

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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Daylight Time Ends November 6

Yes, I know that is still a few weeks off, but there will likely not be another newsletter before that date. The rest of the northern hemisphere countries that observe Daylight Time will change on October 30, but ours does not end for another week after that. Of course, if you are reading this from Arizona, Hawaii, Midway Island, Wake Island, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands you already know you don't observe daylight time to begin with (lucky you!).

The conditions on 40 meters will likely not be favorable for early TEX when the time changes. Long skip is the main possibility. We may start to experience it even before that date, so NC stations are reminded that you may move the net to 3541 on any evening when it seems that conditions are not good on 7053. We will officially change to 3541 for early TEX on Sunday, November 6, when the time changes. I will advise if it becomes necessary before then.

Be aware that other nets may change before that time. Rob, K6YR, the manager of the Pacific Area Net, has announced that PAN will change primary frequency to 3552 on Sunday, October 16. No word has been received from the CAN manager or RN5 manager about changes on those nets as of this writing.

This is historically a "squirrely" time of year for propagation on 80 and 40 meters, so be prepared for some bumps along the way for the next couple of months. Hopefully we will have enough sunspots to keep 80 from "going long" this year.

Short Newsletter Month

This will be a short newsletter in keeping with the every-other-month option started a few months ago. It is particularly needed this month because I have received a lot of work to do on my consulting job with Rockwell Collins. I have been up working until around 2 AM every night the past week and that is likely to continue for another couple of months. I still take time for the net activities, which provide a nice break, but I have almost no "spare" time available after taking care of all my obligations and the added work. Even weekends are very busy.

Your help with filling RN5 liaisons as well as NCS slots is sorely needed and much appreciated. I do not have time to do as many of those as I once did.

TEX Mailbox:

Pat, KD5TXD, reached a milestone event near the end of last month. She wrote: Well, a bit of good news here. My pictorial history of Kingsville is finally out. Monday (Sep 26) is the official day and I received my copies to take to Houston for the Big Texas Train Show Oct 8-9. It represents over two years of my life, but it is nothing more than a picture book. I hope I can sell a bunch of copies at the train show and promote our little depot museum. I keep thinking my life is going to become more normal soon, but soon comes and goes and it is still crazy. Thanks and 73!! Pat KD5TXD

Congratulations on your achievement, Pat, and we hope you are able to sell a bunch of them.

Scott, W7IZ, the STM of Oregon passed along the following link to pictures of the effect of the drought on Lake Travis. Those of you near Austin are probably well aware of this, but it really was a shock to me to see how bad it is down your way. Fortunately, we've had a bit of rain up in the DFW area to keep things from getting so bad, but we all need some more. Here is the link:

Pictures of Lake Travis , just 20 miles North of Austin, Texas, after the largest drought in recorded history. Click on the photo album below.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/texasparkswildlife/sets/72157627429641925/show/>

Rodney, W5DY, sent the following to Lee, W5LHC, concerning emailing traffic during net operation. We do not do this on TEX, and we should never do it. Of course that does not apply to net reports, which may be sent via email if necessary (but I prefer to get them on the net). Additionally, emailing traffic to deliver it when no phone number is available is also permitted and is no different from using postal mail, at least in concept. If conditions are too poor to handle the traffic on the air, then cancel it and hold, or send it via Winlink 2000, using RF means, of course. Rodney wrote:

Hi Lee,

About a month ago, Herman KE5HYW (NTX STM) and I discussed the fact that a lot of traffic is being passed via email. This is not ham radio protocol for message handling, so I took it upon myself to contact the net managers of the Texas Traffic Net (KC8EO), Daytime Texas Traffic Net (KD5OTH) and the 7290 Traffic Net (KA5AZK) and discuss this with them.

What I talked about was getting their net controls to discourage relaying routine traffic via email. It was agreed to by all NM's and they said they would inform their NC's to do so. BTW, 7290 is an independent net and under no obligations to ARRL, but Jo Ann KA5AZK is an old-time traffic handler and does not like what has been transpiring either.

I want to keep you informed as to what is going on with this matter and please let me know how you feel about it.

