



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

FEBRUARY - 2019

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.ORG

Vol. 25, No. 2

Next General Meeting Date Scheduled for Tuesday March 19, 2019
Grayson County Courthouse
Sherman Texas @ 7:00PM

The President's QSO

Hello everyone,

We had a busy and yet very productive meeting for February. The meetings will stay on the 3rd Tuesday for the time being as the motion to move the meeting night was tabled. Vice President Roy - AF5VA mentioned at the February GCARC monthly meeting that it may still be a go to stage the GCARC 2019 Summer Field Day at the Waterloo Lake Regional Park located in Denison Texas. Roy continues to work out possible arrangements to have the event staged at a public place. Roy also stated that the Winter Field Day location was such a success that there may be a possibility that the club may impose on Doug one more time this year to use the Winter Field Day location if solid arrangements cannot be acquired within the next few months for our summer field day location. **The Summer field day event will NOT take place at the Sherman Municipal Airport ever again as long as I am president of the club.**

Speaking of winter field day, it was such a success for our first time of doing that event. Lee gave the after-action report on the total number of contacts made during winter field day. We had 5 radios set up, 1 CW station, 1 digital station and 3 phone stations. If memory serves me correctly, we made the most contacts using digital on PSK-31. Ricky and I took turns running the PSK-31 station. PSK-31 operations started a little later in the evening. We started calling CQ at about 8:30 pm and when calling CQ for just a few times, there was a pileup of psk-31 stations trying to answer back which I have never experienced on digital before. I have heard pileups on phone but never experienced it on PSK-31. I think we made more than 30 contacts on PSK. It wasn't until about after midnight when things died down on digital but it was an incredible night for me for experiencing a pileup. I said it before but I'll say it again. I want to personally thank Doug again for allowing us use his hobby house for winter field day.

At the presentation for the past club meeting, we demonstrated our radio go kits. I am looking forward to our next meeting on March 19th, as we will provide a presentation on using solar for our radio go kits so I hope that everyone will come out to see that presentation. I am looking forward to see everyone at the next meeting.

73 Andrew - KG5SKM
President of the GCARC
president@k5gcc.org

Officers

President: Andrew Bentley – KG5SKM
Vice President: Roy Reed – AF5VA
Secretary: Doug Hotalen – KG5QPI
Treasurer: James Frank – KW5CW
Trustee: Rick Simmons – K5ECX
Event Coordinator: -----
QSL Manager: Lee Sly – N5SLY

Meetings

When: 3rd Tuesday 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
Submission
Deadline:

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Address: www.graysoncountyar.org
Webmaster: James Frank - KW5CW
Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC

8PM on first SATURDAY following each monthly meeting (published by following Monday)

Memberships are from January 1-December 31

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

GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
SECRETARY REPORT
Meeting Minutes by Douglas Hotalen KG5QPI 2/19/2019

Submitted - February 19, 2019

All fours Officers Present:

KG5SKM	President	Andrew Bentley
AF5VA	Vice President	Roy Reed
KG5QPI	Secretary	Douglas Hotalen
KW5CW	Treasurer	James Frank

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

Old business.

1. Expenses due to Flowers for Funerals \$150, \$125 for new website hosting plan which included discounted rates.
2. Special Events identified and dates set for: Perrin Field, Bridge Wars and Eisenhower Events for W5I
3. **Jim K5QOI** given 5th week for Net Control to discuss topics that will benefit the Ham community.
4. Discussion to change meeting nights from 3rd Tuesday to 3rd Friday.

New business.

1. Winter Field Day Results: 76 total contacts, 18 were CW, 29 were Digital, 29 were Phone. 1st time out for our club on Winter Field Day. Lee expects points results from WSL in a month or two.
2. **Roy AF5VA** to see if Waterloo Park in Denison will allow the club to stay overnight for the ARRL Summer Field Day. Backup plan will be Hotalen Hobby House location, but the main objective is to get public to visit to grow our member base.
3. **Jim K5QOI** had 1st motion to rescind previous month proposal to move club meeting days to Friday from Tuesday. 2nd Motion from Ricky KG5FDT. Feedback to be provided by a special poll created for the website or input from Facebook users to try and determine what days may be more favorable for a meeting night. A vote of 11 Yes, 1 No to table the issue for now.
4. Treasury Activity- \$1850.41 at start, had members with dues (now at 28), Flower Expenditures \$150, P.O. Box annual cost of \$80.00, Amazon Smile Credit \$8.46. Final balance \$1,693.53. Issues with PayPal some money won't be finalized for up to

3 weeks. Paypal delayed credit may occur for the next 90 days. James will provide full detail in the newsletter.

5. **Glen - KG5REK** indicated when filling out the dues form online, there is not an option to pay more than one year. He would like to see a multi-year payment option on the form. James KW5CW will review the form and make options to add for multi-year selection.
6. A decision was made to allow Board Members to spend up to \$150 on emergency needs such as memorials, or other emergency needs per discretion by the board officers, per each occurrence. There would be no future needed vote on these matters. Motion made by Jim K5QOI. 2nd by Mark KF5UZW. It was a unanimous Yes Vote. No bylaw changes are needed.
7. **Lee - N5SLY** reported about the ARRL bureau at the February GCARC monthly meeting and suggested we participate in the ARRL service by sending \$5 to receive QSL cards that they handle for the club. Jim-K5QOI personally gave Lee \$5 for the service. The club also approved payment to Lee in the amount of \$34 for an ARRL Worked All States certificate and endorsements.
8. John Ramsey's son gave thanks to the club for providing a ceremony on the Sunday net in the honor of John. A review of John's life in service to the community given by our president and a 'silent key' activity was included.
9. **Glen - KG5REK** informed the membership at the meeting about a new DMR talk-group known as TGIF. Amateurs use DMR Hotspots attached to the internet to communicate around the world. Glen agreed with club approval to pursue with TGIF admin for a talk-group for the GCARC. Glen intends to pursue acquisition of a talk group for the club and will provide an update on the GCARC website and facebook page when the talk-group is created and activated. 1st Motion Roy AF5VA, 2nd Motion Andrew KG5SKM to pursue setting up a DMR talk group for the club. There were about 6 members present who have a DMR Radio.

Presentations

1. **James KW5CW**, gave a progress report on our new Web Site. Reduced costs and increased operational benefits are some reasons for the change. James has done a great job making our current 1st Phase website usable. There is always room for improvement so we will bring out the new improved version hopefully by the end of next month.
2. Members came with their Radio Go-Kits to present to the club. Go-Kits have many different concepts and ideas. Each of the Go-Kits demonstrated were unique. Please send your complete GO-Kit Setup Picture to James KW5CW so it can be posted it in our newsletter.

73 – Doug Hotalen – KG5QPI
Secretary of the GCARC
secretary@k5gcc.org

GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

TREASURER REPORT

February 22, 2019

Balance of Last Report - Jan 22, 2019 **\$1,848.93**

DEPOSITS - Jan 22 thru Jan 31 2019

STRIPE CLUB MEMBERSHIP 1/24/2019 \$38.24
STRIPE CLUB MEMBERSHIP 1/30/2019 \$38.24

LESS EXPENSES - Jan 22 thru Jan 30 2019

FLOWERS-S.GASKELL 1/29/2019 **(\$75.00)**

Ending Balance for Jan 31, 2019 **\$1,850.41**

Opening Operating Fund Balance for Feb 1, 2019 **\$1,850.41**

DEPOSITS - Actual Deposit Dates Posted

CASH CLUB MEMBERSHIP 2/4/2019 \$40.00
AMAZON SMILE 2/15/2019 \$8.46
STRIPE CLUB MEMBERSHIP 2/19/2019 \$19.12
CASH & CHECKS 2/20/2019 \$110.00
CLOTHES \$0.00

ACTUAL DEPOSIT TOTAL \$177.58

LESS EXPENSES - Actual Expense Dates Posted

P.O.BOX FEE - 2019 2/4/2019 **(\$80.00)**
FIELD DAY FOOD 2/4/2019 **(\$50.00)**
FLOWERS J RAMSEY 2/4/2019 **(\$75.00)**
WEBSITE 2/22/2019 **(\$129.46)**

