



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

APRIL 2017

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 23, No. 4

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

Well, we had a small but good Club meeting. Thanks to Leland Sly for covering upcoming events and I hope to see everyone at our first club event next month on Saturday, May 20th (the day after the next club meeting). We will setup about 9 AM and tear down about 3 PM at the Perrin Field Museum. Please bring drinks and snacks... it's BYOH.

Friday night's weather lead to me and Sheila KF5TDP being forced off the road by a big F-150 truck with a 4 inch lift kit. We were fine. Here are pictures of the damage to my car.



Remember to email me or Trevor if you would like to do a presentation at one of the meetings or to sign up for net control for our twice monthly information nets.

Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW@arrl.net

Trevor Reed kg5bf@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: 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 – April 21, 2017

13 people in attendance

Meeting called to order at 7:02PM by President, Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW

Motion made by Sheila Sammons KF5TDP and seconded by Bill Pierce K5XBP to accept March minutes; passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

\$1,791.87 is current balance

Motion made by Sheila and seconded by John Ramsey KF5KHZ to approve treasurer's report; passed unanimously.

Guests

Rebecca McKnight (from Oklahoma; had license years ago; interested in getting active)

Old Business

Perrin Museum tower components have been taken down and are stored with Ben Sly KF5OEB. Mark suggested bolting tower to side of building for which we need a bracket (\$142.95 cost). Motion made by Sheila to allocate the funds to buy it; seconded by John; passed unanimously

Coming Events

Perrin Special Event	May 20, 2017 (Armed Forces Day)	Grayson County APO
Field Day	June 24 - June 25, 2017	Sherman APO
Red River Bridge War SE	July 22, 2017	Grayson County APO
Eisenhower Birthday SE	October 14, 2017	Grayson County APO

We have already allocated \$50 for expenses for the Perrin Special Event

- Operating 10AM-4PM
- Bring your own cooler & food

CW Presentation (James Frank KW5CW)

- 2 new bands coming
- 2200 meters (135.7-137.8 kHz) and 630 meters (472-479 kHz); 5 watts maximum
- Frequencies are shared with utility companies so you have to notify companies when operating

Field Day

- What do we want to do for Field Day? Starts at 1PM on June 24
- No money allocated for food; will discuss at next meeting
- Will also discuss schedule & logistics

Lee Sly N5SLY gave a presentation on upcoming special events.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM

The next meeting will be Friday, May 19, 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 04.01.2017

Operating Fund Beginning Bal 1,875.79

Deposits	Dues	Checks			
		Cash	20.00		
		Online			

Less expenses

online fee

BEN website		1122			
			103.92		

Operating Fund Balance 1,462.33

** Members YTD

Available Equipment Funds 329.54

Donation

Less expenditures

Equipment Fund Balance 329.54

Ending Bank Balance as of April 25, 2017 1,791.87

OPERATING BUDGET	
Post Office Box	64.00
Checks	9.25
Website	103.92
<i>Special Events Deposit</i>	
<i>Food for Special Events</i>	
<i>Donations</i>	
<i>Total</i>	177.17

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.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>
- GCARC Events**
- Perrin Field Special Event Station (Armed Forces Day)**
May 20, 2017 (setup 9:00am, on air 10:00am)
Perrin AFB Museum, North Texas Regional Airport-Perrin Field, Denison TX
The club will operate a special event station at the Perrin AFB Museum using the callsign W5I during Armed Forces Day. Specific bands and modes TBA
- ARRL Field Day**
Setup: June 24, 2017 9:00am
Operating: June 24, 2017 1:00pm through June 25, 2017 4:00pm
Sherman Municipal Airport Terminal Building, 1200 S. Dewey Ave., Sherman TX
Specific bands and modes TBA
- 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 and Swap Meets

Tailgate Swap Meet hosted by “The Weather Bunch”

May 6, 2017 8:00am until it’s over
Midway Mall parking lot, 4800 Texoma Pkwy, Sherman TX
More info: check nets on W5DWH repeater (145.330, 100.0 PL) Thursdays at 7:30pm or on HF
3917.3 KHz daily at 6:00pm

Ark-La-Tex Tailgate Sale

May 13, 2017 7:00am-12:00pm
Texas Museum of Broadcasting & Communications, 416 E Main Street, Kilgore TX
Talk-In: 147.340 (136.5 PL)
Contact: John Armstrong KG5LWD (915) 490-4277 or KG5LWD@yahoo.com

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>

TEXOMA VE NEWS

Congratulations New Hams!

