



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

MAY 2016

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

Vol. 22, No. 5

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy everyone,

We just finished our 1st Special Event of the year, Perrin Field Museum, and I believe we have accomplished all of the goals I had set at the beginning of the year...

We gave everyone an opportunity to participate. We all know that there is more to life than Amateur Radio and by having the event for 9 days we gave more members a chance to participate.

We also had open houses where members could come and visit and operate or learn new modes of operation.

We had a lot of fun setting up a couple of stations at the Perrin Field Museum last Saturday. We had all the usual problems setting up in the field...antenna issues, learning how to use unfamiliar radios, lack of experience, etc. But, all in all, I think everyone had a good time.

We have made more contacts this year than we have made in the last 4 years combined for the Perrin Field Special Event...so that will help the club in achieving some awards from Log Book of the World and eQSL.com.

The finally results are not available yet until I get all the logs for the contacts that we have made, but I want to thank everyone who participated this year for your efforts. It is greatly appreciated.

As for me...I'm worn out. I think I've OD'ed on the Special Event. Time to relax a little.

The next club activity will be Field Day on June 25th and 26th. And then in July we have the Red River Bridge War Special Event...another 9 day event.

We'll be busy for months now with all the activities we have planned. Please plan on participating in as many as you can.

Finally, we have a club member that needs some assistance because of the tornadoes in our area recently. Please be ready to assist when called upon to help her get things back to normal. When I get the call from her that she is ready, I'll let you know. She needs help with her roof, cutting down trees, cleaning up, etc. This is our most important project this next month!

Thanks & 73,

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:	Mike Bernier KF5NPM
To submit news or e-mail changes:	Send E-Mail to KF5NPM@gmail.com
Submission	12 midnight on the Sunday
Deadline:	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 – May 20, 2016

- Called to order 7:00 pm
- Minutes and Treasurer's report from April were approved by Ben KF5OEB with a second from Trevor KG5BFI
We currently have \$2020.70 in the club account
- We are still looking for Net Control operators for the club nets. Ben offered to fill in any blank spots, but we would like more club members to give it a try. There is a script to follow that can be provided to you.
- The new position of Club Librarian was assigned to Tim Branam N5SWG. He will store and maintain an accurate list of books the club has and may be borrowed. We are looking for donations of books as well. We would like to have a current Technician and General study guide.
- James Frank KW5CW gave out certificates for passing the CW quiz at the end of his last classes. 3 people passed the 3 question test: Bill Pierce K5XBP, Linda Mihay W5ULY, and Brad McMillon KE5UMJ. Brad was the only member in attendance this evening.

James is not against an advanced class, he would need 4-5 people to make it worth the while.

- We will be setting up a booth at the Collinsville Night Out Oct. 4 from 6-8 pm. Rick K5ECX, Ben, and Brad volunteered to staff it and will be focusing on emergency preparedness.
- There will be an article published about the Red River Bridge War Special Event in the Sherman Metro Leader at the end of June. You can find this publication in the regular advertisements that come in your mail.
- Our Perrin Field Special Event station in honor of Armed Forces day took place on May 21. The station operated until 4pm, but contacts were limited due to difficult band conditions. We had voice, digital, and CW stations set up.

This is the first time a club event had run for an extended time. Since the event started until Saturday, a total of 350+ contacts had been made, 42 states, 14 countries. Our goal is to reach 500 contacts. Please submit your logs to Lee Sly by May 27th.

- Field Day will be June 25-26 at Sherman Municipal Airport, more detail TBA at a later date.
- There may be the possibility for a Helping Hams project. A gentleman who is an avid operator may be moving into Brookdale Willows, an assisted living home in Denison. We were contacted to see if it would be possible to get a radio and antenna set-up for him. Further information to come.
- Rick reminded everybody that there is ARES face-to-face training this Tuesday the 24th at the Sherman Municipal Airport. He also proposed the idea of finding ways to get inexpensive weather radios that could be sold or raffled to make a little extra money.
- The Kiwanis Bike Rally will be in August again this year. Ben will be attending their first meeting on May 26th and will report back any information we might need.
- Roy asked if the club would be willing to help with communications for a band booster bike rally if he got it off the ground. The club agreed it would be willing to do so.
- The question about were to have the Red River Bridge War was proposed again. It was suggested and approved that it be held back out at Perrin Field.

