

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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November 2012



3541 Again

As you are aware, the early session of TEX moved back to the winter frequency of 3541 on November 4 when the time reverted to Standard. From all indications, this is working well and signals are reasonably strong at that time. So far there has been enough sunspot activity to prevent long skip from occurring on late TEX. Let's hope this winter season will be a stable one.

Hurricane Sandy

I did not see any traffic coming through either digital or CW in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. In general, I understand the cell phone system continued to operate in nearly every area. I did see a request from the Pacific Digital Coordinator to hold all Routine traffic to the affected area since delivery was impossible in many places.

My daughter in the southeast part of Connecticut lost power for 3 days, but otherwise there was no damage at her place. They had power just across the border in Rhode Island, so she was able to keep her cell phone and computer charged up during the interval and had prepared ahead for the power outage. My daughter in Pittsburgh just had lots of rain and wind but otherwise she was far enough from the rivers (actually up in the hills) so did not experience any other problems, nor did her power fail.

We Survived the CW Sweepstakes

We managed to survive CW Sweepstakes weekend by moving to the alternate 3643 frequency. Hope some of you were able to operate a little during the SS. I operated for a little over a half hour, primarily to get some contacts to whom I could send radiograms thanking them for the contact and urging them to consider becoming active in the CW NTS nets.

I have no plans to dust the cobwebs off the microphone sitting on a cabinet shelf to operate Phone SS this weekend. At least the CW frequencies should be relatively clear. There could be some RTTY QRM, though, as other contests are also ongoing. Likely not going to bother 3541.

TEX Mailbox:

Received an interesting link to a video showing a novel way of sending with a straight key from **Ed, KS5V**. Take a look at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CB763fK9VKM>. Don't be concerned if you can't copy anything intelligible. Although the fellow using the key does so with great skill (I strongly suspect he is a bongo drum player), he is sending 5 letter groups in a European alphabet that looks to me like it might be Polish, or perhaps a slavic language.

Received the following from Richard, NF5B, via a forward from Frank, W4DLZ. We are all very pleased that **Pete, K5GM**, will finally receive the recognition he is due for his 3 decades of work with the Transcontinental Corps. Richard wrote:

Pete, K5GM was honored recently by us in NTS for almost 3 decades of service as Central Area cycle 4 TCC director. He has been sent a rather nice plaque and I've submitted a bit of a press release to ARRL letter, QST and the Ares e-letter with Steve's (WV1X) assistance, so we should hopefully see from one of those publications at least some wider coverage of this. That's the sort of thing that in my not so humble opinion requires some very public recognition, and a very public thank you. Coordinating schedules and finding volunteers to fill them 7 days a week, 365 days a year is often a thankless job. Many of our people who do such jobs end up standing in the gaps filling those positions themselves when manpower is short. This means they put aside time with family and friends, and often forego other enjoyable activities to provide a service to amateur radio, and the public.

Mike, W5TMO, sent in the following link to a video of a very novel QRQ keying paddle set. Looks funny, but boy can OH6DC send fast with them. See:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPW4NWQYVic&feature=related>

Although it is not ham radio related, I was really taken with the fellow in the video at the link sent by **Scott, W7IZ**. This 16 year old Australian lad is truly amazing.

This kid lives on a farm in Australia - middle of nowhere. No bars, no TV... Thought he'd teach himself the piano.

<http://www.chookaparker.com.au/>

TEX Net Topics

There are still 7 backup slots open (shown in **yellow**) and the **1** open liaison slot (shown in **red**) is still in need of a station for Thursday early RN5. How about at least signing on for a backup slot, even if you can't make it all the time that evening?

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown on the following page (for easier printing of a single page). NCS and liaison stations should have a copy of this handy both to remind you of your skeds and to easily look up names of stations you may not be familiar with. There were no changes to the roster since last month.

