



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

JUNE 2015

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 21, No. 6

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy everyone,

Well, it looks like the rains and storms we had in May are finally behind us. That was a busy weather month for Grayson County. The ARES folks did a super job...thank you. I sincerely hope that everyone made it through the month with no serious problems.

We have a couple of club activities coming up very quickly. Field Day and shortly after our Red River Bridge War special event station.

At our meeting this month we will be getting all the details worked out for both events. Field Day we'll be setting up out at the Sherman Municipal Airport as we have for the last number of years, but we won't be able to have the Red River Bridge War out at West Burns Run like we have the last several years...it's under water. So we need a new location. I'm sure Mark will be able to update us on what the plan will be.

Also, for those of you who get on HF, don't forget about the 13 Colonies Special Event that is held over the 4th of July week. This is a wonderful special event and they have great QSL cards and certificates you can earn by making contacts with them. In my opinion this is one of the best special events held every year.

For those of you that need some help setting up your shack, putting up an antenna, or getting your radio installed in your vehicle...give me a date when you would like to have it done. Let's see what I can do to round up some folks to help you out. Without a date...nothing will happen. Our 1st Helping Hams project will be held on Saturday, June 20. We'll be putting up an antenna for Alan, W5ZMH. He has the antenna, coax and rope on site and just needs some help getting it put up. Please let me know if you're available to help. Alan's address is...171 County Road 153, Whitesboro, TX 76273. Let's plan on meeting there at 10 AM.

Have you ever wondered what a Repeater was all about? Well, I have. We all use them and take them for granted...but how many of us have actually seen one or really know what is going on??? The repeaters most of us use all the time are behind locked doors and we can't see them. But there is one repeater that we can get up close to and personal with...the Double Three repeater that Donald Hofmann has installed on his farm. I've been talking with Donald and he is very receptive to having an open house at his place for all hams in the area so he can show us what a repeater is all about. I have just asked Donald for a date and I'll get the word out. I'm really looking forward to this opportunity to see a Repeater and learn more about it.

We are also looking for volunteers to be Net Control operators for the GCARC Information Nets that are held the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month. Let me know if you would like to do it again or give it a try for the 1st time. Hey Stacy...we have not had a young lady as net control for as long as I can remember...what to give it a go??? Now that school is out you don't have too many excuses left...hi hi.

Finally, I'll be making a special announcement at the club meeting about a new club member. Want to know what that is all about? Plan on attending. Looking forward to seeing y'all at the meeting on Friday.

73

Lee

N5SLY

lee.n5sly@gmail.com

CLUB INFORMATION

OFFICERS

President: Lee Sly N5SLY
Vice President: Trevor Reed KG5BFI
Secretary: Stacy Branam W5ORD
Treasurer: Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
Activity Director: Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW
Trustee: Rick Simmons K5ECX

MEETINGS

When: 3rd Friday of each month
Time: 7:00pm (1900 hours)
Location: Grayson County Courthouse
2nd Floor Assembly Room
100 W. Houston Street
Sherman, TX 75090
GPS: 33.38.18N, 96.36.59W

MAILING ADDRESS

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

Memberships are from January 1 – December 31

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

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Address: www.graysoncountyar.com
Webmaster: Ben Sly KF5OEB
Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC

DUES AND DONATIONS

Membership dues are payable upon joining and renew on January 1st of each year. Donations to support the club are always welcome. Dues and donations may be paid by cash or check at any monthly GCARC meeting and by mail, or by using a credit or debit card online at the GCARC website.

NEW! Dues and donations can now be paid online through the club website using a credit or debit card. Visit www.graysoncountyar.com for more information.

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, May 15, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:00. 12 members and 3 guests attending.

Minutes from last month motioned and seconded. Some corrections were made to the nets listed in the newsletter: Ham Talk Net cancelled, Ladies Net back on the air.

Club Officer Special Elections

- President (to fill in for Daniel Boehmisch AF5OY): Lee Sly N5SLY nominated for President by Sheila Sammons KF5TDP, seconded by Dora Caywood KF5TDQ. Unanimous vote by members present installed Lee as president.
- Vice President (to fill in for Lee): Trevor Reed KG5BFI nominated for Vice President by Roy Reed AF5VA, seconded by Dora KF5TDQ. Unanimous vote by members present installed Trevor as Vice President

Old Business

- Perrin Field Special Event plans were discussed. It was held inside the museum, running from 10am-4pm with 2 stations in action.

