

# The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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September-October 2015



## Back to 80 Meters

As you know from the all-stations message I sent out a few days ago, TEX is now on 80 meters (3541) for both early and late sessions. RN5 has also changed to both sessions on 80 (3567), and so has PAN (3552). No formal announcement has come out for CAN (also 3552), but we can assume that 80 will also be used. Note that NCS stations can still send stations to 40 to pass traffic if that might work better for some paths.

The G3 level Geomagnetic Storm that took place starting around October 7 really forced the move during that time. 40 meters and higher frequencies were very poor for about 3 days and 80 had to be used. The effects of the storm have largely subsided, but ol' Sol seems to be quite unstable, so we can never tell what is next.

Daylight time ends on November 1 (Sunday). As always, all NTS nets stay at the same LOCAL time while UTC increases by 1 hour.

As I mentioned in the August newsletter, I have switched to a bi-monthly publication. So this issue will cover both September and October statistics and news. We'll see how it works out.

Now, as promised in the E-mail last month, here's part 1 of an interesting story from Sam, W5CU, about his operation during the ARRL Centennial as W1AW/5. Thank you, Sam !!

## **OPERATING W1AW/5 – AN OKLAHOMA STORY – PART ONE** **By Sam Sitton W5CU**

In November, 2013, an email crossed my electronic desk, triggering a series of events that would occupy much of my free time for the next ten months. The Oklahoma DX Association, of which I am a nominal member, was seeking a volunteer group to be responsible for the second week of Oklahoma's operation of W1AW/5, sometime in the summer! What an opportunity for my local club, the Edmond Amateur Radio Society (EARS), to perform a great service to hamdom, I thought, so as a Board member I presented the idea for consideration. Why not us, I pleaded! The EARS Board embraced the idea, authorized it and off we went.

No matter that the beam on the roof of the city building that houses our club station was non-functioning at the moment, and the 20 year old transceiver that was the core of our station had no filters, and the ambient noise level in the area was sometimes S9... no matter, what the heck, we had ample time to get things going...

In late Fall of 2013, some things were known about the W1AW portable operations that were to take place in the ARRL's Centennial Year: 1) a special Worked All States award (WAS W1AW) would be given by ARRL to any licensed amateur radio operator, domestic or foreign, for working W1AW portable operations in all U.S. states in calendar year 2014, 2) each state would be allowed to operate a W1AW/portable station for two weeks, and ... well, that was it. What was unknown about these operations was significant – for example, who determines when each state would operate its two weeks, all together or split up at different times of the year? Would one multi-multi super-station operate the full two-weeks or would there be multiple stations operating W1AW/portable at different times or the same time within the state? Would simultaneous operations be allowed on different bands, same band but different mode or same band/mode? Also at that point it was unclear as to the very nature of the activity – would it be a special event or would it more resemble a contest? Our initial assumption in OK was that the operation would follow the super-station approach, with the tenor of the event being more like a friendly Field Day operation than a contest or special event. Clear as mud, in other words!

As the feasts began at Thanksgiving, most of the questions would be answered by ARRL through its Centennial operating events guru, Dave NN1N. A W1AW/portable coordinators Yahoo group was established, and through it, at the lively rate of 25+ emails each day, we the coordinators made our feelings known and Dave developed a game plan. ARRL, somewhat arbitrarily due to time considerations, selected an entity from each state that would coordinate W1AW operations within that state. That entity, in turn, would select one sub-coordinator for each of its two weeks with operations to be for a week at a time, each at different times of the year and further coordinated with operations of other states such that there would be no more than two or at most three states or territories operating at a given time, preferably from different parts of the country (e.g., not multiple /5s operating simultaneously). The question of multiple W1AW's operating at the same time within a state was answered – ARRL ruled that the only limitation on the number of separate stations participating in a state under the callsign W1AW/x was that only one station could operate a given band/mode at a time. As the lovely wrapped gifts were being placed under the Christmas trees around the country, it was becoming apparent to most of the coordinators that we had been given a huge present, in the form of a wide-open latitude to develop an alternative to the super-station approach and open the opportunity up to individual stations to operate as W1AW, from their own QTHs. But accompanying the present was a major challenge - could each state develop a simple and effective program or spreadsheet that would facilitate multiple operations while ensuring that multiple stations would not be operating the same band/mode?

