



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2017

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

Vol. 23, No. 9

THE ~~PRESIDENT'S~~ EDITOR'S QSO



Due to work commitments our President, Mark KF5UZW, wasn't available to provide a letter for this month's issue. So, I hope you don't mind if I fill in for him.

I have a few things to share with you. First, the North Texas (NTX) Section of ARRL has created a new e-mail list sometimes called a "reflector", and invited all affiliated clubs in the area to sign up and use it to share their newsletters and event flyers. A reflector is similar to a radio repeater; it takes whatever has been sent to it and broadcasts it back out to everyone else who uses the list. For example, if a club sends a copy of their monthly newsletter to the reflector, all the other clubs on the list will receive a copy of it. Pretty cool, eh? I registered our club to use it, and I'll be receiving all of the mail that comes in. My goal is to be able to post any club newsletters we receive from it on our Facebook page, as well as share any important ARRL news either here or through Facebook as well. I have already received two items from the reflector since signing up – a newsletter from a club in Wichita Falls which I'll be posting soon on Facebook, and a flyer for an ARRL-sponsored event taking place next month in Irving (you can find a copy of the flyer on the last page of this issue). This issue will be the first newsletter from GCARC to be sent to the reflector, and I will be interested in seeing what sort of response we get from it.

Second, make sure to check this month's event calendar starting on page 7. There are several GCARC activities coming up in October (before the next newsletter comes out) including the Eisenhower Special Event, and the club needs as many people as possible to help out with all of them. A couple of hamfests are on tap for next month as well, including the ever-popular Hamarama in Ardmore.

And finally, as I previously announced last December, this will indeed be my last year as the editor of your newsletter. I've had some members ask me to reconsider, and I have given it much thought, but I am holding firm on my decision. It's not because I don't like what I'm doing – I've had a lot of fun putting these together each month – but because I feel after five years it's time for someone else to step in and hopefully bring some new ideas to the table. I'll have more to say when we get to my final issue this coming December, but for now I'm still the "it" guy bringing these to you each month, and will continue working to make it one of the best newsletters around.

That's pretty much it. I hope you enjoy this newsletter, and please let me know if there is anything you'd like to see added or changed in future issues.

73

Mike Bernier KF5NPM
GCARC Newsletter Editor

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 – 15 September 2017

Lee Sly filling in for the club's secretaries as they were unable to attend. (I'm a terrible note taker. This isn't the job for me...hi hi)

James Frank, KW5CW, Vice President conducted the meeting tonight as Mark KF5UZW was unable to attend due to work commitments.

16 members and guests were present.

Meeting minutes and treasurer's report for last month were approved by all members.

- Our tower project at the Perrin Field Museum has stalled out. We need to move forward with our plan to get a tower installed. First priority is to mount the bracket for the tower onto the side of the museum. Need to get a progress report from Mark and Ben KF5OEB regarding this. Once this is done we need to set a date to actually get it done. Plan is to get this accomplished by next meeting.
- All members should check the club calendar for upcoming ARES activities and training sessions.

October will be a very busy month for our club.

- Tuesday, October 3 from 6 PM until 8 PM is the Collinsville Night Out event we will be participating in. This is a "Meet and Greet" the public event. If you can help that night please plan on attending.
- Saturday, October 7 is the Denison Fall Festival in downtown Denison. This is an all-day event and we will be sharing a booth with the Red Cross. This is also a "Meet and Greet" the public event. We'll need help all day long, so whenever you can help in the booth that will be great.
- Our Eisenhower Special Event will be held from Friday, October 13 at 7 PM until Sunday, October 22 at 7 PM. All the details are available in the Newsletter. Looking to get over 700 contacts during this event.
- At our next club meeting we will be accepting nominations for club officers for next year. Any club member with the desire to help the club by becoming a club officer is encouraged to step forward make a commitment. The only qualification needed is a desire to do the job. Nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will be accepted.

Mike Bernier, KF5NPM, is stepping down as our Newsletter Editor at the end of this year. He has done a great job for us the last 5 years and we thank him for his contributions to the club. He is working on a replacement – he had discussed it with Linda KE5YUC earlier in the year but has not been in touch with her since then and isn't sure if she still plans to take over.

