



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

JUNE 2017

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 23, No. 6

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

Field Day is this weekend! We will start setup on Saturday morning at 8:00am. The club will provide hotdogs, chips and stuff. Please bring your own drinks.

Remember, the location for Field Day is the Sherman Municipal Airport, 1200 South Dewey Avenue, Sherman TX.

Moe Knight NT7C from the Texoma VE Team gave out awards at the last meeting to David Woods W5COP and Bob Sholl W5DSA for their service as ARRL Volunteer Examiners. David has participated in over 75 test sessions, and Bob has participated in over 60 sessions. Be sure to thank them for supporting the ARRL VE program.

See all of you on Saturday.

73
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

Meeting Minutes for June were not available at press time and will be included in a future issue.



**The most popular on-the-air operating event in
Amateur Radio. Gear up and get in on the action!**

**Participate in your local
ARRL Field Day June 24-25, 2017
All are Invited!**

**Grayson County Amateur Radio Club
will be operating at
Sherman Municipal Airport
1200 South Dewey Avenue
Sherman, Texas**

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance as of 06.01.2017 1,740.98

Operating Fund Beginning Bal 1,563.33

Deposits	Dues	Checks
		Cash
		Online
		Clothes

Less expenses

online fee

Operating Fund Balance 1,563.33

** Members YTD 36 + 3 Free

Available Equipment Funds 177.65

Donation

Less expenditures

Equipment Fund Balance 177.65

Ending Bank Balance
as of June 19, 2017 1,740.98

Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA
GCARC Treasurer

OPERATING BUDGET	
Post Office Box	64.00
Checks	9.25
Website	103.92
<i>Special Events Deposit</i>	
Perrin	50.00
<i>Food for Special Events</i>	
<i>Donations</i>	
Memorials	
Wade's mother Troop 605 (not cleared as of 6.15.17)	20.00
<i>Total</i>	247.17

EQUIPMENT NEEDS	
Tower Bracket	151.89
Amount Budgeted	0

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

NOTICE: No longer holding meetings – this entry will be removed from future newsletters

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

ARRL Field Day

Setup: June 24, 2017 8:00am

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

Red River Bridge War Special Event

Operating Period: July 21-30, 2017

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

Details TBA

VE Testing Sessions

Texoma VE Team – Bi-Monthly Testing

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

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

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

Durant Amateur Repeater Association – Monthly Testing

3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:00pm (following the DARA monthly meeting)

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

Contact: Jim K5BNK (jharmon1940@gmail.com)

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club – Appointment-Only Testing

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX

Contact David WA0URJ (wa0urj@yahoo.com) to schedule a session

Hamfests and Swap Meets

Ham Holiday (Oklahoma State ARRL Convention)

July 21-22, 2017 (Friday 3:00pm-7:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-3:00pm)

VE Testing: Saturday 1:00pm-3:00pm

Tower Hotel, 3233 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City OK

Talk-In: 146.895 (141.3 PL)

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

Website: <http://hamholiday.com>

Austin Summerfest (South Texas Section ARRL Convention)

August 4-5, 2017

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

Talk-In: 146.34/146.94 (107.2 PL)

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

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

CW CORNER

For Field Day this year operating CW, my station will again be available for all to use. For those in the club that are not experienced CW operators, there will be aids to use to copy and send CW. First I will be using an interface program designed for my rig (Kenwood TS-590SG) called ARCP-590G that will be used for memory keying and CW receiving. A Pan Adapter device by 'SRDPLAY' will be used to display the entire band of operation for all signals on the band at the same time. I will be using a Microsoft Windows program for logging purposes, called Ham Radio Deluxe and also to check for duplicate contacts. Known as HRD software, it happens to be one of the premiere logging softwares available today. I'm still trying to figure out all that this program can do. Just in case one of the computers used at field day fails during the event, I plan to supply Field Day log sheets for anyone to use if they care to, or if they elect to not use the computer attached to the station. All computer logs must be sent to Lee - N5SLY after the event.

