



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

DECEMBER 2013

WWW.K5GCC.US

VOL. 19, No. 12

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

Despite having to move the Christmas dinner and then postpone it for a week, it turned out pretty good. The food was excellent and everybody had a great time. Mark (KF5UZW) cooked the turkey and ham. It was very good, and got lots of compliments. All the drinks were donated by an anonymous club member, and I'd like to thank you for that. A check in the amount of \$350 was presented to Scarby (KF5ISC) for Toys For Tots and quite a few toys were donated as well.

Moe (NT7C) finished up his technician class on Saturday 12/14 with the help of Wade (KF5AUD). They turned out 4 new hams and upgraded another to General. I'm proud to say one of the new hams is my daughter Karlee. There was another group of hams that upgraded to General on December 3rd. Congrats to Stacy (KF5RAY), Jeannie (KF5PDM), Frisco (KF5KID), and Debra (KF5PDL). Thanks guys for what you do for the ham community.

We've talked about a soldering class and we have a bunch interested already. The hands-on activities prove to be pretty popular and since we don't have any special events for a while, this will be a good time. Be on the lookout for an email right about the first of the year and we'll get the show on the road.

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

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 (1900 hours)
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 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
Submission Deadline: 12 midnight on the Saturday prior to each monthly meeting

WEBSITE

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

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

Starting Balance 10/31/2013	\$631.90
Cash On Hand	\$0.00
Deposits	+ \$0.00
Expenses	— \$105.65
Ending Balance 11/30/2013	\$526.25

NOTES:

Deposits: None
Expenses: Flowers; Denison Main Street Festival booth fee

Brad McMillon KE5UMJ
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

GCARC MEETING MINUTES

GCARC Meeting, 15 November 2013

Call to order by president Ben Sly KF5OEB at 1900 hours. Meeting minutes from October GCARC meeting was read by Ben KF5OEB. Brad KE5UMJ read Treasurer's report. Motion passed to approve minutes and Treasurer's report.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Club Christmas Dinner on December 6, 2013. Club discussion. Mark KF5UZW has offered to smoke the meat. Motion made by Wade KF5AUD, second by Mark KF5UZW to have the club purchase meat for the Christmas party. Motion passed.
- Toys for Tots. Club discussion. Motion made by John WD0FIN, second by Fred KF5KOW to write check to Marine Core League for \$350. Motion passed.
- Purchase 6' Table and skirt. Club discussion. Motion made by Sheila KF5TDP, second by Wade KF5AUD. Motion passed. Ben KF5OEB will pick up 6' table to use at club functions.
- Rick K5ECX gave info about a club logo skirt and banner. Motion made by John WD0FIN, second by Sheila KF5TDP. Motion passed. Club will purchase a club banner. Another motion made by John WD0FIN to donate \$40.00 to purchase the banner, second by Tim KF5RAX. Motion passed. John WD0FIN will purchase the banner for the club.
- Equipment donated to club. Discussion on what to do with all the equipment that has been donated to club. Motion made by Daniel KF5WPR to sell unwanted equipment. Second by Lee KF5OED. Motion passed.
- 2014 GCARC Club Officers. Motion made by Wade KF5AUD to accept all unopposed nominations. Second by Fred KF5KOW. Motion passed. 2014 club officers are:
 - President – Ben Sly KF5OEB
 - Vice President – Jeannie Dopson KF5PDM
 - Secretary/Treasurer – Sheila Sammons KF5TDP

Presentation by Ben KF5OEB on soldering and buildable kits. Questions and answers followed.

No further business presented to the club and motion moved to adjourn at 1956 hours by Wade KF5AUD, second by Rick K5ECX. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned.

