



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

OCTOBER 2015

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 21, No. 10

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy everyone,

We have 2 tower takedown projects to complete this coming month, one in Pottsboro and another in Denison. We are fortunate that a couple of folks stopped by our booth at the Denison Fall Festival and offered the towers to the club if we would take them down. The one in Pottsboro is scheduled for Sunday, October 25th. Still have to finalize the date for the one in Denison. Our hope is that we'll be able to use one of these at the Perrin Field Museum if we can come to an agreement with them to install a tower for club use there. Club members will be given first choice for the other tower. If no one wants it we'll offer it to non-club members. The tower can be had for a reasonable donation to the club and the money we receive for it will go into the Equipment Fund for the club.

At the November club meeting we'll elect club officers for next year. Trevor Reed, our vice president, informed me that he will not seek re-election for next year. He'll be a senior at Denison High School and felt it more important to concentrate on his school work. A wise decision in my opinion. My thanks to Trevor for all your help this year...well done! Sheila Sammons has been our treasurer for the last 2 years and according to the club by laws could not serve another term; however, since no one else was nominated or stepped forward to fill this position, Sheila has agreed to serve again next year. Stacy Branam was nominated to be our secretary again next year. James Frank was nominated to be our vice president and I was nominated to be president again next year. The election will be held at the November meeting.

After our meeting last Friday I had an interesting conversation with John Ramsey. To make a long story short, we both feel that we need to do more to help new hams figure out exactly what they want to do in Amateur Radio. So I am planning on putting together a presentation for our next meeting called...

OK, I've got my Amateur Radio License, now what?

My hope is that I'll be able to share some personal experiences and insights into what Amateur Radio is all about with the hope that it will be of benefit to the new ham or those with limited experience.

Finally, our annual Christmas dinner will be held on Friday, December 11 at 6:30 PM at the Grayson County Courthouse. The club is buying the meats and we have a cook lined up. As usual we ask that you bring a side dish or dessert. At the meeting in November we'll have a sign-up sheet so you'll be able to select what menu items you would like to bring. We also approved a club donation to Toys 4 Tots for \$100.00. We are asking all who attend to also bring a new unwrapped toy to donate to Toys 4 Tots. The Christmas dinner will take the place of the regular club meeting in December.

Thanks everyone & 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 Sunday following 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.

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

GCARC MEETING MINUTES

GCARC Meeting, October 16, 2015

- Meeting opened at 7:00, 22 members in attendance
- Minutes/Treasurer's report from September meeting
 - Tim Branam N5SWG motioned, Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW seconded

Old Business:

- Reviewed recent events
 - Denison Main Street Festival
 - Eisenhower Special Event Station
 - Van Alstyne Fall-Der-All Festival

Lee Sly N5SLY suggested that in the future we extended the time for our special events station to a full week, and members can work to make more contacts from home

New Business:

- There is a tower take down party on October 25th and 1:00 at 215 Kyker Lane in Denison
- We will also be planning another antenna take down of a 60-70' tower, but the date is yet to be set on that one
- We are in the process of arranging an open house to see Donald Hoffman's W5DWH repeater. Plans are in the works, date and times will be forthcoming.
- We are also working on getting the permanent tower installed at Perrin Field it is to be brought up at their next regular meeting. Details will be forthcoming as well.
- We still need volunteers to be net control operators. John Ramsey KF5KHZ volunteered for the 18th and Mark KF5UZW for November 1st. We still need more volunteers! Contact Lee N5SLY to arrange a date for you to be net control.
- The Christmas Party will be on December 11th (the 2nd Friday) starting at 6:30, and there will be no regular meeting on the 18th. Dan has volunteered to smoke the meat donated by the club. There will a sign-up for sides at the November meeting.
- We will be making a \$100 donation to Toys for Tots, we would ask those attending the Christmas party bring one unwrapped toy person to donate as well.
- Clothing orders were due at this month's meeting. You will need to wait until the next order if you are wanting items with the club logo on it.
- James Frank KW5CW gave out awards for the beginner CW class. 20 people had originally signed up and 10 received certificates. An advanced Morse code classes will be offered in the future, with the prerequisite being the certificate for the beginning class, or knowledge of the letters of the alphabet in Morse code. Times and dates will be forthcoming.
- James KW5CW was in turn given the ARRL Elmer Award for his assistance in teaching CW to club members
- Nominations were also made for club officers
 - Lee N5SLY accepted the nomination for president
 - James KW5CW accepted the nomination for vice president
 - Stacy Branam W5ORD accepted nomination for secretary
 - Sheila Sammons KF5TDP accepted the nomination for treasurer
 - Rick Simmons K5ECX will continue as trustee
- James KW5CW has added a CW column to the newsletter

