



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

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APRIL 2016

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 22, No. 4

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## THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy everyone,

I'm really looking forward to all of the club activities coming up during this next month.

We will finish our Basic CW training class on April 23. Final testing will be conducted. It has been very challenging for me, but also very rewarding. I actually know my ABCs and numbers now. The hardest part for me is copying 13 words per minute. That has been a major challenge. But as long as I stay focused and practice, practice, practice, I'll get there. You definitely have to want to do this if you're going to learn it.

Also on April 23, Jim, K5QOI, will be doing some experimenting with NVIS antennas out at Herman Baker Park in Sherman. You can read more about that in Jim's article later in the Newsletter.

The BIG club activity in May will be our Perrin Field Special Event. At our meeting on Friday we were honored to have Mr. Charlie Brown of the Perrin Field Museum give us a presentation about the Museum and Perrin Air Force Base. Rick, K5ECX, has been busy updating the club's QRZ page with the latest information. It will be ready shortly and we should direct the folks that we contact during the Special Event to [www.qrz.com/db/k5gcc](http://www.qrz.com/db/k5gcc) for QSL information. Complete details about this event are on the following pages.

At this time there are two of us that are willing to have visitors come by our shacks while we are operating during the Special Event. If you don't have a HF rig you can use, and want to come by to get some on the air time or learn a new mode of operation please contact...

Lee Sly, N5SLY, at 903-818-7463, or email [lee.n5sly@gmail.com](mailto:lee.n5sly@gmail.com) ...or  
Dan Barnes, AG5AZ, email [dfbarnes4@hotmail.com](mailto:dfbarnes4@hotmail.com)

We are taking orders for club shirts, hats and jackets this month. If you would like to order anything get your orders in by May 20. Order form on the last page of the Newsletter.

I am also very happy to report that we have a newly appointed position in the club. Tim Branam, N5SWG, has been appointed Club Librarian. Tim is in the process of gathering up all of the books and periodicals that the club has collected over the years and making them available to any club member to use. If you have any old books related to Amateur Radio you would like to donate to the club Tim is the guy to contact. Hopefully by our next meeting he'll have some information to share with us about the Club's Library.

Busy month. But I'm looking forward to a lot of fun, and I hope that each of you will take advantage of the club activities you're interested in.

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:	Mike Bernier KF5NPM
To submit news or e-mail changes:	Send E-Mail to <a href="mailto:KF5NPM@GMAIL.COM">KF5NPM@GMAIL.COM</a>
Submission	12 midnight on the Sunday
Deadline:	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.graysoncountyarcc.com">www.graysoncountyarcc.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 – April 15, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Lee Sly N5SLY at 7:03 pm. 19 members and guests in attendance.

President Lee welcomed all new members and guests before presenting the Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report for March 2016 to be accepted. Ben Sly KF5OEB made the motion to accept and it was seconded by Brad McMillon KE5UMJ. Motion passed.

#### Old Business:

- Reviewed and updated signups for Net Control for the Sunday night nets.
- Reviewed and updated the signup sheet for those hosting an open house during a special events.
- The member roster will be made available to any member requesting a copy, but it will not be published in the newsletter.

#### New Business:

- Anyone interested in ordering club shirts, hats, or jackets, the order forms (available in the newsletter), will be collected along with payment no later than the May meeting on 5/20/16. Clothing should be ready for pickup just before ARRL Field Day in June.
- Perrin Special Event Field Day on site will be 5/21/16. Setup is at 9:00 and we plan to be on the air by 10:00 a.m. Hamburgers & hot dogs will be provided by the club for lunch.
- ARRL Field Day will again be held at Sherman Municipal Airport on June 25-26

Special guest Charlie Brown of the Perrin Air Force Base Historical Museum gave a presentation on the creation of Perrin Air Force Base and how the Perrin AFB Historical Museum came about. He ended his presentation by inviting the club to hold our special event at the museum again this year.