The following individuals recently passed their Technician exams. Please be sure to say “Hello” when you hear them on the air:

KG5SJW – Judy Williams	KG5SKG – Graham Riley
KG5SJX – Nancy Dobbs	KG5SKH – Chris Entwistle
KG5SJY – James Johnson	KG5SKI – Andrew Damiano
KG5SJZ – John Fleet	KG5SKJ – Richard Huntoon
KG5SKA – Jerome Jacobson	KG5SKK – James Larsen
KG5SKB – Jada Farine	KG5SKL – Miles Braxton
KG5SKC – Kentaro Okura	KG5SKM – Andrew Bentley
KG5SKD – Laurie Bishop	KG5SKN – Linda Jonas
KG5SKE – Dawn Weaver	KG5SKO – Mikiko Okura
KG5SKF – David Shea	

Amateur Extra License Class

This fall I will try to hold an Amateur Extra license class. Because of the amount of material that needs to be covered, this class will be held Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6 to 9 pm for approximately 12 weeks. This class will be held at the Grayson College Center for Workplace Learning (CWL). No cost for the class, but the study guide is \$9.99. Students planning to attend should contact me for a reservation at (903) 564-7115 or nt7c@arrl.net no later than **August 1st**.

Did You Know?

The ARRL web site has an amazing number of pages with many interesting things contained therein. Among all the awards for operating proficiency there is a little-known award for "First Contact". This award is to recognize that special moment of a new ham's very first on-the-air contact. There is little doubt receiving this award will excite all but the most jaded new ham.

Best of all, it is totally free to have the ARRL print and send this award. All you need to do after being someone's first contact is to go to www.arrl.org/awards and select First Contact in the left hand column. The information detailing the contact is entered on the First Contact page and the League does the rest. You have your choice of having the award mailed to the recipient or to yourself for presentation (say, during a club meeting). Imagine inviting a new ham to a Club meeting and presenting them with their First Contact award. What a great way to introduce someone new to amateur radio!

73

Moe Knight NT7C

Texoma VE Team

CW CORNER

Information for all Amateurs ... also mentioned at the April 21st meeting.

Amateur Radio is getting access to two new bands... 2200 meters and 630 meters.

2200 meters - 135.7 to 137.8 kc. This is a very low frequency band and just 2.1 kc wide 5 watts maximum. It is shared with the Utility companies that use computers in this range to control power grids. The Utility company will have give permission to use the frequencies. To give you some perspective, a full size half wave dipole at this frequency would have to be 3,441 feet, 2.1 inches in length. Really?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?

630 meters - 472 to 479 kc. This is a medium frequency band and just 7 kc wide - 5 watts maximum. These medium frequencies may also be shared by Utility companies. The size of a full size half wave dipole at this frequency would have to be 985 ft, 3.2 inches. You can find all kinds of antenna calculators at the following URL...

www.66pacific.com/calculators/default.aspx

It is uncertain as to why these bands are becoming available to amateurs, especially with the limitations that may be imposed on them. Does anyone have such a lot for an antenna, as I would like to try it someday. Maybe it would be beneficial to use a coil-shortened dipole antenna. (Would you think....!!!?!?!?!?!?)

Regarding CW and contesting, there is not much going on as far as operations are concerned for May... EXCEPT.... not to forget The Perrin Field Special Event. There will be the upcoming Field Day in June - Dates are June 24th and 25th in 2017, and on June 23rd and 24th in 2018.

