

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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This and That

The switch to 80 meters has worked out pretty well for the early session of TEX. Unfortunately, we have experienced some long skip on the late session a few times. Nothing we can do about that without using 160 meters, which not enough of us are set up for. Net controls are reminded to always have a station as far from you as possible call for net check-ins, which will often get around the long skip. Texas is big enough, and we have enough stations dispersed, so that skip zones as long as 350 miles can be dealt with.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday season, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, or whatever you do (or don't) celebrate. To all, I wish you the very best in the new year.

Now, as promised, here's part 2 of an interesting story from Sam, W5CU, about his operation during the ARRL Centennial as W1AW/5. Thank you, Sam !!

OPERATING W1AW/5 – AN OKLAHOMA STORY – PART TWO By Sam Sitton W5CU

3 a.m, late May, 2014 in Salida, Colorado, on vacation and visiting my daughter – I was having a very realistic dream (nightmare). In my sub-conscious state, it was August 12th, the day before the second W1AW/5 operation in Oklahoma was to begin and....the participation spreadsheet was EMPTY, except for ME!! I woke up sweating in the pre-dawn Colorado chill, bedclothes torn, bloody and tattered (well, figuratively speaking) with the realization that the ARRL Centennial operating event, the second and final opportunity for anyone seeking the W1AW/ WAS award to contact the state of Oklahoma, starts in 2 ½ months and there are NO CALLSIGNS in the operator section of the N2IW-based spreadsheet other than W5CU. Indeed, months had slipped away since all of our activity to set up the spreadsheet had ensued, and little had been done since then to further the preparation because... well, there was plenty of time, late summer was a long way off. Slowly, after my heart-rate fell, slipped back below 100, and I collected my senses, I realized that things were not quite that bad, but there was little time to dally.

There had been attempts to publicize the event already – a broadcast email to all ARRL members in OK, a couple of club meeting presentations, a blurb on the EARS club's website –

but none of it had generated any volunteers, not yet. Is this because W5CU, a/k/a The Great Procrastinator, is in good company and, later in the summer, everyone will sign up, no worries? Or could it be that many of the guys and gals have observed that this W1AW/ deal is more like a full-blown contest (no, like maybe a DX contest, or even a DXpedition to some rare island in the Pacific) and they want no part of the pressure of the pile-ups? After all, the six brave ops who accounted for over 27k QSOs in the first W1AW/5 OK week in January had not been seen or heard from in months!

Having no desire to re-live this nightmare, I returned from vacation, immediately recruited several EARS friends and, together, we redoubled our efforts to gain volunteers by twisting arms within the club. Also, we hit the Oklahoma Ham Holiday hamfest in July, boots on the ground, with flyers and enthusiasm, and then finally made a fervent plea to OKDXA members to step up and volunteer, since the two-hour slots were going fast (noses grew a little bit on that one...). Slowly, over the next thirty days, volunteers appeared and the spreadsheet was populated, at least for the critical first three days when most of the action seemed to occur for the other W1AW's around the country. Familiar callsigns landed on the spreadsheet, such as N5OK (former SM and West Gulf Director and well-known DXer), NB5N (former SM), W5LE (OKDXA Pres), K5WE (international traveler/DXer, QSO machine), and N5UM (member of the high-scoring K3LR multi-multi contest crew). There were smaller fish like me jumping in the pond, as well, such as W5TMC. Mike has a nice station in eastern OK, but unlike all the rest of our operators he operates with a handicap – he is totally blind. Ultimately, there would be 27 different stations sign up, including the EARS K5EOK club station. Maybe I lost sleep on vacation for nothing!

The bush-shaking with the EARS group bore other fruit, too. Several members volunteered to help out back-office in a couple of roles that we created to spread the supervisory responsibilities around (I could only take a couple of days off my job to participate). Since this operating event was taking on the shape of a DXpedition, why not have a pilot station - someone who, for a selected 24 hour period, 7 p.m. to 7 p.m., would assume responsibility for monitoring the HF bands to ensure that operations were being carried out in accordance with ARRL guidelines (eg no more than one station using a band/mode at a time, minimizing interference to other HF activities such as nets, DX, ragchews, etc.). The pilots would be ready to contact the operating stations if needed in the event of any type of problem or fill-in should a published operating slot open up on short-notice. Also, several EARS members volunteered to be spotters, posting frequency information on the DX clusters at the beginning of each two-hour shift. To enhance the experience of the operators and communicate best practices, WB5GCX Oscar set up a running Google document where operators could log in and discuss with others any aspect of their operation.

