



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

FEBRUARY 2015

WWW.K5GCC.ORG

VOL. 21, No. 2

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

As the saying goes, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. With much of the club's business behind us in January, now we're ready to start planning a fun year of activities. Whether you enjoy storm spotting, portable operation, emergency training, or just learning with friends, this year should have something for everyone.

ARES got an early start this season with a very successful Simulated Emergency Training. I'd like to thank everyone who came out and made the event a success. We put our amateur radio assets to the test at Red Cross shelter sites across the county and learned our strengths and weaknesses. There was even some experimentation with store-and-forward digital modes across VHF and HF frequencies.

Speaking of activities, please welcome Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW as our new Activities Director. He has already taken the reins to begin organizing our regular annual club events along with some new ones. If you have any ideas or requests involving special events this year, please feel free to get with Mark or myself.

With the weather in the last throes of winter, we may soon be putting our SKYWARN training to use. If you were unable to attend the session at Grayson College last week, look for upcoming training in Denton on Feb 28. And if you know anyone you'd like to get into the hobby, remember that Moe Knight NT7C hosts a technician class Feb 21 and March 7, also at Grayson College. Email NT7C@arrl.net for more info!

Lastly, with the 147.00 W5RVT repeater back in action, we will return to it as our primary repeater for our bi-monthly nets. GCARC would like to extend a big thank you to John Moody W5RVT, David Woods W5COP, and everyone who provides and maintains our local repeaters day-in and day-out. Also, thank you to Shipman Communication for their work in returning the repeater to good working order.

Hope to see you at our meeting Friday!

Thank you & 73,
Daniel AF5OY

Daniel's Link of the Month: http://tiny.cc/GCARC_FEB2015

The FCC has ruled that blocking Wi-Fi in hotels is prohibited. This is an issue that should be on every amateur operator's radar.

CLUB INFORMATION

OFFICERS

President: Daniel Boehmisch AF5OY
Vice President: Lee Sly N5SLY
Secretary: Stacy Branam W5ORD
Treasurer: Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
Activity Director: Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW
Trustee: Rick Simmons K5ECX

MAILING ADDRESS

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 642
Sherman, Texas 75091

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
Submission Deadline: 12 midnight on the Saturday prior to each monthly meeting

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

Memberships are from January 1 – December 31

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, January 16, 2015

The Grayson County Amateur Radio Club met on January 16, 2015 with 21 members and 1 guest in attendance.

President Daniel Boehmisch AF5OY opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

A motion to accept Treasurer's Report and Minutes from the November meeting was made by Ben Sly KF5OEB and seconded by Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW. Motion was passed.

Old Business

There was no old business carried over from the previous meeting.

New Business

- Daniel AF5OY announced that the club is seeking ham-related presentations for our meetings. The presentations can be short and informal. If you have any ideas, are interested in presenting, or know someone who might be, please contact Daniel at dboehmisch@gmail.com.
- The club is also seeking folks to serve as Net Control for our Sunday club nets. If you are interested in serving as Net Control, please contact Daniel at dboehmisch@gmail.com.
- Daniel AF5OY proposed that a Lifetime Membership to GCARC be awarded to Paul Caputo K1PKZ. The motion to accept was made by Amber Boehmisch KF5WPS and seconded by Ben KF5OEB. Ben also presented the idea of having a rotation of volunteers who could pick Paul up for meetings. This idea will be discussed with Paul and further discussion was postponed until the February meeting.
- Thank you cards were passed around to be signed for Shipman Communications and the Texoma VHF Society for their work in repairing and maintaining the local repeaters.
- Appointed Positions were approved with an oral vote:
 - Rick Simmons K5ECX – Trustee
 - Mike Bernier KF5NPM – Newsletter Editor
 - Lee Sly N5SLY – QSL Manager
 - Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW – Activities Director
 - Ben Sly KF5OEB – President Emeritus
- Details were provided about the February 7th ARES SET Exercise. Rick K5ECX gave further information concerning the drills and message handling that would be practiced.
- Moe Knight NT7C will begin his electronics classes the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Grayson College in the Center for Workplace Learning. The next class Tech class will be a half day February 21st followed by a full day class on March 7th.
- The first GCARC event will be the Armed Forces Day Special Event Station on May 16th at Perrin Field. It usually runs from morning thru mid-afternoon. Members were also encouraged to attend the Red River Bridge War. We gained about 4 members from the Van Alstyne Fall-Der-All, and the possibility of setting up at booth at other festivals such as the one in Sherman was brought up.
- The following members were recognized for their recent upgrades:
 - John Burns KF5ZPD to General
 - Trevor Reed KG5BFI to General