The meeting was closed at 7:50.

The next meeting will be on Friday, June 17, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Branam W5ORD
GCARC Secretary

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance as of 5.20.16 Club Meeting

Operating Fund Beginning Bal	1,914.65
Funds Received	
Dues	20.00
Patches	0.00

Less expenses	
Online Bank Fee	0.00

Operating Fund Balance	1,934.65
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** 42 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 May 18, 2016	2,020.70
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Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
GCARC Treasurer

Grayson County ARC

Perrin Field Special Event Station Results

Call Sign - **W5I**

Excruciating Details

		<u>QSOs</u>
Total		462
By Band	20m	369
	40m	93
By Mode	CW	18
	JT65	58
	PSK31	334
	PSK63	19
	SSB	33

Countries Contacted & Confirmed

Argentina
 Brazil
 Canada
 Chile
 Cuba
 Dominican Republic
 Ecuador
 Guatemala
 Italy
 Mexico
 Puerto Rico
 Spain
 USA
 Venezuela

QSLs needed for WAS Award as of 5/23/16:

<u>LOTW</u>	<u>eQSL</u>
AK	NH
AR	OR
CT	RI
HI	WY
ME	
MT	
NE	
ND	
RI	
WY	

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.graysoncountyar.com>

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>

GCARC Events

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

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@arrrl.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

3rd Saturday of each odd-numbered month (Mar / May / Jul / Sep / Nov) at 2:00pm

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**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

Website: www.hamcom.org

CLUB ACTIVITIES

CW Class Certificates

(L-R) Brad McMillon KE5UMJ received his Basic CW training certificate from instructor James Frank KW5CW at the GCARC club meeting on May 20th for successfully completing the class. Two other members who completed the class were not available and will receive their certificates at a later date - Bill Pierce K5XBP and Linda Mihay W5ULY.

CW CORNER

I am proud to announce that three more CW certificates were issued this month following a successful completion of the second ever Basic CW course, sponsored by the GCARC. The three recipients are Linda Mihay (W5ULY), Brad McMillon (KE5UMJ) and Bill Pierce (K5XBP). These 3 people put up with me during the CW course this year, and ALSO braved the CW quiz at the end of the course that qualified them for the certificate. I have no doubt that others in the club who have attended the class could have qualified for it but no others elected to take the quiz. For me, that is OK, as I am very well aware of everyone's abilities who attend the course when it comes to CW proficiency. The class lasted for 2 months, scheduled early on a Saturday morning, which presented a challenge for people to attend. Even so, people did attend, and I am happy for them. In this month's edition of our newsletter, only Brad McMillon was able to attend the monthly meeting to receive his certificate. The remaining two certificates for Linda and Bill will be given at the next club meeting. Whenever members of our club stand up and ask for another class, I'll be there ready and waiting to assist. Again, thanks to all that have attended, and also a big thank you to the GCARC for allowing me to teach the class.

On other news, we had a CW station setup at the Perrin Special Event in Denison this past weekend. It was FUN, as I took along my Kenwood TS-590G running at 100 Watts and setup a ground-mounted 6BTV made by Huster Corporation. The band conditions were poor, and not really great for contesting, but I did manage to make a few dozen contacts. It was FUN using the call W5I. As much as I love my own call, I would give it up in a heartbeat if I could have a one-by-one call like W5I. Basically I operated on 40 meters, and it was FUN for me, especially to work another event that felt like a contest.

