



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

---

January 2018

[WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM](http://WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM)

Vol. 24, No. 1

---

## The President's QSO

Hi everyone! It is my pleasure to serve the club as president for this year. At the meeting on Friday we talked about many things that we have planned for the club. We discussed the tower project that we have been planning for the past year. Mark KF5UZW is the head of that project. Also, in the not too distant future, there will be classes available that will be held at the Grayson County College by Lee, N5SLY that will help people figure out the basics of radios and "what does all these buttons and knobs do?" We also discussed adding more events that pertain to public service, such as the bike rally and hopefully we can get more events on the calendar other than just the bike rally. If you see or hear of an event that you think the club could participate in, please get in touch with me and we can look into it. We also talked about changes to the newsletter and website that James KW5CW is taking over. He will demonstrate the new website at the March meeting now scheduled on March 16. We also as a club decided to move the club information nets to the 444.750 PL 100.0 + 5.00 W5RVT repeater due to the repeater having a better range and is not "frying bacon" like the 147.280 is. As of right now the 147.000 is located at Tom Bean's residence, operating in low power mode. We do not know a time frame for when it will be back up at the water tower off Gallagher street in Sherman. Another item that treasurer Marvin KG5GMA brought up is that he is the only officer presently that can sign club checks at this time, and this is something that needs to be changed. It was decided that a minimum of two people, the treasurer and a regular member of the club needs to be able to sign the checks. With having only one person to sign checks, that can be dangerous. If Marvin is not available to sign a check because he is not available at that time, it could create an issue that would put the club in a bad situation. Finally, the last topic discussed was about maybe moving the club meeting night from a Friday night to a different night during the week. There was good discussion on this topic and I personally feel for the future of the club that this is something that needs to be done. I know that there are 'bad' nights for most all members, and if I could, I would add a new day to the week called "Ham day" that's dedicated to ham radio, but obviously that's not possible. I want everyone to understand that if we do change meeting nights it will be months down the line and **NOT** something that will happen immediately. We have some awesome things and events planned for the club this year. Also, we would love to have help with the classes and events we have planned. I truly believe the GCARC will be getting better. There will be some hard times but we will adapt and overcome. It's going to be an awesome and fun year!!

Trevor Reed  
KG5BFI, 73  
GCARC President  
Email: [kg5bfi@gmail.com](mailto:kg5bfi@gmail.com)

## **Officers**

President: Trevor Reed - KG5BFI  
Vice President  
&QSL manager: Lee Sly - N5SLY  
Secretary: Jim McGlynn - K5QOI  
Treasurer: Marvin Schiavone - KG5GMA  
Event Coordinator: Andrew Bentley - KG5SKM  
Trustee: Rick Simmons – K5ECX

## **Meetings**

When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month  
Time: 7:00pm (1900 hours)  
Location: Grayson County Courthouse  
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

## **Newsletter**

Published: Monthly via e-mail  
Editor: James Frank – KW5CW  
To submit news or Send E-mail to  
e-mail changes: [KW5CW@arrl.net](mailto:KW5CW@arrl.net)  
Submission  
Deadline: 8PM on first Wednesday following each monthly meeting

## **WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA**

Address: [www.graysoncountyar.com](http://www.graysoncountyar.com)  
Webmaster: Ben Sly KF5OEB  
Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC](http://www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC)

*Memberships are from January 1-December 31*

## **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

## **GCARC MEETING MINUTES 1-19-2018**

Meeting opened 7:07 pm by Trevor KF5BFI

\$1598.74 in Treasury - 52 members @ end of 2017

Old Business discussed - Tower Project @ Perrin Museum headed by Mark KF5UZW

Special Events -3

1. Red River Bridge War

2. Eisenhower Birthdate

3. Kiwanis Bike Rally

Events to possibly add

1. Basic Radio Operations

2. Antenna Building and Fox Hunt

3. Winter Field Day (1/27/2017)

4. NVIS Antenna Test (April 2018)

Discussion of new Web Site by James KW5CW

3 editions/month Starts March 2018

Club to move nets to 444.750 Repeater

Possible move to Tuesday of Monthly Club Meeting

Change requires a vote for a change of the By-Laws of the GCARC Cub.

