



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

JANUARY 2017

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 23, No. 1

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

I would like to thank Leland Sly and staff for their last two years of service. The team performed an exemplary job and set a high standard for the club. I look forward to serving in the same capacity. I also would like to thank the current club staff for stepping up and taking their positions.

The main focus for this year is to erect the tower at the Perrin AFB Museum. We will keep the activities moving with Trevor KG5BFI. We need input on presentations and club members to support the club with presentations. The net on Sunday night needs support from the club members as well; please contact Trevor and we will send you the script. It's easy-peasey.

Jim Nash N5MME donated his dad's HF radio to the club at last week's meeting; please give him a big thanks the next time you see him. Ben Sly KF5OEB has the radio to check out and we'll decide what to do with it after that.

See you at the next meeting.

Mark
KF5UZW

CLUB INFORMATION

OFFICERS

President: Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW
Vice President: James Frank KW5CW
Secretaries: Stacy Branam W5ORD
Nancy Pierce KG5PIZ
Treasurer: Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA
Activity Director: Trevor Reed KG5BFI
Trustee: Rick Simmons K5ECX

MEETINGS

When: 3rd Friday of each month
Time: 7:00pm (1900 hours)
Location: Grayson County Courthouse
2nd Floor Assembly Room
100 W. Houston Street
Sherman, TX 75090
GPS: 33.38.18N, 96.36.59W

MAILING ADDRESS

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 642
Sherman, Texas 75091

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual: \$20.00/yr
Family: \$30.00/yr
Associate (non-Ham): \$15.00/yr

Memberships are from January 1 – December 31

NEWSLETTER

Published: Monthly via e-mail
Editor: Mike Bernier KF5NPM
To submit news or Send E-Mail to
e-mail changes: KF5NPM@gmail.com
Submission 12 midnight on the Sunday
Deadline: following each monthly meeting

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 Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2017

1. Meeting opened at 7:00pm with 23 members in attendance
2. Minutes and budget were approved from previous newsletter
3. Ben Sly KF5OEB's new hangar will be the storage facility for the club's equipment. Equipment will be inventoried once it has been moved to the hangar.
4. 2017 Budget Proposed – want to direct club money to the tower project at Perrin Field Museum
 - will not be paying \$250 to Kiwanis for the bike rally
 - will not be attending the Van Alstyne Fall-Der-All
 - will not be attending the Denison Main Street Festival
 - reducing Toys for Tots donation
5. The budget passed with a unanimous vote.
6. The Perrin Museum tower project is coming together.
 - the rotor/controller was donated by Ben KF5OEB who also has a lead on an antenna
 - Rick Simmons K5ECX has the section for the 30 ft. antenna that will be attached to the building
 - Tim Branam N5SWG offered sacks of concrete and will donate an extra section if needed
 - Ben also has a lead on an auger to dig the hole for us
 - we may add a 2m/70cm antenna
7. Received a thank you letter from Toys for Tots for our donation of toys and funds.
8. The Net Control sign up list was passed around. Contact Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW if you are interested in being Net Control.
9. Please send Lee Sly N5SLY any special Eisenhower photos for consideration as we design the new QSL cards for the Eisenhower Special Event
10. Please remember Ladies Net on Thursday nights at 8 pm
11. Having non-club member make a donation of \$50-\$100 when the club assists with radio projects was proposed. No final decision was made.
12. General meeting was followed up by a presentation from Roy Reed AF5VA and Trevor Reed KG5BFI discussing storm chasing and radio operation.

