



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

MARCH 2017

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 23, No. 3

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

Well, we are well into the new year. Next month will be our first event at Perrin Field Museum to celebrate armed forces day on May 20, 2017, start setup at 8:00 - 3:00, and we will have hot dogs and chips. Please bring drinks.

We had a Winlink / WINMOR software presentation by Matt KF5KOY at the last club meeting. Thanks for the great presentation.



Please email me or Trevor if you would like to do a presentation at one of the meetings. We also need members to sign up for netcontrol. It's easy and fun.

Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW@arrl.net

Trevor Reed kg5bfi@gmail.com

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:	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

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 e-mail changes:	Send E-Mail to KF5NPM@gmail.com
Submission Deadline:	12 midnight on the Sunday following each monthly meeting

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Address:	www.graysoncountyar.com
Webmaster:	Ben Sly KF5OEB
Facebook Page:	www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC

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 – March 17, 2017

- 23 in attendance
- Called to order at 7:03 pm
- Minutes from February newsletter were approved
- Treasurer's report is up-to-date, we currently have \$1875.79 and \$329.54 in the equipment fund; report was approved
- The new storage facility at Ben KF5OEB's hangar is slowly getting loaded up, there are a few large items that still need to be transported
- The airport approved the building of the tower at Perrin Field Museum, more plans to follow
- We will be splitting the cost of setting up at the Denison Fall Fest with the Red Cross; the club was in favor
- Rick K5ECX is currently accepting clothing orders, pay the club first, then give him the order forms
- ARES training on the 28th will be at Rick's house 1000 Arkansas Rd. in Sadler starting around 6:00pm; they will be setting up a WinLink station
- Saturday April 1 will be an ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) starting around 9:00am; there will be 5 or 6 locations in Grayson County on the Red Cross's list that we will be evaluating to see what would be needed to run a station at each location in an emergency; WinLink and 2m will be running for the test
- Jim K5QOI donated a laptop to the club with ham radio programs on it; he was happy to donate it to a member or the club in general
- VP James Frank KW5CW addressed the club; encouraged folks to get an ARRL email. He will set up a CW station at Field Day again this year and provide equipment to help those observing better understand what is being sent and received
- This coming Saturday the club will be disassembling a fallen radio tower that Trevor KG5BFI arranged for; it is located at 406 and Preston Road just north of Pottsboro starting at 9 am
- The Weather Bunch group is organizing a tailgate swap meet at Midway Mall; the dates and times will be forthcoming
- Matt KF5KOY finished the meet with a presentation on what WinLink is and the basics of how it works

The next meeting will be Friday, April 21, 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 03.01.2017

Operating Fund Beginning Bal 1,920.21

Deposits	Dues	Checks	
		Cash	
Kelly Gross		Online	30.00

Less expenses

	online fee	1.17
PO Box Rent	1121	64.00
Checks		9.25

Operating Fund Balance 1,546.25

** Members YTD

Available Equipment Funds 329.54

Donation

Less expenditures

Equipment Fund Balance 329.54

Ending Bank Balance
as of March 21, 2017 1,875.79

Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA
GCARC Treasurer

OPERATING BUDGET

Post Office Box	64.00
Checks	9.25
Website	0.00

Special Events Deposit

Food for Special Events

Donations

Total 73.25

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Amount Budgeted	0
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CLUB MEETINGS, LOCAL ACTIVITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Meetings

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC)

3rd Friday at 7:00pm

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

<http://www.graysoncountyar.com>

Cooke County Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)

2nd Thursday at 7:00pm

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

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

Durant Amateur Repeater Association (DARA)

3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

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

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC)

3rd Saturday at 9:00am

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX

<http://www.k5frc.org>

McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC)

2nd Tuesday at 7:00pm

Spring Creek Barbecue, 1993 North Central Expressway, McKinney TX

<http://www.mckinneyarc.org>

Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Chapter 41

1st Saturday at 11:00am

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>

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@arll.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

Ham-Com

June 9-10, 2017 (Friday and Saturday 8:00am-5:00pm)

VE Testing: Friday 11:00am-5:00pm, Saturday 11:00am-4:00pm

Irving Convention Center, 500 West Las Colinas Blvd, Irving TX

Talk-In: 146.720 (110.9 PL)

Public Contact: Bill Nelson AB5QZ (469) 964-2814 or bill.nelson@hamcom.org

Website: <http://www.hamcom.org>

CLUB ACTIVITY REPORTS

“Helping Hams” Project – Lee’s Antenna Party, February 25, 2017

Text and Photos by Lee Sly N5SLY



Folks showed up Saturday morning to help get my new antenna installed. This is the tower and antenna I've been using for years. You can just make out the G5RV mounted to the top of the tower.