Discussion of FaceBook Group and Page

Meeting adjourned @ 8:12 pm

Submitted by Jim McGlynn - K5QOI

Bank Balance as of 01.01.2018					1,598.74				
Operating Fund Beginning Bal					1,401.09	<b>OPERATING BUDGET</b>			
	Deposits	Dues	Checks		40.00	Post Office Box			64.00
			Cash		190.00	Checks			
			Online		40.00	Website			
			Clothes			<i>Special Events Deposit</i>			
			Patches		10.00	Perrin			50.00
						Eisenhower(Perrin)			50.00
	Less expenses					RR Bridge War			50.00
			online fee		1.76	<i>Food for Special Events</i>			
	Mark P. radio repair		1130		299.66				
Operating Fund Balance					1,379.67	<i>Donations</i>			
** Members		YTD	3			Memorials			
Available Equipment Funds					177.65				
	Donation								
Less expenditures						<b>EQUIPMENT NEEDS</b>			
						Tower Bracket			151.89
Equipment Fund Balance					177.65	Amount Budgeted			0
Ending Bank Balance as of January 20, 2018					1,557.32				
Treasurer Marvin Schiavone									

## **VP & QSL Managers Message**

Happy New Year everyone. Looking forward to all the club activities we'll do this year and I thought I'd just give you a rundown of some of the activities that our club will have and others in Amateur Radio that you can participate in. Again this year, our club will host 3 Special Events...

Perrin Field Museum Special Event

Red River Bridge War Special Event

Eisenhower Birthday Special Event

Just as in the past we'll be using the W5I call sign...which is great "bait" to attract attention and help make lots of contacts. The dates and times and additional information can be found at, [www.qrz.com/db/w5i](http://www.qrz.com/db/w5i)

We'll also participate in Field Day, which is always the last full weekend in June. This year that is June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. As always folks will be working on the air 24 hours straight.

Other activities this year include many other Special Events which are always fun to contact. Two of the very popular ones are the 13 Colonies Special Event which is held 4<sup>th</sup> of July week every year. Contact stations in each of the original 13 Colonies and a couple of Bonus Stations to get your "Clean Sweep".

Another is the Route 66 on The Air Special Event in September. Stations will be on the air all along the old Route 66 highway from Chicago to Santa Monica, Ca. In my experience this one is more difficult to get a "Clean Sweep" because several of the stations are very close to us in Oklahoma.

Not to be over looked is the ARRL International Grid Chase contest which is going on all year long. All you have to do is make contacts and upload your logs to Log Book of The World. Any band and any mode can be used and no special signal report is required. Super easy to participate in. Details can be found here, <http://www.arrl.org/international-grid-chase-2018>

And finally, NASA is having also having an event all year long. Contact NASA facilities all around the country...some very cool QSL cards are available. Details can be found here, <https://nasaontheair.wordpress.com/>

If you like PSK modes you may want to look into the 070 Club. They have contests and awards that you can earn by making contacts using PSK modes. Details can be found here, <http://www.podxs070.com/>

And, there was a new mode that was introduced last year which has very quickly become an exceedingly popular mode to make contacts with...FT8. A new club was even started for those that enjoy this new mode, <http://ft8dmc.eu/>

My enjoyment of this hobby includes all of the above, but there is more to this hobby than what I've mentioned. Equally important are the Community Service Activities we get involved with in Amateur Radio...ARES, CERT, storm spotting for the National Weather Service, etc. Every year our club helps out with

the Red River Bike Rally and we plan on doing that again this year. Trevor is also looking to find additional Community Service Activities our club can assist in.

Also I plan on conducting a class later this year for anyone who's interested on "What do all those buttons and knobs do on the radio?" My goal is to assist new hams in learning how to use a radio and not be so intimidated by such a "complicated" device.

In my last QSL Managers message I suggested that we come up with a new name for our clubs newsletter. Since we now have a new newsletter editor, James Frank, KW5CW, let James know what you think. Have a name in mind?...let James know. James is also taking over as our clubs web manager and plans to create a new web page for us. Looking forward to seeing what he comes up with.

Finally, at our club meeting last Friday night, we had a great discussion about what night our club might meet on in the future. We have always met on a Friday night and that is even spelled out in the club By Laws. But there are a number of folks that would like to see our club meet on a different night. We did a quick show of hands at the meeting and I posted a "Poll" on the clubs Facebook page and so far it looks like most folks would like to meet on a Tuesday night...followed by Friday evening and then Monday evening. Those are the only day's people have voted for. It won't be easy to change the meeting night. The club By Laws will have to be amended and approved by the membership and the meeting location confirmed before we could do this. So is not going to happen for many, many months...if at all. For now just let us know what night you would like our club to meet on...Monday, Tuesday or Friday.

I've said enough. Have fun participating in our hobby no matter where your interests are.