As far as antennas that will be used this year, I have a few that I plan to setup and use. The primary will be my very short homebrew vertical for 40 meters. Club members did get a chance to see it displayed at the last club meeting. It was used just a few weeks ago while running 5 watts of power working with our special event call – W5I for the Perrin Field Special event, which I must say was so much fun to participate in. No doubt I plan to participate in two more events this year, namely the Red River Bridge War Event, and the Eisenhower Event. Other antennas consist of a full-size halfwave dipole for 40 and still another new device most people have never seen called a loop tuner – the MJF-936B. This device can be used to tune an extremely short directional loop from 10 through 40 meters. As an example, a multiband loop for 10, 15 and 17 meters is only 4 FEET in circumference. For 15 and 20 meters it is only 7 FEET in circumference. For 17, 20 and 30 meters, the loop is only 9 FEET. A combined 20 and 30 meter loop is only 13 FEET. And last but not least, the 40 and 30 meter antenna loop is only 20 feet in circumference. HOA home-dwellers and renters would absolutely love this device, because it completely eliminates the need for an outside antenna. Now catch this!!!! The first station I worked while trying out this tuner for the first time was a station from ARKANSAS... I've also used it running QRP – 5 Watts on JT65 while working Japan, Australia, England and South America. So this little device works!!!

I am excited that a few of the hams from the GCARC have displayed interest in CW and want to participate in Field Day this year. Also, rumors have it that we may have the Boy Scouts stop by and check out our Field Day operations. Besides having fun at Field Day this year, we should be able to W-O-W our visitors in hopes that they may get interested in our hobby of Amateur Radio and better yet, become a member of the GCARC.

The bottom line, we should have loads of FUN at Field Day. That's most important, not the number of contacts you make. Members of our club that participated in past CW classes should give CW at Field Day a shot. There is no pressure. Field Day is not a contest. Come on out and see what the mode of CW is all about.

QSL MANAGER'S DESK

Final results for the Perrin Field Museum Special Event

Another of our Special Events is in the books. Had a lot of fun...we made more contacts than ever before for one of our events...and we earned our 1st Awards. Fantastic job. My thanks to everyone who participated.

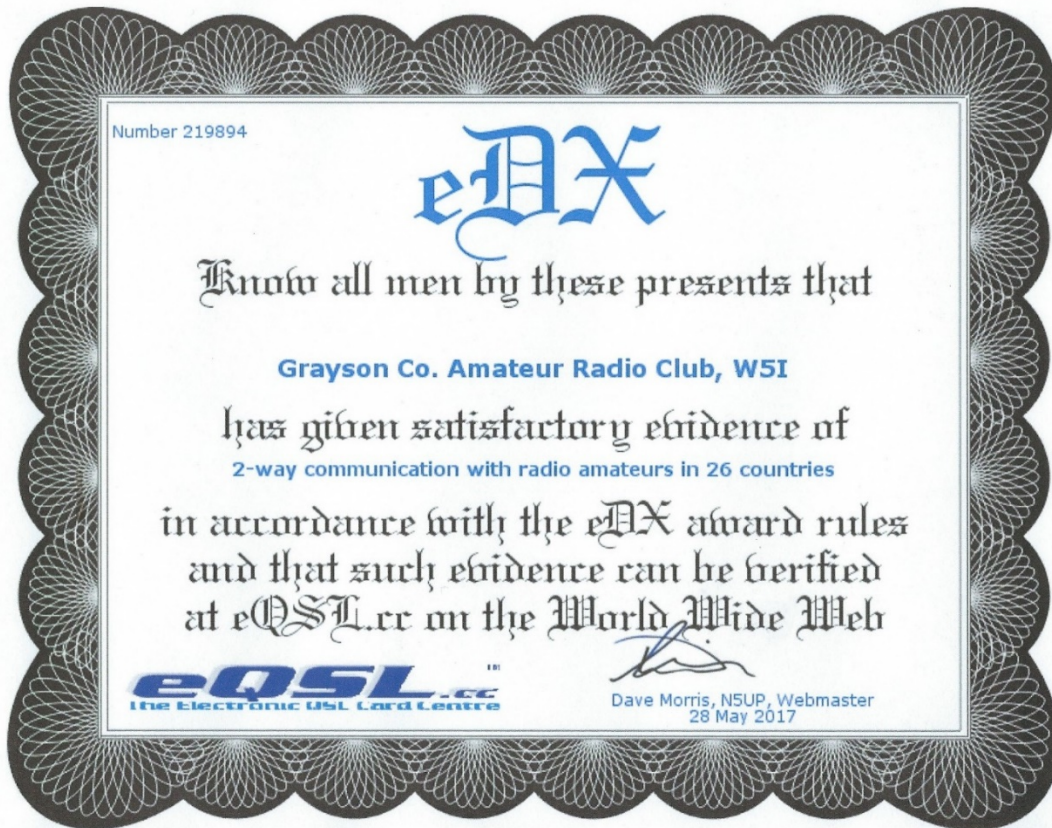
Total contacts made	677
CW contacts	175
Digital contacts	471
Phone contacts	31