Next Club function will be the club Christmas Dinner, December 6, 2013 at 1830 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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC/)

CLUB MEETINGS, LOCAL ACTIVITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Meetings

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC)

3rd Friday at 7:00pm CT (except December)

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>

Durant Amateur Radio Club (DARC)

3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm CT

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC)

3rd Saturday at 9:00am CT

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main 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>

ARES® / SKYWARN®

Grayson County ARES® Training

4th 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>

SKYWARN Spotter Training

February 13th, 2014 7:00pm-9:00pm

Grayson College Center For Workplace Learning, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX

This is a basic storm spotter training class offered annually by the National Weather Service, and is strongly recommended for all current and prospective storm spotters. This class is open to the general public, and no reservations are required. **Note: this is the only spotter training class that will be offered in Grayson County in 2014.**

Contact: N/A

Class Fee: No charge

Registration: Not required

Training Classes

Ham 101 Class

January 18th, 2014 8:30am-12:30pm

Grayson College Center For Workplace Learning, Seminar Room C, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX

This is a class designed for newly-licensed Amateur Radio operators who would like to get some “hands-on” practice operating radios and making contacts. Information and advice regarding equipment selection is usually available.

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

Class Fee: No charge

Registration: Not required (but a friendly call or e-mail to Moe to let him know you’re coming would be appreciated)

Radio and Electronics Lab for Hams

February 8th, 2014 8:30am-12:30pm

Grayson College Center For Workplace Learning, Seminar Room C, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX
This is a hands-on class where students learn basic principles of electronics, proper use of tools and test equipment, and other tips and techniques applicable to Amateur Radio. Class content will vary.

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

Class Fee: No charge for the class; however, there may be costs for tools and/or supplies used in the class.
Registration: Required; contact Moe to register

Technician License Training Class

One class held in two sessions to prepare students to take the Technician License exam.

Session 1: Saturday, March 1, 2014 8:30am-12:30pm

Session 2: Saturday, March 22, 2014 8:30am-5:00pm (at the end of this session the Texoma VE Team will administer the Technician exam)

Grayson College Center For Workplace Learning, Seminar Room C, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX

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

Class Fee: No charge for the class; however, students who choose to borrow a Study Guide will be charged a \$10 deposit (deposit will be refunded or applied toward the exam fee when the guide is returned).

Registration: Required; contact Moe to register

VE Testing Sessions

Texoma VE Team – Bi-Monthly Testing

1st 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

3rd 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

Per Dave K5YM no more testing sessions are scheduled for the remainder of 2013

A new testing schedule will be published in 2014

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

Cowtown Hamfest (Fort Worth)

January 17-18, 2014 (Show Hours: Friday 3:00pm-7:00pm, Saturday 7:00am-3:00pm)

VE Testing Sessions: Friday 3:00pm-5:00pm, Saturday 10:00am-1:00pm

Lockheed Martin Recreation Area, 3400 Bryant Irvin Road, Fort Worth TX

Talk-In: 147.280 (110.9 PL)

Public Contact: David Forbes KC5UYR (817) 925-5126 or kc5uyr@compuserve.com

Website: www.cowtownhamfest.org

Irving ARC Hamfest

March 1, 2014 8:00am-2:00pm (VE Testing begins at 8:30am)

Betcha Bingo Hall, 2420 W. Irving Blvd. #125, Irving TX

Talk-In: 146.720 (110.9 PL)

Public Contact: Tim Fooks N5MBQ (972) 742-1937 or tim.fooks@verizon.net

Website: www.irvingarc.org/iarchamfest.html

Contests

ARRL Rookie Roundup - CW

December 22nd, 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.

DURANT ARC NEWS

Joe White, K5BQG (SK)

Joe K5BQG was laid to rest on December 16th. Amateur radio was his interest. He served as area ARES director, an immediate past president of the Durant Amateur Repeater Association, a member of Bryan County Emergency Management, and in a variety of other church and civic activities. The Kingston “limping along” 2 meter repeater is licensed as K5BQG. An Amateur Extra first licensed in 1955, Joe has left a void here. Probably a hundred of our newer amateurs had Joe as a VE examiner.

– From Jim K5BNK

GCARC would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Joe's family and friends.

CLUB ACTIVITY REPORTS AND PHOTOS

GCARC Christmas Dinner – December 13th, 2013





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.

\$190 Pick Up Only in Bonham, TX
 Contact: David Reeder WAØURJ
 E-mail WAØURJ@yahoo.com
 Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773



FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-101

Great to mint condition. Recently aligned. Tubes checked. Features 80-10 meters, ALL modes USB/LSB/AM. All crystals. Built in AC/DC supply. Excellent audio.

PRICE: \$280.00

Will make arrangements to deliver in DFW area.

Contact: David Reeder WAØURJ

E-mail WA0URJ@yahoo.com

Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773



AMATEUR RADIO NEWS OF INTEREST

ARRL's "Symbol Rate" Petition Nears Top of FCC's "Most Active Proceedings" List

As the Monday, December 23 deadline nears to comment on the ARRL's "Symbol Rate" Petition for Rule Making (PRM), the petition has moved into second place on the FCC's "Most Active Proceedings" page (it was in first place briefly). Since the FCC put the ARRL Petition on public notice for comment as RM-11708, it has attracted 685 comments (as of December 19) and counting. The petition asks the FCC to delete the symbol rate limit in §97.307(f) of its Amateur Service rules and to replace it with a maximum data emission bandwidth of 2.8 kHz on frequencies below 29.7 MHz. In a briefing memorandum released this week, the League took steps to clarify just what it is -- and is not -- asking the FCC to do. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said that while a significant majority of commenters support the petition, some appear not to understand the petition's intent. The League reiterated that its filing would not "initiate any large scale plan to convert to regulation of emissions by bandwidth," and would not affect any emissions other than data.

"The Petition proposes no changes that would affect in any way the existing rules governing Morse telegraphy, phone, and image emissions," the ARRL stressed in its talking points. "The state of the art in digital communications now allows transmission protocols in which the symbol rate exceeds the present limitations of §97.307(f) of the FCC rules, but the necessary bandwidth of the protocol is within the bandwidth of a typical HF single sideband channel (3 kHz)." The League contends that eliminating symbol rate limitations for data emissions and substituting a maximum authorized bandwidth "would permit the utilization of all HF data transmission protocols presently legal in the Amateur Radio Service, as well as state-of-the-art protocols that fall within the authorized bandwidth."

The briefing memo stresses that the petition would **not**

- affect HF subbands where phone and image emissions are now permitted nor affect HF CW operation.
- permit digital voice transmissions in data and RTTY subbands nor add rules affecting digital voice.
- change restrictions on automatically controlled digital stations.
- permit data emissions to use occupied bandwidths in excess of what is now allowed.

Further, the petition does not call on the FCC to expand the frequencies on which "unspecified digital codes" may be used. The original petition as filed included an error that the ARRL corrected in an *Erratum* deleting the erroneous reference to unspecified digital codes at HF. "It was never our intention to permit unspecified digital codes at HF," the League said.

All told, the ARRL talking points state, the proposal represents a balanced approach. "ARRL attempted, in adopting the 2.8 kHz maximum bandwidth proposal for data emissions at HF, to balance the two objectives of facilitating use of new and future data emissions and protecting against usurpation of the band by a few data stations," the briefing memorandum said. "Some bandwidth limit is necessary if the outdated symbol rate limit is eliminated, as it should be."

Originally Published Online at ARRL.org

Kids Day is January 5!

The next Kids Day, sponsored by the ARRL and The Boring (Oregon) Amateur Radio Club, will be Sunday, January 5, from 1800 to 2400 UTC. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio satellites to youngsters and let them get some firsthand experience.

Share the excitement with your own children or grandkids or youngsters in the neighborhood! For the youngsters, their positive ham radio experience may foster an interest in getting licensed one day. For veteran radio amateurs, it's a chance to share their love of Amateur Radio and their stations with the next generation.

To attract attention call "CQ Kids Day." The suggested exchange is name, age, location, and favorite color. There is no limit on operating time, and stations may work each other more than once, if the operator has changed.

The suggested HF frequencies are 28.350 to 28.400 MHz, 24.960 to 24.980 MHz, 21.360 to 21.400 MHz, 18.140 to 18.145 MHz, 14.270 to 14.300 MHz, 7.270 to 7.290 MHz, and 3.740 to 3.940 MHz. Repeater contacts (with permission of the repeater's sponsor) are okay too, and satellite contacts may provide a real thrill. Be sure to observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX contacts.

All participants are encouraged to post stories and photos to the Kids Day Soapbox page and are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. You can download the free certificate, customized with the youngster's names, after filling out the Kids Day Survey found on the same page as the certificate generator. Alternatively, you can send a 9 × 12 SASE to Kids Day Certificate Request, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. ARRL Kids Day is always the first Sunday of January and the third Saturday of June.

