



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

FEBRUARY 2014

WWW.K5GCC.US

VOL. 20, No. 2

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

I hope everyone enjoyed the weather this past weekend. It's time to start planning some hands on activities before the Special Event stations begin.

Moe (NT7C) held a hands on electronics class at the Grayson County College a few weeks ago and it was a lot of fun. There will be more of these classes planned so be on the lookout. The classes will cover electronics as used in amateur radio.

The soldering class is planned for Saturday February 22nd in my garage. We will start about 10am. Be sure to bring a small kit and your soldering iron (if you have one). I'll have tools available for you to use if needed. Please email me if you plan on attending so we can get a head count.

This month's presentation hasn't been completely decided as of yet. Topics we're talking about are a cheap 12v power supply, a small home brew antenna, or different activities a technician can do and probably didn't know about. If we choose the power supply project, I will go through the steps needed to convert an old computer power supply to run a 12v mobile radio from any 120 volt commercial power receptacle. A more detailed explanation on how and why these can make good power supplies will be covered in Moe's class.

The by-laws committee will not have a list of proposed changes ready for this month's meeting, so this topic will be pushed back to the March meeting.

Hope to see everybody at the meeting on Friday. I think we will have a lot of fun.

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

2014 OFFICERS

President: Ben Sly KF5OEB
Vice President: Jeannie Dopson KF5PDM
Secretary: Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
Treasurer: Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
Activity Directors: Daniel & Amber Boehmisch
(AF5OY & KF5WPS)
Trustee: Rick Simmons K5ECX

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 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

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Address: WWW.K5GCC.US
Webmaster: Jim Hubbell N5COP
Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC
Page:

GCARC, ARES, AND SKYWARN PATCHES

GCARC club patches are available and may be purchased 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, go-kits, etc.

ARES and SKYWARN patches may also be purchased 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 12/31/2013	\$379.25	NOTES:	
Cash On Hand	\$0.00	<u>Deposits:</u>	None
Deposits	+ \$0.00	<u>Expenses:</u>	None
Expenses	- \$0.00		
Ending Balance 1/31/2014	\$379.25		

Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

GCARC MEETING MINUTES

GCARC Meeting, 17 January 2014

Meeting was called to order by President Ben Sly. He asked that everyone take a few minutes and greet each other and introduce ourselves to someone they had not met before as there were several new faces in attendance.

Brad McMillon read the December 2013 Treasurer's Report. Wade Graves motioned that the report be accepted and was seconded by John Dickson. Motion passed. There were no meeting minutes from December due to the Christmas Dinner.

Old Business:

- Disbursement of Donated Equipment – still some items left and anyone who is interested in purchasing equipment needs to contact Ben immediately.
- Table Banner –donated to the club

New Business:

- Identified 2014 officers
 - President: Ben Sly
 - Vice President: Jeanne Dopson
 - Secretary / Treasurer: Sheila Sammons
- 2014 Calendar Events and Gatherings
 - Feb 22nd Ben Sly would be holding a soldering class for anyone interested.
 - As of this time, March and April had nothing assigned
 - May, June, July, Aug, Sept, October, and December all had events scheduled
 - Every Special Event is going to have a Fox Hunt activity, with the starting point being the Special Event site
- Activities Director(s) nominations were opened, with Daniel and Amber Boehmisch being nominated for the position. Motion to accept was by Jeanne Dopson, and seconded by Rick Simmons. Motion passed.
- 2014 Budget was presented by Ben Sly. Motion made by John Dickson and seconded. Motion passed.
- QSL Manager Position

Creating a QSL Manager position was presented with discussion about the various responsibilities that needed to be overseen by the manager.

 - (a) Filing of QSL Cards, and mailings
 - (b) Log Book maintenance
 - (c) QSL Awards
 - (d) Maintaining the Log Book of the World

This was discussed as to be an appointed position amended into the bylaws; and, since the bylaws are currently being reviewed by the bylaws committee, now would be an excellent time to make any changes. Motion for bylaw committee to review the addition of the position was made by Rick Simmons and seconded. Motion passed.
- Bylaw Committee was reappointed by Ben Sly for the 2014 year. The committee said they would have a statement of progress for either the February or March meeting.
- Club Website – the new club website was demonstrated, and Ben explained how to access the various components.
- Toys For Tots – presented the club with a “Thank You” for participating in the 2013 TFT drive.
- Jim KI5DQ began a new discussion but it was ended shortly after on a point of order called by David W5COP regarding the topic's relevance to the current meeting.

No other business being presented, motion was made to adjourn and seconded. Motion passed.

Submitted by
Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

CLUB MEETINGS, LOCAL ACTIVITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Meetings

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC)

3rd Friday at 7:00pm

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

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

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC)

3rd Saturday at 9:00am

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX

<http://www.k5frc.org>

McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC)

2nd Tuesday at 7:00pm

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

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

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

<http://www.tecoares.org>

Training Classes

Learn to Solder Class

February 22, 2014 10:00am

Ben Sly's Garage, 3222 N Marseille, Sherman, TX

This is a basic class to teach proper use of a soldering iron. Participants should bring a small electronic project kit to assemble and a soldering iron (if available). Ben has additional tools if needed.

Contact: Ben KF5OEB bencsly@gmail.com

Class Fee: No charge

Registration: Not required, but a friendly e-mail to Ben to let him know you're coming is appreciated

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

Ham 101 Class

April 5, 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@attl.net

Class Fee: No Charge

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

Radio & Electronics Lab for Hams

April 12, 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@attl.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

VE Testing Sessions

Texoma VE Team – Bi-Monthly Testing (*PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE*)

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

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

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

Durant Amateur Radio Club – Monthly Testing

3rd Tuesday at 8:00pm (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

3rd Saturday of each month at 2:00pm

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

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

Green Country Hamfest

March 7-8, 2014 (Friday 4:00pm-9:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-3:00pm)

Claremore Expo Center, 400 Veterans Parkway, Claremore OK

Talk-In: 147.090+ (no PL)

Public Contact: Merlin Griffin WB5OSM (918) 520-7668 or wb5osm@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.greencountryhamfest.org

Weatherford Hamfest

April 5, 2014

Central Christian Church-Cuppett Hall, 1602 South Main Street, Weatherford TX

Talk-In: 147.040 (110 PL)

Public Contact: Jerry W. Thompson W7JT (817) 594-8091 or w7jt@charter.net

Website: www.w5pc.org

East Texas Regional Amateur Radio Tailgate Sale

April 12, 2014 7:30am

LeTourneau University, 2100 S Mobberly Avenue, Longview TX

Talk-In: 147.340 (136.5 PL)

Public Contact: Todd Hoover N5TJH (903) 399-3266 or hoover_tj@yahoo.com

Website: www.letarc.org

DURANT ARC NEWS

An area operator said Main Trading Company's open house on February 15 at their new location was attended by about 500 in Paris.

Kenneth AB5CC (newly elected DARA president – he is also deputy director of Bryan County Emergency Management plus he maintains its APRS repeater) will offer a General Class course, probably in March.

The on again/off again Kingston 2 meter repeater now officially belongs to the Durant DARA club. Fortunately a rather recent repeater has been loaned to the site. An immediate need is to remove the water tower DB-224 & Heliastat soon for tower repainting, then re-install. Just a couple of blocks away on the same hill a 2 meter operator says in his car he can hit a Norman/OKC repeater some of the time, so this suggests the repeater will have immense coverage. In brief, getting it on the air and fully operable is a mighty big challenge & any help would be appreciated.

April 5th (Saturday) – DARA's annual tailgate.

– Jim K5BNK

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.)

To submit items to be listed, send the information in an e-mail to the GCARC Newsletter Editor at kf5npm@gmail.com. When listing items for sale or trade, photographs are encouraged. There is no charge for listings, and you do not need to be a member of GCARC to participate.

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 WA0URJ@yahoo.com
Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773

FOR SALE OR TRADE: GAP Titan DX Vertical HF Antenna

I have a GAP Titan DX 10m-80m vertical HF antenna for sale or trade. It is in good but used condition. Please go to the GAP Antenna website (www.gapantenna.com) for details and price when new. I also have the optional heavy duty tilt over mounting plate. It is currently assembled and I want buyer/trader to see it that way. However, I think it will have to be taken apart to transport as it is 30 ft. tall. No ground radials needed as it has its own ground plane wires.

For sale or trade at half its new price
Contact: Sarge KE5YPB
E-mail 0101.smd@gmail.com

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS OF INTEREST

“Arbuckles to Ardmore” Marathon Needs Volunteer Ham Radio Operators

The “Arbuckles to Ardmore” (A2A) Marathon will be held on Sunday, March 30th. This is an annual charity event to benefit the Mercy Hospital Cancer Center in Ardmore OK. The event consists of a full marathon and a half marathon starting from Turner Falls Overlook in the Arbuckle Mountains, a 5K road race starting from Ardmore High School, and a special “Kids Marathon”. The finish line for all courses is Noble Stadium in Ardmore.

Event organizers are asking for volunteer ham radio operators to provide communications support along the various routes. Volunteers may register online by going to www.a2amarathon.com/volunteer and clicking on the “Sign Up To Volunteer Now” button at the bottom of the page.

For more information, visit www.a2amarathon.com.

Canada To Get Five 60 Meter Channels

Industry Canada [has granted](#) Amateur Radio operators there the use of five 60 meter channels on a non-interference basis. The center-channel frequencies harmonize with those available to US radio amateurs on 60 meters: 5332 kHz, 5348 kHz, 5358.5 kHz, 5373 kHz, and 5405 kHz.

“[G]iven that use of these frequencies was requested, in part, to allow for cross-border communications in times of emergency,” Industry Canada said, “harmonization of the frequencies with the United States would facilitate such communications between the Canadian and the US Amateur Radio communities.”

Amateur stations will be restricted to USB, data, RTTY and CW modes, with a maximum bandwidth of 2.8 kHz, and a maximum power output of 100 W ERP -- the same the US allows.

“Canadian amateur operations shall not cause interference to fixed and mobile operations in Canada or in other countries,” Industry Canada ruled, “and, if such interference occurs, the Amateur Service may be required to cease operations. The Amateur Service in Canada may not claim protection from interference by the fixed and mobile operations of other countries.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Radio Amateurs Receive Rosetta Spacecraft Signals From Deep Space

James Miller, G3RUH, was among a small handful of Amateur Radio operators to receive the X band signal January 21 from the European Space Agency's [Rosetta](#) spacecraft, some 500 million miles from Earth. Miller used the 20 meter dish at the Bochum Amateur Radio facility in Germany, run by AMSAT-DL and IUZ Bochum Observatory. In an AMSAT-BB post, Miller noted the frequency at the spacecraft was 8421.786900 MHz, and the signal was 14 dB below that of the [STEREO](#) A/B spacecraft. Perhaps more astonishing, Bertrand Pinel, F5PL, was able to [track](#) Rosetta 65 kilometers from Toulouse using his "home-rigged" 3.5 meter dish and receiver. Viljo Allik, ES5PC, a member of Estonian Student Satellite Program team reported his group was able to [detect](#) the satellite's signal using a slightly smaller dish.

"We have recently established our own small ground station for mostly educational purposes to get more interested students into space technology," Allik said in a reply to Pinel's European Space Agency blog post. The Estonian group used a 3 meter dish. Allik said the signal-to-noise ratio was in the range of 3 to 5 dB in a 1 Hz bandwidth. "So it was really exciting to see the signal from such large distance with our very simple receiving station. The elevation of the Rosetta spacecraft at our location was only about 4° during the reception."

The equipment used was "a kind of amateur design," he said. "We detected signals from other spacecraft like [Gaia](#) and STEREO A/B too, but the signal from Rosetta is the most-distant signal we have detected so far."

Launched in 2004, Rosetta will both orbit and land on a comet, which it will reach this August, and send data back to Earth. The spacecraft consists of the Rosetta space probe and the [Philae](#) robotic lander.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Fatal West Virginia Tower Collapse Takes Out Ham Radio Repeaters

The collapse of two radio towers in North-Central West Virginia on February 1 resulted in three deaths and injuries to two individuals. The tragedy also resulted in the loss of three Amateur Radio repeaters belonging to the Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association ([SJARA](#)) and forming part of the [HamTalk](#) linked repeater system, which were available to assist with emergency and disaster communication. Richard Wilt, K8TPH, reported that one tower went down, killing two workers on the 300 foot structure and taking down a second, shorter tower. An emergency responder also died after being struck by falling debris. Two other tower workers suffered minor injuries.

"The towers are an important link in maintaining cell service and repeaters for several commercial companies locally," Wilt said. "The towers also were in use by the Amateur Radio community with three repeaters located on the towers. These Amateur repeaters are a major part of the North-Central West Virginia emergency communications to assist the Office of Emergency Management of Harrison County, FEMA, and the American Red Cross."

The Stonewall Jackson ARA has a memorandum of understanding with the Harrison County Commission and the cities of Clarksburg and Bridgeport to assist during emergencies that require communication support. SJARA Vice President David Anderson, N8YPE, is the Harrison County Emergency Coordinator.

Wilt said the club has moved its weekly emergency net to another repeater, but he said it's not known when the towers will be replaced. He said the SJARA spent a substantial amount last year on repeater maintenance, and he expressed concerns about the cost of replacing the repeaters.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Olympic Special Event Stations On The Air

Among the dozens of [special event call signs](#) on the air to mark the 2014 Winter Olympics and the 2014 Paralympic Games is R0000O (that's R plus four zeros and the letter O, to symbolize the five interlocked Olympic rings). Special event stations will be active until March 31. Click on the special event call sign in the [Mega Log](#) page list for more information and QSL routes (not all call signs are hyperlinks).

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

LOCAL RADIO NETS

Daily

Texas Slow Net (CW only)

Daily 7:45pm CT on 3.570MHz.

This is a training net for operators interested in building proficiency in CW and learning about handling procedures for CW traffic 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

(not currently active)

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 8:00pm 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	Kingston OK	146.985– MHz (103.5 PL)	K5BQG
	147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL)	W5COP		146.740– MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
	444.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT		145.350– MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI
Bonham TX	145.470– MHz (no PL)	K5FRC	Melissa TX	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
	145.130– MHz (no PL)	K5FRC		145.490– MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
	443.750+ MHz (no PL)	K5FRC		443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
Durant OK	147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL)	K5KIE	Van Alstyne TX	441.375+ MHz (67.0 PL)	WC5GC
	147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL)	K5CGE		(on the air only for emergencies & training)	
Gainesville TX	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI	Grayson County ARES (portable)		

GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC



Further Training Required

I used to strongly dislike putting that comment on an employee's training documents. But sometimes it happened. Usually for something that was not an unachievable issue, but one of those critical points that just had to be met and was barely below standards.

Last weekend was not one of those times. And it started for several of us, in a manner that would not probably be placed in a training exercise. In hindsight, during my work years the same thing happened more often than not when a leadership group had been sent off to a location for a meeting of some sort a couple of counties away. But then, as now, we had a plan. Wade KF5AUD, Moe NT7C, Mark KF5UZW, and I had carpooled over to Paris for the MTC event. We had met early, enjoyed breakfast and arrived by 9, joining in the shopping fray that was a fun Ham event. Our plan was to leave about 10-ish and head back for the CERT cookout. We were enjoying some good ham camaraderie and looking forward to a good lunch. We were on schedule and on the road west when the texts started popping.

Out of radio range, there were multiple cell phones and conversations going, with plans being put in place and modified as we approached Grayson County to support CERT for a search and rescue (SAR). Once back at our original rendezvous point we had to rearrange vehicles due to a radioless vehicle in the mix and deal with gathering needed equipment.

Meanwhile you ARES folks were on the ball, gathering necessary gear and radios to deal with the SAR. We all arrived at the command post in time to meet the needs of our CERT teammates so that no team was not supported by a radio op. Moe established the NC station in the Denison FD mobile command post, making the radio and base antenna operable for our first use in quite a while. Check ins, assignments and briefings went well and communications were maintained and utilized as needed by the CERT search teams. Everyone cooperated, worked well with the assignments and came back to the CP safely.

We all even enjoyed a Tyson burger at the end of the day. What a display of cooperation between County and local agencies, various FD's, Red Cross, and Salvation Army. Thank you all for doing your best to help out in an unfortunate situation. YOU responded and performed according to plan, then went the extra mile to make sure someone you didn't even know had hope given to them.

I wish as much as all of you we had had the desired outcome for the day. It was not to be and as I write this we can continue to pray for the Dixon family and the focus of our attention, Enoch.

You have the respect of many and my heartfelt thanks.

73
Rick
K5ECX