

# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

JULY 2013 WWW.K5GCC.US Vol. 19, No. 7

# THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All.

We had a great time at Field Day 2013!! I was impressed with the amount of operators we had manning the radios. We made a total of 182 contacts on SSB, 231 contacts on PSK31, and were on the air for the entire 24hrs with no technical issues at all. I want to thank everybody for making field day possible and a fun event. Great job guys!!

This last Saturday was the Red River Bridge War at West Burns Run and that was an excellent location. Thanks to Tim KF5RAX and Stacy KF5RAY for bringing their trailer for the club to use, we remained nice and cool in the air conditioning. The only small technical problem we had was a tripped breaker at the RV hook-up but that was quickly resolved. On the air time was cut short to 7 hours due to band conditions dying on 15 meters and contester's taking up most of the 20 meter band. 161 contacts were made on SSB and 67 contacts made on PSK31. Again, Great job everyone.

Next up is the Kiwanis Bike Rally on August 10th. The Kiwanis waved our sponsorship fee and the club name and logo will be on all posters and t-shirts. Thanks Jeannie! We passed the hat around at the Red River Bridge War and collected \$55 as a donation to the Kiwanis and the Red River Bridge War and collected \$55 as a donation to the Kiwanis and the Red River Bridge War and collected \$55 as a donation to the Kiwanis and the Red River Bridge War and collected \$55 as a donation to the Kiwanis and the Red River Bridge War and collected \$55 as a donation to the Kiwanis and the Red River Bridge War and collected \$55 as a donation to the Kiwanis and the Red River Bridge War and collected \$55 as a donation to the Kiwanis and the Red River Bridge War and collected \$55 as a donation to the Kiwanis and the Red River Bridge War and the Red River Bridge War and collected \$55 as a donation to the Kiwanis and the Red River Bridge War and the Re

passed the hat around at the Red River Bridge War and collected \$55 as a donation to the Kiwanis and we'll pass the hat again at the meeting. We still need help with this event, so please contact Jeannie KF5PDM or myself if you would like to help. It's really quite fun and a great opportunity for us to support our community.

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 July 19th at the Grayson County Courthouse. If you have ANY comments, questions, concerns, or ideas, please contact me at <a href="mailto:bencsly@gmail.com">bencsly@gmail.com</a>

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 James Hunt KI5DQ Trustee:

# **MAILING ADDRESS**

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

#### WEBSITE

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

#### **MEETINGS**

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month When: 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

#### NEWSLETTER

Published: Monthly via e-mail

Editor: Michael Bernier KF5NPM

To Submit News Send E-Mail to

or to Add/Remove KF5NPM@GMAIL.COM

from E-Mail List:

Submission 12 midnight on the Saturday Deadline: prior to each monthly meeting

# GCARC, ARES, AND SKYWARN PATCHES

GCARC club patches are 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**

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

None

Starting Balance 5/31/2013 \$1,088.67 **NOTES:** Cash On Hand Deposits: \$0.00

**Deposits** + \$0.00 Expenses: Field Day food, shelter rental, clothing order,

**Expenses** - \$456.77 returned debit

\$631.90

Brad McMillon KE5UMJ GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

Ending Balance 5/31/2013

# **GCARC MEETING MINUTES**

## GCARC Meeting, 21 June 2013

Call to order by president Ben Sly KF5OEB at 1904 hours. Motion made by Rick K5ECX, second by Shelia KF5TDP to approve last month's meeting minutes and Treasurer's report. Brad KE5UMJ read the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

#### Old Business:

- Aerobatic Competition. Ben gave update. Motion made by Jeannie KF5PDM, Second by Sheila KF5TDP to participate in the International Aerobatic Competition on October 19, 2013. Motion passed.
- Denison Main Street Festival. Discussion by club on getting a booth. Cost is \$50.00. Motion made by Jim KI5DQ, Second by Jeannie KF5PDM to put information in newsletter and table until next month's club meeting. Motion passed.
- Eisenhower Special Event Station. Update by Jeannie KF5PDM.
- Field Day 2013. Discussion of food for 6pm dinner. Setup will be at 9:00am and will be on the air at 1:00pm. Discussion on what antennas will be set up and what radios will be brought up and operated.

