

**SUMMARY OF THE
2018 7290 TRAFFIC NET PICNIC
SPJST LODGE BEYERSVILLE/TAYLOR, TX**

The 48th picnic is behind us and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. We had 45 members in attendance which was down a little from the previous year but not by much. We had several members that had not been to a picnic before in attendance which was exciting to see new faces. Oklahoma and North Texas were represented also.

The unloading and set up went well and quickly Friday evening, with the help of Alan N5MSE and Sheryle. I believe half of the motel we were in was occupied by net members so it was fun going outside and running into them. We had our own little pre picnic party.

The Friday night dinner at the Sirloin Stockade had 25 in attendance. As I sat there looking around at everyone, it amazed me how much fun everyone seemed to be having just visiting and laughing. Even the restaurant manager came into the room and seemed to be enjoying us there. During the Saturday meeting the members voted to meet at the Sirloin Stockade again next year.

Saturday morning started out with coffee and donuts as usual, with coffee being the most important part. The picnic was dedicated to Uncle James N5OUJ who became a Silent Key this year. I believe this had to be one of the first picnics he wasn't there, he was missed. None of the ladies wanted to lead a group on a shopping trip so they just stayed and played games and visited and they seemed to be happy just doing that.

Lunch was provided by the net at 11:30 so no one had to leave to go to town. We ate 2 pounds of ham, 1 pound of turkey and ½ pound of pastrami, several types of cheese and pickles. There was also chips and fruit. It seems like all we did Saturday is eat! Tom's ice cream was ready also for desert.

A group of musicians got together on the patio, including Doug NA5YO and Sheryle Walraven and several others, to play music. So Tom had live music to make his ice cream to.

During the net meeting we discussed where we should meet and when for next year. Everyone agreed to come back to the Lodge again. Three dates were available for next year's get together, May 11 and October 12 and 26. May 11 was chosen. The Lodge books quickly so it's important to reserve it right away.

Totals were given on our activity during Hurricane Harvey and the Net Controls were all presented certificates of appreciation from the Net. Three of the people we worked with during the hurricane were in attendance and Roy WA5YZD from the State Operations Center gave us information about their part of the operation. All three had very high praise for our help and our professionalism running our net. You should all be very proud of our conduct and help. They had been listening to several nets prior to the hurricane and we were picked to help them.

The Whitney Nugget this year was presented to Gary WA5VAS who was very surprised but also very deserving.

Dr. David K5RAV our W Gulf Division Director was not able to attend but John N5AUS the Asst. Director was there telling us the news from ARRL and listened to our concerns. He encouraged us to contact either him or Dr. David if we had any questions or concerns.

Lee W5LHC the out going STX Section Manager was out of town so not able to attend but we welcomed the new SM Paul KE5ZW who gave us some interesting insights into Ham Radio in South Texas.

Rodney W5DY the STX Traffic Manager and Asst Manager TX CW Traffic Net always keeps us laughing during his time at the mic. He had comments about several parts of a piece of traffic. Rodney also read a letter from Steve K6JT the TX CW Net Manger, who could not be with us.

The Silent Key list, which was long this year unfortunately, was read by our Net Chaplain Larry N5QGD and a prayer was said for them.

Our group picture was taken again this year by Norman AD5EF. I found out a long time ago, that the best time to make sure everyone was there for the picture was to take it right before we ate. It works well. As I told someone, you have to get your picture taken or you don't eat. I was really just kidding.

Larry N5QGD said grace before we ate a wonderful dinner of brisket, sausage and all that goes with it. I don't think anyone went away hungry. Of course Tom's ice cream was a wonderful desert and some even put ice cream on top of some of the other deserts others brought. Tom made 10 gallons again this year and we ate about 8. The Lodge people always enjoy his left over ice cream. We appreciate Tom's son, Tommy K5THE, making sure Tom made it to the Lodge.

We had some nice door prizes again this year to top the evening off. Everyone enjoyed more ice cream and visiting after dinner and then pitched in to help clean up, which was very much appreciated. We always avoid the clean up fee by doing it ourselves.

I am very proud and honored to be a part of this great bunch and I appreciate all of you. Keep up the good work and your dedication to our values and procedures. Without that we wouldn't be the Net we are.

73,

Jo Ann Keith KA5AZK

7290 Net Manager

Asst. Dir W Gulf Div ARRL NTS

ARES DEC District 8