

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 2017



Hurricane Harvey

Not long after the last issue of the newsletter came out, southeast Texas was hit hard by Hurricane Harvey. In particular, the Houston and Corpus Christi areas were inundated with very heavy rainfall, causing flooding, and high winds, causing destruction of trees and property. Several TEX members and ex-members were in the disaster zone, in particular Rodney, W5DY, Ken, K5RG, Charlie, W5GKH, and Doug, NA5YO. Emails and phone calls from them tell a story along with the reports published by James Wades for Radio Relay International, gleaned from inputs from those active in the communications. A summary of those will appear next. Bottom line is that the 7290 Traffic Net handled the majority of calls for assistance, largely using tactical messaging rather than formal radiograms, linking to the state Emergency Operations Centers.

First, heard from Jim, W5FEA, that Doug, NA5YO, and his wife Lucy, N5RLQ, had to evacuate prior to the storm making landfall. Their place is located north of Corpus Christi and was in the mandatory evacuation zone. On August 25, Jim wrote: Doug and Lucy had to get out while they still could but were not able to take the trailer with them. Doug told me because Lucy can't walk he had to get her out of there and load up what they could in the truck. They are in San Antonio to wait out the storm and hope by some miracle their trailer survived, which given where the Hurricane is making landfall isn't very likely.

Received a phone call from Rodney, W5DY, around the 28th telling me his power was completely out along with the Internet and he had significant damage to his antennas that he could not repair. Lots of rain and wind caused some flooding in the area. He managed to get on the air from his RV using battery power and a makeshift antenna.

The first RRI bulletin came out on August 29 from WB8SIW:

At the present time, the 7290 traffic net is handling a lot of informal, tactical traffic as well as some formal record message traffic. Some out-of-state traffic is being routed primarily to Region 5 and Central Area Net as well as the RRI Digital Traffic Network.

The State of Texas EOC wants all situational awareness inputs sent to them via Winlink. Various ARES organizations are utilizing this method. Situational awareness reports are also being transferred to WL2K by some of the key stations on the 7290 traffic net.

A request has been issued for the Region 5 (RN5) and Central Area Net (CAN) to activate Cycle 2 Monday through Friday. The manager of CAN and acting RN5 manager are reporting that there is not much traffic yet, but more is expected by Thursday.

Minimize Order

Radio Relay International is asking that ALL BULK message originations to the following zip codes be suspended until further notice:

- 77xxx (Greater Houston)
- 783xx (Corpus Christi area)
- 780xx and 781xx (Areas surrounding Corpus Christi, TX)

Disaster Welfare Inquiry messages to these areas should also be suspended until further notice.

Deliveries are not possible due to infrastructure outages. These areas are without power, Internet, or landline telephone service, and cellular service is spotty and overloaded where operational, while torrential rain continues to pound Houston, creating flooding of nearly all roads there.

Some of the further inland areas are coming back on the air. The Victoria area was hard hit and is still without power, but a TEX (Texas CW Net) station nearby (W5DY) was operating with battery power and a makeshift antenna from his RV. His regular antennas were blown down.

Stations in San Antonio and Austin are back operating normally.

Jo Ann, KA5AZK, manager of the 7290 Traffic Net, sent out the following on August 29:

Thanks once again for all ya'll are doing, we continue to receive thanks for being open. I know all of you must be getting tired, I know I am. I am trying to decide how much longer to keep our net in extended hours and will hopefully make a decision today. We will keep the net open from 9 am until 5 pm thru Wed with the schedule that we have. It is still very busy and we are helping a lot of people including the State and EOCs so until things settle a little more we may need to stay open. There may also start being H&W traffic.

I will keep everyone posted. 73, Jo Ann KA5AZK

Heard from Doug, NA5YO, also on August 29:

We are in San Antonio. We got pictures of our trailer sent to us. It is intact and still on the jacks. Lucy's deck and ramp are not damaged although my antenna mast has a big bow in it but it is still standing. We got 70 mph winds in our area - there are some plywood sheets laying in the yard. I'm just praying they didn't hit the side of the trailer. It is sitting on dry ground although the yard is full of water.

Our problem is there is no access back to our lot. So many roads are closed going that way. I had filled the generator with 4 gallons of gas and have another 7 gallons to boot. I filled the tank with water for washing and the commode so if I get back can live self-sustained for around 2 weeks or so. As expected there is no power or phone service in the area. I see my Dish and Internet antenna are intact and sitting as we left them so perhaps I would have service with the generator.