Meeting adjourned at 7:45

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

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Branam W5ORD
GCARC Secretary

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance as of 10.16.15 Club Meeting

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Operating Fund Beginning Bal | 1174.84 |
| Funds Received from dues | 0.00 |
| Fund Received dues | 40.00 |
| Less expenses | |
| Bnk fee for Online Dues Pymt | 0.88 |
| Operating Fund Balance | 1213.96 |

| 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 |
| Donations to Fund Raisers | |
| RR Bike Rally (Kiwanis) | Paid |
| Marine Corps League (Toys For Tots) | 0.00 |
| Total | 75.00 |

**54 Members YTD

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Available Equipment Funds | 198.56 |
| Funds Received | |
| Less expenditures | |
| Equipment Fund Balance | 198.56 |

| EQUIPMENT NEEDS | |
|-----------------|------|
| | 0.00 |
| | 0.00 |
| Amount Budgeted | 0.00 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Ending Bank Balance as of October 16, 2015 Club Meeting | <u>1412.52</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|

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.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>

Training Classes

Technician License Training Class

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

Session 1: Saturday, November 7, 2015 8:30am-12:30pm

Session 2: Saturday, November 21, 2015 8:30am-6:00pm (at the end of this session the
Texoma VE Team will administer the Technician exam)

Grayson College Center For Workplace Learning, Seminar Room C, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX

Contact: Moe NT7C (903) 564-7115 or nt7c@arrl.net

Class Fee: No Charge for the class or the Study Guide; ready-to-print copies of the Study Guide will be e-mailed to all students prior to the start of class. Students who choose to take the exam will be charged a \$15 exam fee.

Registration: Required; contact Moe to register

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

(NOTE: No testing sessions are scheduled for the remainder of 2015. Sessions will resume in the Spring of 2016.)

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

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
Website: www.texomahamarama.org

CLUB ACTIVITIES

GCARC Beginner CW Class



(L-R: John Ramsey KF5KHZ, Linda Mihay W5ULY, Lynda Tuma KF5JUO, Dora Caywood KF5TDQ, James Frank KW5CW (instructor), Lee Sly N5SLY, Brad McMillon KE5UMJ, Jesse Heiman AC5OY, Bill White KF5RJZ. Not pictured: Ben Sly KF5OEB, Madison Sly.)

Students who completed the Beginner CW Class received their certificates at the October 16th club meeting. In addition, instructor James Frank KF5CW received the ARRL Elmer Award for volunteering to develop and teach the class.

Other Activities in October



Denison Main Street Festival, October 3rd 2015



Van Alstyne Fall Der All Festival, October 10th 2015

THE CW CORNER

Because of the busy month with activities in October, it has been decided that a decision will be made at the next meeting - November 20, 2015 - if we will hold any more classes in 2015. Chances are that the next CW class 'Intermediate' will take place sometime in January or February of 2016, only if there is further interest in CW classes.

On October 16th at our monthly club meeting, I was proud to hand out the very first CW certificates for the 1st Basic CW course given to qualifying members of the GCARC.

The following 10 members received a beautiful certificate for successfully completing the CW course. Thank you Lee for supplying the beautiful certificates that I was honored to hand out to the recipients at the last club meeting.