*note - Extra \$4.46 Approved for website

Online Fee \$0.00

ACTUAL EXPENSE TOTAL (\$334.46)

OPERATING FUND BALANCE AS OF FEB 22 2019 \$1,693.53

MEMBERS YTD 28

Available Equipment Funds \$0.00
Equipment Fund Balance \$0.00

ENDING BANK BALANCE as of February 22, 2019 \$1,693.53

James Frank - KW5CW - Treasurer

2019 OPERATING BUDGET

POST OFFICE BOX-DUE MAR 1 80.00

WEBSITE 125.00

SPECIAL EVENTS

Perin Field 50.00

EisenHower 50.00

RR Bridge War 50.00

FOOD FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Winter Field Day 50.00

Memorials and Emergency needs

Per Occurrence 150.00

TOTAL 555.00

EQUIPMENT NEEDS 2019

Tower Bracket 151.89
Amount Budgeted 0

QSL Managers Message

Our Club Needs a Wall

There is a lot of talk around our country these days about building a wall. Many folks are all for building a wall and there are just as many who are against it. I'm not going to get into the middle of that national debate, but what I want to talk about is the wall paper our club has collected and the problem we have because we can't hang it anywhere...we don't have a wall.

You may ask, "What is wall paper in ham radio?" Good question. Wall paper includes a lot of things...QSL cards received for contacts made on the radio, Certificates received for participating in different events, Awards received for different achievements accomplished in the hobby, photos etc. Right now when our club gets any of these they simply sit in a pile on a table at my house. They don't serve any other purpose other than to take up space and are not shared with anyone unless I make the effort to show them to someone.

We are a very small club. This year we only have 20 some members. A few years ago we had about 50 members. With these small numbers there is no way we could have our own "Club House". So we rely on the generosity of folks to give us a place to meet. We also rely on the generosity of our members or others to give us a place to set up our radios during our club events during the year. For the 25 years our club has existed this has worked just fine...and it still does today. But it sure would be nice to have a place to hang our wall paper.

As QSL Manager I've made it my goal to reply to 100% of the QSL cards we receive during the events we hold every year. I also submit all of our QSO information to eQSL and LOTW. The results have been very satisfying to me as we have achieved many awards during the last few years.

Our club is also very active in ARES, storm spotting, and community service events during the year. In addition training classes are provided to help folks get their amateur radio license. All of these activities are important parts of the hobby.

So what is my vision of a club wall? It is really pretty simple. A display case that we can have in a public place where we can put our QSL cards, certificates, awards, photos, display equipment, announcements, handouts, etc. Twenty five years from now when our club has hundreds of members and a big bank balance they can build a club house and move everything there.

What do you think? Should our club have a wall? What should the wall look like?

Have fun doing what you enjoy in the hobby.

73 de Lee N5SLY



ARES NOTES

Thanks to everyone who came out to the Skywarn training at Grayson College this month! We had a good turnout for both the basic and the advanced session. One of the key takeaways from this year's training was the Weather Service lowering the reportable hail criteria. The old criteria was one inch or greater. Our new reportable hail threshold is .75 inch (three quarters of an inch) or greater.

I am very happy to announce that the ladies net has returned to the 147.00 W5RVT repeater. I know the ladies enjoy talking to each other and catching up. But they also provide some great information about the repeater and how it is performing. When Grace is able to check in from Hawaii, she tests our EchoLink node. This is all critical to our Skywarn operations because the ladies provide very important and useful feedback if anything is awry. Special thanks to Linda, KE5YUC, for leading the ladies net!

We are planning some very interesting activities for this spring to hone our skills and test our capabilities. I hope to have more of that information to you in next month's article.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service program here in Grayson County.

73

Wade

Wade Graves, KF5AUD

Grayson County ARES EC

2019 GCARC Membership List – February 2019

1	Paul Caputo	K1PKZ	lifetime member
2	Tammy Jaresh	KD5NIB	tjaresh46@hotmail.com
3	Jonnie Jaresh	KD5NIC	tjaresh46@hotmail.com
4	Sharon Hotalen		dhotalen@peoplepc.com
5	Douglas Hotalen	KG5QPI	dhotalen@peoplepc.com
6	Jim McGlynn	K5QOI	sailingtexoma@yahoo.com
7	Marvin Schiavone	KG5GMA	marvin818@msn.com
8	Leland Sly	N5SLY	n5sly@arrl.net
9	James Frank	KW5CW	kw5cw@arrl.net
10	Thomas Kraemar	K5TPK	k5tpk@arrl.net
11	Joseph Davis	KG5REK	kg5rek@gmail.com
12	Jesse Heiman	AC5OY	ac5oy@cableone.net
13	David Anderson	KD5KPR	denisondave@sbcglobal.net
14	Mark Pilkilton	KF5UZW	mpilkilton@gmail.com
15	Rick Simmons	K5ECX	k5ecx@arrl.net
16	Linda Mihay	W5ULY	bikrgran@gmail.com
17	James Mathis	K5IV	jlmathis@verizon.net
18	Wade Graves	KF5AUD	wade.graves@gmail.com
19	Lynda Tuma	KF5JUO	lyndatuma@gmail.com
20	Nancy Pierce	W5ZMH	rumbles5@verison.net
21	Andrew Bentley	KG5SKM	kg5skm@cableone.net
22	Rickey Jessen	KG5FDT	ricky.jesson3@gmail.com
23	Michael Hepner	KG5WHU	KG5WHU@gmail.com
24	Aaron Bucy	KG5BNC	aaronbucy@yahoo.com
25	Brad McMillon	KE5UMJ	ke5umj@arrl.net
26	Matt Gaskill	KF5KOY	kf5koy@arrl.net
27	Roy Reed	AF5VA	deadbugr@hotmail.com
28	Trevor Reed	KG5BFI	kg5bfi@gmail.com

NOTICE

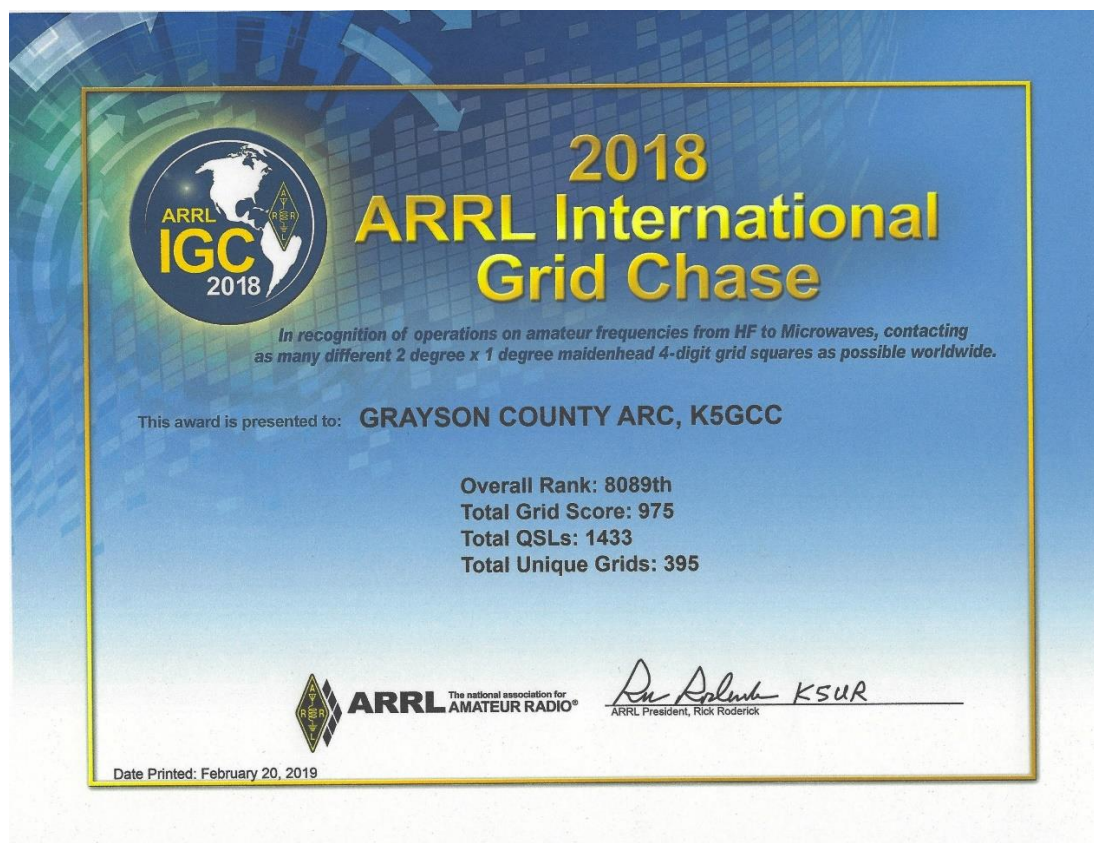
YL NET BACK UP ON RUNNING ON THE 147.00 REPEATER