Note that all nets, RN5, CAN, and PAN have returned to their 80 meter frequencies.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	N5RL	KD5TXD	KD5TXD	N5RL	K5KV	W5GKH
Backup	<i>Open</i>	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	K5KV	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	W5CU
RN5 #1	K5KV	N5RL	W5CU	<i>Open</i>	N5RL	K5KV	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5ESE	W5ESE	<i>Open</i>
RN5 #2	K5KV	K5KV	W5CU	K6JT	K6JT	K5KV	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	<i>Open</i>	W5DY	K6JT	<i>Open</i>

TEX/1: **3541**/7053/ 7108 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 **3541**/3643/1841 at 22:00 local

RN5/1: **3567**/7108 at 19:30; RN5/2: **3567**/7108 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, K5GM, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, W5TMO, KD5TXD

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5BA	Brian	Houston	N7NET	Scott	McKinney
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
K5CZ	Ed	Temple	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
W5DH	Tom	Dallas	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
W4DLZ	Frank	Florida	W5OMR	Geoff	Houston
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	N0SSS	Adam	Oklaunion
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
AA5J	Lee	Arkansas	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
K5JRN	Si	Austin	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	KS5V	Ed	Bulverde
* K5KV	Benny	Star	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	* NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

Traffic and checkins were slightly up from September. Good job once again y'all, and no RN5 slots were missed.

Benny, K5KV, again had excellent participation with 48 out of 62 (77%) taking first, followed by Rodney, W5DY, in 2nd with 43 (69%). Randy, N5RL, with 41 (66%) was 3rd. Thanks to all of you who checked in for your support. It was another very good month.

We did not have any Texas visitors to the net, but we received welcome visits by Frank, W4DLZ, from FL, Dick, WA5CAV, from LA, and Dean, W8IM, from FL.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 4.3 per net session (4.2 last month). Net time averaged 13.0 minutes per session (compared to 12.1 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.9 per session (5.3 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (October 2012)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
WA5CAV	Dick	0	1					
	LA	1						
W4DLZ	Frank	0	1					
	Florida	1						
W5CU	Sam	15	27		6			
*		12			5			
W5DH	Tom	14	14				14	
		0						
W5DY	Rodney	19	43	2	5	1		
		24		4	2			
W5ESE	Scott	28	28	1	2			
*		0						
W5GKH	Charlie	10	20	10				
*		10		10				
K5GM	Pete	6	15					
*		9						
W9GVW	Eric	2	2					
*		0						
W8IM	Dean	1	1					
	Florida	0						
K6JT	Steve	18	48	2			13	
*		30		7	12		30	
K5KV	Benny	24	48	3	9			
*		24		3	12			
W6LFB	Jim	4	4					
*		0						
N5NVP	Jim	0	14					
		14						
K5QOW	Gary	23	23			20		
*		0						

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
K5RG	Ken	2	11		1			
*		9						
N5RL	Randy	21	41	7	8	4		
*		20				16		
W5TMO	Mike	0	17					
*		17		7				
KD5TXD	Pat	6	6	6				6
*		0						
Totals		364		62	62	41	57	6
				100%	100%	66%	92%	10%
QTC 1		116	264					
QTC 2		148			Sessions	62		
Time 1		395	808					
Time 2		413						

Operating:

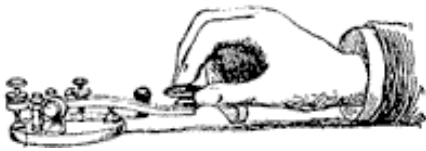
This section is normally devoted to tips on good net operation. I must say that all of you are doing a great job and don't need tutoring. But for those newer operators and particularly for those considering an NCS or RN5 liaison, I have a few things.

NCS stations are reminded to immediately pair up a couple stations to handle traffic off frequency as soon as they check in, even if the standard callup has not been completed. This gets things moving quickly and shortens the net time for everyone. An exception is when a given station (usually RN5 liaison) has a large number (more than 2) messages to send to a single destination station and other destination stations may still be waiting to check in. In that case, it is wise to wait until after all liaisons have been called and a general QNI invitation has been made. The rule of thumb is to clear stations with fewer messages before stations with more messages.

Regarding RN5 liaison. We have only one open slot, and volunteers generally are good about covering it in an ad hoc fashion. But it would be better to have either a regular station or at least a backup station for that slot (both are needed). RN5 liaison does take a little more of your time that evening, but traffic is usually light and you can expect less than 10 minutes on early RN5 unless you have several messages to send. Late RN5 is also not too time consuming. While all late slots are currently covered, note that Benny, K5KV, has 3 of the 7, which is a bit too many to ask of him. His other duties (such as CAN liaison from RN5 or TCC or CAN NCS) make it easier for him on some nights, but I am sure he would appreciate some help and it is best to not burden any single station with more than 2 nights of liaison duties. Anyone willing to give any of the slots a shot? Let me know.