New Business

- Rick Simmons K5ECX brought up that we needed to be more specific on our logs when doing events. The person who is Control Operator and their call needs to be noted in the event log, and any changes need to be noted as well in case we are ever questioned. The Control Operator is supposed to be the one pushing the talk button and actively monitoring who is on the radio.
- Discussion about the Club Trustee. The club's license does not reflect the trustee's license level.
- Discussion on setting up an online dues/donation system through the new website. Consideration was given to charging a fee of \$1.00 for paying through the website to offset the fees we pay for the service, but this was not approved due to concerns over its legality. Motion was brought by Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW and seconded by Roy AF5VA to try the online system for a year. Motion passed. A note announcing the new system will be included in the next newsletter.

Presentation

Lee N5SLY gave a brief history of Perrin Field as background for our special event.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting will be 7:00pm on Friday, June 19th, 2015, in the Grayson County Courthouse 2nd Floor Assembly Room, Sherman TX.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Branham W5ORD
GCARC Secretary

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance for the Month of May, 2015

Operating Fund Beginning Bal	569.62
Funds Received from dues (1 members dues received)	20.00
Fund Received from donations	5.00
Less expenses	
online Transfer fee	1.33
Perrin Special Events	50.00
Operating Fund Balance	543.29

OPERATING BUDGET	
Mail Box	Paid
Perrin Special Events	Paid
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	880.00

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 May 31, 2015	815.85
---	--------

Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
GCARC Treasurer

Dues and donations can now be paid online through the club website using a credit or debit card. Visit www.graysoncountycarc.com for more information.

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>

GCARC Events **Helping Hams - Antenna Party**
June 20, 2015 10:00am
Alan W5ZMH's House, 171 County Road 153, Whitesboro, TX
Installing a wire antenna

ARRL Field Day
Setup: June 27, 2015 9:00am.
Operating: June 27, 2015 1:00pm through June 28, 2015 4:00pm
Sherman Municipal Airport Terminal Building, 1200 S. Dewey Ave., Sherman TX
Specific modes and bands TBD
Contact Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW mpilkilton@gmail.com for more info or to sign up to help with food.

Red River Bridge War Special Event Station
July 11, 2015
Location TBD
The club will operate using the special event station callsign W5I. Specific modes and bands TBD.

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

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

Ham Holiday (ARRL Oklahoma State Convention)

July 24-25, 2015 (Friday 3:00pm-7:00pm; Saturday 8:00am-3:00pm)

VE Testing: Saturday 9:00am

Bricktown Hotel, 2001 East Reno Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK

Talk-In: 146.820 (151.4 PL)

Public Contact: Thomas Webb WA9AFM (405) 737-6716 or wa9afm@arrl.net

Website: www.hamholiday.org

Austin Summerfest (ARRL South Texas State Convention)

August 7-8, 2015

Crowne Plaza Austin Hotel, 6121 North I-35, Austin TX

Talk-In: 146.940 (107.2 PL)

Public Contact: Joe Makeever W5HS (512) 345-0800 or w5hs@arrl.net

Website: www.austinsummerfest.org

TEXOMA VE TESTING AND CLASS NOTES

Moe Knight (NT7C) heads up the Texoma VE Testing team, and he also offers several classes for hams, prospective hams, and anyone who is interested in increasing their knowledge of electronics. Testing sessions and classes are held at the Grayson College Center for Workplace Learning (CWL) in Denison; check the Upcoming Events list for dates and times. Contact Moe (903) 564-7115 or nt7c@arrl.net for more information.

- **ARRL VE Testing:** Congratulations to Kenny Rice of Denison – KG5HYL who passed his Tech license at the June VE session. Kenny has already been heard on the air. Another congratulations to Ken Davis of Grapevine – KG5HZZ, who passed his Tech license at Ham-Com.
- **Radio & Electronics Labs:** A reminder these labs are held on the second Saturday of each month.

