

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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Back to 3541 on Early TEX

Since sundown has finally gone back to earlier than 1900 in central Texas, I have changed the early TEX frequency back to 3541 before we run into the long skip that has been really long this past week on 40 meters a little later in the evening. Note that I have heard a net start up on 3541, I believe from Kansas, on one occasion recently. Since it is an ARES net, it likely only meets one day per week and started at 1915, so there may be no problems since TEX is generally over by that time.

Both the Central Area Net and Pacific Area Net have now moved back to 80 meters. Skip was very long on CAN this past week - over 500 miles - as evidenced by WA4STO in NE dropping out in mid-transmission shortly after the net started.

Vic and Morse Code

By Vic Seeberger W7VSE

We've had some stories from Vic in past issues of the newsletter, so you may recall that he grew up near the Texas / Oklahoma border. Vic is 91 years old and still active in NTS on CW from Oregon. As you will see, he is also a good writer. Vic sent me several of his stories for possible use in the newsletter. I was very happy to receive them, and Vic has given permission to reprint any and all of them. Here's the first one for your reading pleasure, written for his children. Thank you again, Vic !!

I have loved Morse code since I learned it at age 12 in the Boy Scouts to get a merit badge. We wrote notes in Morse code in school and, at age 12, we thought we were the only ones in the world who knew the Morse code. Later on, I decided that I wanted to be in communications and use the Morse code. It probably saved my life during WW2, 'cause I was over in the China, Burma & India theatre of war for 25 months and survived because I was in a radio station using Morse code. When I came back home, I worked for Western Union for a couple of years and then, because I was proficient in Morse code and communications, I worked for the CAA/FAA for 30 years and retired at age 55 with 35 years government service. (This included my time in the Military).

The FAA used Morse code air-to-ground for many years, and finally, in 1953, they changed over to phone and that continues until today. When they changed to phone and abandoned the code, it broke my heart. But it goosed me where I needed it, I guess, and I studied and obtained my amateur radio operators license in 1953. I did this so I could continue to use the Morse code that I loved.

After a few years on the air just hamming it up, I discovered the National Traffic System. It was sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). I have been a member of ARRL for over 40 years. The ARRL has a lot of awards and certificates to reward you for your efforts on the air. The amateur radio system handles free telegrams within the USA and to some overseas countries. The National Traffic System has nets that operate daily and move message traffic all over the USA and some foreign countries. This message handling was something that I did a lot of in the service and I liked to do it some more.

The ARRL has one award called the Brass Pounder's League (BPL) award. It requires a ham to handle a total of sending and receiving over 500 messages in one month, or Originating and Delivering 100 messages in one month. For reporting either of these you get one BPL certificate from the ARRL. Back in 1976 I was very active in traffic handling and during the next 17 years or so I managed to qualify for 129 (one hundred twenty nine) BPL awards. That would be almost impossible today because of email, cell phones, etc.

The other day I did some arithmetic, and maybe you will be amazed, as I was, at the results. I took the total message counts off the 129 BPL certificates that I had earned from 1976 to 1994. There were many months in the later years that I did not handle 500 messages, so those totals are not counted in this report.

Total message count of the 129 BPL certificates is 86,641 messages handled. Using an average of 25 words per message: 86,641 times 25 is 2,166,025 words handled, all using Morse code. That is TWO MILLION, ONE HUNDRED SIXTY SIX THOUSAND, AND TWENTY FIVE WORDS! Whew, I couldn't believe it either.

In future issues: Vic's days in the service during WW II.

George Hart Series

Here is the 10th installment of the George Hart Series. Geo gets to go abroad and meet the big boys.

