



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

AUGUST 2017

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 23, No. 8

## THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Our President, Mark KF5UZW, wasn't available to provide a letter for this month. So, instead we'll just post a photo of him working during the Kiwanis Bike Rally on August 12th. Look for more photos from the event inside this issue.



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## CLUB INFORMATION

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

### MAILING ADDRESS

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 <a href="mailto:KF5NPM@gmail.com">KF5NPM@gmail.com</a>
Submission Deadline:	12 midnight on the Sunday following each monthly meeting

### WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Address:	<a href="http://www.graysoncountyar.com">www.graysoncountyar.com</a>
Webmaster:	Ben Sly KF5OEB
Facebook Page:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC">www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC</a>

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### DUES AND DONATIONS

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

### GCARC, ARES, AND SKYWARN PATCHES

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

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## GCARC MEETING MINUTES

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### GCARC Meeting Minutes – 18 August 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:01PM by Trevor Reed KG5BFI with 16 people in attendance

Motion by Roy Reed AF5VA and seconded by James Frank KW5CW to accept July minutes; passed unanimously

New licenses:

- Jim Baldwin KG5UNG about 3 weeks ago
- James Johnson KG5SJY who got his General in the 1960s but let it expire; is now active again

Treasurer's Report by Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA

- \$1,612.50 is current balance; \$1,434.85 in the operating account
- Motion by Roy AF5VA and seconded by Jim McGlynn K5QOI to approve treasurer's report; passed unanimously
- Motion by Roy AF5VA and seconded by Jim K5QOI to reimburse Lee Sly N5SLY \$22 for certificates related to Red River Bridge War; passed unanimously

Trevor KG5BFI spoke about past and future events

- Kiwanis Bike Rally – August 12th
  - 25 Club members participated
  - The Kiwanis were issued a warning for passing over Denison Dam without permission
- Solar Eclipse – August 21st
  - Will peak at 1:09PM
- Route 66 On the Air Special Event
  - September 12 - September 20
- Collinsville Night Out – October 3rd
  - Event stresses crime prevention
  - Roy AF5VA and Trevor KG5BFI's chasing truck will be there to emphasize severe weather awareness
  - Set up about 5PM
- Denison Main Street - October 7th?
  - We will share a booth with the Red Cross
  - Anonymous donor paid the booth fee, so it is free for us
- Eisenhower Special Event
  - Begins on October 13 and goes for 10 days
  - Question if we will set up at Perrin or participate from homes

Lee N5SLY moved and Jim K5QOI seconded to spend the money necessary to have the Club's Kenwood radio checked to see what it would take to repair it. Passed unanimously

James KW5CW spoke about encouraging member participation in Club events

Lee N5SLY gave a program about the modes (CW, Phone and Digital) used by hams with an emphasis on FT8 (a new digital mode introduced on July 1st).

Rick Simmons K5ECX gave an update on ARES

Meeting was adjourned at 8:13PM

The next meeting will be Friday, September 15, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Grayson County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Assembly Room, 100 W. Houston St., Sherman TX.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stacy Branam W5ORD  
Nancy Pierce KG5PIZ  
GCARC Secretaries

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## GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

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Bank Balance as of 08.01.2017 1,844.10

Operating Fund Beginning Bal 1,666.45

Deposits	Dues	Checks
		Cash
		Online
		Clothes

Less expenses

	online fee	
Clothes	1126	181.60
Perrin AFB	1127	50.00
Lee Sly	1128	22.00

Operating Fund Balance 1,412.85

\*\* Members YTD 41 (6 Free)

Available Equipment Funds 177.65

Donation

Less expenditures

Equipment Fund Balance 177.65

Ending Bank Balance  
as of August 19, 2017 1,590.50

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

*Food for Special Events*

*Donations*

Memorials

Total 227.17

### EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Tower Bracket	151.89
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Amount Budgeted	0
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## CLUB MEETINGS, LOCAL ACTIVITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Club Meetings

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

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

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

<http://www.graysoncountyarcl.com>

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

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

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

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

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX

<http://www.k5frc.org>

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

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

Spring Creek Barbecue, 1993 North Central Expressway, McKinney TX

<http://www.mckinneyarc.org>

### ARES® / SKYWARN®

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

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

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

<http://www.tecoares.org>

#### **CERT Graduation Exercise**

September 12, 2017 4:45pm

Grayson County Courthouse, 100 W Houston Street, Sherman TX

ARES members and other interested hams are asked to assist with the final training/graduation exercise for the 2017 Grayson County CERT class. Contact Rick K5ECX [k5ecx@arrl.net](mailto:k5ecx@arrl.net) for more information.

