

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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May 2010



7290 Picnic Wrap-up

The 7290 picnic took place on Saturday, April 24, in Smithville as scheduled. The weather was decent (other than the rain and threat of tornados on Friday night), and the event was well attended by the SSB net members (7290, TTN) with over 100 attendees. A bit sparse for the CW ops, though, with only myself, Rodney, W5DY, Pat, KD5TXD, and (arriving late) Tom, NK5Z. I was hoping to see more of you there, but I do understand it is difficult to make that trip for a lot of you and it is expensive as well.



For those who would like to see the TEX and TSN presentations, and have high speed Internet access, I have posted a 9 minute movie on the web at the following URL:

http://web.me.com/sr_phillips/Site

Note that there are 2 pages there, the first with the movie (QuickTime required to view) and the second with 3 pictures (which anyone should be able to view, even with dial-up Internet access).

In the movie (as in the above picture) you will see Pat, KD5TXD, Rodney, W5DY, and Steve, K6JT for the TEX and TSN net speeches and the presentation of the Pfeiffer Pfist award, which Pat accepted on Scott, W5ESE's behalf. There are more pictures on the 7290 web site at:

http://www.7290trafficnet.org/mgxroot/page_10792.html

The picture shown above, the Pfeiffer Pfist presentation, was lifted from their website. My wife and I had a good time in the Bastrop and Smithville areas and it was fun to visit with Rodney and Barb in their RV, which was docked at the picnic area campground.

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

-by George Hart W1NJM

A journalistic history of the life and times in the Amateur Radio world of George Hart, W1NJM

Thanks to Sis, WD8DIN, and the Hit and Bounce Net for sending this chapter for our enjoyment.

Chapter 32 - George expected to be the logical successor to the Communications Manager position

This left the Communications Department with only two people - myself and Lillian Salter, our stenographer and pseudo-secretary, who was in that position long before I arrived on the scene. Not being a ham, Lillian certainly was not eligible for the position so I felt there was no alternative but to give the job to me or simply to phase out the department altogether. This didn't seem likely, because our field organization was still being maintained, SCMs were still being elected, some appointments were still being made, the CD was not dead. There was still plenty of work to keep one man and a stenog/file clerk busy. But on what basis? In May of 1942, with Ed Handy's departure imminent, the matter was taken up by the ARRL Board of Directors, and again I was bypassed. John Huntoon, W1LVQ, was made acting Communications Manager, I to be his subordinate. John was an assistant secretary, and much admired by almost everybody.

This time my humiliation was spiced with anger, and I decided to seek other employment, one of draft exemption if possible, or else just wait for the draft to catch up to me. My brother Ed, W3NF, was working as a code instructor at a naval school in Bedford, PA. I visited him and was introduced to the school supervisor. The school was set up for the purpose, but it was run by civilians on behalf of the Navy. They needed code instructors and seemed to feel I would fill the bill very nicely, so I made application. They told me the Navy needed CW operators so badly they were opening a school in Hollidaysburg PA. The super said chances were good that I would be draft-deferred, but there was no guarantee; it would be up to my local draft board. I left my application on file and then returned to Hartford. The day after I returned, John Huntoon came to me and explained that the ACM job had been wished on him, that he hadn't sought it, that he wasn't getting any increase in pay, that he was still an assistant secretary and as acting Communications Manager he would only be a figurehead; that I would actually be running what was left of the department. He also said that there would be no more weasel-worded title, that I would be the assistant Communications Manager and he would try to get me a raise. John, then as now, had a winning personality - I felt considerably mollified.

I didn't want to leave ARRL headquarters, or my little house on Highland Street, but I was still seething with anger and humiliation. I told John I had applied for a job to teach code for the Navy and, if accepted, intended taking it. John was as good as his word, about a week later two things happened. John was classified 1-A by his draft board and I received word from Keystone Schools that I was hired and was to report to the new school in Hollidaysburg PA in three weeks. Still no promise of draft deferment. I told John of this development. He told me he was joining the Coast Guard, now part of the Navy, as chief petty officer stationed at Coast Guard training school in Atlantic City. The next day I was summoned into the office of the Great Man himself, Kenneth B. Warner, W1EH, ARRL Secretary and General Manager of the headquarters.