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

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

Part 10 - My First "Hamfest"

I attended my first "hamfest" during this period. I don't recall just when, but it was in Allentown and Ed and I went together. Every person entering was given a whistle and exhorted to get acquainted by blowing Morse Code on the whistle. The place was a bedlam of whistles. I

made a few acquaintances myself using this method -- hams I had contacted on the air but had never met personally. One was a ham from Bethlehem with whom I'd had several voice contacts during the weeks that Ed and I had experimented with loop modulation. He was a smooth talker and often mentioned "his girl," so I envisioned him as a handsome young swain of a wealthy family. But the man I met at the hamfest was a cripple in a wheel chair, quite young but very sickly-looking. It was a shocking and embarrassing confrontation, and I'm afraid I must have shown it. Future experience has shown that more often than not the hams you meet in person after long acquaintances on the air are nothing like you envisioned. I also at this hamfest met W2ZC, a high-speed operator who made the trip from Little Silver, NJ, on his Indian motorcycle. W2ZC had been a commanding signal which boomed high speed code over the air, and I envisioned him as an older man with a mustache and a commanding manner. But he turned out to be a slender young man about Ed's age. He gave a demonstration of sending on a Vibroplex "Bug" with all the weight removed and still maintained accuracy. I was greatly impressed. He invited anyone in the audience to come up and try it. I had received a Vibroplex key for Christmas and had spent many hours practicing on it so my sending speed was high -- but I had never tried it with all the weights removed. I stepped forward and gave it a try, and after a few faltering attempts, managed to send W3NF and CQ on the weightless bug. "By God, the kid's got it!" exclaimed W2ZC. It was a high point in my ham career up to that time, probably circa 1930.

The Allentown hamfest consisted of perhaps a hundred hams, but it was my first experience at that kind of gathering and I greatly enjoyed it. So when a couple of local hams with whom we had become acquainted suggested we attend a much larger ham get-together in Livingston, NJ, I urged Ed to accept the invitation. He said we might go, but we'd use our own transportation -- meaning the little red flivver. When the time arrived, however, he said he had decided not to go, but no reason I couldn't if I wanted to. I was only a kid of 16, but by this time I had started getting out from under the yoke of Ed's tyranny.

I called John Laughlin, W3AOD, and asked if I might go with his party. He said sure, but he wouldn't be driving. Another ham, whose name and call I have completely forgotten, would be driving his Packard sedan and a couple other hams I didn't know would be passengers also. They were all older men and a little doubtful if a "kid" would be a suitable addition to the group, but finally assented. They picked me up at our house one Saturday afternoon and we were off. The big Packard was running on only five of its six cylinders, but the driver, a man about 25 and apparently well heeled, (wish I could remember his name and call) asserted that the engine would run well enough on five cylinders, and he'd have it looked into when we returned. This caused my first qualms about accepting a ride with practically strangers. We had no sooner crossed the river and were beyond Phillipsburg when the driver produced a bottle and passed it around. I was appalled. They didn't offer it to me, said I was too young to drink, but I began to see what kind of trip this would be. Prohibition was still in effect, but it wasn't very well enforced and almost anyone could acquire liquor. My family had a long history of abstinence. I'd had no experience whatever with liquor but was quite well aware of what its effects might be. During the trip to Livingston, the bottle was passed around several times, and by the time we arrived, neither the driver nor the other passengers were "feeling any pain." I had become quite apprehensive, but they kept assuring me that they could "hold their liquor" and I was in no danger.

When we arrived at the hamfest I found myself among complete strangers and wished I had not come. The usual whistles were prevalent, but not so much so as they had been in Allentown. I saw no one I knew or had even heard of except my drunken fellow passengers and F.E. Handy, W1BDI, and Ev Battey, W1UE, from ARRL headquarters in Hartford. I had never met either of them personally, had contacted W1UE on the air and knew of Handy as the ARRL communications manager; but they were surrounded by others trying to get their attention and I didn't feel I dared approach them. There were perhaps 300 in attendance, and again I was negatively impressed with the amount of drunkenness. When the program finally started it turned out to be a discussion of politics as it concerned amateur radio. Members of the audience kept interrupting the speakers and sometimes coming to the podium to make remarks to all in general. Much clapping, whistling, booing, and general pandemonium. Handy and Battey each had their turn on the podium but neither said much and I could see that they were generally disgusted with the conduct of the forum.

