



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

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JANUARY 2016

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 22, No. 1

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## THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy Everyone,

At our club meeting last Friday we finalized our plans for club activities this year, got approval for our budget and started making plans for additional CW training.

We will be doing all the same club activities we did last year; however, our Special Events will be much different. Each Special Event will be held for 9 days and we'll still set up in the field on a Saturday. Setting up in the field on Saturday will be more of a social gathering and a chance to meet and greet the public. The goals of this change are:

- Everyone has a chance to participate
- Everyone has a good time
- Everyone has a chance to learn more
- We get others involved in Amateur Radio
- The club makes more contacts
- The club receives more QSLs
- The club gets some awards

Here are the special events:

- Perrin Field Special Event will be held from May 14 thru May 22...setting up at Perrin Museum on May 21.
- Red River Bridge War Special Event will be held from July 16 thru July 24...setting up in field on July 23. We still have to decide where to hold the Saturday field event. Suggestions?
- Eisenhower Special Event will be held from October 8 thru October 16...setting up at Eisenhower birth place on October 8.

More information to follow about all of these events as we get closer to them.

James Frank KW5CW is in the planning stages for another CW training class and has hopes of getting others involved in some contesting. He will be talking more about this in his CW Corner section of the newsletter.

Our Helping Hams program is still alive and well. If you need help with something let us know what it is you need done, when you want it done, where you need it done and let us see what we can do to make it happen. We have several requests for some tower work to be done a little later this year when the weather warms up.

We have a lot of things going on as usual this year, and I'm really looking forward to working with all of you to make the time we spend with our hobby very fun and rewarding. That's what hobbies are all about...having fun and enjoying what you are doing.

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:	James Frank KW5CW
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 Sunday following 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:	

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### 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 Monthly Meeting – January 15, 2016

Called to order 7:05 pm

No Meeting Minutes or Treasurer's Report to review due to not having a regular meeting last month.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

1. This year, Special Events will run for a longer period of time so that members can use their personal equipment and make contacts for the special event station from home. For the duration of the event, club members may use the special 1x1 call sign. Many people have wanted to participate in the past but could not make the Saturday event. Hopefully, this will give people more opportunities to participate. MEMBERS MUST TURN IN A LOG TO LEE SLY N5SLY AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE EVENT. THIS LOG MUST INCLUDE CALL SIGN, DATE/TIME in ZULU, FREQUENCY, MODE, and SIGNAL REPORT. Hopefully the club might earn some awards this year if we have more members participating. You must stay within your band plan unless you have a Control Operator with a higher license class than yours.

Members are encouraged to let others know when they will be broadcasting from home, and invite other members to come see their shack and talk about how the particular mode they are using works and what they like about it. We will continue to have the Special Event set-up on the Saturday of the event. This will now also include a cook-out at every event.

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Perrin Air Force Base	May 14-May 22	Special Event Station set-up at Perrin Field on May 21
Red River Bridge War	July 16-24	Special Event Station set-up (Perrin Field?) July 23
Eisenhower Birthplace	Oct. 8-16	Special Event Station set-up Oct. 8

2. We will also have several other events:
  - Field Day – June 25-26
  - Red River Bike Rally – August 13
  - Denison Main Street – October 1
  - Van Alstyne Fall-Der-All – Date TBA
  - Christmas Dinner – Date TBA
3. The budget was reviewed and expenditures for the year discussed. The budget was approved by Ben Sly KF5OEB and seconded by Roy Reed AF5VA. All members voted approval of the budget.
4. James Frank KW5CW, the new VP, spoke about some of the goals he had for himself and the club this year. Personally, he is looking forward to stepping up his own participation in the club and encourages others to do the same. He encourages club members to share their interests and reach out to members who might share the same interests or to folks curious about what other modes and activities ham radio has to offer.
5. James will also be starting another round of CW classes. They will probably be another series of basic classes, but with more interactive elements. This will be held on a series of Saturdays, with dates TBA.
6. We had been discussing setting up a permanent antenna at Perrin Field. Sadly, the gentleman who was pushing this for us passed away. We are going to begin speaking with the new person in charge to see if this is still a possibility.
7. We are looking into ways to earn money for the club. We will be investigating the Kroger Community Rewards program where a portion of every purchase can go directly to the club. Through [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), you can

also choose GCARC as your organization of choice and we earn a percentage that way as well. Further information will be coming on these.

