



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

JUNE 2016

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 22, No. 6

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy everyone,

Our club members stepped forward and did a fantastic job at Dora's place last weekend. A few weeks ago a tornado just missed her house, but did lots of damage in her neighborhood. Dora had her share of problems. We were able to cut down many damaged trees, do some cleanup work, and also found a roofer that is going to repair her roof for a price that can't be beat. Thank you very much to everyone who helped. I can't tell you how much that meant to Dora. You folks are amazing.

This coming weekend is Field Day, the biggest event of the year for us and Amateur Radio. Again this year we will be operating from the Sherman Municipal Airport, but this year we are going to try and operate on Emergency Power only. Mark is bringing a generator for us to use. Our goal is to operate using all modes...Voice, Digital & CW. We even plan to have a "Call In Frequency" folks can use to contact us using the local repeater...147.00 MHz. We'll get an early start on Saturday morning. We'll meet about 8 AM and start setting up our antennas. The "official" start isn't until 1 PM, but we can get on the air earlier. We'll only be allowed to operate for 24 hours, but I'm sure by Sunday morning we'll be worn out and ready to call it quits. We are providing food for dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. The club also has a new banner for Field Day inviting the general public to attend...hope it brings in some additional visitors. And we'll have a GOTA (Get On The Air) station available for anyone to use. Please stop by and spend some time with us this coming weekend to operate or just visit. Looking forward to lots of fun.

If that's not enough, during the 4th of July week, the 13 Colonies Special Event is being held again this year. It is no secret that HF radio is my favorite thing to do in this hobby, and this is one of my favorite Special Events to participate in every year. I have lots of fun trying to contact stations in all of the original 13 colonies. Each station has a great QSL card and if you get a "Clean Sweep" you can get a great certificate you can hang on your wall.

And then...our next Special Event...the Red River Bridge War starts on July 15 and runs until July 24. More info about this will be coming in the next few weeks.

Wow...we are going to be busy this next month with club activities and having fun on the radio.

Stand by...the xyl is calling.

What?

Oh...OK.

Sorry, I've got to get some stuff done around the house. Time to get on the mower and get the grass cut. Darn! Oh well, it's got to be done. Hope you get your chores done so you can join us during our club activities.

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 – June 17, 2016

- 13 members and 3 guests in attendance
- Meeting called to order at 7:15. VP James Frank KW5CW ran the meeting since President Lee Sly N5SLY was out of town
- Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report from May approved
- The club library is continuing to grow. Please contact Stacy W5ORD at branam@verizon.net if you are interested in borrowing any of the books on the list
- Watch for the Sherman Metro Leader in your mail at the end of June, there will be an article about the Red River Bridge War
- Reminder: on October 4 from 6-8 pm, Rick K5ECX, Ben KF5OEB, and Brad KE5UMJ will have a booth set-up to talk about emergency preparedness
- Had good results from the Perrin Field Special Event, over 350 contacts total on sideband, PSK31, and CW
- Thanks to all the volunteers who went to help Dora clean up her property on June 4, some great progress was made and she is very appreciative as well since it is now safer and looks better. A strong F1 tornado had hit her property
- Moe Knight NT7C will be hosting another General Class in January at Grayson County College. The class will run from 6-9pm, dates TBA
- Field Day is this coming Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26. We will start set-up at 8 am on Saturday and the event actually starts at 1 pm. It runs until 4 pm Sunday but we may not run that long
 - Remember, this is not an actual contest, but rather an event to test emergency preparedness
 - Please watch for additional information - hotdogs will be served Friday night, please bring your own coolers with drinks.
 - If you know any elected officials, please invite them. Trevor will be in charge of contacting media outlets
- Lee bought a sign specifically for field day to display in front of the airport to hopefully attract visitors. Jim McGlynn K5QOI graciously donated \$40.00 to reimburse Lee for the cost.
- Meeting closed at 8:05

The next meeting will be on Friday, July 15, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Branam W5ORD
GCARC Secretary

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance as of 6.17.16 Club Meeting

