

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

**** See "TSN Corner" on Last Page ****

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Standard Time Change

As sent in the special E-Mail to all TEX'ans, with the change back to standard time on November 4, TEX continues to meet at the same local times, 7 and 10 PM daily. This is now 0100 and 0400 UTC.

Based on what has been happening at 0300Z, where I have observed the band changing by the end of the net on several nights, we are going to have some problems with long skip and QSB on late TEX. Refer to last month's newsletter for operating tips should this become a regular occurrence.

While some TEX members (see the notes on the roster) are able to operate on 160 meters, in testing the capability last year, it was found that communication on 160 is no better than 80 meters, and often worse, around the late TEX time. Some of the problems are undoubtedly due to poor antenna performance for most of us on that band (I can no longer load up my secondary antenna on 160 with better than 2.5:1 SWR), and the band is also usually quite noisy. So it appears we are pretty much "stuck" with using 80 meters and hoping for shorter skip as we pull out of the sunspot cycle minimum.

Back from California

Many thanks to those of you who helped out with filling my NCS and liaison slots while I was in California last month helping my parents. Special thanks to Rodney for keeping me apprised of net activity and sending timely reports via E-Mail. You all did a great job keeping the net running. We had only one instance of a missing RN5 liaison and all net control positions were ably filled, many times by Pat, KD5TXD, who has really gotten the hang of CW net operations in a relatively short time. Thank you, Pat, and we are all very proud of you.

PAN is on 80 Meters Now

The Pacific Area Net has now moved back to 3552 at 10:30 our time. The TCC liaison from Pacific to Central Area, designated "Fox", requires that several TEX members participate on PAN to take traffic for our area. I am pleased to note that 6 of the 7 nights of the Fox liaison are handled by TEX members – Ken, K5RG, has 2 of them, Doug, KA5KLU, has one, I have

one, and Rodney, W5DY, has two. The other night is handled by our neighbor and friend to the north, Arley, WB5NKC, in Oklahoma City.

What this means is that late TEX must vacate 3552 by about 10:25 so the PAN NCS will not have to move the net frequency. With conditions as they have been, it is difficult enough to hear the NCS here in Texas without having to tune around to look for him. In fact, while covering one of Rodney's weekend skeds last month in his absence, I was completely unable to find the PAN NCS, who had moved up more than 2 KHz due to contest QRM around 3552.

If traffic handling is still going on at 10:25 (hopefully down at 3549), all late TEX NCS stations should close the net on 3552 and QSY themselves down to where the last stations are still busy, calling them once they finish to inform them that the net is QNF. Also, if you are off frequency at 10:25 or later, do NOT go back to 3552 to announce you have finished. Instead, pause at least 15 seconds to see if the NCS has come to your frequency to excuse you. If nothing is heard, assume the net is QNF and simply shut down for the session.

Our being on 3552 does have one advantage for PAN. It tends to keep the frequency clear of casual rag-chewers ahead of the PAN start time, particularly if TEX runs a bit long.

W1NJM Saga

Again, thanks to Sis, WD8DIN, the editor of the "Traffic Call" newsletter of the Hit and Bounce Net (HBN – 0730 CT, 7042 KHz), for passing along George Hart's saga of the "early days". Here's Part 8 of George Hart's recollections. "Geo" and Bunch expand their many operational experiences and W3AMR is born.

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 8.

W3NF continues in 1929 and "Geo" goes legal on Feb. 5, 1930

W3NF became well known in traffic handling circuits (at least in the northeast). We were awarded a position on Trunk Line A, running from New York to San Francisco. Later we also participated on Trunk Line C, running from Maine to Florida. The Trunk Lines were an ARRL institution originally fostered by Hiram Percy Maxim but implemented by HQ even before WW-I, reorganized in the twenties and going full blast into the thirties. By the time the U.S. got involved in WW-II and amateur radio was again shut down, there were 14 trunk lines in operation criss-crossing the U.S. in various configurations, plus a line in Canada. In those days, especially in the early thirties, spot frequency contacts were the exception, rather than the rule. Trunk Line stations were expected to keep their two TL skeds every weekday, plus other schedules for the handling of traffic not destined for the points along the line.