It eventually broke up. I wanted nothing so badly as to get out of there, but my companions wanted to "stick around for more fun." It was quite late when we finally got back on the road, the driver (I'll call him Bill) seemingly not so drunk as the others, the Packard still firing on only five cylinders. We had to stop twice to let one or more of the passengers out to throw up. Bill seemed less drunk than the others and very sympathetic to their illness. He even threw a backward glance at me as though to say, "Sorry about all this." The inside of the car started to smell of vomit and I started to feel a little sick myself. The whole disgusting experience taught me never again to put myself in the hands of strangers without a means of extracting myself.

Next in Part 11. The Great Change.

Guess this is the month for stories. Received the following from **Doug, KA5KLU**. While it talks about digital messaging, it is still interesting to read and helps to document "the way it was" on NTS years ago. Thanks, Doug.

NTS, Packet & Pactor 1

I was remembering the other day how much NTS has changed from the past. I started out checking into TEX probably in the 70s sometime. Charlie W5GKH and Ed KS5V helped me to learn the ropes. Ken K5RG and Pete K5GM were other stations that were on then. It was fun although a little different from military traffic handling.

After a while my interest moved into Packet and my wife bought me a little Kantronics KPC3. That opened up a complete new ballgame. Took me several months to learn how to operate the thing. Back then Packet was similar to email. There were bulletins, ole time texting and message traffic. It was complex, but then I could connect all the way to Houston, Austin and down into the valley to Harlingen. You would connect to relay stations then on to the next one until you reached your city of destination. Pete K5GM and I used to pass traffic to one another via Packet. He'd send me NTS traffic for around San Antonio and I'd pass any Austin area traffic to him. We probably did that for at least a year or two. But long gone are the connections these days and the interest in Packet has almost disappeared since cell phones and the Internet have become so widespread.

As I got deeper into it I met with Robby/W5SEG over in Seguin. I put up a 2 meter 3 element beam. I built my own tower from metal from my shed that came down after the 13 inches of snow we received in 1985. It's about 20 feet tall, then I ran a mast up from that another 20 feet, and put my antenna on top of that. It looks like an oil derrick but it works. I put a TV rotator on it so I can turn the beam 365 degrees. Robby lived in Seguin about 30 to 35 miles east of me. I was able to connect with him most of the time unless the propagation was not good. I ran about 50 watts from my little ICOM 281H. It had 3 power levels 5, 10 and 50 watts. Robby was probably the central traffic relay station in those days. He received a tremendous amount of traffic mostly from N1IQI, W1GMF and WB5NKD.

The regular nets preferred that traffic to flow in that manner to keep from choking the nets. He filtered the Texas traffic my way and I had several stations here in San Antonio that would pick up the traffic and take it to the 7290, Southwest or TEX net. What was neat, I didn't have to be at home to receive the traffic. You could set up times that the traffic would automatically be put into my mail box. That worked great for a while but the problem with the KPC3 is that it only has enough memory to accept about 100 messages. I had to leave my station on 24 hours a day which was OK - I had plenty of power supplies.

Don/AC5XK gave me a PK232 that he got from Ebay. He didn't like it as much as his Kantronics KAM Plus, which had Pactor 1 capabilities. I bought two IC's you could put in the PK232 that made it Pactor 1 ready. What I liked about the PK232 was that it used the computer's memory to store message traffic. By that time I was handling around 3,000 messages a month. I was getting traffic from Robby regularly and with Pactor 1 I was connecting with a station in Colorado on 20 meters daily. I picked up a lot of traffic coming from the west coast. Then in the early mornings I would connect with Pat/W4QAT in Alabama (*now SK*) and Arley/WB5NKD in Oklahoma City. I'd pass traffic going to the Oklahoma area to Arley and any East Coast traffic to Pat/W4QAT. The computerized program that worked with my PK232 allowed me to designate traffic to be sent to a given station so it did it automatically. The Winlink program allowed Pactor and the Packet message box to work together. So those who had Packet here in San Antonio could connect with me and pick up the Texas traffic to take to the regular nets. It was neat - everyone got a chance to participate.