I had spoken with KB only once before, at the 1938 HQ Christmas party in the basement at 38 La Salle Road. On that occasion he had sought me out, shook my hand, and expressed regret that we hadn't met before, wished me a Merry Christmas and handed me an envelope, then returned to the festivities. In the envelope I found a crisp new ten-dollar bill. It was a custom to give every employee a bonus at the Christmas time, and mine was the minimum. Far from being disappointed, I was delighted. Of course I had seen KB around the office many times but never before had any reason to engage him in conversation. It would not be an exaggeration to say I held him in great awe, and in this instance I approached his sanctum sanctorum in "fear and trembling."

Coming in Chapter 33 - George settles in to his new position with the ARRL.

TEX Mailbox:

Scott, N7NET, sent in another article that will appear in a future issue of the newsletter. Scott also writes: My wife suffered a stress fracture on her right foot, so we postponed our trip until autumn.

I have a story called QJR, which I just put it together last week. Maybe it will work for a future issue.

I've been checking into TSN when conditions allow me to be heard. I'm still using the Hustler Mobile antenna bolted to a chain link fence and a solar-powered Icom 706.
72/73 de Scott/n7net/QRP

Richard, NF5B, sent out a new issue of the Brass Pounder's Quarterly newsletter. Some interesting information in it, including the effects of a high-altitude nuclear electromagnetic pulse and what damage it can do. You can access it at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~bscottmd/> once it is posted there. Issue is BPQ-0402. As of this writing, only up to the previous version (0401) is on the web site, if you haven't seen it yet.

Sam, W5CU, just returned from a fun-filled week in the Cayman Islands. He operated there as ZF2CU. Before he left, Sam wrote: "I hope to be on the air using the antenna system at the CARS club station with my FT900. I was last there in 1999, and at that time they were lacking a good wire antenna for 80. If they have something on 80 this time, I will try to QNI TEX some evening."

Sam did indeed QNI late TEX on 2 occasions, handing out neat DX contacts to those of us who were there. Thanks to a tip from Tom, NK5Z, I heard Sam on 40 meters the first or second night he was on the island, knocking them down all over the globe. The pileup was so thick that you could hardly pick out a call from it (so I did not even try to work him). It was very interesting to listen to Sam, though. See what y'all miss by not checking into late TEX?

Tom, NK5Z, has recovered sufficiently from his back problems to join us again on TEX. We were also happy to meet him at the 7290 picnic. Tom wrote: The back is doing pretty good now. I still can't stand for very long before it starts really bothering me but that is sure better than it was for a while.

I sure was pleased that Phyllis and I were able to meet you and Rodney there at the picnic. It is just a shame that we got there so late and weren't able to circulate through the group to meet some of the people that we have talked with. It was all my fault, and I felt really bad about getting out of Conroe so late. If we hadn't gone to the picnic, I think Phyllis would have not forgiven me. She was looking forward to getting out of the house and doing something different than we usually do.

Well all the best to you and the family. Take care and I am glad that you and all the rest of the operators on TEX are true professionals even though our hobby is called Amateur Radio.
73, Tom, NK5Z

Rodney, W5DY, has been AWOL a couple weekends this month. He wrote: I will be gone this weekend (the 7th) to Barbara's class reunion in Beaumont. Then next weekend (14th) is our big annual skeet shoot and I will be gone too. Both weekends we leave Friday and don't get home until late Sunday. 73, Rodney

- Hope you bagged some tasty skeet, Rodney ☺

Tom, K4VIZ, who is a regular on RN5 from Arkansas, passed along the following, which is good information: I'm sending this e-mail to a lot of people I know, for good reason. I didn't know this is how modern copy machines work. If I had a business and owned a copy machine, I'd be sure to contact the manufacturer / service department to see about this breach of security. This is VERY scary to me. Think how many personal documents are copied at the Social Security office, your doctor's office, at work, payroll, checks etc. Man, this could wreck your ID and credit rating. Biz owners take warning. Please go to this site and watch this video. <http://wimp.com/copymachines/>