73 Lee N5SLY

### **Note from your New Newsletter Editor**

The entire GCARC thanks Mike Bernier for his excellent and hard work performed with the production of the GCARC newsletter for the past 5 years. Many people do not realize what it takes to write such a document. I'm about to find out. Of course, help by club members who submit articles is definitely a big help. Mike stepped it up and re-created the newsletter from scratch during his tenure as the editor, and the GCARC has given me the opportunity to continue with its production each month. The newsletter will continue to have 'growing pains', but it will be done to also help improve the new and upcoming GCARC website, now located at <http://graysoncountyarcc.com>. Plans are to have a new website up and running in March 2018 and plans are to demo it at that meeting. All newsletters for the past 5 years will be incorporated in it. Essential things such as the GCARC Constitution and Bi-Laws will also be included on the website for easy access. I wanted to thank everyone who has bestowed their trust in me to manage both the newsletter and the website. I take it as a great honor to do so. If you have any comments about the newsletter or even decide to contribute an article of your own for publication, you can submit your comments and articles to [kw5cw@arrl.net](mailto:kw5cw@arrl.net).

James – KW5CW

## **A Reflection into Our Lives**

I wanted to share with readers of this newsletter a moving event, not just for the person it is about, but for all of us who can steer our lives for the better if we really wanted to. Many of us drink and smoke and we may have stepped it up a little over the holidays. We honestly know that it is not good to do either, but we still do. Some of us work very long hours, but we continue to do it even if we realize how stressful it is. Why, because in a sense we are weak and we seem not to care at times. But then all of a sudden when a 'life event' occurs, say for example, having a heart attack, then you realize just how wrong you were to continue to do things that work against your health. In some cases, you may be too late to admit to being wrong. As I'm hoping more will do in this club, many of us have stories to share, and what better way to share them than with your friends.

After one of my FT8 contacts just made in early December, I've been in communication via email with one very strong human being who has just experienced the worst scare in his life, a life event that will forever affect him on how he thinks about himself and the world around him. His name is Kurt, age 39. His call is AD0WE from Manhattan, Kansas. What better way to get to know about Kurt than to read an email I received from him just recently. And yes, he has just very recently experienced a heart attack. Here is his writing in its entirety written on Dec. 7, 2017.

---

*Hi James,*

*I am happy and honored that you would like to create something positive from my heart attack. You have my permission to write an article about me. Living a balanced life can be difficult for so many of us because of demands we feel from others and expectations of ourselves. I have started monitoring my blood pressure, and it has noticeably fallen since I have been making time to relax, play, exercise, and eat right. I believe that stress was one of the biggest contributing factors to my heart attack.*

*You probably won't find this relevant to your article, but I want to share something that I shared with my family and friends.*

*Two weeks ago I had a heart attack. I am thankful for so many people and things that have happened in the last couple of days.*

*I have kept a gratitude journal since March of this year. I do it to reflect on all the good that happens throughout the day. It is a personal moment and not something that I typically share with others. However, I want to share with you my entries on the day and the day after my heart attack. I hope that it will encourage you to take a moment and reflect on the positive and good things in your life.*

**November 27, 2017 (Monday)**

*1. I am very very thankful to be alive after my heart attack. Things could have gone so much worse.*

*2. I am thankful that Jason took me to the emergency room with haste and care. I love Jason with all my heart. If I had to leave this world, there is no other person whom I would want more to be at my side when I took my last breath.*

*3. I am grateful to the emergency room staff for their professional and empathic care. Despite other difficult concerns in the ER, their performance was exemplary.*

*November 28, 2017 (Tuesday)*

*1. I appreciate the head nurse that stopped by and visited me at 2 am. She kept me company for half an hour, answered every question, shared a little of her own life, and expressed such deep empathy and compassion. Words cannot adequately describe how much it meant to me when Jason had to leave for a while.*

*2. I am very appreciative of the head of the Cath lab team. As I cried before going into surgery, she gave me the biggest hug and comforted me. In that moment, I saw the best in humanity. We make the world a better place when we care for each other.*

*3. I felt so much love, compassion, and care from others that I am indebted to everyone. I appreciated everyone's concern and keeping me in their thoughts.*

*4. I am very thankful to learn that there is no evidence that I have any permanent damage to my heart and that I should make a full recovery.*

*5. I am thankful to my mom who took time off of work to be with me. I share a deep bond with my mom. And I love her so much.*

*6. I am thankful that I was able to come home and slowly walk on my own last night. Yesterday I was able to go on a five-mile hike! I am recovering quickly. Below is a picture of me on the walk.*



Kurt Zoglmann – ADOWE



*I had to smile when I visited your W5I QRZ webpage. I am about an hour east of Abilene, Kansas. As a family, we like to visit the Eisenhower Presidential Library every couple years. It is a quiet place to reflect on a different time in our nation's history. Abilene also has several other sites to see, such as the Greyhound Hall of Fame. The town has a distinct and proud tradition that is evident as you drive through town. Everything is well kept.*

*It may take me a month or two of practice before I feel comfortable enough to try CW. I would like my first contact to be without the aid of a computer for sending or receiving. Earlier this year, I was using a method of studying at a character speed of 20wpm and then slowly decreasing the time between characters. If I studied with any slower character speed, I would catch myself hearing the dits and dahs.*

