



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

DECEMBER 2017

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 23, No. 12

Merry Christmas from the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club



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

There were no meeting minutes in December due to the GCARC Christmas Party.

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance as of
12.01.2017 1,559.62

Operating Fund Beginning Bal 1,381.97

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|---------|-------|--|
| Deposits | Dues | Checks | | |
| | J. Frank | Cash | 20.00 | |
| | | Online | | |
| | | Clothes | | |

| | | | | |
|---------------|--|------------|------|--|
| Less expenses | | online fee | 0.88 | |
|---------------|--|------------|------|--|

Operating Fund Balance 1,401.09

** Members YTD 41 (6 Free)

Available Equipment Funds 177.65

Donation

Less expenditures

Equipment Fund Balance 177.65

Ending Bank Balance
as of December 15, 2017 1,578.74

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 | |
| | |
| Total | 227.17 |

| 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.graysoncountyarcc.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>
- 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**
- Cowtown Hamfest (ARRL North Texas Section Convention)**
January 19-20, 2018 (Friday 3:00pm-7:00pm, Saturday 7:00am-3:00pm)
VE Testing available – contact site for testing times
Forest Hill Civic & Convention Center, 6901 Wichita Street, Forest Hill, TX
Talk-In: 146.940 (110.9 PL)
Public Contact: David Forbes KC5UYR, (817) 925-5126 or kc5yur@compuserve.com
Website: <http://cowtownhamfest.com>

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

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 late in the year. | |

Radio Anniversaries Abound in December

December is the month in which three notable events in radio history occurred – the first radio transmission heard across the Atlantic Ocean in 1901, the first broadcast of the human voice and music in 1906, and the first successful transatlantic Amateur Radio HF transmissions in 1921.

Marconi's 1901 Transatlantic Transmission

On December 12, 1901, Italian wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi succeeded in receiving the first transatlantic radio signal, transmitted from Poldhu, in Cornwall, England, to St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. Marconi's team in Cornwall transmitted the letter "S" in Morse code, and this was heard by Marconi and his assistant George Kemp at a facility set up in Cabot Tower on Signal Hill in St. John's. On the Cornwall side, Marconi had erected a powerful spark-gap transmitter feeding a massive antenna. The receiving team used a kite antenna. The experiment proved that radio signals could be transmitted beyond the line of sight, opening the door to global wireless communication.

An article in the December 2007 issue of *QST* suggested that absorption may have been less in 1901 than in the 21st century, perhaps contributing to the success of the feat, which occurred during daylight on the Canadian end.

Fessenden's 1906 Broadcast from Brant Rock

On Christmas Eve 1906, experimenter Reginald Fessenden made what may have been the first radio broadcast to include speech and music. The transmission originated at Brant Rock, Massachusetts, about 30 miles from Boston. (According to the Maryland Historical Society, Brant and a colleague first transmitted and received speech over a distance of 1 mile on Cobb Island in 1900.)

As he's done in year's past, Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, of Forest, Virginia, will commemorate that first audio broadcast by operating WI2XLQ on 486 kHz this month, marking the 111th anniversary of the Fessenden's accomplishment. Historic accounts say Fessenden played the violin – or a recording of violin music – and read a brief Bible verse, astounding radio experimenters and shipboard operators who heard the broadcast.

"Since we now have a ham band on 630 meters, I will have a shorter transmission period this year that will only cover the Christmas holiday," Justin told ARRL. That's because he hopes to be active on the new band himself.

Justin will begin his transmission on December 24 at 1700 UTC and continue until December 26 at 1659 UTC. For his transmitter in 1906, Fessenden used an AC alternator modulated by placing carbon microphones in series with the antenna feed line. Justin's homebuilt station is slightly more modern, based on a 1921 vacuum tube master oscillator power amplifier (MOPA) design, using a UV-202 tube. The transmitter employs Heising AM modulation, developed by Raymond Heising during World War I.

[Send](#) listener reports directly to Brian Justin, WA1ZMS.

The ARRL Transatlantic Tests Revisited

In 1921, ARRL sponsored two series of transatlantic tests to see if signals from previously qualified Amateur Radio stations could be heard at a receiving station in Ardrossan, Scotland. The second series succeeded, with several ham stations heard on the receiving end, using equipment far superior to what had been available to Marconi just 20 years earlier. "[The Story of the Transatlantics](#)" chronicled the events in the February 1922 issue of *QST*, to great fanfare. As Mike Marinaro, WN1M, recounted in "[The Transatlantic Tests](#)," in May 2014 *QST*, the first signal "unofficially" heard in Scotland was actually that of a pirate, identifying as 1AAW and not using the prearranged transmission format.

The "rough listening post" in Scotland, staffed by receiver designer Paul Godley and D.E. Pearson of the Marconi Company, was equipped with a superheterodyne and regenerative receiver connected to a 1,300-foot Beverage antenna, 12 feet above ground.

On December 10, the CW signals of official entry 1BCG, owned by Minton Cronkhite, “were solidly heard on 230 to 235 meters,” Marinaro wrote in 2014. “This signal derived from the specially designed and constructed station of the Radio Club of America at Greenwich, Connecticut – the only station heard that morning.”

