



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

MARCH 2015

WWW.K5GCC.ORG

VOL. 21, No. 3

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hello All,

This month I'd like to speak on what constitutes Amateur Radio and why the hobby has endured such longevity. Some may think that Amateur Radio was created when Congress passed the Communications Act of 1934. Others may say that Amateur Radio is what we know today because of organizations such as the ARRL lobbying our government to maintain its existence and integrity. One may attribute it to the worldwide cooperation of many governments, and their ability to peacefully negotiate wireless spectrum to enable strangers from around the globe to communicate at will. You could make an argument that the courage and selflessness that many hams display when a natural disaster or other emergency occurs has been the greatest factor to shape Amateur Radio.

I would argue Amateur Radio and its colorful history hinge on a single word and concept: the elmer. ARRL.org defines the term elmer, "someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams." I have found the people who assume the role to be much more profound. An elmer is neither simply someone willing to reel you in, hook, line, and sinker; nor are they someone who drags you in, kicking and screaming. Although, they are known to do both. That is only one facet of the role of elmer. Once you've made the decision to study, prepare, show up, and pass that first licensing test, an elmer's job is only beginning.

Elmers provide much more than a source for knowledge or hand-me-downs. Often, they offer friendship, support, encouragement, and a hand-up. I posit that elmers are the sole reason that Amateur Radio has been, is, and will be a lasting fraternal order. Elmers come in different shapes and sizes. Some are people you see weekly at a club meeting. Others you see only occasionally at events. Some elmers exist solely on the air, providing help and encouragement to everyone they meet.

Most importantly, sometimes you're the elmer, and you may not even know it. Did you help someone out when they needed it? When you overheard someone needed a widget, did you offer your spare? When someone saw you operating, did you speak highly of your hobby and offer a helping hand getting started?

Amateur Radio is today because of the people. Not because governments and organizations have perpetuated it, but because hams have been instructing and inviting new operators since before the hobby was ever instituted by any decree. I would ask that you make sure you're repaying the kindness shown to you and please be welcoming to those interested in Amateur Radio to ensure our hobby continues on.

Lastly, make sure you offer a 'thank you' to all of your elmers. They will appreciate it.

Thank you & 73,
Daniel AF5OY

Daniel's Link of the Month: http://tiny.cc/GCARC_MAR2015

H.R. 1301, known as the "Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015" has been introduced to Congress. Follow the link to find out how you can help support your fellow hams combat the dreaded 'CC&R', and let hams in developed city areas operate freely.

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, February 15, 2015

7:00pm -- meeting came to order. There were 22 members and 2 guests present.

Daniel Boehmisch AF5OY introduced the Scoutmaster from Anna whom Daniel and Ben Sly KF5OEB will be assisting with a presentation to the Scouts in the future

Treasurer's Report -- Correction

As of Jan. 1, 2015 Operations budget: \$499.11
 Equipment budget: \$489.00
 Total: \$988.11

The corrected Treasurer's Report was approved and seconded.

Old Business:

- As a reminder, please pay your dues if you have not already.

New Business:

- Daniel AF5OY will be out of town for the March meeting; Vice-President Lee Sly N5SLY will run the meeting. Ben KF5OEB will give a presentation on APRS.
- Ben KF5OEB volunteered to remove whatever club items are in storage at Jeannie KF5PDM's mom's house. The items will be moved to storage at Lee N5SLY's house. The move and new storage area were approved by Roy Reed AF5VA and seconded by Trevor Reed KG5BFI.
- A soldering class will be offered on April 18th at Ben KF5OEB's house starting at 10am.
- We do not have any club activities the months of September and November. We are seeking suggestions.
- Mike Bernier KF5NPM has volunteered to get a group together to help people get up antennas, set-up ham shacks, or other radio-related needs. Please let Mike or Daniel know if you have items the club can help with.
- Daniel AF5OY would like to bring back the 5th Sunday Net on the 147.00 repeater. There are 4 Sundays in 2015: March, May, August, and November. Daniel asked Trevor KG5BFI to be net control for the March net. This is an informal gathering; show up and talk!
- The club has a new mailing address:
 Grayson County Amateur Radio Club
 PO Box 642
 Sherman, TX 75091
All correspondence should be sent to the new address.
- Rick Simmons K5ECX reviewed the ARES SET activity. There were 30 participants; 2M/70cm worked very well; HF was ok; some hiccups with Winlink
- Reminder of Upcoming Events:
 1. Moe Knight NT7C will continue his electronics classes on the 2nd Saturday of each month, except for March when it will be the 3rd Saturday due to Spring Break.
 2. Soldering Class at Ben's house April 18th
 3. Our first Special Event Station is May 16th at Perrin Field
 4. Field Day is June 27-28

Meeting closed at 7:40pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Branham W5ORD
GCARC Secretary

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Editor's Note: At the request of our Treasurer, Sheila KF5TDP, the monthly Treasurer's Report has been changed to the same format she uses for tracking all of the club's funds and budget items.

