

## The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas CW Traffic Net (TEX)

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

Net Manager: Position Open (W5DY silent key)

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### News and Updates

Although the last issue of this newsletter said it would be the last full issue, this document deals largely with the loss of Randy, N5RL, who became a silent key after years of dealing with many problems including bladder cancer, diabetes, kidney failure, loss of a leg below the knee due to loss of sufficient blood flow in the leg, and finally heart valve malfunction. He made it through all of these through sheer determination up to the last, for which he had surgery to replace the valve. The surgery supposedly went well.

His last message to me was Tuesday, January 14, where he wrote he was out of surgery and doing well. I did not hear anything more from him after that. Then I learned from some TEX members who also support the 7290 Traffic Net that he had become a silent key, as reported on that net and his QRZ.com entry shows he is a Silent Key.

#### **(John) Randy Lavender, N5RL, 1950-2025**

Randy, N5RL, first checked into TEX in May, 2011. He was very active in both TEX and the 7290 Traffic Net since that time. I could not find any obituary for Randy on the Internet but what follows was gleaned from what he wrote on QRZ.com. I recall meeting Randy in person at a 7290 Traffic Net picnic. He certainly looked healthy enough at that time, but that was many years ago.

*From his QRZ bio:* My on-the-air name is Randy, although I'll answer to John too. First Licensed with WN1GZV in 1966, then WA1GZV after I upgraded to General in 1967. An advanced ticket followed in 1976 and finally the Extra in 1992. I requested my current call, N5RL, under the then newly established vanity callsign program in 1996. From 1991 until 2007 I was very active in the VE program for both the ARRL and W5YI. These days I spend much of my time on both CW and SSB traffic nets, 7290, TEX, and RN5 regularly.

TEX meets nightly at 1900 and 2200 CST, 3541 or 7106 Khz, CW, join us if your wanting to try your hand at CW traffic handling or improve your mastery of CW. We will help you to enjoy this mode more. I dabble with AM and talk to my buddies on VHF/UHF FM. In recent years I've also spent time on digital, FT8, JS8, and JT-65 in particular where 20 watts or less with a

simple antenna can deliver world wide QSO's. Most recently I've started using digital voice with DSTAR and am beginning to explore that world is well.

When all else fails and the ionosphere is poor, the internet just might do at times ! I'm also a casual DX'er and contester too. I last worked for Harris Microwave Division repairing Microwave radio gear and I'm retired now. Prior to that, I was on active duty with the USAF working on and operating ground communications equipment. I've had several calls with USAF MARS - AFB4CK and AFA4TS - but am not active any longer. During my military years I spent time in Texas, Montana, Georgia, Mississippi, Italy, Germany, the Philippine islands, and Thailand.

As a USAF radio operator, I worked ground to air, point to point, and ran phone patches back to the "world" for military personnel stationed at Udorn RTAFB in northern Thailand during the Vietnam war. I spent 3 years in radio operations and then the next 18 as a radio/electronics tech - the best of both worlds. My first 18 years of my life were spent growing up in New England (Boston area) but I never could get the military to ship me back to that part of the country. At this point, I figure I've seen enough of the world and am concentrating on things closer to home, which now is Texas. The Alamo is just a few miles away if I head northwest and whatever Boston accent I had is long gone. Besides my amateur ticket, I also hold an FCC GROL (formerly know as a 2nd Class), an ARRL ORS certificate, 10-10 member 3767 (acquired in 1971), and I'm a member of the ARRL "A1Operators Club".



The group photo you see was taken in 1970 at Keesler AFB Mississippi with my newly minted USAF radio op class. I'm standing back row, 3rd from left. Hope to see you on the air !

Primary rigs: IC7300 on CW,SSB, OR HF DIGITAL with a Heathkit SB-220 KW as needed

HF, DSTAR, and VHF/UHF all modes: IC7100

Fixed Antennas: 80 meter dipole, 40 meter dipole, Mosely TA-33 Jr yagi, 144/440 GP-9 duo band vertical

Tuner: LDG AT-1000 pro II

CW Keys: BY-1 Bencher paddle, TR McElroy 1936 model bug, and a surplus J-47 hand key only used rarely

Other devices: RSP2 SDR Rx, SHARK RF Open Spot and Signalink USB interface for digital

