

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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In Memoriam - Jay Sicard, N5PWG, Silent Key

As you know from my earlier E-mails, Jay passed away quite suddenly late last month. He is greatly missed by his family, including the amateur radio family of which we are all a part.

His wife, Lura, told me that she believed he was first licensed at the age of 12 or 13, which would be in the late 1930's. I don't know what other calls he may have had or if he was continuously active (other than the war years), but he was certainly one of the pioneers of our hobby.

Jay was a stalwart supporter of NTS and particularly of TEX. When we needed help last year due to the resignation of some members due to family needs, he was one of the first to volunteer to take RN5 liaison slots, which he had never done before, as well as expand his NCS role. His fine bug keying technique was a pleasure to hear. Both of those qualities earned him the Pfeiffer Pfist award this year. Lura told me he truly treasured it.

While we have maintained late Friday TEX as "bug night" ever since Jay started as NCS there, I would like to keep that going in his memory. All of you who have semi-automatic keys (bugs), please dust them off, re-adjust them, and join us on late TEX Friday evenings when you are able. I always use my bug on that net, even when I'm NCS (it is a lot more work than a keyer). You can, too.



The following obituary was taken from publications in the Pasadena area. I present it here for those of you who did not know Jay that well. While there are a few errors in it, and notably the absence of his callsign, I am providing it as received.

John Whitney Sicard Jr. (Jay)

Beloved husband of 59 years to Lura Weaver Sicard, he passed away suddenly on Thursday, Oct. 20, 2011, at age 85 in Pasadena, Texas. Born in Baton Rouge in 1926, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was a graduate of LSU in chemical engineering, and brought his family to

Pasadena in 1956 when he joined the start-up of the Celanese Plastics Plant on the Battleground Road.

His community service included membership in the Pasadena Jaycees, United Fund Area Chairman, and many years as a Harris County Precinct Chairman and Election Judge. He was a life member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 3700, and had served with several environmental organizations.

A longtime Radio Amateur and member of ARRL, he volunteered his services during hurricanes when there was no other communication, and regularly participated with several Radio Networks including ARES, Texas CW, and the 7290 Traffic Net. He was the proud recipient of the 7290 "Pfeiffer Pfist Award for 2011" in recognition of CW excellence.

He retired from BASF Chemical Corporation, Freeport, in January 1996 at age 70. Preceded in death by sons, J. Whitney Sicard, III and Frank "Skippy" McNelis. Survived by his daughters, Katherine Sicard Hara, Barbara McNelis Peacock and husband Larry; sons, Christopher Sicard, Tom Sicard, Jonathan McNelis and wife Vicky; 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Jay and Lura have been advocates for the fundraising efforts by the Pasadena Public Library, and would welcome any contributions in his memory made to the library.

A memorial service will be held at St. Pius V Church in Pasadena, date and time pending final arrangements. Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.grandviewfunerals.com.

Note: I believe the memorial service took place on Wednesday, November 2.



Footnote: I would like to thank Ken, K5RG, for making the arrangements and picking up the Pfeiffer Pfist award and case from Lura, at my request. Lura was worried about them and Ken kindly consented to help her out. Thank you again, Ken.

Thanks to Sis, WD8DIN, editor of *Traffic Call*, the Hit and Bounce Net newsletter, we have another episode of the George Hart series this month.

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

Geo continues his new duties at Headquarters.

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

CHAPTER 34AB - ARRL Apparatus Bureau (Continued)

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:

Doug, KA5KLU, has checked into TEX a few times in recent days as well as picking up Net Control and RN5 liaison a couple times when it was most needed.

Doug has many responsibilities that keep him busy. Part of one E-mail he sent is as follows: Got on for a few minutes the other day. First time I've turned my radio on in months. Worked T32C in East Kirbati. I'm wanting to get back on just can't find the time. My mother's eyes have worsened although she still lives in her home. Lucy hardly walks anymore because of her very bad knees.

Besides caring for his mother and wife Lucy, N5RLQ, Doug is also the chauffeur for his oldest son, who does not drive. No wonder he is not on the air more often. Well, we appreciate whatever time you can devote to TEX, Doug, and wish you the very best.