Bank Balance for the Month of February 2015

Operating Fund Beginning Bal	499.11
Funds Received from dues	120.00
<small>(6 members dues received)</small>	
Fund Received from patches	20.00
Less expenses	
Mail Box Rental	56.00
QSL Cards	73.49
Operating Fund Balance	509.62

OPERATING BUDGET	
Mail Box	180.00
Perrin Special Events	50.00
ARRL Field Day - Food	75.00
Red River Bridge War	75.00
RR Bridge War Cards	80.00
Denison Main Str Festival	75.00
Christmas Dinner	75.00
Donations to Fund Raisers	
RR Bike Rally (Kiwanis)	250.00
Marine Corps League (Toys For Tots)	250.00
Amount Budgeted	1,110.00

Available Equipment Funds	489.00
Less expenditures	
Signalink	108.44
Powersupply	108.00
Equipment Fund Balance	272.56

EQUIPMENT NEEDS	
Power Supply	100.00
Signalink	80.00
Amount Budgeted	180.00

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**

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

Learn to Solder Class

April 18, 2015 10:00am

Ben Sly's Garage, 3222 N Marseille, Sherman, TX

This is a basic class to teach proper use of a soldering iron. Participants should bring a small electronic project kit to assemble and a soldering iron (if available). Ben has additional tools if needed.

Contact: Ben KF5OEB bencsly@gmail.com

Class Fee: No charge

Registration: Not required, but a friendly e-mail to Ben to let him know you're coming is appreciated

**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

Swap Meets

DARA Tailgate/Swap Meet

April 4, 2015 Albert Park, Durant

QSL MANAGER'S CORNER

Hi everyone,

Had some fun on Monday night...Ben, Trevor and I went to Anna to give a demonstration about ham radio to a Cub Scout group. They were all 1st graders. I had forgotten what it is like to have 8 6 year old boys all in the same place at the same time. Wow...nonstop action. Well, I think we pulled it off and the kids had a good time and so did the parents at the meeting. Ben did a great job as did Trevor.

Ben brought a bunch of show and tell stuff and the kids really got into it. We also had them talk on 2 meters a little. Naturally they were shy about talking on the radio, but they all wanted to do it. All in all a great time. Many of the parents had questions and so...who knows...we may get some more visitors from Anna at our next meeting.

Ben and I have been kicking around the idea of participating in the US Islands Awards Program "One-Day Getaway" which is being held on Saturday, May 9 this year. This just sounds like a lot of fun...set up a radio station on an island on any body of water in the USA and make some contacts and have some fun. We have access to a boat which can hold a max of 11 people...I think. We'll go out on Lake Texoma and find an island...beach the boat...set up the radio using a battery and a Buddy Pole...cook some burgers and hot dogs....play radio for a few hours and come home. I know that at least 4 spots are already spoken for on the boat...me, Ben, Tim and Stacy. Any one else interested? More info available at www.usislands.org.

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

73

Lee
N5SLY
kf5oed@gmail.com

NOTES FROM FANNIN COUNTY ARC

Just wanted to let you know of the changes in the Bonham (FCARC) repeaters.

145.470 is now the PRIMARY repeater. 145.130 is the secondary repeater. You may remember that our 145.470 was the Primary repeater since day one then we added 145.130 on the Ivanhoe tower north of Bonham. Due to the D-Star interference out of Dallas we have made the 145.470 repeater our primary repeater. ALL REPEATERS NOW HAVE A PL TONE OF 100 BOTH INBOUND AND OUTBOUND.

David Reeder WA0URJ

(Editor's Note: These updates have been posted in the Area Repeater listing in this issue. Be sure to update the programming in your radios.)