#### New Business:

• Kiwanis Bike Rally. Discussion of Donation to Kiwanis Children Charity of \$250.00. Motion made by Shelia KF5TDP, Second by Jeannie KF5PDM. Motion failed. More club discussion of why club should or should not give to Kiwanis. Motion made to pass a hat to collect donations by Rick K5ECX, Second by Tim KF5RAX. Motion passed 5 to 1.

Presentation on Tower Building by Rick K5ECX. Questions and answers followed.

No further business presented to the club and motion moved to adjourn at 2045 hours by Jim KI5DQ, second by Dora KF5TDQ. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned.

Next Club Meeting will be July 19, 2013 at 1900 hours at the Grayson County Courthouse, 2nd floor assembly room.

Respectfully submitted, Brad McMillon KE5UMJ GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

#### **ATTENTION FACEBOOK USERS!**

BE SURE TO VISIT THE GCARC FACEBOOK PAGE AT HTTP://www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC/

# CLUB MEETINGS, LOCAL ACTIVITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

# 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® /** Grayson County ARES® Training

#### **SKYWARN®**

 $4^{th}\ Tuesday\ of\ each\ odd-numbered\ month\ (Jan\ /\ Mar\ /\ May\ /\ Jul\ /\ Sep\ /\ Nov)\ at\ 7:00pm\ CT$ 

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

http://www.tecoares.org

# **GCARC** Club

# **Kiwanis Bike Rally**

**Events** 

August 10, 2013

Tanglewood Resort, Pottsboro TX

#### **VE Testing**

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

#### Sessions

 $1^{st}\,Thursday\;of\;each\;even-numbered\;month\;(Feb\;/\;Apr\;/\;Jun\;/\;Aug\;/\;Oct\;/\;Dec)\;at\;7:00pm\;CT$ 

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

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

# **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)

# 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) to schedule a session

#### Hamfests 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

#### **Gainesville Hamfest**

September 7, 2013 7:00am-1:00pm (ARRL VE testing starts 9:30am) Gainesville Civic Center, 311 South Weaver Street, Gainesville TX

Talk-In: 147.340 (PL 100.0) or 442.775 (PL 100.0)

Public Contact: James Floyd N5ZPU (940) 668-7511 or jfloyd54@suddenlink.net

Website: www.gainesvillehamfest.org

#### Ada Hamfest

September 13-14, 2013

Chickasaw Community Center, 700 N. Mississippi, Ada, OK

Talk-In: 147.285+ (PL 114.8)

Public Contact: Chris Faulkner KD5NQA (580) 332-1435 or kd5nga@yahoo.com

#### Texoma Hamarama

October 25-26, 2013 (Friday 5:00pm-8:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-1:00pm) Ardmore Convention Center, 2401 North Rockford Road, Ardmore OK

Talk-In: 146.970 (no PL)

Public Contact: Henry Allen W5TYD (214) 673-7942 or w5tyd@arrl.net

Website: www.texomahamarama.org

#### Contests ARRL Rookie Roundup - RTTY

August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 1800 UTC – 2359 UTC (12:00pm – 5:59pm CT)

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!

Check the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Calendar for additional contests and activities.

#### **CLUB ACTIVITY REPORTS**

#### **ARRL Field Day – June 22-23, 2013**

We made a total of 182 contacts on SSB, 231 contacts on PSK31, and were on the air for the entire 24 hours with no technical issues.

## **Field Day Photos**























# Red River Bridge War – July 13, 2013

161 contacts were made on SSB and 67 contacts made on PSK31. Air time was cut short to 7 hours due to deteriorating band conditions on 15 meters and contesters taking up most of the 20 meter band.

