

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

Net Manager: Steve Phillips, K6JT, Plano TX
(k6jt@arrl.net, 972-517-3332)

TEX Web Site: <http://k6jt.home.att.net/>

Assistant Manager: Rodney Baker, W5DY, Goliad TX
(w5dy@arrl.net)

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Hello TEX'ans! Since I was out of town for the majority of the month, this will be a bit shorter than usual. Many thanks again to those who filled in for me and the other net members who were unable to make their schedules. Special thanks to Rodney, Doug, and Jack for taking my NCS and TCC skeds.

Activity was down considerably this past month with fewer than normal check-ins and less traffic. Guess we are already entering that "transition" period to summer operations with vacation absences. Although I was not here to listen first hand, I received reports that band conditions have improved over what they were last winter.

7290 Picnic

The 7290 picnic took place on April 28 in Smithville, TX. Thanks to Jo Ann, KA5AZK, the manager of the 7290 net, I received a program in the mail. As mentioned last month, I was not planning to attend and neither were any of the TEX regulars that I contacted, so they did not reserve a time for TEX to have a net meeting. I have scanned the program pages so a PDF of them is available via a link on the website for those of you who are interested. It is a rather large file (1.1 MB), as scans tend to be, so if you have dial-up, it may take a while to download.

Hamcom

The Hamcom convention will take place on June 8 and 9 at the Plano Centre (see <http://www.hamcom.org/>). That is located less than 2 miles from my QTH. Please advise if you plan to attend and what you might like to do for a TEX get-together some time during that weekend. We could meet at a nearby restaurant, buffet type perhaps, that has a meeting room of some type for use. But since some of you may be interested in the meetings and/or workshops that last until 9 PM both days, that may not be the best. At a minimum, try to come to the "Traffic Handling For the Beginner" presentation by Jo Ann, KA5AZK, and our very own Pat, KD5TXD. The schedule should be available on-line. Currently, they are scheduled to present at 8 AM Saturday. That is the middle of the night for me, but I'll try to get there.

Please contact me (see E-Mail address at top of page) with your ideas on what we might do for TEX and also if you are planning to attend. I'll respond to each one who mails me when we finally have something arranged. We still have the "Pfeiffer Pfist" award to give out.

Feature Story

As mentioned last month, we are privileged to have permission to reprint the series of memoirs of George Hart, W1NJM, the founder of NTS as we know it today. Thanks again to Sis, WD8DIN, the editor of the "Traffic Call" newsletter of the Hit and Bounce Net (HBN – 0730 CT, 7042 KHz).

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

A journalistic history of the life and times in Amateur Radio of George Hart, W1NJM, by George Hart W1NJM. Part 2.

Bunch, with Uncle Martin's advice and assistance, ran an electric line up to his attic room and from there proceeded to run extensions all over the room and down the stairs. There was no BX cable, much less Romex, in those days. The line from the laboratory to Martin's room was two separate wires, and from this room to Bunch's attic room ran in channels carved in wood strapping along the baseboard and up the stairs. When the installation was complete, Bunch proceeded to erect a control panel on the wall alongside his big iron bed and lines back down the stairs to the first three steps. These attached to homemade switches made from Meccano parts, one switch on each step. Then he placed a board over each switch so that anyone stepping on it would close the switch. The wiring was configured so that anyone mounting the steps would cause lights to light on the switchboard, thus notifying him that someone was coming up.

He planned to add another switch on his board which would give the approaching person a jolt of electricity if he continued up the stairs without permission, but found that the standard house voltage was not high enough to penetrate normal shoes. So he obtained a standard lead acid storage battery and a tungsten charger and used a spark coil to supply the necessary voltage. He laid copper screening across the first three steps so that pressure would set off the spark coil with a voltage high enough to penetrate even rubber-soled shoes. This had the desired effect and gave Bunch considerable glee when an intruder (usually one of his three brothers, but visiting teenagers as well) was subjected to the startling shock. I suspect Bunch had a sadistic side to his nature.

As time went on, Bunch added refinements to his setup. He set up three lights at the top of the steps: a white one and a red one. When someone wishing to enter his domain stepped on the first step, a light would go on in Bunch's switchboard, but nothing would show at the top of the steps. The second step would show either a white light or a red one, depending on how Bunch had it set up. If a white light, it meant OK to come up. A red light meant keep out. If a red light showed and the person stepped on the third step, he would receive a sharp jolt from the spark coil. Bunch could have it set up so it operated automatically, or he could operate it manually. The former was intended to forbid entry even if Bunch was not in his room.

