



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

MAY 2013

WWW.K5GCC.US

VOL. 19, No. 5

## THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

Spring is here and it's time for some activities.

We have our annual Perrin Field special event station coming up this Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> and we still need volunteers to help set up, tear down, and to operate radios. This is a great opportunity for new hams to get on the HF bands and old timers to show us how it's done. Come on out and join the fun. This is what it's all about. Field Day is also right around the corner on June 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> and we will need plenty of participation for that as well. There will be a ton of food, friends and fun.

This past Friday we had an informal gathering at Braum's on 75 and had a great time. I feel this was very successful, so we will be doing it again.

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

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next club meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Grayson County Courthouse where Kenneth Eppler (AB5CC) will give a presentation on APRS. If you have ANY comments, questions, concerns, or ideas...Please contact me at [bencsly@gmail.com](mailto: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

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## CLUB INFORMATION

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### 2013 OFFICERS

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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

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When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month  
Time: 7:00pm (1900 hours)  
Location: Grayson County Courthouse  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Assembly Room  
100 W. Houston Street  
Sherman, TX 75090  
GPS: 33.38.18N, 96.36.59W

### MAILING ADDRESS

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

### NEWSLETTER

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

### WEBSITE

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Address: [WWW.K5GCC.US](http://WWW.K5GCC.US)  
Webmaster: Jim Hubbell N5COP

### GCARC, ARES, AND SKYWARN PATCHES

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GCARC club patches are now available and may be purchased from Brad KE5UMJ at each club meeting; cost is \$5.00 each. These are round patches with the club logo, and are great for wearing on vests and other non-club clothing, placing on equipment bags and go-kits, etc.

ARES and SKYWARN patches may also be purchased from Brad 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

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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.

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## GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

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Starting Balance 3/31/2013	\$706.67	<b>NOTES:</b>
Cash On Hand	\$0.00	<u>Deposits:</u> none
Deposits	+ \$0.00	<u>Expenses:</u> none
Expenses	- \$0.00	
Ending Balance 4/30/2013	\$706.67	

Brad McMillon KE5UMJ  
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

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## GCARC MEETING MINUTES

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### GCARC Meeting, 19 April 2013

Call to order by president Ben Sly KF5OEB at 1859 hours. Ben welcomed members and guests. (21 hams and 1 guest). Pam Simmons (Rick K5ECX's spouse) gave info on new GCARC clothing order. Meet and greet by members and guests. Call back to order at 1904 hours. Motion made by Jeannie KF5PDM, second by Ryan KF5PDK to approve last month's meeting minutes and treasurer's report. Brad KE5UMJ read treasurer's report. Motion passed.

#### Old business:

- Durant new ham class. Update given by Ben KF5OEB.
- Ham 101 class at Grayson College. Info given by Wade KF5AUD.
- Rookie Roundup.
- Red River Bridge War – July 13, 2013. Discussion on renting canopy at West Burns Run, holding event out at airport or using an air conditioned trailer. Motion moved by David KC0EHR that the club will pay \$50.00 to rent the canopy out at West Burns Run. Second by Jim KI5DQ. Motion passed.
- Field Day – June 22-23, 2013. Discussion on using Terminal building at Sherman Municipal airport. Refreshments. Discussion moved to next month's meeting.
- Bike Rally
- Perrin Field Event – May 18, 2013. Update given by Ben KF5OEB.

Presentation on Ham Shack Safety by Lee KF5OED.

No further business presented to the club and motion moved to adjourn at 2016 hours by Jeannie KF5PDM, second by Bill KK5RW. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned.

Next club meeting will be May 17, 2013 at 1900 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.**

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#### ATTENTION FACEBOOK USERS!

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

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## CLUB MEETINGS, LOCAL ACTIVITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Club Meetings

#### **Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 7:00pm CT

Grayson County Courthouse 2<sup>nd</sup> floor assembly room, 100 West Houston Street, Sherman TX

<http://www.k5gcc.us>

#### **Cooke County Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00pm CT

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

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

#### **Durant Amateur Radio Club (DARC)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00pm CT

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

#### **Fannin County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 9:00am CT

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX

<http://www.k5frc.org>

#### **McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC)**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 11:00am CT

Midway Point Restaurant, 12801 Midway Road, Dallas TX

<http://www.texasqcwa41.org>

### **ARES® / SKYWARN®**

#### **Grayson County ARES® Training**

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each odd-numbered month (Jan / Mar / May / Jul / Sep / Nov) at 7:00pm CT

Sherman Municipal Airport Terminal Building, 1200 S. Dewey Ave., Sherman TX

<http://www.tecoares.org>

### **VE Testing Sessions**

#### **Texoma VE Team – Bi-Monthly Testing**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each even-numbered month (Feb / Apr / Jun / Aug / Oct / Dec) at 7:00pm CT

