

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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Hello fellow TEX members. This is the second net “newsletter” to be published on a more-or-less regular basis to keep you informed of what is happening and hopefully inspire you to join us on TEX as often as you are able.

The communication efforts related to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as far as NTS is concerned, have pretty much “wound down”, although there are still many amateur radio operators working in the field to handle communications needs other than long-haul traffic on behalf of served agencies such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

Don, AC5XK, who is the STM of South Texas, provided me with some requested anecdotes about his and his section’s participation in the hurricane Rita aftermath. I have included them here, and if you want more detail on the overall amateur radio response, there is a lot of information on the ARRL web site, in particular the ARES E-Letter, which you can access via <http://www.arrl.org/ares-el/>. Now for Don’s contribution:

As for my involvement, I've been active in two ways: one involves handling traffic into LA and MS dealing with Hurricane Katrina. Overlapping that disaster was the Hurricane Rita effort. Hurricane Katrina produced so many Emergency and Priority messages that the Health and Welfare messages started seeming Routine. That is, until I looked at all the names, addresses and phone numbers of the individuals involved in the Health and Welfare messages. Then I realized the enormous scope of the disaster.

Whenever I passed an Emergency or Priority message by CW, I'm glad to report that the receiving station clearly understood the priority--I didn't have to repeat that part. Also, the rest of the message went smoothly and was acknowledged by the receiving station.

I picked through my backlog of Health and Welfare messages and passed those that I thought had the greatest chance of being delivered. In other words, I held back messages for New Orleans and other areas that had been entirely evacuated, with the intent of passing them later or via EOC contacts.

Regarding Hurricane Rita, in my role as South Texas Section Traffic Manager, I have scheduled net control stations on the 7285KHz voice emergency net that has operated

for about a week already (this was written on September 29 – Ed.). At first it operated 24 hours a day. Now it is only 8AM to 6PM. Stations involved in providing relief to the affected areas check in to coordinate supplies, communications, etc.

On CW, I continue to pass high priority messages. Many stations are unable to hear others due to propagation difficulties--not to mention the lack of commercial power, phone service, etc.

Thanks to everyone who has served as net controls on CW and other nets and has relayed traffic as it has been presented.

73, Don AC5XK
South Texas Section Traffic Manager

Thanks, Don, for a job well done. All please join me in welcoming Bob, KC5T, who checked in with us this month from Houston. I would like to congratulate and thank Bert, AC5Z, who had the most QNI's to the early TEX net (18 out of 30), and Floyd, N5EL, who was just below this with 17 and also takes the "prize" for the most QNI on the late session – 17 out of 30. Floyd also had top overall QNI to both early and late – 34 out of 60. Thanks, men, I appreciate all the help and support you have provided.

Charlie, W5GKH, lives in an area that had a mandatory evacuation in preparation for hurricane Rita. He has returned home and found, thankfully, no major damage, but because he had lowered his antennas in anticipation of the strong winds, he is not yet on the air. He reports that he needs help to climb up on the roof to put them back up again and is awaiting assistance from his son, who lives in Houston and is busy with his own cleanup efforts. We miss you, Charlie, and eagerly await your return on the air.

Below is the schedule of NCS and RN5 liaison slots. Friday and Saturday are still problem days for RN5. Don and I have been filling in on them, as we are able, and also Don, Floyd, and I have been filling in Charlie's NCS and RN5 slots while he is temporarily off the air.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	AC5Z	KA5KLU	K6JT	AC5Z	K5HHS	AC5XK/a	W5GKH
NCS #2	W5GKH	KA5KLU	K6JT	AC5XK	N5PWG	AC5XK/a	W5GKH
RN5 #1	W5GKH	KA5KLU	W5TFB	AC5XK	?	?	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	KA5KLU	W5TFB	AC5XK	?	?	W5GKH

TEX/1: 3643 at 19:00 local; TEX/2 3643 at 22:00 local

RN5/1: 3650 (7045) at 19:30; CAN: 3670 (7052) at 20:30; RN5/2: 3650 at 21:30 local

Note that RN5 has switched back to 80 meters for the early session with 7045 used as a backup frequency. CAN is moving or has already moved as of this writing to 3670 with 7052 a backup per NCS discretion. Note that "our own" Jack, W5TFB, is the

manager of CAN. Thanks also to Jack for filling in some of the RN5 slots for which we have no direct assigned station during the past month and also Sam, W5CU.

TEX Statistics for September 2005

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN
Call		QNI						
W5CDX	Wads	0	4					
*		4						
W5CU	Sam	0	1					
*		1			1			
N5EL	Floyd	17	34		1			
*		17						
W5ESE	Scott	6	6			1		
*		0						
W5GKH	Charlie	3	7	2	2	1		
*		4		4	4			
K5HHS	Roger	13	13	4		9		
*		0						
K5JRN	Si	7	10				6	
*		3					3	
K6JT	Steve	23	51	8	7		22	
*		28		11	7		27	
K0KJ	Eric	5	6					
*		1						
KA5KLU	Doug	9	15	4	8	2		1
*		6		4	6	2		
N5PWG	Jay	6	10					
*		4		2				
K5RG	Ken	2	6					
*		4						
KC5T	Bob	0	1					
*		1						
W5TFB	Jack	8	16		7			
*		8			5	1		
W5TV	Tom	1	1					
		0						
AC5XK	Don	8	21	3	4	6		7
*		13		9	6	12		13
AC5Z	Bert	18	18	9		1		
*		0						
Totals		220		60	58	35	58	21
			%	100	97	58	97	35

QTC 1		66	134				
QTC 2		68		Sessions:	60	100 %	
Time 1		344	600				
Time 2		256					

Notes on the TEX Net Statistics: Each station has 2 lines, the first is for session 1 at 7 PM and the second for session 2 at 10 PM. Similarly, the totals at the bottom are divided for each session.

TEX Net Stations (QNS)

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
KF9AS*	Megan	Dallas	W6LFB	Jim	Denton
N5BA*	Brian	Houston	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
W5CDX	Wads	Crowley LA	KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
AC5CI	Homer	Caldwell	KA5NNG*	Mike	Marshall AR
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	W5RCP	Ron	Houston
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	N5SIG	Randy	Huntsville
K5GM	Pete	Austin	KC5T	Bob	Houston
K5HHS	Roger	Mathis	W5TFB**	Jack	College Station
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	W5TV*	Tom	Nacogdoches
K5JRN	Si	Denton	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
K6JT	Steve	Plano	KS5V	Ed	Bulverde (SA)
KA5KAB	Carl	Baytown	AC5XK	Don	San Antonio
KØKJ	Eric	San Antonio	AC5Z	Bert	Nacogdoches (Lufkin)
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio			

* I do not have the E-Mail addresses for these stations. If anyone knows how to contact them via E-Mail, please advise me. Thanks to Ken, K5RG, for supplying addresses for some last month.

** Also note that Jack, W5TFB, still has computer problems and is unable to access his E-Mail.

Thanks to all of you for your participation this past month. A special thanks to those of you who filled in for me while I was on an "all expense paid" trip to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for a few days. Hope to see many of you on the air often. Please consider taking an NCS slot (Saturday) or RN5 slot (Friday and Saturday), even if it is only on a "trial" basis.

73, Steve K6JT