- Roy Reed AF5VA to Amateur Extra
- It is time to turn in membership dues. Membership dues are waived for the first year for new members to the club.
- Rick K5ECX gave an update on the 00 Repeater: It should be back to services sooner than originally planned and will be ready for storm season. As soon as possible it will go back into full service. Donald Hofmann W5DWH repeater is operational, he is putting up an 80' tower and it will be available to ARES.
- Daniel AF5OY recognized the following members for their work for the club:
 - Mike KF5NPM for his devotion to the club newsletter
 - Ben KF5OEB for the tireless energy and time working for the club
 - Tim Branam N5SWG and Stacy Branam W5ORD for the use of their trailer at club events and the time they put into club events
- Daniel AF5OY informed the club that he received an email from a gentleman running for sheriff who wanted to address the club. According to the club by-laws we do not get involved in political campaigns.
- The annual budget was addressed. Remember that dues are the core of our budget, please get them turned in. In 2014 we brought in \$970 from dues and patches. \$439 was brought in from the sale of equipment that had been donated/given to the club. The \$439 was put into the equipment fund.
- Daniel AF5OY brought up the groups the club donated to in the past; Toys for Tots and the Kiwanis Club. It is hard to predict if we will have enough money to donate to these groups this year, since our income is based on dues. Rick K5ECX suggested we donate simply based on if we have enough money when the time comes. We may consider simply "passing the hat" to collect money for these groups. Donating to Toys for Tots and the Kiwanis Club were voted on and passed with a bare majority. Ben KF5OEB motioned to accept the donations and Brad McMillon KE5UMJ seconded.
- At the next meeting, Daniel AF5OY will make a presentation about ham radios and drone use.
- Ben KF5OEB brought up that the club radio was too heavy for the shelf in the protective case and would like to obtain a reinforced shelf for the box. Jim McGlynn KF5QOI offered a shelf that may solve the problem; we just need to look at it.
- We were informed that Jeffery Jones KX5JSJ, the secretary of the Fannin County club invited us to their meetings, 9 am on the 3rd Saturday of every month. They are installing Yaesu Fusion repeaters. Their current repeater, W5UAS is a good repeater.
- Daniel AF5OY closed by encouraging cooperation among the area clubs and perhaps considering having joint events with other clubs in the area.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:50 pm, Motion accepted by Ben KF5OEB and seconded by Jim KF5QOI.

Next Meeting will be 7:00pm on Friday, February 20th, 2015, in the Grayson County Courthouse 2nd Floor Assembly Room, Sherman TX.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy Branham W5ORD
 GCARC Secretary

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>Summary</u>	<u>Transactions</u>
Starting Bank Balance 12/31/2014	<u>Operating Fund</u>
Operating Fund \$334.11	Starting Balance \$334.11
Equipment Fund \$439.00	Deposits + \$450.00
Total <u>\$773.11</u>	Expenses - \$0.00
	Ending Balance <u>\$499.11</u>
Cash On Hand \$20.00	<u>Equipment Fund</u>
Ending Bank Balance 1/31/2015	Starting Balance \$439.00
Operating Fund \$499.11	Deposits + \$50.00
Equipment Fund \$489.00	Expenses - \$0.00
Total <u>\$988.11</u>	Ending Balance <u>\$489.00</u>

Transaction Notes:

Operating Fund Deposits: Membership dues
 Equipment Fund Deposits: Miscellaneous donation

Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
 GCARC Treasurer

CLUB MEETINGS, LOCAL ACTIVITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Club Meetings** **Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC)**
 3rd Friday at 7:00pm
 Grayson County Courthouse 2nd floor assembly room, 100 West Houston Street, Sherman TX
<http://www.k5gcc.org>
- Cooke County Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)**
 2nd Thursday at 7:00pm
 Cooke County Library, 200 S. Weaver Street, Gainesville TX
<http://www.gainesvillehamfest.org/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>

**Ragchewing &
Other Informal
Meetings**

Ham Talk at The Java Stop

Every Saturday 11:00am-2:00pm
The Java Stop Café, 5700 North FM 1417, Sherman TX
<http://www.facebook.com/thejavastop>

**Training
Classes**

Technician License Training Class

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

Session 1: Saturday, February 21, 2015 8:30am-12:30pm

Session 2: Saturday, March 7, 2015 8:30am-6:00pm (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 or the Study Guide; ready-to-print copies of the Study Guide will be e-mailed to all students prior to the start of class. Students who choose to take the exam will be charged a \$15 exam fee.

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

13th Annual Irving ARC Hamfest

March 7, 2015 8:00am-2:00pm (VE Testing begins at 8:30am)

Betcha Bingo Hall, 2420 W. Irving Blvd. #125, Irving TX

Talk-In: 146.72– (110.9 PL)

Public Contact: Ken Hansen K2VIP (609) 510-3068 or ken@1791.com

Website: www.irvingarc.org

QSL MANAGER'S CORNER

Hi everyone,

Got a lot done this month. We have purchased a power supply and Signalink USB for the club's radio and I have them installed and working. I've also ordered the Red River Bridge War QSL cards and should have those delivered in the next

week or so.

Shelia went to the UPS Store to renew the mailbox we have there and discovered that they have raised their rates for the box rental. Instead of the \$120.00 we had budgeted it was now going to be \$240.00. So, she reached out to the board members for advice. Stacy discovered that we could get a PO Box at the post office for about \$60.00 a year. Time was very short before the UPS Box expired so the board had to make a decision. Well, this is really a “no brainer”...what would you rather do...spend \$240.00 at the UPS Store or get a PO Box at the post office for \$60.00? We all agreed to go with the PO Box at the post office. So, the club now has a new mailing address:

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 642
Sherman, TX 75091

Ben commented that it was too bad we didn't receive PO Box 73. That would have been really cool.

Looking forward to seeing y'all at the meeting on Friday.

73

Lee
N5SLY
kf5oed@gmail.com

SWAP MEET

(Disclaimer: This section is provided for hams to list items they wish to buy, sell, or trade. GCARC will not be responsible for the accuracy or completeness of any descriptions, will not guarantee any items function as described, and will not participate in any transactions. The individual buyer and seller are responsible for all discussions, negotiations, and resolving of differences.)

To submit items to be listed, send the information in an e-mail to the GCARC Newsletter Editor at kf5npm@gmail.com. When listing items for sale or trade, photographs are encouraged. There is no charge for listings, and you do not need to be a member of GCARC to participate.

FOR SALE: Drake TR-3 with MS-4 Power Supply/Speaker

Drake TR-3 with matching MS-4 power supply/speaker. Has been completely realigned, new final tubes, and other tubes replaced where needed. New SSB filters replaced as well as 20 and 10 meter crystals replaced.

Asking \$400. Will deliver or arrange to meet locally. I will ship but price doesn't include shipping.