Jim McGlynn K5QOI gave a short overview of NVISkywave. More information will be provided in the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be on Friday, May 20, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Sammons KF5TDP, GCARC Treasurer  
for Stacy Branam W5ORD, GCARC Secretary

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## GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

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Bank Balance as of 4.15.16 Club Meeting

Operating Fund Beginning Bal	1,835.53
Funds Received	
Dues	80.00
Patches	0.00

Less expenses	
Online Bank Fee	0.88

Operating Fund Balance	1,914.65
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\*\* 39 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	0.00
<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
ARRL 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>	880.00

### EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Amount Budgeted	0
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Ending Bank Balance as of April 15, 2016 Club Meeting	2,000.70
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Sheila Sammons KF5TDP  
GCARC Treasurer

**Grayson County ARC**  
**Perrin Field Special Event Station**  
**Call Sign - W5I**

**Who:** All club members can participate using their own stations

**What & Why:** Celebrating & commemorating Perrin Field Museum, Perrin Air Force Base & Armed Forces Day

**When:** May 14, 2016 0000Z – May 22, 2016 2359Z (7:00 PM May 13 – 7:00 PM May 22)

**Where:** Club members can operate from their own stations every day of the event. The Club will set up at the Perrin Museum in Denison on Saturday, May 21 from 10 AM until 4 PM. We will provide lunch for club members, museum staff and visitors.

Information Links

Perrin Field Museum website: <http://perrinafbhistoricalmuseum.org/>

Perrin Air Force Base history: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perrin\\_Air\\_Force\\_Base](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perrin_Air_Force_Base)

Armed Forces Day information: <http://afd.defense.gov/>

Club members may operate on any band and use any mode; however, they must follow the band plan for the License they hold (i.e. a Technician class cannot use General class bands).

All contacts must be logged properly. Members can log contacts any way they want to on a computer or using a paper log. However, logs must include the following:

- Member's Name and Call Sign...only need once per log
- Call sign of person contacted
- Date
- Time (must be Zulu time)
- Frequency
- Mode
- Signal report

All logs must be sent to QSL Manager Lee Sly N5SLY at the end of the event. Email [lee.n5sly@gmail.com](mailto:lee.n5sly@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\* ADI files of computer logs would be appreciated \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\* If submitting a paper log, please write so anyone can read it \*\*\*\*\*

Some club members will have an Open House while they are operating so visitors can participate as well. These Open Houses are a chance to learn and participate on a new band or mode you haven't been able to use before. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. These Open House events will be published before and during the event. Watch your email & social media for the current opportunities.

### **Suggestions for your QSO**

CQ CQ CQ this is W5I Whiskey Five India Special Event Station calling CQ and standing by

Call sign this is W5I. Thank you for answering my call. We are celebrating and commemorating Perrin Field Museum, Perrin Air Force Base and Armed Forces Day...a triple play Special Event. You are 59 into Grayson County Texas. QSL?

When they come back you may want ask for their name and QTH if they didn't provide it. Make it personal. Make the contact feel special and glad that they contacted you. Answer any questions they may have.

Also, very important, make sure you have their call sign correct. If you are not sure, ask the contact to verify. Don't hesitate to ask multiple times if needed. If the call sign is not correct the QSO means nothing!

End with something like this...

Call sign this is W5I. Our QSL info is available at [www.qrz.com/db/k5gcc](http://www.qrz.com/db/k5gcc). Thank you for stopping by today and 73. This is W5I QRZ?

Digital and CW modes are slightly different, but not much. All the same information is exchanged. What is needed for a successful QSO is....

- Call sign of the station that called
- Date
- Time...Zulu time only!
- Frequency
- Mode
- Signal report...really only important during contests. This is not a contest.

So the only thing you really have to get right is the call sign. Everything else you should have.