The next meeting will be Friday, February 17, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Grayson County Courthouse, 2nd Floor Assembly Room, 100 W. Houston St., Sherman TX.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Branam W5ORD
Nancy Pierce KG5PIZ
GCARC Secretaries

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance as of 01.01.17

Operating Fund Beginning Bal				1,458.35
Deposits	Dues	Checks		110.00
		Cash		60.00
		Online		76.48

Less expenses				
		online fee		3.52

Operating Fund Balance				1,701.31
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** Members YTD

Available Equipment Funds				229.54
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Donation				100.00
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Less expenditures

Equipment Fund Balance				329.54
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Ending Bank Balance as of January 31, 2017				2,030.85
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OPERATING BUDGET	
Post Office Box	0.00
Checks	0.00
Website	0.00
<i>Special Events Deposit</i>	
<i>Food for Special Events</i>	
<i>Donations</i>	
Total	0.00

EQUIPMENT NEEDS	
Amount Budgeted	0

Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA
GCARC Treasurer

CLUB MEETINGS, LOCAL ACTIVITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Meetings

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC)

3rd Friday at 7:00pm

Grayson County Courthouse 2nd floor assembly room, 100 West Houston Street, Sherman TX

<http://www.graysoncountyarc.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

Visit website for meeting location

<https://qcwachapter41dallas.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>

SKYWARN Spotter Training (Basic and Advanced)

February 16, 2017 6:00pm-9:00pm

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

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

Note: this is the only spotter training class that will be offered in Grayson County in 2017.

Contact: N/A

Class Fee: No charge

Registration: Not required

Ragchewing & Other Informal Meetings

Ham Talk at The Java Stop

Every Saturday 11:00am-2:00pm

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

<http://www.facebook.com/thejavastop>

Training Classes

Technician License Training Class

One class held in two sessions to prepare students to take the Technician License exam.

Session 1: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:30am-12:30pm

Session 2: Saturday, March 18, 2017 8:30am-5:30pm (at the end of this session the Texoma VE Team will administer the Technician exam)

Grayson College Center For Workplace Learning, Seminar Room C, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX
Contact: Moe NT7C (903) 564-7115 or nt7c@arrl.net
Class Fee: No Charge for the class, but there is a \$15 fee to take the Technician exam. Study guides will be e-mailed to registered students prior to the start of the first session.
Registration: Required; contact Moe to register

VE Testing Sessions

Texoma VE Team – Bi-Monthly Testing

1st Thursday of each even-numbered month (Feb / Apr / Jun / Aug / Oct / Dec) at 7:00pm
Grayson College Center For Workplace Learning, Seminar Room C, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX
Contact: Moe NT7C (903) 564-7115 or nt7c@arrl.net

Durant Amateur Repeater Association – Monthly Testing

3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:00pm (following the DARA monthly meeting)
Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK
Contact: Jim K5BNK (jharmon1940@gmail.com)

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club – Appointment-Only Testing

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX
Contact David WA0URJ (wa0urj@yahoo.com) to schedule a session

Hamfests

Irving ARC Hamfest

March 4, 2017 8:00am-2:00pm
VE Testing (times not published yet)
Betcha Bingo I, 2420 W Irving Blvd, Irving TX
Talk-In: 146.720 (110.9 PL)
Public Contact: Ken Hansen N2VIP (609) 510-3068 or ken@n2vip.org
Website: <http://irvingarc.org>

HamEXPO

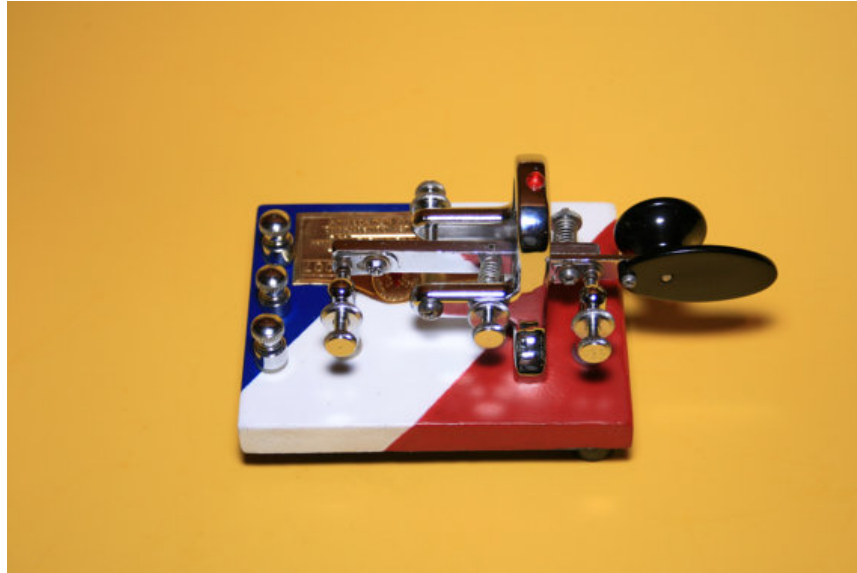
March 11, 2017 7:00am-1:00pm
Bell County Expo Center, 301 W Loop 121, Belton TX
Talk-In: 146.820 (123.0 PL)
Public Contact: John Hobson WD5BFS (254) 338-8620 or expo@tarc.org
Website: <http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo/>

