

7290 TRAFFIC NET 2015 PICNIC SUMMARY

The 7290 Traffic Net picnic was held on May 30 at the SPJST Lodge in Beyersville Texas just outside of Taylor Texas. There was a lot of worry, on my part at least, because of all the flooding that was occurring all of the state. As it turned out the motel that some of us were going to stay in was one of the places flooded. We hurriedly found other rooms for everyone. After all of that, the weekend had perfect weather with no rain at all.

This year's picnic was dedicated to Wally W5WXI of Corrizo Springs. Wally is a long time net member and has been a big help with several things on the net. He was a pilot during WW11 flying over Normandy on D Day. It was good to have Wally and his daughter with us this year.

The Friday night dinner was held at the Sirloin Stockade in Taylor at 6 PM. There were 28 members in attendance and all seemed to have a good time and didn't leave hungry.

We started the day out early on Saturday with coffee and donuts available about 8 AM. Norman AD5EF was there early to help John W5BWC put up the 40 meter antenna so that Norman could call the net from the Lodge. Norman reported a good number of checkins.

By 11 AM there were quite a few net members there and everyone seemed to enjoy the build your own sandwich lunch. It seems this has become a yearly addition to our picnic.

The speakers started at 12 noon with the 7290 Net being the first on the agenda. Many things were discussed including a vote on the location for next year's picnic, the date and the Friday night dinner location. It seems everyone is happy with staying the same, so the 2016 picnic will be held at the same location on May 28, which was the only day in May the lodge was available next year. We will also be going back to the buffet in Taylor for the Friday night dinner. Also discussed was the importance of training and handling traffic even the routine common text traffic. Our Net Treasurer, Jim W5IM, gave us a Treasurer report, we are still in the black. Our Net Secretary, Alan N5MSE, told us about the number of new check ins we've had this year. It's good to have all the new folks joining us.

The next speaker was David K5RAV the W Gulf Division Director. Dr. David always has good information for us and we appreciate his kind words. David and John both told us how important it to let our voices be heard about legislation that affects our hobby.

John N5AUS the W Gulf Division Vice Director was next telling us about the on going legal happenings going on in Austin.

We welcomed a new speaker this year. Nancy K5NLM, the new N Texas Section Manger told us about an experience she had during Katrina that the net helped out with. Nancy had only been Section Manager for a few weeks, so we appreciate her being at the picnic. This was the first time, that I know of, that the N Texas Section Manager has attended our get together.

We appreciate the ARRL leadership for our section coming to our picnic and updating us on important issues. Even though we are in independent net we support them and ARRL so it's appreciated that they come.

Rodney W5DY wore two hats this picnic filling in for Steve K6JT who couldn't be there because of health and family issues. We missed Steve but Rodney did a good job filling in for him. Rodney is not only S Texas Traffic Manager but he is also Assistant Manager for the TEX CW Net.

Sharon KC8EO, the manager of the Texas Traffic Net, was there with her granddaughter and great granddaughter.

On a sad note, Ray N5NAV could not attend this year for the first time we could remember. Ray had double by pass surgery shortly before the picnic and was still recovering in rehab. We patched him in using a cell speaker phone held up to the PA system and everyone yelled Hi Ray. Also Tom W5UFO was in the hospital for a short time and by the time they released him it was too late for him to come. We missed Tom and his ice cream but were glad he's ok and didn't try to make the trip feeling bad. Everyone was disappointed that he was unable to attend and missed his ice cream. Hopefully both Tom and Ray will be able to join us next year.

The Whitney Nugget was presented to Alan N5MSE this year. He is very much deserving of the presentation. Larry N5QGD filled in for Ray reading the Silent Key list and saying the prayer for them. Larry was our Net Chaplain years ago and is a retired minister.

Norman AD5EF did our group picture again this year and came prepared with a ladder so he could get high enough to take the picture of our big group.

The Meyers did their normal good job on the BBQ again this year. We do have the date reserved with them for next year. Gary K5QOW filled in for Ray saying grace before we ate.

With all the clouds that have blessed us with rain the past couple of months, Eric decided to not bring his big telescope and as it turned out no stars were visible because of clouds. There are pictures of a UFO that he brought with him to fly. Hopefully we will have better weather for his star party next year.

I hope all who attended had a good time, I know it was good to see everyone again. Be sure to look at the Picnic Program link to see pictures of Wally W5WXI and hope everyone enjoys the pictures.

See you next year. 73, Jo Ann KA5AZK Net Manager