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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>

### Special Activity

#### **NVIS Antenna Day**

April 23, 2016 10:00am-4:00pm

Herman Baker Park, Sherman TX

Contact: Jim McGlynn K5QOI (903) 436-1270

### GCARC Events

#### **Perrin Field Special Event Station (Armed Forces Day)**

May 21, 2016 (setup 9:00am, on air 10:00am)

Perrin AFB Museum, North Texas Regional Airport-Perrin Field, Denison TX

The club will operate a special event station at the Perrin AFB Museum using the callsign W5I during Armed Forces Day. Specific bands and modes TBA

#### **ARRL Field Day**

Setup: June 25, 2016 9:00am

Operating: June 25, 2016 1:00pm through June 26, 2016 4:00pm

Sherman Municipal Airport Terminal Building, 1200 S. Dewey Ave., Sherman TX

Specific bands and modes TBA

### 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>

## **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@arrl.net](mailto:nt7c@arrl.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 ([jharmon1940@gmail.com](mailto:jharmon1940@gmail.com))

### **Texoma Amateur Radio Association – Bi-Monthly Testing**

3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:wa0urj@yahoo.com)) to schedule a session

## **Hamfests**

### **Ham-Com**

June 10-11, 2016 (Friday and Saturday 8:00am-5:00pm)  
VE Testing: TBA  
Irving Convention Center, 500 W Las Colinas Blvd, Irving TX  
Talk-In: 146.720 (110.9 PL)  
Public Contact: Jim McClellan N5MIJ (214) 934-9916 or [commercial@hamcom.org](mailto:commercial@hamcom.org)  
Website: [www.hamcom.org](http://www.hamcom.org)

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## **SPECIAL ACTIVITY**

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### **NVIS Antenna Day – April 23, 2016**

Ohio ARES groups are setting up a day to experiment with NVIS communications on April 23, 2016 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm local time in the state. Twelve Anchor stations will be operating, covering the entire state. The activity is designed to contact as many of the anchor stations with several antennas types to determine the best antenna that covers a specific area. The stations should use only 100 watts and will be using 40 meters SSB. The frequencies covered will be 7240 to 7290 Khz.

A group of local amateur radio operators will be operating from Herman Baker Park in Sherman, TX at the same time to test NVIS antennas and to support Ohio NVIS Day. HF frequencies using NVIS type antennas will cover a regional area fairly well. If you would like to participate in this non-contest event feel free to come out or to setup and test NVIS antennas at home.

For more info on NVIS Ohio Antenna Day go to:

<http://ohiohams.net/?q=node/35>

For more info on NVIS go to:

<http://www.arrl.org/nvis>

73

Jim McGlynn K5QOI  
903.436.1270



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## CW CORNER

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I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has attended the 2nd CW Class sponsored by our club. We are just a few days away from the final class that will commence this Saturday, April 23rd beginning at 9:00AM. At the end of this upcoming class, there will be a short quiz to test your ability to copy code. I appreciate everyone's effort to excel in this class, along with attending these class sessions early on Saturday mornings. The purpose of the quiz will be for you to gauge yourself on your ability to copy code, and to qualify for the 2nd GCARC CW Certificate that will be available to those who pass the quiz. It will consist of a short QSO, and contain 3 questions. Students who have attended this class should be aware of what those questions will be. This class was designed to be fun, but also an accelerated effort to learn the code in a short period of time. Also, before the end of class, everyone will have a chance to use the Bencher paddle and to experience the mechanics of the device.

CW certificates will be handed out at the next club meeting on May 20th. If for any reason you have difficulty with the quiz, I will be available to assist anyone who needs the extra help. There are reasons why you may need the extra help. One may be that you just did not have enough time to practice and copy the test sessions that you have already received. Preparation is key to any quiz. I realize that amateur radio, especially this CW class is NOT a top priority in our lives and time seems to fly by so fast. Those who are unable to attend the final class on April 23rd, or had difficulty with the quiz after the final class and make the special effort to work with me after the class on a one-on-one basis to prove their ability to copy code, can still qualify for the next certificate. Remember, if you only attended one class, but can answer the 3 questions in the short quiz, can qualify you for the certificate. With this said, students of the class will also receive a few more emails containing practice sessions to study before the last class.