Linda Arnold – KE5YUC has re-activated the YL Net on the 147.00 repeater. Access to the net is also available by using the ECHOLINK node – WC5GC/r. The net commences the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 8 PM. ALL YL's that find out about this net regardless of where you live are invited to participate.

K5GCC CLUB CERTIFICATES

One of the really cool benefits of being an amateur radio operator is the accessibility of so many different certificates, also affectionately known as 'wallpaper' that you can earn and then decorate your shack with. They provide a feeling of success as an amateur radio operator. They are a means as a constant reminder of personal operational accomplishments within you own amateur radio space. We as a club have successfully qualified to receive many such certificates, and are making space in this newsletter edition to display each of them. Future editions of the newsletter will also contain some of the QSL cards we received throughout the years. Our QSL manager, Lee Sly - N5SLY, keeps these certificates in a safe place along with the QSL cards that the club receives each month. As we receive them, Lee reminds us each month as he displays them at a club meeting as he receives them each month. With the dawn of our club events on the horizon, no doubt that the club will even earn a few more this year. As Lee has mentioned in his message this month, we as a club at the present time do not have a club house or a place to store them for the public to see. As the club grows, the possibility of a club house may be possible. But in the meantime, I will display the certificates right here on in the newsletter, and then create a space on the website for easy access so that they can be viewed at any time. A special thanks go out to Lee for managing the club certificates and QSL cards and for keeping them in a safe place.







2018 ARRL International Grid Chase

*In recognition of operations on amateur frequencies from HF to Microwaves, contacting
as many different 2 degree x 1 degree maidenhead 4-digit grid squares as possible worldwide.*

This award is presented to: **GRAYSON COUNTY ARC, K5GCC**

For grid chase operating achievement during the month of May 2018:

Month Overall: Rank 1500th - Grid Score 262 - QSLs 336

Band	Mode	Rank	Grids	QSLs
40M	Digital	377	86	110
17M	Digital	707	50	64
20M	Digital	820	85	132
40M	CW	1413	20	20
20M	CW	2893	10	10



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Rick Roderick K5UR
ARRL President, Rick Roderick

Date Printed: December 6, 2018



2018 ARRL International Grid Chase

*In recognition of operations on amateur frequencies from HF to Microwaves, contacting
as many different 2 degree x 1 degree maidenhead 4-digit grid squares as possible worldwide.*

This award is presented to: **GRAYSON COUNTY ARC, K5GCC**

For grid chase operating achievement during the month of June 2018:

Month Overall: Rank 9929th - Grid Score 33 - QSLs 35

Band	Mode	Rank	Grids	QSLs
40M	CW	355	23	24
20M	CW	1547	8	9
40M	Phone	2298	1	1
20M	Phone	4111	1	1



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Rick Roderick K5UR
ARRL President, Rick Roderick

Date Printed: December 6, 2018



2018 ARRL International Grid Chase

In recognition of operations on amateur frequencies from HF to Microwaves, contacting as many different 2 degree x 1 degree maidenhead 4-digit grid squares as possible worldwide.

This award is presented to: **GRAYSON COUNTY ARC, K5GCC**

For grid chase operating achievement during the month of October 2018:

Month Overall: Rank 1134th - Grid Score 346 - QSLs 604

Band	Mode	Rank	Grids	QSLs
20M	Digital	107	189	438
15M	Digital	599	52	71
80M	CW	1003	5	5
80M	Digital	1033	39	50
20M	CW	1785	5	5

Band	Mode	Rank	Grids	QSLs
40M	CW	2638	3	3
40M	Digital	3432	23	24
17M	Digital	4875	6	6
30M	Digital	6630	2	2



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Rick Roderick K5UR
ARRL President, Rick Roderick

Date Printed: December 6, 2018



2018 ARRL International Grid Chase

In recognition of operations on amateur frequencies from HF to Microwaves, contacting as many different 2 degree x 1 degree maidenhead 4-digit grid squares as possible worldwide.

This award is presented to: **GRAYSON COUNTY ARC, K5GCC**

For grid chase operating achievement during the month of July 2018:

Month Overall: Rank 1551st - Grid Score 245 - QSLs 326

Band	Mode	Rank	Grids	QSLs
15M	Digital	352	49	65
10M	Digital	440	41	48
20M	Digital	587	105	176
20M	Phone	1571	11	11

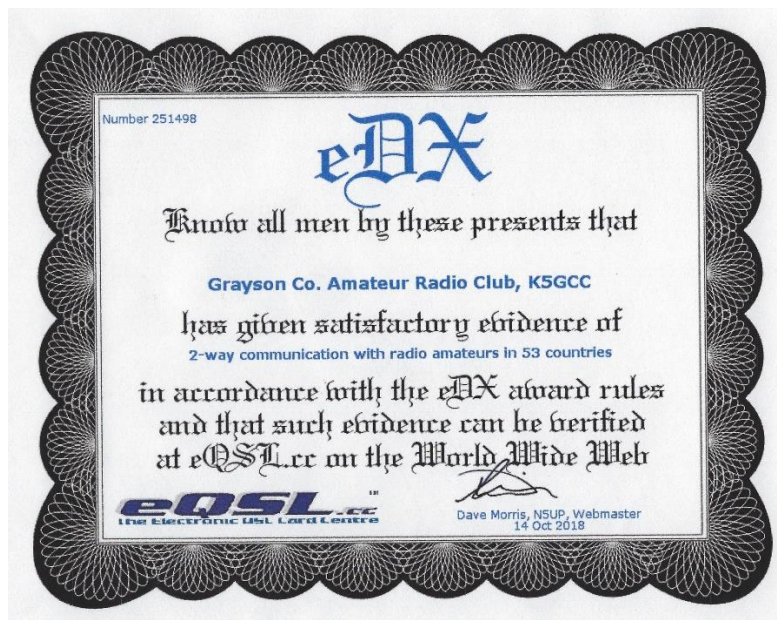
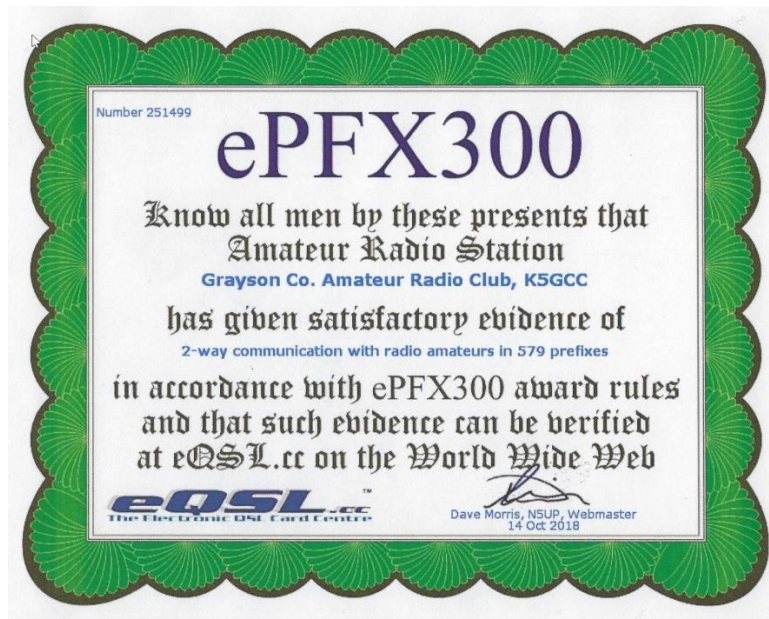
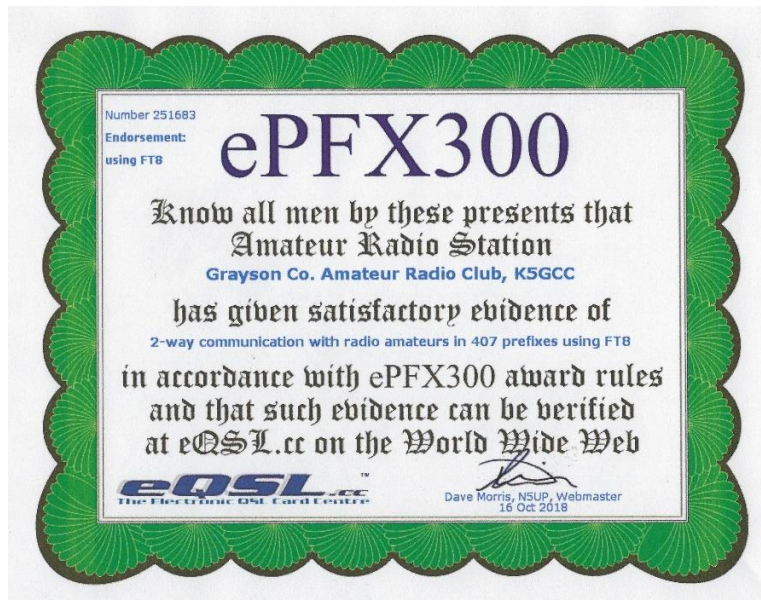
Band	Mode	Rank	Grids	QSLs
6M	Digital	2554	15	17
40M	CW	3614	1	1
17M	Digital	3798	7	8



