



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

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SEPTEMBER 2015

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 21, No. 9

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## THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy everyone,

This coming month is going to be a very busy month for the club.

On October 3 we have the Denison Main Street Festival to participate in. We'll just be there to meet and greet folks and talk about amateur radio. We'll have a table set up with handouts for folks that are interested. We won't be on the air that day, but will have some radios on display. If you are available please plan on spending some time in our booth to talk about ham radio with the visitors.

On October 10 we will have our Eisenhower Special Event station set up at the Eisenhower birthplace in Denison. This is a very fun event. This year is Eisenhower's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday. Lots of activities going all day to honor a great American. We'll need help setting up our station early in the morning. We plan on operating on all modes this year...a 1<sup>st</sup> for a club event...phone, digital and CW. So no matter what your favorite mode is you'll have your chance to get on the air. Or, if you want to try something new or just find out what it is all about, this is a perfect opportunity.

Also on October 10 is the Van Alstyne Fall-der-all. We have a couple of members that will be setting up a meet and greet booth there rather than coming to the Eisenhower SE. Last year we had a lot of traffic at our booth at this event so we thought it would be time well spent to participate again this year.

Look for more information on all of these in the very near future.

At our next meeting in October we'll be nominating members for club positions for the coming year, so I just want to take a few minutes to share my opinions of what it means to be a club officer or hold an appointed position. 1<sup>st</sup> of all, as near as I can tell, Amateur Radio is all about personal preferences...you either like something or you don't...and commitment...you either want to participate or you don't. Well, this is after all a hobby, and what you put into it comes after much more important things in your life like family and work. The most important thing is that you're having fun doing whatever it is you like to do in Amateur Radio.

I became president this year by coming through the back door when our elected president had to leave for personal reasons. But I have to tell you that it has been a very enjoyable experience for me. We are blessed to have a lot of great folks helping this club move along. My thanks to Trevor, Stacy, Sheila, Rick, Mark, Mike and Ben for all your help this year...and thanks to everyone else that has participated during club activities this year. Y'all have made it very special for me.

Because I've had such a great experience this year I just want to tell you that I wouldn't mind at all doing it next year as well...so I will gladly accept a nomination to be your president next year. If you would rather have someone else that is just fine with me. It won't bother me one way or the other.

As for all the other positions...I would like nothing more than for everyone to continue on in their present positions, but realize that it is not up to me. 1<sup>st</sup> each one of you has to decide is this something I want to do? And 2, am I willing to commit to doing it?

All club positions for next year are open to members who have the desire and commitment.

Thanks everyone & 73,

Lee - N5SLY

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

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## CLUB INFORMATION

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### 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

### 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 <a href="mailto:KF5NPM@GMAIL.COM">KF5NPM@GMAIL.COM</a>
Submission Deadline:	12 midnight on the Saturday prior to each monthly meeting

### MEETINGS

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

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:	<a href="http://www.graysoncountyar.com">www.graysoncountyar.com</a>
Webmaster:	Ben Sly KF5OEB
Facebook	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC">www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC</a>
Page:	

### DUES AND DONATIONS

Membership dues are payable upon joining and renew on January 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### 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, we recommend ARES members place the ARES patch first 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

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## GCARC MEETING MINUTES

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### GCARC Meeting, August 18, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Lee Sly N5SLY at 7:00. President Sly welcomed new member Dan Barnes KG5JIS, and explained that officers Trevor Reed KG5BFI and Stacy Branam W5ORD were unable to attend. He also reminded everyone that the newsletter would be coming out after the meetings from now on and if anyone was not receiving the newsletter to please inform him or Mike Bernier KF5NPM.

Motion was made to approve the Minutes and Treasurer's report of the August meeting by Jim McGlynn K5QOI and seconded by Rick Simmons K5ECX. All approved, motion passed.

Rick Simmons K5ECX announced that he was taking orders for clothing. Order slips were available at the meetings and will also be attached to the newsletter. Any requests for clothing had to be in to Rick with the money by the October meeting. He also shared that the ARES meeting would be Tuesday September 22, 2015, at 7:00 at the Sherman Airport. Subject would be soldering, power poles, jumpers, wires, and multi meters.

President Sly N5Sly shared that Ben Sly KF5OEB has been working on the club website and the club calendar is now working. Ben will be discussing with the manager of Perrin Field Aviation Museum about installing an antenna permanently for the club to use for special events.

