



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

APRIL 2014

WWW.K5GCC.US

VOL. 20, No. 4

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

Crazy weather we've been having lately. Hopefully it will clear out for our next activity this Saturday the 19th. We will be having an antenna raising party at Mike's (KF5NPM's) house. We will be assembling and mounting a GAP Titan vertical HF antenna, VHF/UHF J-pole, and 2.4 Ghz omni. If you have never installed antennas or worked with coax, this will be a good opportunity to learn. If you have done this before, this will be a good opportunity to teach. We're going to have a bunch of fun hanging out, playing radio, and eating grilled burgers and bratwursts prepared by Mike. Hope to see you there.

Our first special event station of the year will be on Saturday, May 17th at the North Texas Regional Airport. These special events are a good way to get on the air, hang out with fellow amateur radio operators, and have a good time. There will be a fox hunt, so bring your antennas with you. We will need volunteers to help set up and tear down, along with radio operators. Please contact Daniel or Amber at dboehmisch@gmail.com if you would like to help out.



I hope to see everybody at the meeting on Friday. We will have a presentation on emergency power for amateur radio.

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 benclsly@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.ORG
Webmaster: TBA
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 2/28/2014	\$1,080.25
Cash On Hand	\$20.00
Deposits	+ \$0.00
Expenses	- \$40.00
Ending Balance 2/28/2014	\$1,040.25

NOTES:
Deposits: None
Expenses: \$40 for table banner

Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

GCARC MEETING MINUTES

GCARC Meeting, March 21, 2014

President Ben Sly called meeting to order.

Welcome was extended to Dennis & Bekki Goncalves, Ray Stucky, Glen Spelis, Christopher Butler, and Taylor Melton, and guest Madison Sly.

Minutes from previous meeting published in newsletter. Motion to accept by John Hutchison (WD0FIN), seconded by Amber Boehmisch (KF5WPS). Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Motion to accept by David Woods (W5COP), seconded by Rick Simmons (K5ECX). Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Ben reminded everyone about the conversion to the new web site.
- Ben gave an overview of the soldering class that was conducted and received positive feedback.

New Business:

- Proposed changes to Bylaws were reviewed as published in the newsletter. Motion to accept by John Hutchison (WD0FIN), seconded by Daniel Boehmisch (AF5OY). Motion carried.
- ARRL – GCARC has been recertified as an ARRL affiliate club.
- Bike Rally is August 9th, 2014. The Kiwanis would like us to maintain the rest stops which would require an estimated 25 volunteers. Topic was open for discussion but decision tabled until next month.
- Moe Knight (NT7C) is holding an electronics class at Grayson College every month. Contact is (903) 564-7115 or nt7c@arrl.net.
- Antenna Building activity will be held at Pecan Grove Park on March 29th.
- GCARC 20th Anniversary is in September. Ordering commemorative T-shirts was discussed.
- QSL Manager – Motion made by Amber Boehmisch (KF5WPS) to have the President appoint a person as QSL Manager. Second by Glen Spelis (KG5NV). Motion carried. Lee KF5OED volunteered and was appointed as QSL Manager.
- Red River Bridge War – QSL cards are almost finished.
- An additional Net will be added to the months with a 5th Sunday. This will be an informal/casual conversation time.

Presentation by Daniel AF5OY on the capabilities a new ham has with just a Technician class license.

With no other business being brought before the club, a motion to adjourn was made by John Hutchison (WD0FIN) and seconded by Rick Simmons (K5ECX). Motion passed and meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting will be at 7pm on Friday, April 18th, 2014, in the Grayson County Courthouse 2nd Floor Assembly Room, Sherman TX.

Respectfully Submitted,
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.org>

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 Repeater Association (DARA)

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>

GCARC Events

Antenna Raising/Station Building Activity

April 19, 2014 9:00am-1:00pm (weather permitting – rain date TBD)

Mike KF5NPM's House, 1114 W Sears St, Denison TX

Come out and learn how to set up a radio station! Activities include assembling and installing three vertical antennas (HF, 2meter/440, and 2.4 GHz), running coax, grounding, connecting, and equipment testing. There will be ample opportunities for both teaching and learning. **In return for everyone's participation, Mike will be providing a lunch of grilled hamburgers and bratwursts.**

Contact: Mike KF5NPM kf5npm@gmail.com or Ben KF5OEB bencsly@gmail.com

Armed Forces Day Special Event Station

May 17, 2014

North Texas Regional Airport (Perrin Field), Denison TX

The club will operate a special event station using the callsign W5I during Armed Forces Day. Specific frequency bands and modes TBA.

Training Classes

Radio & Electronics Lab for Hams

May 10, 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

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
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 Repeater Association – Monthly Testing

3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:00pm (following the DARA monthly meeting)
Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK
Contact: Jim K5BNK (jharmon@netcommander.com)

Texoma Amateur Radio Association – Monthly Testing

3rd Saturday of each month at 2:00pm (no testing in June or July)
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

Ham-Com 2014 (Regional ARRL Centennial Event)

June 13-14, 2014 8:00am-6:00pm (Tailgate Market opens 7:00am)
VE Testing & GROL Testing: Friday 11:00am-5:00pm, Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm
Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano TX
Talk-In: 147.180
Public Contact: Bill Nelson AB5QZ (214) 532-3848 or ab5qz@swbell.net
Website: www.hamcom.org

Ham Holiday 2014

July 25-26, 2014 (Friday 3:00pm-7:00pm; Saturday 8:00am-3:00pm)
VE Testing: Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm
Bricktown Hotel, I-40 & Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK
Talk-In: 146.820 (151.4 PL)
Public Contact: Thomas Webb WA9AFM (405) 737-6716 or wa9afm@arrl.net
Website: www.hamholiday.org

CLUB ACTIVITY REPORTS

Photos from Antenna Building Class – March 29, 2014





QSL MANAGER'S CORNER

Hi Everyone,

Well, I'm gearing up to perform the QSL Manager duties for the club. Since this is the first time the club has had a QSL Manager this should be interesting. In the past it was always kind of a mystery to me how the club handled QSOs and QSLs and since I have been a member there was little said about how many QSOs and QSLs we made during our club events. I hope to change that in the future. I want to also share with all club members the QSLs we get and keep you posted on any awards the club may receive because of the QSLs we get.

I've only been on the air using HF for a few short months, but already I've made over 1,000 contacts and have over 700 QSLs. I've received these via eQSL, LOTW and direct. Many hams enjoy receiving QSL cards thru the mail, and I'll have to say I'm one of them. It is always exciting to get that envelope in the mail with a QSL card from someone you contacted on the air. Some hams could care less about getting QSLs and there are many others that can't get enough. It's really personal preference.

As QSL Manager I intend to do my best to post 100% of the contacts we make during our club events to eQSL and LOTW and respond to all QSL cards received in a timely manner.

I'm also thinking about creating some sort of display so we can show off the QSLs we have made at club events. I think this might be especially valuable during club events so we can show the general public one of the exciting things about ham radio...making contacts all over the world.

I'd also like to create a display for our club members and show off your QSL cards...so if you would like to be part of that display please give me one of your QSL cards during our next meeting. Doesn't matter what kind of card you have...any kind works for me.

If you have comments or suggestions please let me know.

I can't wait for our next club event so I can really do something.

73,

Lee
KF5OED
kf5oed@gmail.com

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 WAØURJ@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

ATTENTION FACEBOOK USERS!

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

WWV's 25 MHz Signal Back on the Air

[WWV](#) silenced its 25 MHz signal in 1977, but it's back on the air "for old times' sake" on an experimental basis. Resurrecting the long-dormant standard time outlet operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology ([NIST](#)) was Matt Deutch, N0RGT, the lead electrical engineer at WWV.



It all came about after Dean Lewis, W9WGV, lamented the loss of the 25 MHz signal in an e-mail to Deutch, who surprised him by subsequently putting the signal back on the air on April 4 for about 3-1/2 hours. A listener in Scotland [posted](#) a reception report of the WWV 25 MHz signal on YouTube. WWV ran another 25 MHz test starting on April 7. Initially it was only to stay up for 24 hours or so, but Deutch told ARRL that WWV will remain on the air probably for the rest of the week. "So hopefully a few more people will hear it," he said.