Contact: David Reeder-WAØURJ

E-mail: WA0URJ@yahoo.com

Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773



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

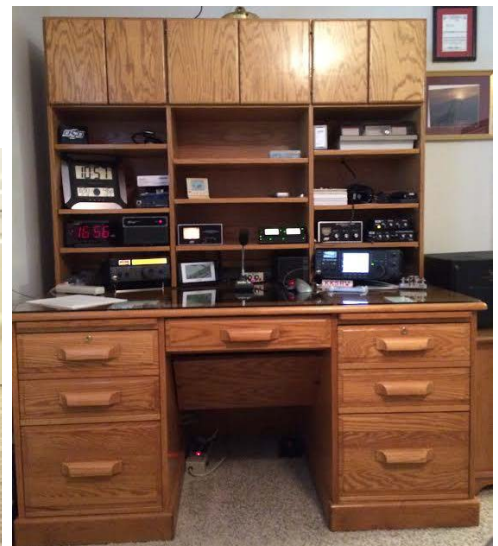
I have a GAP Titan DX 10m-80m vertical HF antenna for sale or trade. It is in good but used condition. Please go to the GAP Antenna website (www.gapantenna.com) for details and price when new. I also have the optional heavy duty tilt over mounting plate. It is currently assembled and I want buyer/trader 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



FCC “Paperless” Amateur Radio License Policy Now In Effect

Starting February 17th the FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission maintains that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)), although the FCC had routinely continued to print and mail hard copy licenses until this week.

In mid-December, the FCC [adopted final procedures](#) to provide access to official electronic authorizations, as it had [proposed](#) in WT Docket 14-161 as part of its “process reform” initiatives. Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization (“Active” status only) via the ULS License Manager. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees will also be able to print out an official authorization – as well as an unofficial “reference copy” – from the ULS License Manager.

“We find this electronic process will improve efficiency by simplifying access to official authorizations in ULS, shortening the time period between grant of an application and access to the official authorization, and reducing regulatory costs,” the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said. According to the WTB, the new procedures will save at least \$304,000 a year, including staff expenses.

The ULS License Manager now permits licensees to change the default setting so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document.

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

“Gray Radio Gang” Reactivates Vintage Battleship *Iowa* HF Transmitter



One of the Battleship *Iowa*'s AN/URT-23(C) transmitters. The exciter is at the top, the PA is in the middle, and the amplifier power supply is on the bottom. [Jim Jerzycke, KQ6EA, photo]

It's a massive project on a number of levels, but the so-called “Gray Radio Gang” that's been working to restore some of the vintage US Navy radio gear on board the [battleship *Iowa*](#) (BB-61), docked in Los Angeles, recently fired up one of the vessel's transmitters for the first time in about 25 years. Restoration team member Jim Jerzycke, KQ6EA, recounted on his “Every Blade of Grass” [blog](#) how the group was finally able to get 950 W into a dummy antenna from one transmitter on 20 meters.

“We still have quite a way to go before we attempt to put one [transmitter] on the air, but the results were quite encouraging for a transmitter that was last powered up sometime in 1990,” Jerzycke said in his blog. “BB-61 should be on the air later this year with a *big* voice!”

He told ARRL that once transmitters are deemed operational, they probably would not be used very often on the ham bands. The *Iowa* already has a ham radio station, NI6BB, under the auspices of the Battleship *Iowa* Amateur Radio Association ([BIARA](#)), an ARRL-affiliated club. NI6BB has more modern gear but makes use of the ship's own antennas.

The BIARA is active from the *Iowa* most Wednesdays and for many national holidays, such as Veterans Day, Pearl Harbor Day, and Memorial Day, and for operating events such as the Museum Ships Weekend and International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. The station also has hosted Boy Scouts' Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) groups each fall.

Jerzycke said the Gray Radio Gang is composed of about 10 individuals with experience on various types of US Navy radio gear dating from the 1950s to the 1980s, when most of them served in the Navy. “At 63 years old, I’m one of the ‘youngsters’ in that group,” he added. The team has been trying to get the original receivers, transmitters, RTTY gear, and antennas working again, Jerzycke said. “We are very fortunate in having the guys from the aircraft carrier *Midway* in San Diego and the battleship *New Jersey* in Camden, New Jersey, who have provided us with technical help, documents, and spare parts.”

