

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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July-August 24

TEX Website Back Online

The hackers finally stopped downloading everything from the website (and I had blocked IP addresses that seemed to be the most active). It is now working again with no password or user ID required.

Jack, W5TFB's Book

There will not be an excerpt from Jack's book this issue. Perhaps the next one, although unless I receive comments asking to continue, it may be discontinued. It seemed to me that it was getting a little stale and no longer had amateur radio references of significance.

Instead, thanks to Jon, KZ5Z, we are fortunate to have a description of his activities, past and present.

Jon, KZ5Z, My Radio Activities

Hello Steve. I woke up this morning thinking about the nets. I don't know why. Perhaps I was feeling guilty about starting late Tex slightly late last night due to being distracted during a conversation with my son. I know you often ask for something from us to add to the monthly reports so I'll write a little here this morning. My ham radio life has been pretty routine but I'll go ahead and relate some of the goings on at the KZ5Z QTH. I'll try not to repeat much of the info on QRZ.com as most of you have probably seen that already.

First of all, CW is my first radio love. I was exposed to CW as a small child and tried to learn it from a book as a Cub Scout but transferring the "dots and dashes" into something I could remember from a book was apparently a little too much for me at the time. My interest in radio remained however as a friend had an old army set in his dad's shop and I heard some strange and wonderful signals on the speaker of that old set that made me want to find out more. I also was fascinated with the broadcast signals from an old short wave console at a friend's grandmothers house. We would stay up late and see what countries we could hear. Skipping forward several years, it wasn't until my last days in the U. S. Navy when a friend told me that the correct way to learn the code was by ear. I bought a tape and never looked back.

I moved back to Oklahoma after getting out of the Navy in 1979. We were relatively poor at the time as I was supporting a family of seven, five kids and a wife and finding a job similar to my Navy job as an independent duty corpsman managing the medical department in submarines was next to impossible. I couldn't find any hospital jobs that paid anywhere near enough. I finally ended up driving a truck in the oil field for about \$4.79 an hour after my first raise. We were guaranteed over 70 hours a week so that is how I earned enough to support us. At some point I quit that job and it was about three months before I found another one. It was during this time that I decided to order a Heathkit HW-101 as a personal incentive to push myself into getting a ham license. Well the box arrived and my wife was not pleased that I would spend \$400 of much needed money on a "toy" when we were having difficulty paying the bills and buying food. I also made my radio room in the small laundry room next to the kitchen which did not make me popular once the 101 was working and I started listening to all the radio noise! The marriage survived, however, and I eventually was able to find a career in government communications. I could remind my late wife afterwards that the job was due to the toy I bought back then. She was actually quite accepting to most things I did except when I used money we did not have and that is understandable. The rest of the Heathkit story is on QRZ.

Eventually I found work with one of the large government agencies as a communications officer. At that time they were still using a lot of HF radio with HF data transmissions and a lot of Teletype and CW. I think we were one of the last outfits to use CW on a daily basis for various purposes. When I went to Virginia for my radio communications review, I studied all my old books expecting a difficult test. Actually the test wasn't all that difficult and finally they put me in a room with a J-38 key and tape recorder and a few magazines. The comms officer working with me left the room and told me I could use some time to practice with the J-38 and a code oscillator. The required speed was 12 or 15 wpm I think. I don't remember exactly. I was solid at 35 or 40 wpm at the time so when the officer returned later I was reading a magazine. He said "I told you you could use this time for practice". I told him I thought I would do fine so he played a message from a tape, which I copied down on some paper and then sent it back to him. That was the end of the testing.

My recruiter had told me about their state of the art systems, so I was a little surprised to find a lot of old equipment I was familiar with as a ham there, such as KWM2 transceivers, R390 receivers and light bulbs for dummy loads. After being hired I arrived at our training facility three months early and was told I would be practicing CW every day! Well, I soon found out that I would also be learning manual encryption. I was given a triad card and told to memorize all of the possible three letter combinations of the alphabet. So.... I spent most of my time during the next three months memorizing those until I was able to encrypt or decrypt messages manually up to the speed where I could use a pencil to write them down.

It was a great job for a ham in those waning days of HF radio and analog transmissions. High speed data transmissions via satellite and other means was in the near future but at least for then it was HF and CW and RTTY all day. My job also took me to various embassies and other locations overseas. I had the opportunity to be the primary operator in our "back room" at one location. That was where all the clandestine radio operations were done and I had to learn all the techniques of the day, which was a wonderful job for a ham. Of course there was no plain language and everything was encrypted. I learned about "numbers" stations and burst high speed CW transmissions and many more unconventional methods of communicating.