Thanks Lee and 73, Rodney W5DY

Since I have been so overloaded with work, I was unable to publish the newsletter last weekend. As a result, **Pat, KD5TXD**, completed her trip to Houston and has the following to report: I actually survived the Big Texas Train Show. Not so sure about my feet, though. I arrived in Houston about mid day on Friday. I lived in Houston for 25 years but I always avoided the downtown like the plague. The show was at the Brown Convention Center in the heart of the downtown area and every street for a 20 block radius of the Convention Center was under construction. So, nothing new about that! I circled for some time before finding the MOST EXPENSIVE parking lot in downtown and the only one with an available parking space (actually it wasn't a parking space, but they let me park my tiny car in a non-parking spot at the end of the lot, within inches of falling into a construction hole, for full price) near the Convention Center, unloaded my stuff, dragged it a block to the Convention Center, and set up shop for the weekend.

Ok, the critical question on your mind is what does the Big Texas Train Show have to do with CW? I packed a couple sounders and several code keys for demonstration of American Morse Code (often called Land Line). Railroad fans forget that the railroads and the telegraph system go hand in hand.

About 8,000 people attended the show and close to that number had to walk by my table because I was in the first row after they entered the show. I am sure I talked to at least 6,000 of them as my voice gave out by Sunday afternoon. Few folks escaped my lure of chattering brass. The kids couldn't pass me by. You should have seen the expressions on the kids' faces when I connected up a bug to the sounder and made it chatter. Those two sounders banged almost constantly; a great statement for equipment built to last and take abuse. The kids banged out their names in Morse code, old military guys told me their fond memories of CW, and several Amateur Radio Operators promised to check into the TSN net after visiting my table. The goal of the trip was to promote Kingsville and our 1904 Kingsville Train Depot Museum. I think it was a success.

Few if any of the rail fans knew anything about the telegraph system, the telegraph operators, the code or operation of the keys and sounders. I was in CW heaven telling and showing this bit of technology. They were amazed when I described the electromagnets that are used in the sounder to make the clicks. They were stunned to learn that the telegraph lines were always hot and how the shorting bar works for the telegraph system. They didn't know that the American railroads had their own version of Morse code. Folks from the different railroad museums wanted to know where they could get keys and sounders for their museums. I originally intended to offer a couple of the working key and sounder sets for sale, but after checking E-Bay and finding one of my telegraph keys being bid up to \$300 I decided to keep my gear, an investment, you know.

By Sunday I managed to find the free parking lot for exhibitors. The rain on Sunday was horrible. The show ended at 4:00 p.m. and I was packed up to exit Houston by 5:30. The drive home was indescribably bad and has nothing to do with CW so I won't tell you the agonizing details. All I can say is I survived undamaged and will spend Monday with my feet propped up. The railroad and CW have been re-connected!

Thanks and 73!! Pat KD5TXD

TEX Net Topics

We still need help with **10** open NCS/liaison slots, including **2** open *primary* NCS slots and **4** open *primary* RN5 slots on Thursday and Saturday (all shown in **red**). Please consider taking one of these, or even just an open backup position. Thursday and Saturday RN5 liaisons are sorely needed.

We did miss 1 RN5 liaison spot in the past month, which was due to stations out of town. I had planned to cover it, but a thunderstorm (now, something actually welcome) came in a few minutes before it was to start so I had to disconnect antennas and remain QRT. Thanks to those who filled in the open slots otherwise.

Remember that it is best to protect your equipment when a thunderstorm is nearby and miss a net or two than have your equipment damaged and put you off the air for many nets.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	N5PWG	KD5TXD	Open	N5PWG	Open	W5GKH
Backup	Open	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	N5PWG	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	Open	W5CU
RN5 #1	W5GKH	N5PWG	W5CU	Open	N5PWG	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	W5DY	Open	W5ESE	W5ESE	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	N5PWG	W5CU	Open	K6JT	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	W5DY	N5PWG	K6JT	W5GKH

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

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

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

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, N5PWG, K5RG

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, N5PWG, K5RG, W5TMO, KD5TXD

Statistics:

Traffic and checkins were both up a little compared to last month. Randy, N5RL, with 37 (62%) was first, edging out Rodney, W5DY's 36 (60%). Floyd, N5EL, and Sam, W5CU, tied for 3rd with 25 (42%) each. Thanks to all who checked in for your support.

It was good to see Ed, KS5V, once again checking in from Bulverde, north of San Antonio.