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Rick Roderick K5UR
ARRL President, Rick Roderick

Date Printed: December 6, 2018





CW Corner

By James – KW5CW

It seems just like a few days ago when I published the last newsletter. I mentioned that January was almost finished. But now it's February and now it's almost finished too. Where is the time going these days? Heck, I retired a year ago. But since the last newsletter, we as a club have also worked our very first operating event of the year, Winter Field Day on January 26th and 27th at the Hotalen Hobby House. It surely was a lot of fun. It was even more than that. It was fantastic! A special thank you goes out to Doug and his wife Sharon for hosting the club and making the event feel like we were operating from our own home. The Hotalen Hobby House couldn't be more perfect for our needs for our club events, and I'm hoping we can have many other events there. The hospitality couldn't be greater, and I know that I speak for everyone who participated that all of us appreciate all that Doug and Sharon did for the club that fun weekend. For me personally, I had the chance to use my new go-kit that I put together for CW operations for that very special Winter Field Day. Running class 5H, we proved that the Hobby House is large enough to accommodate any of our event needs, along with all of the necessary space to put up antennas.

As I usually do at these club events, there are usually many other things to do to keep busy besides operating, but in the end, it's all part of the event, and it was just plain fun. My low scoring tally for the few contacts that I actually did make, prove the point. The only negative thought that I have for that weekend was that I did recognize a major disadvantage in my own operational setup which definitely contributed to my low scoring, as I used a different radio than I used at club events in the past. I decided to put an Alinco transceiver in my new go-kit instead of using my very trusty Kenwood TS590SG. Wrong! ! Almost immediately, it was determined that it was the wrong radio to make CW contacts in a crowded band. The needed filtering was almost non-existent. And yes, the bands were crowded right from the start, but it wasn't with just CW stations. Unfortunately, it was also crowded with RTTY signals as there was a RTTY contest running at the same time. RTTY contest operators usually take up space in the lower part of the CW band, just where I like to operate. It was

also noted that during the night, when you would expect to hear CW stations throughout the band, there were times when you couldn't find a single CW station. I could only conclude that because there were so many stations running from a home setup class that most people took advantage of just going to sleep at night. After all, Winter Field Day was not a contest. Its purpose was to display our operational preparedness in the winter months for communications when needed.

On another note, I'm excited to know that there are still people out there who are interested in learning CW. It looks like giving lessons in a one-on-one basis may be just the ticket to get people motivated to work that mode. Now-a-days, there's just so many things to do in our great hobby than to work CW. But why not take advantage of another mode, whether it may be an old mode or not. Doing something that you just do not have to do in this hobby is refreshing. Don't stay away from CW just because it's not a requirement anymore to acquire a license. I'm sure you've heard that from me before. Get used to it!

I've said it time and time again. CW is not for everyone, but how do you know it's not for you unless you give it a try? Sometimes when you talk about something that the majority of readers are not interested in, say as an example, CW, it makes no difference how many times you mention it. But that is what's motivating me here. If I could get just one or two out of many people that read my articles, to at least try to work CW I would be very proud. If you think that you may want to give CW a try, then by all means contact me at any time.

This year, I'm going to try something different. As it seems like I never have time to do things I would really like to do because of other obligations, I have decided to get out of the norm and work a contest. I'll give you just one guess on which mode I'll be operating, and the frequency I most likely will operate. The name of the contest is the 2019 CW World-Wide WPX Contest that runs on May 25th and 26th. Another twist will be that I will not be running the contest from home, but rather from a University in Kansas with my friend whom I met on FT8. That would be Kurt Zoglmann - AD0WE. Kurt has been kind enough to have bailed me out by writing articles on CW for submission in this newsletter. If all the stars align, then Kurt and I may participate in operating the event as W0QQQ. What a Q....Q...Q.. ...uacky call. But still, it will be so much fun working an event such as that. There will be no time to do other things other than operating. What would really, really make my day would be if I could work one of the hams back home in Texas in the event. Usually in these kinds of events, I normally work them straight through without sleep, but it's been so long now since I've operated a contest, that I may not be able to hold on all throughout the night without some sleep because I've become just a few days older than I was before.

(Wishful thinking) also, be on the lookout in this newsletter for another article from Kurt.

Heck, I don't even know for sure if the University station would be available for the event, but at least it's still a few months away. I'm sure I'll know for sure very soon.

THE ANTENNA FARM AT THE HOTALEN HOBBY HOUSE

Well, this is just another article on the Hotalen Hobby House. To give you an idea on the property and what we dealt with at Winter Field Day, attached are a few of the pictures taken of two people that attended the event putting up some antennas. Do you recognize either of these two people in the following shots?



Figure 1 Jim - K5QOI and Rickey - KG5FDT working on a vertical antenna



Figure 2 Another shot of Jim and Rickey taking a siesta



Figure 3 - A picture from the deep end of the lot



Figure 4 A shot from the corner of the Hobby House



Figure 5 Same vertical above looking up through it. What a beautiful day!



Figure 6 Jim and Rickey actually WORKING!



Figure 7 While the hard workers were outside putting up antennas, I was inside hiding, taking pictures.