My hope is that everyone attain a positive experience from attending this basic class, and would help 'break the ice' to promote you to make that 1st CW QSO on the air. If interest continues and prior students who had attended my class can copy CW and want to further excel in their ability to copy CW, I will provide an 'Intermediate Class course'. With the present schedule of activities within the club for the rest of this year, most likely this next course may have to wait until the Spring of 2017. This possibility can be discussed at one of our upcoming club meetings. The only qualification for that next class will be that you will already be able to copy code between 10 and 13WPM, provide proof that you have successfully completed a CW QSO on the air, and get through a short quiz at the beginning of that class, similar to the quiz you will take on April 23rd. Also, you can attend the 'Intermediate Class Course' even if you did not attend the 'Basic Class Course'. This means that any amateur radio operator, regardless if you are a member of the GCARC or not, can attend that course by taking that short quiz, so pass this along to others that you may know even if they are not be a member of the GCARC.

Also before I forget to mention, I can and will provide a CW station that can be used for CW operation next Field Day. My hope is that people volunteer to work it. This can also be discussed at an upcoming club meeting in preparation for Field Day that happens this year on June 25th and June 26th.

Because of my vacation schedule, I was unable to attend our last monthly club meeting, but I look forward in attending the next meeting to hand out certificates to those who have qualified after this last class.

**Remember, our last class will commence this Saturday – April 23 - 9:00AM, at the Grayson County Court House.**

73,  
James Frank - KW5CW  
GCARC Vice President

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

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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: 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](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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## NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

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### **Lack of Power Stymies Amateur Radio Post-Earthquake Aid in Ecuador**

In the wake of the April 16 earthquake in Ecuador, International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 Emergency Coordinator Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK, reported on April 20 that he has spoken with Lorenzo Lertora, HC2BP, the president of the Guayaquil Radio Club – Ecuador’s IARU member society. The Amateur Radio community has been asked to keep 7.060 MHz clear for any emergency traffic. The 7.8 magnitude earthquake resulted in dozens of deaths and many more injuries. Most earthquake damage has occurred in the Guayaquil (HC2) and Portoviejo/Manta (HC4) areas of Ecuador.

“He described the situation as very difficult,” Santoyo recounted. “There is no electric power in HC4, the earthquake zone, so the radio amateurs there have not been able to get on the air.” Santoyo said he learned that the president of Manabí Radio Club was among those losing their homes as a result of the earthquake.

Radio amateurs are attempting to make do in a difficult situation, Santoyo said. Electrical power and commercial telecommunication systems have been either destroyed or knocked out in the affected area, and hams in the HC4 district were reported earlier to be operating mobile stations or using battery power.

Santoyo reported some “tense moments” between the government responders and the radio amateurs because of the “many inefficiencies” they are finding while trying to help.

“He [Lertora] didn’t comment on this morning’s 6.1 magnitude aftershock,” he added.

Santoyo said he is hoping to hear more as the situation begins to improve in the earthquake zone.

Some structures in Portoviejo and Manta suffered severe damage, leaving many victims buried in the rubble of collapsed buildings and homes. Many roads have been rendered impassable because of earthquake rubble.

The Cadena HC emergency net was reported operating continuously on 7.060 LSB. Hams in Ecuador have been reported very busy coordinating search-and-rescue activities.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

### **On-the-Air Activity to Highlight International Marconi Day on April 23**

Around-the-world Amateur Radio activity will mark the 29th annual International Marconi Day ([IMD](#)), a 24-hour event held annually to celebrate the anniversary of wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi's birth on April 25, 1874. IMD is observed each year on a Saturday close to Marconi’s birthday, and this year it will be observed on Saturday, April 23, with many special event stations on the air – some operating from Marconi-related sites that count as points towards the Marconi Award. Certificates are available for both transmitting stations and shortwave listeners (SWLs).

The event is not a contest; it is an opportunity for amateurs around the world to make point-to-point contact with historic Marconi sites using HF communication techniques similar to those used by Marconi, and to earn an award certificate for working or hearing a requisite number of Marconi stations.

International Marconi Day special event station GB4IMD will operate from Cornwall, helmed by members of the Cornish Amateur Radio Club, which organizes the IMD event. International Marconi Day 2016 has been dedicated to Norman Pascoe, G4USB (SK), one of the event's founders, who died in February. Cornwall was home to some of Marconi's early work. GK3MPD will be on the air from the inventor's Poldhu site.

