



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

FEBRUARY 2016

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 22, No. 2

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy everyone,

Ham radio is like fishing. If you use the right bait you'll catch more fish.

You might ask yourself, "What in the world am I talking about?" Well, our special guest at the club meeting Friday evening, Gary Stone N5PHT, told us in so many words, that is exactly what happens when you are on the air. Gary was recently recognized by the ARRL for his Activation of a NPOTA (National Parks On The Air) site. Gary and his wife travel a lot in their RV and he gets on the air whenever he can during their travels. Gary activated Chickasaw National Recreation Area (RC05) in Oklahoma and made 1718 contacts during their 10 day stay. He worked every state in the US and just missed getting all 50 on CW...he only needed Wyoming.

So what bait was Gary using??? He was participating in a very, very popular Ham Radio activity this year...the NPOTA event. Thousands of hams all over the country, and the world, are wanting to make contacts with these sites, and as soon as they realized that Gary was broadcasting from one...the pile up began. He was inundated with callers.

Thank you Gary for coming to our meeting and sharing. You're welcome to attend any time you're in town.

Few of us have portable rigs or RVs to do what Gary does. If you do then you may want to consider planning such an outing. There are 484 different sites all over the US that the National Parks Administration runs that you can broadcast from. This is a great event and it is going to be a huge success.

What about the rest of us? Well, our club has some great bait too. We use a 1x1 call sign during our Special Events and thousands of hams want to contact Special Event Stations. 1X1 call signs are great bait. Hams know this is a "Special" station when you use a 1X1 call. Let me put it this way...you're on the air and you have a choice of trying to contact W5I or N5SLY...which one would you try to contact? I'll bet most of you would say...W5I.

This year our Special Events will run for 9 days each. This will give more of you the chance to get on the air and make some contacts with some great bait. Some of us will even have an open house when we are on the air so you can stop by and participate and/or learn about a new way of making contacts on the radio.

The 1st of the new Basic CW classes was held on Saturday. If you couldn't make it...it is not too late. You can still jump in and attend future classes. They are open to all. You don't have to be a member of the club or even have a license. Special thanks to James Frank, KW5CW, for hosting these classes.

We have a Helping Hams project request coming up in a few weeks. Jim McGlynn, K5QOI, has 2 antennas he needs help with installing on the chimney of his house on March 12. If you can help with this project please let me know. Email....

lee.n5sly@gmail.com.

Thanks everyone & have fun doing whatever it is you like to do with amateur radio.

Lee - N5SLY

lee.n5sly@gmail.com

CLUB INFORMATION

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 KF5NPM@GMAIL.COM
Submission Deadline:	12 midnight on the Sunday following each monthly meeting

MEETINGS

When:	3 rd Friday of each month
Time:	7:00pm (1900 hours)
Location:	Grayson County Courthouse 2 nd 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:	www.graysoncountyar.com
Webmaster:	Ben Sly KF5OEB
Facebook	www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC
Page:	

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 Monthly Meeting – February 19, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm with 22 members in attendance

- Minutes and Treasurer's Report from the Jan. meeting; were unanimously accepted
- Sadly, Alan Pierce W5ZMH passed recently; the club had gone to his house to try to get him on the air not very long ago
- Rick made some announcements about ARES
 - at the Sherman EOC, the HF antenna was cleaned and repaired, 2m/70 cm radios are operational
 - they have station at the fire department now as well
 - check the calendar for upcoming training nets
- In May we will have our first special event at Perrin Field; remember the event will now go on for 9 days (May 14-21) so members can operate from home; a sign-up sheet was passed around so we could get an idea of when people would be operating; we will be at the museum at Perrin Field on the 21st
- The first CW class was held on Feb. 20 at Grandy's, a few reminders:
 - James has created books to help guide you through the course
 - There are no prerequisites or license needed
 - Just show up! It's ok if you miss a couple classes
 - There will be a test to show your competency at the end of the course to earn your certificate
 - The meetings will be held at a variety of different places, please check the GCARC website for locations
- Gary Stone N5PHT discussed the National Parks on the Air event that is going on all this year
 - He activated at Chickasaw National Park and made 1,718 contact in 10 days on voice and CW with a wire antenna and 100 watts of power
 - Said the pile-ups to make contact with parks is massive so be prepared
 - There are 484 sites nationwide that are national parks and can be activated during the contest
 - He has a Facebook page where you can follow him as well as the Ham RVers page, a passion for him
 - Lee has a spreadsheet of the national parks so you can make and record your contacts, email him if you would be interested in a copy
- Lee will not be available for the March meeting, vice-president James Frank will run the meeting
- Meeting closed at 7:50