The early operations, including Oklahoma's first week, were super-station multiple op affairs that had been planned for months, most of which were successful. Connie K5CM and his small crew did an excellent job of handing out Oklahoma Qs, in early January, but at great expense to their work or social lives and even, to some extent, their physical well-being. All contesters and veteran DXers, accustomed to pile-ups and extended operations, it became clear to them and to the early-operators in other states that 1) seven days is a LONG time and

2) interest in the event was growing exponentially each day, both within the U.S. and internationally (particularly JAs!). Massive pile-ups, particularly early in the operating week, were becoming the norm. Clearly, something had to be done.

With the EARS-coordinated operation seven months away, I asked our webmaster, Karl AE5ZU, and our Google-expert, Oscar WB5GCX, to build a spreadsheet that could be accessed by approved parties via the Internet to select times, modes and frequencies for their in-home operation of W1AW. They were on their way to a workable solution when, in our laps, drops the perfect prototype. Enter James Ying, N2IW, a highly-regarded software engineer and radio amateur who developed for his state an excellent spreadsheet specifically for this purpose and generously offered it up to other groups for their use. Other states started using it in February, sharing their learnings and tweaks through the coordinator group site, and soon EARS had created its own spreadsheet modeled closely after N2IW's, specific to our August dates. This would be made accessible to registered individual operators through a link appearing on the club website. Now anyone wanting to operate W1AW from the comfort of his or her own station could do so – a completely unprecedented, awesome opportunity for all, for a brief moment, to BE W1AW.

More to come – the reality of operating the event, a few hiccups, a couple of bad band and bad wx days, lessons learned, scrambling to fill slots, the thrill and satisfaction of handing out wanted Qs, learning the hard-way about pile-up management, and a sense of loss but also euphoric relief to get through the Seventh Day.

### **George Hart Series**

Here is the 34th installment of the George Hart Series. George becomes the Communication Manager.

### **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*

Chapter 33 - George settles in his new position with the ARRL.

(From the last chapter... Kenneth B. Warner, W1EH, ARRL Secretary and General Manager of the headquarters, had invited George to come to his office. George wrote "It would not be an exaggeration to say I held him in great awe, and in this instance I approached his sanctum sanctorum in 'fear and trembling.'" )

"Well," he said, after inviting me to sit down, "it's definite, Huntoon is going to the Coast Guard, and you're going to be our new Acting Communications Manager. You should have been appointed when Ed Handy left, but the Board didn't think you could handle the job. Can you?"

"I'm sure I could KB," I said. Everybody called him KB except the non-ham office personnel. "There isn't that much to it, now that we're off the air. But I have another job, now. I'm going

to teach code at a Navy school in Pennsylvania. He stared at me and I felt exceedingly uncomfortable. "How come I didn't know about this?"

"I didn't know about it myself until yesterday, when I received a telegram from them. I'm to report for work in three days. I was going to inquire about a leave of absence today." KB's stare bore right through me. "Do you think you'll get it?"

"I don't see why I shouldn't," I said, with my voice shaking a little. "You gave Joe Moskey and others who went into war-related industry leaves of absence."

"That was different. Teaching code isn't exactly an industry."

"That's what John Huntoon will be doing isn't it?"

"Yes, but he'll be in the Coast Guard, a military service. You'll remain a civilian, won't you?" He didn't give me a chance to reply. "You expect to return here after the war?"

"I'd like to have the option," I said, then added in a low voice, "but not if I'm not wanted."

"Did this school in Pennsylvania offer you a draft deferment?"

"They said they'd try and there was a good chance, but they couldn't guarantee anything."

"Of course not. Are they paying more than you're getting here?"