The pace picked up after the Ham Holiday event. Emails started rolling in to me as the announced coordinator – ARRL forwarding limited authorization to use the callsign for seven days beginning at 7 p.m. CDT Tuesday August 12th, ARRL official and operating event coordinator NN1N notifying us that the other state scheduled for our week had moved its operation until later in the year such that Oklahoma would be the only scheduled operation for that week (gulp!), a JA who needs OK on 10 meters for a 5-band WAS attempt, a scheduled operator who could only paper log and wants to know if that is a problem..., etc. Long range propagation forecasts for our week showed unstable numbers during the middle of the week,

while the WX forecast included storms near the end of the week (after all, this is the height of tornado season in these parts). Things were definitely heating up.

With bated breath, 11 of us awaited the first day of this amazing event. Hard to believe, but we were to have activity on 10 band/modes for 18 of the first 24 hours of the event. I called my own number for one of the first two-hour shifts, choosing 40 meter CW, followed by an additional two hours on 80 CW. The EARS website was receiving an enormous volume of hits as hams around the country and the world linked to it from the ARRL.org website to obtain band and time information on our operation.

I was in the process of moving to another house at the time, but I left my inverted vee set up at the old house and operated on a cardboard table in a metal chair. Austere setting, but complete and total privacy. At zero hours, I pushed the button on the keyer and made my first CQ on 7.030 – no response! Called again and again, and then finally there was a W3, exchange made, QRZ... no one else calling. For the next five minutes, I worked six stations, then all hell broke loose! It was an honest-to-goodness pile-up, as the spotters had spotted me and everyone showed up to play. I was running 600 watts with my keyer cranked up to 32 wpm, making brief exchanges, doing my best imitation of a real DX or contest station running other stations on a frequency, squeezing the bandwidth control narrower and narrower on the K3 as signals started to combine into one, splitting up 2 initially, up 2-5 as more stations started calling. I glanced at the clock – wow, now that was one quick 60 minutes. The pace continues without break. Getting the west coast in now and starting to get South America, Canada, Mexico, Caribbean, some DLs., all U.S. call areas. At 9:00 local, I shut it down with many continuing to call, but fortunately my replacement on 40 CW was right there to take the ball and run with it. Thirsty, needing to make a pit stop but mindful I was due on 80 immediately, I took a quick break then started again on 3.533. Madness there too. And so it went – the thrill of being “chased” by so many great operators and the satisfaction of sending the iconic W1AW callsign from the comfort of my own QTH. Pure gold fun!

More to come in a final installment – a couple of challenging band and WX days, scrambling to fill late-week slots, a fuss about stepping on a 24-hour rag-chew frequency, the thrill and satisfaction of handing out wanted Qs to the JA multitudes, learning the hard-way about pile-up management, and a look back on things done right and things that could have been done better.

George Hart Series

Here is the 34th installment of the George Hart Series. George assumes his new 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 34 - The ARRL Apparatus Bureau

With amateur radio in limbo "for the duration" and ARRL/QST staff reduced to a skeleton, keeping "the hobby" alive became quite a challenge. Lil and I kept busy during office hours keeping up correspondence, producing mimeograph bulletins to what was left of the field organization, finding candidates for SCM, and conducting SCM elections where candidates could be found.

Thousands of amateurs were in the armed services, but the majority were still out there with transmitters silent, their interest ebbing but still alive. The CD in peacetime had a staff of about seven. Now it was reduced to two, but the workload was not reduced that much; we still had basic functions to perform in keeping with the policy, you might even say the determination, to keep ARRL and amateur radio alive without any on-the-air activity.