For example, on the Trunk Line A, W3NF would keep a sked with a station in or near New York City, the eastern terminus, and relay traffic going to or coming from an easterly or a westerly direction. We would also keep a schedule with a westerly TL station, say Pittsburgh. That station would also keep a westerly schedule, say with a station in or near Cincinnati. And so on to, say, Indianapolis, Chicago, St. Louis, Omaha, Denver, Salt Lake City and San

Francisco. Each station along the line was expected to provide the outlets and sources to north and south and nearby large cities, if any. The skeds were almost always kept in the evening, sometimes in early morning, hardly ever during the day, not necessarily on any progressive time schedule, but at times convenient to the two operators involved. There were no "nets" because use of spot frequency was rare. W3NF might be 3820 on schedule with W8CGZ, who might be 3650. By the thirties, most stations were using crystal control and crystals were in limited supply to those who could afford them. All traffic handling was done by CW. Voice operation was taking a foothold, but until years later took little serious part in anything but casual rag chewing.

No schedules were kept on weekends, most holidays, and during mid-summer months (June through August) everything shut down. In the normal course, messages from New York to San Francisco might take three or four days or, if propagation and other factors intervened, as much as a week or longer. I kept thinking that there ought to be a better way of doing it, but never put such thoughts into specific action until many years later.

GETTING ON 40 METERS

Up to this point (1930), all our operation was on 80 meters. Bunch was acutely aware of the existence of higher frequency bands and their potential for daylight operation. We were so deeply involved in traffic handling that there was little opportunity to explore 40 and 20 meters; but Bunch increasingly wondered what it would be like to operate in the higher frequency bands. He wound new coils for our regenerative receiver so he could at least listen on 40 and was amazed to hear "nines" coming through in broad daylight.

On 80 you could seldom hear them at night, and in the daytime only relatively local signals were audible, or sometimes not at all. The age level of hams was considerably lower than it is now. During the day a big segment of the ham population was in school or college or at work. I remember that many times when I had an opportunity to operate in midday there were no signals audible; but on 40 meters you could almost always hear signals, some of them 4's and 9's (remember, the nearest 4's were in North Carolina or in Tennessee, the nearest 9's in Kentucky or Indiana). I was content to stay on 80, but Bunch wanted to get on 40, so one weekend, again to my dismay, I found we were off the air as Bunch made alterations to the transmitter to try to make it work on 40, and fashioning a 40 meter antenna.

He succeeded, but the signal lacked in stability and the results were not so good. He found we did not compete so well with the "big boys" on 40 as we did on 80. So now his ambition was to modify the 852 transmitter so it would work as well on 40 as it did on 80 meters. This meant a lot of experimenting, often to the detriment of our traffic-handling program, of which I was mainly in charge while Bunch spent his spare time socializing or tinkering with the transmitter. We had some bitter quarrels about it, but I was always the loser. Bunch prevailed. I was almost thankful that his social activities (mostly with girls) greatly limited his on-the-air operations, but sometimes he would leave the transmitter in an inoperative condition and all my pleading would be ineffective.

"Do it yourself," he would snicker, knowing full well that I had neither the knowledge nor skill to restore the transmitter to operation. The sad part was that I had no desire to participate in that phase of amateur radio. I just wanted to operate. Eventually, of course, I learned the basics, much as I had learned the code, by osmosis, watching Bunch and emulating him; but I

never even came close to matching his skill or know-how in construction or experimenting. I did eventually surpass him in operating and organizing ability, but not by much. All thru our Amateur Radio careers I always came to Bunch (we later dropped this moniker and he became simply Ed) when I had any kind of technical problem.