Randy, N5RL, has pitched in to help out on TEX as NCS. Many thanks, Randy. He writes: Given the circumstances with Jay I think its time I stepped in and tried to help. I will help you with NCS on both Tuesday and Friday, just let me know what sessions you want me to cover. As for RN5, I don't think I am quite ready for that yet but I will be willing to try after I have got the NCS job down well. 73, Randy

Rodney, W5DY, was gone for a week to Georgia to pick up a new 5th wheel RV. When he returned he had this to say: Made it back home at 1500 today. It was a fast trip. Left at 1400 Thursday, drove non-stop to within 80 miles of Atlanta, slept 3 hours, then finished the trip arriving 1030 Friday morning. Got everything checked out on the RV, hooked it up and left. I didn't drive very far that day. Stopped at an RV park and spent the night at Heflin GA, then drove to some town just west of Baton Rouge LA and spent the night at a state rest stop.

Having never pulled a fifth wheel RV before, I didn't know how it would react at different speeds. I started out at 55, but that was just too slow. At 65, it still handled very well. At 70 and 75, it handled very well too, so I just went with the traffic whatever speed it was going. On the entire trip, I noticed that if the speed limit was 65, everybody was going 5 to 10 mph faster. No problem for me, I hate slow driving.



The RV is very nice and Barbara is tickled pink (since it is actually hers!). We have it parked at home and will be getting familiar with all the different things in it. She wants to change some of the furniture and add some special personal touches. I will be learning what



does this and what does that. Still have lots to do as far as setting up a new portable ham radio station in it and figuring out just where to put my portable tower, etc. It should be fun. I have attached a picture with several insets of the RV. 73, Rodney

Pat, KD5TXD, sent along the following with her TSN Corner input this month: Not a lot of radio news down here. I have been pretty busy promoting my book locally. Charles' antenna tower is still positioned suitably for laundry. Had an interesting visitor this morning... Normally I am over at the university this time of day, but I am working on a speech to give to the South Texas Historical Association this coming Saturday. Suddenly our three dogs start barking frantically meaning someone or something is in the yard. Turns out Willie and Buddy, Scrap Metal Salvage Co. had pulled in the drive. They were seriously eying Charles' antenna tower.

No, I did not ask them to quote me a price to have it hauled off, but the thought crossed my mind. I still vainly hold out hope that we will get the antenna tower put up. Every morning I check the tower hole to make sure some hapless creature has not fallen into the hole overnight, becoming trapped. That isn't saying I would be trying to help the creature out. If a skunk falls in it is Charles' responsibility to help it out. The potential victims of the tower hole include javelina, bobcat and skunk to say nothing of snakes, bunnies and tortoise. I did take Willie and Buddy's phone number for future reference, and future threat to use on Charles to attempt to motivate him to get the tower up.

W5ZD had a tad of activity this week. The trustee and Charles spent some time working on the antennas. I wish they would get an antenna that would work well on 80 and 40 meters. I still daydream about calling the net from W5ZD. They are getting ready for an upcoming college amateur radio contest. TAMUK has participated in the contest for several years now. This year is going to be difficult as there is a problem with the rotator for the 10-15-20 meter beam. That is what happens when you don't rotate your rotator enough, I guess. Hopefully I will have more to report on regarding the contest for the next newsletter. Thanks and 73!!
Pat KD5TXD

Scott, W7IZ, the STM of Oregon, passed along the following very interesting information: Space Weather News for Nov. 3, 2011 <http://spaceweather.com>

HUGE SUNSPOT: One of the biggest sunspot groups in many years has just emerged over the sun's eastern limb. The sunspot's magnetic canopy is crackling with M-class (medium-sized) solar flares and seems poised to launch even stronger X-class eruptions. The sunspot, named AR1339, is not yet directly facing Earth but it will be turning toward our planet in the days ahead. Check <http://spaceweather.com> for images of the behemoth and updates.