Although a daunting challenge, the latter part of 1942, the entire year of 1943 and the first couple of months of 1944 were a good time for me. I had an executive position, making several trips to the Washington area, where I conferred in relatively high government circles. One of my functions in this period was conduct of the ARRL Apparatus Bureau. Despite all the war clouds, the U.S. had been determined to maintain strict neutrality, at least on the surface. We were not prepared for a full-scale war, and lack of communications equipment was one of the most critical shortages. The League was asked by the government to solicit donations by amateurs of certain items of manufactured equipment in good working condition for use by the armed services until manufacturing quotas could be reached. QST ran a solicitation and the response was overwhelming.

The program was largely based on a patriotic motif, although certain monetary compensations were offered. The ARRL Apparatus Bureau came to be largely my function in production of lists of equipment being offered by amateurs. Most of the equipment did not pass through the headquarters, but went directly from the donor to the user.

One of the most critical shortages was meters and other measuring equipment. We were visited by a representative of Galvin Manufacturing Co. of Chicago, who claimed to be in charge of procurement of this type of equipment under a subcontract with Hallicrafters, a principal supplier of communications gear for the armed services. I remember the man as a brash, outspoken extrovert, but I don't remember his name. He offered \$3 for each meter sent in. We were to collect the meters from amateur donors, tag each one with the name and address of the ham or other person who sent it in, and a Galvin man would show up from time to time to take the meters off our hands.

"Three dollars per meter" became a bone of contention. QST solicitation failed to specify that meters be of certain makes, only that they must be in working condition when received. The result was that some of the meters were of inferior brands ("Readrite" meters were considered to be in this category), which had not cost \$3 when purchased, so the "donor" would be profiting from the exchange. On the other hand, many meters (Weston, GE, etc.) were worth a great deal more than \$3, but were sent in with the understanding that the donor would accept that amount. Profiteering versus patriotism, a common syndrome of war. The Galvin man (let's call him Blake) would not accept the cheap meters.

KB contended that the solicitation, approved by Galvin, promised \$3 for each meter received in working condition. No mention had been made of quality. Blake contended, almost

sneeringly, that it wouldn't make good business sense to pay \$3 for a meter worth less than a dollar.

KB countered with the implication that Galvin wouldn't mind, however, greatly profiting from paying only \$3 for meters that were worth a great deal more than that. Blake refused even to consider such an argument, stating flatly that Galvin would not pay more than it was worth for any meter, nor accept any meter of the Readrite type, but would pay only a maximum of \$3 for a meter regardless of its worth. Business was for profit, even (especially) during wartime.

[To be continued in Chapter 34B] George continues settling in as understudy to KB Warner at ARRL as the War grows.

TEX Mailbox:

As received from **James, WB8SIW**, The December issue of the QNI Newsletter is available via the TEX website link. This is another interesting one that I recommend you all take a look through. In particular, note the article about Contesting as EMCOMM Training, which pretty much debunks what the contesters say about their favorite pastime. The contents include:

- The (Inter)national Traffic System
- A NTSD MBO for Europe
- Hunting Camp—The Death of Two Meters Revisited
- Pedestrian Mobile WinLink
- The Mirror in the Sky
- Contesting as EMCOMM Training?
- LAX SET—An Exercise in NTSD
- NTS Table at SW Convention
- The Case for Phonetics
- Managing Health and Welfare Traffic

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From **Randy, N5RL**: I saw what you wrote about beginning CW ops in the most recent TEX newsletter and I could not agree with you more. Its hard trying to become proficient in a radio world where CW seems to be more forgotten as every new day passes us by. When we lost the Novice license and CW became an option rather than a requirement, the downhill ride began. Our CW training ground vanished. I for one, of course, love CW and will keep pounding the brass for as long as I am able to. I shudder to think that CW would ever vanish in the amateur radio community entirely. One weakness I do have is my lack of desire to slow down and give those in a serious learning mode a chance to have a QSO with N5RL at a speed they are comfortable with. Frankly, going much below 18 wpm is like having a voice conversation in absolute slow motion. It tries my patience ! Still I have found that sometimes if you don't slow down to where more people operate, your CQ's while heard get fewer responses, or at least I suspect that. Faster is more better only some times ... and then there are those who challenge me to the point where I suspect this has got to be a computer talking. Sort of like when you, Sam, Doug, and Benny send NTS traffic to each other. I'd be great if I could write or type that fast !