Another upcoming event that remains close to my heart is the upcoming ARRL Field Day that commences on Saturday, June 25th, and runs until mid-day on Sunday June 26th. It's only 30 days away. Last year, Field Day was the very first day I had contact with the GCARC as a guest at the field day site. I made about 70 contacts in about 1 1/2 hours. Just imagine what I might be able to do with 24 hours of operation. My goal would be to put the GCARC on the map, and make the standings that will be displayed in QST. From the moment I stopped by at the Field Day site last year, I was hooked on the GCARC, and I can never thank the club enough. This year, I will setup a CW station to work Field Day, and I expect that the station will be very active. My goal is to make a minimum of 500 contacts. I'm also hoping that others will assist me in operating to reach that goal. If not, I plan to work the entire contest without any sleep, as I've done it many times before. At our next meeting, I am going to ask for volunteers that may be willing to help with operating the CW station. It will be there for all who want to attempt to work CW in a contest. It's actually a lot of FUN!

That's it for now. Those who have attended the CW classes will also be receiving practice CW sessions via email from time to time in an attempt to keep people active in copying CW. I might also add that you might even try to work a station or two on-the-air. Actually you will discover that it's a lot of FUN!

73,
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 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:

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.	

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

IARU to Serve as Custodian of *Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur*

The International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) has become the custodian of the operating standards guide [Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur](#). The IARU Administrative Council recently accepted an offer “with gratitude” from authors John Devoldere, ON4UN, and Mark Demeuleneere, ON4WW, to take over maintenance and updating of the document.

“Over the last 8 years, the booklet *Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur* has become a respected work describing the best standards of operating on the amateur bands,” the IARU said in a news release. “[Translated](#) into most major languages, the booklet is a valuable reference work for all radio amateurs.”

Devoldere and Demeuleneere met with IARU Region 1 President Don Beattie, G3BJ, on May 5 in Brussels to officially hand over the document. IARU will now carry the work forward in future years to ensure its continued relevance and currency.

Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur is available as a PDF document in more than 25 languages. A [PowerPoint](#) presentation appropriate for club presentations is available in English, Dutch, and French.

The authors' stated goal is, “to improve, where necessary, the behavior on the bands in matters of ethics and operating procedures, and make available to the newcomers in the hobby a document covering these subjects in detail.” The guide was accepted by the IARU Administrative Council in 2008 as the recommended manual covering the subject of ethics and operational procedures.

Visit the Ham Radio Ethics and Operating Procedures website for [more information](#).

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Missouri Radio Amateur Petitions FCC to Designate “Symbol Communication” Subbands



James E. Whedbee, N0ECN, of Gladstone, Missouri, has petitioned the FCC to designate Morse (radiotelegraphy) Amateur Radio band segments as “symbol communication” subbands. The FCC has invited comments on his *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11769](#)), filed on May 2. Arguing that retaining the current regime of “legacy” CW subbands has proven to be grossly inefficient, Whedbee said he’d like to see the FCC delete all privilege restrictions that limit any part of the Amateur Radio spectrum to Morse code to the exclusion of other modes.

“Nostalgia for retention of Morse code telegraphy-only subbands is also an insufficient reason to avoid moving forward to [the] elimination of such subbands, because nothing about this *Petition* suggests the elimination of the mode itself, only that it not be the sole authorized mode in the subject subbands,” Whedbee told the FCC.

Whedbee characterized CW-only subbands as “an excessive regulatory constraint, as well as a poor use of the spectrum concerned.” He proposed that the FCC’s Part 97 rules reflect the “ultimate form of communication reproduced at the receiving end.” As he explained it, his regulatory scheme would break down modes into three categories -- “symbol communication mode” -- for CW, digital, and other emission modes that reproduce a discrete symbol on the receiving end -- “voice mode,” and “image mode.”

