



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

MAY 2014

WWW.K5GCC.US

VOL. 20, No. 5

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

The weather has been....well, it's Texas. It's time to get out and do some activities. Our last activity at Mike's (KF5NPM) last month went really well. We put together and installed a Gap Titan on his roof, ran some coax, and ate some food. Thanks to everyone that came out and helped. I for one, had a good time working with everyone helping Mike get his station put together.

Our first special event station of the year will be on Saturday, May 17th at the North Texas Regional Airport, Perrin Field Museum. 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. We will be running PSK31 and SSB on both 20 and 40 meters. Please contact Daniel or Amber at dboehmisch@gmail.com if you would like to help out.

Hope to see everybody at the meeting on Friday where we will talk about which HF rig the club wants to purchase for special events. There will also be a presentation on TNCs afterward.

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.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 3/31/2014	\$1,040.25
Cash On Hand	\$20.00
Deposits	+ \$450.00
Expenses	- \$0.00
Ending Balance 4/30/2014	\$1,490.25

NOTES:

Deposits: Dues \$60.00, Clothing \$371.00, Equipment \$19.00
Expenses: None

Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

GCARC MEETING MINUTES

GCARC Meeting, April 18, 2014

President Ben Sly called the meeting to order at 7:02pm by welcoming Lyle Murphy, Jim Nash (KF5ZPF, now N5MME), and Joe Strickland (KC5LY).

President Ben reminded everyone that the minutes are published in the newsletter, and if they were not receiving the newsletter to contact Mike Bernier (KF5NPM). Motion to accept minutes and seconded. Motion passed.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report submitted by Amber Boehmisch (KF5WPS) and seconded by Lee Sly (KF5OED). Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Vice President Jeannie Dopson explained that we are recertified with ARRL and that membership with ARRL would be a dual membership. ARRL memberships can be renewed through our club and we retain a portion of the ARRL membership fee.
- Moe Knight (NT7C) is hosting the Electronics Class the second Saturday of each month at Grayson College.
- Club activity on Saturday April 19th – Antenna Raising/Station Building at Mike KF5NPM's house. Come out and learn how to install antennas and coax and set up a new station. Mike will be providing a cookout for everyone attending.

New Business:

- Red River Bike Rally – motion to support one rest stop was submitted by Lee Sly (KF5OED) and seconded by Amber Boehmisch (KF5WPS). Motion passed.
- Club 20th Anniversary T-shirts will be available thru Rick Simmons (K5ECX) and anyone wishing to purchase will need to contact Rick.
- Special Event to be held at North Texas Regional Airport (Perrin Field) will be on May 17th. Contact Daniel or Amber Boehmisch (activity directors), to set up (7:30am) and operations will start at 9:00am. Break down will be sometime around 4:00pm.

Presentation brought by President Ben Sly on Emergency Backup Power.

Motion was submitted by Jeannie Dopson (KF5PDM) to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm, and seconded by Tim Branam (KF5RAX). Motion passed.

Next Meeting will be at 7pm on Friday, May 16th, 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

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Durant-Amateur-Repeater-Association-Ham-Radio/292030700959672>

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

Armed Forces Day Special Event Station

May 17, 2014 7:30am (setup), 9:00am-4:00pm (operating)

North Texas Regional Airport (Perrin Field), Denison TX

The club will operate a special event station using the callsign W5I during Armed Forces Day. Operating modes: SSB and PSK31 Frequencies: 20 and 40 meters.

Training Classes

Radio & Electronics Lab for Hams

2nd Saturday of each month from 8:30am-12:30pm (**no Lab in June**)

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

(NOTE: June will be the last month for Technician License testing using the current question pool.

The new Technician question pool goes into effect July 1.)

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

DURANT AMATEUR REPEATER ASSOCIATION (DARA) NEWS

Durant's DARA club will provide 2 meter two-way communications during the Durant Rotary Magnolia Bike Tour on May 31st, a bike ride which this year has been extended to 90 miles. Radio tests have revealed difficulty in reaching the extreme distances. To help, contact keppler@durant.org.

If anyone is using the 160 meter antenna Troy K5CBL demonstrated at a GCARC meeting a year ago, Don K5CGE is experimenting by adding a second wire on the top of the PVC loading coil so it will resonate on both 160 and 80 meters without any gimmicks.

DARA appreciates the Sherman area amateurs who check into the DARA Tuesday 7 pm net.

DARA is now on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Durant-Amateur-Repeater-Association-Ham-Radio/292030700959672>. Be sure to come by and visit. Thanks, Ben, for leaving a note.

Remember Ham-Com is coming up June 13-14 in Plano.

The GCARC newsletter is now shared with many Durant area amateurs. It's an impressive writeup.

Jim K5BNK

CLUB ACTIVITY REPORTS

Antenna Raising/Station Building Event – April 19, 2014

On Saturday April 19th, club members got together at Mike KF5NPM's house to learn how to set up a new radio station. While the most visible activity was outside where Ben KF5OEB and Tim KF5RAX worked on the roof installing a vertical HF antenna, there were plenty of other jobs to do: Rick K5ECX soldered coax connectors, Lee KF5OED drilled holes for running cables, and Mike KF5DAS installed a ground rod, among other things. Our host learned a great deal from this experience, and thanked everyone with a cookout of burgers and bratwursts. *(Photo credits: Karlee KF5ZPG)*





This image was dubbed the "Iwo Jima photo" on Facebook



QSL MANAGER'S CORNER

Hi Everyone,

I've received all the QSL cards the club has received from the last several years and have got things organized...at least they are organized how I like them. I've also created a couple of books to show off at our club meetings and the special event stations we have during the year. I got some 3 ring binders with 4x6 photo pages to show off our QSL cards for both our WAS progress and our DX contacts. I'm also working on a display board to show off the QSL cards of our club members. If you would like your QSL card included on that display please bring one to the next meeting or to the special event at Perrin Field on Saturday.

We should be receiving the QSL cards we ordered for the Red River Bridge War very soon and I'll be able to get all caught up on QSL cards we still owe folks from last year.

So how is the club doing on making contacts and receiving QSL's from all 50 states? We have QSL's from 41 states...not bad considering we only have 3 special events every year. We still need QSL's from these states:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alaska • Delaware • New Hampshire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Jersey • Oklahoma • Rhode Island | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Dakota • Vermont • Wyoming |
|---|--|--|

For those of you who operate the radios on Saturday please encourage the contacts you make from these states to send us a QSL card.

And we are always looking for those DX contacts and would love to get their QSL cards as well.

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/)

Northern Arizona County Bans All Forms of Mobile Two-Way Radio

A new ban on mobile cellphone use has been enacted in one Northern Arizona county that effectively precludes all forms of mobile two way radio other than those needed for public service by first responders, police, fire and other authorized officials. One of its biggest impacts is that it will effectively preclude hams from operating mobile.

The new law is the work of the leaders of Coconino County located in the north central part of Arizona and is a part of the Flagstaff metropolitan statistical area. It not only includes the city of Flagstaff but the Grand Canyon and adjacent areas as well.

As written, the new ban outlaws mobile radio communications for most drivers who depend on the technology unless they are using a hands-free device. It also stops amateur radio operators and others who use push-to-talk microphones from being able to easily assist in a volunteer capacity with local events. The measure provides a very narrowly crafted exemption for amateur radio operators working during an emergency situation under the direction of “authorized first responders” but nothing else. If a ham or any other member of the public wants to use a two-way communications device while operating mobile anywhere in the county, he or she must pull over to the side of the road or use a hands free connection such as Bluetooth to their mobile device.

According to the *Arizona Daily Sun*, there are hundreds of amateur radio operators in the county who are very angry over the new law. It says that hams have been reaching out to the Chairman of the county Board of Supervisors to get a clarification or an amendment that would create an exemption allowing their mobile radio operations to continue. But, the newspaper also says that when reached for comment county officials confirmed that the ordinance does ban mobile amateur radio operations as well as all other two-way mobile communications deemed as personal.

Motorists have been given a six month grace period during which they will receive only a warning. After that violating the ordinance will be punishable by a \$100 fine, plus any other penalty allowable by law.

For more details visit www.tinyurl.com/arizona-hams-react-to-ban or www.coconino.az.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5309

- Originally published online by Amateur Radio Newline www.amnewsline.org

ARES, SKYWARN Volunteers Mustered For Severe Weather Onslaught

Amateur Radio Emergency Service ([ARES](#)) and [SKYWARN](#) teams activated in late April as severe weather, including devastating tornadoes, struck mainly in the Deep South and Midwest. As rain continued into the week, the National Weather Service (NWS) said flash flooding was possible from southern New England to the Gulf Coast.

On April 28, tornadoes raked Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Missouri and other states. Upward of three dozen people died. According to Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, tornadoes inflicted “severe damage” in and around Louisville, some 100 miles northeast of Jackson. Tupelo also was hit; television viewers in that city watched as WTVA’s chief meteorologist exited the set after ordering his colleagues to take cover.

“Preliminary reports indicate extensive damage in the Jackson Metro, Winston County, and Lee County,” ARRL Mississippi Section Manager Malcolm Keown, W5XX, said April 29.

“ARES/SKYWARN activated over the state providing ground-truth weather and damage reports to NWS-Jackson and NWS-Memphis. One 400 foot ham tower was lost in Northeast Mississippi which supported multiple repeaters.”

More than a dozen died in weekend Arkansas storms; other fatalities were reported in Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Iowa. Forecasters said the spate of severe weather could continue through the end of the week. Arkansas Section Central District

Emergency Coordinator and [Arkansas SKYWARN](#) volunteer Danny Straessle, KE5WLR, told ARRL that the NWS Little Rock Forecast Office contacted him on Saturday morning.

“Arkansas SKYWARN operates *in* the operations center at the Little Rock Forecast Office,” Straessle explained. “This provides a direct benefit to the forecasters to have a direct ear-to-the-ground truth our operators provide.” While much of Sunday was quiet, the NWS issued a tornado warning just after 7 PM, warning residents to take cover.

“We immediately received a report from Harold Higgins, W5HWH, in west Pulaski County of 80 MPH winds, trees down, and power out,” Straessle said. Then, Tim King, KC5GNJ, reported debris and rotation -- the first actual tornado sighting. The twister proceeded into Mayflower and crossed Interstate Route 40, which was subsequently shut down.

“As the storm crossed the Arkansas River,” Straessle said, “Adam Flynn, W5FJC, was the first to report that a second vortex had appeared.” A tornado emergency was issued for Mayflower and Vilonia. “I can see a very, very wide tornado on the ground to the west,” Flynn told the net. Behind the storm, Flynn followed up with reports of downed power lines and a damage path. Widespread property damage was reported in Mayflower and Vilonia, north of Little Rock. Tim Hunter, N5RZX, told the net from downtown Vilonia that he had eyes on the storm, which affected him personally. Other SKYWARN volunteers reported a second funnel trailing the first, and subsequent eyewitness reports confirmed the tornado. The net finally shut down at 4:45 Monday morning.

Straessle said he was pleased that Arkansas SKYWARN Amateur Radio storm spotters were able to provide “a virtual play-by-play” as the storms passed through. “While the forecasters had their eyes glued to the radar, their ears were glued to reports coming in from Arkansas SKYWARN,” he said. Straessle added that the net “went like clockwork.”

In Bates County, Missouri, on Sunday, William DelliPaoli, KD0PVP, reported that his SKYWARN net was able to get a warning out 20 minutes in advance to members in the fire department and city emergency operations center, where volunteers were monitoring. “I had been monitoring NWS Chat all day and was prepared for the tornadoes entering Bates County,” he told Mike Bellinger, K0UAA, Missouri District A Emergency Coordinator.

Lafayette County, Missouri, ARES EC Jack Green, KD0CYM, said ARES was called out on Sunday April 27. “Around 1 PM we received word of a sighting south of Bates City, [and] we deployed. Around Higginsville, we had very strong winds that blew very large signs down, tore shingles off houses, and broke off large tree limbs,” he told ARRL. Green said the 13 deployed spotters then stood down to regroup for the next front, but the tornado activity stayed to the south.

Ray County, Missouri, northwest of Kansas City, also experienced some severe weather over the weekend. ARES EC Randal Kennett, W0RAK, reported that Amateur Radio volunteers started up a net on the Richmond repeater and exchanged condition reports. A funnel cloud appeared some 4 miles from Kennett’s home. “Tornado warnings were broadcast by NWS for most of the towns in my area,” he said, but a downed tree in Hardin was the worst damage he observed.

Much of the US South and Southeast experienced heavy rainfall as a result of the persistent storm systems, and flood warnings were posted in several states. Some regions received more than a foot of rain in 24 hours. The Florida Panhandle was especially hard hit by flooding.

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

Nevada 8-Year-Old Passes Technician Exam

When southwest Las Vegas, Nevada resident Dan Connell describes his son Zorion as “sporadic and chatty,” it’s not an exaggeration. One minute the 8-year-old is conversing about Legos and toy guns, and the next he’s articulating math equations using Ohm’s law. “The current flowing through a 100-ohm resistor connected across 200 volts is 2 amps,” Zorion said. “That’s so easy I can do it in my head.”

Zorion’s competent communication skills helped him pass the Federal Communications Commission’s amateur radio license exam in Las Vegas on April 5. He received his callsign on April 11 and is now KG7KNK.

The third-grader is no stranger to radio communication. He obtained his General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) authorization and call sign WQNZ596 when he was 5. Zorion was introduced to amateur radio through his father, who normally administers the license exams in Las Vegas.

“The Pahrump team had to come out and administer it this time because Zorion is my son,” Connell said. “They wanted to make sure there were no shenanigans going on. No one wants anyone to say that I helped him do this, which I did not.”

Zorion scored in the 90th percentile according to Connell. “I only missed four questions,” Zorion said. “There were people there that took the test before and still didn’t pass. I got it on the first try.”

“He’s one of the youngest in the country to sit and pass the FCC exam,” Connell said. “We think he’s the youngest amateur radio operator in all of Nevada, but there’s no way of proving it because the FCC doesn’t keep a record of amateurs’ ages.”

“He can also do about 12 words a minute in Morse code, which I think is protege level,” Connell continued. “It usually takes someone five or six years to get to 12 words a minute. He seems to have a natural talent for it.”

Zorion hopes to communicate with others via radio at least once a week. “We talk about radios and the weather and what we’re doing,” Zorion said. “There are a billion things to talk about.”

When he’s not playing with radios, Zorion enjoys practicing the piano, riding his bike and playing video games. He said he wants to be a police officer when he grows up. “There are radio people who like the service and education side of it, like myself,” Connell said. “Then there are people like Zorion who just want to make friends and have new experiences.”

- Originally published online by the Las Vegas Review-Journal www.reviewjournal.com

Astronaut Emcees Live Amateur Radio Digital TV Test from the ISS

Japanese Astronaut Koichi Wakata, KC5ZTA, served as the host for a successful final commissioning test pass April 13 for the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) “[Ham Video](#)” transmitter and camera. Operating as OR4ISS from the ISS *Columbus* module, Wakata transmitted digital video and audio, as ground stations in France and Italy tracked the station. G4KLB, F6DZP, and IK1SLD were among those receiving clear video and audio during the approximately 6 minute pass. They streamed the signal over the Internet via the British Amateur Television Club ([BATC](#)) server. The test used so-called “configuration 4” -- 2395 MHz with ARISS antenna 43.



G4KLB: Bournemouth, 23950MHz 2Ms 13 April 2014 07:48:10
JAXA Astronaut Koichi Wakata, KC5ZTA, is on the air live April 13 during a final commissioning pass of the ARISS ham radio digital TV system onboard the International Space Station. [G4KLB image via BATC server]

“The final Ham Video commissioning pass was performed flawlessly Sunday, April 13, at 1823 UTC,” ARISS Europe Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, proclaimed. “Congratulations to the Ham Video team for this outstanding performance. Next step should be a video-enhanced ARISS school contact.”