FIRST LICENSE

My technical shortcomings were such that I kept putting off taking my license test, but when a few eyebrows were raised, in late 1929, I decided to do something about it. I applied for a "temporary" amateur license. This was just what the name implied, a license granted by the Federal Radio Commission (Department of Commerce) which would make operation legal until the applicant could take the written and code test under supervision at an FRC testing point – in our case, Philadelphia as the nearest place where such tests were given. It was conducted entirely by mail on the "honor system," but was good only for one-year maximum, after which it became invalid unless the licensee took the regular test. During that year it conferred full amateur privileges. I had Bunch help me with the technical questions and had copied a diagram out of QST.

Cheating? Oh yes, I cheated, but Bunch had threatened to forbid me from operating his station unless I got a license. The call assigned was W3AMR. The license was dated Feb.5, 1930. I was "legal" at last.

DX DAZE

Back in 1927, when we were still struggling with our 210 Hartley on raw a.c., we received a card from an SWL in England stating that he had heard us, but we didn't believe it. We couldn't work a 9 or a 4 unless conditions were exceptionally good, how could we be heard in England? After the "great discovery" of the RF choke and our contacts and range increased, we began to hear that some of our colleagues were working Englishmen on 80 meters. It was necessary to stay up quite late, e.g., after midnight, before they started coming through as the Englishmen started getting up. We usually went to bed before midnight, but one Friday night in January of 1929, I decided to stay up and check out these reports. Sure enough, a few English hams were coming through, principally "Ham" White, G6WY. That is, he was the strongest. Other G stations were much weaker but audible. I called and called, but they always came back to someone else, so I went to bed, unable to stay awake longer. But during the day Saturday, I gave much thought to the matter and the lure of "DX" started to infect me. I stayed up late again on Saturday night, and this time G6WY finally answered my call. I let out a whoop, waking Bunch up.

"If you can't operate quietly," he said, groggily, "you can get the hell out of here." "But I'm working an Englishman!" I protested. "I don't care who you're working. Do it quietly or get the hell out."

It was reminiscent of the time a couple of years before when, one crisp winter morning, I had worked 5QQ in Mississippi and 4OO in Florida, waking Bunch up to inform him of this outstanding feat. He was never overly impressed, and not at all when he was awakened. I feared him because he had the power to take away my amateur radio fun, and he used it purposefully whenever he disapproved of anything I did as far as ham radio was concerned.

Coming next in Part 9, The Lehigh Valley Radio Club.

TEX Mailbox:

David, K7IZ, reported that Humberto took his station down for a while until he could make repairs. Good luck, David.

Congratulations to **Benny, K5KV**, who joins us on TEX sometimes from his vacation QTH near Star. Benny is the new manager of the Louisiana CW Net (LCW).

Si, K5JRN, has been able to join us on TEX a little more often of late. Si reports that his schedule does not permit a "regular" participation but he will check in whenever he can. Good to have you back again, Si.

Scott, W7IZ, the STM of Oregon, passes along some neat tidbits. He sent a link to a site that has all sorts of information about every zip code. It is pretty interesting to browse – check it at <http://zipskinny.com/> . Scott also passed along this interesting anecdote:

Top this for a speeding ticket.

Two British traffic patrol officers from North Berwick were involved in an unusual incident, while checking for speeding motorists on the A-1 Great North Road.

One of the officers (who are not named) used a hand-held radar device to check the speed of a vehicle approaching over the crest of a hill, and was surprised when the speed was recorded at over 600kph. The machine then stopped working and the officers were not able to reset it.

The radar had in fact latched on to a NATO Tornado fighter jet over the North Sea, which was engaged in a low-flying exercise over the Border district. Back at police headquarters the chief constable fired off a stiff complaint to the R A F Liaison office.

Back came the reply in true laconic R A F style. 'Thank you for your message, which allows us to complete the file on this incident. You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Tornado had automatically locked on to your 'hostile radar equipment' and sent a jamming signal back to it. Furthermore, the Sidewinder Air-to-ground missiles aboard the fully-armed aircraft had also locked on to the target. Fortunately, the Dutch pilot flying the Tornado responded to the missile status alert intelligently and was able to override the automatic protection system before the missile was launched'.