Sherman Municipal Airport Terminal Building, 1200 S. Dewey Ave., Sherman TX

Contact: Moe NT7C (903) 564-7115 or [nt7c@arrl.net](mailto:nt7c@arrl.net)

#### **Durant Amateur Radio Club – Monthly Testing**

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 8:00pm CT (following the DARC monthly meeting)

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

Contact: Jim Harmon ([jharmon@netcommander.com](mailto:jharmon@netcommander.com))

#### **Texoma Amateur Radio Association – Monthly Testing**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month at 2:00pm CT

The Java Stop Café, 5700 North FM 1417, Sherman TX

Contact: Dave K5YM (281) 743-7478

#### **Fannin County Amateur Radio Club – Appointment-Only Testing**

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX

Contact David WA0URJ ([wa0urj@yahoo.com](mailto:wa0urj@yahoo.com)) to schedule a session

### **GCARC Club Events**

#### **Perrin Field / Armed Forces Day Special Event Station**

May 18, 2013

Perrin AFB Museum, 436 McCullum Avenue, Denison TX 75020

### **ARRL Field Day**

June 22-23, 2013

Sherman Municipal Airport Terminal Building, 1200 S. Dewey Ave., Sherman TX

### **Red River Bridge War**

July 13, 2013

West Burns Run Campground Pavilion, Cartwright OK

### **Hamfests**

#### **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>

#### **Oklahoma Ham Holiday**

Exhibits/Vendors: July 26, 2013 3:00pm-7:00pm; July 27, 2013 8:00am-3:00pm

ARRL VE testing: Saturday 9:00am-11:00am

Bricktown Hotel & Convention Center, 2001 E. Reno Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK

<http://www.hamholiday.com>

### **Contests**

#### **ARRL Kids Day**

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 1800 UTC – 2359 UTC (12:00pm – 5:59pm CT)

Kids Day is an on-air event to encourage young people (licensed or not) to have fun with Amateur Radio. It is designed to give on-the-air experience to youngsters and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own.

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

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## **AMATEUR RADIO NEWS OF INTEREST**

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### **Fox Hunting**

We did have a Fox Hunt on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> at Sory Elementary School & Herman Baker Park in Sherman. Having two Foxes to find does make it more interesting and fun. The Fox that was hidden at Herman Baker Park was challenging for some of our members because it required a little bit of a hike on the side of a hill. We'll do our best to minimize the physical challenges on future Fox Hunts.

Our next Fox Hunt will be held at Perrin Field on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. We'll be doing that as well as the Special Event station. So, if you get tired of talking on the radio you can go find one of the Foxes. We would like to invite anyone that is interested to try Fox Hunting. We'll have radios and antennas available and be able to show those who don't know how Fox Hunting works how to find those little devils. You don't even need to be a licensed ham radio operator, so invite your friends and neighbors, grandkids, etc. to come on out and give it a try.

73  
Lee  
KF5OED

### **Hurricane Watch Net Seeks New Members For Net Control Stations**

With the 2013 hurricane season approaching, the National Hurricane Center ([NHC](#)) in Miami and the Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) are gearing up for what could be a very active storm season. In preparation for the upcoming season, the HWN is currently seeking new members who can serve as net control stations.

The HWN provides on-the-ground, real-time weather data from Amateur Radio operators who volunteer their time to monitor their calibrated home weather stations. The stations report that data to the HWN, who in turn reports it to [WX4NHC](#), the Amateur Radio station at the NHC. “The Hurricane Watch Net relies on volunteer operators -- our members -- who serve as our net control stations,” HWN Net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, told the ARRL. “HWN members are hams who have above-average stations, are capable of effectively conducting HF net operations and are willing to commit their time to operating in support of the HWN’s mission during net activations. The net sessions can be long and, at times, very stressful.”

The HWN primarily operates on 14.325 MHz, but Graves said that given the current solar activity, the HWN is looking for new members who can help with net control station duties on the low end of the 40 meter phone band. “If 20 meters goes away, we lose the ability to effectively communicate with our reporting stations or the NHC,” he said. “By expanding our operation to 40 meters, we can easily change over when propagation changes.”

Graves told the ARRL that the HWN is especially looking for new members with stations that can effectively communicate with Central America and the Caribbean, Mexico, the Gulf Coast, the East Coast and South Texas. “As we head into the 2013 hurricane season, we’re looking for qualified amateurs who are located anywhere within North America or the Caribbean,” he said. “We are also looking for bilingual hams. We recognize that some Latin American operators hesitate to check in and send reports to us if they aren’t fluent in English, so we’re also interested in hearing from hams who are fluent in both Spanish and English. When we’re working storms that are either affecting or threatening areas where Spanish is the language of choice, we always try to have one or more bilingual HWN members on hand to help with reporting.”