Our annual Christmas dinner will be held in early December as usual. Still not sure of the date as we have to work around the Christmas Parade held in down town Sherman every year. Should have this figured out by our next meeting.

Grayson County Emergency Management Coordinator, Sarah Somers, spoke to us about what the county is doing along with the state to assist in the long range recovery process required after disasters such as the recent hurricane that did so much damage to the Houston area.

And finally, Jimmy Paterson, KC5OHL, talked about his experiences helping in the Houston area after the hurricane with his "big" truck...an old military 5-ton cargo truck. He learned a lot about how "unprepared" he was to do this, but discovered that this is something he'll do again because his truck is perfect to help in situations like this. Here is his ..."After Action Report"...

Natural staging area

The last big fuel station going into the disaster area. In this instance I-45 Buc-ee's fueling station. This is where we ran into people coming out of and going into Houston; people would transfer cases of water to my truck because I was going in and wish us luck. On my way out I transferred all the water I had to another group going in, cooperation at its best.

Stopping point

I-45 was closed and forced me to exit.

Upon exiting I contacted local officer on patrol he gave me directions to official staging area where I encountered engine 77.

Engine 77 gave me my first assignment and address he showed me on his cell phone using Google Maps then sent me a text message with the link. I used Google Maps to guide me to my first address. The cell service was obviously still up and running after my first drop off I picked up a local volunteer used him as a navigator for the immediate neighborhood. We combed the residential neighborhood looking for people.

First night

I slept in the back of my truck. The first night it was not good; a helicopter flew over once an hour picking people up, rain was continuous.

Second day

I woke up early and had to leave the area, had to drive north of Houston about 30 minutes before I could find anything open. I needed supplies I was not prepared. After getting supplies I was contacted by a local Houston resident that wanted to go in and help. I used him as a navigator and together we managed to get back down into Houston. We had troubles because all of the roads and highways had flooded behind me on my way out. In Houston we started following a police Hummer all the way to the police station. There we signed up with North Houston police station and started taking orders.

Midday

Checked in with East Side Fire Marshal Where we sat until we got assignments from them. We got an assignment about 7:30 p.m. to go to an apartment building and ask people if they wanted to evacuate. Water was almost chest-high at this point and no one wanted to evacuate so we secured for the night. We stayed in the conference room at the Sheraton, it was set up for volunteers. They gave us a room to shower and clean up in.

Third day

Eastside staging area was our first assignment, same apartment building that we had been in the night before. We were to make our way through it to the water, in the process of doing so we found our first dead body. Our following assignments were in residential areas with high water rescue necessary. The address turned out to be false, no such address. We got three more assignments. Three more addresses, high water rescue, turned out the roads were dry by now and no persons at the addresses. Locals said the people had been rescued 2 days ago.

Had lunch, no further assignments on the east side Fire Chief requested that we be transferred to the West Side. I agreed and got in contact with the West Side Fire Chief via texting, then proceeded to the staging area.

Westside assignments

We were to provide transport for police and fire personnel to a possible fire in an apartment building, in responding to this call we experience high water drove in three quarters of a mile to get to the gates of the apartment. The water was too high to continue, unloaded personnel and backed out of the high water and waited for personnel to return. After waiting approximately 20-25 minutes the truck had taken on water in the snorkel and the engine had stopped. Now I needed to be rescued for about 30 minutes until I figured out how to bypass the intake on the diesel motor. After removing the boot on the intake the engine started and I was able to self-recover. Drove out to dry land (safety). Waited on and returned Personnel to Westside staging area and checked out with Westside fire chief. Reason, truck not high water capable anymore.

Return home to repair the truck, after repairs return to Houston during the drive down the alternator broke. Truck is now broken again.

Saturday morning unable to fix the truck, forced to return home.

Started repairs again and prep for Florida.

Observations

People frustrated with 911 use social media to call for help. Results in double or triple tickets. People rescued and not reported - waste of rescue resources, but safe.

Solo

Solo volunteers are at risk of being victims themselves.

Groups of volunteers

Groups of volunteers are eager and capable but no direction or leader, they're for ineffective.