Pat, KD5TXD, reported that she and OM Charles (WB5IZD) had a great visit with Floyd (N5EL) and Wilma (N5ELW) Saturday at the Belton Hamfest this past month. They saw a bunch of folks at Belton including W5ESE.

They were also able to go to the train museum with Floyd. Pat writes, "Wow, they have a great setup. I had watched your video, but being there and seeing it in action really makes a difference. Floyd supplied his program, The Mill, and we are going to try to find a way to get it set up at our little train museum here in Kingsville. I am all charged up about that. A lady and her son came through the museum while Floyd was showing us the setup. Since Norm

(Floyd's normal partner) was not there, I ended up being the receive op for the demo. Thankfully Floyd sent slow and in International Morse so I was able to copy the lady's name. That would have been Norm's job. It was all fun".

Unfortunately, Pat said she didn't sell any unloved code keys at Belton so she couldn't liberate a beautiful sideways bug. She said, "I don't remember the name of the key but the fellow wanted \$600 for it. Oh, the agony!!! It was very traumatic to have to pass up that key. I fear that was a once in a lifetime chance to get that kind of key".

Also, I don't know if Floyd sent you this Wall Street Journal link, but I will add it here. There is a fellow who is trying to "save" Morse code by translating "classic boy's literature" into Morse code. The link is http://online.wsj.com/article_email/article_print/SB119161604206850468-1MyQjAxMDE3OTAxODYwMTg2Wj.html

Thanks, Pat and Floyd. As a matter of fact, I accessed the article, which did not give the fellow's ham call, but I looked him up by name and city. He lives in Arizona and his call is K7QO. I E-Mailed him and he sent back a link to his web site, where the Morse coded stories are listed and available for purchase. It is: <http://www.k7go.net/>. Looked like a really great idea, and I plan to order one of them, just to see what it is like <ed>.

Pat later reported that she contacted Chuck Adams, the fellow translating books to Morse code, and asked him if he would be interested in making a book in Land Line Morse and he actually answered. Pat said, "He sounded like he was interested. He asked if we have a recording, which we do. We even have Floyd who can send in Land Line. I am totally excited about this. I will keep you all posted".

Richard Webb, NF5B, has started a general quarterly NTS newsletter, which I relayed to you all last month. Look for more of them in the future. If you want to submit something to him for publication, send it to elspider@bellsouth.net.

Dave, W4ZJY, who is the central area digital hub (and our "boss" for TCC Fox) relayed the following:

I recently handled (as did some others) a message from W8RGE in Greentown OH with the following text: "Thank you for your service to my country as a member of the armed forces and may God richly bless you". I consider this type of traffic as high value! If you know of a person who is or has served in our armed forces, send them a similar message and let them know how much you appreciate their service to our country. 73, Jerry VerDuft ADØA

Lee, K5UN, sent in the following... DX Hounds take special note: "I am completing my last class towards my masters and graduation ceremonies are Nov. 16th. Then my wife and I board a plane for South America. I will be in Suriname for the CQWW DX CW 2007 contest. I have been issued the callsign PZ5X and look forward to working everyone from Suriname next month.

I should be active again for a few short months before my wife and I start work on our Ph.Ds. Have missed the evening nets and enjoy reading the newsletter to keep up on what's happening. Look forward to participating while I am on break".

73, Lee - k5un

We'll be glad to have you back, Lee, if only for a while. Your Wednesday and Thursday RN5 slots are still waiting for you ☺

Pat, KD5TXD, sent in her latest "book report". Thanks again, Pat.

Its book report time again. Floyd, N5EL, loaned me his copy of "Two Hundred Meters and Down" by Clinton B. DeSoto. This is a 1936 vintage ARRL publication and is packed to the brim with great amateur radio history. ARRL is selling reprints of this book. Floyd's copy is a rare original and that made me nervous just holding it.