The [Kerry Amateur Radio Group](#) in Ireland will be among those taking part as an Award Station in this year's International Marconi Day event. The station will be set up on the site of the former Marconi Station at Ballybunnion by the Expeditionary Radio Team of the radio club. Two HF stations are planned, and special event call sign EI6YXQ will commemorate the original YXQ that the Marconi Station at Ballybunnion used.

Radio amateurs in Norfolk, England, will once again be active from Caister Lifeboat as part of the International Marconi Day celebrations. The Norfolk Amateur Radio Club ([NARC](#)) will be on the air from special event station GB0CMS from the Caister Lifeboat Visitor Centre to commemorate the village's original Marconi wireless station, established in 1900. The station's original purpose was to communicate with ships in the North Sea and the Cross Sands lightship. During last year's IMD, the radio amateurs contacted stations in 36 countries.

While it's not part of the official International Marconi Day activities, an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) school contact in England will take place on April 23, and the Marconi observance will prompt the initial question to ISS crew member Tim Peake, KG5BVI. Twelve-year-old Benny plans to ask, "Today is International Marconi Day; how do you think Marconi would feel about this radio communication?"

Other IMD sites with historical links to the inventor's work include Cape Cod, Massachusetts (WA1WCC); Glace Bay, Nova Scotia (VE1IMD); Villa Griffone, Bologna, Italy (IY4FGM), Signal Hill, St Johns, Newfoundland (VO1AA), and many others.

A Facebook [page](#) is also available.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## US ARDF Champions Now Looking Toward September World Championships in Bulgaria

The [results](#) of the United States 16th [national championships](#) of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF), held earlier this month in Central Texas, are now in the record books. Stateside winners of these championships, as well as medalists from the 2015 [championships](#) in Colorado, are being considered for ARDF Team USA, which will travel to Albena, Bulgaria, for the 18th [ARDF World Championships](#) in September.

"The categories for men between over age 40 and women over age 60 already have a full slate of team candidates," ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, said, adding that "uncontested openings" on Team USA exist for younger men and women. A maximum of three competitors in each age/gender category may be on a nation's team.

Moell said ARDF fans came to Texas from all over the US to see who was best at finding radio transmitters hidden in the woods. An optional training day kicked things off on April 6. The next day was devoted to [foxoring](#), a combination of radio direction finding and classic orienteering on 80 meters. Friday, April 8, was the formal 80 meter [sprint](#) event. Classic 2 meter and 80 meter competitions took place Saturday and Sunday, respectively.



Category winners of gold medals were (in alphabetical order): Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI (M40 2 meters, 80 meters); Dick Arnett, WB4SUV (M70 2 meters); Natalia Bondarenko (W35 sprint); Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG (W60 2 meters, sprint, foxor); Bob Cooley, KF6VSE (M70 80 meters, sprint, foxor); Joseph Huberman, K5JGH (M60 2 meters, sprint, foxor); Lori Huberman (W21 2 meters, 80 meters, sprint, foxor); Dale Hunt, WB6BYU (M60 80 meters); Illia Ivanko (M21 2 meters, 80 meters); Iurii Kolesnykov (M50 foxor); Karla Leach, KC7BLA (W60 80 meters); Norbert Linke (M21 sprint,

foxor); Nicolai Mejevoi (M50 2 meters, 80 meters, sprint); Alla Mezhevaya (W35 2meters, 80 meters, foxor); Patrick Sears, AK4JE (M40 foxor); Evghenii Vorsin (M40 sprint) and Zhonghao Xu (M19 sprint).

Lead organizers, hosts, and course planners for the event were Jennifer and Kenneth Harker, W5JEN and WM5R, who are veteran ARDF competitors and medalists. Members of the Austin Orienteering Club assisted. The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) sets ARDF championship rules. Participants are divided into 11 [age/gender categories](#).

