



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

MARCH 2013

WWW.K5GCC.US

VOL. 19, No. 3

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

It's been a pretty slow month for the club as weather hasn't been cooperating. It rained most of the day on Saturday the 9th during the fox hunt so the turnout was pretty low. I'm looking forward to the warmer weather we have ahead of us and some more fox hunts. We have our annual Perrin Field special event station coming up in May and we will need volunteers to help set up, tear down, and to operate radios. I've been thinking about setting up a digital station along with SSB phone this year. Contact me or Jeannie (KF5PDM) if you're interested.

Moe Knight (NT7C) and Wade Graves (KF5AUD) have been hard at work teaching their tech license class. Congratulations to all the newly licensed hams.

Please visit the [Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Calendar](#) to stay in the loop of the different activities.

I look forward to seeing you at the next club meeting on March 15th at the Grayson County Courthouse where Troy Martin (K5CBL) will be showing us how to build a 160m antenna.

If you have **ANY** comments, questions, concerns, or ideas...Please contact me at bencsly@gmail.com

Thank You,

Ben Sly (KF5OEB)



"It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to so conduct club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community."

From the GCARC Constitution

CLUB INFORMATION

2013 OFFICERS

President: Ben Sly KF5OEB
Vice President: Harold Peeples KF5IPP
Secretary: Brad McMillon KE5UMJ
Treasurer: Brad McMillon KE5UMJ
Activity Director: Jeannie Dopson KF5PDM
Trustee: James Hunt KI5DQ

MEETINGS

When: 3rd Friday of each month
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Grayson County Courthouse
2nd Floor Assembly Room
100 W. Houston Street
Sherman, TX 75090
GPS: 33.38.18N, 96.36.59W

MAILING ADDRESS

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club
718 Highway 82 E, # 198
Sherman, Texas 75090

NEWSLETTER

Published: Monthly
Editor: Michael Bernier KF5NPM
To Submit News or to Add/Remove from E-Mail List: Send E-Mail to KF5NPM@GMAIL.COM
Submission Deadline: 12 midnight on the Saturday prior to each monthly meeting

WEBSITE

Address: WWW.K5GCC.US
Webmaster: Jim Hubbell N5COP

ARES AND SKYWARN PATCHES

ARES and SKYWARN patches may be purchased from Brad KE5UMJ at each club meeting. Cost is \$4.00 each. If you choose to wear patches on your club shirt or jacket, the ARES patch should be placed on the right shoulder and any other patch (SKYWARN, RACES, CERT, etc.) should go below it. Since some members have tactical shirts with pen pockets on the left sleeve we do not recommend placing any patches on that side.

CLUB CLOTHING ORDERS

Several times each year, members have the opportunity to purchase club-related clothing (shirts, caps, jackets, etc.). These items have the GCARC logo and the member's name and callsign embroidered on them. An order form with instructions will be included in the newsletter each time orders are being taken.

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Starting Balance 1/31/2013	\$601.67
Cash On Hand	\$0.00
Deposits	+ \$0.00
Expenses	- \$33.00
Ending Balance 2/28/2013	<u>\$568.67</u>

NOTES:
Deposits: None
Expenses: Returned check (\$33.00)

Brad McMillon KE5UMJ
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

GCARC MEETING MINUTES

GCARC Meeting, 15 February 2013

Call to order by president Ben Sly KF5OEB at 1902 hours. Ben welcomed members and guests (18 hams and 3 guests). Motion made by Bill KK5RW, second by Wade KF5AUD to approve January meeting minutes and treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Old business:

- Club patches have been ordered and due to be received by Rick K5ECX in the next few days.

New Business:

- Announcement that Troy from the Durant Club will be giving a presentation on the 160 meter antenna at the March meeting, and Kenneth Eppler also from Durant will be giving a APRS presentation in May.
- Discussion on the Rookie Roundup.
- Discussion on using APRS at the Kiwanis bike rally in August. Donald W5DWH has offered to loan 2 trackers for the event.

The meeting was then turned over to AB5NX and K5YM for a presentation on contesting.

No further business was presented to the club and motion moved to adjourn at 2036 hours by Jeannie KF5PDM, second by Wade KF5AUD. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned.

Next Club Meeting will be March 15, 2013 at 1800 hours at the Grayson County Courthouse, 2nd floor assembly room.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad McMillon
KE5UMJ
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

**NOTE: IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR CLUB DUES FOR 2013, YOU'RE LATE!
BRING YOUR DUES TO THE NEXT MEETING OR MAIL THEM ASAP TO THE
CLUB ADDRESS LISTED ON PAGE 2.**

ATTENTION FACEBOOK USERS!