The AN/URT-23(C) transmitters, he joked, are “built like a battleship,” with a pair of 4CX1500Bs in the final and nominally capable of putting out a couple of kilowatts. He noted that once the Gray Radio Gang has confirmed the signal paths for the various shipboard transmitters and receivers, it will be able to put a transmitter/receiver pair in operation for certain special events. “At this time it’s unlikely that we will use the original radio equipment for ‘routine’ Amateur Radio operations, as it’s very manpower intensive, requiring at least six people to operate,” Jerzycke explained.



Arnold Shatz, N6HC, at the helm of the Iowa’s NI6BB club station.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to be able to work on the *Iowa*, and I enjoy every minute of it!”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Unlicensed Religious Broadcaster Who Used Amateur Frequencies Ordered Off The Air

The FCC has ordered an unlicensed California religious broadcaster, who sometimes broadcast on a frequency in the 40 meter phone band, to shut down his station. The FCC’s Los Angeles District Office on December 31 issued a [Notice of Unlicensed Operation](#) to Martin K. Elliott of Inyokern, California. The FCC said it issued the *Notice* in response to a complaint of unlicensed operation on multiple HF frequencies, including some allocated to aeronautical stations. The FCC said its agents used radio direction-finding techniques to confirm that signals on 6280 kHz and 11595 kHz were emanating from a residence located near Inyokern, and that property records indicated that Elliott was the current owner and resident.

“The Commission’s records show that no license was issued for operation of a station on either the frequencies of 6280 kHz or 11595 kHz at this location,” the FCC wrote. “Unlicensed operation of this radio station must be discontinued immediately.”

The pirate station, which [identified](#) itself as “YHWH,” was not cited for operating on Amateur Radio frequencies, although ARRL Official Observers had monitored the station in the past on 7185 kHz LSB. One short-wave listener said the operator of YHWH changed frequencies regularly, and the station had not been heard on the ham bands for at least several months.

The FCC warned Elliott that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a valid authorization violates federal law and could subject the operator to severe penalties, including, but not limited to, substantial monetary forfeitures, equipment seizure, and criminal sanctions.

The Commission gave him 10 days to respond. The FCC said its *Notice* “does not preclude this office from pursuing additional sanctions based upon our investigation of this incident.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

LOCAL RADIO NETS

- Daily** **Texas Slow Net (CW only)**
 Daily 7:45pm CT on 3.570MHz.
 This is a training net for operators interested in building proficiency in CW and learning about handling procedures for CW traffic nets.
- Weekly** **Durant ARA Weekly Net**
 Tuesdays 7:00pm CT on the 147.390+ (118.8 PL) repeater.
 No net on the 3rd Tuesday of each month due to the DARA monthly meeting.
- Fannin County ARC Weekly Net**
 Tuesdays 8:00pm CT on the 145.130- (no PL) repeater.
 This is an informal information net.
- McKinney 6 meter AM Net**
 Wednesdays 10:00pm CT on 50.400MHz
- Ham Talk Net (sponsored by the Texoma Amateur Radio Association)**
 Thursdays 8:00pm CT on the 145.330- (100.0 PL) repeater.
 This is an informal ragchewing and buy/sell/swap net
- Ladies Net (temporarily off the air)**
 Net Control: Linda KE5YUC
- McKinney ARC Info Net**
 Sundays 8:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.
- Semi-Monthly** **Grayson County ARC Information Net**
 1st & 3rd Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.
 This is an informal information net and buy/sell/swap net.
- Grayson County ARES Net**
 2nd & 4th Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.
 This is a directed information net used for training.
- RACES Command Net Check**
 2nd & 4th Sunday at 2:00pm CT on 7.255 MHz LSB
 This is a RACES Command Net check for statewide RACES Command Net members ONLY. All other Amateur stations are welcome to listen, but DO NOT check in!
- Monthly** **Scout Ham Net**
 1st Tuesday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.
 This net is for all active Scouts, Adult Leaders, and Merit Badge Counselors who are Amateur Radio operators.
- North Texas ARES HF Net**
 2nd Wednesday at 8:30pm CT on 3.860 MHz LSB
 This is an information net open to all ARES members in the ARRL North Texas (NTX) Section.
- McKinney ARES Net**
 2nd Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.