Dora Caywood - KF5TDQ - Technician Class
Jessie Heiman - AC5OY - Extra Class
Brad McMillon - KE5UMJ - General Class
Linda Mihay - W5ULY - General Class
John Ramsey - KF5KHZ - Technician Class
Ben Sly - KF5OEB - Extra Class
Lee Sly - N5SLY - General Class
Madison Sly - Not Licensed YET!!
Lynda Tuma - KF5JUO - Extra Class
Bill White - KF5RJZ - Technician Class

These people now qualify for the next class when it begins, which will be the 'Intermediate Class' CW course. The 'Basic Class' just completed is a prerequisite for the second course. If you are not one of the 10 people who received a certificate and you would like to participate in the next class, then you will have to take a very short CW exam prior to beginning the 'Intermediate Class' CW course as proof of your knowledge of CW. The next course should last 8 weeks. The reason for the short CW exam is that the student MUST know the 26 letters of the alphabet, the numbers 0-9 and the three pronunciation marks - period, comma, and question mark on day one. I am putting together a curriculum for the next class just in case there is interest in further classes. Successful students at the end of the 'Intermediate' class will be able to send and receive between 13 to 20 WPM.

So again, congratulations to the 10 brave CW souls that successfully completed the course to qualify for the CW certificate.

73 .. James - KW5CW

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

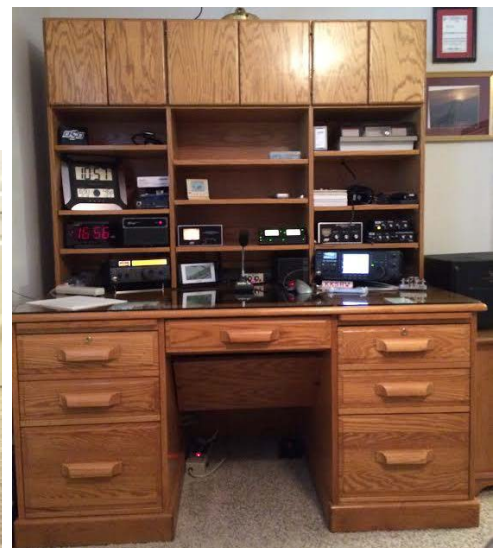
NOTE: These have not been tested and are offered “as is” with no refunds.

Contact: Lee Sly N5SLY
E-mail: lee.n5sly@gmail.com

FOR SALE: 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:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Bennie K5DIZ | Antenna install | Sherman |
| 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

ARRL Asks FCC to Clarify that Hams May Modify Non-Amateur Gear for Amateur Use

The ARRL has asked the FCC to make clear that Amateur Radio licensees may modify non-amateur equipment for use on Amateur Radio frequencies. Some hams have expressed concerns that recently proposed rules would inhibit post-sale modification of Wi-Fi equipment, now sometimes altered for use on Amateur Radio frequencies. The ARRL made its point in [comments](#) filed on October 8 on a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in ET Docket 15-170 and RM-11673. The proceeding mostly addresses proposed amendments to FCC rules regarding authorization of RF equipment.

“The Commission should clarify...that the ability of licensed radio amateurs to modify and adapt non-amateur equipment for use in the Amateur Service is beneficial, is permitted, and is not restricted by any rule of general applicability adopted in this proceeding,” the League said in its comments. The ARRL said proposed rules requiring manufacturers to include security features to prevent network devices from being modified were “problematic,” to the extent that they would preclude hams from adapting network equipment for ham radio applications.

“The Amateur Radio Service has a very long tradition of modification and adaptation of commercial communications equipment,” the ARRL’s comments pointed out. Amateur licensees should be permitted to modify any previously authorized equipment for use under Amateur Service rules, the League asserted. The proceeding attracted many comments regarding this aspect of the proceeding, although the proposed rules differ only slightly from the current rules.

The ARRL also urged the FCC not to apply any limitations proposed for Software Defined Radios to SDRs intended for use exclusively in the Amateur Radio Service, “as has been the policy for the past 10 years.”

Equipment Authorization

The League also has called on the Commission not to combine the Declaration of Conformity (DoC) and Verification equipment authorization procedures into a single, self-approval program. The League said the proposal could lead to abuse by unscrupulous importers and manufacturers of unintentional emitters. Under the proposed rules, the FCC would do away with its DoC authorization program by combining it with equipment Verification to form a so-called “Suppliers Declaration of Conformity” category of equipment authorization. Testing in an accredited laboratory would not be required, nor would database registration or third-party review. The ARRL expressed concerns that the new regime would encourage and facilitate the introduction into the US of “non-compliant unintentional emitters” and offer no oversight.