Figure 8 Look past the trailer antenna to the all band vertical (6BTV)

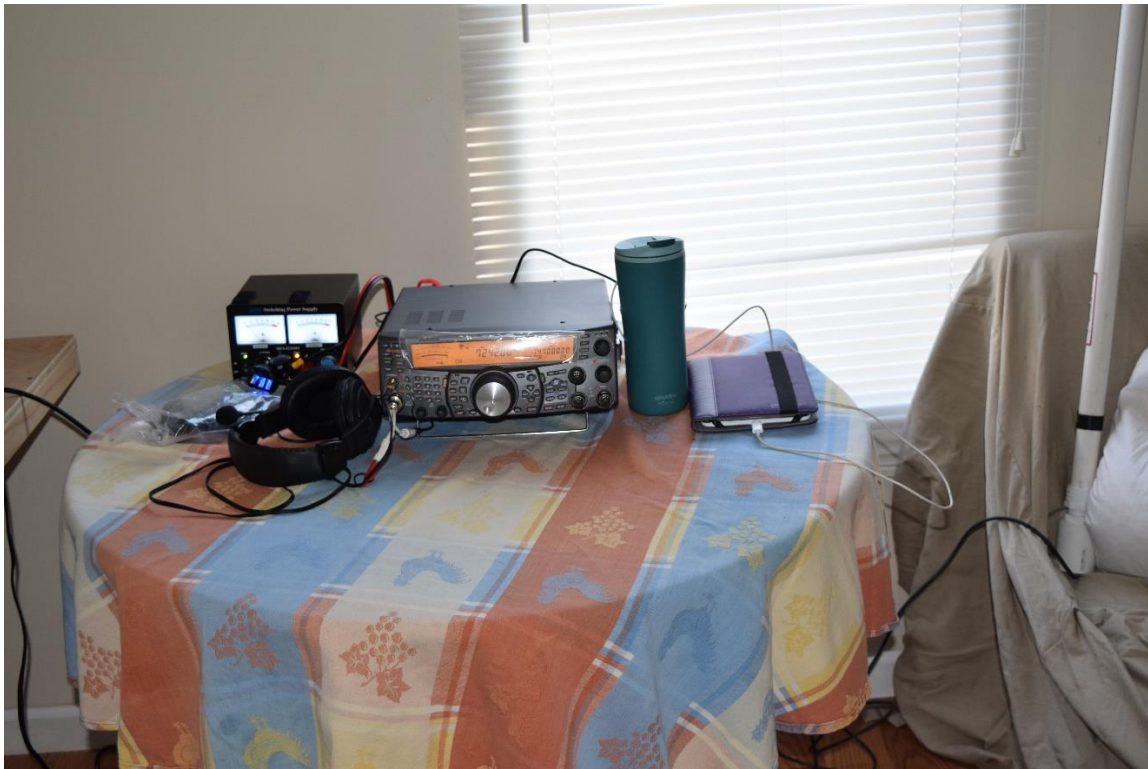


Figure 9 K5QOI Radio Setup



Figure 10 Jim stealing the show again and it looks like he's stealing all the eggs too. Doug's in the background doing one of his daily chores for Sharon



Figure 11 A couple of VHF antennas used for the event



Figure 12 Andrew – KG5SKM put up an end fed wire antenna.

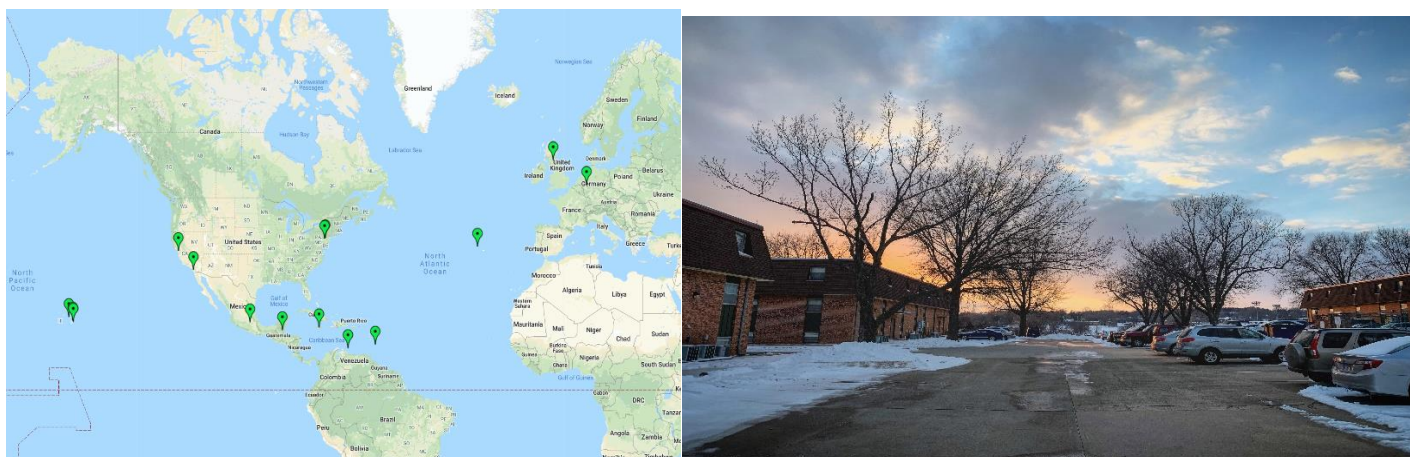
FIRST CW CONTEST

By Kurt Zoglmann – AD0WE

As a preface to the following article, I have again decided with the authorization from my friend in Kansas to publish his work. Kurt represents the epitome of a CW student, slowly but steadily graduating up the ranks of experience within the CW community. His work has paid off. He now enjoys making multiple contacts in several different venues of operation. I am looking forward in visiting with Kurt and working my first CW contest in some time at the University of Kansas using the call of W0QQQ. Yes, I'll have to get used to that call, as I've been spoiled with the club using the call W5I at club events, so it may be a bit more challenging using the 'zero' call. Anyway, the following information is about Kurt, explaining how he managed through his first CW contest, but then there's allot more, including his project building a QRP CW transmitter.

He goes on to say....

First CW Contest:



I am thrilled to have participated in my first Morse code contest, the [ARRL International DX Contest](#)! It was a great learning experience! I spent several hours searching and pouncing. Next time I will spend more time operating the 2-day event.

I made a total of 15 contacts. Most of them were international — Germany, Scotland, [Azores](#), [Bonaire](#), [Belize](#), [Barbados](#), Jamaica, and Mexico. On my second contact, I spent 10 minutes trying to decode a callsign being sent at 40wpm while listening to a weak signal. I finally figured out that it was [6Y3M](#)! I did not cheat and use the [Reverse Beacon Network](#). That was the highlight of the contest!

I was surprised to work several Hawaiian stations. They were strong, and they heard me on the first try. I am delighted that my callsign is easy to recognize in Morse code even with a weak signal. Almost all of my QSO's were on 20-meters. The noise level was fantastically low at S1, which is unheard of at my home QTH! I made one contact on 40-meters, but I gave up on the lower band after a while. The majority of the stations sounded mushy with the high S8 noise level and low signal strength.

I look forward to the next contest. By all comparisons, many stations will have made 100's if not 1000's of contacts! Some people live for radiosport. For my next one, I will focus on breaking my record of 15 QSOs.

QCX 20m transceiver:

I am excited to have successfully built my first transceiver and made my first QRP contact! There is a long and proud tradition of building your own radio in the amateur radio community. It is was a great learning experience and a lot of fun! It has rekindled my interest in electrical engineering and tinkering.

At \$50, the [QCX transceiver](#) is one of the cheapest full-featured QRP CW kits on the market. Kits are available with your choice of a single band, 80 through 17m. It has a 200Hz filter, an on-screen S-meter, CW shaping to remove key clicks, and 3 to 5 watts on transmit. It supports split operation and even decodes stronger CW signals! The internal keyer supports iambic and straight keys. And the kit has built-in test equipment to assist in troubleshooting and calibrating the transceiver without additional expensive equipment. [Hans Summers \(G0UPL\)](#) has done a marvelous job in designing this kit! Perhaps the best part is the detailed and clear [instruction manual](#) for putting it all together.