AREA REPEATERS

Sherman TX	147.000+ MHz (100.0 PL) 147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL) 444.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT W5COP W5RVT	Durant OK	147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL) 147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL)	K5KIE K5CGE
Allen TX	145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	Gainesville TX	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI
Bonham TX	145.470- MHz (no PL) 145.130- MHz (no PL) 443.750+ MHz (no PL)	K5FRC K5FRC K5FRC	Kingston OK	146.985- MHz (103.5 PL) (currently out of service)	K5BQG
Denison TX	145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH	McKinney TX	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
			Melissa TX	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA

Paris TX	146.760- MHz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD	Grayson County	441.375+ MHz (67.0 PL)	WC5GC
Rosston TX	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U	ARES	(emergencies/training only)	
Van Alstyne TX	443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL			

GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC

Was That February That Just Went By?

What a great day! We had close to thirty folks involved in our SET on the 7th. Everybody worked well, your systems worked well, the goals were achieved and it was beautiful spring like day.

The nets were successful on all the local repeaters and the simplex net allowed us to verify operational issues, mostly the same ones we knew of. Winlink had a couple of challenges but they were overcome and our messages made it to all recipients and proper replies were received. We involved our Local Red Cross, Boy Scout Camp James Ray, our County EOC operations via Winlink and EchoLink, as well as the Denton County system, and even had our ARRL Section involved in the messaging process. Shelters and command posts were set up and made operational. Y'all are just awesome!!



We identified some places to improve our training. There was discussion of adding the Broadband-Hamnet mesh function to the operation, using a portable repeater for our next SET, and some ops want even more training on messaging, forms and processes. Wade KF5AUD did a great job putting all this together and will be working with the rest of the AECs to develop training focused on making us even better.

The NWS SKYWARN event was another success. We had close to 160 persons in the auditorium and over 40 operators signed in. The Fox was on the prowl and enlightened us with a great training session. It's fortunate we have as many folks interested in this aspect of serving our communities. After discussions with our OEM Director Sarah Somers K1EMC, Mark Fox, and ARES leaders we hope for an advanced class here next year. That may mean a Saturday event rather than a weeknight, but your interest in this service is recognized.

Now along with that I had a surprise. As I was greeting some of our ops, one operator pulled me aside and asked how they could help. This person is not comfortable on the radio but is knowledgeable of our operation and wants to be involved in our service to the community, they're just unsure of how to be involved. The SET pointed out to me a concern of which this person was unaware. IF we ever have a real event and have to establish all these modes, links, shelters and so forth and the event lasts more than a few hours, I worry about having ops to rotate into shifts. While we had great participation on a volunteer basis on a sunny day, I worry over the needs on dark day when some are duty bound to care for family first and to operate with ARES second. I assured this operator that there would be a place for them to participate. Not everyone was on the radio. Every op on the radio needs support. It could be as a scribe, a second set of eyes, a person to handle questions, queue up clients who have messages to send and a hundred other needs. I can imagine we will need every one of us should that dark day come. Your radio voice is not all we need. We need your knowledge and abilities to make this all work. Your participation and involvement are key to how well we can respond. Stay up to date with what's happening in ARES, participate when you can, check in on the nets or at least "read the mail" but know we want you as a part of the team.

Before I go, a quick note on the repeaters. We have two powerhouses, well really four now. Since the SET the 147.00 and 145.33 machines have been moved to their operational heights, power, and locations. I personally worked the 33 from Pilot Point the other day and the 00 from Hwys 35 and 82 in Gainesville. The 147.28 and the 444.75 have also had some work done. Say thanks to the folks that make these available and to Shipman Communications for their help to provide Amateur Radio communications in our county.

Training and practice are paramount to our success. We will respond to the level required to help our community when the time comes. We have good people willing to share their equipment, time, talent and skills, whatever they maybe. Thanks for your willingness to step up when some would fall back. See you at the next event!

73
Rick
K5ECX