First task was to remove the G5RV and the top tower section.



Next we raised and installed the new top section with a rotator and new mast.



Nancy did a great job of insuring that the new antenna was assembled correctly and that all the nuts and bolts were tight.



Ready to lift the new antenna up.



Up it goes. Bit of a challenge because we had to watch out for the guy wires on the tower.



Almost there.



Right about now the wind picked up a little bit...naturally.
But it didn't last long.



Dan and Ben installing the rotator and coax cables.



Got it mounted on the mast.



Reinstalled G5RV below beam.

Finished!

Everything tested and working. Made my first contact with Charlie, KD8OSD, in Michigan. He was amazed at how good my signal was...20 over 9. I'm a happy ham!

My thanks to Ben, Dan, Trevor, Marvin, Ricky, Nancy, Josh and my XYL, Kathy. Without all of your help this would not have happened.

73

Lee, N5SLY

CW CORNER

Field day is almost upon us. This year Field Day will run the weekend of June 24th and 25th. At our next meeting on April 21, 2017, I would like to find out who may be able to assist as a logger for CW during Field Day. I am hoping that others may want to actually get acquainted with contesting operations. Field Day is an easy way to get your feet wet on CW. This year, the CW station will sport a memory keyer and a CW decoder. You can watch the screen just as you do for PSK31. It would be a good exercise in breaking yourself into receiving CW. The responses are very repetitive, so it will be easy to adapt to the contest. For the most part, I will be running the station around the clock, but it would be really nice to have one or two relief operators. Also, last year we were plagued with a few antenna issues, but this year preparation should pay off, and hopefully we can easily beat last years results.

In a few of our prior CW Classes, I mentioned the use of abbreviations and Q-Signals. In CW operation, they are used widely. Below is a list of abbreviations, the ones most commonly used in a CW contact. Highlighted immediately below is a line that is repeated a lot including most popular Q-Codes.

TNX AGN FER FB QSO BT PSE QSL 73 CUL BT AR SK

Translated says.... Thanks again for fine business QSO. Please QSL, best regards ... end of transmission

ADR	address		GN	good night		RIG	station equipment
AGN	again		GND	ground		RPT	repeat
BK	break		GUD	good		SK	end of transmission
BN	been		HI	the telegraphic laugh		SRI	sorry
C	yes		HR	here		SSB	single side band
CL	closing		HV	have		TMW	tomorrow
CUL	see you later		HW	how		TNX-TKS	thanks
DE	from (French)		N	no		TU	thank you
DX	distance		NR	number		UR	your
ES	and (French)		NW	now		VY	very
FB	fine business		OM	old man		WX	weather
GA	go ahead		PSE	please		XYL	wife
GB	good bye		PWR	power		YL	young lady
GE	good evening		R	received as transmitted		73	best regards
GM	good morning		RCVR	receiver		88	love and kisses

The most popular Q-Code signals...

QRL	Is the frequency busy?		QRT	stop sending
QRM	interference		QRX	wait, standby
QRN	noise, static		QSB	fading
QRO	increase power		QSL	acknowledge receipt
QRP	decrease power		QSY	change frequency
QRS	send slower		QTH	location

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
Bob Sholl Needs help with a rotator on a 100' tower.
W5DSA

Sherman
Davy Ln, Denison

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

ARRL Reiterates Its Case for New Band at 5MHz



In comments filed on March 20 with the FCC on its own January *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11785](#)), ARRL reiterated its case for a contiguous secondary 15-kHz wide 60-meter band of 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz in addition to the four existing discrete 60-meter channels that fall outside the requested band, with a permitted power level of 100 W EIRP and retention of current operating rules. More than 5 dozen comments, all supporting the proposed allocation, were filed on the League's petition, although some suggested more spectrum or higher power, or a combination. ARRL said, however, that it does not at this time favor any changes in its initial request for a new band. The League proposal would implement a portion of the *Final Acts* of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) that provided for a secondary international amateur allocation of 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz at a maximum of 15 W EIRP.