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: Vintage Heathkit Gear

1. Heathkit AJ-53 Hi-Fi AM tuner 4 tube with doubling detector. Similar to the Heathkit AF-63. \$30.00
2. Heathkit AJ-33A AM/FM Stereo receiver. \$40.00
3. Heathkit AV-3 AC (audio) VTVM. Meter cracked. \$10.00 works.

Contact: David Reeder-WAØURJ

E-mail: WA0URJ@yahoo.com

Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773

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 \$325. 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 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: 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.

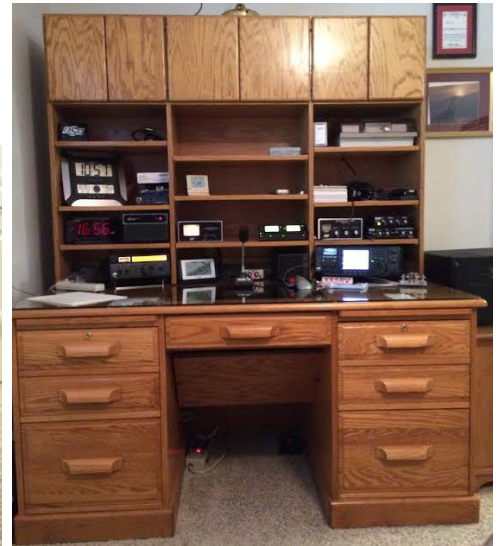
Asking \$190. Pick Up Only in Bonham, TX
Contact: David Reeder WAØURJ
E-mail: WA0URJ@yahoo.com
Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773



FOR SALE: 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



HELPING HAMS

The idea behind Helping Hams is simple – all hams need a little help sometimes, but they might not know who can help them. Our club has many talented members, with some better at certain jobs than others. What we hope to do here is match up hams needing help with other hams who have the skills to help them. Working together, we can all help our fellow hams and encourage them to continue pursuing their interests in this wonderful hobby.

The currently-requested needs are listed below. If you have a need, or know of a ham with a need, or if you or someone you know can help, contact our newsletter editor by sending an e-mail to kf5npm@gmail.com. You don't have to be a member of GCARC to ask for help or make an offer to help. We're all in this together – that's what the hobby is all about!

Current Needs:

Alan W5ZMH	Needs a wire antenna installed
Gordon N5TPO	Needs a tower-mounted 440Mhz yagi antenna realigned
Rick K5ECX	Needs help with lowering/servicing/raising his antenna tower (note: must be done in very dry weather due to tower location)
Mike KF5NPM	“Station Building 2” – needs help installing rooftop 2m/440 J-pole and 2.4GHz antennas, grounding cable, and lightning arrestors. Also needs HF antenna adjustments. Note: steep roof.
Bennie K5DIZ	Needs help installing an antenna

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

FCC Enforcement Bureau Field Resources Poised To Shrink

According to an internal FCC Enforcement Bureau (EB) memorandum, the Bureau plans to ask the full Commission to cut two-thirds of its field offices and eliminate nearly one-half of its field agents. At the same time, the Bureau would develop a so-called “Tiger Team” of field agents as a flexible strike force it could deploy as needed. In the March 10 memorandum to Enforcement Bureau field staff -- obtained by ARRL and others -- EB Chief Travis LeBlanc and FCC Managing Director Jon Wilkins cited the need to take “a fresh look” at the Bureau’s 20-year-old operating model in light of technology changes and tighter budgets. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed dismay at the proposals.

“The ARRL is concerned that there is already no sense of urgency in the FCC’s enforcement activities targeting spectrum polluters, such as utilities with noisy power lines, or the few violators in our own ranks,” Sumner said. “It is troubling to see recommendations for such drastic reductions in the Commission’s geographic footprint and the number of field agents at a time when the Field staff is facing ever-increasing challenges.”

The EB and the Office of the Managing Director initiated an effort last fall to modernize the Bureau’s field operations, the memorandum said.

“This project sought to ensure that the Field’s structure, operations, expenses, and equipment were properly aligned with the Commission’s overall mission and resources,” LeBlanc and Wilkins said. The Commission hired outside consultants to analyze the EB’s current “operating model,” gathering input from employees, outside experts, and internal and external stakeholders.

Under its “Phase I” field modernization scheme, the Bureau will recommend to the full Commission that it adjust the primary focus of its reduced field office complement to RF spectrum enforcement. The EB will also recommend “adjusting” the number of field agents from 63 to 33. To compensate, part of that field staff complement would include what the EB called a “Tiger Team” of agents “flexible enough to support other high-priority initiatives.” Under the plan, all field agents would have to have electrical engineering backgrounds “to support the primary focus on RF spectrum enforcement.” The Bureau will also propose standardizing its investigatory and sanctioning processes.

