



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

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APRIL 2015

WWW.K5GCC.ORG

VOL. 21, No. 4

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## THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi everyone,

This is Lee N5SLY, your Vice President.

This month I'll be bringing you the President's QSO message.

Several important things happened this month regarding Grayson County ARC.

First, as with all things "Life happens" and things change. Daniel AF5OY has submitted his resignation and will no longer be the President of the club. Daniel has had some important personal things happen recently which are much more important than being involved with our club or amateur radio. So, while we will miss Daniel, we send him our best wishes and thank him for his contributions and will welcome him back when the time is right.

Second, Jeannie KF5PDM has also left the club to pursue other interests, and along with her departure we no longer have access to the club's web site.

So we have some important tasks to handle in the near future. We need to have a Special Election for a new club President, and we need to set up a new club web site.

I will assume the role of Acting President until a new one is elected, and offer this suggestion: I would like to ask for volunteers who are willing to assume the role of President. Your only rewards will be the personal satisfaction of knowing you did your best to help the club and the gratitude of its members for your efforts. The work load is as large as you make it and the pay is nonexistent. I'll give everyone a month to consider the offer and we will have our Special Election during the club meeting in May.

Regarding the club's web site...before Daniel resigned he purchased a yearly web site for the club. Ben now has Administrator access and has been working on the new club web site design. The club's new URL address is [www.graysoncountyarc.com](http://www.graysoncountyarc.com).

In the past the club's web sites were always donated and the club did not have to pay anything for them. But...I hate this saying..."going forward", the club needs to own the web site and we will have to pay for it. With the club owning the web site we will not have to worry about people leaving and having to reinvent the wheel...if you know what I mean. The cost is not very much, approximately \$100 per year. Daniel paid for the web site for a year and Ben registered the new URL for 3 years. I will make a request at this month's meeting that we

reimburse Daniel and Ben for the money they spent. We will also have to include this in the budget for future years. Finally, we will need to appoint a Webmaster to keep the web site up to date. I'm asking for volunteers for that job as well.

Enough of the serious stuff...let's have some fun. Ben will be hosting a soldering class on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at his QTH at 12:30 pm. Bring your electronic kits and learn how to solder. This event is not limited to just soldering...if you need some help on any project plan on attending. We'll be there to help. I'll be bringing the club's radio in a box over for some modifications. If you need help programming a radio, plan on attending. If you have questions about anything ham radio related, plan on attending. Or if you just want to hang out...plan on attending!

We are still in the planning stages for the US Islands Awards Program's "One Day Getaway" which will be held on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. This just sounds like a lot of fun: set up a radio station on an island in any body of water in the USA and make some contacts. We are planning to take a boat out to an island on Lake Texoma, beach it and set up radio station. We'll cook some hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch...make some contacts and come back in the afternoon. I can't think of a better excuse for getting out of mowing the grass. We still have plenty of spots open for those that want to participate. More info available at: [www.usislands.org](http://www.usislands.org)

Our first Special Event Station of the year is rapidly approaching. The Perrin Field Special Event Station will be held on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> (Armed Forces Day). I will be doing a presentation during our meeting this month on Special Event Stations and proper logging procedures, and in May I'll do a short presentation on Perrin Field. This is a wonderful opportunity for those of you that don't have the ability to get on HF to experience the thrill of making some contacts hundreds or thousands of miles away. It is no secret that HF is my favorite activity in ham radio...I just love it! I hope that you'll take advantage of this opportunity and give it a try. It really is a lot of fun. Don't worry...we'll be there to help if you don't have much experience.

And on a very happy note, I want to tell you that Ben spoke with Paul K1PKZ about the club's offer of a Lifetime Membership, and Paul was very appreciative of this gesture. Paul expressed a desire to attend our next meeting, and I for one am very eager to see him again. It has been 3 long years since our last face to face meeting.

Finally, I just want to say that I will do my best to take care of the club's business while filling in as the club President, but what is most important to me is that we all have fun playing on the radio and provide our support when needed to our community.