I received a worrisome E-mail from **Pat, KD5TXD**, that she had taken a fall and had to go to the hospital Emergency Room last Wednesday. Thankfully, she is back home again and reports: I am better and plan on making Wednesday net OK. My left arm, which I fractured at the elbow, doesn't work so well, but it is giving me minimal pain so I can play radio again. 73, Pat KD5TXD.

- Sure glad to hear you are not seriously injured, Pat. Lucky for us it is your left arm and not your right one. Take care of yourself and BE CAREFUL.

Pat also reported that **Floyd, N5EL**, is having worse problems with his back. Floyd wrote: I'm disabled worse than ever and it doesn't seem to be getting any better. Right now, I'm completely off the net and radio. It's gotta be bad for that to stop me, doesn't it?

- Sure hope you get some better treatment and relief, Floyd. We miss you.

Pete, K5GM, has been in the hospital for back surgery. I'm happy to report that he is now back home (as of the 15th). Pete checked into late TEX and reported that he is weak from the surgery and hospital stay, but doing OK otherwise and hopes to regain his strength within a few weeks. That was very good news. This year seems to be a difficult one with lots of us having back problems and other injuries or hospitalizations. Let's hope there aren't any more the rest of the year.

TEX Net Topics

We still have **12** open NCS/liaison slots, with **4** open *primary* NCS slots and **3** open *primary* RN5 slots (all shown in **red**)! Thankfully, Tom, NK5Z, has recovered enough to resume his Tuesday and Thursday RN5 slots. But Tuesday and Thursday early TEX NCS slots are critically empty. On more than one occasion, only the RN5 liaison showed up with no NCS.

Conditions have been poor at times for early TEX. Now that the thunderstorm season is upon us, they may get worse. Rodney and I will check 40 meters to see if its use might be viable at 7 PM. That would cut down on the T-storm QRN, at least, but may give us skip zones we cannot tolerate.

Thanks again to Sam, W5CU, Scott, W5ESE, Tom, NK5Z, and Rodney, W5DY, we managed to get through another month without missing any RN5 schedules.

Note that both CAN and PAN have switched to 40 meters as primary for the summer season. From personal experience with both, it is working much better than 80. No word yet on when RN5 might go to 40 for the early session.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	Open	KD5TXD	Open	N5PWG	Open	W5GKH
Backup	Open	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	Open	KD5TXD	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	Open	K6JT	Open	K6JT
RN5 #1	W5GKH	Open	W5CU	NK5Z	N5PWG	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	NK5Z	W5DY	Open	W5ESE	W5ESE	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	NK5Z	W5CU	NK5Z	K6JT	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	W5DY	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH

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

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

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

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, N5PWG, K5RG, NK5Z

NCS Backup: W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, N5PWG, KD5TXD

Statistics:

Check-ins and traffic count both dropped off from the previous months. Rodney, W5DY, with 34 (57%) claimed top QNI spot, and Scott, W5ESE, with 24 (40%) came in 2nd. Mike, W5TMO, and Sam, W5CU, tied for a close 3rd with 22 (37%). Thanks to all who checked in for your support. I have noticed that besides April, May QNI has also dropped off some more. Please try to check in when you are able, particularly to the late session to help with incoming RN5 traffic.