Operating Fund Beginning Bal	1,934.65
Funds Received	
Dues	20.00
Dues online	20.00
Clothing	228.00

Less expenses

Online Bank Fee	0.88
Perrin Museum	50.00

Operating Fund Balance 2,151.77

** 44 Members YTD

Available Equipment Funds 86.05

Funds Received

Less expenditures

Equipment Fund Balance 86.05

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 - donated	0.00
ARRL Field Day	65.00
RR Bridge War	65.00
Eisenhower Birthday	50.00
Christmas Dinner	75.00
<i>Donations</i>	
Perrin Museum	0.00
Kiwanis/Bike Rally	250.00
Toys For Tots	100.00
<i>Total</i>	765.00

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Amount Budgeted	0
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Ending Bank Balance
as of June 17, 2016 2,237.82

Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
GCARC Treasurer

GCARC AMATEUR RADIO LIBRARY

Librarian: Tim Branam N5SWG

Materials Available as of June 17, 2016

- ARRL Amateur Radio Public Service Handbook (1st Ed. 2012)
- ARRL Antenna Book (22nd Ed. 2011)
- ARRL Basic Antennas (2009)
- ARRL General Class License Manual (7th Ed. 2011)
- ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications (2005)
- ARRL Hints and Kinks for the Radio Amateur (18th Ed. 2012)
- ARRL Operating Manual for Amateur Radio Operators
- ARRL Understanding Basic Electronics (1st Ed. 2006)
- ARRL's Wire Antenna Classics (2005)
- Basic Radio: Understanding the Key Building Blocks
- CW Basic Course
 - Author: Frank, James (2016)
- Electronics 1
 - Author: Mileaf, Harry (1967)
- Electronics 2
 - Author: Mileaf, Harry (1967)
- General Class Radio License Preparation
 - Author: West, Gordon (8th Ed. 2011)
- General Class Radio License Preparation
 - Audio CDs
 - Author: West, Gordon (2011)
- Ham Radio for Dummies
- Math for the Electronics Student (1975)
- QST Magazine 2015-2016
- Solid State Electronic Projects
 - Author: Rakes, Charles (1972)

For more information, to check out materials, or to make a donation, please contact Stacy Branam W5ORD via e-mail to branam@verizon.net

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.graysoncountyarcc.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

Red River Bridge War Special Event Station

Operating Period: July 15-24, 2016

The club will operate a special event station using the callsign W5I to commemorate the Red River Bridge War in July 1931 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_River_Bridge_War).

Details 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 Holiday (Oklahoma Section ARRL Convention)**

July 22-23, 2016 (Friday 3:00pm-7:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-3:00pm)

VE Testing: Saturday 9:00am

Biltmore Hotel/Convention Center, 401 S Meridian Ave, Oklahoma City, OK

Talk-In: 146.490 Simplex

Public Contact: Thomas Webb WA9AFM/5 (405) 737-6716 or wa9afm@arrl.net

Website: www.hamholiday.com

Austin Summerfest (Texas State ARRL Convention)

August 5-6, 2016 (Friday 6:00pm-9:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-3:30pm)

VE Testing: Saturday 12:30pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 6121 North IH-35, Austin TX

Talk-In: 146.940 (107.2 PL)

Public Contact: Joe Makeever W5HS (512) 345-0800 or w5hs@arrl.net

Website: www.austinsummerfest.org

CW CORNER

It has been a very busy month, and already our Field Day is right around the corner. This weekend, the ARRL Field Day will be from Saturday June 25th, starting at 1PM CT, until Sunday June 26th at 4PM CT. Setup will begin earlier in the morning, no later than 9AM. There will be a few stations setup for SSB, PSK31 and of course for CW. There may be a 2 or a 6 meter station setup using horizontal polarization. We will be running battery and generator power. If needed, commercial power will be available, but used as a very last recourse. This year, I will bring out my Kenwood station for the club to use on 40 and 20 meter CW. If needed, I am hoping that any member or non-member that reads this message try and make it out to Field Day, and all are welcome to operate my station. I would especially be proud that at least a few members of the club try and operate the CW station. My goal is to have the CW station manned during the entire event.