We had visitors including Frank, W4DLZ, the RN5 manager, Jeff, WB8WKQ, who brought us some traffic from MI, and Joe, KN5Y, checked in once from Wylie, near my QTH.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.4 per net session (2.0 last month). Net time averaged 13.4 minutes per session (compared to 12.6 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.5 per session (5.2 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (Sep 2011)

Call	Name/QTH	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
K5CZ	Ed	13	13					
	Temple	0						
W5CU	Sam	10	25		8			
*		15			8			
W4DLZ	Frank	1	1					
	Florida	0						
W5DY	Rodney	15	36	2	5	1		
		21		4	6			
N5EL	Floyd	25	25					
*		0						
W5ESE	Scott	21	21		3			
*		0						
W5GKH	Charlie	6	14	6	4			
*		8		8	5			
K5GM	Pete	2	8					
*		6						
W9GVW	Eric	8	8					
*		0						
K5JRN	Si	0	2					
*		2						
K6JT	Steve	19	48	8			19	
*		29		7	8	1	28	
WA5MS	Marty	11	11					
*		0						
N5NVP	Jim	0	10					
		10						
W5OMR	Goeff	6	6					
	Houston	0						
N5PWG	Jay	10	17	9	9			
*		7		2	3			
K5RG	Ken	5	15					
*		10						
N5RL	Randy	19	37					
*		18						
W5TMO	Mike	0	20					
*		20		9				
KD5TXD	Pat	5	5	5				5
*		0						
KS5V	Ed	1	4					
*		3						
WB8WKQ	Jeff	0	2					

Call	Name/QTH	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
	MI	2						
KN5Y	Joe	1	1					
*	Wylie	0						
Totals		329		60	59	2	47	5
				100%	98%	3%	78%	8%
QTC 1		41	141					
QTC 2		100		Sessions:		60		
Time 1		387	801					
Time 2		414						

The roster has been updated to add Ed, KS5V, in Bulverde. Ed was active on TEX in the past and it is good to see him back again.

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5BA	Brian	Houston	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	* N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
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	W5UFK	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)
WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City OK			

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

Pretty well said enough for this month in the opening and Rodney's input. Happy Halloween. 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

The smoke has cleared here in the Wild Horse Desert and thankfully the fires are under control north of this area. We are getting a very needed bit of rain but we sure could use some more. Hope everyone is safe and enjoying the kind of weather you most want and need.

On the net front we are holding our own. Again thanks to AA5JW and W5VXI for their loyal checkins. Thanks to Carroll, KB5TCH for his faithful Friday NCS duties and frequent checkins at other times of the month. As always, we wouldn't be a net without Pat and Arley up in OKC.

This month we had Bob in Azle, Tx, WD5ILB, stop by. Welcome and come visit regularly. Everyone is welcome on TSN. Bring some traffic if you like.

September 2011 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	KC0M	Larry	Branson	MO
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	TX	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
W5AS	Club Call			N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX
K5AVJ	Lynn	Abilene	TX	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr	TX
N9AWP	Edward	Markleville	IN	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
W4CCU	David	Pensacola	FL	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
ND0CW	David	Newburg	ND	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	AA5NZ	Web	Goldthwait	TX
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping	TX	KE5PYF	David	Fort Worth	TX
WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells	TX
K5FAL	Curt	Edmond	OK	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
K5GM	Pete	Austin	TX	N0SSS	Adam	Oklahoma	TX
KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	TX	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
AK4GY	Russ	Lewisberg	TN	KD5TXD,	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
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

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
KT4KL	Alton	Bandera	TX	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX	NK5Z	Tom	Conroe	TX
KB5KWO	Steve	Norman	OK	WJ5Z	Roy	Tyler	TX
W8LKI	Wolfe	Defiance	OH				

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 September, 2011

Total Sessions 30, Total Check-ins 127, Total Traffic 28 by 12 different operators.

September 2011 QNS

August	Callsign	Name	QTH	STATE
30	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
30	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
18	AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX
13	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
12	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglasville	TX
9	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
8	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
2	W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX
2	WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS
1	N9AWP	Edward	Markleville	IN
1	W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX
1	WD5ILB	Bob	Azle	TX

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

October 10, 2011