We earned our 1st two Worked All States Awards...Mixed and Digital...from ARRL's Log Book Of The World.



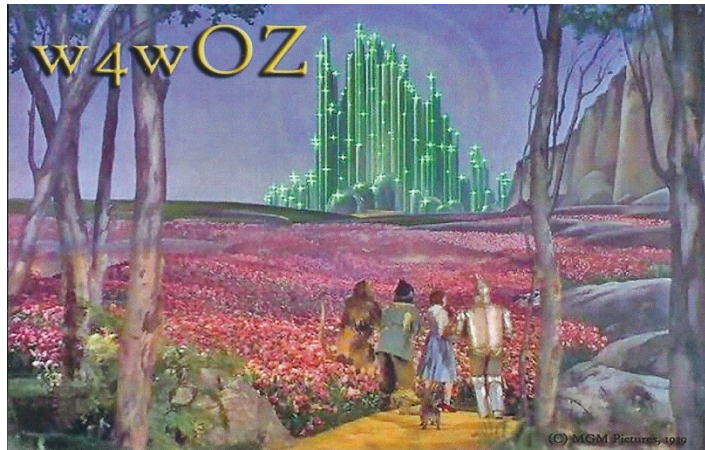
Not to worry...there are over 500 different ways to earn this award so we still have plenty of opportunities to earn additional ones in the future.

We also earned our 1st DX award from eQSL...



Since there are over 300 different countries and locations you can contact for the DX award we have a long way to go.

We received over 50 QSL cards in the mail and my favorite one is this one from the land of OZ...



I'll bring all the QSL cards we received during the event to Field Day to share with everyone.

I'm looking forward to our upcoming events....Field Day, Red River Bridge War Special Event and the Eisenhower Special Event...and I'm hoping that you can join us and have some fun participating in these events.

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 W5DSA	Needs help with a rotator on a 100' tower.	Denison
Sheila Sammons KF5TDP	Needs help with antenna repairs – damaged from falling tree limbs. Looking at sometime later in the year.	Sherman
Mike Bernier KF5NPM	Needs help with replacing damaged HF antenna plus installing two additional antennas and grounding. Looking at sometime later in the year.	Denison

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

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

Federal Register Publishes New MF/LF Rules, But Operation is Not Yet Legal



The FCC *Report and Order* ([R&O](#)) spelling out operational rules to allow secondary Amateur Radio access to 630 meters and 2,200 meters [now has appeared](#) in the *Federal Register*, but radio amateurs still may *not* access the new bands. That’s because specific procedures now under development to detail how radio amateurs will notify the Utilities Technology Council ([UTC](#)) of their proposed station location, prior to commencing operation, still must undergo approval. The FCC said the notification requirement is necessary to confirm that a station is not located within 1 kilometer of an active power line communication (PLC) system.

“While the *R&O* has been published in the *Federal Register*, amateurs may not begin using the new bands until after the FCC’s Wireless Telecommunications Bureau issues a *Public Notice* outlining necessary procedures to notify UTC of pending operation, as the new rules require,” ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said. “There is no timetable for that *Public Notice* to be released. Amateurs need to practice patience.”

The FCC said the notification requirements it adopted “seek to strike a balance between amateur operations used for experimental purposes and PLC operation used by electric utilities for the reliability and security of electric service to the public.” Once notification procedures are in place, radio amateurs intending to operate on either band will notify UTC of their geographical location. If UTC does not object within 30 days, amateur operation may commence. The FCC turned away an ARRL request for direct access to the PLC database that UTC maintains.