I'm glad to see folks like Don and a few others who are willing to make the effort to learn CW. I just need to learn to crawl more at times I guess and help them along. As we both know,

it's a wonderful language to be proficient at and goes back to the very roots of our hobby. I'm not going to say that knowing CW makes you any better a ham than any one else, but in my mind it does make you more complete and competent to say I'm a true radio amateur in every sense of the word. 73 de Randy N5RL

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From **Dave, WB2FTX**: This video on YouTube is from the Radio Society of Great Britain, the UK's national amateur organization. It is geared towards encouraging especially young people to get into amateur radio. I think it is well done and wanted to share with others

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8x6x_6mDVIQ

Also, if you haven't seen them, take a look at the following 2 videos from ARRL regarding the Amateur Radio Parity Act.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMY-5U1cJ6E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ema5Fclt-1Q>

73 Dave WB2FTX
EADC NTSD

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From **Joe, W3JY**: Okay this is filed under, "Things that make you go, Hmmm."
For my non-ham and non-veteran friends, here's a short explanation:

Last week, short-wave radio enthusiasts monitored a number of U.S. military "emergency action messages" (EAM) sent on short-wave frequencies, consisting of spoken, coded groups, using call signs last heard fifteen years ago.

According to some digging I did, the call signs and frequencies were associated with the old Strategic Air Command. Whatever the Pentagon is calling it today, the broadcasts seem to use the same protocol, call signs, and procedure as formerly. This is strange, since HF radio (another name for short-wave) has been deprecated by the military, which considers it obsolete in the age of cheap satellite communications.

In other words, this is Dr Strangelove stuff. There are some off-air recordings and a long discussion at the Reddit link below, for those interested enough to wade through them. If you have a short-wave receiver, why not monitor the frequencies yourself and tell us what you hear?

Joe, W3JY
Chair EAS

https://www.reddit.com/r/conspiracy/comments/3oswdt/unusual_happenings_with_inactive_radio_stations/

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Received from **Doug, NA5YO**, regarding complaints about too much traffic: The thing no one seems to understand is that traffic handling is playing unless there's life or property involved. Ham radio should be something you just enjoy doing. If it's a job, then maybe you need to take up golf or some other sport. They are called traffic nets — that means we pass

and handle some traffic. If there's no traffic (Spam or legit) then it's nothing but a roll call net, how boring. With iPhones, email, and cell phones, why use NTS? The answer: we do this with the thought of one day perhaps using it in an emergency, it is supposed to be FUN.

I've been doing this a long time and all I hear is crying if there's no traffic. Then when you make it to create traffic for the ops to play and practice with then there's crying about that. It can't be both ways. The truth is the only thing keeping Amateur Radio afloat these days is Contesting and DX. Look around, there's not very many young people interested in it. In our time when we were young people it was the top of technology. So my advice is have some fun, make some traffic, play and enjoy. If you can't enjoy it sell your ham gear and find something else that will amuse you.

73, Doug//NA5YO

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If you would like to comment on anything in the QNI Newsletter, **Kate, K6HTN**, the assistant editor has created a website where you can do so and also access all issues. Looks like a nice job. The link is:

<http://qni-newsletter.net/>

Enjoy!

73 Kate K6HTN

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Rodney, W5DY, sent the following along so we can track the lightning during T-storms:

<http://www.lightningmaps.org/realtime?lang=en>

This is what I use to tell where the lightning is. Seems to work very well.

73, Rodney

- . . . -

Jim, W5FEA, recorded the TEX early session on Friday, December 11. It is good audio quality (no wonder, since Jim worked in broadcasting). It is a very large MP3 file. If you are interested in listening to it, let me know and I'll email it to you (about 8 MB). This was done in response to an Australian ham's request for information on how a CW net works. Thanks, Jim!

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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). No changes have been made. No formal replacements have yet come forward for Sam, W5CU's Wednesday and Sunday slots, so the backup stations have been handling them during his absence from home. He is still commuting to Midland, but will be spending time at home in between weeks there and on most weekends.