I know just enough to check in with local authorities and protocols to be the point of contact for the groups of people that followed the Big Green Truck. They followed the truck not me I carried the officers in charge of the department on two separate occasions. I was involved in two groups Group 1 Consisted of 10 watercrafts and Northside police.

Group 2 day two.

Day two the second group was 6 watercraft and five Laredo police officers armed. All volunteers this group was ineffective prior to our first assignment parts of the group containing boats chose to go to Beaumont therefore left our group. Our first assignment was an apartment on dry land the boats did not want to follow and waste gas so the group was split again. Second assignment was high water where the boats had responded to but two jet skis had deployed the pontoon boat did not deploy the jet skis were ineffective one sucked up trash and broke down the other one overheated. I ended up driving through high water to an address that did not exist the second group of volunteers at best was ineffective, quite possibly even needing rescue themselves. By lunch this group had completely broken down it was just me and my navigator and the truck now. We reported to Westside as requested by the Eastside Fire Marshal.

Thank you Jimmy for sharing. My impression of what both Sarah and Jimmy talked about is how important training and preparation are, but there is nothing like real life experience to really get your attention and drive home the point that you were not really as prepared as you thought you were.

Great meeting tonight.

The next meeting will be Friday, October 20, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Grayson County Courthouse, 2nd Floor Assembly Room, 100 W. Houston St., Sherman TX.

Respectfully submitted by
Lee - N5SLY...very temporary secretary

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance as of 09.01.2017 1,609.62

Operating Fund Beginning Bal 1,431.97

Deposits	Dues	Checks
		Cash
		Online
		Clothes

Less expenses

online fee

Operating Fund Balance 1,431.97

** Members YTD 41 (6 Free)

Available Equipment Funds 177.65

Donation

Less expenditures

Equipment Fund Balance 177.65

Ending Bank Balance
as of September 16, 2017 1,609.62

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	
Total	227.17

EQUIPMENT NEEDS	
Tower Bracket	151.89
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>

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

Collinsville National Night Out

October 3, 2017 6:00pm-8:00pm

Downtown Collinsville, TX

The club will operate an information booth at this event to inform the public about Amateur Radio.

Denison Main Street Festival

October 7, 2017 10:00am-5:00pm

Downtown Denison, TX

The club will operate an information booth at this event to inform the public about Amateur Radio.

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

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

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
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 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
Website: <http://texomahamarama.org>

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: Yaesu Fusion Radios

FTM-100 – asking \$225

FTM-400 – asking \$350

Both are in mint condition.

Contact: Barry - W5BGD

E-mail: 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

**Grayson County ARC
Eisenhower Special Event Station
Call Sign - W5I**

Who: All club members can participate using their own stations

What & Why: Celebrating the birthday of Dwight Eisenhower, the 34th President of the United States, who was born in Denison, TX on October 14, 1890.

When: October 14, 2017 0000Z – October 22, 2017 2359Z (7:00 PM October 13 – 7:00 PM October 22)

Where: Club members can operate from their own stations every day of the event, any time they want.

The Club will set up at the Perrin Field Museum in Denison on Saturday, October 14 from 10 AM until 4 PM.

Information Links:

<http://www.qrz.com/db/w5i>

<http://www.thc.texas.gov/historic-sites/eisenhower-birthplace-state-historic-site>

Club members may operate on any band and use any mode; however, they must follow the band plan for the License they hold (i.e. a Technician class cannot use General class bands).

All contacts must be logged properly. Members can log contacts any way they want to...on a computer or using a paper log. However, logs must include the following:

- **Member's Name and Call Sign...only need once per log**
- **Call sign of person contacted**
- **Date**
- **Time (must be Zulu time)**
- **Frequency**
- **Mode**
- **Signal report**

All logs must be sent to QSL Manager Lee Sly, N5SLY, at the end of the event. Email n5sly@arrl.net

**** ADI files of computer logs would be appreciated ****
**** If submitting a paper log, please write so anyone can read it ****

Some club members will have an Open House while they are operating so visitors can participate as well. These Open Houses are a chance to learn and participate on a new band or mode you haven't been able to use before. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. These Open House events will be published before and during the event. Watch your email & social media for the current opportunities.