DID YOU KNOW GCARC HAS ITS OWN FACEBOOK PAGE? VISIT US AT
[HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/K5GCC/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC/)

CLUB MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Meetings

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC)

3rd Friday at 7:00pm CT

Grayson County Courthouse 2nd floor assembly room, 100 West Houston Street, Sherman TX

<http://www.k5gcc.us>

Cooke County Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)

2nd Thursday at 7:00pm CT

Cooke County Library, 200 S. Weaver Street, Gainesville TX

<http://www.gainesvillehamfest.org/ccarc.htm>

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC)

3rd Saturday at 9:00am CT

First Presbyterian Church, corner of 9th Street and Center Street, Bonham TX

<http://www.k5frc.org>

McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC)

2nd Tuesday at 7:00pm CT

Spring Creek Barbecue, 1993 North Central Expressway, McKinney TX

<http://www.mckinneyarc.org>

Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Chapter 41

1st Saturday at 11:00am CT

Midway Point Restaurant, 12801 Midway Road, Dallas TX

<http://www.texasqcwa41.org>

Special Event Stations

Perrin Field / Armed Forces Day Special Event Station

May 18, 2013

Perrin AFB Museum, 436 McCullum Avenue, Denison TX 75020

Hamfests

Weatherford (Parker County) Hamfest

March 23, 2013

Couts Memorial Methodist Church, 802 North Elm St., Weatherford, TX 76085

Talk-In: 147.040+ (PL 110.9)

Contact: Elizabeth Hunkele N5ONE eliz@mesh.net

<http://www.w5pc.org>

East Texas Regional Amateur Radio Tailgate Sale

April 6, 2013

LeTourneau University, 2100 South Mobberly Ave., Longview, TX 75601

Talk-In: 147.340 (PL 136.5)

Contact: Todd Hoover N5TJH hoover_tj@yahoo.com

<http://letarc.org>

Belton HamEXPO

April 20, 2013 7:00am-2:00pm (ARRL VE test session starts at 9:30am)

Bell County Expo Center, 301 West Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513

Talk-In: 146.820- (PL 123.0)

Contact: Mike LeFan WA5EQQ mlefan@lefan.com

<http://www.beltonhamexpo.org>

Ham-Com

Exhibits/Vendors: June 7-8, 2013 9:00am-6:00pm

ARRL VE & GROL test sessions: Friday 11:00am-5:00pm, Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm

Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano TX 75074

<http://www.hamcom.org>

Contests

ARRL Rookie Roundup – April 21st (RTTY)

The Rookie Roundup is a contest aimed at Amateurs licensed for three years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April, August and December). Rookies can contact anybody, while “Old Timers” make contact with only Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event!

For more information, visit <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

Check the [Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Calendar](#) for additional contests and activities.

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS OF INTEREST

Fox Hunting Report

Our Fox Hunt on March 9th was less than ideal. Rained most of the time and the turnout was very low. Doesn't surprise me because of the bad weather. So...we wrapped up things early and called it a day about 1:30.

I'm thinking we'll have to do a repeat of this hunt in a few weeks when we can expect clear and sunny skies and warm temps. Thanks Stacy KF5RAY for all your help!

Lee KF5OED

Florida Hams Prove Ham Radio Works When Cell Phones Don't

After a day of exploring the Green Swamp Wildlife Management Area -- which covers 50,692 protected acres in Florida's Lake, Polk and Sumter Counties -- with his grandson, Joe Cody, KE4WDP, of Winter Haven, Florida, saw that the roads were flooding and becoming hazardous. As he tried to drive out of the area, Cody's small pick-up truck got bogged down in the mud. Since he was out of cell phone range, Cody tried calling for help on the Dade City 146.880 repeater. Richard Parker, KF4ORW, of Dade City, Florida, heard the call and answered.

After hearing the situation, Parker called 911 in Pasco County, who put him in touch with the dispatch in neighboring Polk County. Cody passed his location on to Parker, who in turn passed it on to the Polk County Sheriff's Office. “Polk County 911 took over trying to get help,” Parker said. “They called me back several times for more information and I was able to relay information from Joe to them. Then Ted Bulmanski, W4TKB, who is also from Dade City, started monitoring and copying Joe's information.”