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TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	N5RL	KD5TXD	KD5TXD	N5RL	W5FEA	W5GKH
Backup	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	K6JT	W5FEA
NCS #2	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	K5KV	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT
RN5 #1	K5KV	NA5YO	W5CU	N5RL	N5RL	NA5YO	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5FEA	W5FEA
RN5 #2	K5RG	NA5YO	W5CU	K6JT	K6JT	NA5YO	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	K5RG	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT

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

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

TSN: **3570** - 19:45 CT; CAN: **3552**/3595/7052/7108 - 20:30 CT; PAN: **3552**/7052 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K5GM, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, NA5YO

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K6JT, K5KV, 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	KF5QKJ	Don	San Angelo
W5DH	Tom	Dallas	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
W4DLZ	Frank	Florida	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT op)
W5FEA	Jim	Graham	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
K5GM	Pete	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
K5JRN	Si	Austin	NE5V	Chris	Liberty Hill
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
N7KRT	Jeff	Victoria	K6YBV	Bob	Placerville CA
* K5KV	Benny	Star	W5YE	Brian	Harlingen
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	NA5YO	Doug	San Antonio
N7NET	Scott	McKinney	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

October:

Jim, W5FEA, with 62 out of 62 (100%) was again able to have "perfect attendance". Randy, N5RL, with 54 (87%) took second, and Rodney, W5DY, with 48 (77%) took third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors to the net included Dave, NE5E, from San Antonio, and Ken KK0HF, from Kansas.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.8 per net session (2.9 last month). Net time averaged 12.6 minutes per session (compared to 11.2 last month). Check-ins averaged 6.2 per session (5.6 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (October 2015)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
KW5AS	Skip	9	9					
		0						
WA5CAV	Dick	0	1					
		1						
W4DLZ	Frank	0	1					
		1						
W5CU	Sam	3	7		2			
*		4			1			
W5DY	Rodney	23	48	2	5			
		25		3	2		1	
NE5E	Dave	1	1					
	San Antonio	0						
W5ESE	Scott	2	2					
*		0						
W5FEA	Jim	31	62	4	2	27		
*		31			1	3		
W5GKH	Charlie	8	16	8				
*		8		8				
K5GM	Pete	11	25					
*		14		1				
W9GVW	Eric	5	7					
*		2						
KK0HF	Ken	1	1					
	KS	0						

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
K6JT	Steve	12	41				10	
*		29		7	10		29	
K5KV	Benny	9	30		4			
		21		3				
KB5NJD	John	11	12				11	
		1						
KF5QKJ	Don	9	16					
*		7						
K5RG	Ken	0	9					
*		9			9			
N5RL	Randy	26	54	9	10	4		
*		28				27		
KD5RQB	Jason	5	5					5
		0						
W5TMO	Mike	0	9					
*		9		9				
KD5TXD	Pat	8	8	8				
*		0						
NA5YO	Doug	8	18		8			
		10			8			
K6YBV	Bob	0	1					
		1						
Totals		383		62	62	61	51	5
				100%	100%	98%	82%	8%
QTC 1		57	171					
QTC 2		114		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		361	779					
Time 2		418						

November:

Jim, W5FEA, with 60 out of 60 (100%) maintained his "perfect attendance". Randy, N5RL, and Rodney, W5DY, with 51 (85%) tied for second. Benny, K5KV, with 35 (58%) took third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

There were no check-ins that are not on the roster.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 3.1 per net session (2.8 last month). Net time averaged 11.5 minutes per session (compared to 12.6 last month). Check-ins averaged 6.3 per session (6.2 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (November 2015)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
KW5AS	Skip	12	13					
	Victoria	1						
WA5CAV	Dick	0	1					
	LA	1						
W5CU	Sam	8	16		6			
*		8			5			
W5DY	Rodney	27	51		3			
		24		6	1			
W5FEA	Jim	30	60	5	1	25		
*		30				1		
W5GKH	Charlie	9	18	9				
*		9		9				
K5GM	Pete	12	26		1			
*		14						
W9GVW	Eric	8	11					
*		3						
K6JT	Steve	10	39				9	
*		29		6	8		29	
K5KV	Benny	14	35		4			
		21		3				
KB5NJD	John	7	7				7	
		0						
K1PKZ	Paul	5	5					
		0						
KF5QKJ	Don	3	5					
	San Angelo	2						
K5RG	Ken	0	8					
*		8			8			
N5RL	Randy	24	51	8	7	4		
*		27				24		