Again, a very big THANK YOU to all of you who are supporting the net. It really makes all the time I spend worthwhile and satisfying. Send in your comments, too, and any anecdotes that may be of interest to others.

Until next month, 73, Steve K6JT
(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

Once again, TSN made it through the month thanks to KB5TCH and the faithful checkins of our loyal core. The treat this month was the addition to our roster of AC5BE, Joe in Matagorda (the Houston area). AC5BE is interested in learning about traffic handling on CW and is active in MARS. He has been checking in to TSN pretty regular and asking lots of great questions. I am urging him to start checking into TEX, so be on the watch for AC5BE. Joe has reviewed my TSN lessons and made some corrections to my poor typing as well as some text suggestions. I am looking forward to getting Joe to be a TSN rep on TEX as well as getting involved with traffic handling and maybe even some net control duties. He has already sent two messages on TSN. He will be sending some more of our training lessons in the next few weeks. Welcome to AC5BE!! We have also had a couple visits from W6CL, Carol in Tulsa, OK. Please stop by any time.

TSN missed a couple nights this month. We are still doing pretty well considering we are missing Pat and Arley. Thanks for the visits from the TEX regulars. It makes our evening and gives us some practice with checkins. And your checkins have boosted our total QNI this month to 100 even. Thanks!!

If you have time and are interested in helping us out, please drop me an e-mail at pja@atcweb.com. We really need someone who can call the net on Tuesday. And it would be above and beyond the call of duty if someone could help with sending the training lessons. Thanks to all!!

October 2012 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
K5AVJ	Lynn	Abilene	TX	K5MDK	Mike	Plano	TX
WA4BAM	John	Miami	FL	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
AC5BE	Joe	Houston	TX	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
W6CL	Carol	Tulsa	OK	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
AB0DK	Dave	Kirksville	MO	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
W5DPT	Louis	Deer Park	TX	K5OAI	Sam	San Angelo	TX
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	N4OLN	Gary	Conyers	GA
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	K9PUI	Rich		
WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells	TX
AG9G	Dwight			N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
K5GM	Pete	Austin	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
N0JL	Jim	Chillicothe	IA	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
K6JT	Steve	Plano	TX	WB5UPS	Ron	Port Neches	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	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 2012

Total Sessions 29, Total Check-ins 100, Total Traffic 30 by 12 different operators.

October 2012 QNS

October	Callsign	Name	QTH	STATE
29	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
17	WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS
15	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
12	AC5BE	Joe	Houston	TX
8	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
4	W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX
4	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
3	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
3	W6CL	Carol	Tulsa	OK
2	W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX
2	WB5UPS	Ron	Port Neches	TX
1	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

November 1, 2012

(RN5 Corner Starts on the next page)

RN5 Corner

Region Net 5 (Daily) 1930 CT on **3567** and 2130 CT on **3567**
Alternate Frequency 7108 (early) or 3598 when conditions warrant
Serving TX, OK, LA, AR, MS, TN, AL, and FL
Frank Thrash W4DLZ (W4DLZ@YAHOO.COM)
RN5 Net Manager

Hello again and welcome to edition Nine of the **RN5 Corner**.

First, as most of you know, the early session of RN5 has moved to its winter frequency of 3567 KHz (3598 during contests). Conditions seem to be pretty good at that time. 7108 can still be used for passing traffic between distant stations as required and as assigned by the NCS and/or requested by either station.

Welcome back to Tom, WA4ZPZ. Now that darkness comes earlier, he is able to raise his antenna without fear of the dreaded CC&R police. Tom has resumed his Tuesday CAN and Thursday NCS slots (see the updated duty roster), and we are VERY glad to have him back.

I would also like to welcome the new liaison stations from AL that Tom has recruited (good job, Tom !) to support RN5. In particular, please join me in welcoming Ben, KZ8Q, and Jerry, W4SU, who have both now been added to the RN5 Roster. It is great to have your support along with stalwarts W4AGL, K4AKC, K4VIZ, and of course Sir Pat W4QAT. If you have any questions or problems that Tom cannot solve, you are welcome to contact me (see E-mail address at the top). I am most willing to provide any training or help you may need. We sorely need operators to help man the CAN liaison and NCS open slots (see the duty roster).