“Each component of this proposal is intended to maximize spectral efficiency by permitting amateurs to operate throughout a band as conditions and availability warrant; to give primary service operations certainty as to where radio Amateurs will be located within the broader fixed and mobile service band between 5.250-5.450 MHz; and it protects those primary users with the same successful interference avoidance techniques and protocols that have been used for the past 15 years domestically, with which radio amateurs have the technical training and experience to comply,” ARRL asserted in its comments.

The League said the WRC-15 power limit of 15 W EIRP “would render the band unsuitable for emergency communication, especially between the US mainland and the Caribbean Basin during summer storms and hurricane season, when atmospheric noise can be severe.

ARRL said there were good reasons for hewing to the proposal it initially crafted and filed with the FCC, most relating to the fact that the spectrum is shared with federal government users and radio amateurs must avoid interfering with them. The ARRL also pointed out that there is no “European Model” for 5 MHz, noting that the vast majority of European countries have held to the 15 kilohertz agreed to at WRC-15, and some even to the 15 W EIPR power limit. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration ([NTIA](#)), which regulates government spectrum, would have to sign off on any proposal, and, ARRL noted, it has twice expressed concern about a contiguous allocation at 5 MHz and did not favor the plan agreed to at WRC-15.

“While ARRL understands and agrees that there is a long-term, justifiable need for an allocation at 5 MHz that is larger than the 15 kHz made available at WRC-15, and there is a very practical need for power in excess of the 100 W PEP requested in ARRL's *Petition*, there are practical considerations inherent in the ARRL *Petition* that stem from an urgent and ongoing need to share the Amateur allocation compatibly with other, primary users,” ARRL said. “The Amateur

Service must, of necessity, avoid interference to the primary users of this band (which it has, to date) in order to be permitted to operate there.”

Citing its decades-long effort to obtain operating privileges in the vicinity of 5 MHz, ARRL said there’s “not really much room for debate about the size of the band and the power limit domestically at the present time, given the allocation status of the band (domestically and internationally) and the necessary interference protection requirements for primary users.”

“It is hoped that as regular Amateur operation in this contiguous band develops, with the operating parameters recommended in ARRL’s *Petition*,” the ARRL comments continued, “such operation will continue to demonstrate compatible sharing with federal and other users and the operating parameters and the band can be re-examined and adjusted equitably at a later time.”

ARRL said the most important thing is to have the FCC grant an allocation before offering initiatives to alter the plan it proposed in January. It urged the FCC to adopt the rule changes it’s proposed “at the earliest possible time, if at all possible in advance of the 2017 hurricane season.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

International Crystal Manufacturing (ICM) Going Out Of Business

International Crystal Manufacturing ([ICM](#)) of Oklahoma City has announced that it will be going out of business, probably at the end of May. Royden Freeland Jr., W5EMH, son of the company’s founder, posted a letter announcing the closing on the ICM website.



“We will be honoring all orders that we have already taken and will be able to fill a limited amount of new orders dependent upon raw materials available,” Freeland said. “We would like to thank you for your past business. The success of ICM over the previous 66 years has been largely due to its amazing customer base.”

International Crystal produces RF control devices – quartz crystals, oscillators, QCM crystals, filters, TCXOs/VCTCXOs, and precision crystals.

Royden R. Freeland Sr. founded International Crystal in 1950, at first operating out of his garage. One of his first contracts was to produce crystals for Collins Radio. The elder Freeland and his wife died in a 1978 air crash, and his son took over the company, which expanded into the production of other electronics in the 1980s.

In the 1990s, though, it sold off some of its equipment and distribution business to concentrate on its core enterprise – the manufacture of crystal and oscillator products.

The announcement caught some manufacturers off guard, and they are seeking to source the products they had been buying from ICM, one of the few remaining US-based manufacturer of crystal products. Radio amateurs requiring crystals for projects or as replacement parts for older equipment also will have to look elsewhere.

Ironically, International states on its website that it’s “a proud supplier to Radio Shack,” which recently declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy for the second time in 2 years.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Cuba Institutes New Amateur Radio Regulations

Radio amateurs in Cuba are scrutinizing and debating the details of new Amateur Radio [regulations](#) for the island nation. The Cuban Ministry of Communications adopted the new regulatory scheme on February 28. International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 (IARU-R2) posted the new Amateur Radio Service regulations (in Spanish) as a PDF.