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

73  
Lee  
N5SLY  
[lee.n5sly@gmail.com](mailto:lee.n5sly@gmail.com)

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## CLUB INFORMATION

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### OFFICERS

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President: (open)  
Acting President: Lee Sly N5SLY  
Secretary: Stacy Branam W5ORD  
Treasurer: Sheila Sammons KF5TDP  
Activity Director: Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW  
Trustee: Rick Simmons K5ECX

### MAILING ADDRESS

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

### NEWSLETTER

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

### 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.graysoncountyar.com](http://www.graysoncountyar.com)  
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, March 20, 2015

7:04pm -- meeting came to order. There were 14 members present.

Club President Daniel Boehmisch AF5OY was out on business – Vice President Lee Sly N5SLY presided.

February Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved by Rick Simmons K5ECX and seconded by Ben Sly KF5OEB

**\*\*Please remember to get your dues paid if you have not already\*\***

#### Old Business:

- Paul Caputo K1PKZ accepted our invitation for Lifetime Membership in GCARC, and Ben KF5OEB will work on getting him to our next meeting. This was approved by Sheila Sammons KF5TDP and seconded by Ben.
- Reminder that Mike Bernier KF5NPM started a group to help hams in our area update their shacks, get antennas installed etc. Bennie Hall K5DIZ is on the list. If you need assistance, please let him know by e-mail [kf5npm@gmail.com](mailto:kf5npm@gmail.com).
- Ben KF5OEB, Trevor KG5BFI, and Lee N5SLY had a successful presentation to the Cub Scouts in Anna. There were a bunch of them, but asked intelligent questions and paid attention throughout the presentation.

#### New Business:

- April 18th is the soldering class at Ben KF5OEB's house – you are welcome to bring projects to complete, items to repair, and practice with the various soldering tools beginning at 12:30pm.
- The ARRL Island Getaway was reviewed; it is May 9<sup>th</sup>. Any island on a body of water is eligible. It can be an already activated island, or a new one. You can visit [www.usislands.org](http://www.usislands.org) to see which islands have been activated. We decided this is an activity we would like to participate in. Ben KF5OEB and Brad KE5UMJ both volunteered boats to ferry people. Sheila KF5TDP approved and Ben seconded. We will use the club call sign. Further info to come.

Lee N5SLY presented information about why we are called 'hams.' There are several different stories about where the term came from, from the initial of some of the originators of amateur radio to the more popular derogatory term for ham-fisted sloppy operators.

Ben KF5OEB and Brad KE5UMJ presented information and demonstrated APRS and the YACC software to use with it.

The meeting closed at 8:08 p.m.

Next Meeting will be 7:00pm on Friday, April 17th, 2015, in the Grayson County Courthouse 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Assembly Room, Sherman TX.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stacy Branham W5ORD  
GCARC Secretary

# GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

## Bank Balance for the Month of March, 2015

Operating Fund Beginning Bal	509.62
Funds Received from dues	0.00
(6 members dues received)	
Fund Received from patches	0.00
Less expenses	
	0.00
	0.00
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
<b>Donations to Fund Raisers</b>	
RR Bike Rally (Kiwanis)	250.00
Marine Corps League (Toys For Tots)	250.00
Amount Budgeted	1,110.00

Available Equipment Funds	272.56
Less expenditures	
	0.00
	0.00
Equipment Fund Balance	272.56

EQUIPMENT NEEDS	
	0.00
	0.00
Amount Budgeted	0.00

Ending Bank Balance as of March 31, 2015	782.18
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Sheila Sammons KF5TDP  
GCARC Treasurer

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## CLUB MEETINGS, LOCAL ACTIVITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Club Meetings

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

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

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

<http://www.k5gcc.org>

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Durant-Amateur-Repeater-Association-Ham-Radio/292030700959672>

#### **Fannin County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC)**

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

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX

<http://www.k5frc.org>

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

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

Spring Creek Barbecue, 1993 North Central Expressway, McKinney TX

<http://www.mckinneyarc.org>

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

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

Midway Point Restaurant, 12801 Midway Road, Dallas TX

<http://www.texasqcwa41.org>

### ARES® / SKYWARN®

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

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each odd-numbered month (Jan / Mar / May / Jul / Sep / Nov) at 7:00pm

Sherman Municipal Airport Terminal Building, 1200 S. Dewey Ave., Sherman TX

<http://www.tecoares.org>

### 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>

### GCARC Events

#### **“One Day Getaway”**

May 9, 2015

“On an island somewhere on Lake Texoma”

Additional details not available at press time.