When I would connect via Pactor to Pat or Arley it would pass 40 or 50 messages in a matter of minutes, it was fast. My wife was about to go crazy because I spent a lot of time in the shack. Even though she's a ham she told me it was too much like having another job.

I also had a TCC FOX sked on Thursday night (*PAN to CAN*) and did CAN TX/RX on another couple of nights plus doing NCS on TEX a couple of nights. But it was fun for me. It reminded me of Radio Central back when I was stationed in Iceland in the Navy in 1964.

Then things slowly began to change. Email had replaced Packet and the relay stations and interest in it began to disappear. Many of the stations on Pactor, the main players, had passed away. So over the years it has all disappeared and that is sad. After all, this is mostly a hobby, and in my mind it doesn't have to be replaced with the latest and greatest, but that's what happens. Those were really fun days. I turn my PK232 on occasionally. Long gone is Pactor 1 but I use the Packet side on it. Only thing left on the air is a beacon from the San Antonio Emergency station that lets me know they're still there on Packet. I still have my

KPC3 - I had to dust it off. Thought about connecting it up to see if I can remember how to operate it.

I got a piece of traffic from N1IQI the other day, so know he is still alive. Don't know what happened to W1GMF (*he passed away a couple years ago - Ed.*) - he sent out a lot of traffic and made a lot of folks angry for that. I think Arley's probably in a nursing home now still sending traffic from a computer. You know it was fun and I believe they did some service to NTS by letting a lot of hams know we are still here. They gave us a chance to be sharp with NTS. I know I worked a lot with it during the Katrina hurricane and it paid off. We helped a lot of people locate their loved ones after the storm. One thing about a hobby - its a choice - you don't have to do anything you don't want to. I enjoy passing traffic and miss Packet and Pactor along with those guys who spent hours creating traffic for all of us to be able to enjoy NTS. When you play, however, you have to have those who want to play the same game. If it isn't fun, then you need to find something else to do. Nobody makes you enjoy it. I love it myself and miss it a lot.

See you on the nets. 73, Doug//KA5KLU

TEX Mailbox:

Vic, W7VSE, sent the following after seeing his blurb, forwarded by Scott, W7IZ, in the last newsletter. Vic wrote: Bet you didn't know I am a Texan? Yep, born in Houston in 1922. My grandmother raised me in Waurika, OK, about 7 miles from Texas. Thanks for including my little blurb. I'm in my second childhood now, and can count my age in fractions again. I am 91 and a third. HI! Still wiggling my old WW2 Vibroplex as NCS on both RN7 nets on Sunday nights. Keep up the good work. 73, Vic W7VSE

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Heard from **Ken, K6CTW**, who has been "reading the mail" on us in the hope of a transfer to Texas. Ken wrote (on September 21): What a nice surprise to hear TEX tonight when I got finished cleaning the switch contacts on the 75A-1. Still have to re-align the PTO as the dial is reading 4 KC high on all bands (which is too far to adjust the fiducial).

All of your signals were very nice copy and Rodney, K5DY, was doing a nice job as NCS. With winter conditions approaching, I think I'll even try checking in next time I hear all of you so well.

I'm applying to all of the Raytheon jobs there in McKinney, Garland and Ft Worth. Hopefully they will lift the hiring freeze soon and I'll get a chance to interview and hopefully get one of the jobs there. Would be just what I'm looking for.