8. Rick Simmons K5ECX updated us on the new 70cm repeater in Whitesboro. The repeater is currently up. Since it is a 440 machine, they are working on setting up a separate cross-band repeater at Moe Knight NT7C's home to link in with the 147.00 repeater in Sherman to make communication easier in the areas south of Whitesboro during ARES or SKYWARN activations. The thing to remember with a cross-band repeater is to slow your communication down, pausing for 2-3 seconds before keying up so the repeater can catch up. They are hoping to make this a permanent feature of the new repeater.
9. As always, we are looking for Net Control Operators for the club nets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday nights of each month. The next open date is March 20. Please contact Lee N5SLY if you are interested.
10. Thanks to those who paid dues at the meeting on Friday. Remember they are due this month. They can now be paid online through the club website, by mail, or you can bring them to next month's meeting.

Meeting closed 8:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Friday, February 19, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacy Branam W5ORD  
GCARC Secretary

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## 2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES

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**A reminder to all GCARC members: all 2015 club memberships expired on December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have not yet paid your 2016 dues, please plan to attend the next meeting or you can pay them online through the club's website**

**<http://www.graysoncountyarcs.com>**

# GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance as of 1.15.16 Club Meeting

Operating Fund Beginning Bal	1,181.51
Funds Received	
Clothing	273.00
Donations	50.00
Dues	50.00
Less expenses	
1097	100.00
1098	262.63
bank fee	2.05
cks purchased	9.25
Operating Fund Balance	1,180.58

\*\* 54 Members YTD

Available Equipment Funds 198.56

Funds Received

Less expenditures

1095 112.51

Equipment Fund Balance 86.05

Ending Bank Balance  
as of January 15, 2016 1,266.63  
Club Meeting

Sheila Sammons KF5TDP  
GCARC Treasurer

## OPERATING BUDGET

Post Office Box	56.00
Checks	9.25
Website	96.00
<i>Special Events Deposit</i>	
Denison Main Street	75.00
V.A. Fal-dur-All	35.00
RR Bridge War	50.00
<i>Food for Special Events</i>	
Perrin Field	65.00
AARL Field Day	65.00
RR Bridge War	65.00
Eisenhower Birthday	50.00
Christmas Dinner	75.00
<i>Donations</i>	
Perrin Museum	50.00
Kiawans/Bike Rally	250.00
Toys For Tots	100.00
Total	1041.25

## EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Amount Budgeted 0

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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>

#### **SKYWARN Spotter Training (Basic and Advanced)**

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 6:00pm-9:00pm

Grayson College Center For Workplace Learning, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX

This is a storm spotter training class offered annually by the National Weather Service, and is strongly recommended for all current and prospective storm spotters. **This year's class will include both Basic and Advanced training.** The class is open to the general public, and no reservations are required.

Note: this is the only spotter training class that will be offered in Grayson County in 2016.

Contact: N/A

Class Fee: No charge

Registration: Not required

### **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, February 27, 2016 8:30am-12:30pm

Session 2: Saturday, March 19, 2016 8:30am-5:30pm (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@arrrl.net](mailto:nt7c@arrrl.net)

Class Fee: No Charge for the class, but there is a \$15 fee to take the Technician exam. Study guides will be e-mailed to registered students prior to the start of the first session.

Registration: Required; contact Moe to register

## **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**

(NOTE: 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](mailto:wa0urj@yahoo.com)) to schedule a session

## **Hamfests**

### **Irving ARC Hamfest**

March 5, 2016

Bethca Bingo Hall, 2420 W Irving Blvd, Irving TX

Talk-In: 146.720 (110.9 PL)

Public Contact: Ken Hansen N2VIP (609) 510-3068 or [n2vip@arrrl.net](mailto:n2vip@arrrl.net)

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

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## **CW CORNER**

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There is renewed interest in another basic CW class sponsored by the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club. Hams seem to still be interested in this mode of operation, even as there is no longer a requirement to know CW to acquire a license. The first GCARC CW class that was held last year was a great success. The next weekly class that I will teach is to commence on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the Grayson County Court House in Sherman Texas, - 2nd floor, but the actual start time has not been determined. The class most likely will run for 6-7 weeks. If you have a preference for a start time, please send me an email ([jimkw5cw@gmail.com](mailto:jimkw5cw@gmail.com)) along with other suggestions that you may have for the class. Each session should last approximately 2 hours. The start time will be determined at the next meeting and published in the February GCARC newsletter. People already registered will also be notified by email.