Suggestions for your QSO

CQ CQ CQ this is W5I Whiskey Five India Special Event Station calling CQ and standing by

When you get a call back...

Call sign this is W5I. Thank you for answering my call. We are celebrating the birthday of Dwight Eisenhower, who was born here in Denison, TX in 1890. You are 59 into Grayson County Texas. QSL?

When they come back you may want ask for their name and QTH if they didn't provide it. Make it personal. Make the contact feel special and glad that they contacted you. Answer any questions they may have.

Also, very important, make sure you have their call sign correct. If you are not sure, ask the contact to verify. Don't hesitate to ask multiple times if needed. If the call sign is not correct the QSO means nothing!

End with something like this...

Call sign this is W5I. Our QSL info is available by looking up W5I at qrz.com. Thank you for stopping by today and 73. This is W5I QRZ?

Digital and CW modes are slightly different, but not much. All the same information is exchanged.

Have fun

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 sometime later in the year.	Sherman
KF5TDP		
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.	

Reports of Hurricane Devastation on Dominica Relayed by Amateur Radio, Picked up by Media

In the immediate aftermath of then-Category 5 Hurricane Maria's passage over Dominica on September 18, Frans van Santbrink, J69DS, on St. Lucia checked into the [VoIP Hurricane Net](#) to relay [damage reports](#) he'd gathered via repeater conversations with other hams there. *The New York Times* also [reported and posted audio](#) that Amateur Radio was a primary source to gather initial damage reports from the storm-ravaged Caribbean Island nation of some 70,000 residents. US-based Julian Antoine, J73JA, solicited reports via a VoIP connection with the J73MAN repeater on Dominica.

"All power lines are down, our telephone lines are down, Internet lines, everything is down," came a reply to Antoine's inquiry. "Roads are blocked with debris. No confirmed information on fatalities or injuries."

What seems to be a subsequent responder reported, "Lots of flooding, water coming into windows and doors," while another indicated that while he was "nice and dry now," he had lost his roof and was at a shelter. "From what I've seen so far, it's pretty bad," another report stated. The same responder said he could see some landslides too, along with broken trees and utility poles. "It's just damage all over," concluded the report, apparently from J73CC.

VoIP Hurricane Net Operations Director Rob Macedo, KD1CY, told ARRL that he recorded the audio that the *New York Times* used on Tuesday while he was monitoring the J62DX-L link on *EchoLink*.

In his report to the VoIP Hurricane Net, van Santbrink recounted a damage account from Kerry Fevrier, J69YH, in Roseau, Dominica. "Trees down, river has flooded half the village, cars are all over, most houses have lost their roofs or are destroyed, the area between his house and the church is just flattened...in his words, 'devastation is total,'" van Santbrink told the net.

He also heard from J73CI, who has lost his roof; J73WA on the northern end of the island, who lost his tower and was uncertain how he was going to weather the back end of the storm, and J73MH, who also lost his roof and was "just hunkering down and hoping for the best."

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

FCC Opens 630- and 2200-Meter Bands; Stations Must Notify UTC Before Operating



The FCC has announced that the Office of Management and Budget has approved, for 3 years, the information-collection requirement of the Commission's March 29 *Report and Order* ([R&O](#)) that spelled out Amateur Radio service rules for the two new bands – 630 meters and 2200 meters. Notice of the action appears in the September 15 edition of the *Federal Register*. Before using either band, stations must [notify](#) the Utilities Technology Council ([UTC](#)), formerly the Utilities Telecom Council, that they plan to do so, and if UTC does not respond within 30 days, they may commence operation.

Last March 27, the FCC adopted the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) implementation Report and Order (ET Docket 15-99), amending its Amateur Radio rules to – in the FCC's words – "provide for frequency-sharing requirements in the 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200-meter) and 472-479 kHz (630-meter) bands."

Section 97.313(g)(2) of those rules requires that, prior to starting operation in either band, radio amateurs must notify UTC that they intend operate by submitting their call signs, intended band(s) of operation, and the coordinates of their antenna's fixed location. The new rules do not permit any mobile operation.