It may be a week or so before Lucy is back on the air. I had taken the radio, tuner and my vibroplex with us but had left the amp and power supply. We are experiencing cabin fever and anxious to get back home.

The good Lord was with us. I would send you pictures of the trailer but I only have my old laptop with XP in it and nothing works very well with it.

Thanks to all for the prayers. Many were not as fortunate as we were down here.

Heard from Ken, K5RG, who is located in the Webster area of Houston. Surprisingly, his location did not get damaged. Ken wrote:

Forget the weather report wrt Harvey. No problems, lost power for 5 minutes early Sunday morning, rain gauge measured over 30 inches for the three days but Clear Lake never got pushed so the drainage was better than normal – no high water near the house. As long as 'we' didn't attempt to get on the Interstate (I-45) everything was just plain wet. The grocery stores are on a limited schedule and I suspect deliveries are tough but other than I miss having the local newspaper in the morning (we did get today's paper around 5 PM), we're just feeling guilty having been very lucky.

73,
Ken and Camille Goodwin

Later on August 30, Ken wrote:

Your question on holding the traffic caught me since I have no indication that we've had anything more than a rain storm here in Webster.

During the weekend, my out of state family members did get a network busy when calling the land line but had no problem with the VOIP telephone number. I didn't lose our Internet connection at all. The fact the power stayed on was noteworthy especially after the light show early Sunday morning when I measured over 6 inches of rain per hour.

Garbage collection starts again on Friday, September 1st. The University won't open until September 5th as are a number of other entities. We still have had no mail delivery since Friday. Just glad Camille and I had made plans to return from Telluride, CO on Thursday.

The airports won't open until tomorrow and that may depend on the state of the roads around Hobby and IAH. The roads have improved a lot today but there are still some bottlenecks around town. My sister-in-law could not get into town from Cleburne today having to divert at Huntsville for reasons unknown.

Keep the faith, Ken

On August 31, Jim, W5FEA reported:

TTN (evening net) has operated normally during their regular time. I actually passed my two Emory pieces of traffic Tuesday when they kept the net open until 9pm.

I agree with holding the Gulf Coast Traffic unless it's health and welfare related to the Hurricane but see no reason to hold traffic otherwise.

The fact of the matter is things are very very different now than when this happened many many years ago before cell phones. People are programmed to rely on cell phones and if they don't work very few people even know there's a Ham Radio.

You would have thought the various nets would have been inundated with health and welfare, Red Cross, etc. traffic, but they were not.

The Red Cross Ham Station in Houston was there on both these nets day after day but there was very little for him to do. Over the first few days a Ham station would show up in Corpus or Port Aransas, and Houston, plus several on outlying areas like Austin, etc., but again, basically they were just there.

If anyone wanted any suggestions mine would be, have 2 meter repeaters that will operate even when there's no main power, assign them for certain communities or specific area, assign HF hams to be liaisons to specific repeaters who also have a way of contacting various authorities, and somewhere in the mix have hams who can make contact with appropriate authorities or have telephone numbers through which contact with authorities can be made when the Ham with liaison to a repeater doesn't have phone capability (in many cases maybe Port Aransas telephones are all inoperable and the Ham's phone doesn't even work, but sometimes an outsider can get through or can get to someone who can relay the message via vhf police/fire frequencies).

Anyway, I can handle traffic via TTN to all but those cities under Hurricane duress and if the message is actually a serious message storm related NOW more stations are coming on in the storm damage areas.

Take Care, Jim W5FEA

Later on August 31, Jim added:

Still don't hear any real health and welfare traffic, but am hearing inter-agency traffic that I had not heard in the beginning. Guess I wasn't hearing enough of 7290 to realize what was taking place.

In fact the only H & W I heard was K5YPY trying to get help for his daughter in Brazoria County trapped by flooding water, but that was on TTN and 3935. He was in Canyon Lake, but he finally found out they had been rescued from a nearby bayou.

Guess I'm comparing today with years and years ago and there's no comparison. I went to Port Arthur College back in the late 50's and they are virtually totally flooded from what I am hearing, along with Beaumont and I think Orange and all the rest of the small communities down there.

In spite of it all Jo Ann and the 7290 crew did a great job and I know she and the several who assisted her are going to deserve some rest when this is over. It's a shame things were so different from what they would have been if this happened in the 50's through the 70's, maybe even the 80's.

Keep your Gulf Coast traffic, at least Corpus on around to Louisiana, but there should be no problem on the rest.

