



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

FEBRUARY 2017

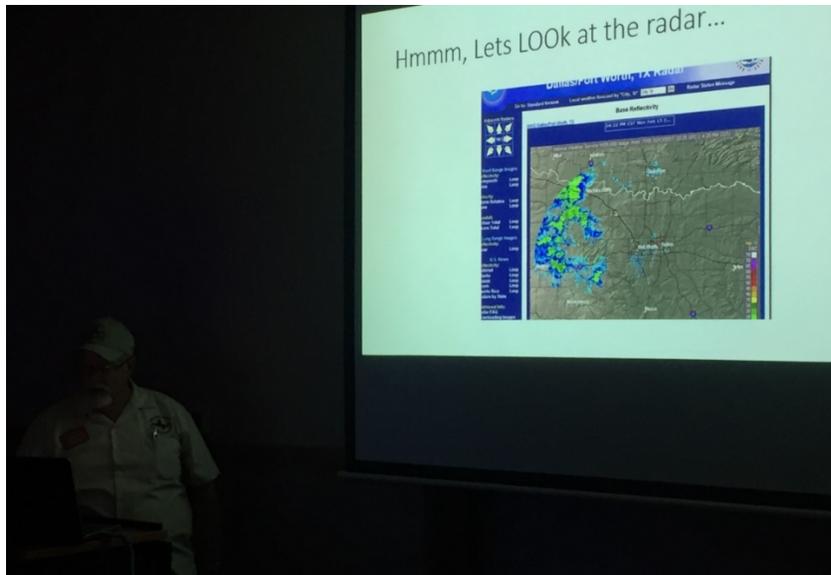
WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 23, No. 2

## THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

The club meeting was great. Rick Simmons K5ECX did a great presentation on SKYWARN and a behind the scenes look at what happens in the EOC during an event.



There will be more information coming on our antenna projects as we continue to make progress.

I need help from our members to step up and give presentations during our meetings. Also, please feel free to bring in your radio equipment if you need help with operating or programming. Be sure to bring all the pieces we need to program it including cables and software (and if you have a laptop you're using with it, that helps too).

See you at the next meeting.

Mark  
KF5UZW

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## CLUB INFORMATION

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### OFFICERS

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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

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

### MAILING ADDRESS

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

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

**Memberships are from January 1 – December 31**

### NEWSLETTER

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

### WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

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Address: [www.graysoncountyar.com](http://www.graysoncountyar.com)  
Webmaster: Ben Sly KF5OEB  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC](http://www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC)  
Page:

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### DUES AND DONATIONS

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Membership dues are payable upon joining and renew on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Donations to support the club are always welcome. Dues and donations may be paid by cash or check at any monthly GCARC meeting and by mail, or by using a credit or debit card online at the GCARC website.

### GCARC, ARES, AND SKYWARN PATCHES

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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

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Several times each year, members have the opportunity to purchase club-related clothing (shirts, caps, jackets, etc.). These items have the GCARC logo and the member's name and callsign embroidered on them. An order form with instructions will be included in the newsletter each time orders are being taken.

*"It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to so conduct club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community."*

From the GCARC Constitution

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## GCARC MEETING MINUTES

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### GCARC Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2017

1. Meeting opened at 7:00pm with 22 members in attendance
2. Motion made by Roy Reed AF5VA and seconded by Jim McGlynn K5QOI to accept January minutes  
Passed unanimously
3. Treasurer's Report  
Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA explained \$.88 discrepancies in January's report  
\$1,944.19 is current balance  
Motion made by Linda Mihay W5ULY and seconded by John Ramsey KF5KHZ to approve treasurer's report  
Passed unanimously
4. Guests  
Honey Easter (Gainesville)  
Linda Jonas (Lake Kiowa)  
Barbara Henderson (Gordonville)  
Kelly Gross (Howe)
5. Old Business
6. Ben Sly KF5OEB is working with North Texas Regional Airport manager to get required paperwork done for tower. Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW described needed parts and equipment and volunteered to work on the project over the next few weeks
7. New Business
8. Events