73, Ken, K6CTW

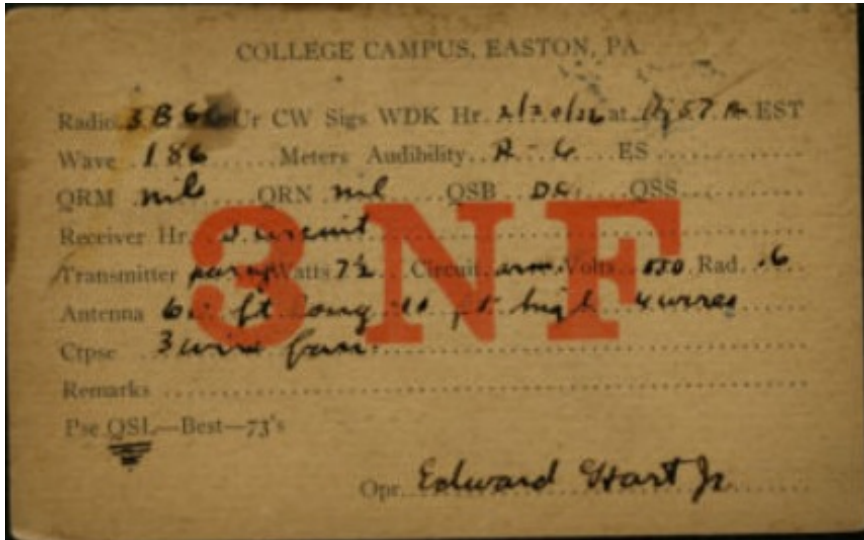
- . . . -

Pete, K5GM, sent a copy of an old TEX net roster from the 1970's that was sent to him by Jim, W4AGL, who was active on TEX at that time as well. Jim is still helping out on RN5 with CAN, AL, and even LA liaisons with his big signal from Florida. Pete wrote: An old TEX roster, undated but from the 70's. Interesting. Sam (W5CU) was KV5X. I had forgotten that Jim (W4AGL now, then WF4Y) used to to QNI TEX. Note that W5FEA was W5HMR then.

I should dig up some rosters from when I was net manager and forward them to you as well. I don't think this was one of mine but it could have been.
73, Pete

If anyone would like a copy, let me or Pete know and we'll be happy to send it to you. Other stations shown on the roster who have been on TEX in the time since I took over as manager include Sam, N5AF, Charlie, W5GKH (then WD5GKH), Rodney, W5DY (then N5DKM), Chuck (Lee), AA5J, Jack, W5TFB, Ed, KS5V, and Bert, AC5Z.

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Received the following and QSL card picture from **Pete, NL7XM**, who somehow came across the TEX website. He wrote: Hi, Steve. I found your online Newsletter interesting and was pleasantly surprised to see you are reprinting George Hart's / W1NJM wonderful series, "Random Recollections Of An Old Ham."

George died a few months ago in CT at the age of 99, and he and his brother, Ed, were Members of my local Club, the

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club here in Bethlehem, PA. In fact, Ed is a former President. I have one of his original QSL cards in my collection from 1926.

One of our longest and very active Honorary Life Members, Bill Goodman / K3ANS was friends with both of them. In fact, Ed was his Elmer.

Bill has one of the sharpest memories of anyone I've ever met, and loves to tell stories of these two icons. You'd be well served to record an interview with him over the phone for your Newsletter for after the story segments run out.

Vy 73,
Pete "The Greek" NL7XM

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Received the following link from **Scott, W7IZ**. I found it to be extremely interesting, and I am sure you will too. Note the different sections you can access from the top menu bar. Take a look at "Life" if you want to see how much longer you might have. Give it a look: "THE CLOCK" You've never seen a clock like this one.

<http://www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock.swf>

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TEX Net Topics

There are still 5 backup slots open (shown in **yellow**) but only **1** open NCS slot (shown in **red**) in need of a station for Saturday early NCS. Thanks to Doug, KA5KLU, for taking the early RN5 slot on Thursday. I have been filling in on the Saturday early NCS slot, but I am not always available to do it. My wife, poor misguided soul that she is, somehow thinks there are other things more important than handling traffic on weekend evenings.

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.

If you are scheduled for an NCS or Liaison slot, and you cannot make it, if at all possible, please notify both K6JT and W5DY (see email addresses and cell phone number at top of page 1) as soon as you can before the net meeting so that the backups can be alerted.