The ARRL’s comments said, “the only opportunity to preclude widespread sale and deployment of non-compliant RF devices, including unintentional emitters, is via the equipment authorization process.” The League said hams and AM

broadcasters have been victims of interference from such unintentional emitters as RF lighting ballasts “that routinely exceed the Commission’s conducted emission limits.” The ARRL said the solution is “not to loosen but to tighten the procedural controls over the testing and affirmative confirmations of compliance” to ensure greater compliance in conducted limits and other technical parameters that determine how much such devices contribute to ambient noise levels.

The League said some RF devices, such as RF “grow lights,” now subject to the more informal Verification process should be subject to Certification, owing to their substantial interference potential. The ARRL noted that it has received and investigated “numerous reports of interference” from devices subject only to Verification. “A number of interfering devices, when tested by the ARRL Laboratory, have been found to exceed the FCC limits, sometimes by an alarming amount,” the League said.

Improved Labeling for Part 15 and Part 18 Devices

The ARRL also said there is “an urgent need” for improved labeling requirements for certain Part 15 and Part 18 devices. “Necessitating change, notably, is the fact that there are many industrial Part 18 devices sold that are neither intended nor designed for use in residential environments, but because there is no external labeling...the end user consumer is left without guidance,” the ARRL said, noting that, in most cases, equipment retailers are not providing any either.

In July, the ARRL complained to the FCC about the marketing practices of various “big box” retailers, where non-consumer-rated lighting ballasts have been mixed in with consumer ballasts and other consumer products on display with no explanatory signage. Ballasts intended for industrial applications have higher permitted conducted emission limits in the Amateur Radio HF spectrum. The League called on the FCC to include a definition in Part 18 for the term “consumer RF lighting device,” to provide a way to differentiate consumer devices from those intended for industrial or commercial environments.

The League also said the FCC should consider reducing its Part 15 limits for lighting devices to correspond with the Part 18 lighting device limits between 3 and 30 MHz to reduce the RFI potential of LED bulbs now being widely marketed, “before they become an aggregate problem.” LED lamps operate under Part 15 rules. The ARRL said the FCC should adopt the League’s new equipment-labeling proposals with respect to certain Part 15 and Part 18 equipment “in order to stop the flood of such devices intended for commercial or industrial areas only into residential areas.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Hamvention “Fully Committed” to Hold 2016 Show at Hara Arena, General Chairman Says

Dayton Hamvention® General Chairman Jim Tiderman, N8IDS, is downplaying talk arising from an October 2 television [news report](#) and a more extensive and detailed October 3 *Dayton Daily News* [article](#), that Hamvention might move from Hara Arena as early as next year. Tiderman characterized the reports “all speculation and rumor.”

“In light of the Cox Media (Channel 7) television interview and the ensuing *Dayton Daily News* article, I, as General Chairman of the 2015-2016 Dayton Hamvention, want to assure all interested parties that the Dayton Hamvention is fully committed to the 2016 Dayton Hamvention at Hara Arena and Exposition Center, Tiderman stressed in a statement. “We still keep an open mind to alternate plans, in case they become necessary. All successful businesses need to do that, and Hamvention is no different in that respect.” The Dayton Amateur Radio Association ([DARA](#)) sponsors Hamvention.

The media reports said Dayton area officials have been working together to keep Hamvention in the Dayton area, if not at Hara Arena in Trotwood, where it has been held since 1964. Dayton TV station WHIO reported on October 2 that the Dayton/Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau has been in discussion with the City of Dayton on a plan to ensure that the world’s largest Amateur Radio gathering at least remains in Montgomery County, should Hamvention have to find another venue because of Hara Arena’s financial problems. According to Bureau President and CEO Jacquelyn Powell, this isn’t the first year that officials have considered “Plan B options,” the WHIO and *Dayton Daily News* reports indicated.

According to the media reports, representatives of the City of Dayton, Montgomery County, Dayton Convention Center, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau will meet this month to review options for Hamvention organizers in the event a move from Hara Arena becomes necessary. Various alternative venues in the Dayton area are reported to have been considered, including the Dayton Convention Center and the Dayton Airport Expo Center, and the *Dayton Daily News* report said Tiderman has toured both facilities. Also raised was the possibility of holding the indoor exposition and the outdoor flea market at separate locations in the area, and ferrying visitors back and forth with shuttle buses.