The book starts out describing the wild and crazy days of the beginning of radio. Many hands were involved in the experimentation and invention of what became a booming hobby by 1936. One of the first problems that amateur radio encountered was the government's displeasure that all of these freebooting amateurs were making spark gap type interference all over the band, 1000 meters and down. They were free spirits who didn't mind telling the commercial broadcasters and the U. S. Navy that they were there first and had a right to be on the band. The Navy wasn't pleased and began a long but unsuccessful campaign to crush and eliminate amateur radio. One of the reasons, other than the simple interference factor, was that the amateurs had much better equipment than the Navy. The ever experimenting amateur operators often enjoyed cutting edge technology leaving the hapless Navy in dry-dock, technology wise.

Before World War I, the amateurs had settled down a bit. The Radio Act of 1912 banned them to the wasteland below 200 meters. What a surprising gift!! The radio technology advancement had found a plateau and the amateur radio communicator began to emerge. This is where Hiram Percy Maxim takes center stage organizing relay efforts to pass messages. By 1917 messages were being passed by wireless from East Coast to West Coast and back again in an hour and twenty minutes. They didn't call it the National Traffic System then, but that was the birth of the NTS.

World War I put the brakes on amateur radio. The airwaves were shut down for the duration of the war. Most able bodied amateurs signed up for military service and took wireless radio to war for the first time. It is interesting that these amateurs had just perfected the concept of relaying traffic before they marched off to war.

After Armistice, the Navy made its last effort to shut down amateur radio. The legislation failed and once again amateurs were on the air. Today we worry and express our concerns about the condition of our hobby with the inflow of new no-code amateurs. History does repeat itself and has a couple times for amateur radio. Many of y'all remember the inflow of CB'ers to the amateur ranks. Well, long before that amateur radio had to weather the arrival of wild and somewhat non technical people into the hobby. The first wave was the Short Wave Listeners in the mid 1920's who tired of just listening and wanted to get into the talking part of the hobby. The old timers had their work cut out bringing the throngs into line. It would be 1934 before the FCC came on the scene with licensing tests and regulations.

Another very interesting point about the long distance records made and broken in the mid 1920's by amateur radio operators is that they were working on 108-118 meters to set these

records. That particular time was a solar cycle minimum. We have since learned much more about propagation and how the minimum is the best time for our modern 160 meter and 80 meter bands. Those old timers didn't have a clue about propagation but it was an active participant in a lot of record breaking distance transmissions.

Emergency communications by amateurs was also a great factor. The author lists 58 major disaster events from 1919 (before the war ban on amateur radio transmissions was officially lifted) to 1936. Also the author made a painfully long list of expeditions where amateur radio went along for the ride and helped explore our planet. This is the birth place of our modern DXpedition traditions.

What a keen book. Thanks, Floyd, for lending it to me. 73, Pat

Scott, W5ESE, reports, "I'll be out of town for a few days beginning Nov 2 (backpacking in Big Bend). I'll have a QRP rig, and may try to check in a time or two, but better not take a chance trying to be the RN5 liaison on Saturday, Nov 3 (especially with the CW Sweepstakes going strong! <ed>). I should be back on the air from home by Nov 10". 73, Scott, W5ESE

Brian, N5BA, reports that he is QRT for a while – his station is torn down to make upgrades to his home.

TEX Net Topics

Thanks to Sam, W5CU, for covering both TEX and OK on RN5 for several of the "open" nights. We still have many openings for RN5 liaison, Wednesday through Friday early and Wednesday through Saturday, late. If you are able, please take one (or more) of the open RN5 slots. If you can take only one, early or late, that is fine. NCS stations are reminded to always ask for an RN5 volunteer on the early session if no regular scheduled station is there.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5DY	KA5KLU	K6JT	AC5Z	KD5TXD	AC5Z	W5GKH
Backup	W5GKH	Open	KD5TXD	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY
NCS #2	W5GKH	KA5KLU	KD5TXD	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	Open	K6JT	Open	K6JT	Open	K6JT
RN5 #1	W5GKH	KA5KLU	Open	Open	Open	W5ESE	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	W5DY	KA5KLU	Open	Open	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	KA5KLU	Open	Open	Open	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	W5DY	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	W5GKH