Management would not be spared. Under the recommendations, the EB field organization chart would shrink from 21 to 5 director positions, and from 10 to 3 administrative support positions.

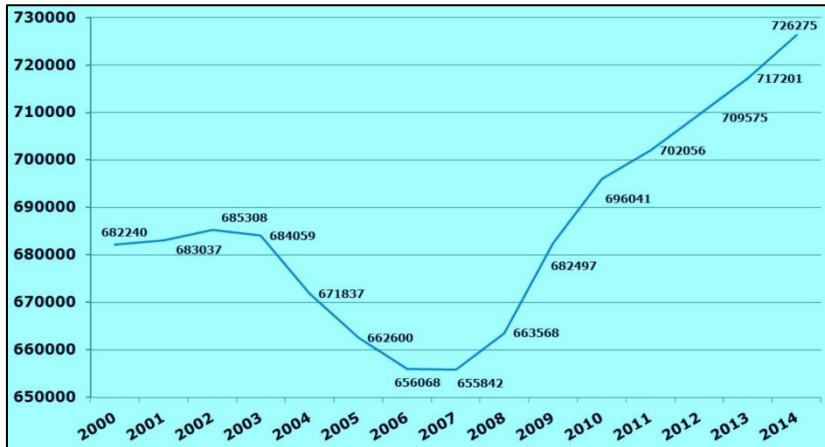
Under the proposals, the field office would reduce its “geographic footprint” from 24 sites to 8 sites and would “pre-position” equipment in several other strategic locations. Offices slated to stay under the plan would be New York City; Columbia, Maryland -- the site of the Bureau’s HF Direction-Finding Center; Chicago; Atlanta; Miami; Dallas; Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The EB would deploy equipment in or near several other cities, initially to include Kansas City, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Seattle, San Juan, Anchorage, Honolulu, and Billings, Montana.

Part of the plan calls for the EB to establish “beneficial partnerships between the Field and other organizations that may support increasing our effectiveness.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Number of U.S. Amateur Radio Licensees At All-Time High

The US Amateur Radio population continues to soar. At the end of 2014, the total number of US Amateurs in the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) database reached an all-time high of 726,275 -- and the trend has continued in the first 2 months of 2015, which saw the total rise to slightly more than 727,000. The figures exclude expired licenses that are within the 2-year grace period, and club station licenses. Outside of a little dithering last fall, growth in the Amateur Radio Service in 2014 was steady, according to [figures](#) compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, on his FCC Amateur Radio Statistics web pages. Over the past decade, the number of Amateur Radio licenses in the ULS database grew by some 8.1 percent. But 2014 was also a banner year for the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC).



Amateur Radio licenses in the US from 2000 through 2014. The FCC dropped the Morse code requirement in 2007. [Prepared from statistics compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A]

class licensees -- all record numbers, Somma pointed out. While the number of Amateur Extra licensees grew in each month of 2014, the number of Technicians and Generals -- and of licensees overall -- faltered a bit last July and September. Last year's overall upward trend quickly recovered, however, during the final quarter of 2014. The General population also dipped briefly in May 2014, before rebounding.

Somma believes the July and September dips may have been a result of applicants adjusting to the new Technician question pool that went into effect last July 1. "We always expect an adjustment period when a new question pool is introduced to the public, as VEs, teachers, and candidates must prepare new study and exam materials," she said. Somma called the dips "a normal part of the question pool cycle."

Technician licensees comprise slightly less than one-half of the US Amateur Radio population. As of December 31, some 51,000 Advanced and 12,000 Novice licensees remained in the FCC database. The FCC no longer issues Advanced and Novice licenses, and their numbers continue to decline.

Once again, California far and away was home to the largest number of licensees among the 50 states, with 102,806 at the end of February. Texas was a distant second, with 51,022, Florida came in third, with 40,743, Washington was fourth, with 30,511, and Ohio was fifth at 28,256. With the exception of Ohio, the licensing trend in these states has been through the roof. In Ohio, ham radio numbers began to flag a bit in 2014, after holding steady for about the past 4 years.