Once UTC has developed the new information collection procedures, the FCC must submit them for review to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). “The Commission will publish a separate notice in the *Federal Register*, inviting comment on the new information collection requirements adopted herein,” the FCC said in the *R&O*. “The requirements will not go into effect until OMB has approved [the notification procedures] and the Commission has published a notice announcing the effective date of the information collection requirements.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Bear is Unwanted Volunteer as ARES Team Supports Colorado Road Race

Lots of things can go awry when Amateur Radio volunteers are supporting public service events, from technical and weather problems to lost or injured participants. The 2017 Garden of the Gods 10-mile and 10-kilometer races in Colorado was no exception. On Sunday, June 11, the Pikes Peak Amateur Radio Emergency Service ([PPARES](#)) deployed a dozen operators to support more than 1,400 runners in scenic Garden of the Gods Park just west of Colorado Springs.

John Bloodgood, KDOSFY, Region 2, District 2 Emergency Coordinator and Public Information Officer said all was going well, with cooperative weather and only a slight delay due to traffic – nothing out of the ordinary.

“The real excitement came when a couple of the reporting positions called in to report that a bear was on the course,” Bloodgood said. “Bears are not uncommon in this area, and most of the locals aren’t too fazed by them; we know they will be out foraging this time of year.” But for runners unfamiliar with the lay of the land there, the sudden appearance of a bear can be alarming, he added.

“This bear was apparently trying to get across the road and wasn’t quite sure why all these people were running through its home so early on a Sunday morning,” Bloodgood said. “It finally saw a gap between groups of runners and dashed across the road, but not before local runner Donald Sanborn managed to get a few pictures of it. In the end the problem resolved itself before any intervention was necessary.”

Bloodgood said Dan Huber, KNOMAP, actually saw the bear and was the first operator to call it in. Matthew Bowker, KD0THF, reported it based on reports from runners.



Bloodgood said the ARES volunteers tracked the first three male and female runners from both the 10-mile and the 10-kilometer races, reported on any medical issues, supported aid station logistics, helped to ensure the course was clear, tracked the last runners, and provided an operator on a bicycle for the sweep function.

Bears notwithstanding, Bloodgood said the event has been a fairly easy one to support and offers a good training ground for less-experienced operators. “Our most intense and demanding events, the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb (vehicle race) and Pikes Peak Ascent and Marathon (half and full marathons) are coming up,” he added.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

13 Colonies Special Event Returns July 1-7

The ninth annual [13 Colonies Special Event](#) will take place July 1-7, with activity starting at 1300 UTC on July 1 and continuing until 0400 on July 7 (the evening of July 6 in US time zones).

Participating stations try to contact all 13 Colony Stations plus two Bonus Stations – a clean sweep, a la ARRL November Sweepstakes. Stations in each of the original 13 colonies will be on the air using 1×2 special event call signs. The bonus stations will be WM3PEN in Philadelphia and GB13COL in Durham, England.

Call signs and their respective states are K2A, New York: K2B, Virginia: K2C, Rhode Island: K2D, Connecticut: K2E, Delaware: K2F, Maryland: K2G, Georgia: K2H, Massachusetts: K2I, New Jersey: K2J, North Carolina: K2K, New Hampshire: K2L, South Carolina: K2M, Pennsylvania. [Additional information](#) is on the 13 Colonies website.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

FCC and OSHA Release Communications Tower Best Practices Guide

The FCC and OSHA have announced the release of a free publication, [Communications Tower Best Practices Guide](#). While aimed more at those who tend commercial communication towers, the guide offers guidance applicable to the Amateur Radio community and contractors working on Amateur Radio antenna support structures. The FCC said the guide was a result of two tower safety workshops.

“Recognizing the risks that tower employees face, OSHA and the FCC held a workshop on communication tower employee safety on October 14, 2014,” the new guide explains. “During this workshop, industry stakeholders, along with

employee safety advocates and the families of communication tower employees who had been killed on the job, gathered to discuss issues affecting the safety of communication tower employees.”