#### **Perrin Field Special Event Station (Armed Forces Day)**

May 16, 2015

North Texas Regional Airport-Perrin Field, Denison TX

The club will operate a special event station at the Perrin AFB Museum using the callsign W5I during Armed Forces Day. Specific frequency bands and modes TBA.

### 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

### **Learn to Solder Class**

April 18, 2015 12:30pm

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](mailto: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**

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**

#### **HamEXPO**

April 17-18, 2015 (Friday 2:00pm tailgate, Saturday 8:00am Expo); VE Testing Saturday 9:30am

Bell County Expo, 301 East Loop 121, Belton TX

Talk-In: 146.820Mhz (PL 123.0)

Contact: John Hobson WD5BFS (254) 338-8620 or [expo@tarc.org](mailto:expo@tarc.org)

Website: [www.tarc.org/hamexpo](http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo)

#### **Ham-Com (ARRL West Gulf Division Convention)**

June 12-13, 2015 8:00am-5:00pm (now an all-indoor event – no tailgating)

(VE & GROL Testing: Friday 11:00am-5:00pm, Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm)

Irving Convention Center, 500 W Las Colinas Blvd, Irving TX

Talk-In: 146.380MHZ

Contact: Bill Nelson AB5QZ (214) 532-3848 or [ab5qz@swbell.net](mailto:ab5qz@swbell.net)

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

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## **DURANT AMATEUR REPEATER ASSOCIATION (DARA) NEWS**

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Due to commercial tower removal, the (second) Durant K5CGE repeater is down and undergoing calibration. Don K5CGE seems open for ideas to put it back up somewhere with good coverage.

The recent tailgate in Durant was quite successful, and Sherman amateurs who attended are to be thanked for their support. The tailgate is always held the first weekend of April. There have been thoughts of looking into linking with another club or two for future tailgates. If interested, contact DARA club president AB5CC.

On May 30th, DARA will provide two-way 2m communications during the Durant Rotary Magnolia Bike Tour (bike routes are from 22 to 90 miles). Volunteers are always needed.

Bryan County Emergency Management storm spotters are being equipped to transmit live radio signals showing their exact locations and send live video signals in, thanks to spotters being licensed radio amateurs.

Jim Harmon K5BNK

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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 AS IS: Assorted Electronics/Test Equipment

The following items were donated to GCARC and are in need of a new home. No set price per piece – make us an offer!

- Heathkit RF Signal Generator
- Square Wave Generator Model 71
- MFJ Versa Tuner II MFJ-941D
- Broel & Kjoer Voltmeter
- Sierra Electronic Corp. Carrier Frequency Voltmeter 104A
- Polytechnic Research Heterodyne Frequency Meter Type 504

**NOTE: These have not been tested and are offered “as is” with no refunds.**

Contact: Lee Sly N5SLY  
E-mail: [lee.n5sly@gmail.com](mailto:lee.n5sly@gmail.com)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:WA0URJ@yahoo.com)  
Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773



## FOR SALE OR TRADE: GAP Titan DX Vertical HF Antenna

I have a GAP Titan DX 10m-80m vertical HF antenna for sale or trade. It is in good but used condition. Please go to the GAP Antenna website ([www.gapantenna.com](http://www.gapantenna.com)) for details and price when new. I also have the optional heavy duty tilt over mounting plate. It is currently assembled and I want buyer/trader to see it that way. However, I think it will have to be taken apart to transport as it is 30 ft. tall. No ground radials needed as it has its own ground plane wires.