Field day is one of the largest operating events of the year. Its purpose is to display capability in emergency communications. This event is not a contest. No certificates or awards are given for Field Day, other than a coveted listing of standings that you may be part of in QST magazine. With this said, I will try and make as many CW contacts as possible to see if we can get the GCARC Field Day operation listed in QST. This means that my intention will be to man the station during the entire time. The more help that I get in doing so would mean that I would be able to rest from time to time, instead of running the event from start to finish by myself. But if I do not get any help, I can assure you that I'm going to be very tired when Field Day ends at 4PM on Sunday.

In another recent past event, the GCARC setup a few stations for the Perrin special event. It was really nice to use the call of W5I (Whiskey-Five-India) or Dit Dah Dah - Dit Dit Dit Dit Dit - Dit Dit. If you missed the last GCARC club meeting last week, you would have heard me rant and rave about that call. It is absolutely the best call we can ever use to run any event or contest. It was fantastic to use on CW. I had lots of fun, even though we were only setup for not even 8 hours. The band conditions were bad, but again, it was so much fun.

As I've stated many times, I am very proud to be a part of the GCARC. I am also very happy that several club members have taken the opportunity to expose themselves to learning CW, even though they never will have to, as the rules of operation no longer require knowledge of CW.

Because of my work schedule next month, I will be unable to attend our next club meeting. With that said, we still have 2 graduates of the last CW class, still in need of receiving their earned CW certificate. If these two graduates attend the next meeting, they will still receive their certificates. Also within the next few days, I will be sending out a few more CW practice stations via email to select members that have been interested in learning CW in the past to try and keep up their skills.

I cannot stress enough how beneficial it would be for the students of my class participate in CW this year for Field Day. It would be great practice and could be just the tool you may need to get you over the hump when it comes to receiving CW.

Let's have fun this weekend, and let's try to set a record as far as attendance is concerned at our Field Day event.

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

New Mexico Wildfire Emergency Threatens Some Field Day Sites

Wildfires in New Mexico have put at least one planned ARRL Field Day site off limits for the June 25-26 weekend. Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator Jay Miller, W5WHN, said the Albuquerque DX Association W5UR group will have to relocate its Field Day site away from the Cedro Peak picnic area, now closed due to the Dog Head Fire. Miller said that if the Battleship Fire had not been contained, access to the W5WHN Field Day site in the mountains would have been threatened. New Mexico SM Ed James, KA8JMW, will operate Field Day from the New Mexico State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Santa Fe, using the call sign NM5EM.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) volunteers in New Mexico late last week responded to the Dog Head fire, which is affecting Torrance and Bernalillo counties, and that activation continues. Evacuations were ordered in both counties, and Miller said ARES is supporting EOCs in both counties as well as relocation centers. The Dog Head fire encompasses nearly 18,000 acres and is nearly 50 percent contained. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. The Dog Head Fire has claimed 2 dozen homes and nearly an equal number of “other minor structures,” fire officials said.

“Improved weather conditions combined with significant work on the ground has resulted in a major increase in containment,” a June 21 update said. “Firefighters aggressively extinguished hot spots from the ground and air, allowing containment to increase from 9 percent to 46 percent in the northeast corner, much of the southeast side, the southwest corner, and most of the southern flank.”

The Capilla Peak 146.96 repeater and the Tapia Mesa 147.06 repeater have been the primary emergency communication channels for the Dog Head Fire, located some 6 miles northwest of Tajique. Mader has estimated that VHF/UHF repeater coverage would likely meet all ARES communication needs.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Field Day at All-Kids Special Event Station K1D Will Be a Multimedia Event

In an effort to encourage more youngsters and their families to get involved in Amateur Radio, the kids at [Ham Radio \(dot\) World](http://HamRadio(dot)World) will mount an all-kids ARRL Field Day special event operation -- K1D -- over the June 25-26 weekend. Youngsters will set up, operate, and take down the station, which will be located in Deland, Florida. The K1D operators plan to operate on HF and Amateur Radio satellites. K1D will team with the K4G “Get on the Air” (GOTA) station at the

same site, and Tom Medlin, W5KUB, of [Amateur Radio Roundtable](#) plans to webcast the event on Saturday, 2000 until 2200 UTC, live, followed by video from various Field Day sites around the US from 2200 until 2400 UTC or later.

