

7290 TRAFFIC NET 2013 PICNIC SUMMARY

The 2013 7290 Traffic Net Picnic was held at the SPJST Lodge Beyersville just outside of Taylor, TX on April 20, 2013. We had a beautiful cool day.

A Friday night dinner was held, for those coming in early, at the Sirloin Stockade in Taylor with 29 attending. We had a wonderful time and did a lot of laughing in addition to eating. There were several new members with us so we did a roll call to introduce everyone. We thought for a moment that Lynn KNØO forgot his xyl's name but he finally got it. Brian W5YE flew in from Harlingen in his plane, which was a first for our event.

Members started arriving about 7:30 Saturday morning to help with set up. Coffee and donuts were ready shortly thanks to Jean Feeney xyl of KT4KL, who did a super job of keeping the refreshments filled and the coffee coming. The radio table was set up quickly and was ready for Norman to call the net at 10 AM. Norman had 83 check ins and 17 check ins from the Lodge for a total of 100.

The morning was spent setting up and visiting with one another. Since we held the picnic on the same weekend as Belton, the main part of the picnic was altered so that the speakers had time to get from Belton to Taylor. Dr. David K5RAV was unable to attend due to illness but John N5AUS did a good job filling in for him. Lee W5LHC had to work and Walt KE5SOO was unable to attend. Steve K6JT and Rodney W5DY presented the Pfeiffer Pfist Award to Randy N5RL. Congratulations Randy. A certificate of appreciation was given to Jodie K8KP for all his past service to the net. The Picnic was also dedicated to Jodie.

Our attendance was great this year with 74 staying for the BBQ and several others came but couldn't stay. I worried that having the picnic on the same weekend as the Belton Hamfest would keep people from coming, but I believe it helped. People got to attend both on one weekend. There was plenty of food again this year, we even had enough for seconds. Since there were so many of us this year, Norman had a time getting us all in the group photo but he did a great job and got us all in the picture.

The Whitney Nugget is given each year at the picnic to the person that has been a tremendous help and support of the net. The recipient is chosen by the past recipients. This year the Nugget was given to John W5BWC for his work and support behind the scenes. When we had to redo our website, John was the one that put it together for us with input from the officers. He also keeps me on the air and is a sounding board for me also. When we had to find a new picnic site, he went with me to check out sites. Congratulations John.

The Star Party was cold but enjoyable Eric W9GVW reports but apparently there were no sunspots to look at on his sunspot telescope. There are not many lights at our picnic site which makes looking at the stars fun. There were no major problems this year, no water leaks or anything. Jean did report one clogged toilet which she promptly took care of with a plunger. The batteries on my camera ran out was the only thing else that I know of going wrong. Thanks to everyone that sent pictures to bail me out of that problem.

We did vote on a date for next year's picnic but I was reminded later of a big conflict for the date we agreed on, so that date will not work. I am working with Jan, the lady in charge of the building, to set a date for next year. It will be announced as soon as it is confirmed.

I would like to thank everyone that helped make this picnic a great success. Thanks to George K5BMR for being Whitney Nugget Chairman, we hope he can make the picnic one year. Tim K5TGS was our election chairman, thanks Tim.

The most important part of the picnic was the homemade ice cream which was as good as always. Thanks Tom W5UFO for another great job.

Thanks to Norman AD5EF for recording our attendance in pictures and for calling the Net.

The ladies enjoyed another great trip thanks to Aris KB5RXS.

And of course in addition to the ice cream, the coffee was also very important. Jean Feeney did a super job keeping up with the coffee pot.

Jerry KF5KOE handled our talk in for those that needed help finding the lodge. Also thanks to Chuck N5ZAS who gave directions to several people on the telephone. Chuck and his xyl Evelyn even went out and rescued one lost person.

Thanks to Ray N5NAV, our net Chaplain, for grace before dinner and reading the Silent Key list.

Thanks to Eric W9GVW for bringing his telescopes for us to enjoy.

And last but not least, thanks to everyone that came and made this a fun get together. I heard a lot of laughter which makes me think everyone was having fun.

73, Jo Ann KA5AZK
7290 Traffic Net Manager