The *Dayton Daily News* account said word of Hamvention's possible move from Hara Arena stemmed from a July e-mail from Karen Wampler, director of Marketing for Hara Arena, which the newspaper obtained through a public records request. The Wampler family owns the 165,000 square foot, six-building complex.

"We have shared the fate of the Trotwood/VenuWorks/Hara acquisition proposal with the [Hamvention] Chairperson and select board members of Hamvention," Wampler wrote in the e-mail, according to the newspaper report. "While we have kept them informed throughout the process, they are reeling. They have much to lose with Hara's closing and, like us, believed we were close to stabilizing Hara for future growth, rather than ending her nearly 60-year run."

Since last year, the Wampler family has been working with [VenuWorks](#), which specializes in restoring event venues, to rejuvenate the deteriorating facility. Karen Wampler acknowledged last winter that Hara was facing financial challenges, flagging revenues, and competition from other Dayton area venues and was exploring "a new ownership model." By the time Hamvention 2015 took place last May, "Sneak Peak" posters in Hara Arena were advertising "Renovations in 2016" and portraying conceptual sketches of what a refurbished Hara might look like.

The newspaper account said that VenuWorks had recommended that the City of Trotwood purchase Hara Arena, but the Trotwood officials turned down the idea. That plan was focus of Wampler's July e-mail, the *Dayton Daily News* article said. Wampler subsequently told the newspaper that Hara Arena is in better condition than it was when she drafted her July e-mail and that the event complex will not close anytime soon.

Hamvention puts millions of dollars into the local economy each year. Last May, the show attracted some 25,000 visitors. Dayton Hamvention 2016 will take place May 20, 21, and 22.

Tiderman told the *Dayton Daily News* that "something catastrophic" would have to happen to cause Hamvention to move from Hara Arena.

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

"ARRL National Parks on the Air" Event to Mark National Park Service Centennial

In 2016, the National Park Service ([NPS](#)) will celebrate its 100th anniversary, and radio amateurs will be able to help mark the occasion with the ARRL National Parks on the Air ([NPOTA](#)) event. The fun begins at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2016.

"As ARRL just celebrated our own Centennial, and Amateur Radio is often enjoyed in the great outdoors, it seemed fitting to devise a program to help NPS celebrate their own 100th birthday," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. As he explained, NPOTA will run throughout 2016, with activity promoted and encouraged from each of the more than 430 official NPS administrative units and affiliated areas across the US. This includes all 59 National Parks as well as National Battlefields, Historic Sites, Memorials, Preserves, Reserves, Rivers, Seashores, National Scenic Trails, and other units.



The program will have two participation tracks -- Chasers and Activators. Chasers will simply attempt to make contact with operators in as many of the NPS units as possible. Activators will attempt to activate as many of the units as possible. NPOTA participants may serve in both roles. Chaser and Activator totals will be tracked via an online [Leader Board](#)

based on LoTW data, just as was done during the Centennial QSO Party. (Access the NPOTA Leader Board directly at <http://npota.arrl.org>.)

Modeled after the Mixed DXCC award, only one contact with any given NPS unit will be required, and no tally will be kept of NPS units based on bands or modes. NPOTA will be administered entirely through Logbook of The World (LoTW). No paper logs or QSLs will be accepted for NPOTA credit. Each NPS unit will be added to LoTW as a "location."

[Complete details](#) on the National Parks on the Air event are available on the ARRL website.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Hurricane Watch Net Congratulated for 50 Years of Service

On behalf of the League, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, has congratulated the Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) on the 50th anniversary of its founding by Jerry Murphy, K8YUW.

"Thanks to the efforts of the Net's dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers across 5 decades, Amateur Radio has played a key role in helping protect the lives of a great many people in harm's way," President Craigie told HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, this week in an e-mail. "The Net demonstrates how significantly Amateur Radio contributes to emergency preparedness and promotes international goodwill. Please relay to the Net's members my appreciation and respect for a half century of outstanding service. Best wishes for many more years of successful operation of the Hurricane Watch Net."