Joining the youngsters at K1D will be AMSAT Vice President-Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, who will be a kid-for-a-day to help get the young ops on the linear satellites. The youngsters built a solar power system from scratch to power K1D, with thanks to Kyocera Solar and West Mountain Radio for donating components. A Genasun MPPT Charge Controller will manage battery charging, and Radiowavz.com is providing a Sentinel Expedition Hex Beam for K1D.



The youngsters built a W7FG TrueLadderLine antenna among other antennas and are building additional antennas to use for Field Day. Youth as young as 7-year-old Grace, KM4TXT, will be on the air from K1D. For helping to encourage youth in Amateur Radio, stations working K1D and/or K4G during ARRL Field Day 2016 will be eligible for a commemorative QSL card.

Stations who work K1D and/or K4G during the 2016 ARRL Field Day will be eligible for a special K1D/K4G Commemorative QSL card.

Ham Radio.World is run by Zechariah, WX4TVJ; Faith Hannah, AE4FH; Hope, KM4MPF; and Grace, KM4TXT, who just got her license in May. Their parents are James, WX4TV, and Michelle Lea. James Lea has been a radio amateur since he was 13. The older three Lea children got their ham licenses early last year.

Faith Hannah, 10, and Zechariah, 12, were presenters at the Hamvention® 2016 Youth Forum. They spoke on “Experiences in Antenna Selection, Construction, and Use for VHF Applications.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

FCC Says “No” to Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses



The FCC has denied the petition of an Arizona radio amateur, who had petitioned for lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, had filed his *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM 11760](#)) with the FCC last November, and the FCC invited public comments in February. Krotz wanted 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. Hundreds of radio amateurs commented on the petition, but the FCC was not swayed by those favoring the idea.

“Based on our review of the record, we are not persuaded that the petition discloses sufficient grounds for the requested rule change,” the FCC said in a June 21 [Order](#). “Krotz’s primary argument is that extending the term of amateur licenses to the lifetime of the holder would reduce the Commission’s administrative and personnel costs, but it is not clear to us that the proposal actually would enhance administrative efficiency.” That’s because the vast majority of license renewals are submitted online and processed automatically by the Universal Licensing System (ULS), “with minimal staff involvement,” the *Order* said.

The FCC said it had further reduced its overhead by no longer routinely mailing out paper licenses. “[I]f license terms were extended to the holder’s lifetime, we likely would receive more cancellations on account of the licensee’s death, which are labor-intensive, because staff must carefully verify the deceased’s identity and licenses in order to guard against erroneous cancellations,” the FCC said in its *Order*, signed by Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Deputy Mobility Division Chief Scot Stone.

Krotz argued that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, but the FCC said that’s not a comparable situation, because an Amateur Radio license is both an operator’s license and a station license, “and there is no Commission precedent for issuing a lifetime station license.”

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. The FCC pointed out in its *Order* that this was done to address the concerns of commenters that a licensee who had not renewed also may not have maintained or expanded his or her knowledge and skills.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Radio Club of America and Electronics Technicians Association International Form Partnership

The Radio Club of America, Inc. ([RCA](#)) and the Electronics Technicians Association International ([ETA](#)) have signed a memorandum of understanding of partnership. Both RCA and ETA will offer reduced membership rates to the other's members. Each will list the other's meetings and events on their respective websites. ETA provides industry-recognized certifications with career training from approved providers. RCA members who join ETA will be able to avail themselves of those services.



RCA has a presence at many wireless industry events, and ETA members who join RCA will be able to participate in those events, including their Technical Symposium each November. This is the first such partnership that RCA has established.