2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

A reminder to all GCARC members: club memberships expired on December 31st. Please plan to attend an upcoming meeting to renew your dues for 2017, or you can pay them online through the club's website:

<http://www.graysoncountyarcc.com>

CW CORNER



(can anyone identify what type of key this is?)

A few members of the club have taken that first plunge and decided to advance their skills on CW by coming to the class the last few years. I can sense this year by responses at the last meeting that there is not much interest in continuing with the classes. That's ok, but if you ever want to put your skills to work, you have to get active on CW. Maybe the classes weren't the best thing for you, but it may have been your only avenue to experience CW. For the life of me, I don't know why. Sure, there are lots of reasons why you may not be active, but you must get active on CW somehow to advance your skills. Believe it or not, I'm not as active as I'd like to be too. Classes are boring... I know. As always, I will volunteer my time to teach another class if needed. It looks like the club agenda may be a little lighter than last year, as we will not be participating in as many weekend activities, so maybe we can get together and do another class. It's always a toss to try and decide which class to teach. The only class that anyone from our club has experienced is a basic class and I really would like to get a class together with other CW operators for a more advanced class, but I feel that none of us are ready.

Believe it or not, it takes a lot of effort to get the agenda going for the class and actually prepare for the sessions. Ask any teacher on what it takes to be successful in class and how long it takes to prepare for them. No complaints here, but if given the chance to teach another class, it goes without saying that I'd be happy to go forward with it.

January is already gone. February is upon us. If at all possible, I would like to get a vote at the next meeting if we will plan another course for this year. With my recent illness, it's been hard for me to be active on CW myself if you can believe it, but I'm slowly working my way back into it. Teaching a class would put this mode front and center in my mind once again, and it doesn't take much motivation for me to get back into CW.

I'm looking forward to our next meeting, and I plan to bring up the possibility of an upcoming class. If you know of any of your friends that may like to learn, you may want to bring them to the meeting or inform them that there may be the possibility of another class starting soon. Of course, everyone's free time differs, so it would be a good idea to try and decide when would be a good day and time for you to attend, and we can discuss this at the next meeting. See you there!!!

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 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.	Davy Ln, Denison
W5DSA		

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

Amateur Radio Parity Act Speeds to U.S. House Passage, Heads to U.S. Senate

Just 10 days after being introduced, the 2017 Amateur Radio Parity Act legislation, [H.R. 555](#), passed the U.S. House of Representatives on unanimous consent under a suspension of House rules. The bill's language is identical to that of the 2015 measure, H.R. 1301, which won House approval late last summer after attracting 126 co-sponsors, but failed to clear the U.S. Senate last fall as the 114th Congress wound down. The new bill, again sponsored by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), was introduced on January 13 with initial co-sponsorship by Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Rep. Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), who chairs the influential House Committee on Energy and Commerce.



“The grassroots effort of Amateur Radio operators across this nation in support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act has been remarkable, nothing like we have ever seen before,” ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said. “To all hams, keep going! Now is the time to charge forward with that same momentum to the Senate. We can do it!” The bill arrives in the U.S. Senate with ample time in which to garner its approval through an education campaign.

