHN	FL	N5NVP	JIM	LA
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	WA5PRI	DON	LA
W5CU	SAM	OK*/CO	KZ8Q	BEN	FL
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	K5RG	KEN	TX
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	N5RL	RANDY	TX
NS7E	ART	TX	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	W4SU	JERRY	AL
W5FEA	JIM	TX	K5TSK	JIM	AR
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	K5WNU	JACK	MS
K5GM	PETE	TX	NA5YO	DOUG	TX
W8IM	DEAN	FL	WA4ZPZ	TOM	AL

\* When W5CU is not present on Late RN5, OK traffic may be sent to the TEX station

\*\* K4VIZ is no longer active. Send AR to K5TSK or the TEX station for the 7290 net (do not use DRN5)

73, Frank W4DLZ