Although those days and methods have long passed there are some things I should still not talk about publicly. Suffice to say it was very interesting and yes, at times life or death. I got to know many operators from our ally countries from working them on circuits and eventually met many of them in person at NATO exercises in the German Alps. All good things eventually end and our last recorded CW transmission (that I know of) happened when I was in another location in Germany around 1994.

My job as a commo officer morphed into a network manager and babysitter of satellite systems. That work was also interesting but was not my first love. Thankful I was able to do some interesting things at the time. Now I am fully retired here in Oklahoma. I have ten acres in a remote location in the woods. My first wife passed away from MS back in 2011 and I married my current wife, Kerry, about five years after that. I don't know what she sees in me but she loves me and I'm not going to question or complain, hi. She is also very accepting of my radio habit, my addiction to guns, musical instruments and airplanes, so life is good.

Over the years I accumulated things from my travels and now I am having difficulty making myself downsize. In addition to the ten acres here in the woods we also maintain Kerry's old house, my mother's old house and the little house I grew up in. That alone can be a full time job. I'm currently setting up to buy another 40 foot container to put the contents of the empty houses in so I can fix them up and clean them up. Not sure what the next step will be after that. I am a sentimental person and have difficult letting go of memories. For now we spend most of our time mowing and trying to keep our properties in shape.

My current ham radio situation includes an Icom 7300 with a ladder line fed 150 foot flat top at 50 feet and a trap dipole at 30 feet. That is the radio I use on TEX and RN5 most of the time. The 50 antenna seems to work well. This radio is located in the dining room of our house and the remainder of my equipment is in a dedicated metal building near my 73 foot tower. Incidentally, my Yagi is still out of commission due to lightening strikes or some other issue causing high SWR. Although I put the tower and antenna up by myself, that was a few years ago. While I still climb the tower, I'm not comfortable with balancing on top and lowering the yagi myself. My DX days may be over. I do have a 40 meter antenna hanging from the 50 foot level and my project this summer is to hang an 80 meter inverted vee with the peak around the 70 foot mark. That should work much better than the cloud burner I have for the main shack right now.

I really enjoy participating in the traffic nets and I thank Sam, W5CU, for finding me on 7290 and directing me to the CW nets. It is an honor to work with the great operators on both CW nets as well as visiting CAN from time to time. Unfortunately, most of us are getting older and we don't seem to have a lot of new blood coming in. There seems to be a large interest in CW by many new hams but they don't seem to check into the nets. Perhaps they just don't know about them or maybe the slightly increased speed is a bit much for them. Regardless, it would be wonderful to get some new ham participants. I suppose we need to be trying to do some recruiting.

I continue to cover as many as the vacant NCS positions as I am able to, and I enjoy doing so. After covid our church started having night services again so I have been away from the early nets on Sunday and Wednesday nights. My son is visiting right now from Philadelphia. I was talking to him last night when I was distracted and late on late TEX! He is also a former

submarine sailor and currently an intelligence analyst with the Philadelphia PD assigned to the district attorney's office. He is a self made person and got himself through a masters degree with no less than a 4.0 average. I'm proud of all my kids. They are all grown now but they came here for fathers day. We had five grown kids, two of the grand kids and one great grandson all present.

Well I hope this hasn't been too boring. Just a glimpse of life at KZ5Z. Thanks for welcoming me into the nets. Vy 73, Jon KZ5Z

TEX / RN5 Mailbox:

Please send in your feedback, gripes, and suggestions. The mailbox had only a few inputs concerning TEX and RN5 for this newsletter other than normal net reporting business. Thanks to Jon for sending in the article for this issue around June 25.

As reported last issue, Randy, N5RL, had to go to the hospital at Brooke Army Medical Center due to an infection in his right leg. Turned out that he had to have the right leg, just below the knee, amputated. He went through some further work on the leg and is still in rehab, doing as well as can be expected, but they won't release him until a way is found for him to continue with his kidney dialysis 3 days a week. No estimate of when that will be.

The last I heard from Randy was July 31, where he wrote "Prognosis is great but still not sure when I'll be leaving here .. such is life .. still active on 444.1 Steve .. hope you are doing well too .. 73 !" Randy

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June 12, from K5RG: In the newsletter on page 15, info about KE5YTA:

KE5YTA Pactor 1800-0600 CT Mon/Tue and Tue/Wed, Wed 1800 to Mon 0600

Isn't this 1800 – 0600 CT every day of the week? Am I missing something??

K6JT: I will need to change what I wrote to After 6 PM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Off the air from 8 AM to 6 PM Monday thru Thursday. Available 24 hours after 6PM Thursday, all Friday and until Monday 6 AM. Hope that makes it clear.