W5I on CW will be operating at the Perrin Field Special Event at the Perrin Field Museum which celebrates Armed Forces Day on May 20th. The Perrin Special Event actually starts on May 19th, the day of our next meeting until the 28th. Most operations will be on the lower part of 40 meters, around 7.045 +/- 20kc using W5I. Within ITU Region 2 (the Americas) amateurs with Novice and Technician priveleges are allowed to operate CW only between 7.025 and 7.125 Mhz so I'm hoping to see a few people from the club contact W5I on 40 CW. Come and practice your CW skills by contacting W5I this year on 40 and build them up a little for the upcoming Field Day. I'm hoping that members of the club and other amateurs that stop by our Field Day will try and operate CW. Using my Kenwood TS590SG, the built in electronic keyer with memories will be used to make operations fairly easy, not to mention the CW reader also built into the radio. Again, the Perrin operating event runs for 10 days - May 19th through the 28th. My goal on CW this year is a minimum of 500 CW contacts. This exercise will help prepare me for the ARRL Field Day event in June, but I would like

to have some help with operating. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that the band conditions will be allot better than last year.

Generally, I'm fairly active on CW on 40 meters - 7.045 Mhz, so look for me at any time. Please let me know at the next meeting if you heard me in operation.

73

James Frank KW5CW
GCARC Vice President

QSL MANAGER'S DESK

Special Events in Amateur Radio are...well, they are special. Ham operators all over the country and all over the world have special events throughout the year. They all have one thing in common...they are celebrating or commemorating a person, place, historical event or activity that has a special meaning to them.

Our club has special events also. This year we will host the following special events:

Perrin Field Museum Special Event – May 19, 0000z to May 28, 2359z
Red River Bridge War Special Event – July 21, 0000z to July 30, 2359z
Eisenhower Birthday Special Event – October 13, 0000z to October 22, 2359z

Each of these is special to us here in Grayson County.

The Perrin Field event honors the men and women that served at Perrin Air Force Base from World War II until the 1970's. Perrin Field was a training base and pilots learned to fly there. Many went overseas during times of war and many never returned. The folks that volunteer at the museum today are keeping those memories alive. We are also honoring those that serve our country on Armed Forces Day.

The Red River Bridge War commemorates a dispute between Texas and Oklahoma over a new "free" bridge that was built across the Red River to replace an old toll bridge in 1931. Tempers were hot and words were exchanged...armed guards were dispatched...but in the end the dispute was settled and no blood was shed.

President Dwight Eisenhower was born right here in Denison, TX on October 14, 1890. His birth place is a Texas Historical Site and we celebrate his birthday every year with our special event.

Ham operators can apply for a special One By One, 1X1, call sign to use during their special events. This year we will be using the **W5I** call sign. 1X1 call signs are great because when you use one you are letting other stations know that this is a "special event". They are easier to use than your regular call sign and it is easier for those you contact also. You are guaranteed to attract lots of attention when you are using a 1X1 call sign.

All club members can participate in our special events and you are encouraged to do so. Each of our events will be held for 9 days. We do this to insure each member has the opportunity to participate. Obviously, we'll be able to make many more contacts by running the event for 9 days rather than just one day as we had done in years past.

Last year was the first year we held the events for 9 days and we had great success. We made more contacts last year than in all the previous years combined that I have been a member of our club. Last year we made over 1600 contacts. We did so well that we only need one confirmed contact from Arkansas to qualify for our WAS, Worked All States Award, from ARRL's Log Book of the World, LOTW.

All club members can operate any time they want to during each of our events using the **W5I** call sign. You can use any band and use any mode you want to. There are only 2 rules...

1. You must follow the band plan for the license you have.

2. You must log all the contacts you make and send your logs to me when the event is over.

There may be some of you that would like to participate but...

- You don't have a HF radio
- You have never made contacts on the radio
- You don't know how a particular mode works
- You only have a Technician license

Don't let those stop you...I'll be glad to help you get on the air. You can use my radio. I'll help you make contacts or learn a new mode. Just give me a call, 903-818-7463, or email, n5sly@arrl.net and we'll make it happen.

Our goals for this year are simple...

- **Have fun**
- Contact someone in Arkansas
- Can we make 600 or more contacts during each of our special events?

We will be setting up a station at the Perrin Field Museum for each of our special events on a Saturday. Please look for the details on our clubs calendar available on our web site, graysoncountyarc.com, or on our Facebook page. Setting up a radio station in the field is a great learning experience because you'll have to do it all...put up an antenna, set up the radio and get it all working before you can make that first contact. Lots of work but a lot of fun.

And...we can't forget about Field Day. The biggest event in Amateur Radio every year. We'll be setting up our radios at the Sherman Municipal Airport on June 24 in the morning and be on the air for 24 hours straight. We will use the clubs call sign, K5GCC, on Field Day. We'll be using all modes and whatever band works. Another great opportunity to get on the air, and another learning experience.

