



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

OCTOBER 2014

WWW.K5GCC.ORG

VOL. 20, No. 10

## THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

Well, it's been a very busy month but it's not quite over yet. This Saturday we will be setting up a booth in Van Alstyne at the "Fall Der All" from 12pm to 6pm. Anyone wanting to come out and help us spread the word about Amateur Radio is more than welcome to join us. Contact Daniel (AF5OY) at [af5oy@gmail.com](mailto:af5oy@gmail.com) for info if you'd like to volunteer. We set up a similar booth at the Denison Main Street Festival on Oct. 4th and it was a bunch of fun. The weather was wonderful and we had a ton of people stop by and ask us questions about Amateur Radio. I really appreciate everyone that came out and helped staff the booth.

Last Saturday we set up our annual Eisenhower special event station and had a really good time. In addition to our normal special event contacts we ran a short net, made several HF contacts, and sent a few messages via Winlink in support of the ARES emergency exercise. All in all it turned out to be a pretty good day despite the cool misty weather.

Let's not forget about the Texoma Hamarama on October 24th and 25th. This is one of my favorite hamfests and I will be there again this year. Lots of prizes, VE test sessions, and lots of good stuff to buy.

Hope to see everybody at the meeting on Friday where we will open club officer nominations for 2015 and have a really interesting presentation on waveforms.

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](mailto: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

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## CLUB INFORMATION

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### 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

### MAILING ADDRESS

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

### WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Address: [WWW.K5GCC.ORG](http://WWW.K5GCC.ORG)  
Webmaster: TBA  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC](http://www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC)  
Page:

### MEETINGS

When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month  
Time: 7:00pm (1900 hours)  
Location: Grayson County Courthouse  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Assembly Room  
100 W. Houston Street  
Sherman, TX 75090  
GPS: 33.38.18N, 96.36.59W

### NEWSLETTER

Published: Monthly via e-mail  
Editor: Michael Bernier KF5NPM  
To Submit News or to Add/Remove from E-Mail List: Send E-Mail to [KF5NPM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KF5NPM@GMAIL.COM)  
Submission Deadline: 12 midnight on the Saturday prior to each monthly meeting

### 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.

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## GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

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Starting Bank Balance 8/31/2014	\$1,231.15
Cash On Hand	\$20.00
Deposits	+ \$75.00
Expenses	- \$30.00
Ending Bank Balance 8/31/2014	\$1,276.15
Net after Outstanding Checks	\$922.66

#### NOTES:

Deposits: Dues (\$60.00), Clothing/Patches (\$15.00)  
Expenses: Denison Park & Rec/Munson Park (\$30.00)

#### Outstanding

Checks: Kiwanis (\$250.00), Flowers/W. Graves (\$30.00), QSL Cards (73.49)

Sheila Sammons KF5TDP  
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

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## GCARC MEETING MINUTES

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### GCARC Meeting, September 19, 2014

Meeting started at 7:00 by president Ben Sly KF5OEB

Motion to accept last meeting's minutes and treasurer's report as posted (with correction noted below) in the September newsletter made by Donald W5DWH and seconded by Mark KF5UZW.

One correction to the previous minutes: the start time for the August meeting was 7:10 instead of 8:10.

#### Old Business

- New radio donated to club - Rick K5ECX worked with Phil @ Kenwood. Club discussed purchasing a case for said radio. Roy Reed KG5BFK to contact a friend to possibly have one donated or Daniel AF5OY can order a Gator case.

