



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

NOVEMBER 2014

WWW.K5GCC.ORG

VOL. 20, No. 11

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

Well, it's starting to slow down as the year end approaches. I have had a great time serving as President for the last two years and have learned a lot in the process. I have met a lot of great people and made a bunch of friends. I hope I served y'all well as president but now it's time to relax and let someone else take the reins. I look forward to seeing the club continue to grow in the years to come as a regular member.

The booth at "Fall der All" in Van Alstyne was pretty popular. We had lots of visitors stop and ask about Amateur Radio as we operated on solar power all day. I really appreciate everyone that came out and helped staff the booth.

As always, I had a great time at the Texoma Hamarama. We had quite a few members attend. After the hamfest, a bunch of us met for lunch at Rib Crib before heading home. There was also a few of us that had some fun getting lost in a hay maze and catching critters at Turner Falls.

Hope to see everybody at the meeting on Friday where we will vote for the 2015 club officers. Nominees are: Daniel (AF5OY) for President, Lee (N5SLY) and Ben (KF5OEB) for Vice President, Sheila (KF5TDP) for Treasurer, and Stacy (W5ORD) for Secretary. We will also discuss the club's annual Christmas dinner taking place on December 12th and show off the club's radio mounted in its case.

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)



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.

"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

GCARC MEETING MINUTES

GCARC Meeting, October 17, 2014

The Grayson County Amateur Radio Club met on October 17th, 2014 with 13 members in attendance. President Ben Sly (KF5OEB) opened the meeting at 7:01pm welcoming all in attendance.

The Treasurer's Report was discussed. Motion by Amber Boehmisch (KF5WPS) to accept the Treasurer's Report and seconded by Lee Sly (N5SLY), motion passed.

Minutes of the September meeting was recapped by Ben KF5OEB. Motion to accept minutes as posted was made by Lee N5SLY and seconded by Amber KF5WPS, motion passed.

Old Business

- Denison Main Street Fall Festival. Ben KF5OEB expressed that the club had a great turn out of members stopping by and helping answer questions. They met several hams living in Grayson County but never participating in any of our club's activities. He expressed hope to see more of these ham radio operators becoming more involved.
- Eisenhower Special Event day started as a miserable day, but in spite of the weather had a great turnout and made more than forty contacts.

New Business

- Daniel Boehmisch (AF5OY) presented a proposal to the club to purchase a storage case for the new club radio. The case would contain the radio, power supply, TNC, and some cables. Estimated cost of the storage case was between \$126.00 and \$150.00. Motion to purchase was made by Lee N5SLY to not exceed \$150.00, and seconded by Tim Branam (N5SWG). Motion passed with all in favor.

- Nominations for 2015 Officers (election to be held at the November meeting)

President

Daniel AF5OY nominated by Ben KF5OEB and seconded by Tim N5SWG.

Vice President

Ben KF5OEB nominated by Daniel AF5OY and seconded by Amber KF5WPS

Lee N5SLY nominated by Tim N5SWG and seconded by John Trammell

Secretary

Stacy Branam (W5ORD) nominated by Daniel AF5OY and seconded by Amber KF5WPS

Treasurer

Sheila Sammons (KF5TDP) nominated by Ben KF5OEB and seconded by Tim N5SWG

Presentation: Daniel AF5OY presented a review on Standing Wave Ratio.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded at 7:25 p.m.

Next Meeting will be at 7pm on Friday, November 21st, 2014, in the Grayson County Courthouse 2nd Floor Assembly Room, Sherman TX.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Editor's Note: Earlier in 2014, the club started a fund to purchase its own radio equipment. Although it is considered a separate fund, the money collected toward equipment has been deposited into the same bank account as other operating money such as membership dues. This redesigned report is a "best effort" to show the activity taking place in each fund.

Summary		Transactions		
Starting Bank Balance 9/30/2014		<u>Operating Fund</u>		
Operating Fund	\$333.66	Starting Balance		\$333.66
Equipment Fund	\$589.00	Deposits	+ \$188.00	
Total	<u>\$922.66</u>	Expenses	- \$187.55	
		Ending Balance		<u>\$334.11</u>
Cash On Hand \$20.00		<u>Equipment Fund</u>		
Ending Bank Balance 10/30/2014		Starting Balance		\$589.00
Operating Fund	\$334.11	Deposits	+ \$0.00	
Equipment Fund	\$439.00	Expenses	- \$150.00	
Total	<u>\$773.11</u>	Ending Balance		<u>\$439.00</u>

Transaction Notes:

Operating Fund Deposits: Clothing/Patches (\$188.00)

Operating Fund Expenses: Anniversary T-shirts (\$187.55)

Equipment Fund Deposits: None

Equipment Fund Expenses: Storage Case (\$150.00)

Checks Not Cleared: Kiwanis Bike Rally (already accounted for in balance)

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 (**December meeting will be the annual Christmas Dinner on the 12th**)

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/club.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**

Christmas Potluck Dinner

December 12, 2014 6:30pm
Grayson County Courthouse 2nd floor assembly room, 100 West Houston Street, Sherman TX
Meats provided; contact Daniel AF5OY or Amber KF5WPS if you want to bring a side dish.

**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

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

2nd 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

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

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

Cowtown Hamfest (North Texas Section Convention)

January 16-17, 2015 (Friday 3:00pm-7:00pm, Saturday 7:00am-3:00pm)

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

Forest Hill Convention Center, 6901 Wichita Street, Forest Hill TX

Talk-In: 147.280 (110.9 PL)

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

Website: www.cowtownhamfest.com

CLUB ACTIVITY REPORTS

GCARC at the Van Alstyne “Fall der All” – October 18th, 2014

The club set up a booth in Van Alstyne to promote Amateur Radio during the annual “Fall der All” festival. This setup was different in that it ran off solar power.



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: 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 / 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

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

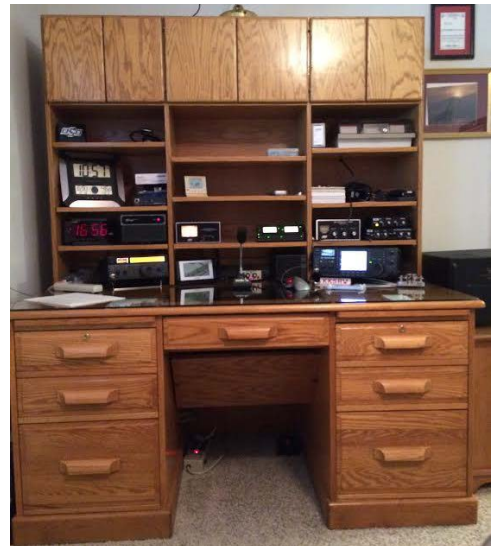
Contact: Sarge KE5YPB

E-mail: 0101.smd@gmail.com

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



AMATEUR RADIO NEWS OF INTEREST

ARRL Asks FCC to Continue Issuing Hard Copy Licenses to Those Who Want Them

In [comments](#) filed November 5, the ARRL has recommended that the FCC continue to provide paper license documents to Amateur Radio licensees who want them. The League's remarks were in response to an FCC [Public Notice](#) (in WT Docket 14-161) that proposed to cease the routine issuance of hard-copy license documents to all Wireless Service licensees, including radio amateurs. While having a paper license document from the FCC to post on the wall of the ham shack has been a tradition, the Commission for several years has considered the "official" Amateur Radio license to be the virtual document residing in its Universal Licensing System (ULS) database.

"The FCC is willing to continue to mail paper licenses to those who request them," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, has explained. "However, they are making available to licensees -- starting right now -- the actual license to print via the FCC ULS, and it is allowing hams now to opt out of receiving paper licenses from the FCC directly."

Under the FCC-proposed process, once a license application is granted, the ULS will generate an official electronic license but will no longer mail a hard copy license unless notified that the licensee wishes to receive an official paper license document. Until new procedures are final, however, the Commission will continue to print and mail official paper licenses, unless notified to stop.

"Should the Commission proceed with the *Notice* proposals," the League said in its comments, "it is ARRL's strong recommendation that the Commission give serious consideration to continuing a default provision for sending an initial paper license document to new licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, along with detailed, simple instructions for how to make the elections set forth in the notice relative to future modified or renewed licenses."

The ARRL pointed out that not everyone has easy access to, or is comfortable using, the ULS and that Amateur Radio licensees may occasionally need an official license document -- for example, when applying for a license upgrade at a VEC exam session or for vehicle call sign license plates.

"If there is not a license printed on distinctive license stock by the Commission, authentication issues arise and the possibility of electronic alteration of a license document is created," the League said.

The ARRL also suggested that requiring individuals to go online in order to obtain a license document may prove to be a roadblock to some applicants.

“It is not acceptable to erect barriers to entry for anyone to obtain an Amateur Radio license or to modify a license,” the League commented. “ARRL is concerned that there should be, especially for newcomers, an easy, intuitive path to make the election for license delivery method that does not involve ULS access at the outset.”

The *Notice* also has proposed, alternatively, that the FCC send the official electronic license via e-mail upon grant of an application, if the applicant has provided a valid e-mail address on the application form. Licensees not wanting to provide an e-mail address could obtain an official electronic license document directly from the ULS. The *Notice* further proposes that licensees could notify the Commission that they wish to receive or continue receiving official authorizations on paper.

The ULS License Manager online system now includes a setting that allows licensees to notify the FCC that they want to receive official licenses on paper. Licensees could change the default setting online, so that once an application has been granted, the FCC would mail an official paper license.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

ITU Elects New Secretary-General

At the 19th International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference in Busan, South Korea, member states confirmed candidates for the organization's five elected posts, as well as the 12 members of the Radio Regulations Board and the 48 Members of ITU Council, the administrative body that governs the ITU in between quadrennial plenipotentiary conferences.

Houlin Zhao of China (pictured) succeeded in his bid to become the next Secretary-General of the ITU, after serving for 8 years as Deputy Secretary-General. He will succeed Dr Hamadoun Touré, HB9EHT, on January 1, 2015.



Malcolm Johnson of the United Kingdom was elected as the ITU's new Deputy Secretary-General. François Rancy of France was confirmed for a second term as the Director of ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

120 Radio Operators Support Chicago Marathon

On October 12th, one hundred twenty radio amateurs provided communications support for the 2014 [Bank of America Chicago Marathon](#) and its 2,000 volunteer medical team members that work at 20 Aid Stations, two in-course field medical tents and the main medical facility in Grant Park. New for this year, the teams also walked with the nine Triage units who attended to runners within Grant Park. The hams communicated back to the ambulance company if further medical support was needed. Some of the ham operators on these teams walked as many as nine miles in the Park.

Most of the amateurs were deployed to the Aid Stations and helped the medical teams with communication issues. This was the sixth year that the ham radio community has supported this event. Operators came from four states and from cities as far away as Madison, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Peoria and Pittsburgh. Twelve local ham radio clubs were represented. One team has come from Peoria every year for the past six years, and provides their own lodging and then drives back at the end of the event.

Six local repeaters and several simplex channels are employed. Many of the stations and communicators needed to be operational by 6:30 AM to let organizers know when the medical teams arrived and to assure that their medical services and supplies were in place and ready. Once the race begins, the hams continued to support the ambulance company and medical teams with information about transports and supplies.

Eight operators worked at the Forward Command tent alongside event officials, Chicago City Services and other agencies, providing health and welfare traffic to the medical doctor in charge, the medical logistics teams and the ambulance company.

An event that attracts more than 2.5 million spectators and 45,000 runners only can happen with the support of many people. There were 12,000 volunteers, for instance. The 120 radio amateurs are a relatively small part of the enormous operation but provide a level of redundancy to the multiple levels of communication systems the event organizers use.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

ARRL Partner -- Winter Safety Tips from the Red Cross

Bitter cold temperatures and snow are hitting two-thirds of the country, exposing people to dangerously frigid weather and causing home heating systems to work overtime to keep everyone warm. The American Red Cross is urging people to use caution when heating their homes in these cold conditions and offers way to stay safe during the deep freeze.

HOME FIRE SAFETY -- Seven times a day, someone in this country dies in a home fire. Heating fires are the second leading cause of these fires which occur more often as cold weather sets in and people turn on their heating system. The Red Cross has launched a [nationwide campaign](#) to reduce the number of home fire deaths and injuries by 25 percent over the next five years.

Heating a home can be expensive. Almost half of the families in the United States use alternate heating sources such as space heaters, fireplaces, or coal or wood stoves to cut costs while staying warm. These supplemental heating sources can be dangerous if not used properly. The Red Cross offers the following safety tips on how to prevent heating fires:

- Keep all potential sources of fuel like paper, clothing, bedding, curtains or rugs at least three feet away from space heaters, stoves, or fireplaces.
- Don't leave portable heaters and fireplaces unattended. Turn off space heaters and make sure any embers in the fireplace are extinguished before going to bed or leaving home.
- Place space heaters on a level, hard and nonflammable surface (such as ceramic tile floor), not on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- When buying a space heater, look for models that shut off automatically if the heater falls over.
- Never use a cooking range or oven to heat your home.
- Use a glass or metal fire screen to keep your fire in your fireplace. Make sure it's large enough to catch sparks and rolling logs.
- Have wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys, and furnaces professionally inspected and cleaned once a year.

WINTER STORM SAFETY -- Wear layers of lightweight clothing to stay warm during cold weather, as well as gloves and a hat. Other safety steps include the following:

- Bring pets indoors. If that's not possible, make sure they have enough shelter to keep them warm and that they can get to unfrozen water.
- If you lose power, go to a designated public shelter to stay warm.
- Avoid driving in sleet, freezing rain, snow or dense fog. If you have to travel, keep a disaster supplies kit in the car.
- Check on your elderly neighbors. Help those who may need special assistance, including people with disabilities and children.
- Before tackling strenuous tasks such as shoveling snow, consider your physical condition.
- Know the signs of hypothermia - confusion, dizziness, exhaustion and severe shivering. If someone has these symptoms, they should get immediate medical attention.
- Watch for symptoms of frostbite including numbness, flushed gray, white, blue or yellow skin discoloration, numbness or waxy feeling skin.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org / Courtesy of American Red Cross

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 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

1st & 3rd Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.280+ (107.2 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 147.280+ (107.2 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 147.280+ (107.2 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) (operating at reduced capacity)	W5RVT	Gainesville TX	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI
	147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL)	W5COP	Kingston OK	146.085- MHz (103.5 PL)	K5BQC
	444.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT		(currently out of service)	
Allen TX	145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	McKinney TX	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
Bonham TX	145.470- MHz (no PL)	K5FRC	Melissa TX	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
	145.130- MHz (no PL)	K5FRC	Paris TX	146.760- MHz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD
	443.750+ MHz (no PL)	K5FRC	Rosston TX	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
Denison TX	145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH	Van Alstyne TX	443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
Durant OK	147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL)	K5KIE	Grayson County ARES	441.375+ MHz (67.0 PL)	WC5GC
	147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL)	K5CGE		(emergencies/training only)	

GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC

ARES QST

I have several important items to share this time. Some are fun stuff and some are too much business stuff. We are supposed to be having fun so let's get the business out of the way first.

The AEC team has worked very hard to come up with a new and simpler ARES ID process. Our old process had many steps and required the EC signature, photo, processing and laminating. Since we meet face-to-face infrequently, if someone missed a meeting it could literally be months before the ID was in their hands. So, beginning in our November 25th ARES training meeting the new process will be implemented, and it will continue thru the January meeting. The new ID cards are plastic and automatically expire three years after issue. They will contain your name, photo (either the one we have on file or one taken at the time of printing), your call, license class, and information about your training level as contained in our member database. These new ARES IDs will replace any that exist out there which have an EC signature from me or any of the past ECs on them. They can be printed on the spot and handed to you so long as your application has been processed and your information is current in our database.



These IDs will give ARES and other amateurs useful information at a glance when we are involved with ham radio communications assistance, either here or in other areas. It is important we have an efficient and common way to identify each other in those situations, so please make the effort to come in and get your ID updated.

I mentioned information about your training. If you have not done so, please go to the TECOARES.org website and complete the Training Task Book. To find it go to the site, then on the menu bar select Training / Emergency Communications / ARES Training, then scroll down the page to Additional Training Materials and Resources. Look for [ARES North Texas \(NTX\) Section Training Task Book](#) (if you are reading this online you can also click on the link). Once you have filled it out on screen, print it and bring it to a training session for processing. As it is a good record of your experience and capabilities for ARES purposes, it should be kept with your Go Kit. You will find there are levels of training to be accomplished at your discretion, and it will help you and your leadership identify where you might best fit into an operational situation.

As you can imagine this is taking some of the AECs a great deal of work to keep up. Data, printing, processing and planning, this has all been their effort. We are doing this to help provide the best operators we can in times of need, to assure our served partners we have prepared our operators for just this work and to coordinate with the Section and State level organizations regarding training and fitness for operations. We need to understand incident command protocols, operational procedures and common methods of communication used, thus better enabling us to fit into their operations and not be a stumbling block to their process.

Now for some fun.

Our training session in November is planned to be out at the Sherman Municipal Airport. We will have a chance to see and tour the new Sherman FD communications trailer. Chief Jones N5GRL is using this opportunity to bring the trailer out and set it up as a practice for the FD and for us to see how they will use the tool to serve their community. I understand there is a station set up in it for Amateur use. It should be a good opportunity to see and learn about this tool prior to having to press it into service.

At the January meeting, Brad KE5UMJ will bring us another session on APRS and an Operations SET plan. Wade KF5AUD is preparing for us a Situational Exercise Training (SET) which he will go over with us in preparation for an

event in early February. This would include some field set up and logistical experience to enhance our usual nets and communications.

Over the course of the next several nets we will have some meaty topics about winter preparedness, message traffic handling and such, but we will have some fun too. We will have no ARES net on December 14th in preparation for our Santa Net which will be on Dec 21st in cooperation with the GCARC net that night. On the 28th we will have a more relaxed net talking about “WadjagetforXmas” to allow you to share (brag) about what fun radio equipment you found under the tree.

A Final – as we approach this holiday season I want to take a few lines and thank you for your work this past year. We have a great gift in Amateur Radio, and we should share it. There are several ham radio groups out there all with the same goal, to have fun. I appreciate the GCARC giving us this space to share ARES info. I also appreciate the work done by all the local ham groups to enhance the art and science of our hobby. Testing, education, weather, or operations, it’s all about the fun and sharing the hobby. I am honored to serve as your ARRL County EC, and there is no doubt in my mind that when all else fails, together we will be ready to serve our community.

Have a Joyous Holiday Season,

73
Rick
K5ECX