Frank James gave a recap of the CW classes and shared that there would be classes continuing into the future. He asked for feedback if everyone wanted wished to continue on the Saturday Mornings, he is going to present certificates at the next club meeting. There will be an Intermediate class starting October 10th, 2015, and run into early November.

#### Upcoming Events:

- Denison Main Street Festival – Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW will be sending out an email with the details of location, set-up time, and break-down time.
- Eisenhower 125th Birthday Celebration. President Sly N5SLY hopes to do several modes of radio, voice, digital, CW, etc. Set-up time will be about 8:00 a.m. and planning to go on the air by 9:00. Tim N5SWG and Stacy W5ORD Branam, will be supplying their trailer. Break-down time will be around 3:45 – 4:00.
- Donald Hoffman W5DWH has his repeater up and working at 145.330 100PL. He has offered to provide the club with a tour and explanation of how a repeater actually works. Tour will possibly be Mid November.
- The current “Helping Hands” projects were delayed due to weather and other related delays, but they still need to be done, and if anyone has a need that the club can help with please let us know.
- October is the month to nominate the 2016 officers.

Just prior to President Sly N5SLY adjourning the meeting, guest Ralph Bevans WBGQXH (?) asked to speak to the group. Mr. Bevans has been a Ham operator and storm chaser for many years. In times past he has helped young people and new hams learn about radios, and he brought 4 multi meters to be given to the club and the ARES group.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 by the set-up for the CW class.

Next Meeting will be 7:00pm on Friday, October 16, 2015, in the Grayson County Courthouse 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Assembly Room, Sherman TX.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Sammons KF5TDP  
GCARC Treasurer  
in the absence of Secretary Stacy Branam W5ORD

## GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

### Bank Balance as of 9.18.15 Club Meeting

Operating Fund Beginning Bal	1134.84
Funds Received from dues	0.00
Fund Received dues	40.00
Less expenses	0.00
Operating Fund Balance	<u>1174.84</u>

\*\* 49 Members YTD

Available Equipment Funds	198.56
Funds Received	
Less expenditures	
Equipment Fund Balance	<u>198.56</u>

### OPERATING BUDGET

Mail Box	Paid
Perrin Special Events	Paid
ARRL Field Day / RRBW- Food	Paid
Red R B W (Perrin Museum)	Paid
RR Bridge War Cards	Paid
Denison Main Str Festival	Paid
Christmas Dinner	75.00
<b>Donations to Fund Raisers</b>	
RR Bike Rally (Kiwanis)	Paid
Marine Corps League (Toys For Tots)	0.00
Total	75.00

### EQUIPMENT NEEDS

	0.00
	0.00
Amount Budgeted	<u>0.00</u>

Ending Bank Balance  
as of September 18, 2015  
Club Meeting

1373.40

Sheila Sammons KF5TDP  
GCARC Treasurer

**Dues can be paid and donations made online through the club website using a credit or debit card. Visit [www.graysoncountyarcs.com](http://www.graysoncountyarcs.com) for more information.**

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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

#### **Denison Main Street Festival**

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

Main Street, Denison TX

The club will operate an information booth to greet visitors and promote Amateur Radio.

#### **Van Alstyne Fall-Der-All Festival**

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Main Street, Van Alstyne TX

The club will operate an information booth to greet visitors and promote Amateur Radio

#### **Eisenhower Birthday Special Event Station**

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison TX

The club will operate as special event station W5I in celebration of President Dwight Eisenhower's birthday

## **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@arrrl.net](mailto:nt7c@arrrl.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**

### **Gainesville Hamfest**

September 26, 2015 7:00am-1:00pm (VE Testing begins 9:30am)  
Gainesville Civic Center, 311 S Weaver Street, Gainesville TX  
Talk-In: 147.34 and 442.775 (both 100.0 PL)  
Public Contact: James Floyd N5ZPU (940) 668-7511 or [jfloyd54@swbell.net](mailto:jfloyd54@swbell.net)  
Website: [www.gainesvillehamfest.org](http://www.gainesvillehamfest.org)