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. 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
- 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

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: 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



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. Be sure to include the following: 1) Who needs the help and how to contact them; 2) What needs to be done; 3) When can someone come out to do the work; and 4) Where is the location of the work that needs to be done. **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 Requests:

Alan W5ZMH	Wire antenna install (scheduled for June 20)	Whitesboro
Bennie K5DIZ	Antenna install	Sherman
Gordon N5TPO	Realign a tower-mounted 440Mhz yagi antenna	Sherman
Rick K5ECX	Help with lowering/servicing/raising antenna tower. Note: must be done in very dry weather due to tower location.	Sanger
Mike KF5NPM	Antenna installs (2), grounding cables, and lightning arrestors. Also HF antenna adjustments. Note: steep roof.	Denison

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

FCC Chairman, Lawmakers Announce Agreement to Scale Back Field Office Shutdowns

Leaders of the US House Energy and Commerce Committee have reached agreement with FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler to amend the Commission's plans -- announced in March -- to close FCC field offices. Under the revised plan, the FCC will keep 15 of its 24 field offices open. The plan would "ensure better rapid response capabilities for the West, provide a mechanism for escalating interference complaints, improve enforcement of the FCC's rules against pirate radio operators, and prevent the Commission from transferring field office jobs to FCC Headquarters," a Committee media release said. The FCC has been under pressure from lawmakers and others to step back from its plan to close two-thirds of its field offices.



"We found a good solution that makes sense. These changes will keep field offices open in strategic locations and help ensure that the commission can fulfill its responsibilities to the public and public safety communities," said Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Greg Walden, W7EQI. "This agreement strikes a balance between the important work of FCC field agents and streamlining field operations to ensure the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Positive outcomes often result from collaborative work. This agreement represents just such an effort."

As a result of the announced agreement a June 11 hearing of Walden's subcommittee to address the proposed closings was cancelled. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, was among those prepared to testify at the session.

The closure plans were revealed earlier this year via an apparently leaked internal FCC Enforcement Bureau (EB) memorandum that indicated the Bureau planned 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.

After the League learned of the field office closure plans, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed dismay at the proposals, coming "at a time when the Field staff is facing ever-increasing challenges." Sumner also had expressed concern "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." The League has been working behind the scenes at the FCC and on Capitol Hill to make a case that more enforcement leads to better compliance in all services.

Under the proposals, initiated last fall, the field office geographic footprint would have been reduced from 24 sites to 8 sites, with the EB set to “pre-position” equipment in several other strategic locations. Offices already slated to remain open are 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 other offices the FCC plans to keep open were not announced.

“Communities across America will continue to be served, even as the Commission becomes more efficient -- it’s a win-win,” said House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Fred Upton of Michigan. “It also demonstrates how much we can accomplish when we work together to tackle the many tough issues we face.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Hams Invited to Test APRS on Duchifat-1 CubeSat



The [Herzliya Science Center](#) is inviting stations with the ability to send compressed APRS packets to take part in testing the [Duchifat-1](#) CubeSat, launched almost 1 year ago by high school students in Israel. The satellite will collect packets worldwide and downlink them from time to time over the Herzliya Science Center’s ground station.

Participants must [register](#) in advance to have their packets identified on the map. Received packets will be displayed on a map on the Science Center’s website, and QSL cards will be sent via the bureau. The Duchifat-1 sponsors say there is no way they can recognize packets from unregistered stations “because the packet is limited to 14 characters at the satellite, so we assign two unique characters to every registered station to enable us to identify them.”

The uplink is 435.220 MHz, the downlink is 145.980 MHz. The satellite’s beacon call sign is 4X4HSL.

The APRS (compressed) digipeater uses AFSK 1200 baud on the UHF uplink and BPSK 1200 baud on the VHF downlink.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Colorado to Host U.S. Amateur Radio Direction Finding Championships in August

[Registration](#) is open for the 15th USA and 8th IARU Region 2 Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) championships, August 27-30, in Elbert, Colorado. The event will take place at the Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch, a 3300-acre site at 7000 feet elevation, about 40 miles southeast of Denver.

An optional ARDF “training camp” will take place on Monday through Wednesday, August 24-26, just prior to the competition, with separate morning and afternoon sessions planned for each day. Participants may attend as many sessions as they wish. Training sessions will concentrate on how to take reliable bearings, interpret reflected signals, and determine likely transmitter locations, as well as on course strategies, route choices, and other essentials for success.