In classic ARDF events, competitors start in small groups composed of different categories, just as the first transmitter comes on the air each cycle. “As they seek the hidden transmitters, they navigate through the forest from the starting corridor to the finish line, a distance of 4 to 10 kilometers,” Moell explained. “They plot their direction-finding bearings on orienteering maps that show terrain features, elevation contours, and vegetation type.”

[Contact](#) Moell for more information on ARDF and on attending or participating in the World Championships this September in Bulgaria. Moell stressed that ARDF participants do not need an Amateur Radio license. Visit Moell’s [Homing In](#) website for additional information on ARDF.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## **Voice of America Antenna Farm in North Carolina Levelled**

A field of 48 antenna towers that the Voice of America (VOA) once used to broadcast around the world was dropped by explosives on April 4. The VOA had not used the towers, located in Beaufort County, North Carolina, for 10 years, although it still broadcasts news and information to Latin America, Cuba, the Caribbean and Africa from towers in a nearby county. According to news reports, it took less than 1 minute to fell the towers, which were hauled away as scrap. They had been in place for 50 years.

Television station WITN said the VOA site has been sold to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for conservation.

See the towers go down in this WITN-TV [news report](#).

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## **ARRL MW Experiment Coordinator Sees Ongoing Research Role After Hams Gain 472-479 kHz**

The coordinator of the [600 Meter Experimental Group](#), Fritz Raab, W1FR, said this week that he sees an ongoing role for medium frequency (MF) experimentation, even after Amateur Radio gains access to the new 630 meter band (472-479 kHz). An *FCC Report and Order* authorizing Amateur Radio access to 2200 meters (135.7-137.8 kHz) and 630 meters is anticipated soon. In his 1st quarterly report for 2016 on the WD2XSH Experimental license work, Raab said that once the new 630 meter ham band is in place, he expects ARRL experiment participants to pursue work in that part of the spectrum under their Amateur Radio licenses. But, he said that more MF research remains, and he would recommend continuing work under the WD2XSH Experimental a while longer, shifting focus to 461 to 472 kHz.

“This will clear the amateur frequencies, while allowing the experimenters to run unattended propagation beacons without using the limited bandwidth that will be available to amateurs.” The current WD2XSH [Part 5 Experimental](#) license does not expire until 2020. A substantial community of Amateur Radio operators already conduct experiments using their own FCC Part 5 licenses in the low frequency (LF) and MF spectrum, in addition to the WD2XSH experiment.

Raab this week suggested several possibilities for expanded experimental work in the vicinity of 630 meters without cluttering the limited 7 kHz of spectrum in the soon-to-be-authorized amateur band. Among other things, he envisions work using wider-bandwidth modulation protocols, the use of higher power than the 1 W EIRP expected to be authorized for the new ham band, and commemorative transmissions.

“Eventually, this operation might show that the amateur allocation could be expanded or allowed to use more power,” Raab said.

Elsewhere in his quarterly report, Raab said participation in the February 5-6 end-of-season “Activity Weekend” exceeded expectations, with “a great deal of activity both nights.” This winter’s event followed in the wake of a similar one last fall. “In contrast to the emphasis on CW and historical operations in November, all modes of operation were encouraged,” Raab said. “We were again joined by amateurs in Canada and the Maritime Radio Historical Society ([MRHS](#)). The Canadian amateurs were able to make a number of cross-band QSOs with both US [experimental stations] and Canadian amateurs.”

Raab said the most popular operating modes were CW, QRSS, *JT9*, and *WSPR*. Conditions were “generally good” the first evening, but deteriorated on the second evening of the activity.

Some, but not all, of the participating experimental stations were part of the ARRL Experiment; others taking part included operators who have obtained their own Part 5 licenses to operate in the MF spectrum. Canada already has authorized the use of 472-479 kHz for Amateur Radio, and several Canadian stations – from Newfoundland to British Columbia – were on the air for the February Activity Night.