There are still LOTS of open slots, particularly on Monday, but also for various CAN positions on other nights. Please consider taking one or more of these as a regular. Recall there was a tutorial on how to be an NCS back in the April issue of RN5 Corner. No, that was NOT intended to be an April fool's piece :-). Give it another look if you are hesitant but are thinking about becoming an NCS. It is not really that difficult and does not take much more of your time than simply checking into the net. CAN liaison is not much different than performing the liaison you already do from your section net to RN5. Yes, it does require more of your time during a given evening, but it can add a lot more "spice" to your ham radio hobby.

CANW Net Status

The following was received from Richard, NF5B. I support CANW when I am able, and some of you may also be interested. The new frequency is 3845.

Greetings colleagues, and thanks for your support of NTS, and Central Area Nightwatch!

First, some good news. We're getting the schedule organized a little better. Here's how it looks now:

Sunday: open
Monday: NF5B
Tuesday: ND0CW

Wednesday: AB5YS
Thursday: W1EBB
Friday: open
Saturday: open

Bill N9ACQ is often covering Fridays and Sundays with yours truly covering Saturdays. We're still beating the bushes to get those covered so that each NCS only has to do once a week.

on other administrivia notes ...

This weekend is ARRL sweepstakes phone. I don't see much point in even trying to find a hole in that mess, because SS will occupy just about every bit of spectrum on 75 meters from the extra portion on up, so don't look for CANW on Saturday November 17.

We could sure use some help from 9th and 10th regions for NCS ops.

So far most of our net controls are in the southern end of 5th region it seems.

Again, thanks for your support of public service ham radio, and CANW.

73,
Richard Webb, NF5B

Mailbox

Pat, W4QAT, sent in the following. Please welcome Ben Brubeck, KZ8Q, to RN5 as a liaison station from AL. His CW should be quite rhythmic, considering his family background...

Hi all ASN & RN5 members. Looks like we have a celebrity in our midst, albeit somewhat distant.

Ben recently moved to Tuscaloosa from Ocala, FL, but his early background was up around West VA where he got his KZ8Q call.

73 de
Sir Minter, Lord of Rosemont.....AKA Sir Pat W4QAT

From: Ben Brubeck KZ8Q
Subject: Re: Brubeck family tree

Hi Pat - I am a 4th or 5th cousin of Dave's - and no, sorry to say I never met him. Watched a lot of the Peanuts TV specials, though.

73, Ben

(See next page for Statistics, Duty and Net Rosters)

RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	Open	W4DLZ	W5CU	WA4ZPZ	W4QAT	W4DLZ	K4VIZ
NCS #2	Open	W4DLZ	W5CU	WA4ZPZ	W4QAT	W4DLZ	K4VIZ
CAN TX	Open	WA4ZPZ	K4VIZ	Open	K4VIZ	K5KV	K5KV
CAN RX	Open	WA4ZPZ	Open	K6JT	Open	W4DLZ	W5CU
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

October 2012 Statistics

SESSIONS	60
QTC	162
QNI	386
QTR	655
CAN TX REP	96%
CAN RX REP	94%
DRN5/CANW REP	45%

The following updated roster shows active stations coming to RN5 and their sections.

Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	Section	Call	Name	Section
W4AGL	JIM	FL	W8IM	DEAN	FL
K4AKC	TOM	AL	WA5JAN	JIM	AR
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	K6JT	STEVE	TX
W5CU	SAM	OK*	KA5KLU	DOUG	TX
AC5CW	ERIC	LA	K5KV	BENNY	TX
KO9D	BENNY	IN	WA5LQZ	ALAN	LA
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	K5MC	MICKEY	LA
K5DMC	JER	MS	N5NVP	JIM	LA
WD4DNC	BARRY	FL	K4PG	KEVIN	FL
AD4DO	JOHN	FL	WA4PIZ	JIM	AL
W5DTR	CURT	IL	KZ8Q	BEN	AL
K1DW	DALLAS	LA	W4QAT	PAT	AL
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	K5RG	KEN	TX
NY4E	BILL	FL	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
KJ4FDV	TREY	AL	W4SU	JERRY	AL
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	W6SX	HANK	CA
KA4FZI	PHYL	FL	K15T	WADE	LA
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	K4VIZ	TOM	AR
K5GM	PETE	TX	K6YR	ROB	CA
AA4HT	BOB	FL	WA4ZPZ	TOM	AL

* When W5CU is not present on Late RN5, OK traffic may be sent to the TX station

73, Frank W4DLZ