Originally Published Online at ARRL.org

Plaque Lists Amateur Radio Club Among Superstorm Sandy Volunteers, First Responders

The Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club (GSBARC) earned a spot on a plaque honoring first responders and other volunteers who assisted in the wake of the devastating Superstorm Sandy and the nor'easter that followed in the fall of 2012. The Town of Babylon, a township consisting of several communities on Long Island, New York, erected the plaque earlier this fall in Tanner Park in the village of Copiague. The park, which faces Great South Bay on Long Island's south shore, suffered serious damage from the storms.

The plaque reads, "When the Town of Babylon was struck by Superstorm Sandy in the fall of 2012, many residents were exposed to dangerous storm conditions; some of whom were rescued from their homes. These brave men and women were the first to answer the call when their neighbors needed them the most. We thank them for their service and dedicate this plaque to them."

According to GSBARC spokesman Bob Myers, K2TV, the recognition "came as a complete surprise" to the club, most of whom also belong to the local ARES organization. "They were only carrying out what they felt was expected after the many hours of training and emergency preparedness," he said. "Having recognition like this serves as validation that they were doing their job."

ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, thanked the town "for recognizing our efforts" as well as all those GSBARC and ARES members who helped after the storms. "May we keep ever vigilant and prepared as communicators, helping out any way we can," Lisenco added. He pointed out that GSBARC is the first volunteer organization the plaque lists.



Originally Published Online at ARRL.org

LOCAL RADIO NETS

Weekly

Durant ARC Weekly Net

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

No net on the 3rd 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 8:00pm 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

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.

RACES Command Net Check

2nd & 4th 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

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

Gainesville TX

147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)

WB5FHI

Kingston OK

146.985– MHz (103.5 PL)

K5BQG

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

Grayson County ARES (portable repeater)

441.375+ MHz (67.0 PL)

WC5GC

(on the air for emergencies & training only)

GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC



What A Fall!

Aren't we glad the sleet that fell wasn't freezing rain? It fell and fell till we had about 4 inches out here in the sticks. Some of it is still hiding around in places. Our friends over in Lamar County might have been glad to have traded places. While we couldn't get around without 4 wheel drive, at least we were still warm and snug with power and lights.

We had no official ARES activation, though several folks did yeoman's duty during the sleet storm by helping thru CERT, being good Samaritans out on the roads and checking on friends and neighbors to be sure all were okay. I am still looking for a set of chains for the new truck; the old ones are for a 16 inch wheel and a little short for the new 17's. I just got caught without the right equipment...there may be a lesson in that: as much as we plan and prepare, there may come a time when you need to make a change in your go kit. When you do, be sure to evaluate and verify the other items in your kit that they work with are not affected. For instance, if Santa brings you a replacement radio and battery packs, verify you still have the right type and quantity of batteries for the new equipment.

Enough about the past; it's time to move on and share good news. Several folks upgraded to General class in the past few weeks. Moe (NT7C)'s new General License training class went well and enabled these folks to learn more and achieve a higher capability. We also had several new hams licensed thru his Tech class and we are looking forward to word on their call signs. The training will continue in January; look around in the GCARC newsletter and on the ARES website for the exact dates for "Ham 101". I hear there are chances to learn some other hands-on skills coming soon as well.

Your ARES leadership will be making some "structural" changes next year. These were discussed at the last AEC meeting on December 17th, and are being made in order to better manage our group and be sure we (and me) are getting the job done in areas such as planning, communicating, training, and keeping up with our function. Each of the AECs will be "over" one of those named areas, so there will be someone handling Operations, Training, Administration, Safety and so forth. Some of these persons will also be on committees such as a digital group, or the website and social media. You can expect these persons to be communicating about their areas directly with you, our team members, concerning planning, training nets, activations, and so forth. As they work to keep the wheels on the bus, I will be trying to keep it all going in the right direction to provide supplemental communications for our communities and served agencies in times of need. The AEC's functional areas will be named after the first of the year; I will be talking with them to fit persons and tasks together and trying to match their desired work and ARES' needs. I hope you will continue to support ARES as we make this effort to improve our operation and capability.

May you and yours enjoy all the holidays bring to us in this season, especially the Joy of Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas!

73
Rick
K5ECX