"A little. Not much."

"Have you liked working for the League?"

I shrugged. "Very much. Amateur radio has been a big part of my life, and the League is amateur radio. That's why I want to come back. This Pennsylvania job is only for the duration."

"Or less. When the need for CW operators runs out, they'll probably close the school. Have you thought of that?" I hadn't thought of much of anything, except that I wanted to get out of this headquarters where it appeared I wasn't really wanted and had little future.

But it was my own fault, I felt. Joe Moskey was right; if you don't push yourself, you'll never get anywhere; and I wasn't the pushy type. I sat mute, not answering his question. He turned and looked out the window of his corner office onto La Salle Road and busy Farmington Avenue thoroughfare half a block away.

"Do I remember that you're a college graduate?"

"Yes, Penn State. I graduated in 1936 and got my master's degree in 1939."

"Electrical engineering?"

“No. English composition. I consorted with a lot of engineers at W8YA, though.”

“That’s where Doc Woodruff teaches, isn’t it?”

“Yes. I didn’t see much of him though. Gil Crossley, an instructor, runs the station.”

“And yet, with two college degrees you took a job as second operator at W1AW at what - twenty-five bucks a week?”

“Twenty-two when I started. I’m doing a bit better than that now.”

He continued looking out the window while I sat there nervously fidgeting.

“George,” he said, finally. “You said something a while ago about being wanted. You’re not only wanted, you’re needed. The League is starting to break up. Almost half the staff has left, either drafted or in the defense industry.

“We have an important job to do in civil defense communication which is essential to the war effort, but we can’t do it if all our best people leave. John Huntoon, as acting communications manager, was slated to undertake some important federal government contacts which would put us in good stead to assist the government in supplying crucial civil defense communications by those amateurs not eligible to serve in the Army or Navy.

“The draft won’t catch up to you for at least another year. If you stay on, I’ll up your salary to quite a bit more than that school will give you; and if the draft does catch up to you, I’ll get a hearing before your draft board.

“By that time, if all goes well, we’ll be well established in federal government circles, and I think we’ll have as good a chance as that school in getting you deferred, maybe better. What do you say?”

I was astounded to hear his voice break a couple of times as he made this offer. It made me realize how dedicated this man was to the League, amateur radio and the war effort.

I said I’d have to think about it. I had already decided to go to Pennsylvania. Now I had another decision to make. I had thought Louise would be delighted to be in Hollidaysburg for the duration; it was much nearer to Coudersport than Hartford, but she didn’t want to give up our nice little house in Newington. I had given her the impression that we could rent it for the duration and return to it after the war end. Although reluctant, she had agreed to this. Now, with this new development, we could remain where we were, and she was delighted.

There still remained the threat of the draft. We had heard that they were starting to draft young married men without children. We wanted children, eventually, but we had decided to wait until the war was over. Even if we started a child now, it would not change my draft status. I would still be childless as far as my draft status was concerned.

I wired the Keystone Schools turning down the job. It turned out to be a good decision. KB would not have given me a leave of absence and when the war ended or the Keystone Schools ceased operation, whichever came first, I would be without a job.

The crisis was over - temporarily, anyway, I became acting communications manager of a department of two people – Lillian Salter and myself. Lil was a spinster lady who had been Ed Handy's stenographer and, you might say, interpreter, for several years prior to my arrival on the scene. She was very small, had a fiery temper, very little executive ability, a great deal of expertise in typing and figuring out Ed's dictation and rough-drafting. Dictation was done on dictaphones using wax cylinders. Ed dictated most of his correspondence on these cylinders and Lil had the task of playing them back and transforming them into letters, which she would then take into his office for signature.

I had occasion to listen to one of these cylinders once and marveled at her ability to make sense out of them. Not only was the quality inferior, but Ed talked in machine-gun fashion in his high-pitched voice interspersed with frequent throat-clearing, ums, ahhs, and coughs.