But the system had an outstanding flaw. One could easily outwit the system by avoiding that third step and continue up the steps whether the light showed white or red. Bunch eliminated this by putting metal screening over all the steps and wiring the spark coil to all of them, plus to the metal doorknob so that the spark coil would activate when the doorknob was turned or could be activated manually to shock anyone on any of the steps. It was wickedly ingenious.

He also wired his bed so that he could shock anyone leaning on it (but the high voltage would not penetrate the mattress) and various chairs and other items of furniture in the room. Throughout his teens he exercised complete domination of his attic room. Our father, who was quite elderly, hardly ever ventured up the steep stairs. On only one occasion can I remember a visit by him to Bunch's third floor domain, subject to be covered later.

To be continued in part 3.

TEX Mailbox:

Scott, W5ESE, wrote: To understand how the ARRL leadership view NTS, you have to read their evaluation of the Field Organization (which was done in 2003), if you haven't already. The final report is available online at:

<http://www.arrl.org/announce/reports-0307/vrc-field-evaluation.html>

73, Scott W5ESE

Scott, W7IZ, Oregon STM sent along this amusing quote from Albert Einstein, explaining radio: "You see, wire telegraph is kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat."

Pat, KD5TXD, noticed that both TEX and TSN had the wrong frequencies listed in the FISTS Keynote magazine, so she helped us get it corrected. Pat wrote: I called Nancy Kott, WZ8C, of FISTS Keynote magazine and asked her to correct the frequencies for TSN and TEX. She said she was making the change as we were talking and would make sure it was correct in the next issue of Keynote.

I also suggested to her that she make use of some of these CW nets, TSN and TEX specifically, to send radiograms on. She is thinking of sending birthday greeting radiograms to FISTS members via the nets. I said it would be keen if we could keep the traffic all on CW nets...but I don't know how practical that is. ☺

The FISTS folks are taking a vote on having a code proficiency program. They are proposing offering a three part test of sending, copying and a written test covering (CW) operating rules and customs. They would do this at ham fests, etc. Well, it is a cool idea but I am pessimistic about it working. They would have to have folks at hamfests year after year, all over the country, administering tests on the order of what VE's are doing for FCC licensing.

Thanks guys and hope you don't mind me jumping in there. 73!!! Pat KD5TXD

{No, Pat, we don't mind at all. Many thanks for the assistance – Ed.}

TEX Net Topics

The Pacific Area Net move to 7052 worked out well the past month. There are still a few stations sent to 3552 to handle traffic when they cannot copy each other on 40 meters. **RN5 early session will move to 7045 KHz** starting Monday, May 7 local, per Jim, KB5W, the RN5 manager. There are no immediate plans to move CAN or early TEX to 40 meters.

The following shows the current NCS and liaison station assignments. I have changed it back to reflect my own assignments. Attempts to contact Lee, K5UN, have not yielded any response, so it is possible he will still be unable to make his Wednesday and Thursday RN5 and NCS schedules (**alternates note**). Please, if you are able to be an NCS or liaison and you do not hear the net start by a couple minutes after the hour, please do start it up and/or volunteer for the liaison duty to RN5.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5DY	KA5KLU	K6JT	AC5Z	W5TFB	AC5Z	W5GKH
Backup	W5GKH		W5TFB	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY
NCS #2	W5GKH	KA5KLU	K6JT	K5UN	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	W5DY		W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	W5TFB	K6JT
RN5 #1	W5GKH	KA5KLU	K5UN	K5UN	W5TFB	W5TFB	W5CU
Backup			W5TFB	KA5KLU		W5ESE	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	KA5KLU	K5UN	K5UN	W5TFB	W5TFB	W5CU
Backup			W5TFB	KA5KLU		W5ESE	W5GKH

TEX/1: 3552 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 3552 at 22:00 local
 RN5/1: 7045 (3567 until May 7) at 19:30; RN5/2: 3567 at 21:30 local
 CAN: 3552 at 20:30 local; TSN: 3552 at 19:45 local

RN5 Backup: W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5JRN, K6JT, KA5KLU, K5RG, W5TFB, K5UN
 NCS Backup: W5DY, N5EL, K5JRN, K6JT, KA5KLU, N5PWG, W5TFB, K5UN, AC5Z

Note: Although “backup” stations are listed above, anyone is welcome to take the RN5 or NCS duty slots when so motivated and it becomes necessary.

Statistics:

This month Rodney, W5DY, took top honors with QNI of 39 (65%). Pat, KD5TXD, was 2nd with 32 (53%), closely followed by Jack, W5TFB, with 31. Thanks for your support.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. As mentioned at the top of the newsletter, traffic and QNI were both down considerably. Traffic averaged 2.5 per net session. Net time averaged 13 minutes per session. Check-ins averaged just under 5 per net session.