The state with the fewest Amateur Radio licensees in 2014 was North Dakota, with 1477, but in an overall upward trajectory since around 2009. Others with small ham populations included Delaware (1715 and growing), Rhode Island (1926 and dropping), Wyoming (1868 and headed up), and Vermont (2101 and slipping, after a bump in 2013 and 2014). These numbers may go a long way toward explaining why these are rare multipliers in the ARRL November Sweepstakes and other events.

Club station licenses in the US numbered 11,501, according to Speroni's statistics.

"For the first time in the ARRL VEC program's history, we have conducted more than 7000 Amateur Radio exam sessions in a year, an important milestone," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "A total of 7216 ARRL-sponsored exam sessions were administered in 2014, compared to 6823 in 2013."

Somma said the number of new licensees spiked to more than 33,000 in 2014, up by about 15 percent from the previous year. Successful license upgrades rose last year by an unprecedented 13 percent over a year earlier.

At the end of 2014, there were 136,405 Amateur Extra, 169,524 General, and 357,236 Technician

German Radio Operators Breathe New Life Into “Orphaned” Shortwave Channel

A few radio amateurs are frustrated broadcasters, and when German national broadcaster Deutsche Welle closed down a 500 kW shortwave broadcast transmitter near Munich, an entity headed and operated by hams applied for and was granted the vacant channel of 6070 kHz in the 49 meter shortwave band. DARC Radio -- which has a business association with the Deutsche Amateur Radio Club ([DARC](#)) but is privately owned -- now has a 10 kW broadcast station branded “[Channel 292](#)” up and running, and a new Amateur Radio DX program will debut this month.



“After the demolition of one of the world’s biggest shortwave facilities of the Deutsche Welle last year, we managed to get an official radio broadcast license for the German Amateur Radio Club and have built up a shortwave transmitter with some parts of the old 500 kW transmitter from there,” said DARC Radio Project Manager Rainer Englert, DF2NU, an ARRL member and president of the Munich South Section of the DARC. “As far as we know, there is no similar ham project like this worldwide.”

The Deutsche Welle used the 6070 kHz channel until mid-2013 for European transmissions. DARC Radio hopes to fund its operating expenses by leasing airtime.

The DARC is a customer, and under its banner, a weekly Amateur Radio-oriented magazine of DARC news, contest schedules, DX information, interviews, DXpedition reports, market reviews, technical hints, and “some nice old music from the ‘70s and ‘80s” will debut on Sunday, March 22, at 1000 UTC, Englert told ARRL. The program will be in German, but the RSGB has expressed interest in contributing English-language program segments, he said. The inaugural DX magazine will be repeated on Monday, March 23, at 1600 UTC.

According to the DARC, the initial March 22 broadcast will air from a 100 kW transmitter in Austria, while the repeat broadcast on March 23 will emanate from Radio DARC’s 10 kW transmitter near Ingolstadt, Germany.

Rainer Ebeling, DB8QC, owns the official licensee -- Intermedicom GmbH (LLC). He repurposed parts from the driver stages as well as a few transformers from the former Deutsche Welle transmitter for DARC Radio’s 10 kW transmitter. “The antenna is a low-hanging, simple dipole with a very high radiation angle, optimized for short-range coverage,” Englert explained. The station easily covers much of Western Europe, he said, and also has been heard in Russia and elsewhere, including North America.

Although its license allows full-time service, the station has mostly been on the air from 0700 until 1700 UTC. The station airs “The Golden Days of Offshore Radio” weekdays at 0700-0900 UTC, with offerings that evoke the era of pirate stations RNI, Radio Caroline, Radio Veronica, and others. In fact, the Channel 292 brand recalls the Channel 192 pirate station of the 1960s and 1970s. It also airs programs in Dutch and Spanish.

Englert said others, in addition to DARC, have been leasing airtime -- currently filling about 20 hours per week. DARC Radio’s hourly rate is rock bottom -- about \$17.50 US. “This rate really only covers expenditures like electric power and the write-off of the power amplifier,” he said. “The transmitter sucks almost 40 kW out of the grid at 100 percent modulation.”

“The orphaned shortwave frequencies hardly interest anyone these days,” [allowed](#) the DARC. “Not so radio amateurs, who will take advantage of these new possibilities to also get broadcasting licenses.”

All [reception reports](#) to Channel 292 will be answered with a QSL card. Outgoing cards will go out via the DARC QSL bureau.