Connecticut radio amateur and radio history buff Clark Burgard, N1BCG, will be among those celebrating the 96th anniversary of the first transatlantic shortwave transmission in Greenwich, Connecticut. Several other stations will take part by establishing contacts between the US and Europe, including GM7VSB in Ardrossan, Scotland.

No specific bands and frequencies were set in advance, in order to “permit flexibility due to propagation.” Burgard has posted [additional information](#) on his QRZ.com profile page.

Chris Codella, W2PA, provides [additional radio history](#) on his “Ham Radio History” website.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

FCC Penalizes Marketer of Ham-Band Drone Audio-Visual Transmitters



The FCC has imposed a \$180,000 civil penalty on a Sarasota, Florida, company that had been marketing noncompliant audio-visual transmitters intended for use on drones in violation of the Commission’s Amateur Service and marketing rules. In an [Order](#) released on December 19, the FCC explained that Lumenier Holdco LLC (formerly known as FPV Manuals LLC) was advertising and marketing uncertified AV transmitters capable of operating on both amateur and non-amateur frequencies, including bands reserved for federal government use. Some of the transmitters also exceeded the 1-W power limit for Amateur Radio transmitters used on model craft, the FCC said.

“Moreover, entities that rely on amateur frequencies in operating compliant AV transmitters must have an amateur license and otherwise comply with all applicable laws for such operation,” the FCC said in the *Order*. The FCC said that while it generally has not required amateur equipment to be certified if it operates solely on Amateur Radio frequencies, certification is required if a device can operate outside of the ham bands.

Last January, in what it called an “[extremely urgent complaint](#)” to the FCC, ARRL targeted the interference potential of a series of audio/video transmitters used on unmanned aircraft and marketed as Amateur Radio equipment. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said those transmitters used frequencies intended for navigational aids, air traffic control radar, air route surveillance radars, and global positioning systems.

In addition to paying a civil penalty, Lumenier, which has admitted to marketing the noncompliant AV transmitters, will enter into a *Consent Decree* with the FCC to settle the enforcement proceeding and terminate the investigation.

The case stemmed from complaints received by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau’s Spectrum Enforcement Division. “The investigation revealed that some of the AV transmitters marketed by Lumenier were capable of being operated outside of the authorized Amateur Radio Service bands, including on frequencies reserved in whole or in part for federal agencies, but were not certified or otherwise compliant with the rules,” the FCC said in its *Order*. “These AV transmitters are considered intentional radiators and must comply with the Commission’s Equipment Authorization and Marketing rules.

The FCC said that Lumenier ceased marketing the noncompliant transmitters after receiving a *Letter of Inquiry* from the FCC last April. The *Consent Decree* accompanying the FCC *Order* requires Lumenier to admit that it violated equipment authorization and marketing rules and establish a compliance plan to ensure that the company complies with FCC rules in the future.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

One of Oldest U.S. Radio Stations to Go Dark

One of the few US broadcast stations east of the Mississippi that sport K-prefix call letters – KQV in Pittsburgh – will go silent as the new year arrives on January 1 after nearly one century on the air.

“It’s a sad day for broadcasting and for the news business,” KQV Station Manager Bob Dickey Jr, [told](#) the Pittsburgh *Tribune Review*. The family-owned news-talk station operates on 1410 kHz with 5,000 W into a five-tower array that provides separate day and night patterns.



Unofficial accounts indicate that KQV started out as “special amateur station” 8ZAE, to be used by the Doubleday-Hill Electric Company primarily for two-way communication with another station in Washington, DC. (Doubleday-Hill also sold radios.) In October 1921, the Federal Radio Commission issued the station a “limited commercial license,” randomly assigning the KQV call letters. The practice of issuing K-prefix call letters to western and W-prefix call letters to eastern stations predated commercial radio broadcasting.

Pittsburgh stations KQV and KDKA both have claimed the distinction of being the first to commence regular broadcasting.

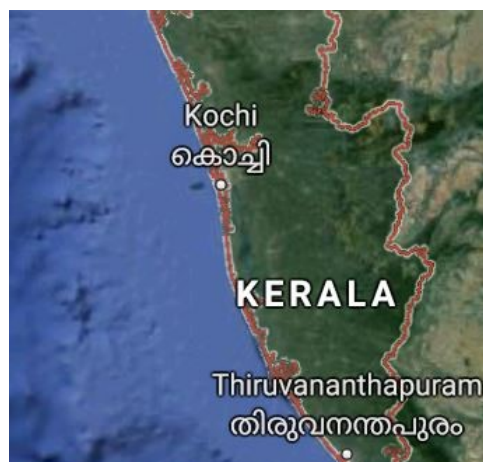
Dickey cited declining ad revenues and audience and increasing costs at KQV, which has been on the market.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Report from India: Ham Radio Aids Rescue of Two Fishermen

According to a December 6 [report](#) in the *Deccan Chronicle* newspaper in India, members of the Ham Radio and Emergency Communication Society in Idukki assisted in the rescue of two fishermen, identified only as Maniyan and Anil from Veli. They had been stranded in the Indian Ocean for 2 days as a result of Cyclone Ockhi, when a small boat with a VHF radio, in touch with the group’s wide-range Calvary Mount repeater (VU2HEN), sailed into the area.