Also from Ken: I am hoping to erect a DB36 SteppIR beam this summer. I first need to replace the beam's rotor swapping out a T2X for an OR2800G2. But with the high outside temperatures, all of this will probably not get done until the Fall.

Have a good summer,
Ken K5RG

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Rcvd June 30 from Don, W9VE: Hi, Steve - July already! I hope you and your family are doing well and keeping cool. Here are a pair of net reports for late TEX. I did FD with the Garland club - seemed as if everyone had learned a lot about contest operating in the past year - that was wonderful.

vy 73,
Don W9VE

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TEX Net Topics

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. We are still missing primary coverage for 3 NCS, 2 RN5/1 and 1 RN5/2 slots. Randy volunteered to take the Friday and Sunday early nets so Jon could be a musician at his church, but due to his medical issues (as reported above), he cannot do that yet. All of Randy's schedules are still shown in yellow until he is able to return home. Anyone who can help control the nets on the noted days, please do, and thanks in advance.

Early sessions are still on 40 meters along with CAN and WAN. The late sessions of TEX and RN5 remain on 80 meters. Note that the early TEX (and early RN5) frequency changed from 7108 to 7106 due to regular digital QRM.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NC 1	Open	N5RL	Open	W9VE	N5RL	No Net	N5RL
Backup	Open	Open	N5RL	N5RL	Open	No Net	Open
NC 2	K5IX	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	Open	No Net	KZ5Z
Backup	Open	Open	KZ5Z	KZ5Z	KZ5Z	No Net	Open
RN5 1	N5RL	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	N5RL/KZ5Z	Open	KZ5Z/N5RL	Open	Nada	Open

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

RN5 Backup: K5RG, N5RL, KZ5Z, W5CU
 NCS Backup: K5RG, N5RL, KZ5Z, W5CU, W5FEA, 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
W5DY	Rodney	Silent Key 3/31/23	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
* W5FEA	Jim	Graham	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
K5GM	Pete	Tennessee	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
KM0I	John	Hattiesburg MS	W9VE	Don	Dallas
KA9IKK	Bill	Katy	WB5VIH	Dave	Merkel
* K5IX	Dave	Brackettville/Del Rio	NA5YO	Doug	Palacios
K5JFB	Jim	Fort Worth	KZ5Z	Jon	Springer OK
K6JT	Steve	Plano	W0ZV	Tom	Missouri
* K5KV	Benny	Star			

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

June 2024:

Don, W5DAE, was first with 47 (94%), Jon, KZ5Z, was second with 39 (78%), and Dave, K5IX, was third with 18 (36%). Thanks again to all who checked in.

Visitors: AI5DD, Joe in OK

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note there were 49 sessions reported out of a possible 50 (no Saturday nets). Traffic averaged 0.5 per net session (0.43 last month). Net time averaged 7.4 minutes per session (7.6 last month). Check-ins averaged 3.5 per session (3.4 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (June 2024)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
W5CU	Sam	11	15	3	5		
*		4		1	1		
W5DAE	Don	24	47				
		23					
AI5DD	Joe	0	1				
	OK	1					
W5FEA	Jim	4	6				
*		2					
K5IX	Dave	13	18	2			
		5		2			
K6JT	Steve	0	12				
*		12		12	8		12
K5RG	Ken	0	4				

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
*		4			4		
W0ZV	Tom	10	10		1		
	MO	0					
W9VE	Don	13	18	6			13
		5		1			3
KZ5Z	Jon	17	39	13	17	3	
	OK	22		9	11	2	
Totals		170	170	49	47	5	28
				98%	94%	10%	56%
QTC 1		5	23				
QTC 2		18		Sessions:	50		
Time 1		193	364				
Time 2		171					

July 2024:

Don, W5DAE, was 1st with 48 (94%), Jon, KZ5Z, was 2nd with 46 (90%), and Dave, K5IX, was 3rd with 14 (27%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in.

Visitors: None

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note that there were 51 sessions reported out of a possible 54 (no Saturdays). Traffic averaged 0.45 per net session (0.5 last month). Net time averaged 6.6 minutes per session (7.4 last month). Check-ins averaged 3.2 per session (3.5 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (July 2024)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW
W5CU	Sam	8	9	2	3		
*		1			1		
W5DAE	Don	23	48				
		25					
W5FEA	Jim	4	9				
*		5					
K5IX	Dave	10	14				
		4		4			
K6JT	Steve	0	12				
*		12		12	8		12
K5RG	Ken	0	4				
*		4			4		
W0ZV	Tom	12	12				
	MO	0					
W9VE	Don	8	9	4			8
		1					1
KZ5Z	Jon	19	46	17	19	2	

	OK	27		12	15	4	
Totals		163		51	50	6	21
				94%	93%	11%	39%
QTC 1		3	23				
QTC 2		20		Sessions:		54	
Time 1		168	335				
Time 2		167					

Operating:

TEX traffic and check-ins were again low both months. Propagation conditions were marginal some nights due to solar disturbances. Thanks to those of you who continue to support TEX. We can really use some more traffic and regular net members.