My QCX transceiver sat unassembled and in a box for nearly a year! I considered putting it together earlier, but instead, I prioritized learning Morse code starting from no proficiency. (I learned Morse code and was able to copy at 30wpm in less than a year.) I am very appreciative of [CW Ops](#) and the opportunity to take their [CW Academy](#) Level 2 and 3 classes. They were invaluable!) But enough was enough. The anticipation was mounting! So this winter I set a goal of assembling the QCX. Short days and cold temperatures are a great time to work on indoor projects.

Day 1 - Preparing for the Build:

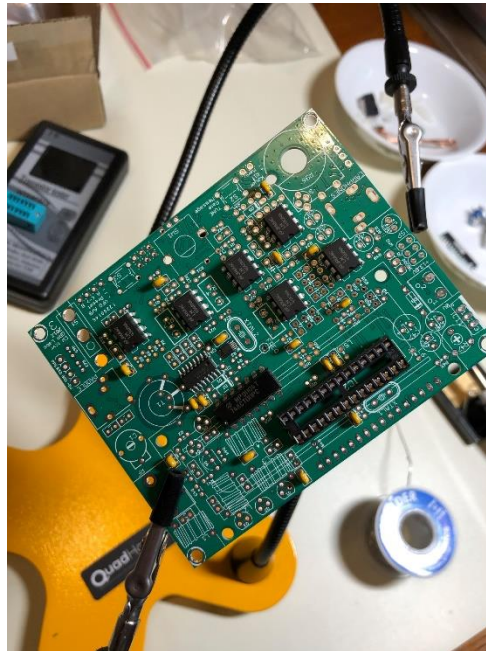


Before getting too serious, I inventoried the parts and made sure that nothing was missing. Next, I affixed the capacitors, resistors, and other small parts to a sheet of paper and clearly labeled them. This step saves time in locating capacitors and resistors with specific values during the build. And it reduces the likelihood of parts getting lost. Avoid using tape on any components, such as integrated circuits, that are sensitive to ESD (electrostatic discharge).

Then I read through the first part of the manual and discovered that I needed a jeweler's magnifying loupe. As the manual suggests, you will want to inspect and verify each soldering joint closely. It is easy to get a cold soldering joint or accidentally bridge two joints together. While I have had some prior soldering experience, this was the first time soldering so many parts so closely together! I also decided to purchase an antistatic mat and strap.

If you are considering building this radio, you will also need a fine-tipped temperature controlled soldering iron, fine soldering wire, and a PCB holder. While not strictly required, you will want a digital multimeter for checking continuity and a de-soldering tool to correct any mistakes

Day 2 and 3 - Building:



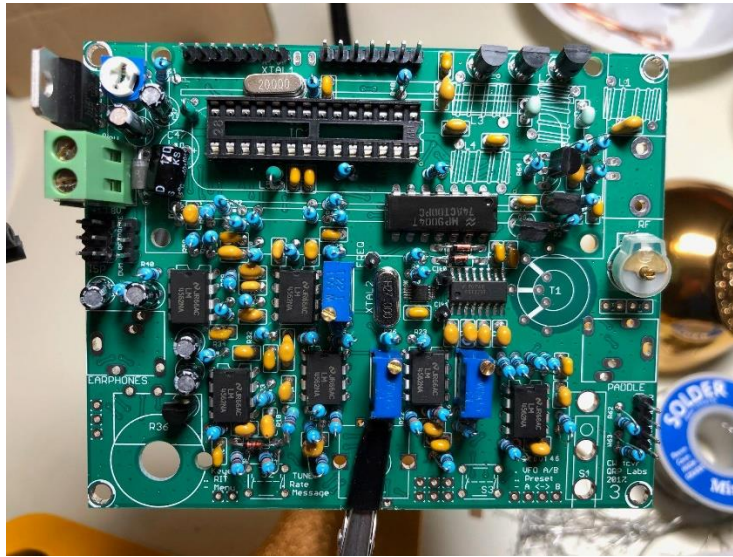
After I received my shipment of tools, I was ready to begin the project in earnest. And as luck would have it, it was just in time for the weekend!

The first soldering step was to install all of the IC's onto the PCB. This made me a little nervous since it had been several years since I last touched a soldering iron! You have to balance applying just enough heat to the IC pin and PCB pad to avoid a cold solder joint, but not so much heat that you burn up the integrated component. I set the soldering iron to 375C, which required a few seconds of heating to melt the soldering wire in place.

The ATmega328, the primary microcontroller, was a little more difficult to solder in place. It required first soldering the 28-pin DIP socket, and then carefully inserting the chip into its holder. The pins have to be bent gently and just slightly so that the IC can slip into the socket. If you are not careful, it can result in breaking off a pin! The rest of the IC's were relatively a piece of cake since they were soldered directly onto the PCB.

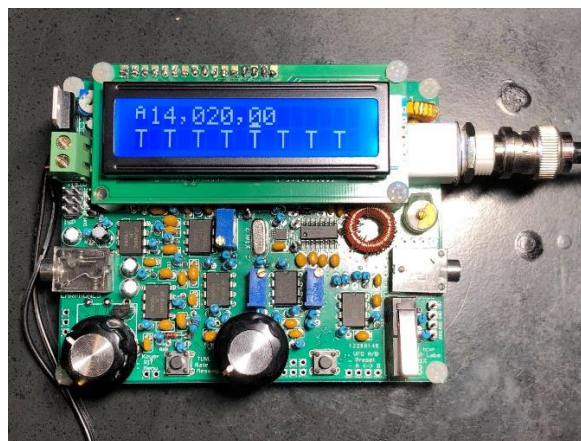
Next, all of the capacitors are soldered in place. I made sure to double and triple check the value of each capacitor and its placement on the PCB before soldering them into place. The jeweler's loupe made it easy to read the tiny print on the capacitors.

Things did not go so smoothly. Difficulty started when I created a cold solder joint. I had trouble getting the leads on one capacitor heated back up to melt the solder quickly enough without excessively heating the component. Turning up the iron 25C to 400C took care of that problem.



Then after the numerous capacitors, I soldered a handful of diodes and two crystals into place. Next, I started to solder the abundance of resistors onto the PCB. Once I got to resistor R12, I did a double take. Wait, what? Despite carefully checking the position of each component before soldering them into place, I discovered I had reversed the position of capacitor C18 and resistor R18! They were firmly soldered into place. What should I do?

For a while, I thought I might have to purchase a new kit and start over!! It was extremely difficult to correct. I slightly damaged the capacitor, but it checked okay — 978pF versus the expected 1nF. I also ruined one of the PCB pads getting them desoldered. So after getting them swapped, I checked and re-checked the electrical conductivity between the traces to the other connecting components from C18 and R18. I was relieved when everything checked out. I was very fortunate! Learn from my mistake. All of the capacitors are annotated on the PCB with a rectangle! C18 and R18 are right next to each other, which is unlike any of the other ones. Next, I soldered a multitude of components onto the PCB — potentiometers, electrolytic capacitors, transistors, .1" male pin headers, a voltage regulator, and power connector. All of these were straightforward and easy to install. By the time I had gotten to this step, I had put in 15 hours into the build and had 141 components soldered together!



Next, the toroids and transformer need to be assembled and installed onto the PCB. I made sure to stop right before this step and get a good night's rest. These are difficult and critical steps in the build.

The first toroid was the most difficult one to assemble and solder since it was my first one ever. The instruction manual indicates that the number one cause of problems with building kits from [QRP Labs](#) is the failure to remove wire enamel before soldering toroids and transformers into place. It is bold and in red! I used fine-grit sandpaper to remove the enamel from the leads coming off the toroid. Before soldering them into place, I used a digital multimeter to ensure continuity between both leads. Then I soldered them in place and re-checked continuity between the two PCB pads. It didn't take too long to repeat the same steps for the remaining three toroids.

Then I took on the granddaddy of build steps — correctly wind and solder the transformer onto the PCB. The manual dedicates seven pages and many diagrams to help you avoid problems! There are four windings on the transformer. They must all be wound in the same direction, and each winding needs to be soldered onto the correct PCB pad.