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TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	N5RL	KD5TXD	KD5TXD	N5RL	<i>Open</i>	W5GKH
Backup	<i>Open</i>	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5CU
NCS #2	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	K5KV	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	K5KV	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	W5CU
RN5 #1	K5KV	N5RL	W5CU	KA5KLU	N5RL	KA5KLU	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5DY	<i>Open</i>	W5ESE	W5ESE	<i>Open</i>
RN5 #2	K5KV	K5KV	W5CU	KA5KLU	K6JT	KA5KLU	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K5KV	K6JT	<i>Open</i>

TEX/1: **3541**/7053/7108 at 19:00 CT; TEX/2 **3541**/3595/1841 at 22:00 CT

RN5/1: **3567**/7108 at 19:30; RN5/2: **3567**/3598/7108 at 21:30 CT

TSN: **3570** - 19:45 CT; CAN: **3552**/7052/7108/3595 - 20:30 CT; PAN: **3552**/7052 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, K5GM, K6JT, KA5KLU, 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	WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga
W6CL	Carol	Tulsa OK	N7NET	Scott	McKinney
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
W5DH	Tom	Dallas	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
W4DLZ	Frank	Florida	W5OMR	Geoff	Houston
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
W5FEA	Jim	Graham	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
K5JRN	Si	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
* K5KV	Benny	Star	K6YBV	Bob	Placerville CA
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	W5YE	Brian	Harlingen
WA5MS	Marty	Highland Village	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

Traffic and check-ins were both slightly down compared to last month. All RN5 slots were covered and TTN / DFW representation were again good. Thanks to all for a fine job.

Jim, W5FEA, with 53 out of 60 (88%) captured first, Randy, N5RL, with 46 (77%) was second and Rodney, W5DY, with 37 (62%) captured third. Honorable mention for 50% or more also goes to K5KV and KA5KLU. Thanks to all of you who checked in for your support.

We had a couple of "regular" visitors to the net including Dick, WA5CAV, from Louisiana and Bob, K6YBV, from California. We also had Mike, AC5P, check in from Oklahoma. Welcome to all and thanks!

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 3.6 per net session (3.9 last month). Net time averaged 12.3 minutes per session (compared to 12.9 last month). Check-ins averaged 6.2 per session (6.6 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (August 2013)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
WA5CAV	Dick	0	1				
	LA	1					
W5CU	Sam	13	29		8		
*		16			8		
W5DY	Rodney	15	37		1		
		22		4			
W5ESE	Scott	17	17				
*		0					
W5FEA	Jim	27	53			3	
*		26				5	
W5GKH	Charlie	9	18	9			
*		9		9			
K5GM	Pete	3	12				
*		9					
W9GVW	Eric	3	3				
*		0					
K6JT	Steve	16	45	5			16
*		29		6	2		29
KA5KLU	Doug	18	30		8		
*		12			8		
K5KV	Benny	11	31		5		
		20		4	12		
W6LFB	Jim	0	1				
*		1					
N5NVP	Jim	0	2				
		2					
AC5P	Mike	0	1				
	OK	1					
K1PKZ	Paul	4	4				
		0					

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
K5QOW	Gary	4	4			3	
*		0					
K5RG	Ken	2	15				
*		13					
N5RL	Randy	23	46	8	8	11	
*		23				18	
W5TMO	Mike	0	9				
*		9		7			
KD5TXD	Pat	8	8	8			
*		0					
K6YBV	Bob	0	8				
	CA	8					
Totals		374		60	60	40	45
				100%	100%	67%	75%
QTC 1		49	218				
QTC 2		169			Sessions:	60	
Time 1		327	740				
Time 2		413					

Operating:

Did not see much SET traffic in either NTS or NTSD this year. I did handle one message, received via NTSD, which turned out to have a disconnected phone number. The SET in my county will not take place until later this month.