I'm looking forward to each of these events and I hope that you choose to participate also. But most of all...have fun this year with amateur radio no matter where your interests are.

73

Lee – N5SLY

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.	Denison
W5DSA		
Sheila Sammons	Needs help with antenna repairs – damaged from falling tree limbs. Looking at	Sherman
KF5TDP	sometime later in the year.	
Mike Bernier	Needs help with replacing damaged HF antenna plus installing two additional	Denison
KF5NPM	antennas and grounding. Looking at sometime later in the year.	

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: Heathkit DX-60

DX-60 in great condition. Finals replaced.

Asking \$85.

Contact: David Reeder WA0URJ
wa0urj@yahoo.com



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

New Bands! FCC Issues Amateur Radio Service Rules for 630 Meters and 2,200 Meters

It's been a long time coming, but the Amateur Service will get two new bands in the near future. The FCC on March 28 adopted rules that will allow secondary Amateur Radio access to 472-479 kHz (630 meters) and to 135.7-137.8 kHz (2,200 meters), with minor conditions. The FCC *Report and Order* ([R&O](#)) spells out the details. It allocates 472-479 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis and amends Part 97 to provide for Amateur Service use of that band as well as of the previously allocated 135.7-137.8 kHz band. The *R&O* also amends Part 80 rules to authorize radio buoy operations in the 1900-2000 kHz band under a ship station license. Just when the new Part 97 rules will go into effect is difficult to determine just yet; more on that below.



“It’s a big win for the Amateur community and the ARRL,” ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, said. “We are excited by the FCC’s action to authorize Amateur Radio access for the first time on the MF and LF spectrum. As amateurs begin using these new allocations in the next few weeks, we encourage the entire Amateur Radio community, as secondary users, to be especially attentive to the rules.”

It has not been an easy win, however. ARRL has been trying since the 1970s to convince the FCC to allow amateur access to parts of the spectrum below the Standard Broadcast Band. Through the Utilities Telecoms Council (UTC), electric power utilities have opposed Amateur Radio use of the MF and LF spectrum, raising unsubstantiated fears of interference to unlicensed Part 15 power line carrier (PLC) systems used to manage the power grid. The FCC said the Amateur Radio service rules it has adopted for 630 meters and 2,200 meters allow for co-existence with PLC systems that use the two bands.

Here are the highlights:

- Amateurs operating on 472-479 kHz will be permitted a maximum Equivalent Isotropically Radiated Power (EIRP) of 5 W, except in parts of Alaska within 800 kilometers (approximately 496 miles) of Russia, where the maximum would be 1 W EIRP. [EIRP is the product of the power supplied to the antenna and the antenna gain in a given direction, relative to an isotropic antenna (absolute or isotropic gain). EIRP is equal to ERP multiplied by 1.64.]
- Amateurs operating in the 135.7-137.8 kHz band will be permitted to run up to 1 W EIRP.
- The FCC is requiring a 1-kilometer separation distance between radio amateurs using the two new bands and electric power transmission lines with PLC systems on those bands. Amateur Radio operators will have to notify the UTC of station location prior to commencing operations. The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau will provide details on the notification process later, but ARRL is urging radio amateurs interested in operating on either band to register at the earliest opportunity, to avoid having to protect any “post-notification” PLCs.
- The FCC placed a 60-meter (approximately 197 feet) above-ground-level (AGL) height limit on transmitting antennas used on 630 meters and 2,200 meters.
- The bands would be available to General class and higher licensees, and permissible modes would include CW, RTTY, data, phone, and image. Automatically controlled stations would be permitted to operate in the bands.

In an unrelated action, the FCC allocated 1,900-2,000 kHz to the maritime mobile service (MMS) on a primary basis for non-Federal use in ITU Regions 2 and 3, and limited the use of this allocation to radio buoys on the open sea and the Great Lakes.

“We are persuaded by ARRL’s comments to adopt final rules that are better tailored to the places where the commercial fishing fleet can make reasonable and productive use of radio buoys,” the FCC said.