“We’re very encouraged by the speed with which this bill made it through the House. It’s amazing that this happened,” said ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who has been at the forefront of the legislative initiative. “With the help of ARRL members,

we believe we can get this done,” Lisenco continued. “We came within a hair’s breadth last time, with 110,000 e-mails to members of both houses of Congress, as well as letters and telephone calls. Member participation in this final push is critical.”

H.R. 555 calls on the FCC to establish rules prohibiting the application of deed restrictions that preclude Amateur Radio communications on their face or as applied. Deed restrictions would have to impose the minimum practicable restriction on Amateur Radio communications to accomplish the lawful purposes of homeowners association seeking to enforce the restriction.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

FEMA Region X Reports Another Successful HF Interoperability Exercise

Participation appears to be growing in the monthly Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region X HF interoperability exercises, which take place on 60 meters (center channels 5332 and 5348 kHz) on the third Wednesday of each month. Check-ins include state, tribal, federal, and Amateur Radio stations, to test HF interoperability in an emergency or disaster response. FEMA Region X is made up of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, but all stations are welcome. *[Editor’s Note: Texas is located in FEMA Region VI along with Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.]*

Laura Goudreau, KG7BQR, Regional Emergency Communications Coordinator for FEMA Region X, said the January 18 exercise attracted 56 check-ins, 47 of them Amateur Radio stations. Also checking in were six Army and two Air Force MARS stations, three SHARES stations, and one FEMA station. *[Editor’s Note: “SHARES” stands for the SHARED RESources High Frequency Radio Program administered by the Department of Homeland Security. More information about this program can be found at the following link: <https://www.dhs.gov/shares>.]*



“The propagation that day allowed stations to participate from as far north as Houston, British Columbia, as far east as Billings, Montana, and as far south as Cupertino, California,” Goudreau said. “During the exercise, voice and data (both BPSK31 and MT63-2KL) were successfully tested.” The January numbers are up from 48 total check-ins, including 42 radio amateurs, in December.

The interoperability net between federal stations and Amateur Radio licensees has been coordinated and authorized by the [NTIA](#) and the [FCC](#).

The next FEMA Region X HF Interoperability Exercise will take place on Wednesday, February 15, 1730-1845 UTC.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

FCC Dismisses Two Petitions from Radio Amateurs

The FCC has turned down two petitions filed in 2016, each seeking similar changes in the Part 97 Amateur Service rules. James Edwin Whedbee, N0ECN, of Gladstone, Missouri, had asked the Commission to amend the rules to reduce the

number of Amateur Radio operator classes to Technician, General, and Amateur Extra by merging remaining Novice class licensees into the Technician class and all Advanced class licensees into the Amateur Extra class. In a somewhat related petition, Jeffrey H. Siegell, WB2YRL, of Burke, Virginia, had requested that the FCC grant Advanced class license holders Morse code operating privileges equivalent to those enjoyed by Amateur Extra class licensees.



“Thus, Mr. Siegell’s proposed rule change is subsumed within the changes Mr. Whedbee requests, so our analysis is the same for both proposals,” the FCC [said](#) in dismissing the two petitions on January 5.

The FCC streamlined the Amateur Radio licensing system into three classes – Technician, General, and Amateur Extra – in 1999. While it no longer issues new Novice or Advanced class licenses, existing licenses can be renewed, and Novice and Advanced licensees retained their operating privileges.

“The Commission concluded that the three-class structure would streamline the licensing process, while still providing an incentive for licensees to advance their communication and technical skills,” the FCC recounted in its dismissal letter to Whedbee and Siegell. It specifically rejected suggestions that Novice and Advanced class licensees be automatically upgraded to a higher class, concluding that it would be inappropriate for these licensees to “receive additional privileges without passing the required examination elements.” The FCC cited the same reason in 2005, when it denied requests to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General class and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra class, as part of a wide-ranging proceeding.