[Editor's Note: as of press time, the signal continues to be broadcast on a limited schedule of approximately 1500-2100 UTC Monday through Friday.]

Lewis said he'd told Deutch last week that 10 meter propagation has been very good at this point in Cycle 24, and he uses the various WWV frequencies as propagation beacons every day. "He responded that 'for old times' sake,' they'd put the signal back on the air for a while. I assumed, of course, that he was kidding, and so I didn't check. Matt wasn't kidding!"

NIST said the 25 MHz broadcast consists of the normal WWV signal heard on all other WWV frequencies, at the same level of accuracy. The transmitter in Fort Collins, Colorado, can deliver 2500 W into its "broadband monopole" antenna, although Deutch told ARRL that he is running it at 1200 W. WWV has [invited](#) listeners' comments and signal reports.

- Originally published online at [ARRL.org](#)

ARRL Calls for Timely, Visible FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement

In comments filed in response to the FCC's February 14 Report on Process Reform (GN Docket 14-25), the ARRL has called for a more visible, responsive Amateur Radio enforcement program. The League also said it was concerned that FCC policies for adjudicating certain complaints of interference to radio amateurs, especially those involving electric utilities, provide no incentive for the utilities to resolve them. The ARRL was further critical of the fact that FCC petitions for rule making and spectrum allocation proceedings often take years to resolve. But the League confined the bulk of its comments to perceived shortcomings in the Amateur Radio enforcement program.

"[T]he visibility of the Commission's enforcement program for the Amateur Service is wholly inadequate, resulting in a widespread, albeit inaccurate, public perception that there is no active enforcement in our service," the League's comments asserted. The ARRL said "deterrence based on visibility is a critical component of a successful compliance campaign."

The most successful - and visible - period of Amateur Radio enforcement in recent years was between 1997 and 2008, the ARRL said. According to the League, compliance during that period was a result of "the visibility in the Amateur Radio community of a single member of the Commission's Enforcement Bureau staff at Amateur Radio events" and of keeping the Amateur Radio media fully informed on what was being done to resolve a particular enforcement issue.

FCC-imposed constraints in the past few years have had "a devastating effect on the entire philosophy of the program and its success," the League told the Commission. Among other factors, the ARRL pointed to the "extensive approvals" required before the release of enforcement correspondence. Enforcement actions that are taken, the League continued, are not released to the Amateur Radio media. "This deprives radio amateurs of the knowledge that the Commission is indeed

investigating and responding to a given enforcement problem,” the ARRL said. “The result is the perception that nothing is being done in a given case, and frustration builds rapidly among the radio amateurs who have to endure the rule violator on an ongoing basis.”

“[L]imitations imposed on the visibility of enforcement actions in recent years have significantly reduced the effectiveness of the program,” the ARRL stressed, and “directly resulted in notable and unacceptable increases in rule violations, most especially malicious interference.” Further, the ARRL said, Enforcement Bureau personnel responsible for Amateur Radio enforcement should be empowered with greater autonomy to address problems as they arise.

The League faulted the FCC’s websites - old and new - for being “woefully out of date” and not well maintained or presented. “The fact that there are two separate listings of Amateur Radio enforcement actions on two separate FCC websites is, frankly, ridiculous in any case,” the ARRL concluded.

The ARRL also urged the FCC to make better use of the Amateur Auxiliary - the ARRL Official Observer Program - in resolving enforcement complaints. “It is unclear why none of the evidence gathered by OOs is usable other than as a predictor for Commission District Office staff to use in investigating the matter themselves - if and when their time permits,” the League said. “The program is authorized by legislation. It would increase the Commission’s efficiency if the work of these volunteers were put to a better use.”

The ARRL pointed to cases where chronic rule violators who were the subject of hundreds of hours of OO surveillance and off-the-air recordings have “been allowed to continue those activities for periods of years without more than a warning letter.”

The League said the Report “makes good recommendations” in addressing years-long delays in resolving rule making petitions and open-docket proceedings. As an example it cited the League’s 2012 Petition for Rulemaking seeking a new Amateur Radio allocation at 472-479 kHz. “To date, a year and a half after it was filed, this Petition for Rule Making has not been afforded a file number, nor has public comment been solicited on it,” the ARRL said.

In a Public Notice the FCC said its Report “seeks to further the goal of having the agency operate in the most effective, efficient and transparent way possible.” The League said it was not being critical of any individual FCC staffers or managers. “Rather, the remarks are directed at the Commission’s policies and processes” and address issues that “result, in large part, from the unenviable necessity of allocating scarce (and in some cases inadequate) human resources available to the Commission.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Washington Governor Visits Snohomish County EOC Radio Room

Snohomish County Auxiliary Communications Service ([Snohomish ACS](#) - formerly RACES) Radio Officer Scott Honaker, N7SS, reported that Washington Governor Jay Inslee toured the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management EOC in Everett on March 26. The EOC has been central to the ongoing relief effort following the March 22 mudslide near Oso, Washington.

“We saw Gov Inslee walk into the EOC, and a few minutes later the EOC manager brought him into the radio room with a small group,” Honaker told ARRL. “The governor shook hands and thanked us and kept asking good questions about issues he’d heard in the field. He was clearly quite engaged.”

Honaker said the EOC radio room has six radio stations in cubicles, four of them currently monitoring incident traffic. He said ARES DEC George Boswell, K7YHB, has been at the EOC 12 hours a day since last weekend.

The March 22 landslide, approximately 3 miles east of Oso - between Darrington and Arlington - destroyed some 50 homes or other structures and resulted in 30



deaths, as of April 3. Another 16 people remain missing. The slide blocked the north fork of the Stillaguamish River and covered about 1 mile of State Route 530, cutting off access to Darrington and disrupting telecommunication services.

Snohomish ACS has been handling communication from the EOC and has moved one command vehicle (COM1) to Darrington, where it had been staffed until March 27. A second vehicle was moved to the incident command post in Arlington and is being staffed by dispatchers from 911 call centers.

“Our DEM Director has requested we staff COM1 in Darrington again, and [we] will do so until relieved,” Honaker said on April 1. Amateur Radio volunteers now are running two 9 hour shifts in the EOC and one 12 hour shift in Darrington. Other Amateur Radio volunteers are providing communication support for the Incident Management Team in Arlington.

In addition to Honaker and Boswell, other Amateur Radio volunteers who met with the governor included former ACS Radio Officer Tim Lawson, K7TKA; Erik Robbins, K7QOG; Ann Wright, AA7AG, and Rob Myers, K7RHM.

During a radio [interview](#) with Brandi Kruse on KIRO in Seattle, Governor Inslee recounted his EOC visit and specifically his visit to the radio room.

“It’s interesting that they had a volunteer group that really has handled a lot of the communications,” the governor said. “They have staffed the communications center so that you could have communications from Darrington across over to the Operations Center in Arlington, because the phones were down for two and a half days.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Amateur Radio in Government HF Radio Communications Test

Amateur Radio operators and Federal government radio stations were recently engaged in a nationwide test of their capability to communicate with each other by HF in the event of an emergency or disaster. The 12-day joint readiness exercise ran from March 27 through April 7, and covered all areas of the country using a digital HF radio system known as Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). This High Frequency Interoperability Exercise 2014 (HFIE-2014) ran concurrently with the federal National Exercise Program (NEP) 2014.

ALE is a standardized digital signaling protocol used by each radio service, amateur and government, to establish HF communications between their stations. For the first time, the government regulatory agencies (FCC and NTIA) have authorized these stations to communicate with each other using ALE. HF radio enables long distance communication independent of terrestrial communications infrastructure, Internet, or satellites.

To facilitate the communication testing, FEMA secured temporary authority from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the FCC. HF radios used by the government stations have the ALE capability built into the hardware, while Amateur Radio operators have implemented the same ALE protocols using their personal computers with ham radio equipment and software. The Special Temporary Authority allowed for on-the-air testing of interoperability between the hardware and software-generated ALE capabilities.

The HFIE-2014 is a semi-annual Amateur Radio readiness exercise coordinated by the [HFLINK](#) organization and the [Global ALE High Frequency Network](#). It is open to all ALE-capable Amateur Radio stations. Technical and operational guidelines for amateur and federal government stations are available [here](#).