Incredibly, Lil seldom had to inquire of him just what he was trying to say. When Ed rough-drafted a bulletin or a piece of expository writing, he pounded it out on his old No. 5 Underwood typewriter, single-spaced; after which he would go over it with soft pencil, crossing out parts and adding text here and there by scribbling in the narrow margins with lines and arrows showing where the substitute text was supposed to fit. Quite often he would run out of margin, and would scribble or type on a narrow strip of paper, which he would then staple to the sheet. Lil once showed me a sheet from a rough-draft bulletin that he had just given her to be put into page form. It looked like a paper spider, a sheet of 8-1/2 by 11 paper with illegible scribbling all over it with several streamers stapled onto it.

I never thought they paid Lil enough for the kind of work she did. I probably wasn't too easy a boss to work for by ordinary standards, but after Ed Handy, Lil must have found working for me a great relief.

Coming in Chapter 34 - The ARRL Apparatus Bureau.

### **TEX Mailbox:**

Received the following interesting anecdote from **George, K5BMR**, in response to the article in the last newsletter about the Rhombic Antennas on Chopmist Hill:

When I was with Barnes Engineering aboard the American Mariner in the South Atlantic in 1961, we would anchor just off Ascension Island. RCA had a Rhombic antenna on the only small mountain and it was pointed toward Moorestown NJ and they had a huge TMC xmitter on 14.000 to 15.000 Mhz. The Brits would not allow US Hams to operate on the Island but some of the radio operators would get on 2Ø meters for a few minutes at a time. Several times, they used the call signs of some of us on the ship. I'm glad that we did not get into any trouble. 2Ø KW on 2Ø Meters got some attention on the East coast of the USA! Band conditions were still pretty good in 1961 and we had 2 stations on the ship and 7 Hams. We ran phone patches from the ship state rooms over the air to phone patches in the US. The vertical antennas we used were really good on the salt water and the ship as a ground plane.

It would be nice if band conditions were this good now...

73, George K5BMR

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As received from **James, WB8SIW**, The September issue of the QNI Newsletter is available via the TEX website link. This is a very interesting one that I recommend you all take a look through. In particular, note the article by Kate, K6HTN, on Abuse of the Message Format and especially the last item regarding NTS and FEMA. The contents include:

- Portable Generators for EMCOMM Preparedness
- Improving Spotter Networks
- More on ARES-NTS Cooperation
- Will Gasoline be Available?
- Temporal Distortions in the Ionosphere
- The Deep Cycle Battery
- A Heathkit Fish Spotter?
- Abuse of the Message Format
- BIG NEWS! NTS AND FEMA

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From **Chuck, W5KAV**, who is the Pacific Area Digital Coordinator. Good to see some special awards being given:

ARRL NTS Confers Special Service Awards

The National Traffic System (NTS) conferred its prestigious Special Service Award upon two radio amateurs at the 2015 Dayton Hamvention® in May. The Special Service Award recognizes volunteers for outstanding, selfless, and lengthy service to the National Traffic System. The Pacific, Central, and Eastern Area NTS committees determine award recipients. Award winners receive the Special Service Award Plaque. Jim Wades, WB8SIW, the editor of QNI -- An NTS Newsletter, announced the award winners at Dayton. Honored were:

Kenneth W. Jacobs, KD6PGI, Hood River, Oregon, for technical supervision and migration support of the NTS Digital Network BPQ32 Modernization Project. The BPQ32 migration provides the NTS with a modern, multimode, packet-switching environment capable of seamless integration with all AX.25 and IP-based networks. According to the announcement, Jacobs "donated countless hours consulting to NTS on BPQ32 migration strategy, environment installation, operator support, and implementation of custom NTS functionality in collaboration with developer John Wiseman, G8BPQ."

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From **Scott, W7IZ**, this article about an amazing miniature wonderland in Hamburg, Germany. Those of you who like railroads will really enjoy this. Technology and craftsmanship at its best. Thanks, Scott.

Remember the two brothers, in Germany, who had a wonderful model railway that was something to see? This is an update for their German Wonderland.