TEX Net Statistics (April 2007)

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
KB0All	David	0	2						
		2							
W5CDX	Wads	0	10						
*		10							

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
W5CU	Sam	4	8		2				
*		4			4				
W5DY	Rodney	18	39	4	1	2	8		
		21		13	1		10		
N5EL	Floyd	5	5						
*		0							
W5ESE	Scott	24	26		1			14	6
*		2			1			2	
W5GKH	Charlie	7	14	4	4	3			
*		7		7	3				
K5GM	Pete	1	1						
*		0							
K7IZ	David	7	20						
		13							
KJ9J	Newt	11	11						
*		0							
K6JT	Steve	7	17	1			7		
*		10		3			10		
K0KJ	Eric	1	2						
*		1							
KA5KLU	Doug	13	19	4	7	5		10	
*		6		3	6	2		5	
W6LFB	Jim	4	4				2		
*		0							
N5NVP	Jim	2	6						
		4							
N5PWG	Jay	1	7						
*		6		4					
K5RG	Ken	6	19						
*		13							
W5TFB	Jack	16	31	7	15				
*		15			15				
KD5TXD	Pat	19	32			2			19
*		13							13
AI6U	Chris	0	1						
*		1							
W5UFK	Ken	0	1						
*		1							
AC5Z	Bert	21	21	10					
*		0							
Totals		296		60	60	14	37	31	38
				100%	100%	23%	62%	52%	63%

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
QTC 1		109	152						
QTC 2		43		Sessions:		60	100%		
Time 1		468	777						
Time 2		309							

No changes to the roster since last month.

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
# KBØAll	David	Minnesota	K5KV	Benny	Star
N5BA	Brian	Houston	W6LFB	Jim	Denton
W5CDX	Wads	Crowley LA	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	# N7NET	Scott	Allen
NV5D	Martin	Allen	AAØNI	Daniel	Oklahoma City OK
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	# N5NVP	Jim	Leesville LA
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	* N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
AA7FY	Mark	Fort Worth	K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	KC5T	Bob	Houston
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5TFB	Jack	College Station
KA9IKK	Bill	Houston	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
K7IZ	David	Bridge City	* KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
AA5J	Chuck	Plano	# W5U FK	Ken	College Station
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	* K5UN	Lee	Leonard
* K5JRN	Si	Denton	KS5V	Ed	Bulverde
KD5JSS	Dennis	Temple	K5WQG	Eddy	Tomball
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	AC5XK	Don	San Antonio
KØKJ	Eric	San Antonio	* AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches (Lufkin)
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio			

NOT Capable of operating in 3600-3700 band; * Capable of 160 meter operation

Although Rodney was unable to attend the 7290 picnic due to last minute responsibilities, he was prepared with a summary of TEX statistics over the last year. It is shown below, for your information and general interest. It clearly shows this past month was way below average.

TEX 2006 Statistics

Month	QNI	QTC	Total	Time	Total	Sessions	Average
Jan	426	157	221	640	1044	62	17
		64		404			
Feb	358	72	155	473	857	56	15
		83		384			
Mar	405	80	136	495	822	62	13
		56		327			
Apr	385	121	195	516	878	60	15

Month	QNI	QTC	Total	Time	Total	Sessions	Average
		74		362			
May	384	160	240	532	898	62	14
		80		366			
Jun	393	198	285	520	909	60	15
		87		389			
Jul	378	124	231	497	970	62	16
		107		473			
Aug	386	142	228	496	879	62	14
		86		383			
Sep	316	90	149	431	756	60	13
		59		325			
Oct	334	68	137	382	771	62	12
		69		389			
Nov	307	48	102	367	663	60	11
		54		296			
Dec	391	135	253	581	1092	62	18
		118		511			
Totals	4463		2332		10539	730	

YEARLY TOTALS 2006

	Average QNI per session	6	
	Average QTC per session	3	
	Average TIME per session - minutes	14	

Operating:

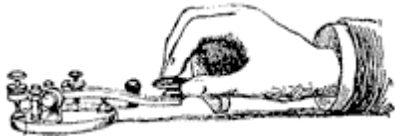
After all the objections that the ARRL (and FCC) received about the ARRL's petition to modify RM-11306, the petition to define band usage based on signal emission bandwidth, the ARRL has rescinded their proposal. So I guess our hue and cry did some good after all.