Scott also passed along the following link: Here is a 'pretty' Spectrum chart that is printable: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/2003-allochrt.pdf> **Thanks, Scott !**

TEX Net Topics

With the loss of Jay, we need help with **15** open NCS/liaison slots, including **3** open *primary* NCS slots and **7** open *primary* RN5 slots on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (all shown in **red**). Please consider taking one of these, or even just an open backup position. The RN5 liaisons are sorely needed. Thanks, Randy, for taking 2 open slots.

We have now entered our "winter" season and all nets have moved back to 80 meters, even the early sessions. Note that 40 meters still appears to be working pretty well at 8:00 local, so it may still be useful for early TEX if the noise on 80 is too strong (from T-storms, in particular). At least we hope to have some more T-storms (ANY rain, no matter what, is most welcome anywhere in Texas these days).

Early RN5 changed back to 3567 KHz on Nov. 6th with the time change, as did early TEX go back to 3541 KHz. Of course, the Sweepstakes contest was still going on, so alternate frequencies had to be used that night for the early sessions. CAN changed to 3552 KHz on Nov. 1, and PAN changed to 3552 KHz a couple weeks into October.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	N5RL	KD5TXD	<i>Open</i>	N5RL	<i>Open</i>	W5GKH
Backup	<i>Open</i>	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	<i>Open</i>	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	W5CU
RN5 #1	W5GKH	<i>Open</i>	W5CU	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5ESE	W5ESE	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	<i>Open</i>	W5CU	<i>Open</i>	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT	W5GKH

TEX/1: **3541**/7053 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 **3541**/7108 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, K5RG, KA5KLU

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, N5RL, K5RG, W5TMO, KD5TXD

Statistics:

Traffic was up slightly compared to last month, but check-ins were down a bit. Randy, N5RL, with 41 (66%) again took first. Rodney, W5DY, due to his trip, was a distant second with 29 (47%). Scott, W5ESE, with 27 (44%) took 3rd, barely edging out Floyd, N5EL's 26. Thanks to all who checked in for your support.

Please join me in welcoming Ed, K5CZ, in Temple. Floyd met him while out shopping and convinced him to join us on TEX.

It was a real joy to hear Gary, K5QOW, again check into TEX after his long convalescence. Hope you will be able to join us more often, Gary, as your condition permits.

We had visitors including Greg, K5GNF, from Brazoria, and Jeff, WB8WKQ, who again brought us some traffic from MI.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.4 per net session (2.38 last month). Net time averaged 13.1 minutes per session (compared to 13.4 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.2 per session (5.5 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (Oct 2011)

Call		QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
K5CZ	Ed	8	8					
		0						
W5CU	Sam	10	23		7			
*		13			7			
W5DY	Rodney	14	29	3	5			

Call		QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
		15		3	6			
N5EL	Floyd	24	26					
*		2						
W5ESE	Scott	26	27		5			1
*		1						
W5GKH	Charlie	9	18	9	6			
*		9		9	6			
K5GM	Pete	7	7					
*		0						
K5GNF	Greg	0	1					
*	Brazoria	1						
W9GVW	Eric	17	17					
*		0						
K6JT	Steve	23	53	7	1		23	
*		30		9	7		30	
KA5KLU	Doug	3	4	1	1			
*		1			1			
WA5MS	Marty	20	20					
*		0						
N5NVP	Jim	0	2					
		2						
N5PVG	Jay	6	13	6	6			
*		7		2	4			
K5QOW	Gary	1	1					
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	6	10					
*		4						
N5RL	Randy	20	41	1				
*		21						
W5TMO	Mike	0	19					
*		19		8				
KD5TXD	Pat	4	4	4				4
*		0						
WB8WKQ	Jeff	0	1					
	MI	1						
Totals		324		62	62	0	53	5
				100%	100%	0%	85%	8%
QTC 1		69	151					
QTC 2		82			Sessions:	62		
Time 1		435	815					
Time 2		380						

The roster is shown on the next page. NCS stations please keep a copy handy since we have had some new additions lately.