The detailed regulations governing hams in Cuba comprise 17 chapters and 182 articles and are said to include some significant changes from the previous rules and regulations that affect authorized bands, license terms, on-the-air practices, and the importation of equipment, antennas, and accessories. The rules in Cuba require license applicants to be at least 18 years old “or authorized by parent or guardian” for prospective radio amateurs older than age 12. Those older than 15 must at least be in ninth grade.

Three license classes are available in Cuba: First Class licensees have CO-prefix call signs and may run up to 2,000 W on authorized bands; Second Class licensees have CM-prefix call signs and may run up to 100 W; Third Class licensees have CL-prefix call signs and may run up to 10 W. Upgrading from Second to First Class requires 3 years’ experience in the lower license category, while upgrading from Third to Second Class requires 2 years’ experience in the lower license category.

First and Second Class licensees must pass a 5 WPM Morse code test.

The Federation of Cuban Radio Amateurs (FRC) develops the questions for the written tests, which must have government agency approval before being administered. Having a license does not automatically give permission to build a transmitting station, which must have prior approval.

The new Cuban regulations stipulate that communications with Amateur Radio stations in other countries be “in clear language” and limited to messages of a technical nature that do not justify the use of public telecommunications. Messages of a technical nature should refer to the exchange of information regarding experiences or experiments carried out during radio communications, and the coordination of schedules. An Amateur Radio station in Cuba may not engage in international third-party communications.

Cuba has adopted an approach of listing permitted modes *by band*, specifying up to 31 emission designators for some bands.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

MARS Refocuses Its Mission, Encrypts Data Nets

Today’s Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) program has changed markedly from what it was just a few years ago. So says US Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, who contends that MARS must adapt in order to remain relevant and useful to its sponsor, the US Department of Defense (DOD).

“Probably the most significant changes were the Navy’s decision to ‘sunset’ the Navy Marine Corps MARS program and our move to refocus Army and Air Force MARS on providing contingency HF Radio communications support to the DOD and the services,” English said. “In order to focus our support on the Department of Defense, MARS leadership had to rethink, essentially from the ground up, what it means to be a MARS member.” MARS relies on volunteers from within the Amateur Radio ranks. Among other things, recruits receive specialized training in military messaging formats and digital messaging protocols.

While the priority MARS mission is to provide contingency HF communication to support the DOD and the military, MARS also supports communication for combat commands providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, provides contingency communication for Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA), and provides “morale and welfare communications” in support of the DOD.

MARS still provides support for civil authorities, but it must follow DOD procedures for how that support is provided, English explained. “MARS leadership used to actively encourage our members to support civil authorities,” he said, “and that put us in direct competition with the Amateur Radio community as well as with other federal agencies.”

English said that in today’s MARS program, the primary digital protocol is software that emulates Military Standard (MilStd) 188-110A (M110A) serial phase-shift keying, which is compatible with what is used by the military. MARS members may still use Amateur Radio digital modes on working channels, but M110A is the principal mode. There are no plans to transition to digital voice modes.

This year, MARS introduced an online encryption program that allows all digital radio traffic to be encrypted as it is being transmitted. MARS has also expanded its use of automatic link establishment (ALE), although members are not required to use it.

“Our bread and butter remains single-channel HF communication,” English said. “The majority of our members who do use ALE are using the MARS ALE software program. Some of our members who support our national nets are moving to hardware ALE radios.”

The MARS program supports quarterly contingency communication exercises supporting the DOD. These are based on “very bad day” scenarios, where traditional forms of communication are no longer available. “Through these exercises, the DOD — via the MARS community — reaches out to the Amateur Radio community to provide situational awareness information at the county/local level,” English said.

That makes sense to MARS member Bill Sexton, N1IN, who was Army MARS public affairs officer from 2001 until 2014. “At least in theory, the blanketing omnipresence of hams across all 50 states offers a backup for blacked-out regions in the event of a catastrophic attack or natural disaster,” Sexton allowed. “The challenge is mobilizing back-up operations in the total absence of internet, telephone, cell phone, or texting resources.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Hurricane Watch Net Pioneer Don Kay, K0IND, SK

Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) pioneer Donald J. “Don” Kay, K0IND, of Panama City, Florida, died on March 1. He was 89.