# **Red River Bridge War Photos**

















"Did Stacy tell you she talked with Japan?"





#### **SWAP MEET**

(Disclaimer: This section is provided for hams to list items they wish to buy, sell, or trade. GCARC will not be responsible for the accuracy or completeness of any descriptions, will not guarantee any items function as described, and will not participate in any transactions. The individual buyer and seller are responsible for all discussions, negotiations, and resolving of differences.)

## FOR SALE: Cushcraft ASL-670 Log Periodic Antenna

The Cushcraft ASL-670 is the ultimate multi-use antenna. Since the antenna is a log periodic, it offers continuous coverage through the 2 and 6 meter bands as well as 220 and 440 MHz. So while being a terrific antenna for operating those bands, it's also a great aviation and public safety band monitoring antenna.

Use the antenna for contesting and mountain topping if you like. The antenna is compact and easy to assemble and disassemble with no tuning required. Yet it is rugged enough for permanent installations.

This antenna has excellent gain f/b with good VSWR bandwidth to boot. Enjoy the fun of high performance operation *and* multi-frequency.

\$225 Pick Up Only in Bonham, TX Contact: David Reeder WAØURJ E-mail <u>WA0URJ@yahoo.com</u> Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773



# FOR SALE: Mobile 10 Meter Radio and Amp

Mobile Palomar 300 watt amp and RCI 2950 10 meter radio. Asking \$300 for both but will take offers. Tim KB5SSQ 903-816-3100

#### **FOR SALE: Estate Sale Items**

My husband Ronnie Hartwell KE5ASH died March 6th and I (Lora Hartwell his wife) have moved to Dallas from Louisiana. I brought all of his radios, tuners, amplifiers, and a crank up tower with me. All of this is for sale:

Yaesu FT 8900R quad band FM transceiver	.\$375
Yaesu FT 857D ultra-compact transceiver	.\$700
Ten-Tec Jupiter 538 HF transceiver	.\$850
ICOM 735 HF all band transceiver	.SOLD
HF +6m zero power auto tuner z100	.\$75
MFJ-994 600 w automatic antenna tuner	.\$200
MFJ-986 Tuner	.\$200
LDG AT11MP auto tuner	.\$100
MFJ-4125 25amp Switching Power supply	.\$65
600 w Ameritron -ALS-600s amplifier with power supply	.\$850
Ameritron AL811 amplifier	.\$650
Vertex VX-150 HT	.\$75
40-ft crank up tower	. Make Offer

(Note: Ben KF50EB is assisting Lora with this sale. Contact Ben via e-mail bencsly@gmail.com or call 903-815-2698.)

#### **AMATEUR RADIO NEWS OF INTEREST**

# **ARRL Urges Denial Of Petition To Permit Encryption Of Some Emergency Communications**

The ARRL is calling on the FCC to deny a Petition for Rule Making (RM-11699) seeking to permit the encryption of certain amateur communications during emergency operations or related training exercises. Don Rolph, AB1PH, of E Walpole, Massachusetts, petitioned the Commission in March to suggest an additional exception to §97.113, which currently prohibits "messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning."

"While Mr Rolph has concisely stated his argument, it is ARRL's considered view that there is no factual or legal basis for the assumption that encryption of transmissions...is necessary in order to continue and enhance the utility of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications," the League said in its comments. The ARRL also turned away Rolph's assertion that the current prohibition in §97.113 "has impacted the relationship of Amateur Radio volunteers and served agencies and significantly limited the effectiveness of amateurs in supporting emergency communications." The League said it's unaware of any evidence that served agencies have been reluctant to utilize Amateur Radio as part of their emergency or disaster relief communications plans because of the encryption restrictions in Part 97. The Amateur Service rule is based on a similar prohibition in international telecommunication law, the ARRL noted.