For sale or trade at half its new price

Contact: Sarge KE5YPB

E-mail: [0101.smd@gmail.com](mailto:0101.smd@gmail.com)

## FOR SALE: Cushcraft ASL-670 Log Periodic Antenna

The Cushcraft ASL-670 is the ultimate multi-use antenna. Since the antenna is a log periodic, it offers continuous coverage through the 2 and 6 meter bands as well as 220 and 440 MHz. So while being a terrific antenna for operating those bands, it's also a great aviation and public safety band monitoring antenna.

Use the antenna for contesting and mountain topping if you like. The antenna is compact and easy to assemble and disassemble with no tuning required. Yet it is rugged enough for permanent installations.

This antenna has excellent gain f/b with good VSWR bandwidth to boot. Enjoy the fun of high performance operation *and* multi-frequency.

Asking \$190. Pick Up Only in Bonham, TX

Contact: David Reeder WAØURJ

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

Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773



## FOR SALE: 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.

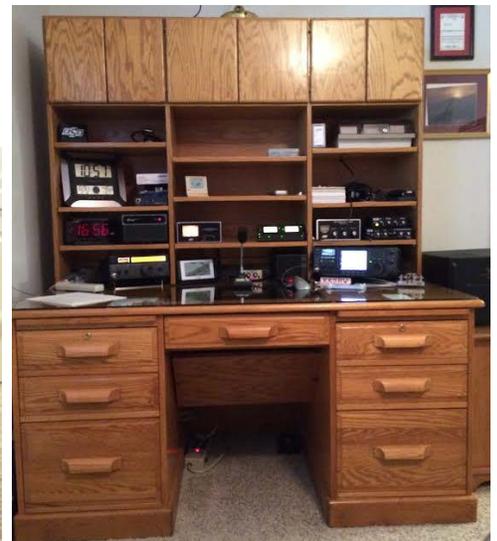
Radios not included.

Contact: Bill KK5RW

Phone: (281) 217-9942

E-Mail:

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



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## HELPING HAMS

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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](mailto: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	March 2015
Gordon N5TPO	Needs a tower-mounted 440Mhz yagi antenna realigned	March 2015
Rick K5ECX	Needs help with lowering/servicing/raising antenna tower. Note: must be done in very dry weather due to tower location.	March 2015
Mike KF5NPM	“Station Building Part 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.	March 2015
Bennie K5DIZ	Needs help installing an antenna	March 2015

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## NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

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### ARRL President: HR 1301 Is All About Fairness

The push is on to convince Congress to pass The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 -- [H.R. 1301](#), introduced in the US House early in March with bipartisan support and now has 22 cosponsors. The [full text](#) of the bill now is available. If approved and signed by the president, the measure would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions -- also known collectively as “deed covenants, conditions, and restrictions” or CC&Rs. In the March issue of the [ARRL Legislative Update](#), ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, said the bill is “simple and sensible,” and she urged all radio amateurs -- whether or not affected by CC&Rs -- to join the effort to gain cosponsors for the measure. A regularly updated [H.R. 1301 page](#) on the ARRL website includes key “talking points” and other information for Amateur Radio delegations or individuals to use when approaching US House members for their support.



“Private land use restrictions that prohibit antennas are growing at an alarming rate all over the country,” President Craigie said in stressing the urgency of the current campaign. “This is not just a problem in cities, suburbs, and gated communities. It is everywhere.” Part of the problem, she explained, is the uneven application of Amateur Radio antenna regulation from the public to the private sphere. While her Virginia county has what she called “a very satisfactory antenna ordinance,” similar accommodations do not extend to developments where homeowners associations and private land-use regulations hold sway.

“Not far away in the same county, a bright young electrical engineer who has recently returned to Amateur Radio lives in a newer development that has private land use regulations flatly prohibiting antennas,” she said. “How does that make sense? In our rural and small-town county, every new development must have a homeowners association, and they all prohibit antennas with cookie-cutter language.”