Amateur Radio was upgraded from secondary to primary in the 1900-2000 kHz segment in 2015. The FCC said it believes Amateur Radio and radio buoys “can continue to share this frequency band as they have done for many years.” It declined to make additional spectrum available for radio buoy use.

Effective Date: The fact that the new rules contain a new information-collection requirement – notification of operation to the UTC – makes it difficult to guess at an effective date. The FCC R&O says the Office of Management and Budget (under the Paperwork Reduction Act) must first approve the information-collection requirements (in §97.303[g][2]). Once that happens, the revised Part 97 rules sections will become effective after the FCC publishes a notice in *The Federal Register* “announcing such approval and the relevant effective date.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Free App Allows Blind Hams to Work PSK31

A free, new app – [Accessible DigiPan](#) – has been released that allows blind hams to operate PSK31. The download includes the app, audio tutorials, detailed written guides, and additional helpful resources, plus [DigiPan](#) PSK31 and PSK63 software.

ARRL member Richard McDonald, KK6MRH, and Jim Snowbarger, WA0PSS – both blind – developed the program. “Until now, blind hams worldwide have not had any accessible program to work *PSK31*,” McDonald said. “Now they do.”

Accessible DigiPan brings together the most popular screen reader, *JAWS*, and *DigiPan*, McDonald said, and the app will work with many different kinds of rigs, interfaces, and *Windows* versions.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

FCC Proposes Levying Huge Fine on New York Police Radio Jammer



The FCC has proposed a fine of more than \$400,000 on a Queens, New York, man who has admitted making unauthorized transmissions on New York City Police Department (NYPD) radio frequencies, maliciously interfering with NYPD officers’ communications. Jay Peralta, 20, is alleged to have transmitted false bomb threats, false claims of criminal activities involving firearms, false distress calls from purported NYPD officers, and threats against individual NYPD officers. The unauthorized transmissions began a year ago, according to the FCC.

“Through his actions, as he described them to the NYPD, Mr. Peralta has demonstrated not only a deliberate disregard of the Commission’s authority and rules, but of the safety of NYPD officers and the public that they are called to serve and protect,” the FCC said in a *Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)*, issued on April 14. “Commission action in this context is therefore essential to safeguard authorized operations on spectrum licensed for public safety uses, and, accordingly, a substantial penalty appears warranted.”

The FCC said the *NAL* addresses nine unauthorized and interfering transmissions that Peralta has admitted to the NYPD that he made on its radio system. The FCC said Peralta’s unauthorized transmissions included false bomb threats, false claims of criminal activities involving firearms, false distress calls from purported NYPD officers, and threats against individual NYPD officers.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, said that with the *NAL*, the FCC is making it “abundantly clear that it will not tolerate unauthorized and illegal use of the radio spectrum.” The entire Commission now must sign off on such proposed fines, and Pai said he was grateful to his fellow FCC members for “agreeing to act swiftly and strongly” in the matter. “This may not be a typical pirate radio case in which an unauthorized operator inflicts damage on a radio broadcaster that is operating with a valid FCC license,” Pai said, “but it does involve unauthorized interference to critical public safety communications systems.”

Peralta was arrested last fall along with two other men suspected of committing several robberies. According to news accounts, police found a cache of scanners and radios in one of the suspects’ homes.

The FCC said it was alerted by a Twitter post about an unlawful intrusion on the NYPD radio system and dispatched an Enforcement Bureau agent to check it out. On September 30, the NYPD contacted the FCC’s New York Office and

advised that it had arrested Peralta and another individual in connection with unauthorized transmissions on NYPD's radio system. According to police reports, the other individual arrested – Ricardo Torres, 29, described as “a ham radio enthusiast” in some news accounts – allegedly provided the radios used.

Torres, is said to hold an FCC General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) license but his name does not appear in the Amateur Radio licensee database. Police said they found 15 portable radios, 9 scanners, roof-top antennas, an amplifier, and assorted other electronics in Torres's apartment.

Peralta has 30 days to pay or contest the proposed \$404,166 FCC forfeiture.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Ham Radio Club in India Reunites Lost, Injured Pilgrims and Travelers with Families

For the past 24 years, members of India's West Bengal Radio Club ([WBRC](#)) have helped to reunite lost or injured individuals, many of them pilgrims attending the Ganga Sagar Mela festival each January. The Ganga Sagar fair and pilgrimage, held on Sagar Island's southern tip in the Ganges Delta on the Bay of Bengal, attracts a huge number of people, and the club typically fields a special event station for the occasion. But each year, a number of visitors simply lose their way. This year, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the region once again reached out to the club for its help.