Relics: Drake TR-3 Xcvr circa 1963, EV 428 stand & EV 605 mic, Drake T4X Tx, R4 Rx, Collins 30L-1, Knwd TS-140S

1st station (1966): Heath DX-60A Xmtr/w 3 Crystals, National 270 Rcvr, Millen transmatch Jr, random wire antenna

*We all miss you, Randy. Rest in peace, friend.*

## TEX Net Summaries

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown below. If you are willing to take any of the open positions or want to change your assignment, please advise so the schedule may be updated. With the loss of N5RL, we are now missing primary coverage for 5 NCS, 2 RN5/1 and 1 RN5/2 slots. Thanks to KZ5Z for filling many of these. Anyone who can help control the nets on the open days, please do, and thanks in advance.

Thanks to those who accepted assignments as NCS and RN5 Liaison. If anyone else can manage to take any shown as Open please do so and also let me know to put you into the schedule table.

All sessions are on the regular 80 meter frequencies, shown after the table.

### TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NC 1	Open	Open	Open	W9VE	Open	No Net	Open
Backup	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	No Net	Open
NC 2	K5IX	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	Open	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	KZ5Z	Open	KZ5Z	KZ5Z	KZ5Z	No Net	Open
RN5 1	Open	KZ5Z	Open	KZ5Z	Open	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	Open	Open	KZ5Z	Open	Open	No Net	Open
RN5 2	W5CU	K6JT	K5RG	K6JT	Open	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	Open	KZ5Z	W5CU	KZ5Z	Open	No Net	Open
TTN/7290	Open	KZ5Z	Open	KZ5Z	Open	Nada	Open

TEX/1: **3541/3593/7106** at 19:00 CT; TEX/2 **3541/3593/1841** at 22:00 CT  
 RN5/1: **3567/7106** at 19:30; RN5/2: **3567/3598/7106** at 21:30 CT  
 CAN: **3552/3590/7052/7106** - 20:30 CT; WAN: **3552/7052** - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: K5RG, KZ5Z, W5CU  
 NCS Backup: K5RG, KZ5Z, W5CU, K5IX, W9VE

### TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	* W6LFB	Jim	Denton
N5BA	Brian	Houston	WA5MS	Marty	Argyle
WA5CAV	Dick	Pineville LA	NM5M	Eric	Plano

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK, /0 CO	N7NET	Scott	Crossett AR
N5CXX	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
W5DAE	Don	San Angelo	W5OMR	Geoff	San Antonio
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5FEA	Jim	Graham (Silent Key)	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio (Silent Key)
K5GM	Pete	Tennessee	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
KM0I	John	Hattiesburg MS	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
KA9IKK	Bill	Katy	W9VE	Don	Dallas
* K5IX	Dave	Brackettville/Del Rio	WB5VIH	Dave	Merkel
K5JFB	Jim	Fort Worth	NA5YO	Doug	Palacios
K6JT	Steve	Plano	KZ5Z	Jon	Springer OK
* K5KV	Benny	Star	W0ZV	Tom	Missouri

\* Capable of 160 meter operation

## Statistics:

### December 2024:

Jon, KZ5Z, and Don, W5DAE tied for first with 48 (92%), Dave, K5IX, was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 19 (37%), and Randy, N5RL, was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 17 (33%). Thanks again to all who checked in.

Visitors: Ryan, KF0GVX, in NE, and John, K2WJ, in Willis, TX

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note there were 50 sessions reported out of a possible 52 (no Saturday nets). Traffic averaged 0.34 per net session. Net time averaged 7.2 minutes per session. Check-ins averaged 3.8 per session.

### TEX Net Statistics (December 2024)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
W5CU	Sam	11	11	1	1		
*		0					
W5DAE	Don	24	48				
		24					
W5FEA	Jim	1	1				
*		0					
KF0GVX	Ryan	2	2				
	NE	0					
K5IX	Dave	10	19				
		9		4			
K6JT	Steve	0	11				
*		11		11	7		11
K5RG	Ken	0	4				
*		4			4		
N5RL	Randy	8	17				

*		9			1		
W0ZV	Tom	14	14				
	MO	0					
W9VE	Don	14	15	4			14
		1					1
K2WJ	John	1	1				
	Willis TX	0					
KZ5Z	Jon	24	48	20	24	2	
	OK	24		10	13	3	
Totals		191		50	50	5	26
				96%	96%	10%	50%
QTC 1		3	17				
QTC 2		14	Sessions		52		
Time 1		201	361				
Time 2		160					

### January 2025:

Don, W5DAE, was 1<sup>st</sup> with 50 (93%), Jon KZ5Z, was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 48 (89%), and Dave, K5IX, was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 14 (26%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in.