About 30 minutes later, Parker saw a helicopter fly over and around Cody's position, and after another 30 minutes, Cody radioed back on the repeater, saying he was on his way home -- thanks to a Lake County Deputy in a Sheriff's Office truck that had a winch. “We learned that Joe was eight miles inside Lake County,” Parker explained. “That's why the Lake County Sheriff's Office responded instead of the Polk County authorities. The Polk County Sheriff's Office called me back to say that the helicopter from Lake County found the truck inside Lake County and sent both a deputy from Lake County, as well as a Fish and Game Officer and winched him out of the mud. They called me back to thank us for assisting the stranded pair. Ham radio still works when other forms of communications don't.”

(originally featured in the ARRL Letter 3/6/2013)

LOCAL RADIO NETS

Weekly

Scout Ham Net

Tuesdays 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater. This net is designed for all Scouts, Adult Leaders, and active Merit Badge counselors who are Amateur Radio operators.

Fannin County ARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays 9:00pm CT on the 145.130- (100.0 PL) repeater.
This is an informal information net.

McKinney 6 meter AM Net

Wednesdays 10:00pm CT on 50.400MHz

Ladies Net

Thursdays 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.
Net Control Operator: Linda KE5YUC

McKinney Info Net

Sundays 8:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.

Semi-Monthly

Grayson County ARC Information Net

1st & 3rd Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.
This is an informal information net and Buy/Sell/Swap net.

Grayson County ARES Net

2nd & 4th Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.
This is a directed information net used for training.

Monthly

North Texas ARES HF Net

2nd Wednesday at 8:30pm CT on 3.860 MHz LSB
This is an information net open to all ARES members in the ARRL North Texas (NTX) Section.

McKinney ARES Net

2nd Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.

AREA REPEATERS

Sherman TX

147.000+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT
147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL)	W5COP
444.750- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT

Bonham TX

145.470- MHz (no PL)	K5FRC
145.130- MHz (no PL)	K5FRC
443.750+ MHz (no PL)	K5FRC

Durant OK

147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL)	K5KIE
147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL)	K5CGE
146.985- MHz (118.8 PL)	K5BQG

Gainesville TX

147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI
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McKinney TX

146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI

Melissa TX

443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
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Rosston TX

145.490- MHz (88.5 PL)	WD5U
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Van Alstyne TX

443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
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Please send additions, changes, or corrections to
kf5npm@gmail.com

GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX

Grayson County ARRL EC

At the ARES AEC meeting in February a great deal of planning was done for the next several months. We talked over operations procedures for SKYWARN and disaster situations, comparing and noting differences in the two. This resulted in our planning for upcoming nets and refinement of our face to face meetings. The activities to follow will be devoted to the operational aspects of ARES.



First, the Nets:

- March 10th - Messages are what we communicate, and are our reason to “be there” when all else fails.
- March 24th - Topic is on non-SKYWARN activations: what to do, how we are to operate and where to go.
- April 14th - Topic will involve simplex relaying and messaging. We will need two additional Net control ops, one north of U.S. 82 and one south. An explanation of our procedure will be made and we will QSY; be ready to tune your radio to simplex frequencies 147.52 or 147.56. Once we return to 147.00 we will debrief the experience.
- April 28th - We will practice a simulated missing person deployment. About 8:45 pm prior to the NET a text will be sent to all ARES members stating the training topic for the evening is a simulated missing person deployment, all ops will be asked to monitor 147.00 for further instructions.

Now, for the face to face events:

- March 26th - Review of local Net operations, practices for SKYWARN and disaster response. We will review various Nets, Simplex operations and deployments.
- May 28th (Memorial Day week) - Our topic will be HF operations and Nets. A panel discussion will be held with the goal to aid our membership in developing HF knowledge. Hopefully this will cause some of you to ask questions such as the How do I's, What do I's, and Why should I's. Please note: since the Sunday before this meeting is Memorial Day weekend, that Net will be short and include a tribute to veterans, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

And then some real Ham radio fun:

- June 15th - SPECIAL DRILL: Scout CERT graduation and ARES exercise.
This will be held at Camp James Ray near Pottsville on Saturday from 8am until about 1pm. The drill will be concerning a lost Scout, and ARES will deploy to assist CERT. Opportunities abound to test our preparedness - 2 meter communications, UHF portable repeater ops, Net utilizations (Command, Staging, Tactical), HSMM-Mesh operations, Winlink and various communications back to the EOC as it will also be operational for the event.

As you can see we had a productive evening with lots of ideas, and I hope our ARES members will find this upcoming work interesting, fun and useful.

Thanks for your interest in making ARES a great service to our communities.

73

Rick K5ECX