The FCC said the two petitions “do not demonstrate, or even suggest, that any relevant circumstances have changed that would merit reconsideration of those decisions.”

Whedbee had argued that automatically upgrading current Novice and Advanced classes would simplify the rules and reduce the Commission’s costs and administrative burden, but the FCC said Whedbee provided no evidence that an administrative problem exists. “Moreover, such benefits would not outweigh the public interest in ensuring that amateur operators have the requisite incentive to advance their skill and technical knowledge in order to contribute to the advancement of the radio art and improvement of the Amateur Radio Service,” the FCC said.

“The Commission has already concluded that it will not automatically grant additional privileges to the discontinued license classes,” the FCC said. “Consequently, we conclude that the above-referenced petitions for rulemaking do not warrant further consideration at this time.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Apparent Pirate Station Transmitting SSTV on 10 Meters

In what might be a “first,” the [December edition](#) of the IARU Region 1 ([IARU-R1](#)) Monitoring System newsletter includes a report of an apparent pirate station transmitting Slow Scan TV (SSTV) on 28.001.5 MHz. The station has been transmitting latitude and longitude coordinates as part of the image, which would put the offender in northeast Italy, although it’s not certain if these indicate the station’s actual location.

Other intruders on 10 meters include a radar facility in Iran, transmitting on 28.500 MHz using frequency modulation on pulse (FMOP) with 225 and 334 sweeps per second and covering about 36 kHz with many spurious emissions. On 15 meters, Moroccan military traffic has been observed on USB on 21.000 MHz. Fishing crews also are said to be gravitating to the new 15 kHz 60-meter band, now becoming available in many countries.

Reports of Amateur Radio band intruders may be [logged](#) on the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System logger.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

FCC Denies Expert Linear's Request for Waiver of 15dB Rule, Petition Pending

The FCC has denied a request by [Expert Linear America LLC](#) to waive §97.317(a)(2) of the Amateur Service rules limiting amplifier gain. Expert, of Magnolia, Texas, distributes linear amplifiers manufactured by SPE in Italy. Its waiver request, filed in June, would have allowed Expert to import an amplifier capable of exceeding the current 15 dB gain limitation as it awaits FCC action on its April petition ([RM-11767](#)) to revise the same Amateur Service rules. That petition remains pending. Expert has asserted that there should be no gain limitation on amplifiers sold or used in the Amateur Service. Most commenters supported Expert's waiver request, but a couple of commenters – including FlexRadio, which supports a rule change – expressed concerns about granting a waiver to Expert alone.

“In light of the conflicting comments regarding the desirability of eliminating the 15 dB limitation, we conclude that waiving the limitation at this stage of the rulemaking proceeding would prejudice the rulemaking proceeding and prematurely dispose of commenters’ concerns,” the FCC said in denying the waiver. “Moreover, we agree with FlexRadio that granting Expert’s waiver request while the rulemaking petition remains pending would provide an unfair market advantage for one equipment model over other manufacturers’ RF power amplifiers that would still be limited by [the existing rules].”

The FCC said it would rather give full consideration to “the pending issues” and apply the result of the rulemaking proceeding to all Amateur Radio Service equipment. The Commission said rule waivers “generally” are not warranted “merely to accommodate technical parameters that are based solely on harmonization with the manufacturer’s products available abroad.”

The FCC said a minority of those commenting on the waiver request expressed concern that eliminating the 15 dB limitation would lead to an overall increase in power levels, “including transmissions that intentionally or unintentionally exceed the maximum power limit.”

In its April rulemaking petition, Expert maintained 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.

Although the FCC had proposed in 2004 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 limit in the subsequent [Report and Order](#) in that proceeding.

Expert has 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.

- Originally published online at [ARRL.org](#)

Special Call Sign Prefixes Available to Celebrate Canada’s Sesquicentennial



Radio Amateurs of Canada ([RAC](#)) has secured permission for all Canadian radio amateurs to use special call sign prefixes to celebrate the [150th anniversary](#) of Canada’s Confederation during 2017.