The change to 40 for the early TEX and RN5 sessions continues to work well. No plans to change back to 80 even though autumn will start before the next newsletter.

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. It is difficult to find information at the end of the month for unreported nets that occurred weeks earlier. I enter the reports into my database a couple times a week.

Here are the composite reports for the last 2 months for traffic handled at the region and above levels. Traffic totals were lower both months, compared to the 2 previous months. The marginal propagation and operators taking vacations contributed to that.

Central US Nets Activity for June 2024

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 th Call Area	12	48	57	56	0.857
Day 9 th Call Area	12	162	75	75	2.160
Day 10 th Call Area	11	10	60	54	0.185
Night 5 th Call Area**	50	189	169	486	0.389
Night 9 th Call Area	53	258	169	384	0.672
Night 10 th Call Area	56	33	171	282	0.117
Day Central US	12	84	82	170	0.494
Night Central US @	30	398	151	379	1.050
Day Inter-Area Traffic	36	46	34		94%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	79	139	78		99%

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Total Voice/CW Nets		1367	1046	1886	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		746	388	358	
N9VC Central Area 9RN/TEN		4568	2148	2420	
Digital Stations (12)		603	319	284	
Total DTN Digital		5917			
Total Central US		7284			
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager - thanks to NCS stations for statistics					

Central US Nets Activity for July 2024

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 th Call Area	14	64	57	67	0.955
Day 9 th Call Area	14	220	80	72	3.056
Day 10 th Call Area	13	13	65	60	0.217
Night 5 th Call Area**	51	183	154	422	0.434
Night 9 th Call Area	52	323	176	312	1.035
Night 10 th Call Area	57	29	188	272	0.107
Day Central US	14	141	88	262	0.538
Night Central US @	31	513	149	366	1.402
Day Inter-Area Traffic	42	100	42		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	78	261	78		100%
Total Voice/CW Nets		1847	1077	1833	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
KE5YTA Central Area RN5		524	238	286	
N9VC Central Area 9RN/10RN		4872	2177	2695	
Digital Stations (12)		393	194	199	
Total DTN Digital		5789			
Total Central US		7636			

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 inputs for this Newsletter to me, either on the air via TEX or RN5, via Winlink, or via standard Email.

Wishing everyone Good Health and a happy rest of the summer and start of autumn

Until October, 73, Steve K6JT

TEX Newsletter Editor and Statistician

RN5 Corner

RRI Fifth Call Area Net (Daily) 1930 CT on **7106** 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 97 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 June (other than Saturdays, which remain optional). 3 reports were missing in July.

Jack K5WNU, is still out of service due to taking his wife for blind rehab in Biloxi. If and when things improve Jack will be back to help. He did check in a couple times in July.

Jon continues to either check in or control nearly every RN5 session, and along with Sam, is covering Jack's slots. Sam, W5CU, helps by bringing traffic from CAN. Sam is spending a lot of time in Colorado, but still supports TEX/RN5 from there. Sam and Jon are the only ones who take outgoing RN5 traffic to CAN. We need more help with CAN liaisons.

Here is a list of the stations sending NC reports for June and July (in order from earliest date station first reported that month). Thanks to everyone for supporting RN5. NCS slots are still available due to Jack's absence. There are many empty CAN liaison slots.

June: KZ5Z 27, W5CU 15, K6JT 8
July: W5CU 8, KZ5Z 34, K6JT 8, K5RG 1

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. Thanks.

Thanks to all for your support of RN5, especially regulars WA5CAV, W5CU, KZ5Z, K6JT, and K5RG. John KC4FL, Dean W8IM, and Ben KZ8Q, also check in from FL some nights. Dean has checked in many nights on the early session on 40. Still missing Randy, N5RL, who is in rehab from his surgery.

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

K5WNU caring for wife in Biloxi

2024 Statistics

MONTH	June	July
SESSIONS	50	51
QTC	189	183
QNI	169	154
QTR	486	422
AVG QTC	3.8	3.6
AVG QNI	3.4	3.0
AVG QTR	9.7	8.3

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	TX	N5RL	RANDY	TX
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