The championship competition begins on Thursday, August 27 with [foxoring](#) -- a combination of RDF and classic orienteering on 80 meters, in which participants navigate to marked locations on their maps where very low power transmitters can be found nearby. A 10-transmitter short-course [sprint competition](#) on 80 meters will take place the next day.

The classic full-course 2 meter main event gets under way on Saturday morning, with five transmitters in a very large forest. The banquet and awards presentation follows that evening. A similar full-course 80 meter main event takes place Sunday morning, with an awards presentation to follow.

[ARDF championship rules](#) are set by the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)). Participants are divided into 11 [age/gender categories](#). In classic ARDF championships, competitors start in small groups made up of different categories. Working independently, they navigate through the course -- a distance of between 4 and 10 kilometers -- seeking hidden transmitters. They plot their direction-finding bearings on provided orienteering maps that show terrain features, elevation contours, and vegetation type.

The USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone of any age who can safely navigate the woods by themselves; a ham radio license is not required. Participants compete as individuals and bring their own direction-finding gear to the events.

More information is on the [Event Information Page](#). Register by June 30 to avoid additional fees. All entering the ranch must be registered. For [additional information](#) on ARDF, visit the Homing In website.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Hendrik C. (Henri) de Wet, N5KA, SK

Hendrik (Henri) de Wet, N5KA, of Whitesboro, Texas, passed away on May 28th. Henri had been involved with Amateur Radio since 1953, when he was first licensed in South Africa as ZS1PD. He was subsequently licensed in Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) as ZE1JV and again in South Africa as ZS1HV. He moved to the U.S. in 1986 and was licensed first as ZS1HV/W5 and then AC5KA. After becoming a U.S. citizen in 1999, he chose the callsign N5KA.



Henri's interests were mainly in CW with some SSB and limited digital modes, "ragchewing", HF DX hunting, casual contesting, and Elmering other hams to help them improve their CW skills. He was a member of the CW Operators Club (CWOPS) #62, the A-1 Operators Club, and the Old Man International Sideband Society (OMISS) #4488, and was a former member of the First Class CW Operators Club (FOC) #1862.

He is survived by his wife Rikki, N5KAD, and family.

GCARC offers our condolences to Henri's wife and family.

***Amateur Radio Newsline* Co-Founder, Editor Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, SK**



A well-known voice in the Amateur Radio news media has gone silent. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, of Santa Clarita, California, died June 11th following a period of ill health. He was 73. Pasternak was co-founder (with Jim Hendershot, WA6VQP) of the *Amateur Radio Newsline*TM (formerly *The Westlink Report*) ham radio news webcast and a frequent presence at Amateur Radio conventions. Pasternak served as *Newsline's* managing editor and occasional newscaster for the program. Even while hospitalized earlier this year, he kept his ear to the ground for news from the Amateur Radio community, so he could pass it along to those who had taken over *Newsline* during his illness -- discovered after he broke two ribs in a fall.

A Brooklyn, New York, native, Pasternak became a radio amateur in 1959 as WA2HVK and once was very active on 6 meters. He eventually got into broadcasting and made his career in television engineering and production. He retired as a broadcast engineer with KTTV in Los Angeles in 2012 but continued as a broadcasting consultant.

Pasternak was the spark plug behind the all-volunteer *Amateur Radio Newslines* bulletin -- which was relayed on repeaters around the US and elsewhere -- as well as the creator and administrator of the annual Youth Ham of the Year (YHOTY) award. He was the author of three books and served as a writer/producer on several educational films and videos, including the award-winning "Amateur Radio Today." In earlier years, he wrote the "Looking West" column for 73 Amateur Radio Today Magazine for 26 years and penned a "VHF, FM and Repeater" column for WorldRadio. He also contributed to broadcast trade publications as well as to CQ.

In addition to the ARRL, Pasternak belonged to the Radio Club of America and the Quarter Century Wireless Association. He also enjoyed flying, including stints getting on the air from thousands of feet up. He was the only person ever chosen to receive the Dayton Hamvention Special Achievement Award (1981) and Radio Amateur of the Year Award (1989). In 1995, the League presented him with an ARRL National Certificate of Merit in recognition of his contributions to the "furtherance of the goals of the Amateur Radio Service."

Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Sharon, KD6EPW.

The future of the *Amateur Radio Newslines* broadcast, out of production since its May 22 edition, has not been determined, although an appeal for volunteers was issued in late May. Before he died, however, Pasternak said he was determined that *Newslines* would name a Young Ham of the Year for 2015.

- 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

Ladies Net

Thursdays 7:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.

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	Gainesville TX	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI
Allen TX	145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	Kingston OK	146.085- MHz (103.5 PL) (currently out of service)	K5BQC
Bonham TX <i>Frequency Change ></i>	145.470- MHz (100.0 PL) 147.200+ MHz (100.0 PL) 443.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	K5FRC K5FRC K5FRC	McKinney TX	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
Denison TX	145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH	Melissa TX	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
Durant OK	147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL) 147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL) (currently out of service)	K5KIE K5CGE	Paris TX	146.760- MHz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD
			Rosston TX	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
			Van Alstyne TX	443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
			Grayson County ARES	441.375+ MHz (67.0 PL) (emergencies/training only)	WC5GC

GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC

So, What Is ARES?

You get on an elevator wearing something with an ARES logo, and another occupant asks, "So what is ARES?"

We have a good number of new hams in our midst and some of you are active in ARES. But I wonder if we are all on the same page as to what it's all about.

So I did a little digging around on the ARRL site and some other ARES sites and want to share some of what I learned about... US.

Here is the official ARRL elevator speech...

Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.



ARES Membership Requirements

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES. Please inquire at the local level for specific information. Because ARES is an Amateur Radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

So that's the take from the overarching organization that provides for our establishment and sets the guidelines by which we provide our public service. I tend to call it community service, as I understand ARES is a good vehicle to give back to our communities using our skills as radio operators.

We have adopted the North Texas Section's training workbook to aid us and establish minimum requirements for our volunteer operators. A copy of the workbook can be downloaded and printed from the TECO website (www.tecoares.org). The goal of this effort is to set out some guidelines so our served agencies have an understanding of our training and capabilities, and that they are documented. This is an important attribute to the Response community, whether governmental, civic or charitable. So the phrase in the ARRL statement "Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES" makes our organization acceptable to the community we serve. While you can still volunteer for our operation without completing any of the workbook, we will encourage you make efforts to move through it. You don't have to go to the Advanced level. If you are fine with the Basic skill level so are we. Just realize some tasks will necessarily be assigned with these levels in mind.

Our leadership both Local and State does have concern for you as a volunteer, as is evidenced by the following statement, again from ARRL about our volunteering...

If you're an individual Emergency Communication volunteer...

- **You need to be trained. In order to provide support in the event of an emergency -- or even in a non-emergency situation -- you need to have the proper training and licensing.**
- **You need to be equipped with sustaining skills. What if when you get to a location, there is no food and the sleeping conditions are undesirable? Before you leave on your assignment, you need to make sure you have coping skills that enable you to be able to do your job operating under the conditions you are assigned to -- from hardship conditions to making sure you're able to work the equipment.**
- **You need to prepare your family for your absence. When you leave home and head for a disaster area, your family has to be both physically and mentally able to cope. After a disaster, when a volunteer comes home, he or she can be confronted by some mental health issues, for which there are several resources. Many volunteers experience everything from fatigue or exhaustion to depression.**

We need you able, ready and prepared for the tasks we can be faced with. Fortunately we have not had to deal with collapsing buildings, city block fires, and terrorist attacks, but such disasters happen around us. We could be called to provide mutual aid; that is, we could be asked to go help in a Moore, OK tornado-type situation, multiple aircraft crash, or earthquake and building collapse. Not everyone is prepared for that. Some operators have worked 20-plus hour days in these events and seen some things that can be disturbing -- reread that last bullet point.

Our served partners, AECs, and I care very much about each of you and hope you will consider all these points as you continue to volunteer to serve our community. You have set an even stronger reputation over the past few months. I have commented in other notes to you about your work being noticed in many areas of our community. If you're new to all this check in on our Nets, train with us, and use the tools on the TECO website. For you old timers, let's continue to work together and provide the high level of topnotch communications assistance you have demonstrated over the past months.

It's my pleasure to work with you.

73
Rick
K5ECX