### 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

#### **Eisenhower Birthday Special Event**

Operating Period: October 13-22, 2017

The club will operate a special event station using the callsign W5I in celebration of the birthday of President Dwight Eisenhower, who was born October 14, 1890 in Denison, TX

### VE Testing Sessions

#### **Texoma VE Team – Bi-Monthly Testing**

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

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

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

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

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

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

Contact: Jim K5BNK ([jharmon1940@gmail.com](mailto:jharmon1940@gmail.com))

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

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX

Contact David WA0URJ ([wa0urj@yahoo.com](mailto:wa0urj@yahoo.com)) to schedule a session

### **Hamfests and Swap Meets**

#### **HamEXPO**

October 7, 2017 7:00am-12:00noon

Bell County Expo Center, 301 West Loop 121, Belton TX

Talk-In: 146.820 (123.0 PL)

Public Contact: John Hobson WD5BFS (254) 338-8620 or [expo@tarc.org](mailto:expo@tarc.org)

Website: <http://tarc/hamexpo>

#### **Texoma Hamarama**

October 27-28, 2017 (Friday 5:00pm-8:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-1:00pm)

VE Testing – contact Ed Harwood [w5cve@arrl.net](mailto:w5cve@arrl.net) for information

Ardmore Convention Center, 2401 North Rockford Road, Ardmore OK

Talk-In: 146.970 (131.8 PL) & 146.835 (131.8 PL)

Public Contact: Don Loving KM5OX (580) 221-1894 or [dloving@mscok.edu](mailto:dloving@mscok.edu)

Website: <http://texomahamarama.org>

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## **CW CORNER**

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CW enthusiasm seems to have dropped off dramatically, but there seems to still be a few people that are interested in honing up their skills with CW. For those who have given CW a shot, I truly appreciate you. However, the best way to really, really know if CW is for you would be to try and communicate with someone using that mode. Like PSK31, or JT65, or JT9, or FT8, you truly need to try and operate before you will really know if this mode is for you. Everyone knows by now that I've been a hard-nosed CW operator for the last 51 years. But thanks to others within our club, I have ventured away from CW for a while, and now experimenting with the Digital modes and I'm truly glad that I have. All you have to do is check my logbook that is updated every time I make a contact, and you will see that I haven't made too many CW contacts lately. If you attended the meeting this month, you know that Lee gave a very detailed orientation regarding the new mode of FT8-digital. The operation is truly the very opposite of CW. All you have to do is setup the radio and program, and watch the contacts come pouring in. NO interaction. All you have to do is update your logbook if you keep one. It is the absolute easiest way to acquire some nice wallpaper in a form of a certificate for your ham shack. Check out QRZ.com and QRZCQ.com and see firsthand what contacts I make. Just do a search for KW5CW. My contacts are logged to the program as they happen. E-Qsl's and LOTW are sent automatically for each contact, so sending confirmations to people is just absolutely painless. Then check your email to see cards come back to you.

I didn't press the issue at our last meeting, as I knew that Lee had a presentation ready to go and may take some time. But again, I am asking everyone within the Grayson County Amateur Radio club review their interests in amateur radio, and make some choices. This would be for you, not for me.

Again, I am very happy to be part of this club and I will help anyone interested in CW and for the few that have expressed interest in CW that want to move forward, you will be hearing for me.

73 and best of luck to EVERYONE....

James Frank KW5CW

GCARC Vice President



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## CLUB ACTIVITIES

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### Kiwanis Bike Rally – August 12, 2017









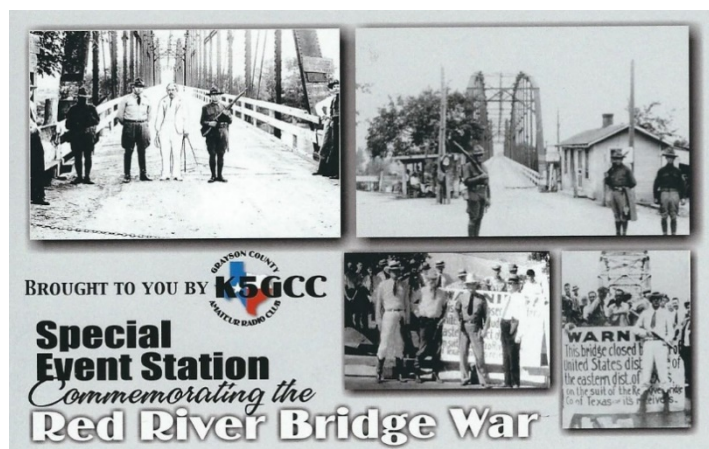
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## QSL MANAGER'S DESK

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Lots to talk about this month.