“[C]ontinuing regulation by specific emission designator is proving to be onerous with changes to the state of the art,” Whedbee said. “Accordingly, to continue developing the state of the art in radiocommunications, Amateur Radio needs to clearly get away from regulating in that fashion and return to consideration of what the receiving end of the communication reproduces.”

He proposed that where the Part 97 rules refer to exclusive radiotelegraphy allocations -- or subbands -- privileges be changed to reflect symbol communication modes. Where the rules prohibit voice and image modes, he would revise the rules to reflect symbol communication modes. In situations where current rules prohibit symbol communication modes other than Morse, that voice and image modes would be permitted, “with an exception for manually keyed” radiotelegraphy.

For example, he would drop the distinction between 75 meters and 80 meters, authorizing symbol communication modes between 3.5 MHz and 3.65 MHz, and voice and image modes between 3.65 MHz and 4 MHz, with manual radiotelegraphy authorized throughout the band.

Whedbee told the FCC that, if his *Petition* is accepted for filing and put on public notice, he would submit an appendix spelling out proposed service rules as part of his *Petition*.

Commenters have 30 days to respond to Whedbee’s *Petition*

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

RFinder Now Lets Users File Jamming Reports

RFinder, the creator of a web and app-based directory of Amateur Radio repeaters worldwide, now includes the ability to report radio jamming anywhere. This feature is now available in *RFinder*’s Android app and should be available for iOS devices shortly. Those without a device or subscription can [file reports](#) online. Individuals or entities responsible for coordinating anti-jamming activities also can [request access](#) to view jamming reports for their area.

“Repeater jamming is a problem worldwide, [and] we’ve created a way of organizing anti-jamming activities worldwide,” says Bob Greenberg, W2CYK, creator of *RFinder*. “We are evaluating some automated monitoring technology to integrate in the near future. This new feature just extends *RFinder*’s social features even further.”

RFinder includes more than 60,000 repeaters in some 170 countries around the globe. *RFinder* is integrated directly with *EchoLink* on both Android and iPhone and provides the ability to share repeater check-ins on Facebook, Twitter, and

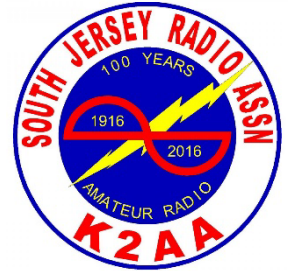
APRS. *RFinder* is integrated with RT Systems and CHIRP radio programmers and has a [routing feature](#), where users can find repeaters worldwide over a given route. Video [demos](#) of *RFinder* features are available on YouTube.

In February, ARRL announced it had established an agreement with *RFinder* to be its preferred online resource of repeater frequencies. Users can [subscribe](#) to *RFinder* from an iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch, or from an Android smartphone or tablet. The annual \$9.99 subscription provides access to repeater data worldwide through *RFinder*'s collection of apps for Android and Apple devices, and from nearly any web browser.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

New Jersey Club Marks Centennial with 10-Day QSO Party

As part of its Centennial activities, the South Jersey Radio Association ([SJRA](#)) will host a 10-day QSO party, June 10-19. Founded on June 12, 1916, in the home of William G. Phillips in Collingswood, New Jersey, the SJRA dates back to the very early years of wireless. The association became an ARRL-affiliated club in 1920.



A [timeline](#) on the SJRA website offers more information about the club's rich history. The QSO party will offer other radio amateurs a chance to join the celebration and become centennial members of SJRA. The club will offer various awards. Participants can use just about any mode and operate from QRP to high power. Bonus points are awarded for logging an SJRA member station, identified by "/100" appended to the call sign, or by working the club's K2AA station.