Perrin Field Day	May 20, 2017 (Armed Forces Day)	North Texas Regional Airport
Red River Bridge War	July 22, 2017	North Texas Regional Airport
Field Day	June 24-25, 2017	Sherman Municipal Airport
Eisenhower Birthday	October 14, 2017	North Texas Regional Airport
9. Helping Hams  
Lee Sly N5SLY tower project February 25, 2017
10. Club Activities (Trevor Reed KG5BFI)  
Thinking about meeting to build fox hunt antennas  
He welcomes your ideas  
He wants to have presentation/program at each meeting except December  
Please sign up to be net controller for club nets
11. CW Presentation (James Frank KW5CW)  
Writes article called CW Corner  
Brought refurbished 1979 key with him  
Asks if anyone is interested in CW classes  
Offers to come to us or vice versa; 1 on 1 is ok with him  
ARRL Field Day (June 24 & 25) - he wants to have volunteers for a CW station  
Current contests
  - ARRL International CW Contest - for the next 24 hours
  - Weekly contest on Wednesday mornings 7AM-8AMQST app for iPhones has magazines  
Online logbooks at HRDlog.net (free and fantastic) plus others
12. Do we have enough money for this year?  
Mark KF5UZW will inventory what we have

Lee N5SLY will donate for Helping Hams  
Jim K5QOI will donate antenna equipment  
We need to get the tower up

13. Rick Simmons K5ECX presented a program on SKYWARN followed by a tour of EOC

14. Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stacy Branam W5ORD  
Nancy Pierce KG5PIZ  
GCARC Secretaries

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## 2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

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**A reminder to all GCARC members: club memberships expired on December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.graysoncountyar.com>**



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## CLUB MEETINGS, LOCAL ACTIVITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Club Meetings

#### **Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 7:00pm

Grayson County Courthouse 2<sup>nd</sup> floor assembly room, 100 West Houston Street, Sherman TX

<http://www.graysoncountyarc.com>

#### **Cooke County Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00pm

Cooke County Library, 200 S. Weaver Street, Gainesville TX

<http://www.gainesvillehamfest.org/club.htm>

#### **Durant Amateur Repeater Association (DARA)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00pm

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Durant-Amateur-Repeater-Association-Ham-Radio/292030700959672>

#### **Fannin County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 9:00am

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX

<http://www.k5frc.org>

#### **McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00pm

Spring Creek Barbecue, 1993 North Central Expressway, McKinney TX

<http://www.mckinneyarc.org>

#### **Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Chapter 41**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 11:00am

Visit website for meeting location

<https://qcwachapter41dallas.org>

### ARES® / SKYWARN®

#### **Grayson County ARES® Training**

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each odd-numbered month (Jan / Mar / May / Jul / Sep / Nov) at 7:00pm

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

<http://www.tecoares.org>

### 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](mailto: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**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each even-numbered month (Feb / Apr / Jun / Aug / Oct / Dec) at 7:00pm

Grayson College Center For Workplace Learning, Seminar Room C, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX

Contact: Moe NT7C (903) 564-7115 or [nt7c@arrl.net](mailto:nt7c@arrl.net)

### **Durant Amateur Repeater Association – Monthly Testing**

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

### **Fannin County Amateur Radio Club – Appointment-Only Testing**

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

## Hamfests

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:expo@tarc.org)  
Website: <http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo/>

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## **CW CORNER**

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There are no scheduled CW group classes this year for the GCARC. However, there is some interest from new members to learn CW. Private tutoring is available to those who want to learn. If you are interested, please send me a note via my email – [KW5CW@arrl.net](mailto:KW5CW@arrl.net) and we can make arrangements. Also, interested parties that would like to receive CW practice sessions via email, please send me a note and you will see practice sessions showing up in your email inbox shortly. You do not have to be in a class to receive these emails.