If you haven't heard it looks like everyone is trying to fill up anything that holds gasoline fearing there will be a shortage... here, San Angelo and apparently elsewhere are inundated with people getting gas. K4OTM had to wait an HOUR to get gas in San Angelo this morning.

Reports Lufkin and even Dallas Forth Worth also reportedly having people rushing to get gas. KF5IOU just said he finally found a filling station in Addison that was open and had gas... what a mess. Jim W5FEA

Yes, here in the DFW area, I saw cars lined up, 50 or 60 in some cases, trying to get gas from the few stations that had not run out. This lasted for 2 or 3 days until everyone discovered that there were still supplies being delivered. Of course, the prices went up about 50 cents a gallon in many places and have still not come all the way back down!

On September 2, Jo Ann, KA5AZK, wrote:

Well I think things are calming down for us but not the people in the Hurricane area. The SOC (State Operations Center) in Austin has closed along with several EOCs across the state. So tomorrow (Sunday) we will have one net from 10-12, although we don't normally have a net on Sunday I thought it was important for anyone needing help from the hurricane area to have a net to go to.

Starting on Monday Sept 4 we will go back to our regular hours of 10-12 Mon thru Sat and 1-2 Mon thru Fri. We will also start taking traffic again both regular and H&W but I think that we should NOT take traffic except for emergency or H&W for Houston, Beaumont and the gulf coast areas for a few more days. There are many people displaced and the Hams that would take the traffic are still very busy there. So no traffic except emergency or H&W for those areas until maybe midweek.

Also even though we are not in extended session we need to listen for the Red Cross in Houston N5WAJ and anyone in the Hurricane area. Making special calls for them would still be a good idea.

To help keep the frequency open for anyone that needs help, please do not pass traffic on the net; send stations off frequency to handle the traffic.

If we see a need for extra hours we can always go back into extended sessions but don't think there will be a need.

I want all of you to know how much I appreciate all of your help and the very professional way the nets were conducted and the way you NCS conducted yourselves. Every day I received email thanking us for being there and praising the way the nets were run. We even made a newscast in IL. You should be very proud, I think we helped many people. We handled one emergency request for people trapped in their attic.

73, Jo Ann KA5AZK

On September 3, heard the following from Doug, NA5YO:

Yes, my middle section of my mast was bowed. I had to replace that. My neighbors shed had come apart and a piece broke my protective cover for my sun roof. Didn't damage the sun roof globe, just the protective cover. Will have to order another one. My Internet dish was hit by the flying shed and broke the antenna support in the center of the dish. Tech support came and repaired it yesterday so I'm back up on Internet and Airmail. I am about 3 miles from the bay so no water came up this far. Even my neighbor KF5DDV/Jerry has a house right on the bay but no water got into his house. He only lost his pier. I'm guessing we had winds around 80 to 90 mph but didn't move my trailer. Lord was looking after Lucy and I so we still got a home. Not much damage in our area just some shingles ripped off roofs and my neighbors shed plus a couple hundred yards from me a roof from corrugated tin came down. Lots of debris washed over parts of the road and a farmers fence was blown down.

When we returned from San Antonio the Guadalupe river was about 3 feet from going over the bridge in Cuero. Normally it is 30 feet down when in it's banks. Also when we went through Victoria it had a lot of damage. Signal lights laying in the street, roofs and patio covers down plus broken tree limbs everywhere. We had to detour around debris to finally get to the road to Port Lavaca. In Port Lavaca they had some wind damage and water damage but not bad. Debris washed over the roadway near the causeway - they had to bulldoze that out of the way before traffic could move across the bridge. The causeway is about 3 to 4 miles long but no water damaged it, it is very high off the water. Victoria west to Rockport, Port Aransas, Aransas Pass, Refugio, Woodsboro, Bayside, and Ingleside were hit hard. Rockport was just about wiped out - that's where the eye crossed. That's about 70 miles west of my QTH. Of course Houston and all the towns around Houston were flooded. I only had 4 1/2 inches of rain in my gauge. Of course the rain was probably coming down sideways. I hear we got about 7.9 inches of rain. My Uncle had a trailer in Port O'Connor about 45 miles from my QTH down close to the water. It was moved off It's pad but didn't damage the trailer. It's a 35 foot trailer. Hoping IRMA stays away - we don't need any hurricanes for a long time.

Good to be back. 73's Doug//NA5YO

Finally, on Sep 4 I heard from Charlie, W5GKH: I am currently staying in Missouri City with my son and his wife with no radio gear. My home in West Columbia is OK, except the sewer

plant is not operational due to the high level of the Brazos River. I can't return until the river level drops and the plant is restarted.

