

7290 Traffic Net
Picnic Summary
May 27, 2017

The 47th annual picnic is in the history book and it was another good one. The weather held for a couple of days before it started raining again. It was a picnic of substitutions, illness and cars breaking down but we still had fun.

Tom W5UFO was able to make it this year and he made some wonderful ice cream again. Tom's son, Tommy W5THE , brought him to the picnic and it was nice to meet him.

Dr David K5RAV the ARRL West Gulf Division Director, was unable to make it to the picnic this year due to illness in the family but John N5AUS, the Assistant Director, was there and told us about the happenings in Austin and the ARRL.

Steve K6JT, the TEX CW Net Manager, was unable to make it due to illness in his family but his Assistant Manager, Rodney W5DY, did double duty as S TX Traffic Manager and TEX Asst Manager. Rodney read part of message from Steve.

The Friday night dinner at the Sirloin Stockade was a lot of fun with 26 attending. There was a lot of good fellowship and food.

Lucky KA5SUR and Aris KB5RXS were unable to make it this year due to health problems so Everlyn Weinzirl, N5ZAS xyl, was going to fill in until she starting feeling ill. Since no other YL's were familiar with the areas, they elected to stay at the Lodge and play dominoes.

After a sandwich lunch provided by the net, we had our meeting. In an effort to thank the Net Controls and Alternates for all of their dedication to the net during the very bad band conditions, they were all presented Certificates of Appreciation. They have conducted themselves with dignity and professionalism and we appreciate them. This years Whitney Nugget was presented to George KF5QEZ for his service to the Net and Ham Radio. The plaque that stays with the Net can be seen on the website and George received a plaque to hand on his wall.

Several items were discussed including next years picnic date. They only two dates available at Taylor were May 12 and May 26, 2018. May 12 is Mother's Day weekend and May 26 is Memorial Day weekend. The members present voted to hold the 2018 Picnic on May 12 to avoid the Memorial Day weekend traffic and any school graduations.

Also discussed was the possibility of alternating the picnics between North and South Texas to give all Net members the opportunity to attend the picnic. It was decided that we would meet at the regular location in Taylor next year on May 12, 2018 and in the mean time be looking for a possible site further North. The possible site needs to be handicap assemble, be big enough to hold at least 100 people, preferably with a kitchen, have heat and air conditioning, an enclosed building, and a reasonable usage rent of \$300 or less and available late the Friday before the picnic for set up. Other items needed will be a BBQ catering facility, hotels and eating establishments. A smaller town would be preferable to avoid a lot of traffic. If anyone has any ideas please contact one of the net officers.

Since we have so many new members, a history of the net and the picnic was given. We will be celebrating our 50th year of continuous picnics in a couple of years so it was suggested that we come up with a way to celebrate the occasion. Any ideas should be given to any of the officers.

Jim W5IM was unable to attend the picnic this year due to the death of a very close friend. He and Irma were at the funeral on Saturday. Alan N5MSE filled in for Jim and did a good job. Thank you Alan.

George KF5QEZ called the net from the Lodge and apparently had a good band.

Meyer's Smokhouse did another fine job of catering with some great BBQ. We had around 55 people enjoying the meal. Gary and Becky always enjoy coming to our event because they get to enjoy the ice cream with us.

Tom W5UFO brought library books that were going to be thrown away for everyone to choose from. He had quite a variety of books and most were taken.

Norman AD5EF took our group picture this year, it's always interesting getting everyone in the picture. The picture can be seen on this website. Eric W9GVW to an aerial picture of the group outside with his drone. It was fun to watch.

Mother nature interfered with Eric W9GVW having his star party, there were too many clouds and a front moving in, so the star party for Saturday evening was canceled. Hopefully next year.

This was a year of car troubles also with Ron N5TAA's car having battery problems, Doug NA5YO's car with tire problems, and our van breaking down completely in Tyler. There was quite a show as we were packing up to leave in our rented Tahoe. Those that stayed to help were betting and discussing if everything was going to go back in the Tahoe. It did by the way but just barely. We didn't know our van was bigger than a Tahoe. Everyone made it home safely.

I hope everyone had a good time and will attend again next year. Thanks to all that helped with all parts of the picnic. After a big misunderstanding with the people in charge of the building, we still had a very good time. See you next year.

73,

Jo Ann Keith KA5AZK
7290 Traffic Net Manager