I have received some suggestions from people who had previously attended the first class in 2015. They highlighted a few improvements to the next class and changes will be made accordingly. In the future there may be a desire to have Intermediate and Advanced classes for those who would like to enhance their skills. At this time, there are 7 people who have shown interest from our club to attend the next class. Also, 3 people from outside the GCARC have expressed interest in attending our class. Last year, a dozen people graduated from the class and qualified for a certificate after taking the course. These classes are open to everyone including others who may belong to other clubs. Everyone is welcome, regardless of your present knowledge of CW. This is a beginner's class. The only prerequisite of this CW class is that you must have a desire to learn CW, and have the desire to attend each class.

Last year, the class progressed with absolutely no pressure to students taking the course. In some cases, I felt as if the student was not challenged, as practice material used for each class was available before the actual class session. In the next class, the material may be a little more challenging, but introduced in a way to promote the learning of CW. The

Koch method of learning CW will again be used to a degree, but other methods will be used from time to time. Students will also practice sending code using a keyer paddle.

If you are interested in attending and haven't made notice to date that you would like to attend, please send me a note via email at [jimkw5cw@gmail.com](mailto:jimkw5cw@gmail.com), and I will add you to the mailing list for notices and study materials that will be used in the class.

Remember, anyone who has interest in CW can attend this class. There is NO COST to attend. Members from other clubs are encouraged to also participate.

James Frank KW5CW  
GCARC Vice President

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## **BECOME AN AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR**

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The Technician Class License is the current 'entry level' license into Amateur Radio. The program we utilize is a two day class. The first day is one-half day where Amateur Radio and the exam process is explained. Study guides and question pools are made available to students and then there is a review of every problem involving mathematics, schematic drawings, and some other topics.

The student then has two to three weeks to review the study materials. Returning for a second time the review class goes over what you should have learned in your study of the material and a sampling of the questions. This review takes a full day and upon completion the exam for license is administered.

There is no cost for the class, but the exam does have a \$15 fee, payable at the time of the test.

The class is held at the Grayson College main campus, in the Center for Workplace Learning (CWL), in Seminar Room C. The next scheduled dates are:

February 27, 2016 – 8:30 am until 12:30 pm and  
March 19, 2016 – 8:30 am until 5:30 pm

The study guide and question pool material will be emailed to everyone on the mailing list prior to the class.

Please contact Moe Knight at [NT7C@ARRL.NET](mailto:NT7C@ARRL.NET) to reserve your place in the class and get added to the mailing list for this event.

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## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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To The Editor of the Grayson County ARC,

At Friday's club meeting the question came up... "Why does the club want to spend 25% of their budget on the Kiwanis Red River Bike Rally when we are doing them a service providing communications during their event? Couldn't that money be better spent somewhere else?"

This same question has come up every year and it is a very legitimate question.

What does the club get for our donation of \$250.00? We are considered a sponsor of the event and get our club logo on all the publications that are produced for the event...advertising. We meet hundreds of people that day and they get a taste of what we can do.

How much has that benefited the club? [There is] no way of knowing.

What does the Kiwanis do with the money they get? This event is their main fund raising event of the year. The money they take in is used for scholarships to deserving students. All the labor involved is volunteered and the food and drinks they provide at rest stops is all donated. All the bike riders pay a fee to ride in the Red River Bike Rally.

Club membership dues account for almost all of the club expenses during the year. So another way of looking at this is...if the club spends 25% of their budget on the Red River Bike Rally...25% of your dues is used for that purpose.

Would you donate \$5.00 to the Kiwanis for their scholarship fund and donate a day of your time to help them out? I would and I will again this year.