From the ARRL web site (<http://www.arrl.org/>), the following was posted: **ARRL Withdraws "Regulation by Bandwidth" Petition, Plans to Refile (Apr 27, 2007)** -- The ARRL has announced it's withdrawing its controversial November 2005 Petition for Rule Making (RM-11306) calling on the FCC to establish a regulatory regime to segment bands by necessary bandwidth rather than by emission mode. The League cited "widespread misconceptions" surrounding the petition as a primary reason for deciding to remove it from FCC consideration. The ARRL left open the option of re-filing the same or a similar petition in the future, however.

Let's try to "rustle up" (after all, we ARE in Texas) a bit more traffic and activity on the net this next month. Originate one or two to your friends or relatives out of state, or even to another ham you happen to work on the air, thanking him/her for the QSO.

Until next month, 73,
Steve K6JT

(TSN Corner follows on the next page)



TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 2000 CT 3552.0 Khz
http://www.geocities.com/scottamcmullen/Texas_Slow_Net.html
 Scott McMullen W5ESE
 TSN Net Manager

QNI and the number of different stations checking in both fell slightly. In many cases, I was forced off owing to thunderstorms, and that may have been true for many net members.

Here is an updated roster of stations that have been active on TSN. A warm welcome to a new station, W5TFB, Jack. (Jack is a regular on TEX). Please join us on TSN as often as you can.

Net Stations (QNS)

Call	Name	City	State	Call	Name	City	State
AA0NI	Dan	Oklahoma City	OK	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
KB0AII	David	Ortonville	MN	N5NVP	Jim	Leesville	LA
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia	AR
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	W5TFB	Jack	College Station	TX
W5GXV	Gene	Spring Branch	TX	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	W5VDM	Bill	New Ulm	TX
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX	KM5YQ	David	Irving	TX
WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches	TX

Message Delivered

Arley forwarded this account to me, that appeared in the Washington State Net newsletter. I thought that you might enjoy reading it also, and I received permission from the author (Allen Rivers, W7QM, the WSN Manager) to reproduce it in the TSN Corner.

Delivering Message to Colorado Station Leads To Getting Help for Lady In Distress From Amateur Radio Operator in Olympia, WA

On Monday, April 2, I had received several messages from K7BDU, the Pacific Area Digital Coordinator in Chehalis, Washington. I had one for Longmont, Colorado that I planned on delivering by Land Line because I like to meet new Amateur Radio Friends.

The message was from N1IQI with a friendly reminder message of license expiration date for KC0BCS in Longmont, CO. I called the phone number about 6:55 PM PDT and a very weak female voice answered. I identified myself and stated that I had a Ham Radio message for Paul Ralston and may I speak to him. The voice replied that he was not at home. I asked the lady if she would like to receive the message and give it to Paul when he got home. She replied that she had fallen and was lying on the floor and couldn't move. I asked her if she was alright and did she want me to call 911?

She replied that she was OK and did not want to call 911 but that she would like to make contact with her daughter in Platteville, CO, about 15 miles away. I asked if she had the phone number and she said she could not remember it so I asked for her daughter's name and I would try to find the number on the internet and call her and get back to her. She gave me her name and I went on the internet and brought up my favorite web page for getting phone numbers "switchboard.com". I put the name in and bingo I got the number no problem.

I called the number and was disappointed as there was no answer. So I called Mrs. Ralston back and told her I was not able to contact her daughter because no one was home but I would try again in 30

minutes and get back to her. She said ok, and I asked her if she was alright and she said yes she was doing fine lying on the floor. I called her daughter again and still no answer so I called Mrs Ralston back and gave her the sad news still no answer, she said she was still ok so I said I would try again in another 30 minutes.

I called again at 8:00 PM and still no answer so I checked back with Mrs Ralston again and she was still doing ok. So I said I will keep trying to call her daughter and hopefully she will be home soon. So I called her daughter again at about 8:15 PM and her daughter answered. I told her that her mother had fallen and hurt herself and could not move and was lying on the floor and needed some help. She asked if she had a phone and I said she has a phone and is OK. I gave her my phone number in case she needed to call me back. I asked her to call me back and let me know if everything was ok.

I called again the next day and Paul Ralston answered the phone and thanked me for getting the necessary help for his wife. He told me that the doctor thought that she had bruised a rib and it was very painful so she was not able to move. I was very glad that by being persistent I was able to get the necessary help in spite of the fact I'm 1300 miles away.

Signed Allen Rivers W7QM

Olympia, WA

April Activity Report

TOTAL SESSIONS 29

TOTAL CHECKINS 113

TOTAL TRAFFIC 47

BY 13 DIFFERENT STATIONS

Thanks again to everyone that checked in during April!

73 Scott W5ESE

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT