



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

DECEMBER 2014

WWW.K5GCC.ORG

VOL. 20, No. 12

## THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

This marks my last newsletter as President. I had a great time, but like I said in last month's newsletter "it's time to relax and let someone else take the reins."

Your 2015 club officers are... President: Daniel (AF5OY), Vice President: Lee (N5SLY), Secretary: Stacy (W5ORD), and Treasurer: Sheila (KF5TDP)

The club's Christmas Dinner went off without a hitch. The food was great and the company even better. Thanks to everyone that brought something with them. We couldn't have had such a wonderful dinner without each and every one of you.

I hope to see everyone at the next meeting on January 16th. The presentation has yet to be decided but I'm sure it will be a good one as always.

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)



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## CLUB INFORMATION

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### 2014 OFFICERS

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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

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

### NEWSLETTER

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

### MEETINGS

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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

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

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Individual: \$20.00/yr  
Family: \$30.00/yr  
Associate (non-Ham): \$15.00/yr

**Memberships are from January 1 – December 31**

### WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

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

### GCARC, ARES, AND SKYWARN PATCHES

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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

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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

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## GCARC MEETING MINUTES

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### GCARC Meeting, November 21, 2014

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club met on November 21, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Ben Sly (KF5OEB) with 16 members and 3 guests in attendance.

Motion to accept October Minutes and Treasurer's Report was made by Lee Sly (N5SLY) and seconded by Mark Pilkilton (KF5USW). Motion passed.

#### Old Business:

- Reminder of Moe Knight's (NT7C) 2nd Saturday of the Month Electronics class
- Christmas Party sides and additions were discussed
- New carrying case for club radio was demonstrated
- Discussion of the various types of kits to learn to solder

#### New Business:

- After Ben KF5OEB declined a nomination as Vice President, a motion to confirm the New Officers for 2015 by acclamation was made by Michael Bernier (KF5NPM) and seconded by Mark KF5UZW
  - President - Daniel Boehmisch (AF5OY)
  - Vice President - Lee Sly (N5SLY)
  - Secretary – Stacy Branam (W5ORD)
  - Treasurer – Sheila Sammons (KF5TDP)
- Lee N5SLY shared that he was fielding lots of questions about the club, so he acquired business cards for the club's use
- Roy Reed (KG5BFBK) asked to explore the idea of adding / providing an additional monthly meeting on a different night other than a Friday to encourage the younger new hams to participate.
- Rick Simmons (K5ECX) informed that the TECO website had been updated, and at the next ARES meeting Sherman Fire Department would be demonstrating their new communication trailer.

Motion to adjourn at 7:42 was submitted by Johnnie Jaresh (KD5NIC) and seconded by Mark KF5UZW. Motion passed.

Next Meeting will be the annual Christmas Dinner at 6:30pm on Friday, December 12th, 2014, in the Grayson County Courthouse 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Assembly Room, Sherman TX.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheila Sammons KF5TDP  
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

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## GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

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Summary		Transactions		
Starting Bank Balance 10/31/2014		<u>Operating Fund</u>		
Operating Fund	\$334.11	Starting Balance		\$334.11
Equipment Fund	\$439.00	Deposits	+ \$0.00	
Total	<u>\$773.11</u>	Expenses	- \$0.00	
Cash On Hand	\$20.00	Ending Balance		<u>\$334.11</u>
Ending Bank Balance 11/30/2014		<u>Equipment Fund</u>		
Operating Fund	\$334.11	Starting Balance		\$439.00
Equipment Fund	\$439.00	Deposits	+ \$0.00	
Total	<u>\$773.11</u>	Expenses	- \$0.00	
		Ending Balance		<u>\$439.00</u>

### Transaction Notes:

No transactions in November

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 (**December meeting was the annual Christmas Dinner on the 12th**)  
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>

### **SKYWARN Spotter Training**

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 7:00pm-9:00pm

Grayson College Center For Workplace Learning, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX

This is a basic storm spotter training class offered annually by the National Weather Service, and is strongly recommended for all current and prospective storm spotters. This class is open to the general public, and no reservations are required.

**Note: this is the only spotter training class that will be offered in Grayson County in 2015.**

Contact: N/A

Class Fee: No charge

Registration: Not required

### **GCARC Events**

#### **Christmas Potluck Dinner**

(was held on) December 12, 2014 6:30pm

Grayson County Courthouse 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

#### **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**

#### **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](mailto:kc5uyr@compuserve.com)

Website: [www.cowtownhamfest.com](http://www.cowtownhamfest.com)



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## CLUB ACTIVITY REPORTS

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### GCARC Christmas Dinner – December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The club held its annual Christmas Dinner at the Grayson County Courthouse. The club provided meats (turkey and ham) which were smoked by Mark KF5UZW, and other members brought side dishes, drinks, and desserts.











**MERRY CHRISTMAS — HAPPY HANUKKAH — SEASON'S GREETINGS  
(WISHING EVERYONE A JOYOUS & HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON)**



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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: 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 WA0URJ

E-mail: [WA0URJ@yahoo.com](mailto:WA0URJ@yahoo.com)

Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773

### 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)



## 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)

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### A HAM'S NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

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'Twas the night before Christmas  
And all through two meters  
Not a signal was keying up  
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up  
From the tower, quite high,  
To catch the weak signals  
That bounced from the sky.

The children, all Techs,  
Took their HTs to bed  
And dreamed of the day  
They'd be Extras instead.

Mom put on her headphones,  
I plugged in the key,  
And we tuned 40 meters  
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged  
by a signal with power.  
It smoked a small diode,  
And, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,  
And with all she could muster  
Logged a spot of the signal  
And the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window  
And peered up at the sky  
To see what could generate  
RF that high.

It was way in the distance  
But the moon made it gleam -  
A flying sleigh with an  
Eight element beam.

Lo, it was Santa,  
The Santa of Hams  
On a mission this Christmas  
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower  
Then stopped in his track,  
And he slid down the coax  
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid  
Behind stacks of CQ,  
This Santa of hamming  
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk  
Of paper and parts,  
And filled out all my late QSLs  
For a start.

He ran copper braid,  
Took a steel rod and pounded  
It into the earth till  
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,  
Resoldered connections,  
Cranked down modulation,  
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes  
In my linear amp...  
(Never worked right before,  
Now it works like a champ).

A new low-pass filter  
Cleaned up the TV.  
He corrected the settings  
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer  
That would not compute,  
And he backed up the hard drive  
And got it to boot.

Then he reached really deep  
In the bag that he brought  
And he pulled out a big box.  
A new rig? I thought!

A new Kenwood? An Icom?  
A Yaesu, for me?!  
(If he thought I'd been bad  
It might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!  
How could I deserve this?  
Could it be all those hours  
That I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up  
And in record time quickly  
Worked 100 countries,  
All down on 160.

I should have been happy  
It was my call he sent.  
But the cards and the postage  
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments  
And left a card by the key:  
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.  
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,  
Looked me straight in the eye,  
Punched a code on the pad  
And was gone - no good-bye.

I ran back to the station  
And the pile-up was big,  
But a card from St. Nick  
Would be worth my new rig.

But I was too late, for his final  
Came over the air.  
It was copied all over.  
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed  
What a ham might expect,  
"Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all, good DX."

© 1996 Gary Pearce KN4AQ

### Homeland Security's 2014 National Emergency Communications Plan Incorporates Amateur Radio

The US Department of Homeland Security's 2014 *National Emergency Communications Plan* ([NECP](#)) has incorporated Amateur Radio in its mix of media that could support and sustain communications in a disaster or emergency. The 2014 NECP is the first update since the original plan was released in 2008. The NECP is "the nation's over-arching strategic plan for enhancing emergency communications capabilities and interoperability nationwide," DHS said in announcing the updated plan on November 12.

"[A]mateur radio operators...can be important conduits for relaying information to response agencies and personnel when other forms of communications have failed or have been disrupted," the NECP states.

The NECP also describes changes that lie ahead for emergency communication systems, such as 9-1-1 systems. "In the future, Next Generation 9-1-1 will enhance the capabilities of current 9-1-1 networks, allowing the public to transmit pictures, videos, and text messages that will provide additional situational awareness to dispatchers and emergency responders," the NECP says.

The updated NECP stresses the importance of interoperability. It recommends that state, regional, and local administrations "assess their existing governance structures to ensure they are positioned to address current and emerging policy, technology, and planning developments." This effort, the NECP continues, could include the addition of representatives from the Amateur Radio community to statewide interoperability governing bodies and executive committees.

The NECP also recommends that federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions "identify domestic and international entities with potential roles in information sharing and the delivery of emergency communications during emergencies," such as Amateur Radio operators. "As appropriate, these entities should be incorporated into training and exercise activities on a more regular basis," the NECP suggests.

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

### December is Youngsters on the Air Month!

During December special event stations around the world will take part in celebrating the first worldwide Youngsters on the Air ([YOTA](#)) activity. Stations using YOTA-suffix call signs will be active from all three International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) regions. Although most YOTA stations will be in Region 1, one YOTA station will be on the air from St Lucia in the Caribbean (Region 2), and another will be active from the Philippines (Region 3). IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group Chair Lisa Leenders, PA2LS, said YOTA Month is an opportunity to give individuals aged 25 and younger a chance to make contact via Amateur Radio in all available modes.

"With this event we are trying to get more youth activity on the air," Leenders told ARRL. "In addition to licensed younger radio amateurs, unlicensed young people will be able to get behind the mic together with a [control operator] to experience a possible new hobby. YOTA month is not a contest but a friendly way of making radio contacts."

She suggested that participants exchange names and signal reports as well as other information, including age, location, and additional interests. A Youngsters On The Air Award will be available. The International YOTA organization is offering three award levels — Bronze, Silver, and Gold — for working YOTA stations.

YOTA stations will be on all bands and modes, and some of the YOTA-suffix stations plan to be active during December contests. A special QSL card will be sent to all who work a YOTA station.

[Additional information](#) is available in the most recent YOTA Month bulletin. YOTA also has a [Facebook page](#) and will be active on [Twitter](#). [E-mail](#) for additional details.

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



## Broadband-Hamnet Expands to Include Another Ham Band, Announces End of Life for Linksys Routers

[Broadband-Hamnet](#) has announced a new firmware release, 3.0.0, the most recent in a series of advancements that build on the Ubiquiti firmware released for the 2.4 GHz and 5.8 GHz Ham bands earlier this year. With the BBHN 3.0.0 release, Broadband-Hamnet now includes the Ubiquiti M9-series airMAX devices, giving hams use of the 900 MHz band for mesh networking.

Broadband-Hamnet Currently Supported Devices:

Device		2 GHz	5 GHz	900 MHz
WRT54G v4 and below	Linksys	✓		
WRT54GL v1.0 and 1.1		✓		
WRT54GS v4 and below		✓		
AirGrid	Ubiquiti	✓	✓	
Bullet		✓	✓	
Bullet Titanium		✓	✓	
NanoBridge		✓	✓	✓
NanoStation Loco		✓	✓	✓
NanoStation		✓	✓	
Rocket		✓	✓	✓

In addition to new firmware, the BBHN development team has also announced support for the Linksys WRT54 series routers will end on April 15, 2015. The most recent version of firmware that is then in current use on these routers will continue to be available on their website for downloading and installation, but no new development, bug fixes, or support will be provided. The reasons for ending support include the age of available hardware, the difficulty in implementing new features with the limited amount of memory available on these routers, and the end of programming support for the OpenWRT software on which BBHN is based. The team is reassuring users that mesh networks which utilize the Linksys routers will continue to function as they always have, so long as all the devices in the network are using the same firmware release.

- From Broadband-Hamnet.org

## Boy Scouts 2014 Jamboree on the Air Report Shows Drop In Participation

The Boy Scouts of America's 2014 Jamboree On The Air ([JOTA](#)) — the 57th such event — has [reported](#) an overall decline in JOTA participation from 2013 to 2014 by Boy Scout Councils, individual Scouts, and stations. The drop may be due in part to the failure of some participating stations to file reports. JOTA takes place each year on the third full weekend of October. Participation in the 2012 JOTA took a big jump, with 18,566 Scouts and visitors. In 2013, however, participation was down by nearly 4700 to 13,866, and this year it dropped by another 540 to 13,326. The BSA report broke down that participation into 7208 Scouts and 5589 visitors in 2014.

“Our key concern is that roughly 40 percent of the stations that register prior to the event fail to file a report after the event, a percentage that has remained consistent over the past few years,” National Jamboree on the Air Organizer Jim Wilson, K5ND, told ARRL. “We are now conducting a survey with the 130 stations that did not file a report in 2014 to see what we can do better next year.” According to the report, 354 stations registered to participate, but only 205 filed reports.

Wilson said another concern is the drop off in local Scout Council participation, from 180 in 2012 to 148 in 2014. “The missing reports can no doubt help somewhat with this, but we recognize that we need to do a better job promoting the event to Scout Council staff and volunteers,” he added. “We’ve done a much better job getting the word out to the Amateur Radio community, with some great assistance from the ARRL.”