The League characterized as "erroneous" and "unfounded" Rolph's assumption that encryption of certain information may be required under the provisions of HIPAA — the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. "This mistaken assumption leads to the conclusion that the inability of Amateur Radio operators to encrypt the content of their transmissions in order to obscure the meaning of the transmissions renders Amateur Radio less (and decreasingly) useful to served agencies than it would be if encryption of those transmissions was permitted," the ARRL said. The League also said it was unaware of any instance in which state statutes have been cited by any served agency or group as a reason not to employ Amateur Radio for emergency communication.

Radio amateurs, the ARRL countered, are not "covered entities" under HIPAA, which applies only to health care providers, health plans and health care clearinghouses. And, the League added, there is no expectation of privacy in Amateur Radio communications.

The ARRL said it's not possible to determine the validity of the claim "that health care agencies subject to HIPAA are or might be unwilling or reluctant to utilize Amateur Radio in emergency communications and disaster relief planning" because of any lack of privacy inherent in Amateur Radio. "Permitting encryption might remedy the concern as a practical matter, if the concern exists," the League continued, but "the complete dearth of even anecdotal evidence of the existence of that concern" makes it impossible to justify the proposed rule change on that basis.

"It is extremely important to insure that Amateur Radio remains useful to served disaster relief and emergency communications agencies, which include health care facilities," the League stressed. "It is just as important to insure that regulatory impediments to that volunteer work be minimized to the extent consistent with the nature of the Amateur Radio Service." Amateur Radio's utility to served agencies in supporting emergency communication, the ARRL continued, "is high indeed, and is at the present time unfettered by the inability to encrypt transmissions."

However, the ARRL said that should it become necessary in the future for radio amateurs to protect the privacy of individuals whose medical data may be transmitted by Amateur Radio during or after an emergency or disaster, "the Commission may be asked to revisit this matter."

"It is urgent that Amateur Radio continue to be an essential component of disaster and emergency communications planning," and that served agencies, including medical facilities, perceive the utility of Amateur Radio as unhindered by regulations that prohibit encryption, the League emphasized.

More than 200 comments were filed on RM-11699, most of them tending to support the ARRL's arguments.

Originally Published Online at ARRL.org

## Flying With Spare Rechargeable Batteries May Require Preparation

FAA regulations let you travel with dry cells in either your carry-on or checked baggage, but prohibit loose lithium batteries in checked baggage. But what about rechargeables in carry-on luggage? Stu Martin, K2QDE, reports that he ran into a small hitch when attempting to carry his spare hand-held transceiver battery in his carry-on bag. A notice within his boarding pass declared: "Lithium Batteries: Carriage of spare lithium batteries is not permitted in checked baggage. If you put a portable electronic device in checked baggage, you may still do so with the batteries installed in the device. Spare lithium batteries in carry-on luggage must have the terminals insulated and must be placed inside a protective case or plastic bag." Martin taped the battery's terminals and stowed it in a bag. The FAA rules apply to "consumer-sized lithium ion batteries," including "larger, extended-life laptop batteries." The FAA adds this caveat, however: "Even if an item is generally permitted, it may be subject to additional screening or not allowed through the checkpoint if it triggers an alarm during the screening process, appears to have been tampered with, or poses other security concerns. The final decision rests with TSA on whether to allow any items on the plane." More information is available on the <u>FAA Web site</u>.

Originally Published Online at ARRL.org

# HamTV Project To Open "A New Era" For ARISS

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program hopes an Amateur Radio digital TV system will be up and running aboard the International Space Station by later this year. A project initiated by AMSAT-Italy, HamTV would provide one-way video and audio from the ISS to complement the FM radio voice link used for ARISS school group radio contacts. According to an overview paper drafted by ARISS-Europe Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, a DATV downlink on S-Band (2.4 GHz) is under development to place aboard the ISS Columbus module in August. Columbus already sports the necessary antenna. As a debate between the merits of analog versus digital TV aboard the ISS continued, Bertels says, the digital system got a big boost from Italian astronaut Paolo Nespoli, IZØJPA, who had conducted ARISS school contacts in 2010 and 2011 when he was aboard the ISS.