A short review, it was started by two brothers as a place to show their hobby began to grow by leaps & bounds. Soon they were joined by other 'Model Railroad Clubs' and other craftsmen. Some were electricians, model makers, carpenters, computer programmers. Their wives would stop by to see what they were doing and usually bring them a lunch.

One thing led to another. Three of the ladies had worked at a bakery, several visitors would ask if they had a snack bar. The idea was planted; some of the carpenters came and built a nice restaurant area for the bakery and a kitchen, too. If the fresh coffee smell didn't get you, then the bakery definitely would.

Over 400,000 man hours were spent making this dream come true.

This was about 5 years ago. One of the breweries came and furnished all of the tables and chairs, serving counter and, etc. Their latest finished area is the airport. Planes look like they are flying and landing. GERMAN WONDERLAND IN HAMBURG link below - AMAZING!

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/ACkmg3Y64\\_s?rel=0](https://www.youtube.com/embed/ACkmg3Y64_s?rel=0)

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### **TEX Net Topics**

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown on the following page (for easier printing of a single page). Don, KF5QKJ, and Dick, WA5CAV, have been added to the roster. No formal replacements have come forward for Sam, W5CU's Wednesday and Sunday slots, so the backup stations have been handling them during his absence from home. He is still commuting to Midland, but will be spending time at home in between weeks there.

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### TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>NCS #1</b>	W5GKH	N5RL	KD5TXD	KD5TXD	N5RL	W5FEA	W5GKH
Backup	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	K6JT	W5FEA
<b>NCS #2</b>	W5GKH	K6JT	W5TMO	W5TMO	K5KV	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT
<b>RN5 #1</b>	K5KV	NA5YO	W5CU	N5RL	N5RL	NA5YO	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5FEA	W5FEA
<b>RN5 #2</b>	K5RG	NA5YO	W5CU	K6JT	K6JT	NA5YO	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	K6JT	K5RG	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT

TEX/1: **3541**/3595/7053 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**/3595/7052/7108 - 20:30 CT; PAN: **3552**/7052 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K5GM, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, NA5YO

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K6JT, K5KV, K5RG, N5RL, W5TMO, KD5TXD

### TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
N5BA	Brian	Houston	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
WA5CAV	Dick	Pineville LA	AC5P	Mike	Bartlesville OK
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	KF5QKJ	Don	San Angelo
W5DH	Tom	Dallas	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
W4DLZ	Frank	Florida	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
W5FEA	Jim	Graham	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
K5GM	Pete	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	W5UFK	Ken	College Station
K5JRN	Si	Austin	NE5V	Chris	Liberty Hill
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
N7KRT	Jeff	Victoria	K6YBV	Bob	Placerville CA
* K5KV	Benny	Star	W5YE	Brian	Harlingen
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	NA5YO	Doug	San Antonio
N7NET	Scott	McKinney	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

\* Capable of 160 meter operation

## Statistics:

### August:

Jim, W5FEA, with 62 out of 62 (100%) was again able to have "perfect attendance". Rodney, W5DY, with 44 (71%) took second, and Randy, N5RL, and Benny, K5KV, with 37 (60%) tied for third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors to the net included Dick, WA5CAV, from LA, who I have now added to the roster, Don, KF5QKJ, from San Angelo, also added to the roster, and Bruce, K6ZB, from Georgetown.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.6 per net session (3.4 last month). Net time averaged 10.8 minutes per session (compared to 11.0 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.5 per session (5.8 last month).