As mentioned, there was the **ARRL International DX-CW contest** that was held this past weekend on Feb 18 and 19. Personally, I did not participate this year, but for those who may be interested, the **ARRL International DC-Phone contest is in two weeks – March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>**. Of course, it's never too early to prepare for **Field Day, which happens on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> this year**. My CW station will be present at that event for all to use. That would be a great time for you to break in to working a CW contest.

Also as mentioned, **no contesting is allowed in the WARC bands of 12, 17, 30 and 60 meters**. The list of those frequency bands are as follows:

12 meters: 24.890 – 24.990  
17 meters: 18.068 – 18.168  
30 meters: 10.100 – 10.150  
60 meters: 5:330.5 – 5.405.0 \***Channelized band - 50 Watts ERP – USB only.**

\*Note – On 60 meters, there are only 5 specific frequencies you are allowed to operate. They are as follows:

5.332 MHz – 5.348 MHz – 5.368 MHz – 5.373 MHz and 5.405 MHz

**2017 Mini-CWT Contest** – Every Tuesday – 7-8AM and 1-2PM (160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters) – This contest lasts for just one hour each session. Information about this event can be found at [www.cwops.org/cwt.html](http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html).

**KW5CW CW Operations:** Throughout the days and nights, you can listen to one of 4 specific low band frequencies, where you can periodically find me operating CW. If you hear me on one of those frequencies, mention it at the meeting. Remember, I live in Anna, Texas, so conditions may not be too favorable for ground wave propagation to Sherman.

The frequencies are as follows: **7.045, 10.110, 21.045, 28.110** (all freqs. +/- 5kc)

Own an **ARRL email address** if you are an ARRL Member. Setup is easy. Go to your ARRL profile page. The Account Information page will pop up. Change your user name to your call letters. Check the box that says 'Opt-in to have a <username>@arrl.net email alias'. Wait 30 minutes and your new email address will be active. Note that your login to the ARRL website will now be changed to your call letters.

**NEXT GCARC MEETING : MARCH 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017** – See you there.....

73  
James Frank KW5CW  
GCARC Vice President

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## SWAP MEET

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*(Disclaimer: This section is provided for hams to list items they wish to buy, sell, or trade. GCARC will not be responsible for the accuracy or completeness of any descriptions, will not guarantee any items function as described, and will not participate in any transactions. The individual buyer and seller are responsible for all discussions, negotiations, and resolving of differences.)*

*To submit items to be listed, send the information in an e-mail to the GCARC Newsletter Editor at [kf5npm@gmail.com](mailto:kf5npm@gmail.com). Photographs are encouraged. There is no charge for listings, and you do not need to be a member of GCARC to participate.*

### FOR SALE AS IS: Assorted Electronics/Test Equipment

The following items were donated to GCARC and are in need of a new home. No set price per piece – make us an offer!

- Heathkit RF Signal Generator
- Square Wave Generator Model 71
- Broel & Kjoer Voltmeter
- Sierra Electronic Corp. Carrier Frequency Voltmeter 104A
- Polytechnic Research Heterodyne Frequency Meter Type 504

**NOTE: These have not been tested and are offered “as is” with no refunds.**

Contact: Lee Sly N5SLY  
E-mail: [lee.n5sly@gmail.com](mailto:lee.n5sly@gmail.com)

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## HELPING HAMS

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The idea behind Helping Hams is simple – all hams need a little help sometimes, but they might not know who can help them. Our club has many talented members, with some better at certain jobs than others. What we hope to do here is match up hams needing help with other hams who have the skills to help them. Working together, we can all help our fellow hams and encourage them to continue pursuing their interests in this wonderful hobby.

The currently-requested needs are listed below. If you have a need, or know of a ham with a need, or if you or someone you know can help, contact our newsletter editor by sending an e-mail to [kf5npm@gmail.com](mailto:kf5npm@gmail.com). Be sure to include the following: 1) Who needs the help and how to contact them; 2) What needs to be done; 3) When can someone come out to do the work; and 4) Where is the location of the work that needs to be done. **You don't have to be a member of GCARC to ask for help or make an offer to help.** We're all in this together – that's what the hobby is all about!