"At the initiative of AMSAT Italy, an Italian manufacturer, Kayser Italia, presented a project for an Amateur Radio DATV transmitter to ESA's [European Space Agency] educational services," Bertels explains in his paper. ESA accepted the proposal in 2012 and contracted with Kayser Italia to develop and manufacture a 10 W EIRP "Ham Video" DATV transmitter for S-Band.

Receiving the DATV signal will be far more demanding than receiving VHF or UHF, Bertels notes in his overview paper. He said a study conducted by Piero Tognolatti, IØKPT, shows "that DATV decoding should be possible for a ground station equipped with a 1.2 meter dish, when the ISS is within a range of about 800 to 1000 km," limiting the DATV reception window to about 3 or 4 minutes during a favorable pass. According to Bertels, Kayser Italia is to provide five ground stations for siting in Europe. "It is hoped that amateurs will support other ground station 'chains' in other countries, as multiple stations are needed to provide up to 15 minutes of video in support of school contacts," Bertels explains in his paper. He says ARISS anticipates that similar chains of ground stations will be set up on other continents, to expand the system's flexibility.

"A new era opens for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station," Bertels concludes.

Originally Published Online at ARRL.org via AMSAT News Service; Kayser Italia

## **LOCAL RADIO NETS**

# **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**

#### **Gravson 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**

 $2^{\text{nd}} & 4^{\text{th}} \text{ Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.}$ 

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.

#### **AREA REPEATERS**

Sherman TX		Gainesville TX	
147.000+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI
147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL)	W5COP	,	
444.750- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT	McKinney TX	
		146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
Bonham TX		145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI
145.470– MHz (no PL)	K5FRC		
145.130– MHz (no PL)	K5FRC	Melissa TX	
443.750+ MHz (no PL)	K5FRC	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
Durant OK		Rosston TX	
147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL)	K5KIE	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL)	K5CGE		
		Van Alstyne TX	
		443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL

# **GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES**

**Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts**By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC

#### **AHHH Summertime!**

Can you believe this weather - 73 degrees for a high in July! In North Texas? Too bad it wasn't this way on any of the recent ham radio outings available to be enjoyed. Oh No - we endured the heat and humidity. If you missed Field Day area events, BSA-CERT graduation, any of several Special Event stations hosted by GCARC, or Ham fests, don't give up... there's still time to get some in this summer. From an event this next week in Paris at



Main Trading to supporting the Kiwanis Bike Rally in August, to the Ardmore fest later this fall there is still plenty to do. Folks are putting up antenna masts, getting new rigs... summer is a fun time for ham radio. So, why am I excited about these types of events and what do they have to do with ARES?

They get you out of the shack and immerse you in the aura of Ham radio. I had an Aunt who was all into the aura stuff back in the 60s. I was still a youngster then but it kinda made sense to this country kid who grew up on a river. She said everyone had an aura and if you paid attention to it you could gain from the experience. At these Ham events you talk with other operators, discuss different modes, rigs, techniques and are exposed to ideas that encourage you to learn and do more with your hobby. Then slowly (or in a hurry in some cases) you decide to forge ahead into a new endeavor. All this increases your capability and ability to use the art you are learning and (thru your desire to serve) help ARES better serve our communities. I know some folks seem to have more aura than others and you do have to be careful there, but that goes with anything we try that is new.

So get out there! Maybe it won't be a hot day. Visit with the experienced old-timer and talk with the new person, look, pick up those used pieces of equipment at hamfests, let the aura of the experience move you to a higher level of enjoyment if nothing else.

I also want to share with you an aura of excitement. There are some really great things in store for ARES in the next few months. While they are in every phase from the planning stage to actually taking shape as real, be sensitive to the aura. There are opportunities coming for new learning experiences, new plans for operation and chances to be involved in new ways with ARES.

Thanks for all you do to keep our citizens safe and assist our served agencies.

73 Rick K5ECX