- 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.
- Other** **5th Sunday Ragchews**
 March 29, May 31, August 30, and November 29 at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.
 Net Control: Trevor Reed KG5BFI

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	Denison TX	145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH
Allen TX	145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	Durant OK	147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL) 147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL)	K5KIE K5CGE
Bonham TX (note PL changes on inbound and outbound)	145.470- MHz (100.0 PL) 145.130- MHz (100.0 PL) 443.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	K5FRC K5FRC K5FRC	Gainesville TX	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI
			Kingston OK	146.085- MHz (103.5 PL) (currently out of service)	K5BQG

McKinney TX	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC	Van Alstyne TX	443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
Melissa TX	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA	Grayson County ARES	441.375+ MHz (67.0 PL) (emergencies/training only)	WC5GC
Paris TX	146.760- MHz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD			
Rosston TX	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U			

GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC

Calm Before The Storm?

Howdy,
It's the time of year we expect to start seeing Mother Nature begin to throw us a few weather makers that involve SKYWARN activations. We will be reviewing procedures for those on the 24th at our ARES training session. It's been quite a while since we have had an activation so I hope you will come to this session. It will be at a different location: on the 2nd floor of the Grayson County Courthouse in the District Disaster Committee Situation Room right beside the elevator doors. It's an appropriate location as this room will be involved if we have a "Situation" in our area. Come on out that evening at 7pm, get a refresher on our SKYWARN operations and see what this facility is all about.



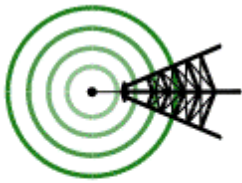
As we look ahead the AECs have in the works several good training sessions that should help you with your training book goals and our operations to support the community should all else fail. We will be learning more about dipole antennas, packet radio setup and how to protect us and equipment from lightning. Our Nets this spring and summer will include some message traffic to enhance our ability to receive and then forward messages. This was a subject our recent SET revealed was of interest to many, and is a main function of our operation in serving our communities.

Other areas of training opportunities are thru several avenues. The classes, test sessions, and labs conducted by Moe NT7C out at Grayson College will continue; see the TECO website calendar (www.tecoares.org) for details as to the particulars of dates and times. If you're a digital op, there is cause to pay attention to Broadband Hamnet; I understand there are more changes coming in that area as it continues to grow in capability and more interest in its use develops. Wade KF5AUD recently led a training session on Winlink, RMS Express, and associated applications that went very well and gave ops a chance to exercise their equipment, seek out successful contacts, and find flaws.

As we prepare for the coming weeks of WX activations check you rig for correct frequencies, have good batteries, update your necessities in your go kit and get it ready. If you have changed cell phone carriers in the past year let Wade or I know so the ARES text alert system can be updated. Mobile ops keep the sled gassed up, and everybody find that SKYWARN Spotters Checklist you received at the NWS training.

See you soon!

73
Rick
K5ECX



K5GGC Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Apparel Order Form



Tactical Shirt \$45

Mic loops on shoulders and front placket, dual pen pockets

2x-4x sizes +\$4

Prices plus shipping and all items have K5GGC Club Logo, your Call and first name embroidered

- Polo Shirt* sm to xl \$30
- Camp Shirt* sm to xl \$36
W Left pocket
- Caps \$17
- Jacket* sm to xl \$45



First Name _____ (as you want on clothing)

Last _____

Call _____

Payment _____

Make checks Payable to GCARC

	Men/	Ldy	Qty	Ext
Polo Shirt* sm M L XL			_____	\$30 _____
Camp Shirt* sm M L XL			_____	\$36 _____
Caps			_____	\$17 _____
Jacket* sm M L XL			_____	\$45 _____
Tactical Shirt sm M L XL			_____	\$45 _____
*Shirts/jackets- (2x to 4x +\$4)				
_____ Shipping \$1.00 per item				
Total			_____	

K5GGC Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Apparel Order ----- Deliver Bottom portion to K5ECX by 04-17

First Name _____ (as you want on clothing)

Last _____

Call _____

Payment _____

Make checks Payable to GCARC

K5GGC Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Apparel Order -----Deliver Bottom portion to K5ECX by 04-17

	Men/ Ldy	Qty	Ext
Polo Shirt* sm M L XL			\$30
Camp Shirt* sm M L XL			\$36
Caps			\$17
Jacket* sm M L XL			\$45
Tactical Shirt* sm M L XL			\$45
*Shirts/jackets- (2x to 4x +\$4)			
Shipping \$1.00 per item			
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