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
KD5RQB	Jason	1	1					1
		0						
W5TMO	Mike	0	6					
*		6		6				
KD5TXD	Pat	8	8	8				
*		0						
NA5YO	Doug	8	17		8			
		9			8			
K6YBV	Bob	0	1					
		1						
Totals		379		60	60	54	45	1
				100%	100%	90%	75%	2%
QTC 1		81	188					
QTC 2		107		Sessions:		60		
Time 1		341	692					
Time 2		351						

Operating:

Traffic was up slightly the last 2 months, but there still needs to be more going out to RN5 and coming back in. I try to bring some from the digital side, which helps, and service messages to Doug, NA5YO, who is originating quite a bit of traffic, much of it going out via cycle 2, also help. Not sure what we can do to stimulate incoming traffic, but everyone can certainly originate one or two messages a month, even if only to a distant ham friend.

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There have been questions regarding emailing of traffic. The following was sent to the Central Area Staff and is copied here for your information:

There have been some complaints and suggestions for delivering messages via E-mail. Messages should NEVER be passed via email to an intermediate relay station. It is OK to use Winlink for this, but not standard email.

These days with lots of people abandoning their landlines for cell-only service and obsolete listings of phone numbers, delivering messages by phone has become an uncertain thing.

Some sending stations have started putting email addresses on the messages with or without a phone number. This is a courtesy to the delivering station, not a demand that it be emailed any more than putting an address is a demand that it be put into postal mail.

Handling these through NTS still provides a level of activity that is especially beneficial to the lowest-level nets where stations are still learning about traffic handling. Receiving the messages still provides that benefit, so these email address messages remain valid. Note that while a phone number is highly desired for an addressee, NTS does not REQUIRE that a phone number be provided: Only an address.

So I ask everyone on the staff to keep in mind that messages should be passed through the various levels of the system until they reach at least the section where the addressee is located. Then, and only if no phone can be located or no other outlet, should they be emailed. If no email address is given, sometimes looking on QRZ.com will yield one.

There are exceptions, of course. Some sections do not have sufficient outlets or liaisons. If using email is the only possible method of delivery to those sections, then it is better to do that than to simply service back to the originator that there was no outlet and cancel the message.

To summarize:

1. Never use email to relay traffic – it is only for delivery to the final destination
2. Move traffic to the section of the addressee where it may be emailed only if there is no other method besides postal mail available.

Thank you for your cooperation. And please pass this information down to your section affiliates wherever possible.

...

I attached the October composite Central Area report to last month's statistics E-mail, so I will not include it here. The November totals are missing the digital statistics since Gary, KB0OFD, who is the Central Area Digital Coordinator, has been very sick and so far is unable to put together a report. The totals for the Voice / CW Nets are shown in the following. They will be updated once more inputs are received.

NTS Central Area Activity for November 2015

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
RN5 Cycle 2	34	43	261	410	0.105
9RN Cycle 2	13	219	117	125	1.752
10RN Cycle 2	13	64	109	145	0.441
RN5 Cycle 4	60	168	318	656	0.256
9RN Cycle 4	55	108	158	340	0.318
TEN Cycle 4	59	157	189	533	0.295
CAN Cycle 2	13	119	93	255	0.467
CAN Cycle 4	30	329	226	520	0.633
TCC Cycle 2	39	82	37		
TCC Cycle 4	90	166	89		
Total Voice/CW Nets		1455	1597	2984	
NTS Digital			Received	Sent	
KB0OFD		0			
WB9FHP		0			
W5SEG		0			
DRS Stations (19)		0			
Total NTS Digital		0	0	0	
Total Central Area		1455			

Until February, have a very Happy Holiday season and all the best in the New Year.
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

I want to start this month by welcoming Chris W5CBP from Albuquerque, New Mexico to the Texas Slow Net. Chris Checked in to TSN on November 3rd. Welcome to the net Chris and please check in as often as you can. Also, on the November 3rd TSN Net Eric W9GVW from San Antonio checked in. Thanks for checking in to the net Eric it is good to hear you on the net.

Mike WD0ESF checked into the net on November 6th. It was good to hear Mike back on the net.