Starting on January 1, radio amateurs and clubs with VA-prefix call signs may use CF instead, and those with VE-prefix call signs may use CG instead. Amateurs and clubs with VO-prefix call signs may substitute CH instead, while those holding VY-prefix call signs may substitute CI. Use of the special prefixes is optional, and Canadian radio amateurs may choose if and when to use the special prefix at any time during the year.

VY1AAA, the Yukon Canam Contest Club, will mark the sesquicentennial with special call sign XK150YUKON from January 1 until March 1. The rest of 2017, VY1AAA will operate using either C11AAA or VY1AAA.

- 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** **South Texas Section ARES Net (HF)**
 Mondays 7:30pm CT on 3.873MHz LSB
 This is an information net open to South Texas (STX) Section ARES members. Other Amateur stations are welcome to listen in.
- 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 (HF)**
 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** **North Texas Section ARES Net (HF)**
 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)	WC5GC

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC

Inaugurating a New Year – 2017

Well it's begun, 2017 is now about three weeks old and already the calendar is alive with additions, updates and revisions to our plans for the year.

The AEC team has already had an early January meeting and the enthusiasm was impressive as ideas and plans flowed onto note pads, laptops and smartphones.

As usual, any plan is subject to change right up until the moment of execution. Our previously determined programming has flip flopped and in the process several new ideas surfaced.



Our program on the 24th changed to Earthquake response and our work with served agencies. Linda KE5YUC has recently attended training on this topic and shared what she learned. The planned Packet program has been moved out to May and several Winlink programs are shuffled around to fit the plan. It's great when our program presenters are flexible and can adjust as life affects others in the schedule. In March we will be doing a hands on Winlink station set up. It will be preceded by a chili supper at 6 pm on the 28th. I will send out an email with more details as the date draws near. We are focused on our SET (Simulated Emergency Training) out in April to set do a field setup of a Winlink station and also survey several Red Cross Shelter sites.

We have not had any recent activations for SKYWARN or any other purpose, so it becomes more important to check into nets and be active on the repeaters to ensure equipment has not failed and all our tools and operating practices stay sharp. Be sure when operating to not quick-key and start talking before the repeater opens. This also allows others to get in the conversation and verify operations. Concerning SKYWARN operations, know that already the NC team has been operational for some of the weather that has moved thru recently. Anytime there is weather of possibly severe nature our team is watching and/or communicating with the various resources we have several hours before it might arrive.

That brings me to my last thought. We have a robust team in our ARES group. Whether you're a new operator, a member of the AEC leadership, just been active a couple of seasons or a seasoned veteran, you are part of a team that is well recognized. I have had conversations with others in the ARES organization outside our county and you all should be proud of your service, your practice and your work to improve the overall operations in our area. I look forward with optimism as we continue to work though the coming year together.

73
Rick
K5ECX

2017 Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Dues Form

Instructions: Print this form, fill it out, and bring it with your dues payment to a club meeting. If you cannot make the meeting, please mail this form and payment to:

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 642
Sherman, TX 75091

Today's Date: _____

Yourself:

_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	_____ Call Sign	_____ Class Held
_____ Street Address	_____ City	_____ State	_____ Zip
_____ Phone Number	_____ E-mail Address	_____ ARRL Y/N	

Additional Family Members:

_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	_____ Call Sign	_____ Class Held
_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	_____ Call Sign	_____ Class Held
_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	_____ Call Sign	_____ Class Held
_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	_____ Call Sign	_____ Class Held

Dues:

- Individual Membership \$20.00/year
- Family Membership \$30.00/year (2 or more hams in the same family)
- Associate (non-ham) Membership \$15.00/year

Payments can be made by cash or check (we recommend you do not send cash through the mail).
Make checks payable to GCARC.

The club is planning to print a membership roster. If you want any of the above information withheld from the roster, please place an "X" next to the information you want withheld. By default, all e-mail addresses will be kept private; if you want your e-mail address published please check here: ().