- 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**

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 147.280+ (107.2 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 147.280+ (107.2 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 147.280+ (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**

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	<b>Gainesville TX</b>	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI
	147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL)	W5COP	<del><b>Kingston OK</b></del>	<del>146.085- MHz (103.5 PL)</del>	<del>K5BQC</del>
	444.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT		(currently out of service)	
<b>Allen TX</b>	145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	<b>McKinney TX</b>	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
<b>Bonham TX</b>	145.470- MHz (no PL)	K5FRC	<b>Melissa TX</b>	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
	145.130- MHz (no PL)	K5FRC	<b>Paris TX</b>	146.760- MHz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD
	443.750+ MHz (no PL)	K5FRC	<b>Rosston TX</b>	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
<b>Denison TX</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)	

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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

### ARES Year In Review

It's been another fun year for our ARES-involved hams. As preparations begin for the year-end report to the Section leadership and plans are being made for 2015, it's a good time to reflect on some of the work, activities and events we shared in over the past year.

Training is always a large part of our operations through the year. We held over 20 training nets over the past year. These are the twice a month nets we hold on 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings. We covered a variety of topics and activities including loss of the primary repeater, simplex operations and multiple net operations, as well as message handling procedures and operational procedures for SKYWARN, SAR and dealing with traffic issues. We have had great participation in the monthly HF ARES nets. Our face-to-face training sessions were held 6 times and covered topics such as dipole antennas, digital modes, HF Operations and a trip thru the Sherman FD communications trailer. Speaking of Sherman FD, we also participated in the Sherman siren test every time it was operated, providing feedback to the city. The annual SKYWARN training by the NWS and Grayson county OEM was well attended and added some new involved hams to our ranks. We continued to participate with the county OEM thru the LEPC meetings and CERT communications activities. Internally we have adopted the Section ARES Training Task Book as a tool to increase our abilities and provide coordinated mutual aid if requested.



Then there were the fun events we had through the year with various groups. The GCARC provided many chances to operate in various modes and on varying bands with their 20 year anniversary celebration, Field Day, several fun special event stations and community events. Our SET (Situational Event Training) held concurrently with the Eisenhower special event was a great opportunity to demonstrate and train for a field established HF station as well as local 2 meter operations. We also exercised our Winlink operations up through the state wide level, held coordinated communications with MARS operators and overall had a successful event in that we met all the goals set out for us by the Section.

Then there was the work portion of ARES. Your team of ARES AECs has met every other month this year to plan and then coordinate the nets, training and activities. We have streamlined our ID badge process which many of you experienced at our last session, so now you will know you have a badge that is current and received at the time of processing. Our support of ham radio through the teaching efforts of our educational team has produced over 25 new operators this past year and provided classroom training of basic electronics, test equipment use and basic diagnostics, leading some to attempt the building of a transceiver and learn CW. The training task book mentioned above was reviewed and our team provided input into its final form. We have paid close attention to the plans for the revisions to the 147.00 repeater thru our liaison. We also have coordinated the new repeater in the area into our operational plan. The AECs coordinated work with the various cities we serve as well as the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, and both area Hospitals.

There is a great deal of work done to allow ARES to provide the communications capabilities it offers. Much of it is planned and coordinated by the AECs. But, I cannot overlook the most important people on the team: YOU, the operators "out there" who provide your equipment, vehicles, time and talent to make our operations successful. You make all these things happen by being involved and participating, and I thank you for your commitment over the past year to make our ARES group the respected and capable group it is.

Thanks for opportunity to be involved with you this past year. I look forward to bright and fun year ahead!

73  
Rick  
K5ECX



## **‘2015 Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Dues Form:**

Today’s Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Yourself:

_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	_____ Call Sign	_____ Class Held
_____ Street Address	_____ City	_____ State	_____ Zip Code
_____ Phone Number	_____ E-mail address	_____ ARRL Y/N	

Additional family members:

_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	_____ Call Sign	_____ Class Held
_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	_____ Call Sign	_____ Class Held
_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	_____ Call Sign	_____ Class Held
_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	_____ Call Sign	_____ Class Held

Non Ham Associate Membership dues @ \$15.00/yr.

Individual Membership dues @ \$20.00/yr.

Family Membership dues @ \$30.00/yr.

Additional family members without additional expense – just fill in another sheet.

Please print this form, fill in and make checks payable to GCARC and bring to a club meeting.

The Grayson County Amateur Radio Club is planning on printing a membership roster. If you want any of the above information withheld from the roster – please place an “X” next to the information you want withheld. By default, all e-mail addresses will be kept private unless you check here: ( ).

If you can not make the meeting, please mail to:

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