*I also need to buy a keyer and something that can generate a tone from the keyer. I am guessing that it won't be nearly so trying to learn sending morse code compared to decoding it.*

*I would love it if you were my first CW contact. 40 and 80 meters seems to open up commonly to Texas. We will have to arrange something. :)*

*73's!*

*Kurt Zoglmann*

*ADOWE*

---

In closing of this article, obviously Kurt was my inspiration in submitting it, and also noting he deserves all credit for this article and he made it easy to submit. I would like to note that this friendship between Kurt and I developed from just after a 1 minute and 15 second FT8 digital contact on my favorite band - 40 meters, then reading his webpage on QRZ.com. When I ask members to try things that are different from their normal every day routine ham radio lives, this type of communication can be one of them. I am hoping that all of us who celebrated Christmas and the New Year can receive a little incite from reading this article that will help us go forward, taking a healthier path in 2018. Remember, when you really get down to it, it's not about your friends, and not even your family in most cases. It's all about you. How you take care of yourself will not only affect your own self being, but the people who love you and support you. Try and remember that this world as we know it will continue to exist even after you are gone. So with that in mind, let's begin the New Year with less stress, while doing things that are positive in our lives.

James – KW5CW – GCARC Newsletter Editor

# Winter Field Day **January 27/28 2018**



Winter Field Day Association (WFDA) is a dedicated group of Amateur Radio Operators who believe that emergency communications in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that is done each summer but with some additional unique operational concerns.

We believe as do those entities of ARRL Organizations like ARES & RACES that maintaining your operational skills should not be limited to fair weather scenarios. The addition of Winter Field Day will enhance those already important skills of those that who generously volunteer their time and equipment to these organizations. This is why WFD is open to all licensed amateur radio operators worldwide.

Disasters are unpredictable by nature and can strike when you least expect them. WFDA's goal is to help enhance your skills and ready you for all environmental conditions found in the US and Canada during the spring, summer, fall and winter Preparedness is the key to a professional and timely response during any event and this is what local and state authorities are expecting when they reach out to the emergency service groups that offer their services.

If you are serious about emergency communications as we are; we welcome you to join us for our yearly event. We are sure you will find this event a pleasant change and challenge to that of a normal summer time field day.

Rules can be found at: <https://www.winterfieldday.com/rules>

## **Club Group Will Operate W1AW for Winter Field Day**

01/12/2018

Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will host a group that will take part in Winter Field Day later this month. Sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association ([WFDA](https://www.winterfieldday.com)), Winter Field Day will take place over the January 27-28 weekend, and it can be an opportune time to prep for ARRL Field Day in June.

"Assuming the weather holds out, a group of hams will be here the last weekend of January to operate W1AW in the Winter Field Day," W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, said this week. Headed by Frank Gitto, KA5VVI, the group will consist of members of the Warren County Amateur Radio Club ([W2WCR](https://www.warrencountyrac.org)) in New York. Gitto said the club is hoping to have an even dozen members at W1AW, operating in shifts of six. Carcia said the Warren County ARC operators will avoid the harsh elements and operate from indoors at W1AW, in the "home" station category.

According to the WFDA website, the Winter Field Day Association "is a dedicated group of Amateur Radio operators who believe that emergency communication in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that is done each summer, but with some additional unique operational concerns." The WFDA said it believes that maintaining operational skills "should not be limited to fair-weather scenarios." For the hardier within the Amateur Radio ranks, Winter Field Day is an excuse to get out of the house and enjoy the great outdoors, and — let's face it — it's not cold and snowy *everywhere* during the winter. Gitto said that some Warren County ARC members will be operating WFD from Indian Lake, New York, using special event call sign W2C.

The event, which got its start in 2007, is not restricted to North America. All Amateur Radio operators around the world are invited to participate, and there are three entry categories — indoor, outdoor, and home. The [rules](https://www.winterfieldday.com/rules) are similar to those for ARRL Field Day. Operation will take place on all HF bands except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters, as well as on VHF, UHF, and satellite. The event runs 24 hours. US and Canadian stations exchange call sign, operating category, and ARRL or RAC section.

## Other News

Just recently, Lee Sly – N5SLY was recognized on a very popular Ham Radio Blog called “KB6NU’s Ham Radio Blog”.

The author named Dan – KB6NU, periodically highlights calls on QSL cards that spell words on his web page and recognized Lee in his posting dated Dec 8, 2017.

### KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog

#### New QSLs: N5SLY, N2ADE

Posted: 08 Dec 2017 07:14 PM PST

Here are the two latest additions to my collection of QSLs from stations whose callsigns spell words. I think these are both all-time new ones for the collection.



The post [New QSLs: N5SLY, N2ADE](#) appeared first on [KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog](#).