### Current Requests:

Bennie K5DIZ	Antenna install	Sherman
Bob Sholl	Needs help with a rotator on a 100' tower.	Davy Ln, Denison
W5DSA		
Lee Sly	Antenna install (February 25 <sup>th</sup> )	Sherman
N5SLY		

### ARES Volunteers Support Evacuation, Shelters, in Wake of Oroville, California, Dam Crisis

[Sacramento Valley ARES](#) Section Emergency Coordinator Greg Kruckewitt, KG6SJT, reported that Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) volunteers actively supported communication for the evacuation and sheltering of nearly 200,000 people living below the damaged Oroville Dam in rural California. The dam, on the Feather River east of Oroville, is the tallest in the US. Following a period of heavy rain, a section of the earthfill-embankment dam's spillway eroded, and authorities ordered residents living below the dam to evacuate, in case the dam should fail. Crews have been attempting to fill the eroded area with rock transported by helicopter. On February 14, authorities lifted the mandatory evacuation order, but said it could be re-imposed, if necessary. Residents returning home were advised to remain vigilant, should the situation again become critical, and some ARES activity continues.



“Things have really calmed down for now after the mandatory evacuation notice was reduced to an evacuation warning,” Kruckewitt told ARRL on February 15. “At this time, only the Butte County ARES group is deployed to the Chico Fairgrounds to support the Red Cross -- possibly through the weekend.” The Chico shelter will remain open until the next storms pass.

FEMA reported that the Kelly Ridge Powerhouse located below Oroville Dam is flooded and unsafe. “Any further flooding could result in the potential release of 500 gallons of turbine oil stored in tanks,” the agency said on February 15.

Butte County ARES EC Dale Anderson, KK6EVX, was called out by the emergency operations center (EOC) on the evening of February 12. Six members of the Butte County ARES team have been deployed to the Red Cross evacuation shelter at the Chico fairgrounds. “ARC still wants us at the Chico Fairgrounds,” Anderson told Kruckewitt on February 15. “We are down to one VHF unit and one operator on watch for now.”

On February 12, Yuba/Sutter ARES EC Steve Sweetman, K6TAZ, opened and managed a net to provide information and gather reports of road closures or problems during the evacuation. The net received reports from radio amateurs who were evacuating. Traffic was reported to be very heavy, with a trip that would normally take 20 minutes extending into a “3-hour stop-and-go ordeal,” Sweetman said. The net also gathered and disseminated information on where evacuees could get fuel. “This became a critical need, as the thousands of people evacuated their houses with 1-hour notice,” Kruckewitt said. Sweetman provided shelter for 17 evacuees.



California Department of Water Resources crews inspect and evaluate the erosion just below the Lake Oroville emergency spillway site after lake levels receded on February 13. [California DWR photo by Kelly M. Grow]

The Sacramento County EC Vince Cracchiolo, KI6NHP, was called into the Sacramento County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on February 13 as the Red Cross opened a shelter at Cal Expo in Sacramento. Kruckewitt said the Sacramento Valley Section received offers of help from hams outside of California. As of February 15, FEMA was reporting 16 shelters open with 2,606 occupants.

“All ARES groups in the section are on standby, if help is needed. So far, the dam is holding, and repair work is under way at last report,” Kruckewitt said.

According to the California Department of Water Resources ([DWR](#)), evacuation orders were issued to residents surrounding Lake Oroville late Sunday afternoon. “DWR has been monitoring conditions at Lake Oroville’s main and auxiliary spillways around the clock for signs of erosion that could threaten the integrity of the emergency spillway and allow large, uncontrolled flows to the Feather River,” the agency says on its website.

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

## ARRL Seeks Opinions on Possible New Entry Level License

An Entry-Level License Committee was established by the ARRL Board of Directors and appointed in September 2016. As part of its ongoing work, the committee is gathering member input and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC.

It has been more than 10 years since ARRL asked the FCC to consider a proposal for restructuring licensing requirements and creating a more appropriate entry-level license. The outcome of this committee's work could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio, from HF to VHF and UHF.