“This partnership is very much in synchrony with RCA’s other education efforts: getting youth interested in wireless through Amateur Radio, our college scholarship program, and the professional engineering continuing education training provided at our Technical Symposium,” said RCA President Tim Duffy, K3LR.

ETA President Teresa Maher said her organization is pleased to partner with the RCA. “Both of our organizations are committed to the education of our members to ensure that they have the up-to date skills and certifications vitally needed in the constantly evolving wireless industry,” she said.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

ARRL “Strongly Supports” Petition to Drop 15 dB Restriction for Amateur Amplifiers



In comments filed on May 26, the ARRL said it “strongly supports” a petition to the FCC seeking to eliminate an Amateur Service rule, spelled out in §97.317(a)(2), that amateur amplifiers not be able to boost the RF input signal by more than 15 dB. The *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11767](#)), was submitted in April on behalf of an amateur amplifier distributor, [Expert Linears America LLC](#) of Magnolia, Texas.

“The *Petition* proposes relief that is in the nature of eliminating unnecessary regulatory underbrush, and it continues an effort started by the Commission on its own motion in 2004...to do precisely that,” the ARRL said in its comments. “The rule proposed to be eliminated is outdated; it constituted overregulation when it was adopted long ago, and it now substantially limits the flexibility of Amateur Radio operators to experiment with the current generation of software-defined Amateur Radio equipment.”

The 15 dB provision came into the rules during an era when the FCC initiated various actions to rein in a major interference problem resulting from the use of illegal 11 meter amplifiers during the Citizens Band radio boom of the 1970s. “In its effort to address that problem, the Commission enacted a series of largely redundant and overlapping regulations that, in their overall effect, unnecessarily (and inappropriately) penalized the wholly innocent Amateur Radio operators,” the League asserted. “There was created a plethora of restrictions on manufacturers of external RF power amplifiers.”

The ARRL noted that while the FCC eliminated some of the unnecessary regulations in 2004, others remain, including the 15 dB gain restriction. The rules adopted in 1978 also called for type acceptance (certification) of manufactured RF power amplifiers operating below 144 MHz, including a 50 W minimum drive power requirement and a ban on amplifiers capable of operation between 24 and 35 MHz.

“Indeed, precisely the same rationale for elimination of the 50 W minimum drive power rule in 2006 applies to the elimination of the 15 dB gain rule for amateur amplifiers,” the ARRL said in its comments. “There is no continued justification for retaining the 15 dB gain limitation.”

The League agreed with the petitioner that a current generation of low-power Amateur Radio transceivers, including software-defined designs, cannot drive an amplifier to full legal power given the 15 dB limitation. “It should not be necessary to configure an Amateur Radio station to include an additional amplifier stage in order to make use of current SDR technology in the Amateur Service,” the ARRL said.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

A Dozen Schools/Organizations Move Closer to Hosting a Ham Radio Contact with the ISS Crew



The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) program has announced that 12 schools or organizations that submitted proposals to host an Amateur Radio contact with a member of the ISS crew have moved into the next stage of the selection process. Contacts would take place during the first half of 2017. The 12 semifinalists, in eight states, must now complete an acceptable equipment plan that demonstrates their ability to execute the ham radio contact. Once the ARISS technical team approves the equipment plan, the selected schools/organizations will be scheduled, matching their availability and flexibility with the scheduling opportunities that NASA can offer.

The schools and organizations are:

- Blair Pointe Upper Elementary School, Peru, Indiana
- Brook Haven School, Sebastopol, California
- Greater Niagara Frontier Council BSA, Buffalo, New York
- McBride High School, Long Beach, California
- Palmetto Scholars Academy, North Charleston, South Carolina
- Rainbow Middle School, Rainbow City, Alabama
- SCaN/Glenn Research Center, Brook Park, Ohio
- Space Center Houston, Houston, Texas
- St Joseph School, Ronkonkoma, New York
- Student Space Technology Association, Knoxville, Tennessee
- Virginia Reinhardt Elementary School, Rockwall, Texas
- Warwick Valley Central School District, Warwick, New York

The primary goal of the ARISS program is to engage young people in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities and raise their awareness of space exploration, space communications and related areas of study and career possibilities.