Larry, KC0M, again visited from Missouri, bringing traffic. We also had one QRP visitor, Gene, KZ5V, check in from Gordonville.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.1 per net session (down from 2.6 last month). Net time averaged 11.1 minutes per session (compared to 12.5 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.1 per session (down from 4.9 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (April 2010)

Call		QNI	total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
W5CU	Sam	9	22		9				
*		13			9				
W5DY	Rodney	18	34	9	7	1			
		16		4	5				
N5EL	Floyd	9	9						
*		0							
W5ESE	Scott	24	24		1				5
*		0							
W5GKH	Charlie	6	12	6	3				
*		6		6	3				
W9GVW	Eric	1	4						
*		3							
KJ9J	Newt	2	2						
*		0							
K5JRN	Si	6	6						
*		0							
K6JT	Steve	15	43	6	3		15		
*		28		11	9		28		
K5KV	Benny	0	2						
		2							
W6LFB	Jim	1	1						
*		0							
KC0M	Larry	0	1						
	MO	1							
N5NVP	Jim	1	12						
		11							
N5PWG	Jay	10	17	5	4				
*		7		4	1				
K5RG	Ken	4	14						
*		10		1					
W5TMO	Mike	1	22						
*		21							
KD5TXD	Pat	4	8	4					4
*		4		4					3
KZ5V	Gene	0	1						
	Gordonville								
NK5Z	Tom	8	13		3				
*		5			3				
Totals		247		60	60	1	43	0	12
				100%	100%	2%	72%	0%	20%
QTC 1		43	128						
QTC 2		85		Sessions:		60			
Time 1		311	665						
Time 2		354							

The roster has not been updated since last month.

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	N7NET	Scott	McKinney
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria (ex-KA8IXC)	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr
N5BA	Brian	Houston	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City OK
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
NV5D	Martin	Allen	* N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5SBE	Larry	Austin
K5GM	Pete	Austin	KC5T	Bob	Houston
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5TFB	Jack	College Station
AA5IJ	Bob	Pasadena	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KA9IKK	Bill	Houston	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
AA5J	Lee	Arkansas	* KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	AI6U	Chris	Sacramento (CA)
K5JRN	Si	Austin	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
K6JT	Steve	Plano	* K5UN	Lee	Leonard
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	K5WQG	Eddy	Tomball
W5KNN	Ed	Bulverde (was KS5V)	KM5YQ	David	Dallas
K5KV	Benny	Star	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches (Lufkin)
W6LFB	Jim	Denton	* NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)
WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga			

* Capable of 160 meter operation

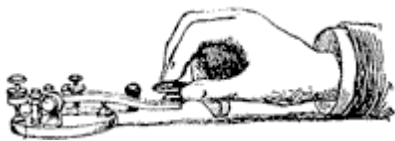
Operating:

Some of our newer operators may not be aware of the convention of who calls whom when sent off frequency to take traffic. As a reminder, it is the **receiving** station that picks the frequency (hopefully on or near the one NCS sends you to), and proceeds to call the transmitting station after at least one "QRL?" query. In the case where both stations will exchange traffic, it is generally the **first** station called by the NCS in setting up the link who makes the call off frequency.

Adhering to this convention will save time and hopefully assure that the receiving station has a QRM-free place to get the traffic. If you are the transmitting station and don't hear the receiving station call after a few seconds (while tuning up and down around the assigned frequency +/- 1 KHz), go ahead and announce your presence on the assigned frequency and/or call the receiving station.

Until next month, 73, Steve

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)



TSN Corner

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

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT

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

It has been a wild couple months here in the Wild Horse Desert. I really want to extend special thanks to the TSN regulars who have been so very faithful to the net. WB5NKC and WB5NKD, Arley and Pat in OKC, are always there. TSN would not survive without them. Also, KB5TCH, Carroll in Douglasville, has faithfully called the Friday net and I really appreciate that on-going labor of love.

Our check-ins were down for March but back up for April. We have some very faithful regular stations coming to the net and I need to thank them for their continued efforts to help us out: AA5JW, W5VXI, W5ESE, and KD5MMM. Thank you for all of your help.

Charles and I managed to get to the 7290 Picnic. I think it is becoming a joke of some kind that we are always late arrivals. Well, it is a long drive from Kingsville to Smithville. The weather was perfect and we had a great time visiting with folks. Special congratulations to Scott, W5ESE, on receiving the 2010 Pfeiffer Pfist Award. Scott has worked with TSN for years, was our net manager for years, and has served faithfully on the Texas CW section net. He also helps with RN5 CW net and a lot more stuff that I can't keep up with. Scott was out camping in some really exotic place rather than at the 7290 picnic. We understand. Be listening around on the band when Scott is camping because he often takes his QRP rig with.