Charlie has since returned and checked into TEX several times, so thankfully all is well there.

New QNI Newsletter

Thanks to James Wades, WB8SIW, a new QNI Newsletter is available on <http://www.qni-newsletter.net/> . Some very interesting articles including, among others:

1. Telegrapher's Slang
2. Responsible Frequency Coordination
3. The Journey of a Welfare Message
4. An Amplifier for Traffic Handling
5. The Way it is Supposed to Work
6. Keeping Track of Radiograms
7. The Four Percent
8. 7290 Net Delivers the Goods
9. Slow Down!
10. Ham Radio – Verb or Noun?
11. Getting Started on IATN
12. Training Column – Black Holes

The Old Man and the Paper Boy, Part 1 Copyright 2009 by Scott B. Laughlin/n7net

The following 3 part series was submitted by Scott, N7NET, who has checked into TEX from time to time. Scott is a QRP enthusiast. I know you will enjoy reading his story. Thank you, Scott...

Jack awoke with a start. Had he had missed the paperboy for the third morning this week? Gently, he laid back the blankets, so as not to disturb Millie, then groped for his trousers. "What's the matter?" she asked, her voice thick with sleep.

"Nothing. Go back to sleep," he said, tugging on his trousers. After cinching his belt he grabbed his robe and slippers and headed for the door.

Fisherman's Wharf lay not far away. He sometimes heard waterfront activity—the shriek of boat whistles and the slow rhythm of ships. But this morning all sounds were muffled except for the throaty moan of a distant foghorn. The corner street lamp cast a grainy luster across the wet lawn.

"What on earth are you doing, Jack?" Startled, he whirled about to find Millie on the porch, clutching her flowered robe tightly around her neck.

"I'm waiting on the paperboy," he growled. "Go back to bed before you catch cold." The words hardly cleared his lips before the young man appeared on a speeding bicycle. Before Jack could draw a breath to summon the fellow, his newspaper sailed toward him and slid to a halt a few yards from where he stood.

“Hey! I want a word with you,” Jack shouted. He knew it was fruitless, this hollering business, because the speeding youngster had vanished as quickly as he’d appeared. Perhaps it was the curse of his old age that made hailing so futile. He stooped to retrieve his soggy Chronicle when the boy’s voice sounded.

“Mr. Wilcox, did you call me?” Jack straightened and found himself looking into the face of a short, thin boy. “I did. What’s your name, young man?” “Jimmy, sir.”

“Do you see what’s wrong here?”

“No sir,” answered Jimmy, his dark eyes searching the newspaper that Jack thrust toward him.

“Can’t you see that it’s soaking wet?”

“Well, everything’s wet this morning, sir. It’s the fog.”

“With a bit more force you might have sailed it onto my porch.”

“You want it on your porch?”

“I do.”

“I can do that.”

“Good. For every morning I find it on my porch I’ll add ten cents to your weekly fee.”

The boy smiled, but Jack could see that his mind was occupied elsewhere.

“May I ask you a question?” “Like what?” growled Jack.

“Is that a tri-bander on that tower?”

Jack glanced toward the antenna, but it was not yet visible in the predawn light. “How’d you know about that?”

“I saw it when Mom was showing me my paper route.” “And what do you know about radio antennas?” “Not very much, only what I read in a magazine at the laundromat. Do you have a radio room?” “I do.” “Can I see it?” “Absolutely not.”

Jack had no tolerance for children. They were noisy and unruly. He knew he’d frightened the boy by the way he’d grabbed his bike and fled, but it didn’t matter. He didn’t care. The little scamp had no business poking around and touching things in his radio room.

“You shouldn’t have been so short with him,” Millie complained, as Jack started for the porch.

“Well, maybe not, but I don’t want a darn kid underfoot. He’s a paperboy, for crying out loud. If I let him in one time he’ll be back every day. I don’t have time for such monkey business.”

“I suppose not, your being retired an all,” Millie said sarcastically. “How long has it been since you’ve turned on your radio? Six months? A year?”

He didn’t answer, but held the door for her, instead. He watched Millie proceed toward the kitchen. By her stride it was obvious that this conversation was not finished. He opened the Chronicle and scanned the editorial page before placing the paper near the furnace to dry. Then he moved to his recliner, leaned back, and closed his eyes. If only Millie had stayed in bed, he thought to himself. The sun was not yet up and the situation was already out of control.

“Breakfast.”

Jack pulled himself from his recliner and headed into the kitchen.