## **Swap Meet**

(Disclaimer: This section is provided for hams to list items they wish to buy, sell or trade. The GCARC will not be responsible for the accuracy or completeness of any descriptions, and 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 email, to the GCARC Newsletter editor at [KW5CW@arrl.net](mailto:KW5CW@arrl.net). Photographs are encouraged. There is no charge for listings, and you do not need to be a member of the GCARC to participate.

### **FOR SALE : Yaesu Fusion Radios**

FTM-100 – Asking \$225

FTM-400 – Asking \$350

Both are in Mint Condition.... Contact Barry – W5BGD – email - [barrydavidson0269@yahoo.com](mailto:barrydavidson0269@yahoo.com)

### **FOR SALE AS IS: Assorted Electronics/Test Equipment**

The following items were donated to the GCARC and are in need of a new home. No set price per piece. Make an offer.

Heathkit Signal Generator

Square Wave Generator – Model 71

Broel & Kjoer Voltmeter

Sierra Electronic Corporation Carrier Frequency Voltmeter Model 104A

Polytechnic Research Heterodyne Frequency Meter – Type 104

**Note: these items are not tested and provided “as-is’ with No Refunds.**

Contact Lee Sly – N5SLY

Email: [lee.n5sly@gmail.com](mailto: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 [kw5cw@arrl.net](mailto:kw5cw@arrl.net). Be sure to include the following:

- 1) Who needs the help and how do we contact them.
- 2) What needs to be done.
- 3) When can someone come out to do the work.
- 4) Where is the location of the work that needs to be done.

**You don't have to be a member of the 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 <u>Sholl</u> W5DSA	Needs help with a rotator on a <u>100 foot tower</u>	Denison
Sheila Sammons KF5TDP	Needs help with antenna repairs – damaged from falling tree limbs.	Sherman
Mike Bernier – KF5NPM	Needs help with replacing damaged HF Antennas and grounding.	Denison

---

# Skywarn Spotter Program- 2018 Spotter schedule is now online!

Denver/Boulder, CO

Weather Forecast Office

[Weather.gov](#) > [Denver/Boulder, CO](#) > Skywarn Spotter Program- 2018 Spotter schedule is now online!

[Current Hazards](#)   [Current Conditions](#)   [Radar](#)   [Forecasts](#)   [Rivers and Lakes](#)   [Climate and Past Weather](#)   [Local Programs](#)

---

## Spotter Training Updates!

- 2018 Spotter training is now on-line on our web site at [http://www.weather.gov/bou/spot\\_training](http://www.weather.gov/bou/spot_training)
- We will continue to add locations and dates as requests are received.
- All 2017 spotter training dates have been processed and new spotter letters have been mailed. If you were newly trained and did not receive a letter, please contact [scott.entrekin@noaa.gov](mailto:scott.entrekin@noaa.gov).
- If you are an existing spotter that was retrained, the spotter database has been updated with your latest information, but no formal letters will be issued.

## New Online Reporting Form

- There is a new on-line reporting form for sending in winter and severe weather reports. The new address link from our web site has changed, and can be found at <https://www.weather.gov/crh/stormreports?sid=bou>
  - The new address can still be found under the drop down menu from current hazards from weather.gov/bou. You are given 4 options; Facebook, Twitter, Mobile APP, and email. The email form will be the one to use to send us a detailed spotter report like you did before with the old form.
  - This new report is in a google docs format and your report will still be received at our office within 2-3 minutes. Due to the small delay we ask you to send in Tornado reports via the telephone only.
  - We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused, but this change was out of our local control. If you have any questions or concerns on the new format please call or email at [scott.entrekin@noaa.gov](mailto:scott.entrekin@noaa.gov)
- 

## **GCARC (W5I Operating Schedule) - 2018**

### **05/19/2018 | Perrin Field Museum Special Event**

May 19-May 27, 0000Z-2359Z, W5I, Sherman, TX. Grayson County Amateur Radio Club. 14.250 7.200 14.040 7.040. QSL. Grayson County ARC, PO Box 642, Sherman, TX 75091. Commemorating the Perrin Field Museum, Perrin Air Force Base and Armed Forces Day. [www.graysoncountyarcc.com](http://www.graysoncountyarcc.com)

---

### **07/14/2018 | Red River Bridge War Special Event**

Jul 14-Jul 22, 0000Z-2359Z, W5I, Sherman, TX. Grayson County Amateur Radio Club. 14.250 7.200 14.040 7.040. QSL. Grayson County ARC, PO Box 642, Sherman, TX 75091. Commemorating the Red River Bridge War, a dispute between Texas and Oklahoma over a new bridge that was built across the Red River in 1931. [www.graysoncountyarcc.com](http://www.graysoncountyarcc.com)

