

7290 TRAFFIC NET PICNIC
MAY 11, 2019
SUMMARY

It's hard to believe that another picnic is behind us and to me, your net manager, this was the best one ever for some reason which is amazing since they all have been fun.

The 49th annual 7290 Traffic Net picnic was held at the SPJST Lodge on May 11, 2019 in Beyersville/Taylor TX. There were 55 members attending.

The Lodge is very accommodating by letting us set up the building on Friday afternoon, that way everything is ready for Saturday morning. Setting up went very fast this year with the good help of Alan N5MSE and his xyl Sheryle K5TTP.

Saturday morning we started off with our usual coffee and donuts around 8 AM. It seems like all we do at the picnics is eat, but then again that's what it is, a picnic. Alan N5MSE and Mary KE5LTA called our Net from a corner in the kitchen area.

Our members started drifting in and the good fellowship started. About 11:30 we had a lunch of make your own sandwiches. Everyone must have been hungry since we ate 4 lbs of ham, 3 lbs of turkey and a pound of salami, plus pickles, fruit and a vegetable tray. Tea, water, soft drinks and coffee finished it off. Thanks to the ladies that cleaned up the kitchen and got things ready for the BBQ catering later on.

Our programs started after lunch at 1 PM with our Net meeting. The picnic this year was dedicated to Rodney W5DY in appreciation of his years of support to the Net and Ham Radio. We were honored again this year by the ARRL officials and the TX State Operations Center officials attending. They were all introduced. I consider this a great honor since we are an independent Net. Our Net Officers attending were introduced and had their picture taken. Trivia was given on the beginnings of the Net with Hubert W5ZIN being our first elected manager.

The group seemed to all agree that we needed to move the picnic from Mother's Day weekend. Alan N5MSE gave a secretary's report with info on our amazing number of new check ins. Our Treasurer, Jim W5IM, gave a report on our finances. He was really teased on the pink computer he was using (his wife's really) but everyone enjoyed teasing him.

Our Net Controls surprised your Net Manager by saying some very nice things about me and presenting me with a cordless headset so I can do housework and still listen to the Net. Alan N5MSE seemed to be the ring leader in this but had the Net Controls come forward, I think for protection since he ordered me to a chair while he said all the nice

words. I wasn't sure what he had in mind but I obeyed! I found out that my hubby can still keep things from me after 52 years. I am so very humbled by the Net Controls thinking enough of me to give me this honor, the Net has given far more to me than I've given to it. It is an honor to be a part of such a fantastic group.

Next to speak was our new ARRL W Gulf Division Director, John N5AUS. He always has interesting things to tell us about ARRL and the goings on in Connecticut. We are very appreciative to Dr. David K5RAV the outgoing Director for all of his support of the Net and Ham Radio over the years.

Our new Assistant Director, Lee W5LHC, was next on the agenda with some interesting information. Our new S TX Section Manager, Paul KE5ZW was next to speak about his new position. He brought some nice door prizes also.

Rodney W5DY was able to attend after his stay in the hospital. Rodney is not only the S TX Traffic Manager but is the TX CW Traffic Net Manager. We are always happy to see Rodney and to hear what he has to say.

Next was Roy WA5YZD from the TX SOC. This is the second year Roy and his group have come to our gathering. We appreciate them coming and enjoyed hearing about the SOC. Roy also brought some slides about the remodeling of the SOC for us to see.

The Whitney Nugget was presented next. In all the years I have been associated with the Net I have never seen a unanimous vote from the prior recipients on their selection. This year's recipient was Mary KE5LTA. Mary is a very good example of what our net is all about and is always willing to help out. A very good and worthy choice.

Our Net Chaplain, Larry N5QGD, read the list of Silent Keys and asked for comments about them. We have lost too many good members.

Norman AD5EF was there to take the group picture. This is always a trick to get everyone in the picture but he does it. He rigged up an unusual way to set up his camera, we Hams can really improvise. A picture of his masterpiece is on the picture page.

At 4 PM it was time to line up for our catered BBQ dinner after Larry N5QGD said grace. The BBQ was again from Meyers Smokehouse in Elgin and again was fantastic.

We had so many door prizes donated by our members that we were able to take two things when your name was called. Thanks to all of those that donated. Years ago this started out as white elephants as prizes for the Bingo game that Dean and Maybelle Davis ran as part of the picnic. There were some unusual white elephants brought

back then.

I hope everyone had as much fun as I did. There was a lot of laughter and very good fellowship which is what the picnic is all about. By the way, if you haven't heard, pictures from this year's picnic are on the Net's website on the Photo page.

In keeping with the wishes of the members, we did manage to move next year's picnic from Mother's Day weekend. After consulting with the lady that runs the lodge reservations we came up with a date of June 6, 2020. The Lodge was booked for the whole month of April, May 2 was taken with the rest of May available. However, May 16 is the same weekend as the Hamvention in Ohio and the rest of the month was too close to graduations. So to keep us from meeting to far into hurricane season I choose June 6.

Next year is our 50th consecutive picnic, so we are needing ideas of something special we can do. If you think of something please let one of the officers know and we will consider it.

Thanks to all of you that attended and made this a fun picnic and hope to see many more of you next year.

Jo Ann KA5AZK
7290 Traffic Net Manager