“We relayed the latitude and longitude to rescue vessels, which reached out to the duo,” said T. R. Manoj, VU2DTH, the Society’s secretary. The Quilon Amateur Radio League (VU2QAR) was said to already be active in helping in communication. Manoj said the hams also were able to communicate with a few lost boats that had managed to find safe harbor during the high seas generated by the cyclone.



The region of the Indian Ocean off India’s west coast where the rescue took place (Google Maps)

Cyclone Ockhi, which struck in early December, was reported to have been the strongest storm of the 2017 North Indian Ocean cyclone season.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

FCC Dismisses Radio Amateur's Petition to Revise Call Sign Rules

The FCC has [dismissed](#) a rule making petition filed last May by Thomas J. Alessi, K1TA, of Stamford, Connecticut, that sought to amend the Part 97 rules regarding Amateur Radio Service call signs. The Commission action came in a November 28 letter from Scot Stone, Deputy Chief of the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Mobility Division. Alessi had asked the FCC to make call signs consisting of one letter, followed by two digits, followed by one letter (1××1 format) available to Amateur Extra Class licensees. Alessi asserted that the number of Amateur Extra Class licensees who desire short call signs exceeds the available supply of 1×2 and 2×1 call signs, and that his plan would make available an additional 7,800 four-character call signs.

“Approximately fifteen million call signs are presently available in the sequential call sign system, but it does not include every amateur call sign that has been allocated to the United States,” Stone wrote in denying Alessi’s petition. He also pointed out that the FCC had rejected a similar suggestion in 2010 that would have made certain additional call signs, including 1××1 call signs, available to Amateur Extra Class licensees, but concluded at the time that enough call signs already were available for every Amateur Radio licensee to obtain an acceptable call sign. In addition, the FCC said in 2010 that it had no plans to revisit the issue.

“You have not demonstrated any changed circumstances or other reason that would warrant revisiting this decision,” Stone’s letter concluded.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Reputed World's Oldest Ham, Jean Touzot F8IL, SK



Jean Touzot, F8IL, of Albi, France – said to have been the world’s oldest radio amateur – has died. The “dean of French radio amateurs,” Touzot was 109 and enjoyed operating CW with an old-fashioned hand key and a modern Yaesu transceiver. He “retired from the airwaves for health reasons” at age 105 in 2014, according to media accounts. Until then he had been active on the air, making daily contacts on 80-meter CW with other stations in France. In stepping back from his ham activity, Touzot said he no longer was able to send CW and made “too many mistakes.”

He was a member of France’s International Amateur Radio Union member-society REF as well as of the Union of French Telegraphists (UFT).

Born in Algeria, Touzot had been on the air since 1936 and had learned CW in 2 months during his time in the military. Prior to military service, he attended the Technical Institute of Toulouse and became an industrial designer, retiring in 1966.

Touzot received considerable acclaim in 2009 when he became a centenarian. Among his gifts was a special Morse key created especially for him.

No official records are kept to document who is the oldest radio amateur.

- 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 |

THE EDITOR'S QRT



Hello Everyone,

As I announced here at the end of last year, this is my final issue as Editor of the GCARC newsletter. When I took on the job five years ago, I had no idea how long I would be doing it; but, I did know I wasn't going to be here as long as the previous editor (19 years). Several events and changes in my personal and professional life since then have led me to making this decision, and I feel this is the best time for me to step down.

There were some specific challenges and goals I set for myself, and I believe I have met all of them. I wanted to produce a newsletter that was attractive, easy to read, and laid out in a way that made it simple to find a specific item month after month, like meeting minutes or the local repeater list. I hoped to increase the amount of useful information available in each issue, turning it into a helpful resource for the club and the ham community in our area. I tried to make it more interesting by adding stories about local activities as well as news from around the world, intending to educate our members and get them thinking and talking about the many ways Amateur Radio is used, and maybe giving some of them an idea or two for projects of their own. And finally, I wanted to create something the club would be proud to have its name on. At the same time, I have always been mindful that this is YOUR newsletter, not mine, and always strived to listen to your needs and wishes and deliver them in the best way possible.

So, how did I do?

Next month, a new person will be here. I will be providing the new Editor with copies of all the issues and content I've created and collected over these past five years, and I'll still be available to offer advice and answer questions. But, just as I did, they will be running with it and adding their own personal touches. It is my hope that the result will be even better than what I've done, and its value will continue to increase for you and our Amateur Radio community.

I greatly appreciate having the opportunity to serve the club these past five years, and am very thankful for the support and kind words you have shared with me along the way. I'm looking forward to seeing the next chapter in our newsletter's history unfold, and I hope you will be as well.

73

Mike Bernier KF5NPM

GCARC Newsletter Editor (until December 31st)