---

### **10/08/2018 | Eisenhower Special Event**

Oct 8-Oct 16, 0000Z-2359Z, W5I, Sherman, TX. Grayson County Amateur Radio Club. 14.250 7.200 14.040 7.040. QSL. Grayson County ARC, PO Box 642, Sherman, TX 75091. Celebrating the birthday of President Eisenhower at his birth place in Denison, TX. [www.graysoncountyarcc.com](http://www.graysoncountyarcc.com)

---

## **K5GCC - ARRL Field Day Event – June 23 and 24**

### Common questions about Morse code

#### Question 1: Why was morse code invented?

Way back in 1836, Samuel F. B. **Morse**, along with Joseph Henry and Alfred Vail, **invented** an electrical telegraph system. Before telephones were **invented**, it could send messages over long distances by using pulses of electricity to signal a machine to make marks on a moving paper tape.

#### Question 2: Where was morse code first used?

On May 24, 1844, Morse sent **Vail** the historic first message: "What hath God wrought!" The **telegraph** system subsequently spread across **America** and the world, aided by further innovations. Among these improvements was the invention of good insulation for **telegraph** wires.

#### Question 3: What is morse code and what is it used for?

In 1836, Samuel **Morse** demonstrated the ability of a telegraph system to transmit information over wires. The information was sent as a series of electrical signals. Short signals are referred to as dits (represented as dots).

#### Question 4: Where did morse code come from?

Beginning in 1836, the **American** artist Samuel F. B. Morse, the **American** physicist Joseph Henry, and Alfred Vail developed an electrical **telegraph** system. This system sent pulses of electric current along wires which controlled an electromagnet that was located at the receiving end of the **telegraph** system.

#### Question 5: Why was Samuel Morse's invention important?

**Samuel** Finley Breese **Morse** (April 27, 1791 – April 2, 1872) was an American painter and inventor. After having established his reputation as a portrait painter, in his middle age **Morse** contributed to the invention of a single-wire telegraph system based on European telegraphs.

#### Question 6: What is the morse code for 'SOS'?

In International **Morse Code**, three dots form the letter S, and three dashes make the letter O, so "**SOS**" became an easy way to remember the order of the dots and dashes. In modern terminology, **SOS** is a **Morse** "procedural signal" or "prosign", and the formal way to write it is with a bar above the letters: **S̄ŌS̄**.

#### Question 7: What was the first message sent by Morse Code?

Morse Sent the First **Telegraphic** Message. What was the first telegraph message? Sent by inventor Samuel F.B. Morse on May 24, 1844, over an experimental line from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore, the message said: "What hath God wrought?" These four words were the first ever to be flashed over the electric **telegraph** wire. They ran in Morse Code on a line from Washington to Baltimore in 1844. Samuel Morse had sent the first electrically coded message at the age of 53, after his "wild scheme" had previously been rejected by Governments.

Submitted by James – KW5CW

## Digital Mode Report - So What is PSK31?

Yes. PSK31 has been around a while. Since my recent move adding digital to my working modes, PSK31 now peaks my interest after my dedication to work only CW for the last 50 years. I've made nearly 35,000 contacts on CW, and 2500 contacts on FT8, but now I'm going to try and expand my experience to include PSK31. But, what is PSK31 anyway?

First, let's dissect the name. The "PSK" stands for Phase Shift Keying, the modulation method that is used to generate the signal; "31" is the bit rate. Technically speaking, the bit rate is really 31.25, but "PSK31.25" isn't nearly as catchy.

Think of Morse code for a moment. It is a simple binary code expressed by short signal pulses (*dits*) and longer signal pulses (*dahs*). By combining strings of dits and dahs, we can communicate the entire English alphabet along with numbers and punctuation. Morse uses gaps of specific lengths to separate individual characters and words. Even beginners quickly learn to recognize these gaps--they don't need special signals to tell them that one character or word has ended and another is about to begin.

When it comes to RTTY we're still dealing with binary data (dits and dahs, if you will), but instead of on/off keying, we send the information by shifting frequencies. This is known as Frequency Shift Keying or FSK. One frequency represents a *mark* (1) and another represents a *space* (0). If you put enough mark and space signals together in proper order according to the RTTY code, you can send letters, numbers and a limited amount of punctuation.

The RTTY code shuffles various combinations of five bits to represent each character. For example, the letter A is expressed as 00011. To separate the individual characters RTTY must also add "start" and "stop" pulses.

For PSK31 Peter devised a new code that combines the best of RTTY and Morse. He christened his creation the *Varicode* because a varying number of bits are used for each character. Building on the example of Morse, Peter allocated the shorter codes to the letters that appeared most often in standard English text. The idea was to send the least number of bits possible during a given transmission. For example:

E is a very popular letter on the English alphabet hit parade, so it gets a Varicode of 11. Z sees relatively little use, so its Varicode becomes 111010101.