During the pass, Wakata congratulated ARISS for its achievement and answered a series of questions “in the manner of a school contact,” Bertels explained. He also conducted a microgravity experiment.

In early March, as one of his final actions during his duty tour aboard the International Space Station, NASA Astronaut Mike Hopkins, KF5LJG, installed and commissioned the ARISS Ham Video transmitter and camera. He also was the first member of an ISS crew to transmit his image to Earth using the Amateur Radio digital television (DATV) setup.

The ARISS project, led by [ARISS-EU](#), [AMSAT-Italy](#), and the European Space Agency ([ESA](#)), eventually will enhance ARISS school contacts by providing a video and audio downlink plus an audio-only uplink.

- 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 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)	

GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC



Are You Social?

No, I'm not talking about manners at the dinner table. Let's talk about social media. I am not, repeat not, any form of expert on these various forms of apps and programs out in the ether. You know, the ones that allow instant communication with text, pictures, even videos. I just don't get that all my friends want to know I'm out for dinner at Pelican's Landing eating the cooked beast and having a drink with my best friend. Just old school – *noneya* – we enjoy some privacy. Now I do enjoy an occasional post of my very cute and special grandkids. It's rare that I check Facebook and even more rare to look at Twitter. But, I have noticed something you might want to think about.

All of us involved in ARES and especially SKYWARN get calls, e-mails, texts, tweets and inquiries in general from our non-weather-aware friends asking for updates and what's going to happen when the dark scary clouds show on the horizon. At my place it goes something like this, taken from a real conversation:

"Dad ...we are at the ball game, it's starting to look pretty bad ...is it going to storm?" Me – well, yes it's probably going to, have you seen lightning, has anyone... "No, its just gotten cooler and the wind's acting funny, oops there was a thunder clap... oh, the umps called the game... gotta go, bye"

We are "weather experts" to the unfortunate misinformed friends and family who put us on pedestals because we can operate radios and have a desire to serve our communities. Yes we are trained by the NWS, and yes we operate our Grayson County SKYWARN team at their request; but friends, we are not anywhere near a degree in meteorology. Please don't fall into that trap. More importantly, don't let your friends lead you there either.

The NWS and even our own Office of Emergency Management is rethinking how to use social media. You know the training you have received and its repetitiveness, and yet I know some of you would hesitate to use the word "tornado" or even "rotation" in a transmission unless you really could see it. You are trained well enough to verify before you report. And Net Control will back-check the claim through other spotters in the area. It recently happened to several of you at night. Some confided after the event it might have been there but you just didn't see it clearly in the lighting flashes. Even the NWS folks could see some mid-level rotation in the radar, but we didn't confirm what they thought they were seeing. We all chose a conservative approach and that's ok. But consider the alternative:

Four random social media ops screaming "Tornado! I see it! It's on top of the town!" all spaced a few minutes apart. We all know somebody who thinks they know a tornado when they see one (remember those pictures of "fake" tornadoes at the training?). Now the County and NWS are faced with a dilemma – do they believe the untrained masses or the trained spotters? How do they sort through all the reports in a timely manner? They then ask us to confirm a report of a tornado over town. Valuable time is spent backtracking when we should be focused on storm movement and spotter safety. Now to be fair, not all those concerned public folk are going to be wrong and we are not always going to be where we see everything, but there has to be a way to manage the information, and there is some question as to how to deal with the volume of information that comes thru social media.

So, ARES team, let's do this: when you get asked about the scary cloud on the horizon by your friend, or when you get the bug to post about your best forecast guess because ARES is at orange, or when you feel the pressure to interpret the data, unless you have a degree in meteorology please **DON'T**. We are the eyes and ears for the officials who are charged to notify the public. **DO** refer friends to the NWS or County OEM's Facebook or Twitter pages. They are the official sources

of information; besides, we ought to be busy with our own work of accurate spotting for the NWS so they can interpret ALL the data that makes for a decision to notify the public.

You are appreciated by many, many people in our county. Your professionalism has created this respect. From all four corners I hear from people who are glad you do what you do. It is a pleasure to serve with you.

73
Rick
K5ECX