TEX/1: 3552 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 3552 at 22:00 local
 RN5/1: 3567 (7045 alternate) at 19:30; RN5/2: 3567 at 21:30 local
 CAN: 3552 (7052 alternate) at 20:30 local; TSN: 3552 at 19:45 local

RN5 Backup: W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, KA5KLU, K5RG
 NCS Backup: W5DY, N5EL, K6JT, KA5KLU, N5PWG, KD5TXD, AC5Z

Note: Although “backup” stations are listed above, anyone is welcome (and encouraged) to take the RN5 or NCS duty slots when it becomes necessary. If you don’t hear anyone open the net within 2 - 3 minutes of start time after tuning up and down 3 KHz looking for the NCS, please go ahead and QNG. Be careful on late TEX, though, as skip may be present.

Statistics:

This month Floyd, N5EL, took top honors with QNI of 38 (61%). He was closely followed by Rodney, W5DY, who was 2nd with 37, and Pat, KD5TXD, was 3rd with 36 (58%). Thanks to everyone for your support.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic was down a bit, but QNI improved slightly over September. Traffic averaged 2.7 per net session. Net time averaged 14 minutes per session. Check-ins averaged 5.3 per session.

TEX Net Statistics (October 2007)

Call		QNI	total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
W5CDX	Wads	0	9						
*		9			1				
W5CU	Sam	7	11	1	4				
*		4			4				
W5DY	Rodney	21	37	5	4		3		
		16		5	6		5		
N5EL	Floyd	22	38						
*		16							
W5ESE	Scott	23	26		8	1		20	4
*		3		1	3			2	
W5GKH	Charlie	8	16	4	5				
*		8		8	5				
K5GM	Pete	3	4		1				
*		1							
W9GVW	Eric	11	11						
*		0							
AA5J	Chuck	8	8						
*		0							
K5JRN	Si	8	10				1		
*		2							
K6JT	Steve	19	38	3			19		
*		19		4	3		19		
KA5KLU	Doug	13	21	5	9	2		6	
*		8		4	8	2		5	
W6LFB	Jim	2	2				1		
*		0							
N5NVP	Jim	6	14						
		8							
N5PWG	Jay	0	3						
*		3		3					
K5RDW	RD	3	3						
*		0							
K5RG	Ken	8	19						
*		11							
KD5TXD	Pat	19	36	7		4			18
*		17		5		2			17

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
AI6U	Chris	0	1						
*		1							
W5UFK	Ken	1	1						
*		0							
AC5Z	Bert	19	19	7					
*		0							
Totals		327		62	61	11	48	33	39
				100%	98%	18%	77%	53%	63%
QTC 1		112	166						
QTC 2		54		Sessions:		62	100%		
Time 1		515	869						
Time 2		354							

The roster, which follows, has been updated. Welcome to RD, K5RDW, who has again begun checking in with us from Arkansas. It was good to hear Chuck, AA5J, operating from his vacation QTH several nights and again upon return home. Welcome back to Newt, KJ9J, who has returned to his winter location in far south Texas. It is also good to hear Pete, K5GM, checking in more often from Austin.

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5BA	Brian	Houston	W6LFB	Jim	Denton
W5BYQ	Earl	Houston	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
W5CDX	Wads	Crowley LA	# N7NET	Scott	Allen
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	AAØNI	Daniel	Oklahoma City OK
NV5D	Martin	Allen	KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	# N5NVP	Jim	Leesville LA
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	* N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
AA7FY	Mark	Fort Worth	K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
K5GM	Pete	Austin	KC5T	Bob	Houston
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5TFB	Jack	College Station
KA9IKK	Bill	Houston	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
K7IZ	David	Bridge City	* KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
AA5J	Chuck	Plano	# W5UFK	Ken	College Station
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	* K5UN	Lee	Leonard
* K5JRN	Si	Denton	KS5V	Ed	Bulverde
K6JT	Steve	Plano	K5WQG	Eddy	Tomball
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	AC5XK	Don	San Antonio
K5KV	Benny	Star	* AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches (Lufkin)

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

Operating:

I checked into TSN on October 6 for the mini-Simulated Emergency Test, as outlined in last month's TSN corner, using battery power and reduced transmit power output. I even used a candle for light, simulating a complete power failure.