First...here's how we did with the Red River Bridge War Special Event.



Another very successful event for our club. Here are the excruciating details...data from eQSL for all of our QSOs...

<b>Bands</b>	15M	<u>1</u>
	17M	<u>11</u>
	20M	<u>415</u>
	30M	<u>20</u>
	40M	<u>151</u>
<b>Modes</b>	80M	<u>7</u>
	CW	<u>47</u>
	FT8	<u>270</u>
	JT65	<u>45</u>
	JT9	<u>38</u>
	PSK	<u>145</u>
<b>Dates</b>	SSB	<u>60</u>
	2017 July	<u>605</u>
<b>Countries</b> (Only includes cards to members of eQSL.cc)		
	AUSTRALIA	<u>2</u>
	BELGIUM	<u>1</u>
	CANADA	<u>19</u>
	CUBA	<u>1</u>
	CURACAO	<u>1</u>
	ENGLAND	<u>1</u>
	FRANCE	<u>4</u>
	GERMANY	<u>2</u>
	GUATEMALA	<u>1</u>
	HAWAII	<u>1</u>
	IRELAND	<u>1</u>
	ITALY	<u>5</u>
	JAPAN	<u>4</u>
	PUERTO RICO	<u>3</u>
	ROMANIA	<u>1</u>
	SERBIA	<u>1</u>
	SPAIN	<u>7</u>
	SWITZERLAND	<u>1</u>
	UKRAINE	<u>2</u>
	USA	<u>373</u>
	VENEZUELA	<u>3</u>
<b>Entire Logbook/OutBox Selector</b>		<u>605</u>

And for all of our eQSL QSLs...

<b>Bands</b>	17M	6		
	20M	215		
	30M	7		
	40M	77		
	80M	2		
<b>Modes</b>	CW	5		
	FT8	169		
	JT65	26		
	JT9	25		
	PSK	66		
	PSK31	1		
	SSB	15		
<b>Propagation Modes</b>	F2	2		
	ION	2		
<b>Dates</b>	2017 July	307		
<b>Countries</b>		AG	Non-AG	Combined
	AUSTRALIA	2		All
	CANADA	15	4	All
	CUBA	1		All
	ENGLAND	1		All
	FRANCE	1		All
	GERMANY		2	All
	GUATEMALA	1		All
	HAWAII	1		All
	IRELAND	1		All
	ITALY	4		All
	JAPAN	1	1	All
	PUERTO RICO	2		All
	ROMANIA	1		All
	SERBIA	1		All
	SPAIN	5		All
	SWITZERLAND	1		All

As you can see we made a lot of contacts on a new mode during this event...FT8. I gave a presentation at our club meeting about FT8 and I'm thinking that this is going to be a very popular mode as time goes on. Folks only started using it about 6 weeks ago and already the bands are "thick" with hams all over the world using this new mode. It's a fast, easy and fun way to make lots of contacts very quickly. Great for filling the log with lots of contacts for a special event, making new DX contacts, or making new contacts for WAS or VUCC awards.

Popular opinion has it that this mode will really help folks using 6 meters make many more contacts than previously were possible...and that is great news because that makes this mode available to all hams regardless of the license they hold. **All you Technicians out there, this is the digital mode for you.** All you need is a radio that does 6 meters, an antenna, a computer and the free software that you can down load from... <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html>

I copied this from an article in the ARRL newsletter of August 3rd about FT8...

### FT8 Mode is Latest Bright Shiny Object in Amateur Radio Digital World.

It's still in beta testing, but FT8 -- the latest digital bauble to capture the imagination of the Amateur Radio community -- has been luring away many of those already using the already popular JT65 "weak-signal" mode. FT8 is included in a beta release of WSJT-X, version 1.8.0-rc1. Among its biggest advantages is a shorter transmit-receive cycle, meaning quicker contacts. The notes for the "candidate" release say that FT8 offers "sensitivity down to -20 dB on the AWGN channel." Contacts are four times faster than with JT65 or JT9, and an entire FT8 contact can take place in about 1 minute. The new mode is named after its developers, Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT. The numeral designates the mode's eight-frequency shift keying format. Tones are spaced at 6.25 Hz, and an FT8 signal occupies just 50 Hz. Unlike

I hope that many of you will check this out and take the plunge to give it a try.

**ROUTE 66**

**ON THE AIR**  
September 10th -18th

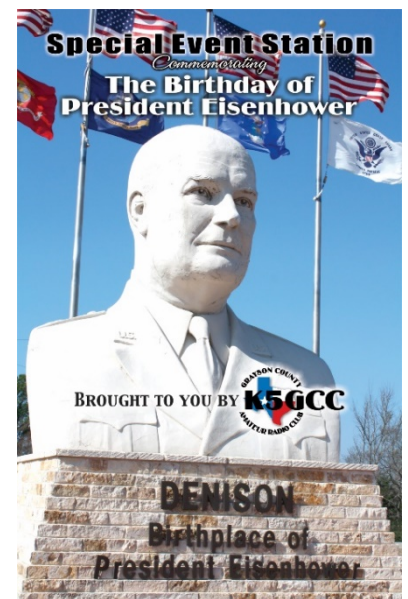
☒ Digital    ☒ Phone  
☐ Repeater    ☐ CW

Call Sign: N5LSY  
 Operator: LELAND SLY

2016

And coming up in October is our next Special Event → → →

73  
Lee – N5SLY





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## HELPING HAMS

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

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

### Current Requests:

Bennie K5DIZ	Antenna install	Sherman
Bob Sholl	Needs help with a rotator on a 100' tower.	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.	

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## SWAP MEET

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

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

### FOR SALE: Yaesu Fusion Radios

FTM-100 – asking \$225

FTM-400 – asking \$350

Both are in mint condition.

Contact: Barry - W5BGD

E-mail: [barrydavidson0269@yahoo.com](mailto:barrydavidson0269@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](mailto:lee.n5sly@gmail.com)

### ARRL Board Explores Entry-Level License Options, Ways to Face Future Challenges

Meeting July 21-22 in Farmington, Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors took steps to chart a firmer future for Amateur Radio by enhancing the value of the entry-level license and by providing ongoing support for new licensees.

ARRL New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, presented the report of the Ad Hoc Entry-Level License Committee. He said the committee's initial, informal survey attracted nearly 7,900 responses. A second random survey drew another 375 responses. "A clear majority favored a revision to the Technician rather than a new entry-level license," the committee's report said, noting that this would require no change to the Technician examination, which already covers more material than necessary for an entry-level examination. "This choice requires the simplest revision to FCC rules," the committee report said. The committee suggested expanded digital access on 80, 40, and 15 meters, where Technicians already have CW access, as well as the addition of Technician phone privileges on those bands. Frenaye pointed out that while the Amateur Radio population is growing, the annual rate of growth has stagnated at about 1%. "There is a general consensus...that 'something needs to happen,'" the committee's report said, noting a generally favorable attitude toward attracting newcomers.



"The general goal here is to have an entry level license that offers a way for a newcomer to experience multiple facets of Amateur Radio," the committee's report said, "encouraging them to get on the air, meet other licensees, and engage in a lifetime of learning while using Amateur Radio."

Later in the meeting, the Board charged the ARRL Executive Committee with developing a plan to implement the ad hoc committee's recommendation to make the current Technician class license more attractive and useful by expanding its operating privileges on HF to include phone and digital modes. The Board asked the Ad Hoc Entry-Level License Committee to further research and develop the details of a second recommendation to improve successful outreach to prospective radio amateurs and help them through the licensing process.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, presented the report of six Headquarters staffers who had been tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and devising feasible solutions. Specifically, the committee addressed market research findings that have continued to reveal that only a small percentage of new hams join the League, and only about one-half of new hams actually get on the air.

The committee began with the premise that ARRL must act in order to remain relevant going forward. It proposed instituting a Lifelong Learning Program to focus on developing a clear developmental path for all radio amateurs, from newcomers to established radio amateurs. The committee recommended the creation of new programs and services to increase the knowledge base of newcomers in order to get them active, as well as programs to keep experienced amateurs up to date with changing technology and practice.

- Originally published online at [ARRL.org](http://ARRL.org)

### Applicants Must Use FCC Form 605 with "the Felony Question" Starting September 7



In an August 7 [Public Notice](#), the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) announced formally that FCC Form 605, *Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services*, now will ask whether the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony. The FCC said this revision is "consistent with application forms for other Commission services." The new FCC Form 605 must be used on and after September 7, 2017; the current Form 605 will become obsolete and no longer will be accepted. The change applies to both paper and electronic applications.

"This information enables the Commission to determine whether an applicant is eligible under Section 308(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to hold a station license," the WTB said in explaining the need for a revised

Form 605. “In assessing character qualifications, the Commission considers felony convictions... [and] any conviction provides an indication of an applicant’s or licensee’s propensity to obey the law.”

Applicants filing an FCC Form 605 for a new license, a modification and/or renewal of an existing license, or an amendment to a pending application for any of these purposes would be required to answer the felony question. Applicants answering in the affirmative must attach as an exhibit a statement explaining the circumstances of their conviction and spelling out why the applicant believes that granting the application “would be in the public interest notwithstanding the misconduct.”

A “Yes” response will be publicly viewable in the Commission’s Universal Licensing System (ULS), but applicants may file a separate request that the exhibit be treated as confidential. The request would not be publically available. When a Form 605 is submitted in batch form by a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC), the applicant must [submit](#) the exhibit to the Bureau via e-mail or the US Postal Service; VECs cannot submit these “exhibits,” which must be received within 14 days from receipt of the application.

The WTB said the FCC has consistently applied character standards to applicants and licensees in other radio services, and other Commission forms already ask whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony, so the inclusion of the felony question is nothing new. It was not previously included on Form 605, however.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## Plane Crash Drill Turns Into Major Fire Response

Over the course of a single day, ARES® Los Angeles (ARES LAX) Northwest District operators on July 8 pivoted from a plane crash mass-casualty drill to a real major fire response. With the area suffering under record 108° heat, the ARRL Los Angeles Section’s ARES Northwest District Emergency Coordinator Roozy Moabery, W1EH, had no idea that an actual emergency would erupt just 6 hours after his ARES team finished a full-scale mass casualty drill that morning.



The mass casualty drill scenario involved numerous hospitals and agencies responding to a private plane crash at a busy freeway junction in the Encino area. ARES LAX-Northwest members deployed to their assigned hospitals by 7 AM for the drill, prepared to handle back-up communication on hospital utilization and bed availability. Moabery said the drill provided an excellent example of how ARES interfaces with other disaster-focused Amateur Radio organizations.

The real emergency happened about 12 hours later — an explosion and fire at a City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power 230-kV receiving station in the San Fernando Valley’s Northridge area. While firefighters fought flames, electric power was cut for up to 11 hours to some 147,000 homes and businesses, already suffering from the searing heat.

Five hospitals ARES LAX-Northwest serves, including major trauma center Northridge Hospital Medical Center, switched to emergency back-up power. ARES LAX-Northwest quickly established a net, and Moabery immediately deployed to the 409-bed Northridge Hospital, remaining there until nearly 6 AM the next day. Assistant DEC Marty Woll, N6VI, served as net control while Assistant DEC Dean Cuadra, WA6P, and Emergency Coordinator David Goldenberg, W0DHG, kept in contact with other hospitals to determine their operational status.

Although ARES only physically deployed to Northridge Hospital, other ARES members were on standby throughout the incident. The reduced electric power available at Northridge Hospital combined with the extreme heat resulted in numerous patients being relocated to unaffected hospitals.

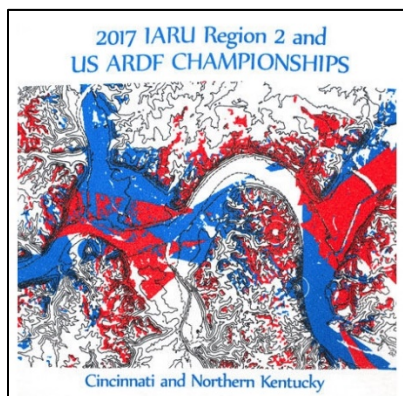
Moabery reviewed lessons learned from the drill and the emergency during his August ARES LAX-Northwest meeting. Among his points: Members can never have enough batteries; some ARES members were recharging depleted batteries following the morning hospital drill when the early evening power outage occurred. The hospital drill served as another reminder that repeaters cannot always be relied upon, and that a simplex back-up plan is essential. In extreme weather and heat situations, ARES members need to be prepared and bring their own food and water. Finally, ARES LAX-Northwest



learned that hospitals may need up to 24 hours to fully recover from a lengthy power outage because of required post-outage procedures.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## ARDF Enthusiasts Compete in USA National Championships



Fifteen US-eligible competitors took home first-place awards in the 17th USA National Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) in Harrison, Ohio. The competition ran from August 3 through 6 on the 4,345-acre Miami Whitewater Forest and other nearby wooded sites, and it attracted more than 80 fans of the sport – also known as foxhunting, foxtailing and radio-orienteeing. This year's USA Championships were combined with the 9th ARDF Championships of International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 ([IARU R2](#)) – the Americas. The IARU establishes [rules for ARDF competitions](#). The object is always to find as many of the required transmitters as possible in the shortest time and then navigate to the finish line. Competitors may use only their own direction-finding equipment, in addition to a compass and the provided map.