The National Exercise Program (NEP) 2014 is a complex emergency preparedness exercise with activities sponsored by government departments and agencies, designed to educate and prepare the whole community for complex, large-scale disasters and emergencies. As part of the National Preparedness Goal (NPG), it enables a collaborative, whole community approach to national preparedness that engages individuals, families, communities, the private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations and all levels of government.

- 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 ARA 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 DARA monthly meeting.

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

Scout Ham Net

1st Tuesday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.

This net is for all active Scouts, Adult Leaders, and active Merit Badge Counselors who are Amateur Radio operators.

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

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC



You're At Ground Zero – Now What?

I read a few articles the last few days in QST and several e-newsletters I have the privilege to receive due to the “EC job”. So this time I will take a break from our usual storm season discussions and look at the bigger picture.

In thinking about our hobby, we have been given privileges to operate communications equipment on the various amateur bands via various modes. This privilege is granted here in the U.S. by dear old Uncle Sam who assigns the spectrum to various uses via the FCC. Back in the day when I gave my kids privileges there was an expectation we all understood that something had or would be done to receive that privilege. It appears to me there are the same expectations with Amateur Radio. That's where you come in.

As operators, whether we are DX'rs, ragchewers, digipeople, or contesters, we can be and should be involved in our community representing Amateur Radio. Those activities are a fun part of the hobby and offer a great deal of enjoyment for us, but they also offer a proving ground to develop skills and abilities. You can be a part of community involvement even if you're not in ARES, RACES or the other alphabet organizations. The articles lead me to think we all should be involved. You can represent our art to those you meet by being a good operator and neighbor. Offer to use your portable generator the help a neighbor when the power goes out; you have way to charge phones, laptops, batteries, and some ops even have inverters to run a few appliances off a battery. You have the capability to send and receive messages for your neighborhood. Share that knowledge where you live. Offer to plan ahead so people around you have an understanding of what you can help them with in an emergency, and also learn what skills they may have such as medical or construction. It might just create an environment that will lead others to our hobby, or at the very least allow a better understanding of what Amateur Radio is. If you are a CERT member, have you shared that with those around you? It could be an important bit of information to help others decide how or what actions they take when disaster strikes.

With all that said, let's look at our ARES group. If you take the prior thoughts seriously, then we must be excellent communicators. As one article stated: “probably the most important training an operator can have for participation in ARES would be informal and directed net procedures; the ability to receive, send, and relay messages; the international phonetic alphabet; and use of plain language. Net Control stations need to know how to run an informal net and a directed net. An operator who is unable to fulfill these basic functions is a liability.” Wow, that's a pretty strong statement. I don't think anyone wants to be a liability, especially when the chips are down. As a good operator we need to understand our equipment, how it works and its capabilities or limitations. We must develop good practices through our ongoing training.

Another article discussed our ability to serve the medical community, hospitals, clinics and so forth. We may have operators “out there” reporting medical needs or requesting assistance. Once again, it's critical we communicate well. In support of a hospital one author said: “Information must be conveyed with 100% accuracy, or patient safety is put at risk. Some protocols to follow as communicators include: re-transmitting (reading) orders and labs back to confirm accuracy.”

So it's happened, and you are at ground zero. The utilities are out, damage has been done, and your neighbors need you. Are you ready to communicate? Assess your station, antennas and supply of power. Look at the needs of those around you... can you help in some way? Can you ask for help via radio? Where are the resources available to meet the needs of those around you? Can you be a part of solving the issues at hand? As an Amateur Radio operator you can be involved to help your community. Every operator can be an asset to the community. Each of you has been given a privilege to operate and enjoy our hobby. I think with the privilege comes a responsibility to be involved.

Our ARES team has grown a great deal over the past several years. It's because we are involved, we do train, and we do offer to help others.

If you feel Amateur Radio is a privilege, and if you want to find a way to respond to that thru our weather spotting, emergency communications planning, assistance with served organizations and the community as a whole, or even if it's just helping your neighbors, then we look forward to seeing you get involved.

73
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