Visitors: Bob, K9ING, in San Antonio

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note that there were 54 sessions reported out of a possible 54 (no Saturdays). Traffic averaged 0.59 per net session. Net time averaged 6.5 minutes per session. Check-ins averaged 3.2 per session.

### TEX Net Statistics Jan 2025

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
N5BA	Brian	0	3				
		3					
W5CU	Sam	13	13	4	2		
*		0					
W5DAE	Don	24	50				
		26					
K9ING	Bob	0	1				
	San Antonio	0					
K5IX	Dave	9	14				
		5		4			
K6JT	Steve	0	14				
*		14		14	9		13
K5RG	Ken	0	5				
*		5			5		
W0ZV	Tom	13	13				
	MO	0					
W9VE	Don	11	12	3			11

		1					
KZ5Z	Jon	22	48	20	21	3	
	OK	26		9	13	3	
Totals		173		54	50	6	24
				100%	93%	11%	44%
QTC 1		2	32				
QTC 2		30		Sessions:		54	
Time 1		175	349				
Time 2		174					

### Operating:

TEX traffic and check-ins were again down both months compared to the previous months. Propagation conditions were generally good. Thanks to those of you who continue to support TEX. We can really use some more traffic and more stations willing to take NCS and RN5 liaison slots. The loss of Randy, N5RL, is sorely felt.

Daylight time starts on March 9. As usual, all nets continue to meet at the same local time (an hour earlier UTC).

Please try to get your net reports to me within a week of the sessions. E-mail them if you won't be on late TEX Tue/Wed/Thur (or late RN5 Tue/Thur) to send them when I am there. Also, Jon, KZ5Z, is on most nights and could take your reports to relay to me at the next opportunity. Thanks Jon, for all your help.

Here are the composite reports for the last 2 months for traffic handled at the region and above levels.

### Central US Nets Activity for December 2024

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	12	63	63	54	1.167
Day 9 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	12	204	80	61	3.344
Day 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	12	14	87	76	0.184
Night 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area**	52	204	182	477	0.428
Night 9 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	54	358	163	431	0.831
Night 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	55	55	191	322	0.171
Day Central US	12	142	108	298	0.477
Night Central US @	30	517	165	471	1.098
Day Inter-Area Traffic	36	100	36		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	83	251	80		96%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1908	1155	2190	

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		802	416	386	
N9VC Central Area 9RN/TEN		5424	2519	2905	
Digital Stations (11)		538	288	250	
Total DTN Digital		6764			
Total Central US		8672			
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager - thanks to NCS stations for statistics					

### Central US Nets Activity for January 2025

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	13	60	52	50	1.200
Day 9 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	13	124	80	63	1.968
Day 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	13	13	88	67	0.194
Night 5 <sup>th</sup> Call Area**	53	199	202	478	0.416
Night 9 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	49	387	148	351	1.103
Night 10 <sup>th</sup> Call Area	57	25	189	272	0.092
Day Central US	14	178	104	321	0.555
Night Central US @	31	485	158	419	1.158
Day Inter-Area Traffic	42	120	42		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	83	225	83		100%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1816	1146	2021	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		473	256	217	
N9VC Central Area 9RN/10RN		5044	2303	2741	
Digital Stations (12)		416	241	175	
Total DTN Digital		5933			
Total Central US		7749			

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager, thanks to NC Stations for statistics					

DTN Access:

\$\$ KE5YTA Pactor 1800-0600 CT Mon, Tue, Wed thru Thursday 0600, Thursday 1800 to Mon 0600

(Off the air 0600 to 1800 Monday thru Thursday).

Center Frequencies: DTN 3591, 7103, and 14098; RMS Winlink 3.589 and 7.1024

N9VC Pactor + VARA 24/7 except when on HF Nets

Center Frequencies (both Pactor/VARA) 3591.9, 3593.9, 7102.4, 14110.4

Keep sending your TEX net reports and info to me, either on the air via TEX or RN5, via Winlink, or via standard Email.