73

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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: Yaesu FT-950

Yaesu FT-950 in excellent condition. Includes original box, manual, stock mic, & power cord.  
Asking \$925.00. Local pick up in the Sherman area or I will deliver to DFW area.

Contact: David Reeder WA0URJ

Phone: (972) 658-6773

E-Mail: [wa0urj@yahoo.com](mailto:wa0urj@yahoo.com)

### 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)

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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
Bob W5DSA	Needs help with a rotator on a 100' tower. Will probably be scheduled for the spring	Denison

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## NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

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### ARRL Asks FCC for “Minimal but Necessary Changes” to Correct Reapportioning Error

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to fix a “shortfall in available RTTY/data spectrum” the regulator created when it reapportioned 80 and 75 meters in 2006. The League’s January 8 [Petition for Rule Making](#) asks the FCC to shift the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3600 kHz to 3650 kHz. The ARRL’s Petition points out that the proposed change has received strong support from the ARRL membership and was adopted as policy by the League’s Board of Directors in July 2015. At that time the Board also agreed to seek RTTY and data privileges for Technician and Novice licensees within the portion of the 15 meter band where they now may operate CW and to do the same on 80 meters, contingent upon the 80/75 meter subband revision.

Specifically, the petition asks the FCC to make the following changes, with regard to 80/75 meters:

- Modify the 80 meter RTTY/data subband, so that it extends from 3500 kHz to 3650 kHz.
- Modify the 75 meter phone/image subband, so that it extends from 3650 kHz to 4000 kHz.
- Make 3600-3650 kHz available for General and Advanced Class licensees, as was the case prior to 2006.
- Make 3600-3650 kHz available to Novice and Technician licensees for telegraphy — consistent with existing rules permitting Novices and Technicians to use telegraphy in the General and Advanced RTTY/data subbands on 80, 40, and 15 Meters.
- Modify the rules governing automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS), to shift the 80 meter ACDS segment from 3585-3600 kHz to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans.

The ARRL contended that the FCC *Report and Order* in Docket 04-140 released in 2004 made “a very substantial” and unjustifiable departure from what the so-called “Omnibus” *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* had proposed, with respect to 75 and 80 meters. The resulting *R&O* in that proceeding, among other actions, expanded voice privileges on additional frequencies in various bands, including 75 meters. The FCC shifted the phone/image subband from 3750-4000 kHz to 3600-4000 kHz, trimming the 80 meter RTTY/data subband from 3500-3750 kHz to 3500-3600 kHz and changing “the entire dynamic of this band substantially,” the League said.

“The ratio of wideband phone spectrum to narrowband RTTY/data emissions went from 50/50 to 80/20, rather than the 55/45 split that the Omnibus *NPRM* had proposed,” the ARRL petition explained. “The adverse effects of this 2006 Commission action on various classes of licensee were significant and immediate.”

The League said that, while the Omnibus *R&O* indicated that incumbent licensees would lose no operating privileges, these “clearly” were adversely affected for some licensees. The ARRL said the most substantial adverse effect of the “unexpected and vast expansion” of the 75 meter phone/image was the elimination of access to 3620-3635 kHz by ACDS.

The Omnibus *R&O* rule changes limited 80 meters to 3500-3600 kHz, and no longer authorized RTTY and data emissions above 3600 kHz. The Omnibus *R&O* did not modify § 97.221 of the rules, “so its provision for automatically controlled digital stations in the subband 3620-3635 kHz was rendered a nullity,” the League said. “This was clearly an oversight by the Commission at the time.”

The FCC denied a subsequent ARRL *Petition for Reconsideration* seeking a partial stay of the new rules affecting 80/75 meters. Instead, the Commission replaced the inadvertently deleted 3620-3635 kHz ACDS segment with 3585-3600 kHz.

“Far from fixing the problem created by the error in the Omnibus *R&O*, the moving of the inadvertently deleted digital subband downward in frequency below 3600 kHz made the situation in the 80 meter RTTY/data subband even worse than it was,” the ARRL said. The result has been a shortfall in available RTTY/data spectrum at 80 meters.