As with RTTY, however, we still need a way to signal the gaps between characters. The Varicode does this by using "00" to represent a gap. The Varicode is carefully structured so that two zeros never appear together in any of the combinations of 1s and 0s that make up the characters.

But how would the average ham generate a PSK31 signal and transmit Varicode over the airwaves? Peter's answer was to use the DSP capabilities of the common computer sound card to create an audio signal that shifted its phase 180° in sync with the 31.25 bit-per-second data stream. In Peter's scheme, a 0 bit in the data stream generates an audio phase shift, but a 1 does not. The technique of using phase shifts (and the lack thereof) to represent binary data is known as Binary Phase-Shift Keying, or BPSK. If you apply a BPSK audio signal to an SSB transceiver, you end up with BPSK modulated RF. (If you want the gory details, read the PSK31 software Help files.) At this data rate the resulting PSK31 RF signal is only 31.25 Hz wide, which is actually narrower than the average CW signal!1

Concentrating your RF into a narrow bandwidth does wonders for reception, as any CW operator will tell you. But when you're trying to receive a BPSK-modulated signal it is easier to recognize the phase transitions--even when they are deep in the noise--if your computer knows when to expect them. To accomplish this, the receiving station must synchronize



with the transmitting station. Once they are in sync, the software at the receiving station "knows" when to look for data in the receiver's audio output. Every PSK31 transmission begins with a short "idle" string of 0s. This allows the receive software to get into sync right away. Thanks to the structure of the Varicode, however, the phase transitions are also mathematically predictable, so much so that the PSK31 software can quickly synchronize itself when you tune in during the middle of a transmission, or after you momentarily lose the signal.

The combination of narrow bandwidth, an efficient DSP algorithm and synchronized sampling creates a mode that can be received at very low signal levels. PSK31 rivals the weak-signal performance of CW and it is a *vast* improvement over RTTY, as I discovered first hand.

Its terrific performance notwithstanding, PSK31 will not always provide 100% copy; it is as vulnerable to interference as any digital mode. And there are times, during a geomagnetic storm, for example, when ionospheric propagation will exhibit poor phase stability. (When you are trying to receive a narrow-bandwidth, phase-shifting signal, phase stability is very important.) This effect is often confined to the polar regions and it shows up as very rapid flutter, which is deadly to PSK31. The good news is that these events are usually short-lived.

**PSK31 Frequencies<sup>[6]</sup>**

Frequency	Amateur Band
1.838 MHz	160 meter
3.580 MHz	80 meter
7.035 MHz*	40 meter (region 3)
7.070 MHz*	40 meter (regions 1,2)
10.142 MHz	30 meter
14.070 MHz	20 meter
18.100 MHz	17 meter
21.080 MHz*	15 meter
24.920 MHz	12 meter
28.120 MHz	10 meter
50.290 MHz	6 meter
144.144 MHz	2 meter
222.07 MHz	1.25 meter
432.2 MHz	70 centimeter
909 MHz	33 centimeter

## **Contesting**

Hello readers,

Immediately below is the listing of contests between January 15 and February 7 along with how to improve your HF station. Notice that many of the lines below can be hyperlinks, but for the purpose of this newsletter, they do not act as hyperlinks. But good news! All articles that contain hyperlinks within newsletters that appear on the new website starting with this issue will contain ALL active links so that you can gain the most understanding of what you are reading. The new website will go active online in March, 2018. You will be linked to webpages for everything that shows to be underlined as a hyperlink. Boy, do I expect to have allot of time on my hands during retirement or what?????!!

- [New HF Operators: Scaleable Improvements](#)
- [Bulletins](#)
- [Contest Summary](#)
- [News: Contest Due Dates, Spring Contest Events Galore, FT8 Operating Guide](#)
- [Word to the Wise: Adaptive Filter](#)
- [Sights and Sounds: When Fire Strikes, FT8 Uptake, and more](#)
- [Results: January ARRL VHF Content Wanted, ARI Contest, 2017 IARU Results](#)
- [Operating Tip: Avoid a Pain In the Neck](#)
- [Technical Topics and Information: IEEE Call for Papers, Exploring the RF Layer with SDRs, and more](#)
- [Conversation: He's a Contesting Machine!](#)
- [Contests](#)
- [Log Due Dates](#)

### **NEW HF OPERATORS - THINGS TO DO**

What are the top three achievable things that you can do in one hour, one day, one week, one month, or one year to improve your HF station? Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Add some radials to any vertical antennas you may have
- Use an HF receiver (borrow one if you have to) that works on batteries to look for RFI sources in your operating location by turning off circuit breakers and noting the change in band noise
- Inspect and repair any outdoor feedline, rotator, or ground connections
- De-clutter your operating position
- Improve your operating ergonomics. Invite someone else over to operate for an hour, and see how easily they can perform common contest operations like band changes
- Choose which contests you'll focus on this year, circle them on the calendar, and start planning for them. Start negotiating with others in your household who will be impacted by your participation

- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your station. If you really enjoy 160-meter contests and want to score well, but you're on a small city lot, you might want to plan to operate from somewhere else that has fewer potential RFI sources and can accommodate big transmitting antennas and receiving antennas that make big contest scores possible on that band. Don't wait until the first week in December to start calling around.