Graves replied, "It is an honor and pleasure to be a part of such a great group of ham radio operators with a rich history. I will certainly share your letter with our membership and, more importantly, with our founder Jerry Murphy, K8YUW." Murphy founded the HWN in 1965 during Hurricane Betsy as "an informal group of radio amateurs who recognized a need to provide communications to and from hurricane affected areas." The net now enjoys a formal relationship with the National Hurricane Center and its WX4NHC amateur station.

The HWN stood down on October 4 after activating more than once for Hurricane Joaquin, at one point a dangerous Category 4 storm. Graves called the activations "very successful in that we had many more reporting stations and lots of data to forward to the National Hurricane Center in Miami." The HWN had reactivated as Joaquin posed a threat to Bermuda after battering the Bahamas with high winds and heavy rainfall. "Joaquin passed just to the west [of Bermuda] as a Category 2 hurricane, sparing everyone from the extremely damaging winds," Graves noted over the weekend after the net had shut down for the last time. "For the most part, in addition to lots of heavy rain, on-and-off power outages were reported throughout the day."

The HWN suspended its initial activation for Hurricane Joaquin on October 2, after 3 days of near-continuous operation, only to reactivate on October 3. Although the storm did not make landfall on the East Coast of the US, it caused torrential rainfall and severe flooding in the Carolinas, and has been blamed for more than a dozen deaths.

The HWN activates on 14.325 MHz whenever a hurricane is within 300 miles of projected landfall or becomes a serious threat to a populated area.

- 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 | Kingston OK | 146.985- MHz (103.5 PL) (currently out of service) | K5BQC |
| Allen TX | 145.350- MHz (100.0 PL) | N5GI | McKinney TX | 146.740- MHz (110.9 PL) | W5MRC |
| Bonham TX | 145.470- MHz (100.0 PL) 147.200+ MHz (100.0 PL) 443.750+ MHz (100.0 PL) | K5FRC K5FRC K5FRC | Melissa TX | 443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL) | W5MRA |
| Denison TX | 145.330- MHz (100.0 PL) | W5DWH | Paris TX | 146.760- MHz (203.5 PL) | WB5RDD |
| Durant OK | 147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL) 147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL) (currently out of service) | K5KIE K5CGE | Rosston TX | 145.490- MHz (85.4 PL) | WD5U |
| Gainesville TX | 147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL) | WB5FHI | 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

WHY Did YOU Do It?

I saw a picture of this situation on the Internet the other day. A dog, maybe a dachshund, with candy sprinkles all over his nose looking up with those big brown eyes with a contrite expression on his face. The obvious question was “why did you do it?” And the caption was something like, “you shouldn’t have left them out, in the cabinet, on the shelf, behind the door.”

SO, why do you do it? Volunteer, I mean to ask. We certainly are blessed to have a great many of you available a great deal of the time. On Saturday the 10th Ben KF5OEB called up a Net on the 147.00 repeater. We had put out a notice the evening before via texts to the ARES cell phone list to be listening for the randomly called net to be called sometime Saturday. So it wasn’t a total surprise but could occur without notice. We did this as part of the Fall Simulated Emergency Test (SET) the ARRL Section puts on. The scenario was that there were widespread power outages, cell service and internet was disrupted due to major storms as I recall. In such an event you might be aware something is about to happen but would not know for sure when the call might happen. You responded very well, we had 13 check-ins and I know some others just couldn’t get to the radio because of other events going on Saturday. In a real situation those events probably would not be happening and those operators would have been available. That’s a great response! So here we are a beautiful Saturday with lots of outdoor activities and multiple reasons to be otherwise involved, and you chose to keep a radio on and available to hear if and when a net was called.



Sometimes we are faced with decisions about volunteering, when pulled in different directions by family, obligations, work, and a long list of other reasons. They can be roadblocks, “...on the shelf, behind the door” as in the dog’s story, or they can be challenges to be overcome or rearranged. I can’t possibly begin to try to determine why you all DO it, but I and our communities are thankful for you, that you choose to volunteer your time and equipment to our ARES efforts.

Thank You.

73
Rick
K5ECX