“One of the Chronicle editors thinks John Kennedy will be our next president,” Jack said as he added milk to the bowl of oatmeal she’d set before him. He knew she cared nothing for politics, so maybe a bit of Washington news would derail her crusade.

“How do you feel about that?” she asked as she dried her hands on her apron and joined him at the table. Raising her hand, she swept back a few strands of gray hair that had escaped from her bun and waited for his response.

“There’s probably no difference between Kennedy and Nixon.”

“But isn’t Nixon a self-made man?” she asked.

“So they say, but that’s only because he found the incriminating Pumpkin Papers that put Alger Hiss in prison. John Kennedy is the son of a man who made his fortune bootlegging Scotch whiskey during Prohibition. How can one be better than the other? Where’s a Roosevelt when we need one?”

Millie’s eyes glazed over and she nodded mechanically while she waited for Jack to run down. “The paperboy is interested in amateur radio. Did you not notice that?” she asked after he fell silent.

“I did. But that’s none of my affair. His father should help him, rather than me,” he said while adding milk to his coffee. “Jimmy, is that his name?” “Yes, that’s what he said.”

“I know his mother. She’s in our book club. She told me two weeks ago he was taking over this paper route. She’s fearful that he isn’t old enough. She’s so protective of him, being a single mother and all.” “Divorced, I suppose,” Jack mumbled between spoonfuls. “Actually, her husband was killed in Korea shortly before Jimmy’s birth.”

Jack blinked, but he remained silent for a moment. “That’s unfortunate, Millie, but that has no bearing on me. I’m much too old to be of any use to a ten-year-old. Have you forgotten that I’m seventy-five? What on earth would we ever find in common?”

“Radio. It’s the radio that you have in common, the same attraction that occurred between you and that old man you knew when you were a kid. What was his name?”

“Wilson. Old Man Wilson.”

“It was radio that brought you two together, was it not?”

“Well, it was his wire antennas that first caught my attention. That old man taught me so much.” Jack’s voice trailed off as he focused on the past.

“How old were you?”

“Twelve.”

“And Wilson?”

“I’m not sure. Eighty-something, I think.”

“Eat your breakfast, Jack.”

To be continued...

TEX Mailbox:

Most of the mail was already part of the description of Hurricane Harvey. The only mailbox item left is shown below.

Tom, K4VIZ, passed along the following, which I found quite interesting. Communication without traditional electronics will require some creativity. AREE engineers are investigating an old-fashioned solution: Morse code. If an orbiter accompanies the rover to Venus, it could regularly ping the rover using radar. A rotating shutter in front of the rover's radar target could then be opened and closed to send a Morse code signal back to the orbiter.

Conventional electronics don't last too long in the Venusian environment.

Here's a link to the whole article:

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-news/mechanical-clockwork-rover-explore-venus>

TEX Net Topics

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown on the following pages. No major changes have been made to either, but we definitely need more help from those of you willing to accept a regular spot. Thanks to all who are helping out and also the backup stations for those slots that are open or with the regular station unavailable. We have a lot of Open slots now, so please consider taking one or more of them. We particularly need more NCS stations (7), but RN5 liaisons (4) are also lacking.

Sam, W5CU, is back in OK for the remainder of the fall and winter before returning again to Colorado. Hopefully his place will be re-built for him next spring and he can again put up his excellent antenna and wow us all with his bodacious signal.

CAN and WAN and late RN5 have moved to 80 meters, although CAN may start on 40 and then move as conditions, which seem to vary day to day, warrant. Possibly moving early RN5 to 80 will occur soon as well. For now, it remains on 40.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5DY	N5RL	Open	Open	N5RL	W5FEA	Open
Backup	W5FEA	W5FEA	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5DY	W5FEA
NCS #2	W5DY	K6JT	Open	Open	Open	W5DY	Open
Backup	K6JT	W5DY	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	W5FEA	K6JT
RN5 #1	W5CU	Open	K5GM	N5RL	N5RL	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	N5RL	W5DY	W5DY	W5FEA	W5FEA	W5FEA
RN5 #2	W5CU	Open	K5RG	K6JT	K6JT	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5FEA	K6JT	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT

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

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

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

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

NCS Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5FEA, K5GM, K6JT, K5RG, N5RL

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	* N7NET	Scott	McKinney
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
N5BA	Brian	Houston	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
WA5CAV	Dick	Pineville LA	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	WA5PRI	Don	Thibodaux LA
W5DAE	Don	San Angelo	W5QLD	Ron	Corpus Christi
W4DLZ	Frank	Florida	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
* W5FEA	Jim	Graham	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT op)
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	K5TSK	Jim	Pearcy AR
K5JRN	Si	Austin	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
* K6JT	Steve	Plano	NE5V	Chris	Liberty Hill
N7KRT	Jeff	Victoria	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	K6YBV	Bob	Placerville CA
WA5MS	Marty	Argyle	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

August 2017:

Jim, W5FEA, with 62 out of 62 (100%) continued his new start at a run on perfect attendance. Don, W5DAE, with 55 (89%) was 2nd. Pete, K5GM, took a very close 3rd with 54 (87%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

There were no visitors who are not in the regular roster. It was good to hear Brian, N5BA, Scott, W5ESE, and Charlie, W5GKH, check in again. Welcome to all !

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 1.6 per net session (1.6 last month). Net time averaged 10.6 minutes per session (compared to 10.2 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.6 per session (5.4 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (August 2017)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
N5BA	Brian	0	2					
		2						
W5CU	Sam	2	7		1			
*		5			5			
W5DAE	Don	27	55					

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
		28						
W5DY	Rodney	24	47	13	7			
		23		7	3			
W5ESE	Scott	2	2					
*		0						
W5FEA	Jim	31	62	11	10	15		
*		31		1	6	30		
W5GKH	Charlie	1	2					
*		1						
K5GM	Pete	29	54	1	6			
*		25			2			
W9GVW	Eric	9	11					
*		2						
K6JT	Steve	10	37				10	
*		27		23	11		27	
WA5MS	Marty	12	12					
		0						
K5QOW	Gary	20	20			16		
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	4					
*		4			4			
N5RL	Randy	17	29	6	7			
*		12						
K5TSK	Jim	3	3					
	AR	0						
Totals		347		62	62	61	37	0
				100%	100%	98%	60%	0%
QTC 1		25	100					
QTC 2		75		Sessions:		62		
Time 1		310	655					
Time 2		345						

September 2017:

Jim, W5FEA, with 60 out of 60 (100%) continued his new run of “perfect attendance”. Don, W5DAE, with 43 (72%) took second, and Pete, K5GM, with 41 (68%) was third. Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors included Corky, WB5CIT, from Bourne, Jack, WA7HJV, from Corpus Christi, JW, WB8SIW, mobile from Houston, and Jeff, WB8WKQ, from MI.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 1.6 per net session (1.6 last month). Net time averaged 9.8 minutes per session (compared to 10.6 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.7 per session (5.6 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (September 2017)

Call		QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	5	11		5			
*		6			6			
WB5CIT	Corky	1	2					
	Bourne	1						
W5DAE	Don	24	43					
		19						
W5DY	Rodney	11	22	7				
		11		4	1			
W5ESE	Scott	1	1					
*		0						
W5FEA	Jim	30	60	15	8	26		
*		30		3	3	30		
W5GKH	Charlie	1	2					
*		1						
K5GM	Pete	24	41		6			
*		17			1			
W9GVW	Eric	3	3					
*		0						
WA7HJV	Jack	1	1					
*	Corpus	0						
K6JT	Steve	11	36	1			4	
*		25		23	14		25	
KB5NJD	John	17	17				17	
		0						
W5QLD	Ron	2	2					
		0						
K5QOW	Gary	3	3			3		
*		0						
K5RG	Ken	0	5					
*		5			4			
N5RL	Randy	20	29	7	11			
*		9						
WB8SIW	JW	1	1					
	IL	0						
K5TSK	Jim	3	3					
	AR	0						
WB8WKQ	Jeff	0	1					
	MI	1						
Totals		284		60	59	59	46	0
				100%	98%	98%	77%	0%
QTC 1		21	93					
QTC 2		72		Sessions:		60		

Time 1		281	588					
Time 2		307						

Operating:

Operation was somewhat suppressed due to the hurricane putting several regular TEX stations off the air. A lot of activity occurred outside the nets with informal traffic from Florida and Puerto Rico. In particular, the IATN stations maintained contact with WA4BAM in Florida, located south of Miami (once he got his antenna back up) handling some H&W following hurricane Irma. We had KC4FL from northern Florida on RN5 and Dean, W8IM, operated from the EOC near Tampa, also on RN5.

Following hurricane Maria, Jeff, WB8WKQ, in Michigan, handled hundreds of phone calls to relatives from short requests (just name and phone number of addressees) from a couple stations in Puerto Rico before other lines of communication were established. He said it was the most rewarding thing he had ever done in amateur radio – the relatives were, in some cases, crying on the phone with gladness to learn their loved ones were all right.

You may have read that the Red Cross requested 50 volunteer operators to go to Puerto Rico to man ham stations there in order to send identification information back to the mainland to put into the Red Cross Safe and Well database. They were sent there with equipment, also sent from the ARRL and other contributors. Their primary purpose was to populate Excel spreadsheets with the information needed, which was then sent back via digital using Winlink. Again, no formal radiograms. Many of the volunteers also went along in police and utility vehicles, supplying communication via 2 meters since the local infrastructure was completely out. As of this time, only about 19% of the cell towers are operational, and electricity is being supplied primarily by numerous generators shipped there. The local electrical system is operating only for about 15% of the area, and that mostly around San Juan. All but 1 hospital are back in operation, most using generator power. So it is improving, but still a long way to go to recover completely.

Here are the composite reports for the last 2 months for traffic handled at the region and above levels. Only cycle 2 9RN and cycle 4 TEN are not RRI affiliated. All of the Digital Traffic Network is RRI. Some reports were only partially complete due to illness or resignation of the respective managers, as indicated in the notes.

NTS Central Area Activity for August 2017

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5th Call Area \$	13	15	66	136	0.110
Cycle 2 9RN*	13	567	73	136	4.169
Day 10th Call Area #	12	39	79	143	0.273
Night 5th Call Area	62	89	285	481	0.185
Night 9th Call Area	54	167	156	372	0.449
Cycle 4 TEN*	62	156	235	509	0.306

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day Central US	13	242	96	370	0.654
Night Central US@	31	230	226	473	0.486
Day Inter-Area Traffic	52	187	48		92%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	86	164	74		86%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1856	1338	2620	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
WB9FHP Central Hub/9th		502	250	252	
W5SEG 5th Call Area HUB No Report		0			
KM0R 10th Call Area HUB		4107	1877	2230	
Digital Stations (10)		2780	1185	1595	
Total DTN Digital		7389	3312	4077	
Total Central US		9245			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					
# Manager in therapy - thanks Dave, ND0CW, and Bob, W0LAW for their reports					
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
\$ Manager had stroke, in rehab, totals from KC5OZT report					

Central US Nets Activity for September 2017

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5th Call Area \$	13	6	45	94	0.064
Cycle 2 9RN*	13	470	69	139	3.381
Day 10th Call Area #	10	18	36	71	0.254
Night 5th Call Area	60	45	204	349	0.129
Night 9th Call Area	56	165	173	390	0.423
Cycle 4 TEN*	59	106	233	464	0.228
Day Central US	13	252	90	340	0.741
Night Central US@	30	200	212	454	0.441
Day Inter-Area Traffic	52	187	44		85%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	83	93	73		88%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1542	1179	2301	

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KM0R Central/10th HUB		719	360	359	
KK5QT 5th Call Area HUB No Report		0			
WB9FHP 9th Call HUB		3218	1718	1500	
Digital Stations (9)		1164	654	510	
Total DTN Digital		5101	2732	2369	
Total Central US		6643			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					
# Manager in therapy - thanks Dave, ND0CW, and Bob, W0LAW for their reports					
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
\$ Manager had stroke, in rehab, totals from KC5OZT reports					

Until December, thanks for all your support of TEX. Daylight time will end the first Sunday of November. As always, nets will all meet at the same local time, just one hour later UTC. At that time, RN5 will have moved to 80 meters for both sessions, I am sure.

73, Steve K6JT

TSN Corner

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

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

Net Manager: Jason KD5RQB, fallishere2@hotmail.com



Photo Courtesy of VE3UU

Greetings From Northeast Texas

TSN is still limping along. The loss of Howard WD5IDB has really hurt. That still leaves an opening for a Wednesday night NCS. If you are interested in filling the position please get in touch with me.

TSN Activity Reports

Month	QNI	QTC	Nr. Operators
August 14 Sessions	25	9	3
September 12 Sessions	24	10	3

Net Control Stations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No Net	No Net	Carroll KB5TCH	(Open)	Carroll KB5TCH	Sam KK4HCF	No Net

August 2017 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	10
DON	W5DAE	9
SAM	KK4HCF	6

September 2017 QNS

Name	Callsign	QNI
CARROLL	KB5TCH	12
DON	W5DAE	10
SAM	KK4HCF	2

TSN Roster (January 2016 to January 2018)

Callsign	Name	QTH
AC5BE	Joe	MATAGORDA, TEXAS
KX5C	Ron	SILSBEE, TEXAS
W5CBP	Chris	ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Callsign	Name	QTH
W5DAE	Don	SAN ANGELO, TEXAS
W5DY	Rodney	GOLIAD, TEXAS
WD0ESF	Mike	MEDICINE LODGE, KANSAS
W5FEA	Jim	GRAHAM, TEXAS
W9GVW	Eric	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
KK4HCF	Sam	MARYSVILLE, TENNESSEE
KB5KWO	Steve	NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
KC0M	Larry	BRANSON, MISSOURI
N5NVP	Jim	SCOTT, LOUISIANA
K8PKN	David	ORWELL, OHIO
N5RL	Randy	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
KD5RQB	Jason	ATLANTA, TEXAS
KB5TCH	Carroll	DOUGLASSVILLE, TEXAS

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

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

Hello guys and welcome to Edition 56 of the **RN5 Corner**.

RN5 is also limping along these days. Frank, W4DLZ, has not been heard from since hurricane Irma went through Florida. He had moved to a new location, which may have been impacted.

As a result, Jerry, W4SU, continues as unofficial assistant manager for RN5, collecting the net reports and producing the monthly composite. Thank you very much, Jerry. Unfortunately, Jerry was also impacted by the storms and lost his 80 meter antenna, so he is only able to get on 40 meters. That is one reason the net has not been moved completely to 80. As of now, early is still on 7108 and late on 3567. When Jerry is back up on 80, we will want to change.

Jerry has also cut back on activities. He gave up being manager of the Alabama CW net, so as of now, there is only a daytime SSB net operating. He also plans to come to RN5 only 3 or 4 nights per week but will still accept any AL traffic.

Sam, W5CU, is back from Colorado as of this writing and is back on the air from OK, making use of 80 preferred for both early and late.

Jack, K5WNU, appears to still be off the air due to a storm destroying his antenna. He also took some more trips during August.

Dick, WA5CAV, continues to check into RN5 for LA, even without an operating CW net there to help offload traffic. Thank you, Dick, for your continued support of RN5.

John, KC4FL, has been regularly checking into RN5 from FL. Keep that in mind when you get some FL traffic. NFL has been part of RN5 for quite a while and we can pass traffic for the state to John (or Ben, KZ8Q and sometimes Dean, W8IM) in lieu of routing it through the Eastern Area and Region Net 4 for the small amount that trickles in these days. Signals on 80 are not as good on the late session, but still usable.

We need NCS and Liaison stations as you can see from the duty roster. Thanks to those of you (primarily Jerry) for filling in the open slots or those due to absences. We are hoping to hear Tom, WA4ZPZ, back on again now that it is getting dark earlier. Conditions continue to be somewhat poor, and traffic is only coming in as a trickle from CAN. Thanks to all of you for your support and hanging in there.

73, Steve, K6JT, for Frank W4DLZ

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

RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5FEA	Open	W5CU	W4SU	W4SU	Open	Open
NCS #2	W5FEA	K6JT	W5CU	K6JT	K6JT	Open	WA4ZPZ
CAN TX	Open	Open	Open	W4SU	W4SU	Open	W4SU
CAN RX	W5CU	Open	Open	K6JT	WA4ZPZ	Open	W5CU
DRN5	Open	Open	K5RG	Open	Open	Open	Open

2017 Statistics

MONTH	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
SESSIONS	62	60
QTC	89	45
QNI	285	204
QTR	481	349
AVG QTC	1.4	0.75
AVG QNI	4.6	3.4
AVG QTR	7.8	5.8

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

Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	State	Call	Name	State
W4AGL	JIM	FL	K6JT	STEVE	TX
WA4BAM	JOHN	FL	N5NVP	JIM	LA
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	WA5PRI	DON	LA
W5CU	SAM	OK*/CO	KZ8Q	BEN	FL
W4DLZ	FRANK	FL	K5RG	KEN	TX
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	N5RL	RANDY	TX
NS7E	ART	TX	W4SQE	ANDY	TN
W5ESE	SCOTT	TX	W4SU	JERRY	AL
W5FEA	JIM	TX	K5TSK	JIM	AR
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
W5GKH	CHARLIE	TX	K5WNU	JACK	MS
K5GM	PETE	TX	WA4ZPZ	TOM	AL
W8IM	DEAN	FL			

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

** K4VIZ is no longer active. Send AR to K5TSK or the TEX station for the 7290 net (do not use DRN5)

73, Frank W4DLZ