A second workshop followed in February 2016, during which a panel of industry stakeholders and advocates discussed best practices that could reduce injuries and fatalities among tower workers. “This document is a collection of the best practices gathered from those workshops and from the discussions that continued beyond those events,” the guide says.

Among other points, the guide emphasizes that all tower workers need “to have and use proper safety equipment at all times,” and that, “no work should be done if proper safety equipment is unavailable or if the safety equipment available is not functioning properly.”

The guide also notes that drones are being used today for tower inspection. “This technology has the potential to reduce unnecessary climbing and can avoid putting [tower workers] at risk,” the guide says.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said that communications tower workers today face potential hazards that can prove fatal if not performed safely. “Every tower climber death is preventable,” he stressed.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Buildout of Nationwide First Responder Broadband Network Could Drive ARES Changes



The First Responder Network Authority ([FirstNet](#)) – a nationwide wireless broadband network for first responders – could change the complexion of how the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) functions to support communication for responders during disasters and emergencies. As an independent authority within the US Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunication and Information Administration ([NTIA](#)), FirstNet’s mission is to build out, deploy, and operate an interoperable nationwide broadband network dedicated to first responders. Ralph Haller, N4RH, the chairman of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council ([NPSTC](#)), told ARRL that the advent of FirstNet “will likely be as significant as when public safety first began using radio.”

“The nationwide network will be hardened, so that it will be more likely that many of today’s public safety systems remain operational in emergencies,” Haller said, pointing out that Amateur Radio should not expect to have access to FirstNet. He cautioned, “The endurance of Amateur Radio systems in disasters has been a big selling point in the past for incorporating amateur operators in emergency plans, but perhaps not so much in the future.”

NPSTC is a federation of organizations that work toward improving public safety communication and interoperability, and ARRL has a seat on NPSTC’s Governing Board. Haller predicted that Amateur Radio’s role in emergencies will not disappear. “There is no substitute for eyes and ears on the ground in an emergency,” he said, adding that radio amateurs “can and should continue to play an important part” in supporting emergency communication.

“Amateur operators can continue to provide valuable information to emergency operations centers in the recovery phase of disasters,” he said. “Whether that intelligence gathering is reporting on storm clouds, power outages, or road closures, amateurs can help provide critical, real-time information about conditions over a vast area. While first responders are treating the injured or protecting life and property, the amateur community can concentrate on assessing the overall picture.”

On March 30, FirstNet and the Commerce Department announced a 25-year partnership with AT&T as the primary contractor to make FirstNet a reality. “The ability to communicate seamlessly across jurisdictions is critical for law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services (EMS) when securing large events or responding to emergencies and disasters,” a Commerce Department news release said. “In those instances, networks can become overloaded and inaccessible, limiting responders’ use of vital communication technologies, such as smartphones and applications dedicated to public safety services.”

Public safety agencies already use commercial wireless networks, such as AT&T and Verizon, to supplement their own radio systems and networks, although such communication is not point to point. FirstNet is initially targeted primarily to provide video and data, with mission-critical voice communication at least a decade away. EMS is likely to become a heavy user of the network, which will employ voice command functions a la Siri or Alexa.

Inevitably there will be coverage gaps, and the development of “deployables” is critical. These devices can expand the network to areas it doesn’t cover but where it may be needed for a specific incident. Deployables could include satellites – Inmarsat is a member of the AT&T team. Network security and encryption is a high priority. The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) now uses encryption on its data nets.

While images in the form of digital Amateur Radio television (DATV) and a plethora of digital modes are available to ARES, FirstNet could nudge ARES to more quickly adopt a similar approach. A new generation of radio amateurs steeped in data, image, and video technology is likely to drive ARES to think beyond analog.

Haller advised that the Amateur Radio community should continue to work closely with public safety organizations at all levels to assure that they remain a part of emergency plans.

“The hype about broadband should not result in amateurs inadvertently being swept under the rug,” Haller stressed. “Be sure the public safety organizations never forget how valuable the amateurs are!”

FirstNet will use spectrum at 700 MHz – no immediate threat to Amateur Radio allocations, although there is no guarantee that this won’t change as the network approaches the shift to 5th generation (5G) technology. Amateur Radio has access to significant spectrum above 700 MHz.

The expectation is that within a couple of years, a nationwide “core” network will be ready to roll out, and the first public safety users will be on board. Some regional networks have been set up for proof-of-concept purposes and to work out wrinkles.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Coast Guard Auxiliary Activates New Marine VHF Repeater on Lake Texoma



The local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla recently implemented a new Marine VHF repeater on Lake Texoma for use by area boaters.

A Marine VHF repeater works in a similar fashion as an Amateur Radio repeater, receiving on one frequency and transmitting on another. But, unlike Amateur Radio, Marine VHF (or its official name, Maritime Mobile Service) frequencies are divided into an internationally standardized set of discrete “channels” for either single-frequency simplex or dual-frequency duplex communications. Repeater operations are permitted only on duplex frequency pairs.

The repeater on Lake Texoma operates on Marine Channel 20 (a duplex frequency pair that receives on 157.00 MHz and transmits on 161.60 MHz). Normally inland marine stations operate on Channel 20 in simplex mode; the Lake Texoma repeater is the first to operate on Channel 20 in full duplex. The Coast Guard maintains a list of all Marine VHF channels available for use at www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=mtVhf

The Marine VHF international band allocation of 156.00-174.00 MHz (except for the NOAA Weather frequency range of 162.40-162.55 MHz) is reserved for use by watercraft and fixed land stations for “ship to ship” and “ship to shore” communications. Use of Marine VHF channels for non-maritime related activities such as contact between land stations and/or land vehicles is illegal. Amateur Radio users may listen, but not transmit, on Marine VHF frequencies.

Our thanks to Steve Brodie K5ZYZ for this information.

- GCARC Editor

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 Kingston OK 146.085- MHz (103.5 PL) (currently out of service) K5BQC
Allen TX 145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	McKinney TX 146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
Bonham TX 147.200+ MHz (100.0 PL) 145.470- MHz (100.0 PL) 443.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	K5FRC K5FRC K5FRC	Melissa TX 443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
Denison TX 145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH	Paris TX 146.760- MHz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD
Durant OK 147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL) 147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL) (currently out of service)	K5KIE K5CGE	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

'Tis The Season!

Yes, it is upon us and I hope you are prepared. We have moved from the "busy" storm season of Spring to the time of watching the Gulf. It's hurricane season, and right on queue there is a low developing in the GOM (Gulf of Mexico - new alphabet abbreviation I learned). Some of the models are sending the leadoff hitter to Texas. Now this won't happen overnight, the coming to Texas that is, so we get to watch and plan ahead.

This brings with it more opportunity for the ARES community to evaluate a different level of preparation. With spring storms we watch the forecast and a few days out we start getting inundated with forecasts of severe storms for the area. Suddenly the day of disaster is here, and we wait and wait and BOOM! In a matter of an hour or so, the clouds boil up and the storms move thru our county and are gone. This season is a little different. For a few days the forecasters make predictions on category development and hurricane center tracks, and it appears there is more time to prepare. As the hurricane approaches the coast there will be warnings up, and the people are encouraged by the Governor to evacuate the low lying areas targeted by the storm. Shelters.... We may be involved with sheltering folks displaced by the storm. Think about longer term assignments at shelters, different communication needs, and privacy issues. And then if we are "lucky" we get some storms that move up and we get SKYWARN activations. Hopefully it's just some needed summer rain, but these are related to a Hurricane and can get nasty also.



My point to all this is just this: Yep, it's Summer and storm season is over, BUT, if it happens in the GOM and we are sheltering our friends from the coast, we can get taxed to our limits from an Operator standpoint. So it's not a time to let our guard down, but to rethink how and what we can do to support our commitments to Service thru ARES.

I hope you get to enjoy Field Day out at Sherman Municipal Airport. I am looking forward to seeing you there, seeing the various operations and modes demonstrated, problems overcome and a generally good time. I will be making breakfast for those that endure the night and come out early Sunday morning. I'm planning on some bacon and pancakes so come enjoy the morning with us. The coffee will be ready about 8 am.

73
Rick
K5ECX