“Some people are admitted [to the hospital] at the time of Sagar Mela, and after the end of mela, many patients are waiting to return to their homes,” WBRC founder and secretary Ambarish Nag “Raju” Biswas, VU2JFA, told ARRL. “But some patients are not able to reach their destination on their own, and no family members have claimed them.”

WBRC members contact other radio amateurs in the home states of those who have become separated or, in some cases, just become lost, to reconnect them with their families and help them on their way.

Recently, a 25-year-old man — a Tamil speaker not in town for the fair — became hurt and lost and was hospitalized. Biswas, who does not speak Tamil, enlisted the assistance of another club member, T. Gopinath, VU3ZHC, who was able to translate. Armed with some information from the man and a photo, the club members, working for more than a month through ham radio and social media, were able to get in touch with the man's family in the Vellore district.

“When we met him, he could hardly speak. He had head injuries,” Biswas said. They were able to determine that the young man, who was headed for Gujarat state for work, had ended up in Kolkata by mistake and had lost all his belongings on a train.

The young man's father and brother came to West Bengal with documents to prove his identity, and the hospital and local authorities reunited him with his family.

Another patient in his early 70s has only been able to provide his name and state but nothing else, and after searching via ham radio, the club has been unable to repatriate him. He remains in the hospital in West Bengal. “We are trying our best,” Biswas said. “We found 563 persons this Sagar Mela.” He said others also remain in the hospital and in limbo.

A man in his 60s who had attended the mela awoke in the hospital after becoming separated from his family, which had returned home to Bihar state without him, assuming he was lost. Authorities turned to the radio amateurs at the club, who were able to reunite him with his family within a couple of days.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

STANAG 4285 Signal Showing Up on 40 Meters, Other Intruders Spotted

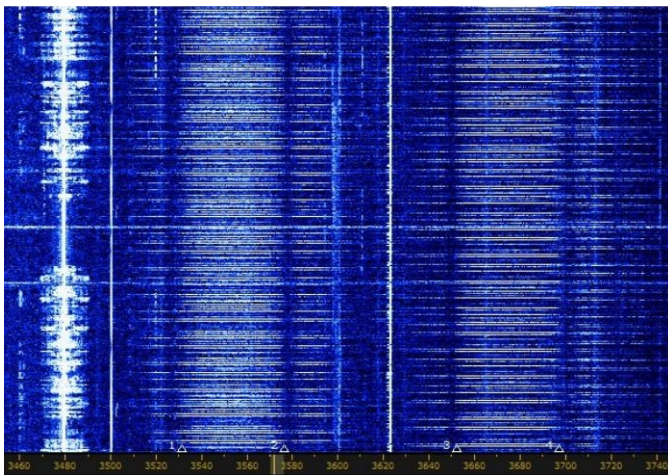
A STANAG 4285 intruder has been showing up on 7101.8 kHz, according to the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS).

“The signal was strong in South America, but rather weak in Europe,” the [latest edition](#) of the IARUMS newsletter reported. “We had the same problem in earlier times. Location probably Falkland Islands.”

Its unusual designation aside, STANAG 4285’s motorboat-like signals are pretty common on HF frequencies between about 2 MHz and 23 MHz. It is the data communication “modem” that North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military agencies use for the purposes of standardization, and it comes in several flavors (sub-modes), with a variety of speeds – from 75 bps to 3600 bps – and interleaving, both short and long. BPSK, QPSK, and 8PSK are used with STANAG 4285 for specific speeds. The waveform consists of an 1800-Hz carrier with PSK modulation.

It’s not unusual to hear STANAG 4285 signals around the world, not all of them from NATO stations. Most of the traffic is encrypted, but sometimes it is not, and software is available on the Internet to decode it.