We now have a new Texas Mail Box Operator (MBO), Robby, W5SEG. He will be receiving all Texas NTSD traffic now. Still working out details on how to get that traffic to me and other Digital Relay Stations so we can get it to TEX and 7290 and TTN. Since I do not have Pactor capability, I must rely on movement of the traffic from the MBO to Winlink 2000, which I do have. The Central Area Hub operator, Gary, KB0OFD, had been doing that before. See Doug's story earlier for more detail on what all this might mean. In any case, hope to have more traffic coming in soon. Maybe even through Doug, who is within 2 meter range of W5SEG's QTH. Better hurry and dust off that KPC3 and the PK-232, Doug. :-)

Until next month, 73, Steve K6JT

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)



TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3570.0 KHz +/- QRM
http://www.atcweb.com/tsn/Texas_Slow_Net.htm
Looking for new TSN Net Manager

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT

Greetings from the Wild Horse Desert - Home of KD5TXD

The great TSN Revival continues. Come join us under the Revival tent. We had a scare this month. Carroll, KB5TCH, spent a couple days in the hospital. As you know, Carroll is the backbone of TSN calling the net most evenings. The old saying, "hope for the best and plan for the worst" applied here. We didn't have any idea how long Carroll would be out of the picture and away from his rig. I called out for help and help was ready. Jim, W5FEA, was ready to step in and call a couple nights of TSN for us. I sent the preamble and training lessons to him. Phil, KD5MMM, prepared to take an extra evening at NCS duties. Everyone was lined up and ready to go. We would keep TSN going.

W5FEA was getting ready to call the net for TSN when we heard Carroll's clear signal coming through. He was back on the air. We were overjoyed to hear him. I know he was still a bit under the weather, but what a wonderful sound his signal was. Thanks, Carroll. We are lost without your faithful efforts. Thanks to W5FEA and KD5MMM for being ready to fill the gap.

Another joyful development this month is Jason, KD5RQB. Jason reminds me of my beginning on TSN. TSN's name is Texas Slow Net and that is where we get started. Jason is on every night following along on the lessons and learning the routine. It is very exciting to see his progress each evening. The first few nights we could hear him trying to check in. Band conditions have not been the best so it has been a challenge for him to follow along with the net. However, like magic, he is now checking in and making net calls and checking out like a pro. Jason asked to call the net so he is scheduled to make his debut as NCS on November 6th. Way to go, Jason! Once he gets his feet wet at NCS duties he will also be sending the training lesson. I struggled for months to get to the point that Jason is at in a matter of weeks. **Thanks, Jason, great work!!!**

Welcome to N7NET for joining in with us. It was also great to have WD8DIP from Belmont, Oklahoma check in with us. Now we just need to find a few more dedicated folks like Jason to work with. If you know any more hams who would like to study traffic handling on CW please send them our way.

Stop by any evening on 3570kHz at 7:45p.m. CDT.

If you have time and are interested in helping us out, please drop me an e-mail at pja@atcweb.com. We have some available evenings if anyone would like to take on NCS duties. And it would be above and beyond the call of duty if someone could help with sending the training lessons. Thanks to all!!

September 2013 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
WA4BAM	John	Miami	FL	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
AC5BE	Joe	Houston	TX	N7NET	Scott	McKinney	TX
KX5C	Ron	Silsbee	TX	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
W6CL	Carol	Tulsa	OK	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
WB8DIP	Scotty	Belmont	OK	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
AB0DK	Dave	Kirksville	MO	K5OAI	Sam	San Angelo	TX
W7DML	Richard	Salt Lake City	UT	N4OLN	Gary	Conyers	GA
W5DPT	Louis	Deer Park	TX	K9PUI	Dick	Indianapolis	IN
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells	TX
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta	TX
W5FEA	Jim	Graham	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
AG9G	Dwight		WI	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
KK4HCF	Sam	Maryville	TN	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
N0JL	Jim	Chillicothe	IA	WB5UPS	Ron	Port Neches	TX
K6JT	Steve	Plano	TX	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Dryden	MI
K5MDK	Mike	Plano	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 September 2013

Total Sessions 30, Total Check-ins 112, Total Traffic 28 by 12 different operators.