In closing I want to want to wish everyone Happy Holidays!!!

TSN Activity Reports

Month	QNI	QTC	Nr. Operators
October 15 Sessions	42	17	5
November 17 Sessions	26	16	6

December 2015 Net Control Stations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No Net	No Net	Carroll KB5TCH	Open - Jason KD5RQB	Jason KD5RQB	Sam KK4HCF	No Net

October 2015 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	17
JASON	KD5RQB	12
SAM	KK4HCF	11
SKIP	KW5AS	1
HOWARD	WD5IDB	1

November 2015 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	9
SAM	KK4HCF	8
JASON	KD5RQB	4
MIKE	WD0ESF	3
ERIC	W9GVW	1
CHRIS	W5CBP	1

TSN Roster (November 2015 to December 2016)

Callsign	Name	QTH
W5CBP	Chris	ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
W5DY	Rodney	GOLIAD, TEXAS
WD0ESF	Mike	MEDICINE LODGE, KANSAS
W5FEA	Jim	GRAHAM, TEXAS
W9GVW	Eric	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
KK4HCF	Sam	MARYSVILLE, TENNESSEE
KB5KWO	Steve	NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
KD5MMM	Phil	FENTRESS, TEXAS
KD5RQB	Jason	ATLANTA, 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 **3567**
Alternate Frequency 7108 (early) 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 45 of the **RN5 Corner**.

I have been reading about all the potential terrorist attacks and our vulnerabilities. Here are a few things that came to my attention.

A pulse bomb can easily be dropped on the US now, taking us back to ZERO. If one doesn't have Batteries, solar and inverter to operate off the Grid you can kiss it good bye.

Also you better learn how to grow vegetables and raise and slaughter animals for meat. The Grocery stores will disappear and most vehicles will be rendered inoperable due to their computer control systems being destroyed.

CW will be needed, as it will be the TOP Mode. All solid state rigs will be destroyed, so get your boat anchors going again. Also, the new CW procedures for handling ICS-213 messages on behalf of FEMA will be coming out early next year. We will need to learn them and practice sending and receiving those types of messages. Since the digital systems will be down, the SSB rigs destroyed, Internet ISPs destroyed, and cell tower operation destroyed (not to mention all the cell phones themselves), we are going to be IT for handling this type of emergency traffic.

Just thought I'd cheer you all up... Good Luck !

That said, we need to keep the nets running. Tom, WA4ZPZ, tried to keep things going while Jerry was recovering from surgery, but due to a high noise level at his QTH, probably due to power line problems, he has all but given up his skeds. Thankfully as of this writing, Jerry, W4SU, has recovered and is back on the air again. No word from Ben, KZ8Q, about when he might be back on the air, but I understand he is now fighting a homeowner's association about getting antennas back up. When will Congress finally approve the parity act to override those idiotic restrictions? We sorely need NCS and liaison stations, as you can see from the Duty Roster on the next page. Any help?

Pretty glum column this month, but I still want to wish you all a very happy holiday season and hope we will have a Happy New Year. New things coming in 2016.

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	Open	W4DLZ	Open (W5CU)	W4SU	W4SU	W4DLZ	WA4ZPZ
NCS #2	Open	W4DLZ	Open (W5CU)	K6JT	W4SU	W4DLZ	WA4ZPZ
CAN TX	Open	NA5YO	Open (W5CU)	W4SU	W4SU	NA5YO	Open
CAN RX	Open	NA5YO	W4AGL ?	K6JT	Open	NA5YO	Open
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

2015 Statistics

MONTH	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
SESSIONS	60	60
QTC	183	168
QNI	326	318
QTR	415	656
AVG QTC	3.1	2.8
AVG QNI	5.4	5.3
AVG QTR	6.9	10.9

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

Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	Section	Call	Name	Section
W4AGL	JIM	FL	K5KV	BENNY	TX
WA4BAM	JOHN	FL	K8KV	BEN	FL
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	N5NVP	JIM	LA
W5CU	SAM	OK*	K4PG	KEVIN	FL
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	KZ8Q	BEN	AL (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	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
K5GM	PETE	TX	K5WNU	JACK	MS
W8IM	DEAN	FL	NA5YO	DOUG	TX
K6JT	STEVE	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