- 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

Go Kit Tune Up

By Mike Bernier KF5NPM

GCARC Newsletter Editor & Grayson County ARRL AEC

(Rick K5ECX is taking a break this month, and suggested I fill in for him with an article. This is a transcript of my last presentation on our local ARES training net that talked about “tuning up your Go Kit”)

Go Kits. We’ve all heard about them, and how important it is to have one if you’re out in the field on a SKYWARN alert or other emergency. Go kits contain three different kinds of items – radio equipment and related gear to help you do your job as an emergency communicator, tools and materials to keep you safe and potentially help others, and supplies to help keep you comfortable and fed while you’re away from home. I’m not going to go into all the specifics of those items; we have detailed checklists you can download from the TECO website that recommended what you should have depending on how long you’re in the field, broken down into what you need when you’re out for just a couple of hours to a long-term assignment that could span several days.

Instead, what I’m going to focus on are the things in your go kit that you need to check and possibly replace periodically, such as when seasons change. It doesn’t hurt to do this more frequently; as part of my training in Civil Air Patrol, we check our supplies after every mission, but that may be a little extreme for our purposes in ARES; I’d say checking our go kits every couple of months or after going out on a few alerts is probably not a bad habit to get into.

Let’s start with the heart of your go kit – the radio. If you have a HT thrown in your bag or glovebox that you haven’t seen since you put the kit together months ago, now’s the time to take it out and make sure it’s still working. Turn it on, hook up that mag mount antenna if you have one, get on the local repeaters and make some contacts (nothing fancy, just do a little ragchewing while you check things out). Look at the battery pack on it, change it out if you need to, charge up all the batteries you have for it, and if you have one of those packs that uses replaceable AA batteries, check it too to make sure the batteries haven’t expired or started leaking.

Moving on to other tools and materials, there’s not a lot to do here. If you have anything in your kit that is mechanical such as portable tools or similar items, check to see if any of it requires cleaning or lubrication to prevent rust or seizing up. Like with your radio, if any of your gear uses batteries, check to make sure everything’s up to date and charged up, and replace any batteries that are within a couple of months of expiration or if they’ve been damaged or leaking. The last thing you need is to be out in the middle of a storm at night needing a flashlight and finding all your batteries are dead. If you have a GPS, make sure its maps are up to date; and if you carry paper maps, make sure they’re current as well.

By the way, while it’s not part of your go kit, it’s always a good idea to check out your car’s systems as well. Look especially at the battery, battery cables, and other wiring that you use for powering your mobile or HT.

Lastly, let’s talk about comfort items – food, water, clothing, and so forth. If you carry food in your go kit, pull it out and make sure its freshness date is still good – if you’ve got another 3-4 months on it, you should be okay. If it doesn’t or it’s already expired, toss it and replace with fresh items. What you choose to put in your kit is up to you, but I think we all agree you don’t need to be out in the middle of nowhere with your stomach rumbling, and the only food in your vehicle has turned three colors and has furry-looking stuff growing on top. The same goes for bottled water – if you use disposable bottles you buy at the grocery store, remember that leaving them in your car for weeks at a time can change the taste of the water and may do other stuff to it as well. They’re so inexpensive, don’t even think about it – just take them out and put new ones in. If you use refillable containers such as canteens, dump out what’s in them, clean the insides thoroughly, and then refill with fresh water. And, if you have a long-duration go kit that includes clothing items, check to see if you need to replace anything to be more comfortable for the season at hand. I don’t know about you, but I don’t think long-sleeve flannel shirts would be very comfortable to wear in July. Check toiletries and any medications you carry as well, and replace as needed.

It’s not complicated, but taking time to review these things while you’re waiting for the next alert – and you know we’ll have one sooner or later – will mean when you get that call you’ll be prepared to go out and do your best.