"Amateur stations will be permitted to commence operations after a 30-day period, unless UTC notifies the station that its fixed location is located within 1 kilometer of Power Line Carrier (PLC) systems operating on the same or overlapping frequencies," the FCC said. PLC systems are unlicensed. "This notification process will ensure that amateur stations seeking to operate [on 630 or 2200 meters] are located beyond a minimum separation distance from PLC transmission

lines, which will help ensure the compatibility and coexistence of amateur and PLC operations, and promote shared use of the bands.”

The FCC announced that it is making effective immediately the Part 97 rule amendments, § 97.3, 97.15(c), 97.301(b) through (d), 97.303(g), 97.305(c), and 97.313(k) and (l), which do not require OMB approval

Stations may file notice with the UTC through this website: <https://utc.org/plc-database-amateur-notification-process/>

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Rockwell Collins to be Sold to United Technologies

United Technologies has announced plans to acquire avionics maker Rockwell Collins in a \$30-billion deal set to be consummated in 2018. United Technologies said it wants to further enhance its role in aviation for both its military and commercial customers in the area of new aircraft connectivity systems.

Collins Radio and later Rockwell Collins for many years manufactured top-tier Amateur Radio equipment. Art Collins, W0CXX, founded Collins Radio Company in 1933. The Cedar Rapids, Iowa-based firm initially built shortwave and AM broadcasting gear as well as for the military and scientific communities, and Collins provided the radio equipment to keep in touch with Admiral Richard Byrd’s South Pole Expedition in 1933.

During World War II, Collins became the principal supplier of military radio and navigation equipment, and Collins later produced Amateur Radio equipment and provided communication gear for early NASA missions.

Collins Radio Company was purchased by Rockwell International in 1973. In 2001, the avionics division of Rockwell International was spun off to form Rockwell Collins. In its Amateur Radio heyday, the Collins S-Line (pictured at right) was considered the king of the hill. Vintage Collins gear remains popular, and Collins mechanical filters are still widely used.



- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Hit and Run Driver Stymied by Traffic, ARES

On Monday, August 21, when the Great American Eclipse had passed over central Oregon, a mass exodus of vehicles of every description soon crowded U.S. highway 395, southbound from the John Day/Prairie City area toward the town of Burns, Oregon, and on across the desert to destinations in Nevada and California.

In late afternoon, Lane Johnson, KE7KIB, a team member of Harney County ARES in Burns, was monitoring the High Desert Amateur Radio Group’s 2-meter linked repeater system when he heard a mobile call from a California-bound eclipse watcher, Dustin Yue, W6YUE. Yue reported that he had witnessed an accident in the column of traffic several miles north of Burns, in which a green Land Rover had collided with a white Chevy Suburban; and while people were assisting with the Suburban, the Land Rover had fled the scene. Unfortunately for the driver, a fast getaway was impossible on the narrow, two-lane highway in heavy traffic, and Yue said that the Land Rover was still about fifteen cars behind him, nearing Burns. Johnson asked him to stand by while he called 911 on the telephone. To simplify the exchange with the Harney County 911 dispatcher, Johnson relayed her questions to W6YUE on the radio, then put the phone up to the radio’s speaker so that she could hear his replies directly. It worked beautifully. Yue gave her the details of the wreck, plus a description and license number of the Land Rover, and she said she would give the info to the police.



In about twenty minutes, W6YUE called again on the radio and said that the state police had stopped the Land Rover. Later it was learned that two persons, one male and one female, were arrested and jailed on hit-and-run and DUI charges. Justice was done!