### TEX Net Statistics (August 2015)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
KW5AS	Skip	9	10					
		1						
WA5CAV	Dick	1	2					
	LA	1						
W5CU	Sam	1	5		1			
*		4			1			
W5DY	Rodney	22	44	1	6			
		22		5				
W5FEA	Jim	31	62	4	2	29		
*		31		1		4		
W5GKH	Charlie	9	18	9				
*		9		9				
K5GM	Pete	7	15					
*		8						
W9GVW	Eric	8	8					
*		0						
K6JT	Steve	14	44	1			14	
*		30		5	14		30	
K5KV	Benny	12	37		4			
		25		4				
N5NVP	Jim	0	1					
		1						
K1PKZ	Paul	1	1					

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
*		0						
KF5QKJ	Don	0	2					
	San Angelo	0						
K5RG	Ken	0	9					
*		9			7			
N5RL	Randy	22	37	9	9	1		
*		15				14		
KD5RQB	Jason	4	4					4
		0						
W5TMO	Mike	0	7					
*		7		7				
KD5TXD	Pat	7	7	7				
*		0						
NA5YO	Doug	10	20		9			
		10			9			
K6YBV	Bob	0	3					
	CA	3						
K6ZB	Bruce	0	1					
	Georgetown	1						
Totals		338		62	62	48	44	4
				100%	100%	77%	71%	6%
QTC 1		75	164					
QTC 2		89		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		332	667					
Time 2		335						

### September:

Jim, W5FEA, with 60 out of 60 (100%) maintained his "perfect attendance". Randy, N5RL, with 50 (83%) was second. Rodney, W5DY, with 42 (70%) took third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors to the net included Dick, WA5CAV, from LA, Don, KF5QKJ, from San Angelo, and Bob, K6YBV, from CA. All have been added to the roster, so they will not be classified as visitors in the future.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.9 per net session (2.6 last month). Net time averaged 11.2 minutes per session (compared to 10.8 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.6 per session (5.5 last month).

### TEX Net Statistics (September 2015)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
KW5AS	Skip	9	12					
		3						
WA5CAV	Dick	0	1					
	LA	1						
W5CU	Sam	2	3		2			
*		1			1			
W5DY	Rodney	19	42	1	5			
		23		4				
W5ESE	Scott	4	4					
*		0						
W5FEA	Jim	30	60	4	5	28		
*		30				3		
W5GKH	Charlie	10	19	8				
*		9		9				
K5GM	Pete	13	26		1			
*		13						
W9GVW	Eric	3	3					
*		0						
K6JT	Steve	13	43				13	
*		30		9	14		30	
K5KV	Benny	9	28		2			
		19		3				
K1PKZ	Paul	3	3					
*		0						
KF5QKJ	Don	4	5					
*	San Angelo	0						
K5RG	Ken	0	11					
*		11			8			
N5RL	Randy	27	50	9	8	2		
*		23				22		
KD5RQB	Jason	7	7					7
		0						
W5TMO	Mike	0	5					

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
*		5		5				
KD5TXD	Pat	8	8	8				
*		0						
NA5YO	Doug	7	15		7			
		8			7			
K6YBV	Bob	0	1					
		1						
Totals		346		60	60	55	43	7
				100%	100%	92%	72%	12%
QTC 1		85	174					
QTC 2		89		Sessions:		60		
Time 1		341	671					
Time 2		330						

### Operating:

I want to thank all the NCS stations for slowing down when Don, KF5QKJ, checks in. Don is still learning the code. His sending was very poor at first, but I have noticed some improvement lately. Note that he sometimes calls CQ after net, so if you have the time, and inclination (and patience), perhaps you can help him become more proficient.

It is a shame that we no longer have the Novice license with its code requirement and sub-bands where other novices could congregate and improve their skills. It is pretty rough now for a new ham who really wants to learn to use CW to get practice and improve the way most of us did way back 40 or 50 years ago. There is no doubt in my mind that checking into traffic nets and handling traffic was key to my code proficiency advances in the early 60's. But you have to have a certain level of expertise and confidence before that even becomes an option.

I am hoping that Don will also support TSN and eventually get his speed up to be able to send well and check into TEX with us.

Region net and above activity for August was sent out with my email last month announcing the newsletter was going to a bi-monthly publication. So I will only include the statistics for September here.