Despite taking my time with the transformer, I ran into a problem. I didn't scrape enough of the enamel off of the wire on one of the windings! I had significant difficulty getting conductivity on the two leads after I had everything soldered in place. Persistence and patience with the soldering iron paid off. I was able to burn off the enamel with each lead still partially soldered. It required the highest temperature setting on the iron! Then it was a matter of re-tinning the two leads and soldering them securely to their respective PCB pad.

Finally, I soldered a handful of remaining components into place — the rotary encoder, microswitch, potentiometer, and female header to the LCD module. By the end of Sunday night, I had completed the initial build and was ready for the moment of truth. I was exhausted, but I had to know. As you can see in the video, I plugged in the QCX transceiver and no magic smoke was let out!! The screen was blank, but I was relieved. Hours of work were not in vain! https://youtu.be/0g_cKgg2j58

I spent the next 30 minutes following the manual to initially adjust the contrast on the LCD screen and calibrate the receiver. Before propagation went away on 20-meters for the evening, I hooked up an indoor dipole antenna and was able to catch the end of a CW QSO. I took a break and ate dinner.

Even though the band had died, I called out CQ and confirmed that the transceiver was transmitting a small amount of power. I don't have a QRP watt meter so unfortunately, I cannot accurately see how much power the radio is outputting. However, it appears to be about 1 watt.

The radio isn't perfect. There is a loud clicking sound that occurs randomly when the VFO dial is turned or pushed in. It happens more frequently when I turn up the audio gain more than halfway. It is more of an annoyance than anything. Later, I discovered that the clicking noise is a design flaw which allows RFI generated from updating the LCD to be picked up by the audio amplifier. It doesn't bother me too much.

Day 4 - Testing:

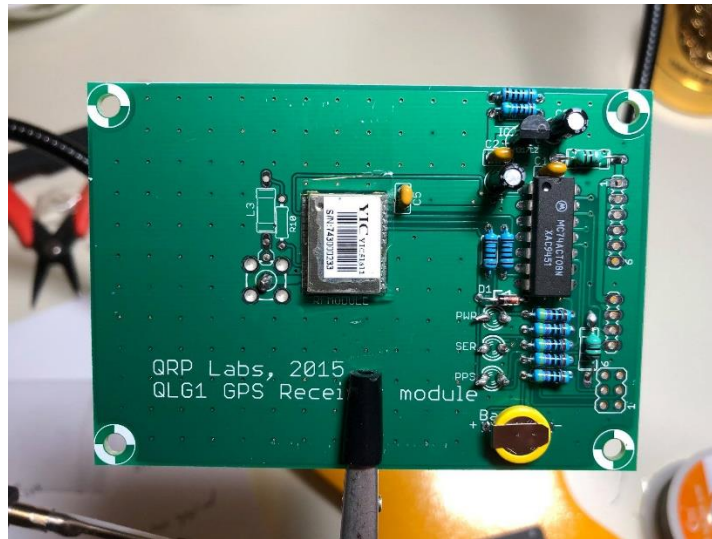
I verified that the transmitter is operational. If you can imagine seeing a night light in my living room from several 1,000 miles away, you can understand why I was delighted and amazed. I estimate that 1 watt of power was making it out from my indoor dipole antenna.

First I tested the radio by calling CQ. After several minutes with no one answering back, I checked the [Reverse Beacon Network](#) and confirmed that my signal was making it as far away as Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. My signal wasn't very strong. And only a handful of automated listening stations spotted me. With better band conditions and persistence, I'm sure I will make my first QRP contact with this radio. I am motivated to try again soon!

Next, I tested the built-in [WSPR](#) functionality and checked [WSPRnet](#) to see who heard me. After two successful test transmissions sent 10 minutes apart, I was being heard as far away as Iceland and Brazil! Propagation was beginning to close up as the sun went down, so I was not surprised to see that I was primarily being heard to the west and southwest within the United States.

I was successful with WSPR, but not on the first try! Initially, I had difficulty finding the right transmitter frequency. Part of it was my fault for not reading the manual, and part of it was a calibration problem with the radio. The [published](#) WSPR frequency for 20meters is 14.0956MHz using USB (Upper Side Band) with audio inserted at 1.5KHz. Setting the QCX to that frequency won't work since there is no CW offset. The correct frequency is supposed to be between 14.0970 to 14.0972Mhz. That would be the right. However, the timing of my radio was slightly off by +200Hz (approx). I was finally heard once I set the frequency to 14.0970Mhz. Anything higher and it didn't work.

Once I realized the display frequency was off slightly, I committed to building the corresponding [QLG1 GPS Receiver Kit](#) that plugs into the QCX transceiver. It will allow me to finish calibrating the radio and ensure that the displayed frequency is accurate. The timing error comes from slight operating deviations in the 20Mhz and 27Mhz crystals.



Day 5 - Building the GPS Receiver:

Next, I built the \$23 [QLG1 GPS Receiver Kit](#). It was not nearly as hard to solder and assemble compared to the QCX 20-meter transceiver! There were far fewer parts. However, the [instruction manual](#) could have been slightly better. It is not nearly as detailed as the QCX manual. On the positive side, it is straightforward to assemble the GPS receiver.

I was a little disappointed that the GPS kit did not come with the necessary 4-pin male header and corresponding cable to connect the GPS and QCX transceiver together. So I ordered the parts from [Sparkfun](#) for a few dollars and waited until the following weekend to verify that the GPS receiver worked.

Day 6 - Making my first contact:

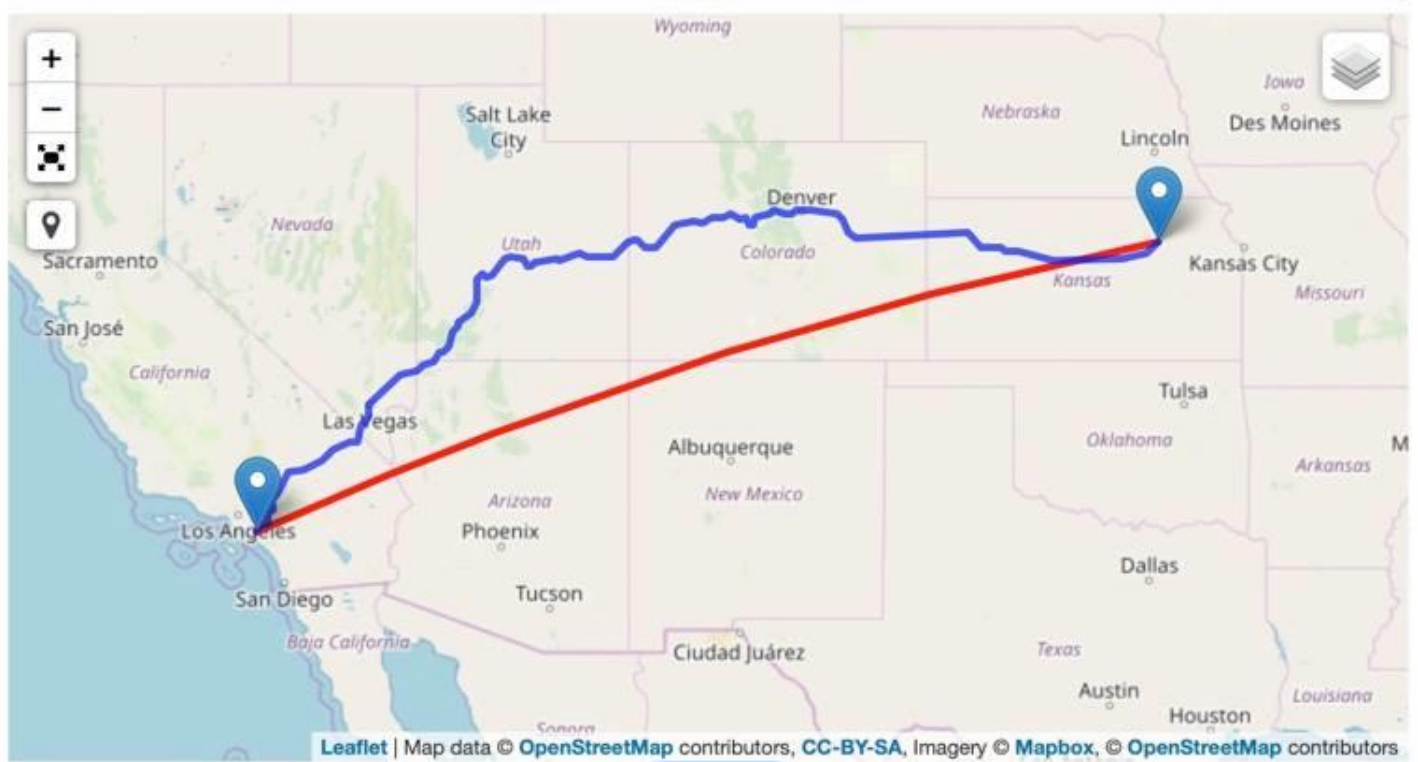
I was very excited to have made my first contact using the QCX 20-meter transceiver! It was with [W6ZE](#), the [Orange County Amateur Radio Club](#) in California. Pretty cool for 1 watt of power! Orange County is 1,991 miles away from Manhattan, KS!