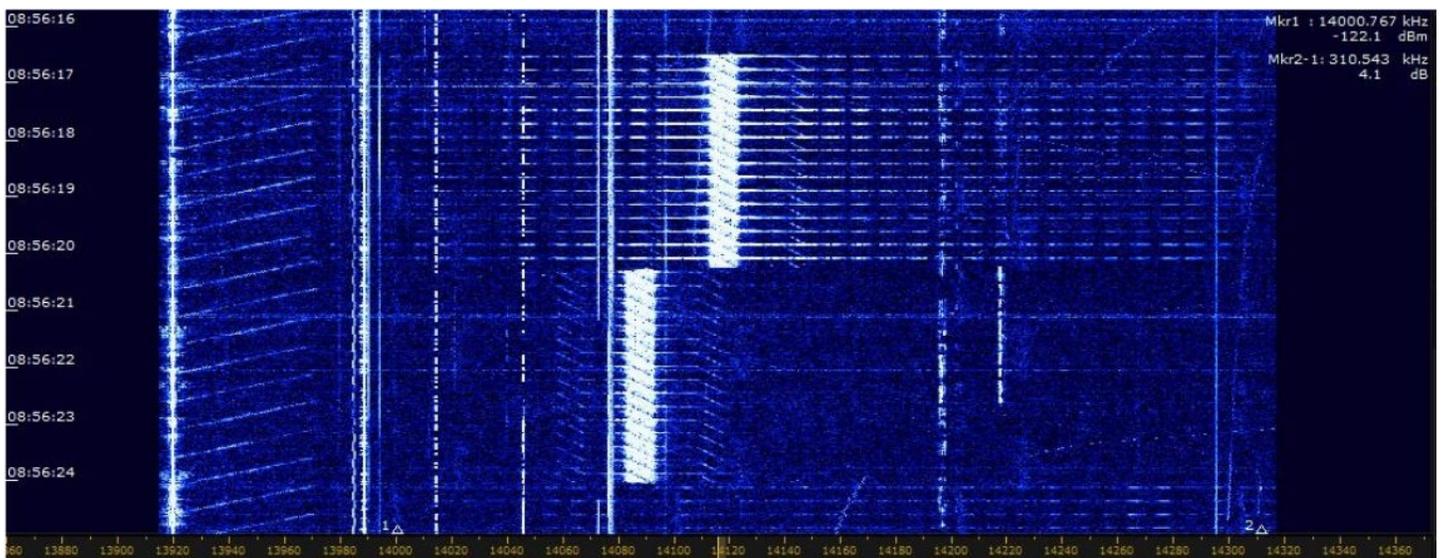
- From the September 20th ARRL ARES E-Letter

Not All “Intruders” on Ham Bands are Illegal – But a Lot of Them Are

The [monthly newsletter](#) of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Monitoring Service (IARUMS) typically makes for some interesting reading. While the reports that come from more than two dozen contributors in Europe and Africa can be a bit visually dense, the content conveys the impression that there are myriad intruders on the Amateur Radio bands. However, not all of them are illegal, as IARUMS points out, but a lot of the signals heard are not supposed to be where they were monitored. The individual reports can be a bit humorous too.

“Get the grub, and I’ll talk to you later this evening,” was a snippet of a conversation between two fishermen – identified as Mick and Jack – that an Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS) monitor overheard on 3.570 MHz and reported to the IARUMS. The IRTS said the chatter was accompanied on both sides by “loud motor noise,” and, if that were not sufficient detail, it pointed out that both men had Galway accents. Intruding signals from fishing crews throughout IARU Region 1 are commonplace.

More blatant are the repeat offenders, such as the “Chinese foghorn” over-the-horizon (OTH) radars heard on several frequencies in the exclusive Amateur Radio 20-meter allocation, as well as on 15 and 40 meters. IARUMS Region 1 Coordinator Wolf Hadel, DK2OM, said the signals, 10 kHz wide and with 50 and 66.66 sweeps per second, transmit in burst mode and often jump frequencies.



Chinese over-the-horizon (OTH) radar “foghorn” signal on 20 meters (screen shot by Wolf Hadel DK2OM)

Some signals from military stations on non-exclusive Amateur Radio allocations are legal. For example, the latest IARUMS newsletter cites the Stanag-4285 military signal that showed up for a few days in August on 5,361.8 kHz. The Stanag-4285 transmissions, coming from a Navy facility in Aarhus, quit on August 28. “Many thanks to the Danish Navy for leaving this frequency!” Hadel added, noting that the Danish Navy is a primary user. “We have to respect primary users!” he said.

An Australian OTH radar “Jorn” showed up on 5,357 kHz. IARUMS noted that this is a primary user of that band.