### **Texoma Hamarama**

October 23-24, 2015 (Friday 5:00pm-8:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-1:00pm)  
VE Testing: Saturday beginning at 10:00am  
Ardmore Convention Center, 2401 N Rockford Road, Ardmore OK  
Talk-In: 146.970 and 146.835 (both 131.8 PL)  
Public Contact: Don Loving KM5OX (580) 221-1894 or [wallcloud2001@yahoo.com](mailto:wallcloud2001@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.texomahamarama.org](http://www.texomahamarama.org)

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## **THE CW CORNER**

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Hello GCARC. My name is James Frank KW5CW, an Extra Class operator and new member of the GCARC. Presently I am a CW instructor for the club, and interested in promoting the mode of CW. I work on computer hardware for the computer giant called IBM; I may have met you at one of the last couple of monthly club meetings. Presently, the only amateur radio club I belong to is the GCARC. Previously, I was a newsletter editor and club president of the Mahoning Valley Amateur club in Ohio using the call W8QLY. Our Club President at the GCARC, Lee Sly, has given me the authority to teach CW to club members, and now, able to promote CW in this column each month called. 'The CW Corner'.

Being an advocate for the mode of CW for 50+ years now, I sincerely believe that CW needs to stay a part of our experience in this hobby called Amateur Radio, even if the requirement to know this mode of operation is no longer mandatory. I honestly feel that I could never enjoy amateur radio as much as I do without the experience of CW. As a senior, I feel that the time is now while I can do so, for me to share my experience in order for others to expand their horizons by promoting this wonderful mode of operation. I am blessed by my health, and I refuse to just sit around the house and not enjoy ham radio and share with our club, CW in particular.

CW is not the only thing in the world, as I have more to share than just teaching or operating that absolutely fun mode of operation. Besides teaching a class to 20 people who have signed up for the CW course within the GCARC, I would like to mentor hams having difficulty learning CW. If you need one-on-one help with CW or help with even antenna issues at home even if you can't make the weekend early-bird CW classes on Saturday, then all you have to do is ask for assistance. My work schedule provides me the time every Friday and every weekend to be free to help.

I would like to teach others on how to be successful in operating contests. Which ones are considered the best for CW and even SSB? Do you know which contests are coming up? Which contests are you interested in, and which ones would you like to participate in? Is there interest in this type of mentoring class? Which contests are the most popular? I am interested in all modes of digital operation, including a newer form called PSK31 which I would like to be mentored on some day. Other club members should try to mentor and share their experiences with their favorite mode of operation with members of the club when possible.

Again starting now and published once a month, I will be publishing articles promoting CW in this monthly column located in the GCARC newsletter called 'The CW Corner'.

I hope the articles are enjoyed by all.

73 from James KW5CW

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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). 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](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: ICOM 207 VHF/UHF Transceiver

ICOM 207 VHF/UHF transceiver includes original box with remote cables for display and microphone along with bonus MB-58 head mounting bracket. \$125.00

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.

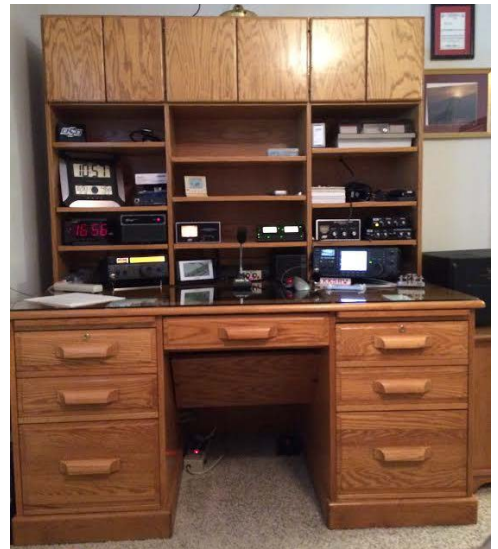
Radios not included.

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). 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:

Bennie K5DIZ	Antenna install	Sherman
Mike KF5NPM	Antenna installs (2), grounding cables, and lightning arrestors. Also HF antenna adjustments. Note: steep roof.	Denison



### Ham Radio Team Supports Road Race Using High-Speed Mesh Network

Radio Amateurs in Utah have again made use of a broadband ham radio mesh network to support a public event. Charles Gray, KE6QZU, headed a group of ham radio volunteers that set up a high-speed broadband hamnet mesh (BBHN MESH) network in the rugged Wasatch Mountains of northern Utah to provide communication along the final 30 miles of the of the September 11-12 [Wasatch 100 Mile Mountain Endurance Race](#). Other hams covered the first 70 miles of the race using more conventional technology, including FM voice and packet.