As President Craigie sees it, H.R. 1301 is all about fairness. “H.R. 1301 seeks regulatory parity for my young, technically sophisticated friend -- not a blank check, not the heavy hand of the federal government, but simply the same opportunity

for him to negotiate reasonable accommodation that I had because of PRB-1,” she said. “It seeks a level playing field for him and me.”

President Craigie said she reached out to her Member of Congress to support H.R. 1301, and she was successful. She asked other radio amateurs to do the same.

“If private land use restrictions do not affect you, please stand up for your fellow amateurs,” she urged. “Please stand up for the youth we all want to attract into Amateur Radio. What is the point of helping youth get their licenses if they cannot go on to develop the skills of Amateur Radio because they cannot have antennas in their neighborhoods?”

US Rep [Adam Kinzinger](#) (R-IL) introduced H.R. 1301 on March 4 with 12 original co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle. Kinzinger had also sponsored “The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014, which died at the end of the 113th Congress, and H.R. 1301 is essentially identical.

At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

H.R. 1301 has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs that panel’s Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which will consider the measure. The League had worked with Walden on the 2014 bill during the 113th Congress.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## Utah Group Puts Broadband-Hamnet To Work For Food Project

A small band of Amateur Radio volunteers in Utah’s Salt Lake Valley successfully used a broadband WiFi network set up on the 2.4 GHz amateur band to help coordinate the Boy Scouts of America’s “Scouting for Food” project on March 21 in which Scouts collect items donated to a food bank. Local radio amateurs provide both voice and digital mode communication.

This year for the first time they used a [Broadband-Hamnet](#)<sup>™</sup> (BBHN) system that coupled modified wireless router gear on amateur frequencies to create a peer-to-peer WiFi network to share audio and video over a generous patch of real estate. BBHN is a descendent of the former ARRL High Speed Multimedia (HSMM) Working Group [efforts](#), earlier known as the “Hinternet” and pioneered by John Champa, K8OCL (SK), and others in the early 2000s.

“[W]e would call it WiFi on Steroids!” said David Bauman, KF7MCF. The Utah hams linked 13 nodes across the valley to form a network “that is like a mini private Internet,” Bauman explained. “They then used this network to send live video and audio back to the BSA Headquarters, showing them what was happening at food drop off sites and at the [truck dispatch] headquarters. Bauman called it “a huge step forward in technology from the old days of Morse Code.” Retired clergyman Robert Jelf, KG7OHV, of Magna, headed up the team.

Just outside BSA Headquarters near the University of Utah, Brandon Bauman, KG7RWO, was able to watch via his laptop as volunteers miles away dropped off canned food items and as YRC freight dispatched trucks to pick-up sites around the valley. Brandon was part of an Amateur Radio group that assists the Boy Scouts in the Scouting for Food Project each year by providing communications. This marked the first time BBHN technology was used to support the project in the Salt Lake Valley. Their WiFi network, known as a wireless mesh network, was able to cover a large portion of the valley.

“The farthest point from our hub site was 8.5 miles across the city through a narrow path lined with lots of manmade objects for signals to bounce off,” Jelf said. “While the mesh group was used to show video of the dispatch of trucks and of truck trailers at collection points within the hub site path, collection took place throughout the Wasatch Front area and elsewhere in Utah.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## Amateur Radio Roundtable Offers Live, Weekly Ham Radio Discussions

Tom Medlin, W5KUB, has launched *Amateur Radio Roundtable*, a new series of live, weekly webcasts on his [website](#), Tuesdays at 0100 UTC.

“*Amateur Radio Roundtable* is an informal discussion of all aspects of ham radio, with the intent of allowing viewers to watch this live webcast or be a guest via Skype or Google Hangout,” Medlin explained. “A question-and-answer session with viewers will follow each topic. The show covers all aspects of ham radio; such as, balloon launches, satellites, go kits, emergency communications, SDR, digital modes, DXing, home brewing, and much more.”

To join *Amateur Radio Roundtable*, visit the W5KUB.com website, click on “Live Events,” and sign in. During the last half of the roundtable, viewers are invited to make virtual appearances on the show. Guests will need a Google+ account, microphone, and camera. A link allowing you to join will be provided during the show.