Classic 80- and 2-meter competitions with up to five hidden transmitters took place on separate days. Course lengths – from start to each required transmitter and then to the finish – ranged from 2.8 to 7.1 kilometers (1.7 to 4.4 miles), depending on age/gender category.

[Two additional events](#) took place, both on 80 meters. These included the sprint, a shortened course with 10 transmitters and a faster transmitter cycle, and foxoring, a combination of orienteeing and foxhunting, in which participants receive maps marked with the approximate locations of a dozen very low-power transmitters to find. In all events competitors are divided into six age categories for men and five for women, with medals awarded to winners in each category. The 4 days of championship events were preceded by 3 days of informal training in other nearby parks.

According to IARU rules, USA-eligible competitors must be either citizens or legal residents for at least 1 year. First-place award winners among these competitors are, in alphabetical order:

Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI	M40	2-meter, 80-meter, foxor
Natalia Bondarenco	W35	2-meter, 80-meter, sprint
Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG	W60	2-meter, 80-meter, sprint, foxor
Thomas Chen	M16	2-meter, 80-meter
Bob Cooley, KF6VSE	M70	2-meter, 80-meter, sprint, foxor
Jay Hennigan, WB6RDV	M60	sprint
Joseph Huberman, K5JGH	M60	2-meter, 80-meter, foxor
Mengbing Li	W21	2-meter, 80-meter, sprint, foxor
Nicolai Mejevoi	M50	2-meter, 80-meter, sprint, foxor
Alla Mezhevaya	W35	2-meter, foxor
Eduard Nasybulin	M21	2-meter, 80-meter, sprint, foxor
Kelly Sears	W50	2-meter, 80-meter, sprint, foxor
Evghenii Vorsin, KD2MZT	M40	sprint
Jenny Wang	W16	2-meter, sprint, foxor
Amy Wang	W19	2-meter, sprint, foxor

Representing Canada was Nicholas Roethe, DF1FO (M60), who was first among Region 2 competitors in the 2-meter, 80-meter, and sprint events.

US national championships are open, meaning that radio-orientees from other countries are welcome on the courses. Non-Region 2 visitors compete for individual medals in a separate division. For this competition, that division included some 40 middle- and high-school students from Guangzhou No. 2 High School in southern China, along with some instructors and parents. Adult participants also came from Australia, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine. Stateside foxtailers enjoyed comparing notes on ARDF equipment and techniques with them.

Organizing and staging these championships were members of the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society. Lead organizers and course-setters were Dick Arnett, WB4SUV; Bob Frey, WA6EZV; Brian DeYoung, K4BRI, and Matthew Robbins, AA9YH. Additional volunteers were members of Orienteering Cincinnati (OCIN), which also provided the event maps.

[Complete results](#) of all events in these Championships are available on the [Homing In website](#), where there is also much more information about the growing sport of ARDF.

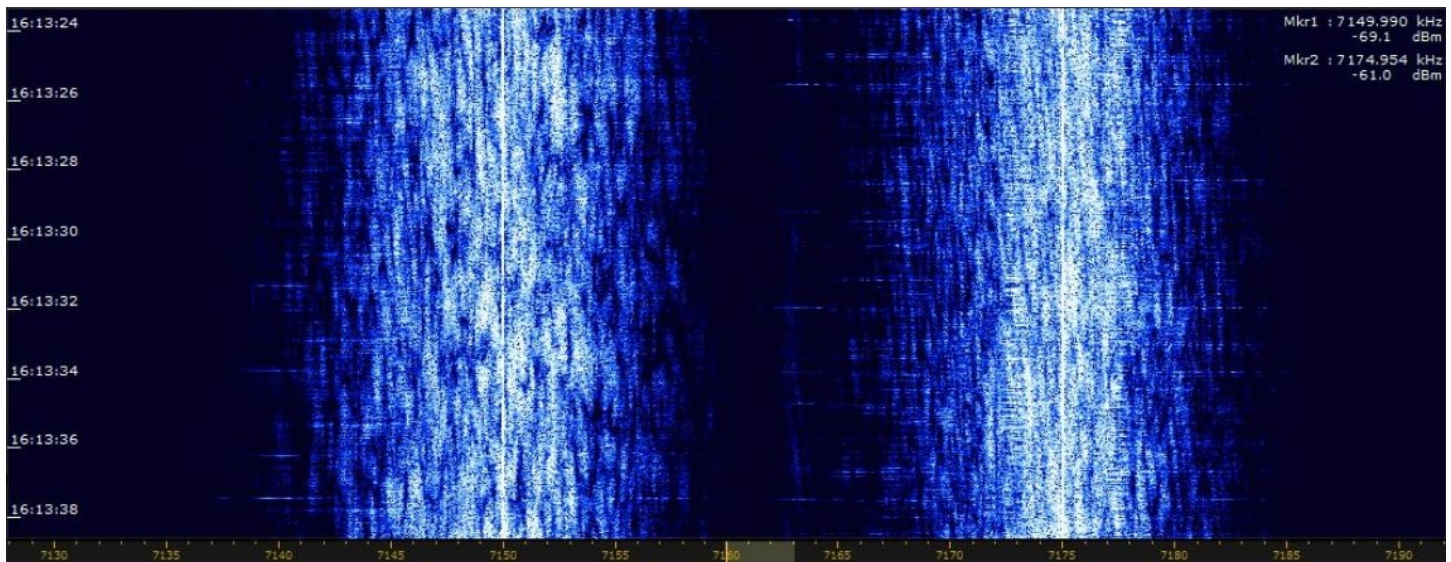
Next year's national championships are expected to take place in early June, in time for selection of ARDF Team USA, which will travel to Korea for the 19th ARDF World Championships in September 2018. A maximum of three competitors in each age-gender category may be on a nation's team. They will be selected from the best USA-eligible performers at the 2017 and 2018 USA Championships.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## Radio Eritrea and Radio Ethiopia Still Battling on 40 Meters

It was reported in the July edition of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 ([IARU R1](#)) Monitoring System ([IARUMS](#)) [newsletter](#) that Radio Eritrea and Radio Ethiopia are still slugging it out on the 40-meter phone band. IARU Region 1 includes Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Northern Asia.

"The hostile brothers were daily active on 7150 and 7175 kHz," said IARUMS Coordinator Wolf Hadel, DK2OM. "Earlier complaints were not regarded. No change." Radio Ethiopia has been deliberately interfering with Radio Eritrea on both frequencies by transmitting white noise, Hadel said.



Radio Eritrea/Radio Ethiopia interference signals on 40 meters (screen shot by Wolf Hadel DK2OM)

Elsewhere on 40 meters, Radio Hargaysa in Somalia has been transmitting on 7120 kHz, and is audible daily in Australia and Japan. On 7200 kHz, the "Firedrake Jammer" in the People's Republic of China has been transmitting on top of a broadcaster in the Republic of China (Taiwan). The PRC considers Taiwan a province. The Firedrake (or Fire Dragon) jammer, which has been interfering with Amateur Radio signals on 40 and 20 meters over the past decade or longer, also disrupts broadcasts from the Voice of America, Radio Free Asia, and the BBC. The jammer's designation derives from the name of a lengthy Chinese folk tune that the jammer transmits.

So-called “cluster beacons” from Russia have become another issue reported on the 80- and 40-meter CW/digital segments. These CW signals are showing up on several frequencies above 3590 kHz and in the vicinity of 7039 kHz and identify with three-letter, R-prefix call signs. They’re operated by the Russian Navy, according to IARUMS.

Over the Horizon (OTH) radar signals also continue to intrude on the exclusive Amateur Radio 40, 20, 15, and 10-meter allocations.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## Homelessness Not a Bar to Enjoying Amateur Radio, Hawaii Ham Demonstrates

Not having a permanent roof over his head has not hindered Alex Stengel, KH7CX, of Honolulu from enjoying Amateur Radio and indulging his passion for SSB QRP DXing, which he calls “very rewarding.” As ARRL Pacific Section PIO Stacy Holbrook, KH6OWL, explained, Stengel sleeps on a bench, gets his mail and showers at a local church, and stows his personal items in a storage facility. Stengel shies away from attention to his “non-housing conditions,” as he calls it, and would rather talk about his ham radio accomplishments.



Alex Stengel KH7CX and his “open air shack”

“All my HF antennas and parts like baluns and ununs are made by me, and the antennas are very efficient – SWR around 1.06,” Stengel told ARRL. He uses type N connectors and RG-8X as feed line, which he described as “a compromise in portability and weight,” since the voltage balun and unun already make his temporary antenna system heavy enough when it’s hauled aloft into some coconut palms.

“I do leave the pull line in the tree as long as possible, and when I set up the Carolina Windom, I just hook it in like a flag and pull it up, and the two arms of the antenna are just fixed to nearby trees, in a flat inverted V configuration.” He is typically active between 0500 and 0800 UTC.

Holbrook said that living in Hawaii is expensive, and the biggest expense is housing. “Hawaii has an estimated 7,900 homeless, which is up 4%,” he said, citing a federal report.

Licensed since 2008, Stengel does odd jobs for boat owners and elsewhere to feed and clothe himself and to purchase any necessary ham gear. His primary radio is a Yaesu FT-817ND, powered by an external 9 A/h 12.8 V lithium battery. Last year, he snagged VP8STI on South Sandwich, KH0EK on Heard Island, and 3XY1T, the Los Islands DXpedition. He said it took “many hours” to break the 3XY1T pileup with 5 W at the bottom of the solar cycle. He also just purchased an ILER-40 transceiver (40 meters, SSB), which he couples to what he describes as “an NVIS dipole.”

Stengel doesn’t have a cell phone, and he uses the public library’s computers to update his QRZ.com log and to check propagation.

“I love my moon and starlight radio shack!” Stengel told ARRL. A YouTube [video](#) posted by Doc Rennie, KH6FM, documents a brief encounter with KH7CX in Honolulu.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org



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## LOCAL RADIO NETS

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### Daily

#### **Texas Slow Net (CW only)**

Daily 7:45pm CT on 3.570 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month due to the DARA monthly meeting.

#### **Fannin County ARC Weekly Net**

Tuesdays 8:00pm CT on the 147.200+ (100.0 PL) repeater.

This is an informal information net.

#### **McKinney 6 meter AM Net**

Wednesdays 10:00pm CT on 50.400 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**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.

This is an informal information net and buy/sell/swap net.

#### **Grayson County ARES Net**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.

This is a directed information net used for training.

#### **RACES Command Net Check (HF)**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 2:00pm CT on 7.255 MHz LSB

This is a RACES Command Net check for statewide RACES Command Net members ONLY. All other Amateur stations are welcome to listen, but DO NOT check in!

### Monthly

#### **North Texas Section ARES Net (HF)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 8:30pm CT on 3.860 MHz LSB

This is an information net open to all ARES members in the ARRL North Texas (NTX) Section.

#### **McKinney ARES Net**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.

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## AREA REPEATERS

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

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## GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

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### Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX  
Grayson County ARRL EC

### Football Season! Really?

It's almost fall. Can you feel the crispness in the air? Can you believe the rain we have had in August, or the temperatures we've had this week? Hurricane season is here, Harvey is lurking in the Gulf looking for landfall, CERT is graduating another class, and there are already Christmas decorations out in some stores. So that can only mean one thing for ARES: end of year planning is going on. Well, actually it went on Tuesday night.

Our AEC team will host an Intermediate Skills Workshop at the November Face-to-Face training session. Those skills are described a bit more fully in your NTX ARES training task book. Skills form an important feature that helps define each of the training levels. All levels have educational requirements you will also need to meet. Over the next couple of training nets, Mike KF5NPM will offer a review of the training program we are trying to follow, and your attention to those and the sections in the booklet will move you towards that Intermediate level ARES classification. We will also have a net led by Wade KF5AUD discussing the forms ARES uses, and spend some time on the ICS 213 message form. Of course we will also have nets to share info on fall and winter weather spotting and reporting, and other Net operation protocols.

CERT graduation is planned for September 12th at the Grayson County Courthouse. It's a fun event to support and get to meet the new CERT team and some of the -ahem- older faces. Plan to be in the west parking area by 4:45pm for assignments and briefing.

Way out there planning: we think next year's SKYWARN spotter training will be in mid-February around Valentine's Day.

We had a great session and I commend your AEC team for this work; but then after all, they are representative of you, our Grayson County ARES team.

Thanks for the chance to serve with you!

73  
Rick  
K5ECX