#### New Business

- Daniel AF5OY discussed tomorrow is the club's 20th anniversary event. Mark KF5UZW to cook all meat, discussed the few remaining items needed. Event to start at 9am at Munson Park Pavilion in Denison.
- October 4th Denison Fall Festival, any volunteers welcome, the more the merrier. Goal is to advertise for the club and get more people interested.
- Van Alstyne "Fall Der All" October 18th from 12 noon to 5pm, booth is free for this event.
- October 11th Eisenhower Special Event Station, All day - W5I callsign.
- Gainesville Hamfest VE Testing
- VE Testing 9-20-14 at Java Stop
- Ardmore Hamfest October 24-25
- Club QSL manager Lee N5SLY would like to order K5GCC QSL Cards for the club \$70 for 500 cards. Motion to accept by Jim KF5QOI and seconded by Donald W5DWH.
- Donald W5DWH announced a new repeater would be available next week. Open to everyone and is located on his property. Echolink node will be available at all times on repeater, may possibly link to another repeater in Marietta, OK.
- 147.00 Repeater down temporarily sometime in the middle of October, will be temporarily moved to and will have a smaller footprint until the water tower construction is complete.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm by John WD0FIN and seconded by Leland N5SLY.

Next Meeting will be at 7pm on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in the Grayson County Courthouse 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Assembly Room, Sherman TX.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amber Boehmisch KF5WPS (sitting in for Sheila Sammons KF5TDP)  
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

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## CLUB MEETINGS, LOCAL ACTIVITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Club Meetings

#### **Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 7:00pm

Grayson County Courthouse 2<sup>nd</sup> floor assembly room, 100 West Houston Street, Sherman TX

<http://www.k5gcc.org>

#### **Cooke County Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00pm

Cooke County Library, 200 S. Weaver Street, Gainesville TX

<http://www.gainesvillehamfest.org/club.htm>

#### **Durant Amateur Repeater Association (DARA)**

3<sup>rd</sup> 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)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 9:00am

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX

<http://www.k5frc.org>

#### **McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00pm

Spring Creek Barbecue, 1993 North Central Expressway, McKinney TX

<http://www.mckinneyarc.org>

#### **Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Chapter 41**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 11:00am

Midway Point Restaurant, 12801 Midway Road, Dallas TX

<http://www.texasqcwa41.org>

### **ARES® / SKYWARN®**

#### **Grayson County ARES® Training**

4<sup>th</sup> 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**

#### **Fall-Der-All Festival**

October 18, 2014 from Noon-6:00pm

Downtown Van Alstyne TX

The club will have a booth providing information to visitors about ham radio and GCARC

### **Training Classes**

#### **Technician License Training Class**

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

Session 1: Saturday, November 15, 2014 8:30am-12:30pm

Session 2: Saturday, December 6, 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](mailto:nt7c@arrl.net)

Class Fee: No Charge for the class, but there is a \$15 fee to take the Technician exam. Students who choose to borrow a Study Guide will be charged a \$10 deposit (deposit will be refunded or may be applied toward the exam fee when the guide is returned).

Registration: Required; contact Moe to register

#### **Radio & Electronics Lab for Hams**

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from 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](mailto: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**

1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:nt7c@arrl.net)

#### **Durant Amateur Repeater Association – Monthly Testing**

3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:jharmon@netcommander.com))

#### **Texoma Amateur Radio Association – Monthly Testing**

3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:wa0urj@yahoo.com)) to schedule a session

### **Hamfests**

#### **Texoma Hamarama (Oklahoma Section Convention)**

October 24-25, 2014 (Friday 5:00pm-8:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-1:00pm)

Ardmore Convention Center, 2401 N Rockford Rd, Ardmore OK

Talk-In: 146.97

Public Contact: Don Loving KM5OX (580) 221-1894 or [wallcloud2001@yahoo.com](mailto:wallcloud2001@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.texomahamarama.org](http://www.texomahamarama.org)

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## **QSL MANAGER'S CORNER**

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Hi everyone,

We had a great time at the Eisenhower Special Event Station last Saturday. Made some contacts on the radio, enjoyed the hot dogs the Boy Scouts cooked and the birthday cake for Ike...and also enjoyed the WW2 exhibits and battle reenactment that was put on. Good news...the US Army won the battle again...the Germans never had a chance.

We were not on the radio long that day...the weather wasn't too good...temps were 30+ degrees lower than yesterday and it was misty and very cool all day. Thanks to Tim and Stacy for bring their trailer. We had to turn the heater on and it worked just fine.

Made about 42 contacts on 20 meters. Total of 21 states contacted. Most contacts were made in New Mexico, Arizona and California. No DX contacts this time. All have been uploaded to eQSL and LoTW. Looking forward to getting some QSL cards in the mail.

My thanks to Rick for updating the QRZ page for W5I for this event.

All in all it was a great day.

73,

Lee

N5SLY

[kf5oed@gmail.com](mailto:kf5oed@gmail.com)



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## GCARC 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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### GCARC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Club members gathered at Munson Park in Denison to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club.



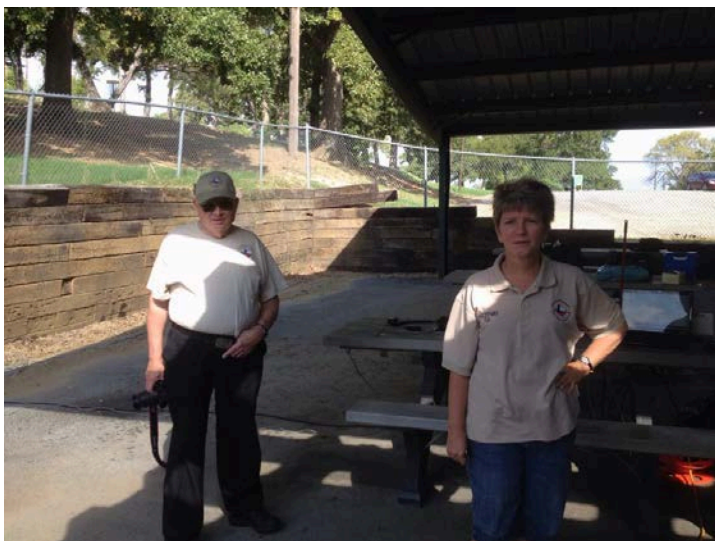













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## SWAP MEET

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*(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](mailto: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: HF and CB Transceivers

Kenwood TS-130SE HF SSB transceiver; needs power and antenna.

Realistic Navaho TRC 431 40-channel CB base transceiver; has house plug needs antenna.

Both belonged to a ham operator relative, now needing a good home.

Asking \$130 for both

Contact: Larry Macomber

E-mail: [maczhere3542@att.net](mailto:maczhere3542@att.net) / Phone: (903) 337-0189

## 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.

Asking \$190 Pick Up Only in Bonham, TX

Contact: David Reeder WAØURJ

E-mail: [WA0URJ@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:0101.smd@gmail.com)

## FOR SALE: Computer and Radio Station Desk

Desk is light oak, 62" w x 33" d with glass panel to see monitor from below. Power distribution panel included. Hutch is white pine stained to match the desk, 60" w x 42" h with adjustable shelves. Desk can be disassembled for transportation and reassembled easily.

Asking \$400 for the set.

Radios not included.

Contact: Bill KK5RW

Phone: (281) 217-9942

E-Mail:

[3bewens@gmail.com](mailto:3bewens@gmail.com)





### Scouting's 57th Jamboree On The Air Takes Place October 18-19

Scouting's 2014 Jamboree On The Air ([JOTA](#)) is set for the October 18-19 weekend. The annual event links Scouts around the world via Amateur Radio. More than a half million Scouts and Guides get together over the airwaves each third weekend of October for JOTA. According to the World Scout Bureau, JOTA is the largest Scouting event in the world, with nearly 750,000 Scouts participating from 6000 stations in 150 countries around the world. Scouts of any age can participate, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venture crew members. Not a contest, JOTA's goal is to foster Scout-to-Scout communication across borders and oceans.

"The idea is to contact other Scout stations and allow as many Scouts as possible to talk to other Scouts and learn about who they are and what they are doing," the [Boy Scouts of America](#) has said in its [JOTA guidelines](#), which offer suggested frequencies.

On-the-air exchanges typically include such information as name, location, Scout rank, age, and hobbies, but the conversation can certainly go beyond that. Amateur Radio licensees should be aware that international third-party traffic [agreements](#) may prohibit direct person-to-person communication between unlicensed individuals in certain other countries. In those cases, the station control operator may serve as an intermediary.

Licensed mentors often open their stations to Scouts on JOTA weekend, serving as control operators. Radio operation will be on 80 through 6 meters, all modes, and 2 meters and 70 centimeters FM simplex. Upward of 14,000 stations were on the air for JOTA 2013.

A JOTA participant patch is available, as is a certificate/log sheet that can also be used to fulfill a Radio merit badge requirement.

JOTA 2014 gets underway on Saturday, October 18, at 0000 local time and concludes on Sunday, October 19, at 2400 local time. The ARRL website also has [information](#) on JOTA.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org



### Ham Radio Saves the Day in the Yukon

According to a Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) [report](#), Amateur Radio bridged the gap recently for members of a search-and-rescue team attempting to locate a missing teenager in Canada's Yukon Territory. SAR team member Terry Hauff, VY1MAP, was unable to contact the team's headquarters in Whitehorse during the September 21 activation. He was out of cell phone range, and the satellite phone the team had was not working. VY1MAP was, however, able to reach a 2 meter repeater from his mobile station.



Hauff reached out to Ray Fugard, VY1RF, and Ron McFadyen, VY1RM, on the 146.88 MHz repeater in Whitehorse, and they were able to relay a report on the search status from the SAR command center some 35 km north of Whitehorse at Lake Laberge. The missing teen was eventually located unharmed. According to the RAC report, this marked the second time in as many months that Amateur Radio and Yukon Amateur Radio Association members and repeater infrastructure had proved invaluable in an emergency.

Vincent Charron, VE3XU, RAC's Director of Communications, commented, "Whether it's a natural disaster, major weather event, planned community event, or a missing person search, we at RAC receive numerous reports of Amateur Radio interventions when traditional communication systems fail. Ham radio is most

certainly still relevant and provides a crucial communications back-up option, often in challenging/dire situations.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## Wisconsin Ham Dies in Fall from Tower

A Wisconsin radio amateur lost his life on September 16 as he was performing maintenance on the 100 foot tower of a fellow ham. Killed in the fall was 59-year-old James G. Linstedt, W9ZUC, of Eau Claire, who succumbed to injuries sustained after he fell 95 feet from a tower owned by Ronald Anderson, W9RMA, in Eagle Point, just outside of Chippewa Falls on the shores of Lake Wissota. Linstedt was said to have been an experienced climber. Although he had been wearing an over-the-shoulder safety harness, he apparently had failed to secure himself to the tower before the mishap occurred. Anderson, a former Chippewa County Sheriff, called authorities promptly.



Chippewa County Sheriff James Kowalczyk [told](#) the *Leader-Telegram* newspaper that Linstedt was wearing safety equipment, but did not use it. “When we use it for years, we get a little lax...,” the newspaper quoted Kowalczyk as saying. “If he had used it, we wouldn’t be investigating an accidental death.”

Kowalczyk said Linstedt had been strapped in before moving 10 feet up the tower, apparently without securing himself.

An active radio amateur, Linstedt was a member of the Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club and once served as the club’s president.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## Amateur Radio Society of India Wants Less-Burdensome Amateur Radio Licensing Rules

The Amateur Radio Society of India ([ARSI](#)) – India’s International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) member-society – is continuing its efforts to make it easier to obtain an Amateur Radio license in that country, where excessive red tape is an accepted reality when dealing with government agencies. The latest attempt came in an August 19 letter from ARSI President Gopal Madhavan, VU2GMN, to Ravi Shankar Prasad, who heads the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.



“In India we are hampered by some very archaic rules, which were possibly formulated during the British [colonial] times, when everything was done to restrict radio licenses being given to Indians,” Madhavan wrote. “The most restrictive and time-consuming aspect is the ‘security clearance’ that is being done before a license is granted,” he continued. “In most cases, this takes months or even years, and often the paperwork is totally lost in transit between the various agencies.”

Such “inordinate delays” in receiving a license after passing the examination can cause applicants to simply lose interest, said Madhavan, who is also IARU Region 3 chairman. “[G]enuine aspirants to Amateur Radio are denied licenses for months, year, and sometimes forever, as the papers are lost,” he said.

In his letter, Madhavan took pains to spell out Amateur Radio’s public service role in past disasters and emergencies, such as the Indian Ocean tsunami, the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and the Latur and Gujarat earthquakes. Amateur Radio also contributes in terms of technical training, experimentation, and communication, he said.

The Department of Telecommunications within Prasad’s ministry issues Amateur Radio licenses. The Indian government has suggested that ham radio technology may fall into hands of terrorists and has begun requiring a security clearance. Madhavan pointed out that the security clearance requirement is not listed in India’s Amateur Radio regulations, and he called it “totally irrelevant” at a time when many other means of communication are available.



“Every country has serious concerns about security, but they have not found it necessary to vet aspirants to Amateur Radio as is done *only* in India,” he wrote. In most countries, he noted, applicants can obtain a license within a week of passing the required exam and paying any necessary fees.

Madhavan requested Prasad’s “intervention and coordination” with the Ministry of Home Affairs to help ease the process of issuing a new amateur license and to grow India’s Amateur Radio population, which currently stands at some 17,000 in a country of more than 1.2 billion people.

India offers General and Restricted class Amateur Radio licenses as well as a Shortwave Listener (SWL) license. License examinations are conducted by the Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing of the Ministry of Communications. Applicants must be at least 18, although those between 12 and 18 can apply with parental permission.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## Late October Exercise to Test MARS-ARES Interoperability

US Army and Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio Service (MARS) stations will participate in a 48-hour nationwide contingency communication exercise on October 27 and 28 as part of an effort to develop greater cooperation between the Department of Defense (DoD) sponsored MARS program and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). MARS is encouraging its members to discuss communication interoperability in advance of the exercise with their ARES section and district or local emergency coordinators.

“This communications exercise is sponsored by the DoD to provide MARS operators the opportunity to develop and train interoperability procedures with their state/local ARES emergency coordinators and their Amateur Radio colleagues,” explained Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY. He told ARRL that the DoD/MARS exercise has “full participation” from Army and Air Force MARS, and that he anticipates that some individual Navy MARS members may participate as well.

The plan calls for MARS members, using their Amateur Radio call signs and operating on amateur frequencies, to establish two-way communication with ARES leadership or members in as many US counties as possible by using VHF/UHF simplex channels or local repeaters or near vertical incidence skywave (NVIS) propagation on HF. “The contact can be with any amateur in the county, if an ARES member or leader is not available,” English added.



“Ultimately we would like the MARS operator to join an existing ARES net, if one is operational during the exercise,” English said. If no net is available, MARS members should come up on local repeaters or check into HF traffic nets to see what amateurs are available and to determine their counties. “We want to use existing net times and frequencies to the extent possible,” English continued. “Any mode of operation is fine.”

Only one ARES/Amateur Radio contact per county is needed, but more are okay. The contact must be person to person and cannot rely on Internet-linked repeaters, Internet connectivity systems, or store-and-forward e-mail systems such as [Winlink](#), English said.

The information exchange requested from ARES for each county is the county name and the county Federal Information Processing Standards ([FIPS](#)) code, if available.