Thanks to all on TSN. Please continue to bring traffic for us. We do our regular lessons but it is a treat when we can pass some regular traffic. Everyone is invited to stop by TSN any time. See you on the nets.

April 2010 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	KE5LOT	Club	Fentress	TX
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	TX	WA5LOU	Lou	Kennard	TX
KD5CB	Mike	Hillsboro	TX	KC0M	Larry	Branson	MO
WB9CIS	John	Morton	IL	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
K6CD/5	Joe	Katy	TX	WA5MUF	Bill	Stafford	OK
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	N7NET	Scott	Allen	OK
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr	LA
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	TX	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
K5END	Larry	Spring	TX	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
WD0ESF	Mike		KS	AA5NZ	Web	Goldthwait	TX
WB9FLU	Bill	Columbus	IN	K4OSO	Milt	Rockville	VA
WB5GFU	Al	Alamo	TX	K9PUI	Rich		IN
KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park	TX	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
AE5GT	Clint	Wimberley	TX	KI5T, KC5AML	Wade		LA
KA8IXC	Dan	Victoria	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
W5JBV	Mike	Panama City	FL	KA5TJS	Allen	San Augustine	TX

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
K5JE	Earl	Claremore	OK	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
K7JHM	John	Price	UT	KD5VGJ	Jay	Flower Mound	TX
K6JT, W0CXX	Steve	Plano	TX	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
W5JKK	George	Bethany	OK	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
KT4KL	Alton	Bandera	TX	KM5YQ	David	Irving	TX
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX	NK5Z	Tom	Conroe	TX
KB5KWO	Steve	Norman	OK	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches	TX
				KD5ZLB	Edwin	Shreveport	LA

Welcome to New and Visiting Stations

April saw us welcoming some new stations to the net; KC0M, KB5KWO, and KT4KL. Please make your visit to TSN a fun habit. 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!! Bring some traffic to TSN. It is good practice.

TSN Activity Report for March, 2010

Total Sessions 31, Total Checkins 128, Total Traffic 30 by 14 different operators.

March QNS

Mar	Callsign	Name	QTH
31	WB5NKC	Arley	OK, Oklahoma City
31	WB5NKD	Pat	OK, Oklahoma City
19	AA5JW	Carl	TX, Stafford
11	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills, TX
9	W5ESE	Scott	TX, Dripping Springs
8	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	TX, Kingsville
5	KD5MMM	Phil	TX, Fentress
4	KB5TCH	Carroll	TX, Douglassville
2	K4VIZ	Tom	AR, Conway
2	K7JHM	John	UT, Price
2	N5NK	Rondel	TX, Zephyr
2	W5DY	Rodney	TX, Goliad
1	N5NVP	Jim	LA, Scott
1	NK5Z	Tom	TX, Conroe

TSN Activity Report for April, 2010

Total Sessions 30, Total Checkins 146, Total Traffic 33 by 14 different operators.

April QNS

Apr	Callsign	Name	QTH
30	WB5NKC	Arley	OK, Oklahoma City
30	WB5NKD	Pat	OK, Oklahoma City
19	AA5JW	Carl	TX, Stafford
15	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills, TX
14	W5ESE	Scott	TX, Dripping Springs

Apr	Callsign	Name	QTH
10	KD5MMM	Phil	TX, Fentress
9	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	TX, Kingsville
4	KB5TCH	Carroll	TX, Douglassville
4	N5NVP	Jim	LA, Scott
4	N7NET	Scott	TX, Allen
4	W5DY	Rodney	TX, Goliad
1	KB5KWO	Steve	OK, Norman
1	KC0M	Larry	MO, Branson
1	KT4KL	Alton	TX, Bandera

73!!
Pat KD5TXD
May 1, 2010