The committee has created an [online member survey](#). If you are an ARRL member, please complete and submit the survey no later than April 7, 2017. Survey results will be published.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## Radio Australia HF Station Signs Off in CW

In an apparent nod to radio amateurs who may have tuned in, [Radio Australia](#)'s VL8A transmitter in Alice Springs [signed off](#) on January 31 in CW. The station sent "73 de VL8A QRT," before pulling the big switch. Radio Australia announced last fall that it planned to cease its shortwave transmissions this year. The broadcaster shut down its Katherine, Tennant Creek and Roe Creek (Alice Springs) transmitters at the end of January, but it said it would continue to broadcast on FM and AM bands, via satellite, and online streaming and mobile applications.

The move has not been popular with those who live and work in the vast area the shortwave broadcasts reached, with some saying it was the only reliable broadcast outlet, and that its demise could deprive Northern Australian listeners of emergency and critical weather information. Northern Territory Cattleman's Association President Tom Stockwell, who lives on Sunday Creek Station with no access to AM or FM radio or mobile phone service, isn't buying the Australian Broadcasting Commission's explanation. He said the decision to focus on digital transmission ignored people in the bush. "It affects a big area of Australia, and it affects those people that are remote from other forms of communication that rely on radio network," he said.

Mark Crocombe of the indigenous Thamarrurr Rangers in the remote community of Wadeye said his group members spend days and sometimes weeks at a time away in the bush and out on sea patrols and had relied on the ABC's shortwave radio for weather reports and emergency information, including cyclone warnings. "Sure, it is expensive to keep the shortwave radio service going, but during cyclones, for the bush camps and people on boats, that is their only way of getting the weather reports," he said. "It could be life threatening, if you are out and you don't know a cyclone is coming."

Radio Australia has said the move was in line with its commitment to dispense with outdated technology and to expand its digital content offerings and FM services. The ABC said it would put the money saved from ending shortwave broadcasting into other program distribution technology.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## National Museum to Mark 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Voice of America

The National Voice of America (VOA) Museum at the VOA-Bethany site in West Chester, Ohio, will join in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the [VOA](#). The Voice of America [marked its diamond jubilee](#) on February 1. In 1942, not 2 months after the US officially entered World War II, a live, 15-minute shortwave broadcast was transmitted into Germany from a small studio in New York City. Introduced by "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," the voice of announcer William Harlan Hale declared, "We bring you Voices from America. Today, and daily from now on, we shall speak to you about America and the war. The news may be good for us. The news may be bad. But we shall tell you the truth."

"We're planning a series of events and exhibits this year to celebrate the VOA's commitment across America and the world to embrace best practices in telling the truth in order to let the world decide," said Jack Dominic, the museum's

executive director. The West Chester Amateur Radio Club is a museum partner and operates WC8VOA from the museum.

At the dedication of VOA-Bethany, then-FCC Commissioner Clifford Durr referred to the forest of towers on the site as "...siege guns of radio that can hurl explosive facts against the enemy's weapons of lies and confusion... They are also potential guns of peace." Helped by an array of rhombic antennas, VOA-Bethany station transmitted news to Europe during World War II and to South America during the Cold War. The federal government decommissioned the Bethany station in 1994.

"The men and women who made up the VOA broadcasting system were our journalistic beacons of light during the 20th century," said Ken Rieser, president of the VOA Museum board. "Elmer Davis, John Houseman, Edward R. Murrow, and Robert Bauer all had positions of leadership within the VOA."



The VOA-Bethany station in West Chester, Ohio, is now a museum.

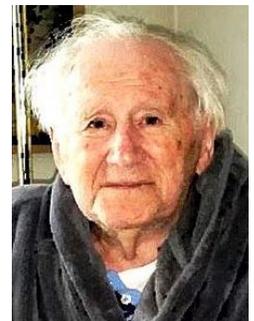
Today the VOA is the world's largest international broadcaster, transmitting news and information in 47 languages to 236 million people each week, according to the VOA website. The National VOA Museum of Broadcasting, located in the art deco Bethany station building, houses three collections -- the Gray History of Wireless radios, VOA-Bethany station's Voice of America control room, and the Media Heritage Cincinnati Museum of Broadcast History.