Wishing everyone a Healthy winter season. Daylight time starts March 9, but nets continue to meet at their same local time. Moving early TEX, RN5, and CAN to 40 will wait until we see how propagation is doing.

Until April, 73, Steve K6JT

TEX Newsletter Editor and Statistician



## **RN5 Corner**

RRI Fifth Call Area Net (Daily) 1930 CT on **3567** and 2130 CT on **3567**  
Alternate Frequency 3598 when conditions warrant  
*Serving TX, OK, LA, AR, MS, TN, AL, and NFL*  
Nominations are still open for Net Manager

Hello all and welcome to Edition 100 of the ***RN5 Corner***.

Thanks again to those who support RN5 and especially to the NCS stations for their reports. All sessions were covered and reported in December with one missed in January (other than Saturdays, which remain optional). Thanks very much Jon, Sam, and Jack.

Jack K5WNU, is back home most of the time now.

Jon continues to either check in or control nearly every RN5 session. Sam, W5CU, helps by bringing traffic from CAN. Sam still occasionally goes to Colorado and other OK or TX locations, but still operates from there. Sam and Jon are the only ones who take outgoing RN5 traffic to CAN. As always, we need more help with CAN liaisons.

Here is a list of the stations sending NC reports for December and January (in order from earliest date station first reported that month). Thanks to everyone for supporting RN5. NCS slots are mostly covered. There are many empty CAN liaison slots.

December: W5CU 9, KZ5Z 35, K6JT 8

January: KZ5Z 34, W5CU 10, K6JT 9

Dick, WA5CAV, is on many sessions. Dick, if nobody calls up the net, please send me a note of zero checkins for that session and date. Will list you as NCS. Thanks.

Thanks to all for your support of RN5, especially regulars WA5CAV, W5CU, KZ5Z, K5WNU, K6JT, and K5RG. John KC4FL, Dean W8IM, and Ben KZ8Q, also check in from FL some nights. Dean has checked in many nights. Sorry we have lost Randy, N5RL.

Please continue to pass AR traffic to the TEX liaison station to take to the 7290 Traffic Net. If there is no TEX liaison, these may be sent to the 7290 Traffic Net manager, KA5AZK at Winlink dot org (also see below for subject line restrictions). OK traffic can be sent to Jon, KZ5Z. Jon also checks into TEX so TX traffic can be sent to him if no other TEX liaison.

TN traffic can be sent to Jim, WA4VGZ, who is the manager of daytime RN5 and located in TN. Use WA4VGZ@Winlink.org. For Winlink addresses via E-mail, be sure to put //WL2K as the first 7 letters (including space) in the subject line. AL traffic can be handled by sending it to Don, WV5Q@Winlink.org. Don is a digital traffic station located in MS, but he has connections with AL SSB nets for passing traffic.

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

### RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	K5WNU	K5WNU	W5CU	K5WNU	K5WNU	(No net)	KZ5Z
NCS #2	K5WNU	K6JT	W5CU	K6JT	K5WNU	(No net)	KZ5Z
CAN TX	Open	Open	W5CU	Open	Open	(No net)	Open
CAN RX	Open	Open	W5CU	K6JT	Open	(No net)	Open
DRN5	Open	K6JT	K5RG	K6JT	Open	(No net)	Open

### 2024/5 Statistics

MONTH	December	January
SESSIONS	52	53
QTC	204	199
QNI	182	202
QTR	477	478
AVG QTC	3.9	3.8
AVG QNI	3.5	3.8
AVG QTR	9.2	9.0

The following roster shows stations coming to RN5 in the past 5 years and their states.

### Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	State	Call	Name	State
WB5BNV	FRED	MS	K6JT	STEVE	TX
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	WD5JTZ	MIKE	LA
W5CU	SAM	OK / CO	WB4LAL	IKE	AL
W4DLZ	FRANK	(SK)	KZ8Q	BEN	FL
W5DY	RODNEY	(SK)	K5RG	KEN	TX
W5FEA	JIM	(SK)	N5RL	RANDY	Silent Key
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
K5GM	PETE	TN	K5WNU	JACK	MS
W8IM	DEAN	FL	KZ5Z	JON	OK / (TX)

\*\* K4VIZ is only marginally active. Send AR to the TEX station for the 7290 net (do not use DRN5 since there is only an occasional AR liaison station there).

73, Steve K6JT  
 Newsletter editor and RN5 statistician