Traffic on the voice / CW nets was down compared to last month, continuing a decline that started in July. The one noteworthy number was the cycle 2 Tenth Region total of nearly 500 messages. That alone brought up the total for voice/CW to about the same as August. The digital totals were quite a bit better than August, so overall total went up. I have observed a distinct lack of traffic on the Area and Region 5 nets. Cycle 2 is even worse - look at the Region 5 total there - a mere 6 messages for the entire month ! My concern is that interest is

going to quickly wane in those few stalwart operators supporting the upper nets. We are getting close to digital taking over region, area, and TCC functions, leaving only the section and local nets, like TEX and the DFW VHF Traffic net with traffic, assuming digital relay stations will bring the traffic to them.

What can you do? Doug, NA5YO, has been sending traffic in cycle 2 for the most part, with the assistance of Lucy, his XYL, which helps a lot. It is up to all of us who are active in cycle 4 to try originating some traffic, particularly out-of-state traffic, to keep the region and area and TCC wheels turning.

### NTS Central Area Activity for September 2015

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
RN5 Cycle 2	35	6	331	407	0.015
9RN Cycle 2	12	186	93	127	1.465
10RN Cycle 2	22	473	165	293	1.614
RN5 Cycle 4	60	176	310	434	0.406
9RN Cycle 4	47	52	110	202	0.257
TEN Cycle 4	59	174	240	488	0.357
CAN Cycle 2	13	127	99	323	0.393
CAN Cycle 4	30	183	220	444	0.412
TCC Cycle 2	39	93	36		
TCC Cycle 4	90	112	80		
Total Voice/CW Nets		1582	1684	2718	
NTS Digital			Received	Sent	
KB00FD		1768	934	834	
WB9FHP		2729	1389	1340	
W5SEG		397	244	153	
DRS Stations (19)		1923	878	1045	
Total NTS Digital		6817	3445	3372	
Total Central Area		8399			

Until December, have a Happy Halloween and Thanksgiving, both possible sources of some traffic to family and friends around the country. 73, Steve K6JT



Photo Courtesy of VE3UU

## TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3570.0 KHz +/- QRM

Website: <http://www.k6jt.com/tsn/>

Net Manager: Jason KD5RQB, tsn.3570@aol.com

### Greetings From Northeast Texas

I received the following email from Phil KD5MMM:

Jason,  
I believe it is time for me to step down from NCS duties. I've been an NCS for over 3 years now and have enjoyed it, but it is time for me to take a break. I'll still be on the air and check into the net when I'm on.

I'm sorry to leave you shorthanded, but I'm sure you will find a replacement.

73  
Phil, KD5MMM ..

As net manager of Texas Slow Net I want to thank Phil for all of his hard work and dedication to the net.

I would like to announce there is an opening for an NCS on Wednesday evening. Anyone interested please drop me a line.

### TSN Activity Reports

Month	QNI	QTC	Nr. Operators
August 15 Sessions	45	14	7
September 17 Sessions	48	17	6

### October 2015 Net Control Stations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No Net	No Net	Carroll KB5TCH	Open - Jason KD5RQB	Jason KD5RQB	Sam KK4HCF	No Net

### August 2015 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
Carroll	KB5TCH	13
Sam	KK4HCF	13
Jason	KD5RQB	7
Phil	KD5MMM	4
Sam	K5OAI	4
Skip	KW5AS	3
Mike	WD0ESF	1

### September 2015 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	17
SAM	KK4HCF	14
JASON	KD5RQB	8
SKIP	KW5AS	4
PHIL	KD5MMM	3
HOWARD	WD5IDB	2
Mike	WD0ESF	1