“Don was a great friend and Elmer,” said HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV. “I cherish the times we talked on the air as well as my visits to his home.” Graves said Kay was a humanitarian who loved Amateur Radio and helping people. All told, he said, Kay served the HWN for more than a half-century.

Licensed in the early 1950s while stationed in the military in Colorado, Kay was one of the original members of the HWN in 1965, serving for 23 years as assistant net manager and 4 years as net manager. Kay also designed the HWN logo, and Graves said many consider him an HWN co-founder. In 2013, he was named manager emeritus and continued serving the net as an advisor.



Kay served in the military from 1946 until 1977. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1951 and then attended US Air Force Basic Flight School, graduating in 1952 and later as an all-weather pilot.

He flew 175 combat missions in Vietnam and later flew combat missions elsewhere in Southeast Asia. He retired from the Air Force as Director of Plans for the Air Force Communications Command.

Kay was also involved with the Maritime Mobile Service Network ([MMSN](#)), the Medical Amateur Radio Council ([MARCO](#)), and Air Force MARS. He assisted with communications during the 1978 Jim Jones Peoples Temple mass suicide in Guyana and with the Grenada Invasion in 1983.

“Don was one of the few people I’ve known who had a very calming, reassuring voice during emergency situations — undoubtedly due to his training and service,” Graves said.

- 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 8:00pm 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

Well, A Lot Is Going On...

Several things are on my mind as this monthly opportunity comes along. I'll share a few to get you included in the Twilight Zone of one ham's mind. "Lots" of stuff is happening here and there around us.

I read an article the other day about an after action report on a recent hurricane and the ARES response. It reminded me of our SET coming up on **April 1st** during which some shelters for persons displaced by emergency events will be assessed. The article indicated that preplaced antennas, coax and so forth in many cases were, ah... unusable when the need came. They weren't found, were damaged, had been moved to unusable locations... you get the picture. So I'm thinking we probably don't want to go looking to place equipment out there unless there is some form of responsibility in place to preserve it. We have that at some locations; our hospitals have equipment in place that can be used. Neither is prepared the same but we have relationships that make that work. In the more broad sense of shelters, there are many shelter locations and keeping up with that many persons and locations is more than our group is able to administer.



Which brings me to the second connected thought. At the last GCARC meeting, Matt KF5KOY shared information on WINMOR/Winlink operations. What was really nice was his radio go kit. In a weather resistant case he had a radio, power supply, the TNC for Winlink, power distribution, battery, and so forth. Ideal set up for use at a shelter site. I would encourage all of us that can, to have such a package. You can buy these on line, enjoy building one as Matt did. In any case the more of us that are so prepared, the better ARES might be able to respond and meet the call for When All Else Fails.

Another good thing that has happened is the success of the ham classes out at Grayson College. Moe NT7C has been holding classes out there for a few years now. Recently he completed a General class license session that produced five new General class hams. That's great news, but there is even more. After the SKYWARN training class he had 29 persons show up for the first day of the two day Technician License session. We planned that to happen right after the county SKYWARN training as it usually generates interest in Amateur Radio. Now most of you are well aware of the process he has, so there was a great deal of anticipation on how many would show for the second day. I believe heard him say 21. Not all stayed for the test, but if I recall correctly 18 passed their Technician class test. They were all very excited to move to the next step and clamored for a Ham 101 class. It is to be held April 8th at 9:00am out at the college in the CWL seminar room C. I share that as some of you might want to come if you didn't get to come to one. It's hands-on with HT's, antennas, coax, trouble shooting coax and so forth. It's great we have that much interest from the community. Let's do a good job of including these folks in local Amateur Radio and hopefully service to the community. I understand there is also an Extra class in the works. It will be several weeks of classwork, but you all see the success of this program thanks to Moe.

Well this is beginning to get long and ramble-y so I'll close with reminders about this time of year. Get ready. Storm season is upon us. Please check your equipment, batteries, go kits, yourselves, and whatever tools you use while spotting. We have not had any rain to speak of; I think it's a La Nina year so it may be a dry spring, but sometimes we get some whopper storms.

73
Rick
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