Adding a little mystery and intrigue to the compilation was a report from a radio amateur in the UK citing a “female voice with encrypted messages” on 14.212 MHz, believed to originate with the Foreign Intelligence Service of Ukraine in Rivne.

In the “miscellaneous or bad news” category were some repeat offenders, such as Radio Hargaysa in Somalia on 7,120.0 kHz; Radio Eritrea and white noise interference from Radio Ethiopia persisting on 7,140.0 kHz and 7,180 kHz; a third harmonic of Radio Tajik on 4,765 kHz, showing up on 14,295.0 kHz; the Sound of Hope from Taiwan, transmitting on 18,080 kHz; the Russian Navy sending CW on 21,438.0 kHz, and Radio Iran “in burst mode” on 28,960.0 kHz, daily.

True intruders are those appearing on exclusive Amateur Radio frequency allocations. Some domestic Amateur Radio HF allocations outside Region 2 (the Americas), such as 7.200 to 7.300 MHz, are either shared with other services or not available to radio amateurs. Only the 7.000 to 7.200 MHz segment of 40 meters is currently allocated exclusively to the Amateur Radio Service worldwide. On other ham radio HF allocations, such as the 30-meter band, Amateur Radio is secondary to other users. However, the 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10-meter bands are exclusively available to the Amateur Radio Service worldwide.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

FCC’s Updated Rules Governing Personal Radio Services Become Effective September 28



The FCC recently adopted a comprehensive [reorganization of and update](#) to the rules governing the Personal Radio Services (PRS). These include a wide variety of wireless devices used by the general public for personal communication, including hand-held Family Radio Service (FRS) transceivers, radio-controlled models, Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs), medical implant devices, and others.

In addition to the updated rule changes, the FCC enhanced the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) to allow new digital applications, allot additional interstitial channels, and extend license terms from 5 to 10 years. It also allotted additional channels to the FRS and increased allowable power on certain FRS channels from 0.5 W to 2 W. It also updated the Citizens Radio Service (CB) rules to allow hands-free headsets, eliminate a restriction on DX communication, and remove other outdated requirements.

“These changes and others will update PRS rules to be more in line with current public demands for the services and will make the rules easier to read and find information, while also removing outdated requirements and removing unnecessary rules,” the FCC said.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Top-Level Domain Name “.radio” Now Available

The top-level domain (TLD) name “.radio” is now available to the radio industry and Amateur Radio enthusiasts, and is reserved for individuals and companies with active interest in the radio sector. The .radio TLD can be used for web and e-mail addresses and will be managed by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) with support from other world broadcasting unions. Visit the [.radio domains registration site](#) to request a .radio domain.

Individuals or entities in these categories will be accepted for the use of a .radio domain:

- Radio broadcasting stations
- Unions of Broadcasters
- Internet radios
- Radio Amateurs
- Radio professionals (journalists, radio hosts, DJs, etc.)
- Radio-related companies selling radio goods and services
- Radio products and services

One or more .radio domain name(s) can be requested during the launch period, which ends on October 31, 2017. The cost for individual radio amateurs is about \$30, including tax.

“The EBU believes radio stations should be the focus of this new space on the internet, and considers them our highest priority,” the announcement said. “However, other categories of applications from the radio sector will also be considered during this phase.”

EBU’s .radio TLD Manager Alain Artero suggested that those in the radio community may want to consider securing the integrity of their web presence by requesting appropriate .radio domains “for defensive reasons, initially.”

“The TLD will be focused on content and matters specific to radio, and we want to prevent speculation and cybersquatting in this TLD; therefore, this extension will rapidly become a high-value internet space for websites, mail systems, and other internet applications,” he continued.

The launch process will not be first come, first serve. “The .radio team will seek to optimize domain name allocation to solve contentious issues and prioritize existing radio services,” the EBU announcement said.

Starting in November, first come, first serve rules will apply, although eligibility requirements remain the same.

For more information, visit www.nic.radio.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Canada Proposes Implementing a 60-Meter Band While Retaining Discrete Channels

An Industry Canada (IC) [regulatory consultation](#) (proceeding) aimed at implementing the changes from the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) could lead to the allocation of a 60-meter band in Canada in addition to the five discrete channels that are congruent with those in the US. IC is seeking comments on this and other revisions that take WRC-15 into account.