I had one piece of traffic for WB5NKD, which I was able to pass to Arley, WB5NKC, who was the NCS on TSN. Unfortunately, only the 3 of us (Arley, myself, and Scott, W5ESE) checked in. I believe Arley and Scott were also using emergency power.

Not a very good showing, but at least we did try. Even though the NTS no longer participates regularly in SET, it is always a good idea to check out your emergency power capabilities at least once a year. I remember back in the 70's and 80's, the NTS would hold multiple cycles of operation all day and evening long for the SET. At least one session would be limited to emergency powered stations only. Nowadays, it is primarily the ARES that makes use of the SET event. As a secondary support to ARES, the NTS still has a place, but our ranks are increasingly thinning out, making a full-blown SET impractical. However, we persevere and I am sure that our services will again be needed during a true emergency situation. So keep the faith!

Alternate Frequency for TEX

The use of our "old" frequency, 3643 (+/- 2 KHz), during the Sweepstakes contest weekend seemed to work out quite well. It was nice and quiet there while 3552 was jumping with SS activity. I did not hear any SSB stations anywhere nearby, either. It appears this is a viable alternative for contest weekends. Fortunately, the RN5 frequency, 3567, was not bothered on either session of the net Saturday although by late TEX time I noticed that the SS action had spread up the band almost all the way to 3600.

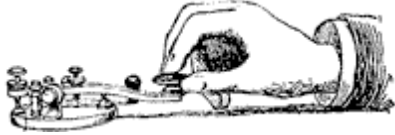
It seems logical that the higher level nets should also have alternate frequencies in the 3600 to 3650 range for use during contests. Perhaps this can serve as a suggestion to the net managers.

We will probably again need to use 3643 in the coming months. I will send out a general E-Mail ahead of time if it appears this might be prudent, and I solicit your inputs as to what you think of it (and also to warn me if you become aware of an upcoming contest that I might miss). I apologize to those net members who cannot use 3643 due to the fact that the FCC made 3600 to 3700 an extra-class only band segment when they gave it away to the SSB folks. However, I don't see that we have much other choice.

Take care, y'all.

73, Steve K6JT

(TSN Corner follows on the next page)



TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3552.0 Khz

http://www.geocities.com/scottamcmullen/Texas_Slow_Net.html

Scott McMullen W5ESE

TSN Net Manager

Here is a list of stations that have participated in the Slow Net in recent months. A big welcome to Steve, K6JT, and Benny, K5KV. Steve is familiar to many as the net manager of TEX, and Benny is often the Louisiana liaison to the Region 5 CW Net. Thanks for joining us in October.

Net Stations (QNS)

Call	Name	City	State	Call	Name	City	State
AA0NI	Dan	Oklahoma City	OK	N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX
W5BYQ	Earl	Houston	TX	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
WX5CW	Chris	Ruston	LA	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Leesville	LA
K5ECI	Bill	Enid	OK	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia	AR
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	W5TFB	Jack	College Station	TX
K6JT	Steve	Plano	TX	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
K5KV	Benny	Prarieville	LA	W5VDM	Bill	New Ulm	TX
NN5L	Max	Dallas	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches	TX

The K9YA Telegraph

A short monthly journal for amateur radio operators, the 'K9YA Telegraph', is published by the Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club in the Chicago area. It includes well written articles and photographs, with an emphasis on wireless history and amateur radio nostalgia. It's distributed as a downloadable pdf, and subscriptions are free. The url for requesting a subscription is at:

http://k9ya.org/k9ya_telegraph1.htm



October Activity Report

TOTAL SESSIONS 30

TOTAL CHECKINS 127

TOTAL TRAFFIC 37

BY 14 DIFFERENT STATIONS

73 Scott W5ESE

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT