

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas NTS CW Net (TEX)

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

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Potential Changes to the NTS Being Discussed

Several issues have arisen in the last month that I want to pass along to you TEX'ans. This newsletter will summarize them, as of this date, so you can all be informed and also so you can pass along any inputs you may have regarding them for forwarding to the Central Area Staff. The first issue is regarding bulk traffic, discussed next. Following that, there is a discussion about possible changes to the Brass Pounders League (BPL) and Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR). Finally, a description of overall NTS discussions is given, provided by Mickey, K5MC, the Delta Division Director. Mickey is heading up the committee for the ARRL Board of Directors regarding these issues.

Since no new George Hart Saga is available, this issue of the newsletter will focus on the above topics. I do have a report from Rodney about the Texas Water Safari, which will appear next month.

Discussions About N1IQI and W1GMF Traffic

A lot of discussion occurred regarding the "bulk" traffic generated by Loren, N1IQI, and Gil, W1GMF, along with the "HXC" responses returned to them. There are several stations on the region net (RN5) that refuse to accept these messages in either direction. For a time, Frank, W4DLZ, the RN5 manager, was collecting inputs from active traffic handlers on the net in order to formulate an official net policy.

After quite a bit of discussion as well as inputs from the Central Area Staff, Frank announced that the official policy of RN5 would be to accept ALL legal traffic (i.e., not from or destined to a place with which no reciprocal agreement exists). He also stated that individual stations were allowed to decide for themselves whether or not they would accept the bulk traffic.

My input to Frank, which reflects the official policy of the TEX net, was as follows:

Guess I need to say my piece, too. First, I think we are just accelerating the demise of the evening cycle of NTS by refusing ANY traffic. I know there are those who are adamantly against the GMF/IQI messages. I am not against them, but then we have much better outlets here in Texas than they do in, for example, Louisiana or Arkansas. So there are reasons other than just not wanting to handle the messages.

All traffic is welcome here in Texas. A lot of GMF/IQI messages come in via the voice nets as well as digital relays. The DFW VHF nets handle a LOT of them, which they get from other sources, and they give me the responses to go back to GMF/IQI to pass on TEX and then RN5 / CAN. If I can't depend on having someone who will accept those messages going back to EAN, then to me RN5 has failed its purpose. I am thus forced to pass them via some other means, including taking them directly to CAN myself. So what good is RN5 in that case?

The WB5NKD messages are also another sore spot with some. Arley (WB5NKC) sends me about 8 a day via Winlink that I have to route somehow. They are all for Texas, so RN5 is not involved. However, service messages coming back sometimes are the ONLY traffic I get on my TCC Fox sked with PAN, and I am very happy to get them. Sam, W5CU, is great about taking them and it makes the time and effort worthwhile to be on the nets. Without traffic to handle, there is nothing fun about just a QNI QRU QNX type of operation. If it degrades to that, the nets will soon dry up. Thankfully there are a few others who originate "bulk" traffic, like WB8WKQ and K8LJA, to keep things going in spurts. When will the anti-GMF/IQI folks get bored with those? Seems like if you aren't having any fun, then you might as well take up some other hobby or some other facet of ham radio.

So that is my official position as manager of the Texas CW NTS section net, which I have been doing for 5 years now. All traffic is accepted. Any that cannot be delivered is serviced back, which in itself provides more "oil" for the system. Please advise the official RN5 policy when you formulate it so I can make arrangements, and advise the TEX members, to bypass RN5 with certain types of traffic if necessary.

73,
Steve

BPL and PSHR Discussions

Frank, W4DLZ, started the discussion with the following, sent to all traffic handlers on his E-mail list:

- I am ready to ADDRESS " BPL " which needs to be modified or eliminated...

There could be options, as Points for manual traffic only.. Only operators on CW or Voice Nets get credit doing TFC manually, not machine assisted.

No points on BPL for machine assisted traffic. (Later modified to "perhaps I should have said, no BPL points for Machine generated traffic.")

I want to POLL EAN, CAN and PAN on this and then make a recommendation to the Association.

- Rob, K6YR, the PAN manager, sent a brief comment: See Aug QST piece on BPL counting. It works fine if ops follow rules. K6YR
- Frank could not find his August QST, so I sent him the text regarding BPL, which is as follows:

Messages "originated" by an operator and sent to a third party addressee (typically another radio amateur) should only be counted toward BPL as one point (message sent) -- not two points (message originated and sent).

Operators of digital MBO (mail box) stations reporting BPL points should ONLY count messages physically handled by the operator, not those that are automatically posted and relayed through the MBO facility.

- That seemed reasonable to me. Even digital message handling should be counted if done "manually". For example, WB5NKD's traffic for Texas comes to me via Winlink as separate messages that Arley (NKC) sends manually. The text, etc. may be computer generated, but he has to manually format and send the messages. I also have to manually handle them, sending some to the local packet BBS for the DFW area and sending others to other operators using Winlink or TEX. I can tell you it takes me as much time to handle one of those as it does to receive and send one on CW. So they SHOULD count. BTW I don't enjoy handling the digital stuff and would much rather use CW, but I do it as a service anyway. A sign of our times, I fear.
- Rodney, W5DY, responded that since BPL means "Brass Pounder's League", then only messages handled by CW should be counted. Brass isn't used for microphone switches or mouse button contacts.
- Several other stations responded with various opinions, mostly advocating not counting any of the "bulk" traffic that is sent via digital means. The one from Benny, K5KV, is representative of many. Benny wrote:

"WHATEVER IT IS CALLED, THE REWARDING OF THE MASS SPAMMERS ON ANY LIST SHOULD STOP.

I STARTED NTS CW NETS WITH THE LOUISIANA AMATEUR NET IN 1966 WHEN REAL CW NTS OPS LIKE BOB SCHMIDT W5GHP AND CARTER SIMPSON W5CEZ WERE ACTIVE. THESE FOLKS LIKE THE LATE JIM KB5W WERE TRUE CW TRAFFIC HANDLERS AND THEY "EARNED" BPL HONORS. IT IS A SLAP AT THESE FOLKS WHEN THE MACHINE GENERATED GARBAGE IS GIVEN THE SAME HONOR AS THEIR EFFORTS. THIS IS ISSUE 1.

ISSUE 2 IS THE DAMAGE THESE SPAMMERS (IQI/GMF) DO TO NTS. HAS ANYONE NOTICED HOW MANY SLOTS ARE NOT FILLED ON VARIOUS NETS? THERE IS A CONNECTION.

WOULD IT ALSO HELP TO PLACE LIMITS ON THESE REWARD LISTS (BPL OR HONOR ROLL OR OTHER NAMES) LIKE 100 MESSAGE MAX CREDIT FOR MACHINE GENERATED MESSAGES AND DIGITAL MESSAGES?

I RAN A NAVYMARS DUAL PORTED SWITCH OR BBS ON HF AND VHF. THAT THING WOULD RECEIVE AND FORWARD TRAFFIC WHILE I WAS AT WORK OR ASLEEP. HOW CAN THOSE MESSAGES COUNT THE SAME AS MESSAGES HANDLED WITH PAPER, PEN AND A KEY OR MICROPHONE?"

- Scott, W5ESE, had the following comment:

I think the rules for BPL and Public Service Honor Roll are okay.

I think not everyone is following the same rules. The PSHR rules were revised a few years ago. For example, on PSHR, it would be very hard (a very busy month) to achieve a PSHR score of 200. I've never reached that level, or even come close. Yet in the September issue, the highest PSHR score is 689(!). All the PSHR scores of folks with calls I recognize from TEX, RN5, or CAN have scores that seem to me to fall into the "believable" range. But there are 9(!) scores over 300. That just doesn't seem credible. Maybe some folks are using a different set of PSHR rules than the rest of us?

- My response to Scott essentially explained that the PSHR, after the changes made some years back (we used to get credit for being an NCS, for example), is now oriented more toward ARES participants and activities rather than traffic handling. It is possible (but not very easy) to get very high scores by participation in disaster response activities, and public service activities (such as bikeathons, the various Marathons, Texas Water Safari, etc.). The points for these categories are not limited, unlike those for traffic and net participation. Yet another reason why we still need something like BPL to focus on traffic handling.
- Finally, my response to Frank and all the folks on his list was as follows:

Frank, et. Al,

After seeing some of the other comments, it became apparent to me that if we are going to change anything, it should also include the term "BPL".

When it was first coined, back in the 50's, I believe, the ONLY traffic system was what is now the night-time cycle 4, and it was all on CW. With the advent of the daytime NTS (I think it was in the 80's, but may have been late 70's), NTS gained a much larger group who operated on voice / SSB. There are many outstanding traffic handlers who for one reason or another are exclusively limited to voice and perhaps digital operation.

The digital NTS started (and I am not sure of this, but my best guess) with what used to be a nationwide linked packet radio system, in the 1980's. With the advent of Winlink in the 90's, and then Winlink 2000, the packet system faded away in favor of the current digital routing system.

So what does "brass" have to do with these last 2? Probably nothing, unless microphone switches and mouse clickers also use brass contacts (unlikely). Are they valid modes of handling traffic? Most certainly. I would hazard a guess that over 95% of the traffic handled in this country is via the voice and digital systems. There are many dedicated operators keeping these alive. Our own favorite CW system has waned in the meantime, not only due to the elimination of Morse as a license requirement, but because young operators are no longer interested in handling traffic in general. I for one am very much saddened at how much the CW cycle has deteriorated. I've been active on it for over 45 years now and intend to stick it out to the bitter end. If the CW cycle is eliminated, then I will likely completely drop out of traffic handling. As I said before, I don't enjoy the digital mode of operation, and voice nets

have simply too much overhead and consume far too much time. My microphone has not been attached to the rig since the aftermath of Katrina.

Additionally, in the last few years, the term “BPL” has become unsavory, thanks to the Broadband over Power Line fiasco. Ask any ham licensed less than 10 years what BPL means, and that’s the definition you will get, I’m sure.

So... Let’s consider renaming Brass Pounder’s League to something else along with any new “rules”. It still serves a purpose. How about something like “Traffic Honor Roll” or “Traffic Handlers Honor Roll”? I don’t know about you, but I find it VERY difficult to achieve a 500 count in a month. I did it once back in the 70’s on CW nets exclusively, and it darn near burned me out. Those who work hard on traffic deserve to be recognized.

Perhaps there should be 2 categories – one for the high-volume digital relay stations and one for the exclusively manually-operated stations ? Again, the digital hub operators DO expend time, money, and effort in keeping those systems running. They deserve recognition as well.

That’s it. If you made it this far, I thank you for your time.

73,
Steve

- Several others had suggestions, including Scott, W5ESE, and Pat, W4QAT, about limiting the points for some categories of PSHR, bringing back the points for NCS and Liaison duty that used to be in PSHR, etc., that were good inputs to the group.

Finally, the following two items came from Richard, NF5B, Central Area Staff Chair, and Mickey, K5MC. These are perhaps the most intriguing and may have the most impact on the NTS in the future...

The Future of NTS?

The following is from Richard, NF5B, the Central Area Staff chairman:

Dear Colleagues:

Please forward this information to your regulars who might have heard all sorts of rumors floating around.

The ARRL board programs and services committee has appointed a subcommittee to study the field organization, pinpointing these two issues in particular:

1. National EmComm Traffic system proposal (For example, can NTS be more effective during emergencies or do we need something completely new?)
2. Settling the question of the ics-213 form as a replacement for the standard radiogram in emcomm ops, or not.

These folks are going to wish to see some proposals on the table regarding how NTS can fill the needs of long haul emcomm, and will not begin really looking at these issues until after year end.

Nobody has advocated, or is advocating doing away with CW operations. What is being proposed is additional SSB circuits, at least at the region level during prime time evening hours to allow for easier activation in emcomm mode when necessary, as well as provide for additional operator training, since many of today's operators are not conversant with the code. It is hoped that some would develop enough of a real interest to become Morse proficient, with better exposure.

- And here is the one from Mickey, K5MC:

NTS community,

FYI. Frank W4DLZ (RN5 Manager/cycle 4) and I had a chat on the phone last week in which we talked about some things that might be on the horizon related to NTS. Within the Programs and Services Committee (PSC), one of the two standing committees of the ARRL Board of Directors, a subcommittee has been formed that is called the Field Organization Subcommittee. Bill Edgar N3LLR, the chair of the PSC, asked me to chair this subcommittee. The members of this subcommittee are Bill N3LLR (Atlantic Division Director), Greg W4OZK (Southeastern Division Director), and myself (Delta Division Director). Each of us previously served as Section Manager of our respective section before we were elected to the ARRL Board.

The FO Subcommittee currently has a number of tasks/action items on its agenda; "National EmComm Traffic system proposal" and "ICS 213 Form Proposal" are two of these items that I've recently mentioned to several of you. During the PSC meeting in July at ARRL Headquarters I asked that these two items be postponed for several months in order to give the NTS community some time to discuss these and related issues. The FO Subcommittee is supposed to report back to the full PSC by the end of this year on its recommendations regarding these two items.

During this same time period the issue of "spam" traffic has once again been raised within the NTS community. I've talked with both Richard NF5B (Chair of the Central Area Staff) and W4DLZ recently about this issue. I asked W4DLZ if he would poll the NTS folks about the BPL award to see if there's widespread support to either change it or perhaps even to eliminate it as one means to help discourage the amount of spam traffic. Personally I have mixed feelings about BPL; unless there is a pretty strong consensus within the NTS community to make changes, I will very likely not support any changes to the BPL award. Now that there's also some discussion about the PSHR, which I'm happy to see, I can add that my thoughts toward it are similar to those regarding BPL.

Regarding some other "rumors" about what might be happening related to NTS, the travel budget provided by the ARRL for NTS leaders to conduct meetings in person was eliminated many years ago, certainly long before I joined the ARRL Board in January 2009. It is clearly my perception that NTS does not enjoy the same degree of support within the ARRL hierarchy as it did when George Hart was running the Communications Department at HQ! (In case anyone doesn't know about George Hart W1NJM, he retired from HQ over 30 years ago and

he's primarily the guy who developed NTS back in the late 1940s.) Although there's not much interest in NTS among a lot of folks at HQ or the ARRL Board, I'm also pretty sure that nobody is currently working to eliminate NTS as we now know it. I do believe there are at least a few folks at HQ and on the Board who want to see NTS supported more rather than to suffer the "benign neglect" that seems to be the continuing fate of NTS at the national level as well as within many ARRL Sections.

One of the main problems that NTS has is the common perception that it is hopelessly out of date in providing "fast" communications needed during emergencies. However, Al W3YVQ reminded me last night on Echolink that this perception isn't really true. For example, right now NTS/NTSD together with WL2K can handle emails via RF without depending on any commercial infrastructure. NF5B is also working up some ideas regarding SSB nets during emergencies for discussion among traffic handlers.

In conclusion, I think it's very important for the NTS community to continue its current discussions and then for the NTS leaders to pass along a consensus view in writing to the FO Subcommittee within the next few months that address the two tasks/action items I noted above. Much of this document probably should consist of what NTS/NTSD is already capable of doing (and is doing), along with any changes that will improve how NTS serves ARES in particular and the public in general. If there's a consensus to make any changes in BPL or PSHR, those recommendations can be included in this same document or can be submitted as a separate document to the FO Subcommittee.

Thanks very much to all of you for your participation and support of NTS!

73, Mickey K5MC

- So there you have it, TEX members (and friends of TEX). If you have suggestions or comments on any of these 3 issues, please feel free to email them to me for consolidation and forwarding to the Central Area Staff and Mickey, K5MC.

TEX Mailbox:

You may have noticed that **Tom, NK5Z**, is a little less "loud" these days. Unfortunately, he lost his amplifier due to a lightning storm. Tom writes:

I just wanted to let you know that the lightning got my amp this afternoon when the storms went through. So will have difficulty working anyone on the RN5 net. But am willing to give it a try and see what happens. The amp will be off the air until I can get the insurance matter taken care of and get another one ordered. Not sure I will be able to replace the one I have with another one just like it but then I have never used the full 1500 watts anyway. Usually the most I ever get it cranked up to is about 700 max. So maybe I will just get a smaller amp. Take care and all the best. 73, Tom, NK5Z

I received the following from **Mike, KB0SKX**, in Cedar Rapids, who I used to work with. I thought you would all be interested in it:

YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS. CHECK THIS MIND BOGGLING INFORMATION. SHARE IT WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

You've never seen a clock like this one.

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

It has been good to hear **Doug, KA5KLU**, back on the early sessions of TEX once again. Doug may have a little more time now, although family obligations still keep him busy. Doug wrote a nice "newsy" email:

Will try to make as many nets as I can. Lucy's knees are gone - she needs replacements, but we have to wait till she gets on Medicare. She had to retire on disability from nursing this year. So we are both retired now. I do all the housework plus most of the cooking, driving etc...

My mother is 85 and lives about 3 miles from my QTH. Still living in her home and able to feed, bathe and take her medication. I check on her daily and keep the home place up. So I'm pretty busy sometimes - just out of gas and don't feel like doing much but relaxing on the couch. It's been around 103 or 104 here at my QTH. We run an A/C window unit in the living room and kitchen during the day and then turn it off and run one in the bedroom at night. Try to keep the utility costs down that way. I've thought about putting a 5000 BTU room unit in the window in the shack. It's located in the rear of the home and is a very small bedroom. Only about 10 X 10, and we only have a fan in the room. The heat is not terrible with the fan but still not comfortable.

I have a crank up tower by the window with an R7 vertical on top of it. A dipole comes down from southeast to northwest up at the 40 foot level. The R7 has all bands except 80, and the dipole has all bands except 10 meters, so I can switch between them to see which is best. Mostly 80 and 40 off the dipole - the upper bands are better from the vertical. I have the WARC bands on it also. I have the AL80B amplifier that I used when I ran PAN and RN5. With the HD-TV I have zero interference, even into my own TV's. Only had a little with the old conventional AM/FM TV's, mostly when I used the amp. So about the only bands I don't have are 6 meters, 440 etc. Have a 2 meter beam up 40 feet that I used for packet when it was running locally. It has a TV rotator on it.

With winter I won't have the yards to keep mowed, so that gives me more play time. I'm looking forward to getting back on the radio some. Wondering how the long range propagation has been?? I still have about 30 or 40 countries I need on DX. I think by my last count, I have about 250 or 260 countries confirmed. That is what really got me into hamming.

Take care, Doug//KA5KLU

Benny, K5KV, has found a Yahoo User's group that some of you may be interested in joining. Benny sent the following:

I DISCOVERED AND SIGNED UP FOR A YAHOO USER GROUP WITH THE TITLE ***NTS-5RN*** AND BECAME A MEMBER.

I REPLIED TO THE MODERATOR WHO USED A Z AND NUMBERS FOR A USER NAME INSTEAD OF A CALL SIGN AND ASKED WHY IT WAS CALLED 5RN? I COMMENTED THAT I HAD CHECKED INTO RN5 SINCE 1966.

THE NEXT EMAIL I GOT ADVISED I WAS NOW A MODERATOR OF THE GROUP. SO I CHANGED THE NAME TO "NTS-RN5"

YOU CAN SIGN UP AT <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NTS-RN5/>

IF WHOEVER USES THE EMAIL renee.thomas@mchsi.com DOESNT DROP ME AS MODERATOR, I WILL BE HAPPY TO APPROVE EACH OF YOU AS NEW MEMBERS.

73, BENNY K5KV

Ken, K5RG, sent an update on the happenings around his place in Houston:

After two years, I finally got to installing the 7/8" heliax to the 50 – 1200 MHz log periodic VHF/UHF antenna only to find it didn't work. Hauling myself up to the top of the tower, I found water in the barrel connector between the RG-213 (rotator loop) and the heliax (Hurricane Ike??). When taking the beam off the tower, I noticed that the connector on the antenna was upside down and therefore water had gotten in the entire 18 foot rotator loop. (The XYL says I have pattern recognition problems.) So I have now replaced the entire rotator loop coax with Belden 9913F7 (flexible 9913) and soldered it directly to the antenna with the connection encased in RTV (electrical) silicone. When the XYL and I get back from a vacation trip to Newfoundland (VO1 land where I did 9th and 10th grades and got my first license), I will get the VHF/UHF antenna back on the tower. The overall goal is to have a PACTOR-3 bridge between VHF and HF. With help from Tom, NK5Z, I have gotten the HF side going with my spare transceiver and a SCS PTC-IIpro modem.

I've been working on getting the NASA JSC Amateur Radio Club (W5RRR) station operational. When NASA tore down the old building we had to remove everything, obviously. Getting the equipment and antennas back in operation has been a three year struggle. I serviced the Yaesu FT-1000/FL-7000 and got the equipment back to the new shack the first week in September. The Club's satellite station is operational in preparation for the University of Texas nanosatellites FASTRAC project (<http://fastrac.ae.utexas.edu/>). W5RRR will be a backup control station for the project which will be launched from Alaska.

Doug, KA5KLU, reported the following (on September 7): Tropical storm Hermine passed by us this morning. The eye is very close to SA. Getting lots of rain and some wind 30-45 mph gusts. We need the rain. We're supposed to get around 4 to 5 inches maybe more since they weren't expecting the eye to come this close to SA. Couple of days ago I brought my antenna down and put fresh guy wires on it. Glad I did as the wind is whipping right now. I put nylon cord on it to keep the vertical from whipping back and forth in high winds. Keeps it straight up. This storm just came up unexpectedly down by Brownsville and has tracked straight up toward us. Only supposed to last for 2 days before we get back to the heat again.

Thanks for taking my traffic. Maybe down the road I'll do the NCS thing again. I'll kinda slowly slip back in to it. My wife thinks I need to sit and watch ball games on TV every night with her. She retired recently on disability because of very bad knees. She was a nurse for

30 years and on her feet most of that. They tell her she will probably need knee replacements in the future. She doesn't walk much and has a walker with a seat in it so she can sit when the knees start biting too much. I do most of the home chores, kinda like Arley.

Have a good week. See you on TEX. 73, Doug KA5KLU

TEX Net Topics

We still need help with the **12** open NCS/liaison slots, including **4** open *primary* NCS slots and **3** open *primary* RN5 slots (all shown in **red**). Please consider taking one of these, or even an open backup position.

Thanks again to Sam, W5CU, Scott, W5ESE, Tom, NK5Z, and Rodney, W5DY, we managed to get through the month without missing any RN5 schedules.

CAN, early RN5, and PAN continue to use 40 meters as primary for the summer season.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	W5GKH	Open	KD5TXD	Open	N5PWG	Open	W5GKH
Backup	Open	W5ESE	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	W5DY	K6JT
NCS #2	W5GKH	Open	KD5TXD	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH
Backup	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	Open	K6JT	Open	K6JT
RN5 #1	W5GKH	Open	W5CU	NK5Z	N5PWG	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	NK5Z	W5DY	Open	W5ESE	W5ESE	W5GKH
RN5 #2	W5GKH	NK5Z	W5CU	NK5Z	K6JT	Open	W5CU
Backup	W5DY	Open	W5DY	K6JT	N5PWG	W5DY	W5GKH

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

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

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

RN5 Backup: W5CU, W5DY, W5ESE, W5GKH, K5GM, K6JT, N5PWG, K5RG, NK5Z

NCS Backup: W5DY, W5ESE, K6JT, N5PWG, KD5TXD

Statistics:

Check-ins improved slightly since last month. Traffic continued to be very low, but also came up a bit. Several of you have done as Rodney asked last month and originated some simple greeting messages to family and friends out-of-state. Let's continue that effort.

Tom, NK5Z, with 35 (56%) claimed top QNI spot. Scott, W5ESE, claimed 2nd with 28 (45%), edging out Rodney, W5DY, with 27 and Sam, W5CU, with 26. Thanks to all who checked in for your support.

Larry, KC0M, joined us again a couple times from his Branson, MO, home with traffic, and it was good to hear Jim, W6LFB, check in again after an absence.

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Traffic averaged 2.3 per net session (1.8 last month). Net time averaged 12.9 minutes per session (compared to 11.8 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.8 per session (4.4 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (August 2010)

			total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	CTTN	TSN
Call		QNI							
W5CU	Sam	12	26		9				
*		14			9				
W5DY	Rodney	12	27	6	3				
		15		4					
N5EL	Floyd	23	23						
*		0							
W5ESE	Scott	28	28	3	2				3
*		0							
W5GKH	Charlie	9	19	9	5				
*		10		10	4				
K5GM	Pete	0	1						
*		1							
W9GVW	Eric	5	12						
*		7							
K6JT	Steve	17	45	6	1		17		
*		28		9	8		28		
KA5KLU	Doug	8	8						
*		0							
W6LFB	Jim	1	2						
*		1							
KC0M	Larry	1	2						
	MO	1							
N5NVP	Jim	1	5						
		4							
N5PWG	Jay	8	14	3	3				
*		6		4	1				
K5QOW	Gary	5	6						
*		1							
K5RG	Ken	6	14						
*		8							
N0SSS	Adam	1	2						
	Oklaunion	1							
W5TMO	Mike	0	21						
*		21							
KD5TXD	Pat	5	9	4					5
*		4		4					4
NK5Z	Tom	20	35		8				
*		15			9				
Totals		299		62	62	0	45	0	12
				100%	100%	0%	73%	0%	19%
QTC 1		63	144						
QTC 2		81		Sessions:		62			
Time 1		405	797						
Time 2		392							

The roster has not been updated since last month.

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
N5AF	Sam	Cleveland	N7NET	Scott	McKinney
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria (ex-KA8IXC)	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr
N5BA	Brian	Houston	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City OK
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK	N5NVP	Jim	Scott LA
NV5D	Martin	Allen	* N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena
* W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	K5QOW	Gary	Reagan Wells
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	K5RDW	RD	Vilonia AR
* W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5GKH	Charlie	West Columbia	W5ROK	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5SBE	Larry	Austin
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	N0SSS	Adam	Oklaunion
AA5IJ	Bob	Pasadena	KC5T	Bob	Houston
KA9IKK	Bill	Houston	W5TFB	Jack	College Station
AA5J	Lee	Arkansas	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KJ9J	Newt	Pharr TX (winter)	W5TV	Tom	Nacogdoches
K5JRN	Si	Austin	* KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
K6JT	Steve	Plano	AI6U	Chris	Sacramento (CA)
KA5KLU	Doug	San Antonio	W5UFG	Ken	College Station
W5KNN	Ed	Bulverde (was KS5V)	* K5UN	Lee	Leonard
K5KV	Benny	Star	K5WQG	Eddy	Tomball
W6LFB	Jim	Denton	* NK5Z	Tom	Conroe
WA5MUF	Bill	Watauga	W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville (KD5TXD)

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Operating:

Those of you who have received some of WB5NKD's messages have noticed a change in the texts. There are 2 of them, one for new Technician class licensees, and one for General class and above. Jo Ann, KA5AZK, and I made suggestions to Arley, WB5NKC, about changes to the messages that might make them a little more effective. Here are the two texts for your reference.

(TEXT FOR NEW TECH LICENSEES)

R HXG WB5NKD 22 OKLAHOMA CITY OK (CURRENT DATE)

BT
WELCOME TO AMATEUR RADIO X
HOPE YOU ENJOY ALL PARTS
OF THE HOBBY INCLUDING CW
AND TRAFFIC NETS THEN HAVE
FUN 73
BT
PAT WB5NKD
AR

(TEXT FOR GEN, ADV, AND EXTRA)

R HXG WB5NKD 23 OKLAHOMA CITY OK (current date)

BT
WE NEED TRAFFIC HANDLERS BOTH
PHONE AND CW SEEK OUT
A LOCAL TRAFFIC NET IN
YOUR AREA LISTEN THEN JOIN
THE FUN 73
BT
PAT WB5NKD
AR

Simulated Emergency Test

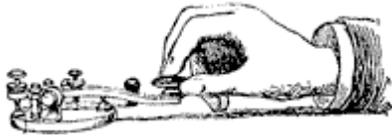
Plans for the SET are not yet finalized and will depend on local ARES needs as well as the region net plans. I will send out a special notice with SET information (SET is scheduled for the weekend of October 2 and 3), with any new information.

As far as TEX is concerned, I plan to announce at least one TEX session that must be run using only emergency backup power (i.e., no AC power). You are urged to test out your "backup" system, even if it only consists of bringing in a car battery and hooking it up to the rig in lieu of the AC power supply or going out in your mobile setup with an external antenna.

Until next month,

73, Steve

(TSN Corner starts on the next page)



TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Daily) 1945 CT 3552.0 KHz +/- QRM

http://www.atcweb.com/tsn/Texas_Slow_Net.htm

Pat Allison KD5TXD (pja@atcweb.com)

TSN Net Manager

The telegraph key image is courtesy of FCIT

Greetings from the Wild Horse Desert – home of your TSN Manager

Things have been a little quiet this month. Band conditions have not blessed TSN well. It has been great to have W9GVW visit with us a couple times. Anyone who wants to stop by is more than welcome on TSN. Bring traffic if you want. We don't have many outlets, but when we get to pass real traffic it puts a spark in the net. Arley and Pat are there every night so if you have traffic for them this is another way to get it up to OKC. We can always use some moral support from the fast folks. Special thanks to W5ESE and AA5JW for being on the net so regularly.

Locally we survived all the rain from Hermine. It was just a tropical storm, but we had one night of some serious rain and wind. There is a little wind damage in Kingsville; nothing that a "blue norther" couldn't do just as well.

August 2010 TSN Roster

Call	Name	City	ST	Call	Name	City	ST
W5AG	Arch	Lafayette	LA	KE5LOT	Club	Fentress	TX
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	TX	WA5LOU	Lou	Kennard	TX
K5AVJ	Lynn	Abilene	TX	KC0M	Larry	Branson	MO
KD5CB	Mike	Hillsboro	TX	KD5MMM	Phil	Fentress	TX
WB9CIS	John	Morton	IL	WA5MUF	Bill	Stafford	TX
K6CD/5	Joe	Katy	TX	N7NET	Scott	Allen	TX
K0CMH	Craig	St Louis	MO	N5NK	Rondel	Zephyr	TX
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	TX	WB5NKC	Arley	Oklahoma City	OK
N5EL	Floyd	Temple	TX	WB5NKD	Pat	Oklahoma City	OK
K5END	Larry	Spring	TX	N5NVP	Jim	Scott	LA
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	TX	AA5NZ	Web	Goldthwait	TX
WD0ESF	Mike		KS	K4OSO	Milt	Rockville	VA
WB9FLU	Bill	Columbus	IN	K9PUI	Rich		IN
WB5GFU	Al	Alamo	TX	N5PWG	Jay	Pasadena	TX
KD5GM	Louis	Deer Park	TX	N0SSS	Adam	Oklunion	TX
AE5GT	Clint	Wimberley	TX	KI5T, KC5AML	Wade		LA
W9GVW	Eric	San Antonio	TX	KB5TCH	Carroll	Douglassville	TX
KA8IXC	Dan	Victoria	TX	W5TMO	Mike	Austin	TX
AA5J	Lee	Cabot	AR	KA5TJS	Allen	San Augustine	TX
W5JBV	Mike	Panama City	FL	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	Kingsville	TX
K5JE	Earl	Claremore	OK	KD5VGJ	Jay	Flower Mound	TX
K7JHM	John	Price	UT	K4VIZ	Tom	Conway	AR
K6JT, W0CXX	Steve	Plano	TX	W5VXI	Dave	Caddo Mills	TX
W5JKK	George	Bethany	OK	N5XGG	Joe	Colmesneil	TX
AA5JW	Carl	Stafford	TX	KM5YQ	David	Irving	TX
KT4KL	Alton	Bandera	TX	NK5Z	Tom	Conroe	TX
K5KV	Benny	Star	TX	KD5ZLB	Edwin	Shreveport	LA
KB5KWO	Steve	Norman	OK	KE5LOT	Club	Fentress	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 August, 2010

Total Sessions 31, Total Checkins 143, Total Traffic 30 by 14 different operators.

August QNS

August	Callsign	Name	QTH
31	WB5NKC	Arley	OK, Oklahoma City
31	WB5NKD	Pat	OK, Oklahoma City
22	W5ESE	Scott	TX, Dripping Springs
21	AA5JW	Carl	TX, Stafford
10	KD5TXD, W5ZD	Pat	TX, Kingsville
9	KD5MMM	Phil	TX, Fentress
7	W5VXI	Dave	TX, Caddo Mills
4	KB5TCH	Carroll	TX, Douglassville
2	KD5GM	Louis	TX, Deer Park
2	W9GVW	Eric	TX, San Antonio
1	W5DY	Rodney	TX, Goliad
1	KB5KWO	Steve	OK, Norman
1	KC0M	Larry	MO, Branson
1	N0SSS	Adam	TX, Oklaunion

73!!

Pat KD5TXD

September 8, 2010