

46th Annual 7290 Traffic Net Picnic Summary

Another Picnic is behind us. The 46th Annual 7290 Traffic Net picnic was held on May 28, 2016 at the SPJST Lodge in Beyersville just outside of Taylor TX. The picnic this year was dedicated to Charles WB5NGV for all his years of service to the Net. Again this year we had a scare of bad weather with lots of flooding all around Taylor. We were blessed, however, with perfect conditions on Saturday. Even though the Houston and Conroe areas had highways closed due to high water, our members made it though. Mel WD5CAE and Lucky KA5SUR even made it from Louisiana.

Our Friday night get together is growing from just four people to 36 this year. We ate at the Sirloin Stockade Buffet in Taylor again and we had a very big surprise when we tried to pay for our meal, we were told it had all been paid for. An anonymous benefactor had paid the whole bill for all 36 of the members present. It is extremely humbling to me to think that there is someone out there that thinks that much of the Net and the people on it to do something like that. We are very grateful to whoever it was that did such a nice thing for us. They must have made a big impression on the manager of the restaurant because we had the whole back room to our selves and the staff bent over backwards to help us. The members present voted to return again next year.

Coffee and donuts were available for the members on Saturday morning. The Saturday Net was called from the Lodge by George KF5QEZ and Alan N5MSE on one of Jodie's K8KP old radios that John W5BWC had resurrected. New this year was live music provided by some of the net members and xyls, they had a lot of fun. One sad point, Tom W5UFO was unable to be with us this year due to being in the hospital. We hope he is much better by now, we missed him and his wonderful homemade ice cream. The ladies left for an outing around 10 AM and must have had a good time because they were gone a long time. A Treasurer's report was given by our Treasurer, Jim W5IMM and a report on the number of new check ins was given by our Net Secretary Alan N5MSE. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Ray N5NAV for his years of dedication to our net. Ray is giving up his position as Chaplain due to health. Our new Chaplain is Larry N5QGD.

The list of Silent Keys was read and a prayer said for them and their families by Ray N5NAV. The prayer before dinner was asked by Lucky KA5SUR. The group picture was taken by Ron N5TAA this year, who did a very good job at making us all laugh as he took the picture. We all enjoyed a wonderful meal of BBQ brisket and sausage. Eric W9GVW was unable to have his Star Party this year due to clouds moving in but we did get to watch him fly his drone. Be sure to look at the pictures on this site of the view from above.

This year's Whitney Nugget was presented to Newt W5DAD. We congratulate Newt and thank him for his dedication to the net. He couldn't be with us this year so his plaque was mailed to him.

Joining us this year were John N5AUS ARRL W Gulf Division Vice Director, Ron KB5HGM ARRL W TX Section Manager, Lee W5LHC ARRL S TX Section Manager, and Rodney W5DY ARRL S TX Traffic Manager and Assistant Manager for the Tex CW Net. We enjoyed hearing the good information that they all brought us. Rodney filled in for Steve K6JT who couldn't be with us due to family commitments. Steve is Manager of the Tex CW Net and also Chair of the Central Area Staff for the National Traffic System. We feel very honored that we have representatives from ARRL join us each year. Rodney presented the Pfeiffer Pfist award to Jim W5FEA.

Lunch was provided by the Net and it went over so well again this year that we ran out of food. I apologize for that and will bring a meat market next year. Thanks to all that brought all the wonderful deserts.

I want to thank everyone that braved the weather and road conditions to attend this year's get together and all those that helped in the clean up. With everyone pitching in it didn't take long to put the lodge back in the shape we found it and we saved a few dollars in the process. Also a big thanks to the following Net members:

George K5BMR Whitney Nugget Chairman
Newt W5DAD Net Election Chairman
Ron N5TAA Group Picture
Aris KB5RXS Ladies Outing
Peggy & George KF5QEZ Kitchen
Ray N5NAV Silent Key Reading
Lucky KA5SUR Grace before dinner
Eric W9GVW Attempted Star Party
George KF5QEZ & Alan N5MSE Calling the Net from the Lodge
All the ARRL Officials for their attendance

Thoughts from your Manager: I feel it is an honor to be a part of such a wonderful group of people. I have been around the Net for a long time and am amazed at times at the spirit of family that has always been with the group. I hope this spirit never leaves and the yearly picnic continues as a family event. Thanks for letting me be a part of all of this. See you at next year's picnic, which will be on May 27, 2017 at the SPJST Lodge.

73. Jo Ann KA5AZK Net Manager

Treasurer's Report

Here is the report for the 2016 Picnic:

Attendance -----	67
Total reservations & donations collected -----	\$1631.50
Total expenses -----	\$1608.48
Net -----	\$23.02

73
Jim, W5IM