Using the BBHN MESH system, the hams helped race officials to keep track of the racers and their progress along the extremely difficult course. BBHN MESH uses ordinary Wi-Fi technology on Amateur Radio frequencies, which meant the mesh network was able to cover a considerable amount of real estate, even in the challenging mountainous environment. The race course encompassed more than 53,000 feet of elevation change, and it's not unusual for participants to drop out before reaching the finish line.

For the hams, the terrain added a challenge to setting up the network; at some points they had to maneuver over huge boulders, some the size of cars, on their way to the summit of Clayton Peak, on the north side of the Brighton Ski Resort. The radio amateurs had to work in teams to hoist their radio gear over the rocks to reach the top. The mesh network included five sites, including two unattended relay points. The group employed *TeamTalk* software for race communication.

Last March, some of the same hams successfully used a broadband 2.4 GHz WiFi network to help coordinate the local Boy Scouts of America's "Scouting for Food" project.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

### ULS, Other FCC Systems Come Back Online

Scheduled FCC computer system upgrades took a couple of days longer than anticipated, but the Universal Licensing System (ULS) – the repository for Amateur Radio licensing data and portal for all applications – came back online early on September 10, along with FCC e-mail and other systems that had been down for several days. The Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) and the Electronic Document Management System (EDOCS) returned to service on September 8. During the outage, which began on September 2, it was not possible to file any Amateur Radio applications, including examination session documents, or conduct any license or application searches. Earlier this week, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said a lot of candidates and volunteer examiners had begun asking why new call signs or license upgrades had not yet been issued.



"We have a huge backlog in our filing system that continues to grow!" she said on September 8, the day the ULS was supposed to be back online. "We already have approximately 75 examination sessions and over 500 applications waiting to be released to FCC." Somma said she first wanted to make sure the ULS electronic batch filing system was working properly before attempting to file the backlog, which, she added, could take a day or so to release.

The FCC's Chief Information Officer David A. Bray, said the computer system work included physically moving more than 200 different legacy servers from FCC headquarters to a commercial service provider. This move – a cost-saving measure, he explained – ran into trouble when it was determined that additional cabling was needed to complete the

transition. “Unfortunately, this delayed completion of all of the system upgrades – even with the FCC team working around the clock throughout the holiday weekend,” Bray explained earlier this week.

Bray said it took seven moving vans to contain the servers being relocated. “With a massive server move of this scale – even with detailed planning, independent verification, and backup plans – the opportunity always exists for surprises, especially with legacy IT systems, nearly 400 program applications, and hundreds of servers,” he pointed out.

The requirement to pay a regulatory fee for Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications officially ended on September 3, but prospective vanity applicants have had to wait until the ULS was up and running again to file for an available call sign. The approximately 18-day vanity call sign waiting period will remain in place “for now,” the FCC has told ARRL.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## **FCC Proposes to Fine Ohio Radio Amateur for Malicious Interference, Failure to Identify**

The FCC has proposed levying an \$8000 fine on a Cincinnati, Ohio, radio amateur, Daniel R. Hicks, KB8UYZ, who, at one point, had volunteered to track down the interference he was causing on a number of primarily VHF repeaters. In a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture* ([NAL](#)) released on August 20, the FCC Enforcement Bureau asserted that Hicks intentionally interfered with other Amateur Radio operators’ communications and failed to identify properly. According to the *NAL*, an agent from the Bureau’s Detroit office first responded to multiple complaints of interference on various repeaters in April 2014.

“The agent, working with a local amateur group which included Mr. Hicks, was unable to locate the source of the transmission,” recounted the *NAL*, signed by FCC District Director James Bridgewater. Nearly a year later, in response to continued interference complaints, an agent from the Bureau’s Detroit office returned to the Cincinnati area to take another crack at finding the source of the transmissions.

“This time, the agent did not advise the local Amateur Radio group that he was in the area,” the *NAL* stated. “The agent used mobile direction-finding techniques to locate the source of the transmissions to...the address of record for Mr Hicks’ amateur station, KB8UYZ.”

ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director Tom Delaney, W8WTD, in his role as a spokesperson for the Greater Cincinnati Local Interference Committee, said at first the interference, which began in early 2014, was a nuisance, but later turned obscene and racist. He said his group was able to track the signals to a particular neighborhood, but group members were surprised to learn who was behind the interference.

“We did not know, until the FCC actually caught him, who it was,” Delaney told ARRL. “We had our suspicions. We were very close to finding the source but were not quite there, but that helped the FCC.” He said Hicks employed a “sophisticated” synthesized voice and very short transmissions across several repeaters to make him difficult to pin down.

According to the *NAL*, the agent monitored transmissions emanating from Hicks’ station for about an hour and heard the station transmit several recorded messages. “These transmissions prevented other amateur licensees from communicating over the frequency,” the *NAL* said. “During the monitoring period, the agent did not hear Mr. Hicks transmit his assigned call sign. The transmissions used the call sign of another licensee.” Delaney said the holder of that call sign had no idea why Hicks used it.

The FCC said it has determined that the evidence in the case was sufficient to establish that Hicks caused willful and malicious interference and failed to identify using his assigned call sign.

The Commission proposed a base forfeiture of \$7000 for causing malicious interference and \$1000 for failing to identify properly. Hicks has 30 days to pay the fine or to seek a reduction or cancellation of the proposed fine.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## QCWA Recognizes 105-Year-Old Radio Amateur's 90 Years of Hamming

The Quarter Century Wireless Association ([QCWA](#)) has honored 105-year-old Charlie Hellman, W2RP, of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, for his 90 years in Amateur Radio. The QCWA's announcement also served to flush out another active ham who, while 1 year older than Hellman, has not been licensed quite as long. On August 31 the QCWA presented a "90 Year Continuous Licensed Certificate Award" (No 1) to Hellman, whom the organization at the time called "the oldest living Amateur Radio operator in the United States and possibly the world." Hellman got his ham ticket in 1925, when he was 15 years old. He joined QCWA in 1975 and is a member of QCWA Chapter 181 in New York's Hudson Valley. He gets on the air regularly.

After QCWA [posted](#) its announcement on the [QRZ.com](#) news forum, however, Marcel Stieber, AI6MS, chimed in to point out that Hellman is not the oldest known ham. He said that Harry Wolf, W6NKT, of Morro Bay, California, is 106, although licensed but since 1936.

QCWA Webmaster Bob Roske, N0UF, stepped forward to renew Wolf's lapsed QCWA membership and noted that since Wolf had been licensed for more than 75 years, QCWA would issue him a life membership. And now it might also recognize his longevity as well.

First licensed as W2AMK, Hellman was an educator. After working his way through the City College of New York, he taught physics on the secondary level. During World War II, Hellman was tapped by the Department of War to write a textbook for training radio operators, *Elements of Radio*.

Two of Hellman's siblings also held ham tickets. His brother Robert, now deceased, was W2JAN. His brother Benjamin, 96, is W2VB.

Also an educator, Wolf indicated on his QRZ.com profile that he once taught electronics at the college level and, after retiring in 1973, went to live in Hong Kong where he operated as VS6GF for 4 years before returning to California. He said he's on the air every day, mostly on 40 meter CW.

Hellman's certificate reads, "The Quarter Century Wireless Association presents this 90th Anniversary Award to its Distinguished Member Charles "Charlie" Hellman, W2RP, to commemorate Ninety Years of Service as a licensed Radio Amateur."

Hellman also received a congratulatory letter from QCWA President Ken Oelke, VE6AFO. "I would also like to say how proud I am that you have kept active for these many years, and to proudly celebrate what many will not be able to achieve in their entire lifetime," Oelke said, in part. "Congratulations to you on 90 years as a licensed radio amateur, and may you enjoy many more in Amateur Radio!"

QCWA came upon the information pertaining to Hellman when Roske was updating member files and discovered that Charlie was still living in New York and appeared to be the oldest living QCWA member. In recognition, the QCWA Board of Directors promptly voted to award Hellman the 90 year certificate, a first for the organization. Now it may have the opportunity for a second.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

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## LOCAL RADIO NETS

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### Daily

#### **Texas Slow Net (CW only)**

Daily 7:45pm CT on 3.570MHz.