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5BA	Brian	Houston	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City OK
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
K5CZ	Ed	Temple	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	W5OMR	Geoff	Houston
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	N0SSS	Adam	Oklaunion
AA5J	Lee	Arkansas	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
K5JRN	Si	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	W5U FK	Ken	College Station
* K5KV	Benny	Star	KS5V	Ed	Bulverde
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	* NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
N7NET	Scott	McKinney	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

A few tips, based on things heard on the air recently.

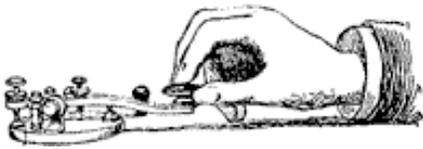
According to the Public Service Communications Manual, it is common practice to provide the message number when acknowledging traffic on voice nets (e.g., roger number 32). However, that is not done on CW nets. Just send a simple "QSL" without adding any number. You could add the number of messages being acknowledged if more than one was received without an intervening "QSL".

When receiving a message, if the sending station has QSK, try to break by sending a string of dots as soon as you miss something rather than asking after the message has been sent. It is generally quicker that way. After he stops sending, send the last word you received and he should continue with that. Also, if there is more than one message to be received, it is common practice to just send a dit or "K" after each message where no fills are needed. You can then QSL after the last one and optionally include the number of messages being QSL'ed.

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

Things have been pretty much the same this month. TSN missed one net on October 23rd due to storms. Arley was not able to call the net that night and I didn't get home in time to pick up NCS duties. Our apologies to anyone who might have been wanting to check in that evening.

Special thanks to Dave, W5VXI for his faithful checkins this month. Everyone did a great job. Welcome to WD9F, Woody in Springfield, IL. Please visit any time and bring some traffic if you like. Pat and Arley are on TSN every night so if you have traffic for them TSN is a great spot to work that traffic. I call the net on Wednesday and Sunday nights and can relay if band conditions are such that you and Arley can't copy each other.

When you bring traffic from the other nets it is great practice for our net. We have our regular training lesson. It is always a welcome change to practice copying some real traffic. Thanks to all!

October 2011 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	W8LKI	Wolfe	Defiance	OH
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	TX	KC0M	Larry	Branson	MO
W5AS	Club Call			KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
K5AVJ	Lynn	Abilene	TX	N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX
N9AWP	Edward	Markleville	IN	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr	TX
W4CCU	David	Pensacola	FL	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
ND0CW	David	Newburg	ND	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	AA5NZ	Web	Goldthwait	TX
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS	KE5PYF	David	Fort Worth	TX
WD9F	Woody	Springfield	IL	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells	TX
K5FAL	Curt	Edmond	OK	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
K5GM	Pete	Austin	TX	N0SSS	Adam	Oklaunion	TX
KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
W9GVV	Eric	San Antonio	TX	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
AK4GY	Russ	Lewisberg	TN	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
WR9H	Herbert	Rockford	IL	WB5UPS	Ron	Port Neches	TX
KE5HCM	Patti	Kerville	TX	N5UZ	Rick	Cedar Park	TX
WD5ILB	Bob	Azle	TX	KD5VGJ	Jay	Flower Mound	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
K6JT, W0CXX	Steve	Plano	TX	W4VLL	Victor	Pembroke	VA

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
N0JL	Jim	Chilliecothe	IA	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	WB8W	Bob	Cincinnati	OH
K9JWV	Jim	St. George	UT	WB5WKQ	Jeff	Dryden	MI
KT4KL	Alton	Bandera	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX	NK5Z	Tom	Conroe	TX
KB5KWO	Steve	Norman	OK	WJ5Z	Roy	Tyler	TX

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!!

TSN Activity Report for October, 2011

Total Sessions 30, Total Check-ins 123, Total Traffic 27 by 12 different operators.

October 2011 QNS

October	Callsign	Name	QTH	STATE
30	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
30	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
19	AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX
18	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
9	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglasville	TX
7	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
3	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
2	W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX
2	WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS
1	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
1	W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX
1	WD9F	Woody	Springfield	IL

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

November 2, 2011