Some highlights:

- WG2XJM in Pennsylvania, using an MOPA (master oscillator, power amplifier) transmitter with an output of only 7 W (estimated 0.6 W EIRP) contacted WG2XIQ in Texas.
- ZF1FJ in the Cayman Islands reported receiving WD2XSH/15, WG2XIQ, WG2XKA, WG2XPJ, WH2XGP, and WI2XPQ.
- WH2XCR in Hawaii was received by JA1NQI-2.
- WH2XCR and VK3ELV heard each other on *WSPR*.

According to Raab’s quarterly report, a total 578 contacts have been logged by WD2XSH Experiment participants. There have been no reports of interference on either 630 meters or 2200 meters.

The FCC [proposed](#) in April 2015 to permit Amateur Radio access to 2200 and 630 meters. Recently, the ARRL [urged](#) the FCC not to adopt “an overbroad” requirement for notification of utilities in advance of intended Amateur Radio operation on the pending 2200 and 630 meter bands. Radio amateurs in several countries already have permission to use the 630 meter band. They are Germany, Greece, Malta, Monaco, Norway, the Philippines, Czech Republic, Ireland, Switzerland, New Zealand, Finland, Spain, France, Poland, Bulgaria, Canada, Vietnam, Japan, Cayman Islands, and La Reunion Island.

The Japan Amateur Radio League ([JARL](#)) is offering new awards for contacting or receiving 10 or more stations on 2200 meters (135.7-137.8 kHz) and 630 meters, as confirmed by QSL card. There are endorsements for confirming additional stations.

[More details](#) about LF and MF operating are available on the website of MF and LF enthusiast John Langridge, KB5NJD/WG2XIQ.

- 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</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

### SKYWARN Season is in Full Swing

It's here! The season some love and some are already tired of, Spring storm season. Yellow alerts, Orange alerts, repeater monitoring, weather report checking... all seem to be a part of spring for those involved in this part of ARES. Your SKYWARN NC team and its assistants have been busy watching and communicating with the OEM and NWS. Please know we have had several ARES related level alerts sent out via e-mail and texts. We use email for the preliminary rounds and texts for the Red activation alerts. Check out the alert levels on the Training tab of the [www.tecoares.org](http://www.tecoares.org) website.



If you have not received these alerts and want to be involved, please let Wade KF5AUD or I know. Of course we would need a good e-mail address, and for texts your cell number and the carrier you are subscribed to. Different carriers have different protocols for our group messages.

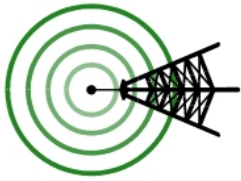
In preparation for this season, we have had a small crew involved with the City of Sherman's efforts to revamp their EOC in the basement of the PD building. The cooperation between the Fire Department, Police staff, Shipman Communications and our team has been very enjoyable. It's good, even fun, to work with people invested in this type of operation. The UHF/VHF system has been rebuilt, and recently a new HF vertical was installed and made operational. The last few Siren Test nets Brad KE5UMJ has run have been using the equipment there. Look for an upcoming drill using those tools; and, we may work in concert with the county EOC in some operations to check the equipment out even more. Future work could include tools such as an Echolink application and APRS. As Sherman continues to finish out their EOC it will become a great tool for their citizens, and they have made it available to us in serving Sherman and our whole county. A true "getting the bigger picture" operation.

Enjoy the sunshine when it is out, and thanks for your willingness to serve when it's not.

73  
Rick  
K5ECX







K5GGC

## Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Apparel Order Form



### Tactical Shirt \$45

Mic loops on shoulders and front placket, dual pen pockets

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



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

Last \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_

Payment \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks Payable to GCARC

Man/ Lady Qty Ext

Polo Shirt* sm M L XL	\$30	_____	_____
Camp Shirt* sm M L XL	\$36	_____	_____
Caps	\$17	_____	_____
Jacket* sm M L XL	\$45	_____	_____
Tactical Shirt sm M L XL	\$45	_____	_____
<b>*Shirts/jackets- (2x to 3x +\$4... 4x +\$5)</b>			
Shipping \$2.00 per item		_____	_____

K5GGC Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Apparel Order \_\_\_\_\_ Deliver Bottom portion to K5ECX by 05-20 **Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Rev 05-15-16