The next meeting will be on Friday, March 18, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Branam W5ORD
GCARC Secretary

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance as of 2.19.16 Club Meeting

Operating Fund Beginning Bal	1,180.58
Funds Received	
Dues	450.00
Donations	150.00

Less expenses	
bank fees	9.05

Operating Fund Balance	1,771.53
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** 28 Members YTD

Available Equipment Funds	86.05
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Funds Received

Less expenditures

Equipment Fund Balance	86.05
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OPERATING BUDGET

Post Office Box	0.00
Checks	0.00
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
Kiwanis/Bike Rally	250.00
Toys For Tots	100.00
<i>Total</i>	976.00

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Amount Budgeted	0
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Ending Bank Balance as of February 19, 2016 Club Meeting	1,857.58
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Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
GCARC Treasurer

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, 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@arrl.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

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 (jharmon1940@gmail.com)

Texoma Amateur Radio Association – Bi-Monthly Testing (starts March 19th)

3rd Saturday of each odd-numbered month (Mar / May / Jul / Sep / Nov) at 2:pm

The Java Stop Café, 5700 North FM 1417, Sherman TX

Contact: Dave K5YM (281) 743-7478 or k5ym@yahoo.com

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**Irving ARC Hamfest**

March 5, 2016

Betcha 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

Website: www.irvingarc.org

CW CORNER

A basic CW class this year began last weekend on February 20th. It was held at Grandy's in Sherman Texas, and there was a light turnout. I realize that it is impossible to know whether you can attend in advance and some classes you will have to miss. Even if you missed the 1st class, you can still attend.

The curriculum of the class this year does not require that everyone attend each class, as instead, there will be a short exam at the end of the course to qualify for the CW certificate sponsored by the GCARC. It should be easy for anyone to catch up. In this class, I am providing a booklet that contains all of the code material I plan to go over, and after each class, I am providing audio files to each person who attended the class and others who could not make it for that week. Remember, this class is free, and is available to anyone who wants to attend and learn CW. You do not have to be a member of the GCARC to attend.

On other CW news this month, if you want to check out CW contests, the following are CW contests that have already taken place in February, along with others that still are to take place during March. Go to the URLs displayed below and read about the contest details if you would like to participate in the contest, now and in the future.

February 2016 CW Contests

- North American Sprint, CW - Feb 7 – details can be found at www.ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
- ARRL School Club Roundup – Feb12 – details found at www.arrrl.org/school-club-roundup
- Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint – CW – Feb 13 – details found at www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt
- ARRL International DX contest – CW – Feb 21 – details found at www.arrrl.org/arrrl-dx
- CQC Winter QSO Sprint – Feb 22 – details found at <http://www.cqc.org/contests/winter16.htm>

March 2016 CW Contests

- Wake-Up! QRP Sprint – March 5 – details found at www.qrp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng
This is an interesting Russian QRP CW contest.
- UBA Spring Contest, CW – March 6 – details found at www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules/spirnt-contest
This is an interesting Belgium Contest.
- Telsa Memorial HF CW Contest – March 13 – details found at www.radiosport.org.rs/HFTeslaMemorial
- QCWA QSO Party – March 13 – details found at www.qcwa.org/2016-qso-party-rules.pdf
- SKCC Sprint – March 23 – details found at www.skccgroup.com
This is a straight key contest event.

- FOC QSO Party – March 26 – details found at www.g4foc.org/qsoparty

If you have any interest in CW, you owe it to yourself to at least attend one CW class to see if this mode can be for you. If you can't make it this coming weekend on February 27th, the next class would be on March 12th. Classes will be running through the end of April. I urge anyone reading this article to give this CW course a try, especially if you have been wondering what CW operation could be like. Since you have the privileges, give it a try!

James Frank KW5CW
GCARC Vice President

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: Kenwood TS-440S

Kenwood TS-440S in like new condition. Includes microphone.
Asking \$350.00 but will consider offers.