### TSN Roster (December 2014 to December 2015)

Callsign	Name	QTH
KW5AS	Skip	VICTORIA, TEXAS
AC5BE	Joe	MATAGORDA, TEXAS
KX5C	Ron	SILSBEE, TEXAS
W5DY	Rodney	GOLIAD, TEXAS
WD0ESF	Mike	MEDICINE LODGE, KANSAS
W5FEA	Jim	GRAHAM, TEXAS
W9GVW	Eric	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
KK4HCF	Sam	MARYSVILLE, TENNESSEE
WD5IDB	Howard	EDMOND, OKLAHOMA
N7KRT	Jeff	VICTORIA, TEXAS
KB5KWO	Steve	NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
KD5MMM	Phil	FENTRESS, TEXAS
N7NET	Scott	MCKINNEY, TEXAS
K5NTT	Matt	WALDO, ARKANSAS
K5OAI	Sam	SAN ANGELO, TEXAS
WD4PLB	Walter	ROCKSPRINGS, TEXAS
KD5RQB	Jason	ATLANTA, TEXAS
KB5TCH	Carroll	DOUGLASSVILLE, TEXAS
W5VBD	George	TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Stop by any evening Tuesday through Friday on 3570kHz at 7:45p.m. CT.

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!!

73,  
Jason KD5RQB



## **RN5 Corner**

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

Hello guys and welcome to Edition 44 of the **RN5 Corner**.

Back on the air again after a long bout with rig problems and repeated repairs. Thanks to all for your continued support of the net. Looking forward to Ben, KZ8Q, getting back on the air from his new FL QTH.

We have now switched to our Winter frequency of 3567 for BOTH sessions.

We are having problems getting NCS stations for several sessions. It is really a simple matter to call up the net. For the early session, the following may be used:

RN5 DE (Callsign) Region Net Five QND QNZ QNN (Callsign)

QNA CAN TX K

QNA CAN RX K

RN5 QNI K

(Then stations check in; record their callsigns and traffic. Match up stations to pass the traffic. Excuse each station or all at once (QNX). RN5 DE (Callsign) QNF.

The late session is almost the same except only CAN RX is called and DRN5...

RN5 DE (Callsign) Region Net Five QND QNZ QNN (Callsign)

QNA CAN RX K

QNA DRN5 K

RN5 QNI K

(Then stations check in; record their callsigns and traffic. Match up stations to pass the traffic. Excuse each station or all at once (QNX). RN5 DE (Callsign) QNF.

Very straightforward, and with the low volume of traffic, quite often it goes very quickly.

Please, any liaison station from any section, if you don't hear an NCS, go ahead and call it up. You can email me your net report if I am not on the net.

Please talk it up in your section nets and try to recruit some more ops to come to RN5 as liaison stations (and then hopefully once they get an idea of how it all works, to fill in one of the open NCS or CAN liaison slots).

73, Frank W4DLZ  
RN5/4 CW Net Mgr.

(Schedule, statistics, and roster on the next page)

### RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	KZ8Q	W4DLZ	Open (W5CU)	W4SU	W4SU	W4DLZ	WA4ZPZ
NCS #2	KZ8Q	W4DLZ	Open (W5CU)	K6JT	W4SU	W4DLZ	WA4ZPZ
CAN TX	Open	NA5YO	Open (W5CU)	W4SU	W4SU	NA5YO	Open
CAN RX	Open	NA5YO	W4AGL	K6JT	WA4ZPZ	NA5YO	Open
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

### 2015 Statistics

MONTH	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
SESSIONS	61	60
QTC	181	176
QNI	415	310
QTR	527	434
AVG QTC	3.0	2.9
AVG QNI	6.8	5.2
AVG QTR	8.6	7.2

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	K5KV	BENNY	TX
WA4BAM	JOHN	FL	K8KV	BEN	FL
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	N5NVP	JIM	LA
W5CU	SAM	OK*	K4PG	KEVIN	FL
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	KZ8Q	BEN	AL (FL)
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	K5RG	KEN	TX
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5FEA	JIM	TX	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	W4SU	JERRY	AL
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
K5GM	PETE	TX	K5WNU	JACK	MS
W8IM	DEAN	FL	NA5YO	DOUG	TX
K6JT	STEVE	TX	WA4ZPZ	TOM	AL

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

\*\* K4VIZ is no longer active. Send AR to the TX station for the 7290 net (do not use DRN5)  
73, Frank W4DLZ