This is a training net for operators interested in building proficiency in CW and learning about handling procedures for CW traffic nets.

## Weekly

### **Durant ARA Weekly Net**

Tuesdays 7:00pm CT on the 147.390+ (118.8 PL) repeater.

No net on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month due to the DARA monthly meeting.

### **Fannin County ARC Weekly Net**

Tuesdays 8:00pm CT on the 145.130- (no PL) repeater.

This is an informal information net.

### **McKinney 6 meter AM Net**

Wednesdays 10:00pm CT on 50.400MHz

### **Ladies Net**

Thursdays 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**

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	<del><b>Kingston OK</b></del>	<del>146.985- MHz (103.5 PL)</del> (currently out of service)	<del>K5BQC</del>
<b>Allen TX</b>	145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	<b>McKinney TX</b>	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
<b>Bonham TX</b>	145.470- MHz (100.0 PL) 147.200+ MHz (100.0 PL) 443.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	K5FRC K5FRC K5FRC	<b>Melissa TX</b>	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
<b>Denison TX</b>	145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH	<b>Paris TX</b>	146.760- MHz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD
<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>Rosston TX</b>	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
<b>Gainesville TX</b>	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI	<b>Van Alstyne TX</b>	443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
			<b>Grayson County ARES</b>	441.375+ MHz (67.0 PL) (emergencies/training only)	WC5GC

### Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX

Grayson County ARRL EC

### What to Do With Your Time When the Weather Is Not So Nice

Well it's September, late in the month and hopefully fall is upon us and some much needed rain. Maybe some time indoors can be put to use by getting the rig fired up and doing some DX, working some Special event stations or even a contest. I encourage you to do that. In a recent article from ARRL via an email newsletter this topic was addressed. Here are the reasons that author gave, the topic was about contesting but it applies to other operating experiences...

“Contesting helps prepare us for demanding communication tasks such as might be encountered during a major disaster. Why do I call contests training events? Simply put, all the skills built through contesting experience are valuable in emergency communications situations:

- Hearing, understanding and recording information quickly and accurately.
- Extracting information from weak signals or through interference and noise.
- Establishing and completing contacts with rapid efficiency.
- Finding work-arounds when the unexpected happens, rather than giving up.
- Knowing how to get the most out of your equipment and antennas.
- Understanding propagation and making those tough long-haul contacts.”



He further makes this point which our ARES team works on via our Nets and training activities...

“We can identify and correct weaknesses in our stations, evaluate the impact of equipment and antenna changes, and push ourselves to solve real-time communication problems as efficiently as possible. All this builds and hones transferable skills. It makes us better at what we do, which is getting the message through. Remember, when all else fails, Amateur Radio works, and properly trained, dedicated hams make it happen.” - *Marty Woll, N6VI*

He really sells the point of a great reason as to why we play with radios and have interest in ARES. Conditions and equipment are always variables they don't always respond the same so familiarity in different conditions increases your skills. I hope we never need them for a disaster response, but go play radio and have fun, you might even find some new activities and experiences.

Now all this leads me to another thought. September is National Preparedness Month. I hope you have taken the time to establish a plan with your family of what to do if there is a fire in your home, a tornado, flood or other disaster. Does everyone know the meeting place(s), how to communicate and with whom? Sometimes it's not just meet at the mailbox and look for Dad. It might be go to a local church parking lot or school, then contact Aunt Sally to let her know you are ok (of course you need to brief her as part of your plan as she is an out-of-the-area contact for family emergency). Check out the County OEM website, FEMA and similar agencies for more ideas on making your plan. But HAVE A PLAN!

Enjoy the fall weather,

73  
Rick  
K5ECX



**DON'T WAIT. COMMUNICATE.  
MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.**



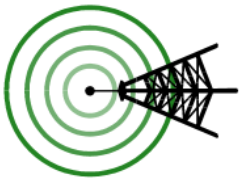
**SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH!**



AMERICA'S  
***PrepareAthon!***







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

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



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

~ 15 ~

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

Rev 03-16-15

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

	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		___	___

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ (as you want on clothing)

Last \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_

Payment \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks Payable to GCARC

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Tactical Shirt* sm M L XL		___	\$45
<b>*Shirts/jackets- (2x to 4x +\$4)</b>		___	___
Shipping \$1.00 per item		___	___
Total		___	___