Contact: Joe Denney WD5JME
Phone: (903) 819-5843

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

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

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:

Jim McGlynn K5QOI	Needs help installing a 2 meter beam yagi and 2 meter vertical at his home. Work scheduled for Saturday, March 12 . Contact: Jim 903-436-1270. Both antennas will be mounted on his chimney.	1921 Southridge Ln, Sherman
Bennie K5DIZ	Antenna install	Sherman
Mike Bernier KF5NPM	Needs help installing a 2m/70cm J-pole and a 2.4GHz omni, grounding cables, and lightning arrestors. Also HF antenna adjustments. Schedule in the spring. Note: steep roof.	1114 W Sears St, Denison
Bob Sholl W5DSA	Needs help with a rotator on a 100' tower. Will probably be scheduled for the spring.	Davy Ln, Denison

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

FCC Seeks Comments on Petition to Grant Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

The FCC is seeking comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM 11760](#)) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise § 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10 year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload.

"It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime, Krotz said in his filing. "The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs."

In 2014 the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2.

Individuals may [submit](#) comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Texas to Host U.S. ARDF Championships in April

The US championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) return to the Lone Star State this April. Sponsored by Texas ARDF and the Austin Orienteering Club ([AOC](#)) the events will take place April 7-10 near Killeen, Texas. On-foot foxhunting fans of all skill levels will gather for 4 days of intense competition. The primary site will be the Parrie Haynes C5 Youth Ranch and Equestrian Center.



National ARDF championships typically take place in the late summer or early fall, but because the ARDF World Championships in Bulgaria take place in early September this year, the national event is being held in April to provide plenty of time for the selection of Team USA members and to make travel arrangements.

An optional training day just prior to the championships on Wednesday, April 6, will feature an 80 meter short course. Thursday, April 7, will be devoted to [foxoring](#), a combination of radio direction finding and classic orienteering on 80 meters. Friday morning will be the formal 80 meter [sprint](#) event, followed by a catered lunch, competitor meeting, and model event for equipment testing.

Classic 2 meter and 80 meter competitions will take place on Saturday and Sunday, respectively. An awards banquet on Saturday evening will feature the presentation of medals for the foxoring, sprint, and 2 meter classic events. Awards for the 80 meter classic event will be given Sunday afternoon, immediately following the competition.

Lead organizers, event hosts, and course planners are Jennifer and Kenneth Harker, W5JEN and WM5R. They have competed at the USA Championships almost every year since 2003 and have won numerous medals. They represented USA at the ARDF World Championships in 2008, 2010, and 2014. Assisting them will be members of the Austin Orienteering Club.

[ARDF championship rules](#) are set by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). For scoring and awards, participants are divided into 11 [age/gender categories](#). In the classic ARDF events, competitors start in small groups made up of different categories. As they seek hidden transmitters, they navigate through the forest from the starting corridor to the finish line – a distance of anywhere from 4 to 10 kilometers. They plot their direction-finding bearings on orienteering maps that show terrain features, elevation contours, and vegetation type.

The USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone who can safely navigate the woods by themselves. A ham radio license is *not* required. Each participant competes as an individual; any teamwork or GPS use is forbidden. Competitors bring their own direction-finding gear to the events, although extra gear is sometimes available for loan from other attendees. Competitors may not transmit on the course, except in emergencies.

The US ARDF Championships are an ideal opportunity to watch and learn from the best radio-orienteers in the US and from around the world. Stateside winners of the US championships will be considered for membership in ARDF Team USA, which will travel to Albena, Bulgaria for the [18th ARDF World Championships](#). A maximum of three competitors in each age/gender category may be on a nation's team.

The [Texas ARDF](#) website includes the schedule, technical details, and sites, plus details about transportation, lodging, site embargoes, tourism, weather, and much more. An [e-mail reflector](#) is available for Q&A with the organizers as well as to coordinate transportation and arrange equipment loans.

[Basic information](#) on international-style transmitter hunting is on the "Homing In" Web site, including rules and signal parameters. This site includes equipment ideas for [2 meters](#) and [80 meters](#), plus photos from previous championships. Information about the [Amateur Radio Direction Finding Fund](#) is on the ARRL website.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

New Amateur Extra Question Pool Puts Greater Emphasis on Digital, SDRs, Propagation

The new Amateur Extra class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2020, now is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators ([NCVEC](#)) website. The latest revision contains a few minor corrections that had been released in a February 5 errata of the initial January 8 release. NCVEC Question Pool

Committee Chair Rol Anders, K3RA, said the new pool represents a fairly significant change relative to the current question pool, which expires on June 30.