IARUMS further reported that a Russian Air Force F1B (frequency-shift keying) intruder (REA4) was showing up on 7.018 MHz during February, but another F1B intruder on 7.193 MHz from Kaliningrad, Russia, was no longer active at the end of February. German telecommunication authorities had filed a formal complaint. No complaint is possible regarding another Russian F1B signal on 14.308 MHz, however; it is legal under a footnote to the ITU Radio Regulations that allocates 14.250 to 14.350 MHz to the fixed service on a primary basis in Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, Côte d’Ivoire, the Russian Federation, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. Reported splatter from Radio France International on 7.205 MHz has been cleared up.



OTH Radar signal on 80 meters, likely from China

An over-the-horizon (OTH) radar from Asia is reported to be covering parts of 80 meters daily. Its likely location is China. A Chinese broadband OTH radar was observed on 20 meters, while the Russian systems-intelligence “Konteyner RLS” OTH radar, transmitting from in the Nizhny Novgorod region, is frequently spotted on 20 meters. It was reported disturbing parts of 40 and 20 meters, covering a 13-kHz swath of spectrum. Radio Hargaysa in Somalia is still being heard on 7.120 MHz, but the 7.175 MHz Radio Eritrea signal that was being interfered with from Ethiopia apparently is gone. Radio Taiwan and a Chinese jammer are being heard on 14.295 MHz.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

VHF/UHF/Microwave Pioneer Don Hilliard, W0PW, SK

A pioneer on VHF, UHF, and microwave bands, and the designer of a popular Yagi model, Don Hilliard, W0PW (ex-W0EYE), of Clayton, Oklahoma, died on March 25 following a lengthy period of ill health. An ARRL member, he was 81.

“Over the decades, Don made numerous contributions to the hobby and specifically in the VHF, UHF and microwave arena of Amateur Radio,” said Bill Mc Caa, K0RZ. “He was a pioneer in developing the first amateur equipment for the 900 MHz band in 1983 in anticipation of the band becoming available for amateurs. Don was a founding member of the Central States VHF Society in 1967, as well as of the Microwave Update in 1985.”

Hilliard’s Yagi design, based on unpublished work by Peter Biezbicke at the National Bureau of Standards, was legendary in the VHF/UHF community. The antenna was described in “The World Above 50 MHz” (“15-Element Yagi by W0EYE”) in the January 1972 edition of *QST*.

Hilliard also authored articles for *QST* and *QEX*.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

LOCAL RADIO NETS

Daily

Texas Slow Net (CW only)

Daily 7:45pm CT on 3.570 MHz

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 3.873 MHz 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 50.400 MHz

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

Do You Have A Plan?

I was thinking of a couple other organizations I am involved with the other day and how they have the rest of the year already planned out. It's satisfying to look at them and realize the monthly programs are in place, the events are scheduled, equipment and venues set. I realized ARES is also planned out. Your AEC team has done a great job of reviewing past years and adapting old ideas with new faces to put new training in place. But in the end it is just a plan and it's not in stone, so we can adapt it to changing needs or new ideas.



I recently read an article about the old time gangster Baby Face and his final battle with the predecessor to the FBI in 1933. He and his cohorts had selected several different guns to take with them on that final trip. They had a plan to get past the good guys and escape. In the gun battle (exercising the plan) that ultimately ensued, they made use of several different weapons depending on the situation. The author went into great detail to discuss the rationale and probable thought process the gangsters had for the changes made as the battle wore on (it was just a few minutes in reality). Use the Tommy gun, rifle, or the shotgun, how far is the target, are they moving, what is my purpose, pin 'em to allow my partner to get to a better shot or rush 'em for a close quarters. Changing and adapting in the course of the event was already thought of – they had a plan.

Do you have a plan? At home do you have a plan for weather safety, a fire, a lost family member? With ARES involvement I hope you do, as one of our first duties is to be sure our home and family are taken care of first. Then you are able to serve in ARES unencumbered by worries about home, and can focus on our plan to serve our community. Then comes the ARES plan. Is your go kit ready? Do you have your equipment ready, do you have the proper tools for the job we are about? SKYWARN and a Search and Rescue have some different equipment needs.

As you think about those ideas, look to the ARRL and FEMA websites for some guidance, the TECO website for your go kit lists, and visit with other operators to see what they use. But have a plan. Think about what the desired outcome is and what you bring to the gun fight.

Thanks for your service to the community. You are a valuable asset to those we work with and the services we share with them.

73
Rick
K5ECX