Complete [rules and logging details](#) are on the SJRA website.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

FCC Petitioned to Eliminate 15 dB Gain Limit on Amateur Amplifiers

The FCC has put on public notice and invited comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11767](#)), filed on behalf of an amateur amplifier distributor, which seeks to revise the Amateur Service rules regarding maximum permissible amplifier gain. [Expert Linears America LLC](#) of Magnolia, Texas, which distributes linears manufactured by SPE in Italy, wants the FCC to eliminate the 15 dB gain limitation on amateur amplifiers, spelled out in §97.317(a)(2). Expert asserts that there should be no gain limitation at all on amplifiers sold or used in the Amateur Service.

"There is no technical or regulatory reason [that] an amplifier capable of being driven to full legal output by even a fraction of a watt should not be available to Amateur Radio operators in the United States," Expert said in its *Petition*.

Expert maintains that the 15 dB gain limitation is an unneeded holdover from the days when amplifiers were less efficient and the FCC was attempting to rein in the use of Amateur Service amplifiers by Citizens Band operators. While the FCC proposed in its 2004 *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order* in WT Docket 04-140 to delete the requirement that amplifiers be designed to use a *minimum* of 50 W of drive power and subsequently did so, it did not further discuss the 15 dB amplification limit in the subsequent [Report and Order](#) in the docket.

"Although no party advocated retention of the 15 dB limit, it remains in place today," Expert pointed out in its filing. "In the intervening years, advancements in Amateur Radio transmitter technology have led to the availability of highly compact, sophisticated low-power transmitters that require more than 15 dB of amplification to achieve maximum legal power output. Therefore, Expert seeks to remove the 15 dB limit from §97.317 so that Amateur Radio manufacturers and distributors will not be forced to needlessly cripple their amplifiers for sale in the United States."

Expert pointed to its Model 1.3K FA amplifier as an example of a linear “inherently capable of considerably more than 15 dB of amplification,” which would make it a suitable match for low-power transceivers now on the market having output power on the order of 10 W.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

SATERN Founder Pat McPherson, WW9E, SK

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network ([SATERN](#)) Founder and past National Director Maj Patrick E. “Pat” McPherson, WW9E, of Coloma, Michigan, died May 14 at Lakeland Medical Center in St Joseph, Michigan, where he’d been admitted on May 10 with breathing difficulties. He was 70. After serving as SATERN Director for more than 23 years, McPherson stepped down 5 years ago, although he reassumed the role in 2014-2015 on an interim basis. An ARRL member and a second-generation Salvationist, McPherson [founded](#) the disaster response and relief arm in June 1988 with one other US and two Canadian radio amateurs. Just 2 months after its founding, SATERN responded to provide communication between the US and Jamaica following Hurricane Gilbert.

SATERN became an official Salvation Army program 10 years later in 1998, and Maj McPherson was formally appointed as its national director. Now an international organization with 4000 members in North America alone, SATERN is dedicated to providing emergency communication and other assistance following disasters and emergencies and has responded to natural disasters, fires, and air crashes. After the September 11, 2001, attacks, SATERN volunteers were on duty in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. SATERN volunteers work in cooperation with other organizations, including ARES, in responding to emergencies and disasters. The SATERN Net meets weekdays on 14.265 MHz at 1500 UTC.



McPherson served the Salvation Army as the Heartland Division Disaster Coordinator (Central Illinois and Eastern Iowa) for 2 years, and as the Disaster Services Director for The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division (Chicago and 11 surrounding counties) for 15 years.

“During my tenure in the Metropolitan Division, we were able to build a state-of-the-art disaster center, complete with a 60,000 square foot warehouse, docks, EOC, emergency conference area, training area, and communications, including amateur, commercial radio, satellite TV, and a sophisticated phone system,” McPherson recounted on his QRZ.com profile.

He had served earlier in non-disaster-related roles for The Salvation Army in Kankakee, Pekin, and Springfield, Illinois; Oskosh, Wisconsin; Marquette, Midland, and Flint, Michigan, and Dubuque, Iowa.