“The primary change is modernization of the pool to place more emphasis on digital communications, digital test equipment, software defined radios, and propagation/space weather,” he said. “Also, a number of other topics were added, including questions on some additional antenna types commonly used by radio amateurs.” Anders said that room to cover the new topics was made in the question pool by dropping some questions that had been in the expiring pool.

“Many of the questions removed were on topics which were felt to be of less importance to the current amateur population,” he said. “However, there was also some ‘evening out’ of difficulty in the removal of a number of questions felt to be inappropriately easy or difficult relative to the rest of the pool.” As a result, he said, the net number of questions grew from 700 to 712 questions.

All questions in the expiring pool were re-evaluated for possible clarification or improvement, and approximately 60 questions were slightly modified.

“All in all, the Question Pool Committee has worked to keep the Amateur Extra class exam up to date, to provide a high-quality examination, and to ensure that the incoming Extra class amateurs are well-qualified to be leaders in the hobby,” Anders said.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Presidential Signing Creates a New National Parks on the Air Unit

President Barack Obama has designated three new national monuments -- all of them in the California desert -- through the Antiquities Act. The National Park Service will administer one of them, [Castle Mountains National Monument](#) (MN82), making it eligible to become the newest new National Parks on the Air ([NPOTA](#)) unit. The nearly 21,000 acre tract became the 484th NPOTA unit as of February 12.

Castle Mountains National Monument is surrounded on three sides by another NPOTA unit -- the Mojave National Preserve (PV13).

“It connects water flow and wildlife corridors of the Preserve, and completes the boundary of the Preserve along the California-Nevada border,” the White House [said](#). The other national monuments created were Sand to Snow National Monument, and Mojave Trails National Monument. The three new national monuments comprise approximately 1.8 million acres.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

ARRL Signs New Memorandum of Understanding with the American Red Cross

The ARRL and the American Red Cross have signed a new *Memorandum of Understanding* ([MoU](#)). The document, signed in January, succeeds one agreed to in 2010; it will remain in place for the next 5 years. The MoU spells out how Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers will interface with the Red Cross in the event that ARES teams are asked by the Red Cross to assist in a disaster or emergency response.

“Whenever there is a disaster requiring the use of Amateur Radio communications resources and/or facilities, the local Red Cross region or chapter may request the assistance of the local ARES organization responsible for the jurisdiction of the scene of the



disaster,” the *MoU* provides. Such assistance would include mobilization of ARES personnel in accordance with a prearranged plan, and the establishment of communication as necessary during a disaster or emergency. “Both ARRL volunteers and American Red Cross workers will work cooperatively at the scene of a disaster and in the disaster recovery, within the scope of their respective roles and duties” within the scope of the *MoU*, the agreement says.

Generally, the *MoU* sets the parameters of the partnership between the ARRL and the Red Cross to provide assistance to communities affected by disasters. It calls upon both organizations to encourage and maintain open lines of communication at the state and local levels, sharing current data regarding disasters, situational and operational reports, changes in policy or personnel, and any information pertaining to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

For its part, the League will encourage ARES units to engage in discussions with local Red Cross entities to develop plans for local response or disaster relief operations. The Red Cross will encourage its field units to engage in discussions with the ARRL Field Organization to develop plans for local response or disaster relief.

Facilitating this is a *Statement of Cooperation* to provide methods of cooperation between the two organizations on the local level in providing services to communities during or after a disaster event, “as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial.” The ARRL signatory is either the appropriate ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator.

The new *MoU* also clarifies that ARES volunteers assisting the Red Cross but not registered as Red Cross volunteers do not have to undergo a prior background check. Radio amateurs who register as Red Cross volunteers, though, must abide by the Red Cross’s background check requirement.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

University Radio Club Donates Vintage J-37 Key to B-29 Radio Position Restoration

The [Amateur Radio Club of the University of Arkansas](#) (W5YM), which celebrates its centennial this year, has donated a J-37 telegraph key to be used in a radio position under restoration onboard “Fifi,” a World War II vintage B-29 Superfortress. Members of the Rockwell-Collins Amateur Radio Club have been recreating a radio operator’s position on the aircraft.