While HWN membership is required to serve as a net control station, radio amateurs do not need to be an HWN member in order to participate as an HWN reporting station that provides observed or measured weather reports, or relay assistance as required by HWN net control. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Hurricane Watch Net, please visit the [Membership Information page](#) on the [HWN website](#).

The Hurricane Watch Net is activated either at the request of the National Hurricane Center and/or when an Atlantic basin hurricane is within 300 miles of landfall. Although hurricanes can happen any time of the year, hurricane season for the Atlantic and Caribbean runs from June 1-November 30, and usually peaks anywhere from late August through September. The Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15-November 30.

Originally Published in *The ARRL Letter*, May 9, 2013

## **Changes to FCC Radiotelegraph Operator Certificates Coming May 20**

Effective May 20, 2013, the FCC will no longer accept applications for First (T1), Second (T2) or Third Class (T3) Radiotelegraph Operator Certificates. In addition, the FCC has consolidated the T1 and T2 Radiotelegraph Operator Certificates into a new license class called the Radiotelegraph Operator License (T). According to the FCC, this change takes effect upon renewal: T1s and T2s that are renewed on or after May 20, 2013 will be renewed as Ts, but existing T1s and T2s will retain their current license class for the duration of the current license term. The Commission also consolidated the T3 with Marine Radio Operator Permits (MP); T3s renewed on or after May 20, 2013 will be renewed as MPs, but existing T3s will retain their current license class for the duration of the current license term.

These new rules were first announced in a Report and Order (WT Docket No. 10-177), issued January 8, 2013.

Originally Published in *The ARRL Letter*, April 25, 2013

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## LOCAL RADIO NETS

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### Weekly

#### **Durant ARC Weekly Net**

Tuesdays 7:00pm CT on the 147.390+ (118.8 PL) repeater.

No net on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month due to the DARC monthly meeting.

#### **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– (no 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 ARC Info Net**

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

### Semi-Monthly

#### **Grayson County ARC Information Net**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.

This is a directed information net used for training.

#### **RACES Command Net Check**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 2:00pm CT on 7.255 MHz LSB

This is a RACES Command Net check for statewide RACES Command Net members ONLY. All other Amateur stations are welcome to listen, but DO NOT check in!

### Monthly

#### **North Texas ARES HF Net**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 146.740– (110.9 PL) repeater.

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## AREA REPEATERS

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#### **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

#### **Gainesville TX**

147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)

WB5FHI

#### **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

#### **Rosston TX**

145.490– MHz (85.4 PL)

WD5U

#### **Van Alstyne TX**

443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)

W5VAL



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## GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

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### Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX  
Grayson County ARRL EC



#### OPPORTUNITIES!!

The past few weeks have had many opportunities. You know those, the boss shows up and says “I have an opportunity for you.” Our ARES group has been the recipient of that statement lately.

The ARES Nets have had a ginormous (yes, it’s a word - I heard it on TV) level of check ins, and we continue to give ops a chance to try out as Net control and continuing to raise our level of capability. Our MESH group continues to amaze with the new techniques and methods to use radio, computers and electronic devices. Think Mars rovers, just smaller.

The AECs are planning for May and July training sessions. May will include a discussion of HF operations, so be sure to gather up any questions you have about operations, equipment and how-to’s. Our panel of experts will try to shed some electrons on the topic.

At the end of April we participated in the North Texas Section ARES Spring Exercise. I need to apologize right up front on this one. It was the first time I had the opportunity to be involved in such an event and didn't communicate the particulars to everyone as well as I should have. That said, we did have over 15 participants, held a local 2 meter net, made contacts on Winlink to McKinney, Regional Operations and MARS stations. We also had a more than robust HF level of participation, meeting all the goals set for the exercise. Next time I promise to do a better job of sharing the frequencies, times and requirements for the exercise with the overall group to raise our effectiveness. We did experience a failure of a repeater during the event and everyone handled that very well! Actually, it was not a failure but a mistakenly-pushed button on the repeater controller by a repairman working on other collocated radio equipment. It was not discovered until the night before and was fixed by noon the day of the event, just after we finished.

We have more opportunities coming. Memorial Day weekend will see ARES working with the Grayson County OEM in support of a large public event called Life Light near Bells. A lot of details are to be worked out. As the plan unfolds I will advise you as needed. In June the first-ever Scout Camp CERT team will graduate at Camp James Ray and ARES will participate, offering radio communications. I hope you will have a chance to work this, if it's like other graduations in the past it'll be a lot of fun and good experience. I can't help it – “Be Prepared.”

And then later in June there is ARRL's Field Day. I hope you will support it and look to GCARC to lead the way on that planning. This event is another great opportunity to enjoy this hobby we call Amateur Radio.

Thank you for all you do, your interest and work to make ARES a viable tool to support the communities in which we live.

73  
Rick K5ECX