McPherson said he got into Amateur Radio as a way to stay in touch with family and friends throughout his various transfers around the Midwest. His wife Carmella is KB9YSQ, and his brother Larry is KA0QEO. He was also active in ARES, RACES, and SKYWARN. He was especially fond of operating CW. “It represents to me a challenge through the unknown, accomplished because I was motivated to become an Amateur Radio operator,” he said in his profile. “With retirement, I can now focus on the SATERN program, run CW from the field, and enjoy all of the friends made through the years via Amateur Radio.”

At the time of his death, McPherson was to be presented with The Salvation Army Certificate in Recognition of Exceptional Service -- a national-level award acknowledging outstanding, distinguished and significant achievement in or for The Salvation Army. It will be awarded posthumously.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

LOCAL RADIO NETS

Daily

Texas Slow Net (CW only)

Daily 7:45pm CT on 3.570MHz.

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

Weekly

Durant ARA Weekly Net

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

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

Fannin County ARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays 8:00pm CT on the 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	147.200+ MHz (100.0 PL) 145.470- 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

Can You Read This?

Recently while looking on non-social media I caught a reference to a technuckle paper about IWT and communications. I don't normally read that stuff anymore; 35 plus years in the power industry dealing with engineering, design and construction processes will cure any itch you have to read something like that for pleasure. But I took the bait as it was written by some folks I have come to know at the National Weather Service (NWS). It was a study on how the NWS Integrated Warning Team (IWT) functions and how well communication occurs internally. The study focused on events of a particular day in 2013 when there was a rash of bad weather in the Montague, Granbury and Cleburne areas. As spotters we are part of that team, which also for this study included groups such as the NWS, Emergency management community, Media and the Public we all serve. Kind of like a family, we don't always see things the same, think everyone is paying attention to ME and don't always listen to each other.



It was drudgery. While I understood the concepts and the overall flow, reading tech stuff, diagraphs, the complex math and analysis is just not fun anymore. But I did learn a couple of reinforcing concepts to share with our ARES operators. As you can guess we are an integral part of the communication flow. We also need to be accurate in our reports and we share in the overall responsibility for accurate warning.

We are part of the flow as many times our ground truth reports form a key component for analysis of other information the NWS has access to. They may suspect something is up but our reports are the facts that prove out the math they are dealing with. If a tree is forecast to fall in the forest and no one knows exactly which one, but the math says one's probably gonna fall today, we provide that ground truth when we report that we heard the first cracking of the trunk and see the swaying top in the deep woods.

Our reports need to be accurate. We need to report what we saw, where it was and when it occurred. Again, the NWS folk are dealing with a dynamic environment and the changes all mean something as they see the life of the storm ebb and flow.

Because of the need to report ground truth to establish what is really happening in the storm and we are accurate in the reporting, we share in the responsibility for good warnings. We do our best to report real, not imposter funnels, no scary looking clouds and confirm among ourselves of the events unfolding before us.

I came away with a better understanding of the dynamics of our IWT family, and yes we all have that cousin, but together, you and the rest of the IWT do pretty darn good job in Grayson county, thank you.

Now for some info about our friends in Fannin County. It came up the other night in a training session that we might not have up-to-date info on Fannin county's repeaters and tones... I emailed Jeff KX5JSJ, the Fannin Co EC, and here is his info on the repeaters they might be using.

"Here is the info I have

147.200	+	6 Mhz	100.0 tone
145.470	-	6 Mhz	100.0 tone
443.750	+	5 Mhz	100.0 tone

We are running WIRES on all three repeaters as well. We have Echolink and IRLP."

That all I have for now, see you down the line,

73
Rick
K5ECX

[Editor's Note: The repeater information provided for Fannin County has been checked and verified as correct in the list of Area Repeaters printed in this issue. But, we'll be the first to admit we don't always catch every change being made to every repeater or net across the area. So, if you find any errors or omissions in our lists and would like to provide updates, please send them via e-mail to KF5NPM@gmail.com. We appreciate your help in keeping all local hams informed!]