“It’s a grand addition to ‘Fifi’s’ restored radio operating position,” the restoration team noted on its website. “Many thanks to the 100-year-young University of Arkansas Amateur Radio Club W5YM and Dan Puckett, K5FXB, for facilitating this most thoughtful, generous and historic commemorative donation.”

The J-37 was nicknamed the “Mae West” key after the 1930s-1940s comic actress for its unusual base with its curvy indentations, designed for wrapping the key’s lead for storage. The J-37 will be a component of the Smith-Erwin Memorial Radio Operator Position onboard the still-flying B-29 aircraft.



J-37 key donated by W5YM

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 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

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.

AREA REPEATERS

Sherman TX	147.000+ MHz (100.0 PL) 147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL) 444.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT W5COP W5RVT	Gainesville TX	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI
Allen TX	145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	Kingston OK	146.085- MHz (103.5 PL) (currently out of service)	K5BQC
Bonham TX	145.470- MHz (100.0 PL) 147.200+ MHz (100.0 PL) 443.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	K5FRC K5FRC K5FRC	McKinney TX	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
Denison TX	145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH	Melissa TX	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
Durant OK	147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL) 147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL) (currently out of service)	K5KIE K5CGE	Paris TX	146.760- MHz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD
			Rosston TX	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
			Van Alstyne TX	443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
			Whitesboro TX	442.875+ MHz (100.0 PL)	

GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC

So, What's Going On With ARES?

I'll begin with a few ARES calendar items and see where this goes.

First the Tech class, held after SKYWARN training is coming up Feb. 27th out at Grayson College on FM 691 at the Center for Workplace Learning. The first day is a half day introduction beginning at 8:30, then on the 19th of March the full day class begins at 8:30 and ends late afternoon with the testing session. Contact Moe, NT7C@arrrl.net for more info. He has several folks interested so it ought to be a great class.

Speaking of SKYWARN, if you attended and want it recorded as part of your ARES training (and yes you do as it is recurrent), please send the required document to wade.graves@gmail.com. The training sheet you received has instructions to secure the form on the bottom right corner. There were about 50 hams in attendance and about 148 persons in total, a great crowd for the NWS program which gave us both Basic and Advanced training.



Our Net schedule will be normal for the next two ARES nets, then we will break for Easter Sunday with no net that Sunday. We will be addressing Information Officer duties and your "information" duties as an operator on the next net and then move our focus for the next ones to SKYWARN SOP and Reporting Criteria in preparation for spring weather.

Ours efforts to raise funds for ARES operations has had some success thanks to your support through Amazon Smile. The deposit this quarter was a tad over \$38. Your Christmas shopping helped a great deal. We will have expenses coming up soon for web hosting, and this will help. We have also received several donations with help from Shipman Communications and several local governmental entities as radio systems are upgraded and equipment becomes obsolete for continued use in Law enforcement and governmental arenas. We are working with vendors and web resources to sell cavities, Motorola repeaters, cabinets, digital phones and associated equipment that can be repurposed for ham frequencies. We also have two tower removals to do for SK families, so be looking for those events as they become appropriate to do.

Work has been ongoing at the renovated Sherman EOC in the PD building. Thanks to Tom Brown and Bob Fair the Sherman City EM leaders, we have a really nice operating position in the EOC. It is equipped with a Kenwood TM-V71, D700 and an ICOM HF rig, associated power supplies and UPS equipment. There is room for a laptop and desk space for a couple of persons to function. Several folks have helped on a couple of work sessions. Currently Mark KF5UZW and Ben KF5OEB have the HF antenna down for servicing. As with any station there is always some tweaking and that will be done as needed. This give us a total of 4 operating locations around the county: Sherman FD, Sherman PD, Grayson County EOC and Denison FD. Flexibility in locations and equipment really help our team be more capable with multiple stations at the ready.

Your AEC team met Tuesday the 23rd to review current training and plan thru summer and early fall. If you have questions about ARES please check out the website at <http://www.tecoares.org/> or drop me a note.

As you can see the team is busy, there are chances to operate and ways to help out. We have some plans simmering to create some needed equipment and as those come together you will have a chance to get your hands and minds involved.

Stay tuned up and On the Air,

73
Rick
K5ECX