“ARRL has analyzed the regulatory limitations as part of a comprehensive effort to make more efficient the use of those HF allocations, especially with respect to encouraging further experimentation and proficiency in narrowband digital communications technologies,” the League said in concluding its *Petition*. “The recommendations for modified band plans developed by ARRL necessitate the few, but important regulatory changes proposed.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## **Ramsey Kits Calls It Quits**

After more than 40 years as a purveyor of inexpensive electronics kits for hobbyists, the Ramsey Hobby Kits group has thrown in the towel, effective on January 1. The Ramsey RF Test Equipment Group is unaffected by this change.

“We end our heritage with a smile, not a frown, and say thank you, to all our customers and fellow hobbyists,” Ramsey’s [announcement](#) said.

The Victor, New York, company sold a wide array of hobby kits over the years, starting with its LED Blinky kit in the 1970s and eventually including simple ham radio transmitters and receivers, aircraft band receivers, and other devices. Ramsey kits were frequently available at hamfests.

The company indicated that it will continue to provide technical and warranty support for hobby kits purchased through the end of 2015. Ramsey said its remaining hobby kit inventory has been relocated to [Amazon](#).

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## **“Cows Over the World” CW DXpeditions Planned**

Tom Callas, KC0W, has announced the all-CW “Cows Over the World” DXpeditions for 2016. All call sign suffixes will contain “COW.” The schedule calls for a summer departure to (in this order): American Samoa, Samoa, Tokelau, Solomon Islands, Temotu Province, and Bangladesh. He may add Nepal and Bhutan. There will be no time frame for operation from each entity.

“The determining factor will be when the pileups die down it’s time to pack everything up and move along,” he said. Callas said he’s spent months researching the absolute best DXing locations for each island and for Bangladesh (he’s secured all but Tokelau). “This will be the only DXpedition that I’m aware of in which the operator will operate from separate sides of the islands,” he said.

The Minnesota DXer pointed out that the west and east coasts of South Pacific islands are separated by mountains, and that he learned firsthand how much mountains attenuate HF signals while he was operating from Haiti. Emphasis will be on 160, 80, and 40 meters. A tentative phase II “Cows Over Africa” DXpedition is on the drawing board.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## **Dishtronix Purchases TEN-TEC Assets**

[Dishtronix](#), an electronics design and manufacturing company, has purchased the assets of Amateur Radio equipment manufacturer TEN-TEC from RKR Designs. Headquartered in Bellefontaine, Ohio, Dishtronix manufactures and markets the “Prometheus” solid-state Amateur Radio amplifier, among other products. No formal announcement has been made by either company, and details of the purchase are still being finalized. RKR Designs announced last April 2 that it had acquired the assets of TEN-TEC and Alpha Amplifiers from RF Concepts, less than 1 year after the two lines had merged under the RF Concepts brand in an asset sale. Dishtronix owner Steven M. “Mike” Dishop, N8WFF, told ARRL that, while TEN-TEC has had different owners over the years, he is in it for the long haul.

“Dishtronix has been continuously operating for 17 years, is financially stable and will continue managing in a manner that promotes and maintains financial stability. My vision is strictly long term,” he said. Dishop said that TEN-TEC production would remain in Sevierville, Tennessee.

According to its website, Dishtronix was incorporated in 1998 to design, develop and manufacture electronic controls and products, serving smaller manufacturers that lack electronic design expertise. Dishtronix said that it “seriously committed” in September 2001 to enter the Amateur Radio market with high-power, solid-state amplifiers and accessories. Dishop said Dishtronix has other new products under development, including a new legal-limit, solid-state amp that he expects to debut at [Dayton Hamvention](#)® in May.

“When I have capacity, the next step is to run the first batch of Omni VII+s, which is the Omni VII with some minor cosmetic changes and improvements, such as a flat metal front for improved shielding,” he added. He also expects to post some firmware updates as soon as possible, once the new TEN-TEC website is up.

Dishop told ARRL that he’s had to make “some tough decisions” to ensure the company’s long-term viability. He confirmed a recent TEN-TEC reflector web post by former TEN-TEC Engineering Manager John Henry, KI4JPL, whom Dishop has retained on a contract basis, that indicated a new service policy is now in place, with a \$140 minimum charge just to look at a radio, even if it is not repaired. This includes items already sent to RKR for repair. Dishop said owners were shipping their radios to TEN-TEC for diagnosis, then asking that the unit be returned without incurring any charge. Owners should be prepared to pay approximately \$265 for labor, plus parts and return shipping for a typical repair, he added. “If you are not prepared to spend \$140, do not send your radio in,” Dishop told ARRL, noting that TEN-TEC’s service department had been operating at a loss.