The National VOA Museum of Broadcasting is open on the third Saturday of each month from 1 to 4 PM Eastern Time. [For more information](#), visit the VOA Museum website.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

### **Oldest, Longest Licensed U.S. Ham, Educator Charles Hellman, W2RP, SK**

Charles "Charlie" Hellman, W2RP, of Hastings on Hudson, New York, died on January 25. He was 106 and may have not only been the oldest surviving radio amateur in the US but, at 92 years, also may have been the longest licensed. Hellman outlived by 8 days Harry Wolf, W6NKT, of Morro Bay, California, who had been considered the oldest US ham when he [died](#) on January 17, just a couple of weeks shy of his 108th birthday.



In 2015, the Quarter Century Wireless Association ([QCWA](#)) honored Hellman with a "90 Year Continuous Licensed Certificate Award" (No 1). No formal records are kept regarding the oldest or youngest US hams. Hellman had been regularly active on the air until a few years before his death, when his backyard tower fell victim to Hurricane Sandy.

Licensed as W2AMK in 1925 when he was 15, Hellman, who had been an ARRL member, went on to become an educator. After working his way through the City College of New York by repairing radios, he taught high school physics. During World War II, Hellman was tapped by the Department of War to write a textbook for training radio operators, *Elements of Radio*. Two of Hellman's siblings also held ham tickets. His brother Robert, now deceased, was W2JAN. His brother Benjamin, 96, is W2VB.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

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## LOCAL RADIO NETS

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- Daily**      **Texas Slow Net (CW only)**  
 Daily 7:45pm CT on 3.570MHz  
 This is a training net for operators interested in building proficiency in CW and learning about handling procedures for CW traffic nets.
- Weekly**      **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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month due to the DARA monthly meeting.
- Fannin County ARC Weekly Net**  
 Tuesdays 8:00pm CT on the 147.200+ (100.0 PL) repeater.  
 This is an informal information net.
- McKinney 6 meter AM Net**  
 Wednesdays 10:00pm CT on 50.400MHz
- Ladies Net**  
 Thursdays 7:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.  
 Net Control: Linda KE5YUC
- McKinney ARC Info Net**  
 Sundays 8:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.
- Semi-Monthly**      **Grayson County ARC Information Net**  
 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.  
 This is an informal information net and buy/sell/swap net.
- Grayson County ARES Net**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.  
 This is a directed information net used for training.
- RACES Command Net Check (HF)**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 2:00pm CT on 7.255 MHz LSB  
 This is a RACES Command Net check for statewide RACES Command Net members ONLY. All other Amateur stations are welcome to listen, but DO NOT check in!
- Monthly**      **North Texas Section ARES Net (HF)**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 8:30pm CT on 3.860 MHz LSB  
 This is an information net open to all ARES members in the ARRL North Texas (NTX) Section.
- McKinney ARES Net**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.

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## AREA REPEATERS

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<b>Sherman TX</b>	147.000+ MHz (100.0 PL) 147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL) 444.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT W5COP W5RVT	<b>Gainesville TX</b>	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI
<b>Allen TX</b>	145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	<del><b>Kingston OK</b></del>	<del>146.085- MHz (103.5 PL)</del> (currently out of service)	<del>K5BQC</del>
<b>Bonham TX</b>	147.200+ MHz (100.0 PL) 145.470- MHz (100.0 PL) 443.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	K5FRC K5FRC K5FRC	<b>McKinney TX</b>	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
<b>Denison TX</b>	145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH	<b>Melissa TX</b>	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
<b>Durant OK</b>	147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL) <del>147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL)</del> (currently out of service)	K5KIE K5CGE	<b>Paris TX</b>	146.760- MHz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD
			<b>Rosston TX</b>	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
			<b>Van Alstyne TX</b>	443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
			<b>Whitesboro TX</b>	442.875+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WC5GC

### Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

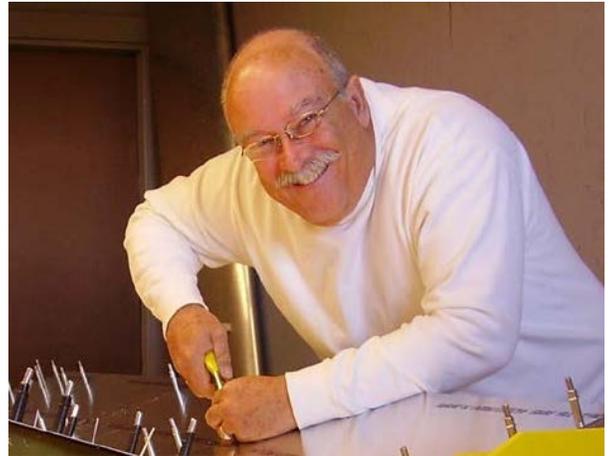
By Rick Simmons K5ECX  
Grayson County ARRL EC

#### Learning From Others

I receive a newsletter for ARRL called the ARES E-Letter. Its focus is on ARES type activities. I recommended you sign up for it at the ARRL website.

In the last edition there is an article on a Florida county's response to Hurricane Matthew. As I read it I thought about our operations and wondered how we would do. Karl Martin, the EC interviewed, makes three issues come to our attention, and I wanted to share some thoughts as they might apply to us.

His first is, "There needs to be more advance consultation, cooperation and coordination with other volunteer organizations such as area Amateur Radio clubs, CERT organizations, and active church groups for parsing of the limited number of volunteer operators." Martin noted that many ARES volunteers are also members of these other groups who ended up working for them instead of ARES, with the consequence that demand for operators outstripped supply for ARES. Well, we have had some discussion about this, especially concerning our relationship with CERT. Many ops are involved there also and this has been a concern raised a few times as to how that might play out. Some of us are involved in church response, Red Cross and others. The plan the Florida team took was, they have added questions to their ARES application that ask who else the ops are committed to and who they will support. Nice, but that could be a fiasco also when the first words are "but you said you would help us." I think we all need to consider our support and make a conscious decision. ARES guidelines tell us to take care of home and family first, then ARES; maybe that will help you decide. It can be a critical point if and when IT happens.



His second point is regarding badges. Don't say it... yes, we need badges. "Secondly, badging/identification must be provided to volunteer communicators for access to sensitive locations such as shelters, and recognition by officials there. Some ARES operators had difficulty getting access to some shelters, and in one case volunteers were asked to leave." We do have Picture ID badges and as I watch, most folks wear them. I can only hope as we are at events/operations those charged with security will see and understand who our team is. Also, don't come to an event as my mom used to say "looking like you just crawled out from under a rock." While I won't specify a dress code here, there are suggestions on the ARRL site to which we should pay attention.

The third point is to equipment. "Thirdly, there were no coax nor antennas found or marked at some facilities. Having antennas and coax runs pre-placed, working and marked would have made getting communication systems up and running more quickly and reliably." While we have not progressed to having specific equipment at shelter sites (we do have some at the hospitals), we are moving to a higher level soon as we research several sites during an upcoming SET this spring. We will be listing suggested equipment needed to establish communications at those sites. At this point I suggest if you have equipment you have earmarked for ARES use, as some of us have, tag it as to the specifics it has so it can be best utilized. Once it hits a stash of equipment, it's lost in the crowd so to speak. For coax a length would be good, and a last tested date might also help. For portable antennas; frequency and power rating might be handy. In all cases if you want it back, put your call or name on it.

We are close to being as ready as we can be. Think some of these topics over and let me hear your ideas. In the meantime, as we just completed our SKYWARN training, please consider your support of this vital activity this spring.

ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service – let's all work towards providing the best service we can.  
I look forward to serving with you

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: ( ).