There are two preferred windows of opportunity to conduct the interoperability exercise. These are from 1201 to 1800 UTC on October 27, and from 0001 to 0600 UTC on October 28.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

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## LOCAL RADIO NETS

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### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (NOTE: REPEATER HAS CHANGED)**

Thursdays 8:00pm CT on the 145.330- (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**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.

This is an informal information net and Buy/Sell/Swap net.

#### **Grayson County ARES Net**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 2:00pm CT on 7.255 MHz LSB

This is a RACES Command Net check for statewide RACES Command Net members ONLY. All other Amateur stations are welcome to listen, but DO NOT check in!

### Monthly

#### **Scout Ham Net**

1<sup>st</sup> 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**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 8:30pm CT on 3.860 MHz LSB

This is an information net open to all ARES members in the ARRL North Texas (NTX) Section.

#### **McKinney ARES Net**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.

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## AREA REPEATERS

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<b>Sherman TX</b>	147.000+ MHz (100.0 PL) (operating at reduced capacity)	W5RVT	<del><b>Kingston OK</b></del>	<del>146.085- MHz (103.5 PL)</del>	<del>K5BQG</del>
	147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL)	W5COP		(currently out of service)	
	444.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT	<b>McKinney TX</b>	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
<b>Bonham TX</b>	145.470- MHz (no PL)	K5FRC		145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI
	145.130- MHz (no PL)	K5FRC	<b>Melissa TX</b>	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
	443.750+ MHz (no PL)	K5FRC	<b>Rosston TX</b>	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
<b>Denison TX (New!)</b>	145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH	<b>Van Alstyne TX</b>	443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
<b>Durant OK</b>	147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL)	K5KIE	<b>Grayson County ARES</b>	441.375+ MHz (67.0 PL)	WC5GC
	147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL)	K5CGE		(emergencies/training only)	
<b>Gainesville TX</b>	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI			



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## GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

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### Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX  
Grayson County ARRL EC

### Wow, What a Month!!

How come all this good stuff has to come in one month? Well, a little over a month with the Gainesville Hamfest and the GCARC 20th anniversary event. Then Special Event stations it seems every weekend, ARES nets, club nets, Statewide SET...it just keeps coming, and we still have Radio Day in Paris and the Hamfest in Ardmore. My guess is everyone is trying to get "it" all in before winter comes and the weather so far has been pretty accommodating. That is, except for the two SKYWARN activations in the dark of night. Oh yes, and don't forget a couple of repeater revisions to our community.



If you wanted a chance to participate in Amateur Radio, this was/is the month to do it. And I didn't even add in ham classes, testing at various locations, HF traffic nets and so on. It is a busy time for everyone. Add in family and other "opportunities" many of you have, and it's hard not to get overloaded.

Take a breath and focus on the important. In our ARES team we encourage folks to take care of family first, especially in cases where we are activated or asked to mobilize in service to our communities. In a recent activation we had one of the grandkids spending some time with us. She has reached the age she is no longer a crib baby as she has mastered the "leg over" and is now sleeping in a big bed. As we were aware of a possible activation we were concerned how she would handle the approaching storms and, ultimately, was our safety plan adequate for her protection. Granma and I discussed the possibilities and she said she had it covered, not to worry. Sure enough, the call came and away I went. Darn if I didn't come across a downed power pole and low hanging wires. That sight brought back some memories. In my mind I had it processed and a solution resolved in a few seconds. Reality, the fire crew on the scene had a call in to the Co-op and a safe detour was made around the hot line. I arrived home to find everyone snoozing away safe and sound.

Yes our lives can be chaotic, with lots of demands on our time and selves. Some is fun, some is because we can't speak the NO word and some is because we want to be involved in serving others. In all this, keep a focus on your loved ones. In ARES we encourage this for several reasons, but the key is if you are distracted by a family need you won't be focused on serving, and that can lead to operational problems or even safety issues. So keep a focus on what's important, and then come help out. ARES can always use operators who are ready to serve our communities.

73  
Rick  
K5ECX