“The consultation is the first step in the process for regulatory changes,” International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 Area A Director George Gorsline, VE3YV, explained. “After the 60-day period, responses are tabulated, made public and the regulator then determines how to proceed.” Gorsline said there is no fixed schedule before any allocation changes would be made. Even then, he added, Canada’s Amateur Radio regulations would have to be updated to incorporate them before the new allocation would become available for amateur use.

As the Consultation notes, a number of countries have authorized, subject to various restrictions, operation by Amateur radio licensees within the 5,250-5,450 kHz frequency range. “To date, no interference has been reported,” IC said in the consultation. “Ultimately, a world-wide, secondary allocation of 15 kHz in the frequency band 5,351.5-5,366.5 kHz was made to the Amateur Service with an effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP) limit of 15 W” in most of Region 2. “The proposed changes to the Canadian Table [of Allocations] will allow Canadian Amateur Radio operators to assist in domestic and international emergency or disaster-relief situations,” IC said.

The regulator proposed retaining the five discrete channels already available to radio amateurs – 5,332, 5,348, 5,358.5, 5,373, and 5,405 kHz. ARRL has petitioned the FCC to allocate the same contiguous band – 5,351.5-5,366.5 kHz – to US radio amateurs with a 100 W PEP power limit, while also retaining the five discrete 60-meter channels that have been available for several years.

“I hope this may be helpful to us to use as an example to other IARU Region 2 countries to convince them to both keep any existing 60-meter domestic allocation and add the ITU allocation as well,” Gorsline said in a Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) bulletin. Gorsline is RAC’s International Affairs Officer.

- 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

Rick K5ECX didn't have an ARES column ready for this month, so instead we present this flyer about an upcoming ARRL event in Irving. Please share this with anyone who may have an interest in attending.



HAM LEARNING CENTER

2017 MENTORFEST

ARRL North Texas Section

Amateur Radio in North Texas

MENTOR PROGRAM



www.arrlntx.org

Free Event! - Hosted by the ARRL North Texas Section
When: October 21, 2017 Time: 7:30am - 4:00pm
Location: Betcha Bingo Hall, 2420 W Irving Blvd, Irving, TX 75061

The ARRL North Texas Section would like to invite all current and prospective Hams to attend Mentorfest! This event is a great way for Hams, especially those recently licensed, to meet and learn about a variety of subjects. Amateur radio operators have a great tradition of helping each other learn about and gain experience in the many facets of the hobby. Mentorfest is designed to build on this tradition by providing a place for Hams of all ages and experience levels to come together, exchange knowledge and make new friends while having fun and enjoying the great hobby of Amateur Radio.

Mentorfest will feature....

- Formal presentations on a number of topics.
- Local clubs providing information on their activities.
- "Elmers" (ham-speak for mentors) available for informal discussions on just about any topic.
- Tours of emergency communications vehicles.
- Representatives from the ARRL, ARES/RACES, REACT, National Weather Service and others showing how you can get involved.

Mentoring

In addition to the formal presentations, mentoring will be available on a large range of topics. Many amateur radio clubs, individual Hams and organizations with ties to amateur radio will be at Mentorfest to answer questions and provide demonstrations in a very informal setting.

If you have something amateur radio related that you would like to show and tell about, please consider attending Mentorfest. Your excitement about a favorite subject might be an inspiration to another Ham. Come share your knowledge and experience. Email mentorfest@arrlntx.org to be a mentor.

Participants & Volunteers

All ARRL affiliated clubs are encouraged to participate in Mentorfest by at least having an information table with club representatives. The ARRL will be promoting Mentorfest to new Hams so there should be opportunities for clubs to recruit new members. If your club or group is interested in participating in Mentorfest, please send E-mail to mentorfest@arrlntx.org. This event is free for everyone!

Volunteers are needed to help with the following tasks.

Arranging tables and chairs before the event opens. Arranging tables and chairs after the event closes. Parking lot control for EmComm vehicle static displays. Greeters to help direct attendees to where to get the answers they seek. Email mentorfest@arrlntx.org to volunteer.