In addition, TEN-TEC will charge customers for “any telephone call or e-mail that consumes more than 5 minutes of technician time,” according to the post, which also appeared on QRZ.com’s news crawl. Dishop told ARRL that the days of discount prices are no more. “The blow-out sale prices are over, and any outstanding orders at those prices are terminated,” he said.

Dishop asked the Amateur Radio community to be patient during the transition. “I am fully committed to bring TEN-TEC back to a sustainable state,” he said in his earlier web post. “This will take some time.”

- 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 147.200+ (100.0 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.

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## AREA REPEATERS

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<b>Sherman TX</b>	147.000+ MHz (100.0 PL) 147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL) 444.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT W5COP W5RVT	<b>Gainesville TX</b>	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI
<b>Allen TX</b>	145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	<del><b>Kingston OK</b></del>	<del>146.085- MHz (103.5 PL)</del> (currently out of service)	<del>K5BQC</del>
<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>McKinney TX</b>	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
<b>Denison TX</b>	145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH	<b>Melissa TX</b>	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
<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>Paris TX</b>	146.760- MHz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD
			<b>Rosston TX</b>	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
			<b>Van Alstyne TX</b>	443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
			<b>Whitesboro TX (New!)</b>	442.875+ MHz (100.0 PL)	

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## GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

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### Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX  
Grayson County ARRL EC

#### So What Does It Take?

Recently the AECs held a planning session for the coming months – training topics, nets, and focus on 2016’s idea of being aware of how the organizations we serve operate. The idea is if we know what they might be up to, ARES might be better prepared to help them communicate. So, some of our training this year will include attempts to include presentations on their operational procedures and structure. We might learn some of the key “vocabulary” words they use, and become more aware of how our abilities fit their needs.

This brought us to a discussion of some of our operating procedures and how they might need to be revised after we get reacquainted with our partners. That discussion brought us to our SKYWARN operations and how to include the new 440 repeater into the process.

Now as you can imagine, with there being several hams in the room there were several ideas, and those ideas spawned more ideas, and soon we were moving off topic and the stories of past events came up. We finally regained our direction and focus on the better ideas. Several good ones were dissected, then reality hit and we realized we needed an economical solution using readily available equipment. Right now there is a plan to try out a cross-band repeat solution between the 147.00 and the new 442.875. That solution gives us coverage over the entire county and eliminates an issue of isolating ops on different frequencies and being unable to hear the entire set of communications. We have a radio available and Moe NT7C has built a power supply from a PC (remember Ben KF5OEB’s talk about converting PC power supplies for our use?). So it’s a plan. Of course there are always issues: keeping the cross-band repeat radio up and on line, and with the two repeaters tied together there is a delay time to be allowed between transmissions. Some preliminary testing has been done thanks to Moe, and it appears this solution may work out. Some radio configuration details are to be worked on, final equipment determined and discussion between the various parties involved need to be had. In the coming weeks we hope this solution can be finalized and we can train for our operations using this new tool. As a side note, this would also help with coverage for the Kiwanis bike rally the GCARC so faithfully supports.



So what does it take to get you stirred up to participate? Does it take a lively discussion with lots of ideas tossed up to see what sticks? Does it take using an idea discussed and stored away in the crevasses of gray matter that suddenly pops up as a solution to a problem? Is it an idea that gets you reignited about our diverse hobby and encourages you to try something out that feeds the inquiring soul in you? Does it take collusion with other like-minded operators to find a solution to a common problem?

Whatever it is that gets you going about our hobby, I hope in this new year that instead of wondering what to do, or sitting on the sidelines because you can’t find an interest, you will follow the thought of a solution, work with some like-minded ops to develop a plan and follow through on its development. What does it take? It takes you. Be involved, contribute your ideas, time and effort. I know with you involved we will find the right solutions. Enjoy our hobby and all the different ways you can contribute and ways you can learn.

Best wishes for the New Year!

73  
Rick  
K5ECX