“This part of the show is very informal,” Medlin said. “You can just pop in to say hello, or stay a while and join in on a wide range of topics. Google Hangout will allow up to 10 people at a time.”

Medlin [invites](#) program suggestions. There’s more information on the W5KUB.com [Facebook page](#).

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## WWV’s 25 MHz Signal Still Going Strong After 1 Year Back On The Air

Time and frequency standard station [WWV](#) silenced its 25 MHz signal in 1977, but it returned to the air on an “experimental basis” a year ago, and it’s still up and running. Resurrecting the long-dormant standard time outlet operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology ([NIST](#)) was Matt Deutch, N0RGT, WWV’s Lead Electrical Engineer

“We have been at 1 kW for the past year,” Deutch told ARRL. “We have had a few hiccups, but nothing serious.”

“We have even been discussing giving the 25 MHz signal its own antenna again,” Deutch said. “The ham in me wants to give it something more exotic than a plain ol’ boring dipole. But what antenna could it be?” Deutch said he was inspired by the article “Amateur Radio Science” by Eric Nichols, KL7AJ, in the February 2013 *QST*, which asked hams to do more to advance and contribute to the radio art, “but the gears in my brain are still turning,” Deutch said.

The return of WWV’s 25 MHz outlet came about after Dean Lewis, W9WGV, lamented its loss last year in an e-mail to Deutch, who surprised him by putting the signal back on the air, initially temporarily. The 25 MHz signal not only provides another option to check your frequency calibration or the exact time, it also can serve to indicate the state of propagation on 12 and 10 meters. Deutch said the WWV 25 MHz signal still gets signal reports from across the Atlantic.

According to NIST, the 25 MHz broadcast includes the normal WWV information transmitted on all other WWV frequencies and at the same level of accuracy. The transmitter in Fort Collins, Colorado, can put out 2500 W into what Deutch has called a “broadband monopole,” although he keeps the transmitter running at about 1200 W. WWV has [invited](#) listeners’ comments and signal reports.

- 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
- 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**  
 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.  
 This is an informal information net and buy/sell/swap net.
- Grayson County ARES Net**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.  
 This is a directed information net used for training.
- RACES Command Net Check**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 2:00pm CT on 7.255 MHz LSB  
 This is a RACES Command Net check for statewide RACES Command Net members ONLY. All other Amateur stations are welcome to listen, but DO NOT check in!
- Monthly**      **Scout Ham Net**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.  
 This net is for all active Scouts, Adult Leaders, and Merit Badge Counselors who are Amateur Radio operators.
- North Texas ARES HF Net**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 8:30pm CT on 3.860 MHz LSB  
 This is an information net open to all ARES members in the ARRL North Texas (NTX) Section.
- McKinney ARES Net**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.
- Other**      **5<sup>th</sup> 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

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## AREA REPEATERS

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<b>Sherman TX</b>	147.000+ MHz (100.0 PL) 147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL) 444.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT W5COP W5RVT	<b>Denison TX</b>	145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH
			<b>Durant OK</b>	147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL) <del>147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL)</del> (currently out of service)	K5KIE K5CGE
<b>Allen TX</b>	145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI			
<b>Bonham TX</b>	145.470- MHz (100.0 PL) 145.130- MHz (100.0 PL) 443.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	K5FRC K5FRC K5FRC	<b>Gainesville TX</b>	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI
			<del><b>Kingston OK</b></del>	<del>146.985- MHz (103.5 PL)</del> (currently out of service)	<del>K5BQG</del>

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

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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

#### Stormy Weather

I want to reiterate some of Moe's comments about lightning he shared on our training net Sunday last as some missed it, and expand on the topic for SKYWARN or even search and rescue operations.