September 2013 QNS

QNI	Callsign	Name	QTH	STATE
27	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
25	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
14	W5FEA	Jim	Graham	TX
11	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta	TX
11	WD0ESF	Mike	Medicine Lodge	KS
8	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
6	KK4HCF	Sam	Maryville	TN
3	N7NET	Scott	McMinney	TX
3	W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX
2	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
1	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio	TX
1	WD8DIP	Scotty	Belmont	OK

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

October 13, 2013

(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/late) or 3598 when conditions warrant
Serving TX, OK, LA, AR, MS, TN, AL, and FL
Frank Thrash W4DLZ (W4DLZ@ARRL.NET)
RN5 Net Manager

Hello guys and welcome to Edition 20 of the **RN5 Corner**. Murphy continues to plague the DLZ household. First my computers could not access the Internet, then they would not run my digital programs, then a host of other problems came up. So I've not been as active as I had hoped, having to fix everything, seems like daily.

The move to 3567 for the early session seems to be working out well. Long skip has come to 40 meters pretty early now. CAN has now also changed back to 3552 at 2030.

Thanks to Steve, K6JT, for taking the late Thursday NCS slot (he is also CAN NCS on Thursdays) and we are very happy to have Doug, KA5KLU, trying out the CAN TX slot on Thursdays. Note that K6JT is also in the schedule for CAN RX, although he is generally unable to check into the early session to answer that QNA call.

We still need a regular NCS for the early session on Thursday, but otherwise all NCS slots are now filled. Although one got filled, we still have a lot of CAN Liaison slots open, including those on Monday that have gone begging for what seems like years now.

Thank you all for keeping the net going. With all the problems and my relative lack of participation, I often feel like I should give it up and let another of you take over the managership. If anyone is interested and willing, please let me know. Meanwhile, I'll continue to at least keep the statistics as best I can.

I want to especially acknowledge the great participation of Dick, WA5CAV, who is as regular as clockwork from LA as well as thank Tom, K4VIZ, for his many hours of help in filling in on CAN liaisons and NCS slots, Sam, W5CU, for keeping OK represented and his help with filling in CAN and as NCS, and of course Andy, W4SQE, for being the one-and-only TN liaison station. Let's not forget the ice-cream pair, Ben and Jerry (KZ8Q and W4SU), and Jim, W4AGL, for their great help as well. :-)

Thanks to all of you for a good job -- last month we had reports for all sessions, even though average traffic and check-ins were down a bit.

73, Frank W4DLZ
RN5/4 CW Net Mgr..

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

RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	KZ8Q	W4DLZ	W5CU	Open	W4SU	W4DLZ	K4VIZ
NCS #2	KZ8Q	W4DLZ	W5CU	K6JT	W4SU	W4DLZ	K4VIZ
CAN TX	Open	Open	K4VIZ	KA5KLU	K5KV	Open	K5KV
CAN RX	Open	W4DLZ	W4AGL	K6JT	Open	W4DLZ	W5CU
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

September 2013 Statistics

SESSIONS	62
QTC	179
QNI	306
QTR	632
AVG QTC	2.8
AVG QNI	4.9
AVG QTR	10.1

The following roster shows stations coming to RN5 in the past 3 years and their sections.

Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	Section	Call	Name	Section
W4AGL	JIM	FL	AA4HT	BOB	FL
K4AKC	TOM	AL	W8IM	DEAN	FL
WA4BAM	JOHN	FL	WA5JAN	JIM	AR
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	K6JT	STEVE	TX
W5CU	SAM	OK*	KA5KLU	DOUG	TX
AC5CW	ERIC	LA	K5KV	BENNY	TX
KO9D	BENNY	IN	K8KV	BEN	FL
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	K5MC	MICKEY	LA
K5DMC	JER	MS	N5NVP	JIM	LA
WD4DNC	BARRY	FL	K4PG	KEVIN	FL
AD4DO	JOHN	FL	KZ8Q	BEN	AL
W5DTR	CURT	IL	K5RG	KEN	TX
K1DW	DALLAS	LA	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
NY4E	BILL	FL	W4SU	JERRY	AL
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	W6SX	HANK	CA
KJ4FDV	TREY	AL	K15T	WADE	LA
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR
KA4FZI	PHYL	FL	K5WNU	JACK	MS
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	K6YR	ROB	CA
K5GM	PETE	TX	WA4ZPZ	TOM	AL

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

73, Frank W4DLZ