## CONTEST SUMMARY

**15 Jan - 29 Jan 2018**

**January 25**

- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)

**January 26**

- [NCCC RTTY Sprint](#)
- [QRP Fox Hunt](#)
- [NCCC Sprint](#)
- [CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW](#)

**January 27**

- [Montana QSO Party](#)
- [REF Contest, CW](#)
- [BARTG RTTY Sprint](#)
- [UBA DX Contest, SSB](#)
- [Winter Field Day](#)

**January 31**

- [QRP Fox Hunt](#)
- [Phone Fray](#)
- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)
- [UKEICC 80m Contest](#)

**February 1**

- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)
- [NRAU 10m Activity Contest](#)

**February 2**

- [NCCC RTTY Sprint](#)
- [QRP Fox Hunt](#)
- [NCCC Sprint](#)
- [YLRL YL-OM Contest](#)

### February 3

- [Vermont QSO Party](#)
- [10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB](#)
- [Black Sea Cup International](#)
- [F9AA Cup, CW](#)
- [Mexico RTTY International Contest](#)
- [FYBO Winter QRP Sprint](#)
- [Minnesota QSO Party](#)
- [British Columbia QSO Party](#)
- [AGCW Straight Key Party](#)
- [FISTS Winter Slow Speed Sprint](#)

### February 4

- [British Columbia QSO Party](#)
- [North American Sprint, CW](#)

### February 5

- [RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB](#)

### February 6

- [ARS Spartan Sprint](#)

### February 7

- [QRP Fox Hunt](#)
- [Phone Fray](#)
- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)

### [UKEICC 80m Contest](#)

Readers,

Well, that's it for the January edition – 2018 of the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Newsletter.

I hope you enjoyed reading it. Send comments if you like to [kw5cw@arrl.net](mailto:kw5cw@arrl.net). If there is other subject matter that you would like to see in the newsletter, drop me a line and most likely I can accommodate your request as long as it is reference to amateur radio or the GCARC. I'm especially interested in repeated monthly column writers for good content. If you submit your own article for the newsletter, I will proof-read it for you and your article will look and sound great. Invite your friends to read our newsletter and invite them to join our club if they would like to. It reflects us, and who we are as a club. I can send a copy to [anyone](#) that wishes to receive it via email each month. Soon, it will be published on our new website in the making...

73's and happy reading... James – KW5CW – Grayson County ARC Newsletter Editor

## Local Radio Nets

<b><u>Daily</u></b>	<b>Texas Slow Net (CW only)</b> 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.
<b><u>Weekly</u></b>	<b>South Texas Section ARES Net (HF)</b> 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.  <b>Durant ARA Weekly Net</b> 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.  <b>Fannin County ARC Weekly Net</b> Tuesdays 8:00pm CT on the 147.200+ (100.0 PL) repeater. This is an informal information net.  <b>McKinney 6 meter AM Net</b> Wednesdays 10:00pm CT on 50.400 MHz  <b>Ladies Net</b> Thursdays 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater. Net Control: Linda KE5YUC  <b>McKinney ARC Info Net</b> Sundays 8:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.
<b><u>Semi-Monthly</u></b>	<b>Grayson County ARC Information Net</b> 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.  <b>Grayson County ARES Net</b> 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.  <b>RACES Command Net Check (HF)</b> 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!
<b><u>Monthly</u></b>	<b>North Texas Section ARES Net (HF)</b> 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.  <b>McKinney ARES Net</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.

## Area Repeaters

<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><u>Kingston OK</u></b>	<del>446.995 MHz (103.5 PL)</del> (currently out of service)	K5BQG
<b>Allen TX</b>	145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	<b>McKinney TX</b>	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
<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>Melissa TX</b>	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
			<b>Paris TX</b>	146.760- MHz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD
<b>Denison TX</b>	145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH	<b>Rosston TX</b>	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
<b>Durant OK</b>	147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL) 147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL) (currently out of service)	K5KIE K5CGE	<b>Van Alstyne TX</b>	443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
			<b>Whitesboro TX</b>	442.875+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WC5GC

Note: All Nets held on 147000 will now be held on 444.750 + (PL tone 100.0 hz) until further notice.

147.280+ (PL tone 107.2 hz) will be a backup