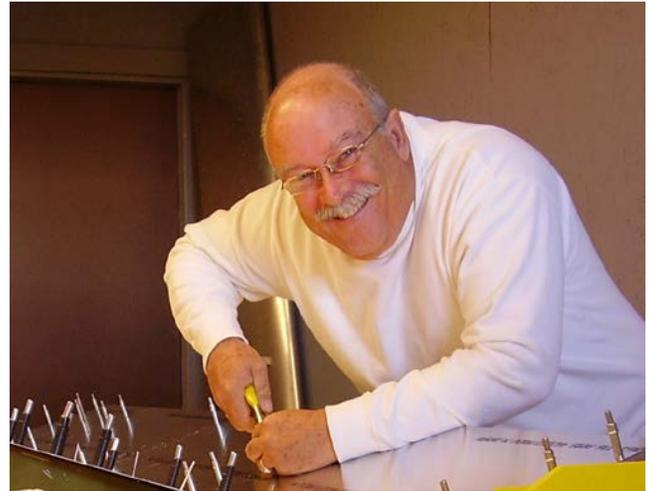
He pretty well did a risk assessment; in our area we have about 50 lightning strike days a year. And that takes us to our structure height (tower or mast). If you have a 30 foot tower or so you can expect a direct hit every 2-3 years; if you're blessed with a 100 footer, once every other year. So it's not **if**...it's **when** will you be struck. Your grounds will not bypass the lightning to ground and save your equipment, but it will provide a path to ground and maybe not thru something else (like you, though I would not want to be in the room). It will raise the potential difference of the

connected systems to several thousands of volts and expose the components to conditions not even thought of in their design. The smoke will come out, probably lots of it. Some of the old ideas of "prevention" are just not realistic when you stop and think it through, such as disconnect the coax and lay it on the floor, or worse - put it in a jar on the work surface. The lightning just crossed over a mile of air to get to the ground... do you really think three feet of carpet or the thickness of a glass jar will withstand a strike of 300,000,000 volts and over 40,000 amps creating temps of over 50,000 degrees?

The best solution? Disconnect the lead-in wire before it comes in the house, out at the tower. And don't forget the rotor cable; a path is a path even at 16 gauge wire.

Now that's a rough summation, but let's take it a step further for our outdoor weather enthusiasts.

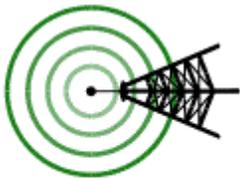
The National Lightning Safety Institute has the following recommendations: "Preparedness includes: get indoors or in a car; avoid water and all metal objects; get off the high ground; avoid solitary trees. If caught outdoors during nearby lightning, adopt the Lightning Safety Position (LSP). LSP means staying away from other people, taking off all metal objects, crouching with feet together, head bowed, and placing hands on ears to reduce acoustic shock." Also consider these... It's easy to determine when to take shelter. If you hear thunder, the associated lightning is within 8 miles. Suspend activities, allowing sufficient time to get to shelter. A good lightning safety motto is: "If you can see it (lightning), flee it; if you can hear it (thunder), clear it." If you feel your hair standing on end and/or hear "crackling noises" you are in the lightning electrical field. If you are outside your vehicle stay away from power poles, fences, high-mast light poles, metal bleachers, electrical equipment, mowing and road machinery. Fully enclosed metal vehicles are safe shelters, as well as other all-metal mobile equipment. This includes airplanes, buses, vans and construction equipment with enclosed metal cabs, provided the "outer metal shield" is fully intact. All windows must be rolled up and people inside should avoid touching all objects that penetrate from inside to outside (e.g., **radio dials**, metal door handles, **two-way radio microphones**, etc.). I highlighted the references to radio - if you're out spotting pay attention to this. Maybe a HT with a short antenna is good tool to keep on hand while mobile and lightning is near.



So, be aware of your surroundings and realize this is not a walk in the park. Use some common sense and let's all be safe in this stormy weather season. Our communities are counting on you to provide good information, not become a news story with a sad headline. Thanks to Moe for researching lightning for the net and to all of you for your dedicated service to Grayson County and the surrounding area.

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 _____
<b>*Shirts/jackets- (2x to 4x +\$4)</b>	_____	_____	_____
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

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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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