I didn't initially realize that the yearly [Winter Field Day](#) contest was going on when I called CQ. Silly me! After a confusing and failed contact, I realized my mistake. I looked up the expected exchange so that I could participate in the contest. Next, I searched the 20-meter band and found a relatively strong station calling CQ WFD. I waited for the right moment and provided my callsign. On the first try, the operator picked up my callsign. I was surprised! He didn't even ask for a repeat on the contest exchange. I'm convinced he was receiving me much more weakly than I was receiving him!

Later I finished calibrating the QCX transceiver. The display frequency was slightly off. The calibration entailed soldering a 4-pin header to the GPS receiver, waiting a little bit for the GPS receiver to lock on to enough satellites to provide a highly accurate 1-second tick, and running through a couple of documented steps on the QCX. The transceiver was able to determine that its 27Mhz crystal was oscillating at 27,004,112 cycles per second while the 20Mhz crystal was oscillating at 20,006,486 cycles per second. That was just enough to cause the displayed frequency to be off in the

neighborhood of 200Hz. After the calibration, I used WSPR to confirm the accuracy of the calibration. It appears to be spot on.

Map Showing the Distance Between Manhattan, Ks Usa and Orange County California, Usa



On a side note, the GPS receiver worked for the calibration procedure, but it didn't work well enough in my apartment to resolve its location. I placed it next to our sliding glass door. The GPS receiver was able to hear and track more than a dozen satellites at one time. And I gave it more than an hour to resolve its location for the first time. Maybe at some point, I will have to try again when it is dry and warmer, and when I have a portable battery for the transceiver. Perhaps it is a matter of taking it outside to have an unobstructed view of the sky.

Day 7 - Tempt fate?

I am undecided on whether I should try and increase the radio's transmitter power. With the 12 volts I am supplying the transceiver, I should expect 3 watts.

A simple solution is to provide a higher power supply voltage. For context, the graph on the right shows the relationship between power supply voltage and transmitter power. The manual indicates that the transceiver can safely be driven with 15 to 16 volts. Any more voltage and I risk overheating the small BS170 MOSFET transistors. A related option is to short the reverse polarity protection diode (D3 1N5819), which would avoid lowering the supplied voltage by 0.3 to 0.4V.

Another [solution](#) is to remove 1 or 2 windings from the Low Pass Filter toroids — L1, L2, and L3. For context, the transceiver uses a class E amplifier. And like all amplifiers, it produces harmonics that must be suppressed to avoid harmful out of band transmissions. A Low Pass Filter is the last stage of the transmitter circuit. It attenuates frequencies greater than the target frequency. It might be the

case that the inductors I wound by hand have too high of inductor values. Ideally, I would have measured the inductance values and made any fine adjustments before soldering them onto the PCB. This solution is not without its dangers. As I found out the hard way, removing any component might result in damaging a PCB pad and ruining the radio. The recommended procedure is to desolder the toroid, adjust the winding, and resolder it to the top side of the PCB.

For now, I am happy with the estimated 1 watt of output. Before making any adjustments, I will purchase an accurate QRP RF power meter. The [LDG AT-600PROII](#) and its segmented display that I am using do not offer enough precision to evaluate changes made to the QCX.

CLUB WEBSITE STATUS AND UPCOMING CHANGES TO

GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.ORG

by James – KW5CW

At the last club meeting, I gave a current status of the GCARC website, and my plans for moving forward to a new format, from Joomla to WordPress.

Currently, here is the status of the website.

- 1) The website is now hosted with a company called InMotionHosting.
- 2) Paypal is now re-implemented for membership dues. The 'Stripe' payment option is still a second option to use to purchase membership with the club.
- 3) Email addresses have been re-implemented, although there are still about a dozen or so members that haven't been issued their email address. Because there is so much work to do with the website and the implementation of the February newsletter this weekend, I haven't had much time with email addresses. But all members who wish to have a club email address used for forwarding can have one.
- 4) The GCARC website is presently written in the Joomla language. It is in the process of being moved to WordPress for easier manageability.
- 5) As stated in last month's newsletter, the menus will change and the website will sport a completely different look. It should respond faster, have less downtime and email addresses will always be secured.
- 6) After the next meeting when the website is now a wordpress website, I will work with Andrew as he will be granted administrator access to help manage the website if needed.
- 7) The main URL - graysoncountyarc.org has been renewed for the next year and k5gcc.org which is used for email capabilities will renew within the next 30 days. They are in auto-renewable status.

- 8) Webpages for the operating events – Eisenhower, Red River Bridge War, Perrin Field and Summer Field Day have been updated with 2019 dates and time. The location for the Summer Field Day may turn out to be the Waterloo Lake Regional Park in Denison. Roy continues to work out possible arrangements to have the event staged at a public place.
- 9) Hopefully by the end of next month, the website will be converted over to Wordpress. If for any reason that it is not, I may just try to wait until the next meeting on April 16 and run a presentation while at the same time, activating the revised website. For the next week or so, little will get done as I will be traveling out of town. I can still be reached on my cell phone or via email if needed.

NOTICE...NOTICE...NOTICE...NOTICE...NOTICE...NOTICE...NOTICE...NOTICE

HAM FRIENDLY QTH FOR SALE

Have you ever wanted to live on 15 acres of land already stocked with three antenna towers with antennas? Have you ever just wanted to move away from your HOA and live somewhere you could put up ANYTHING you want? Mike, W8CM has his place for sale, and if you could answer 'YES' to either of the two questions, then you may want to check out this listing of Mike's home.

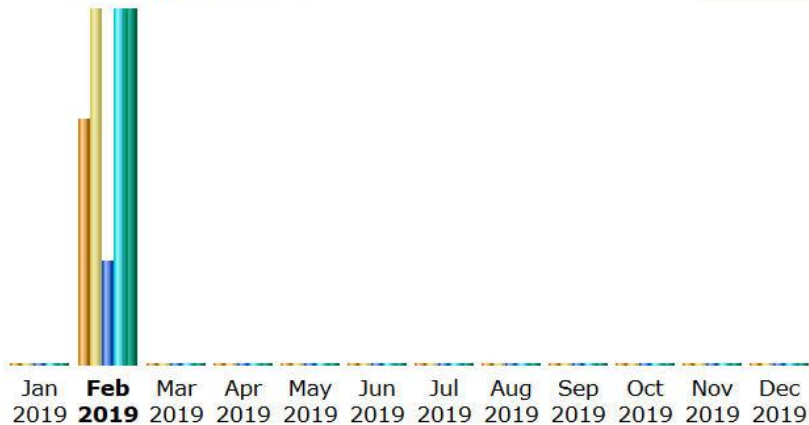
<http://www.announcemymove.com/announcement.php?id=19685805&code=MPQMauL06>

CLUB WEBSITE STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY

by James – KW5CW

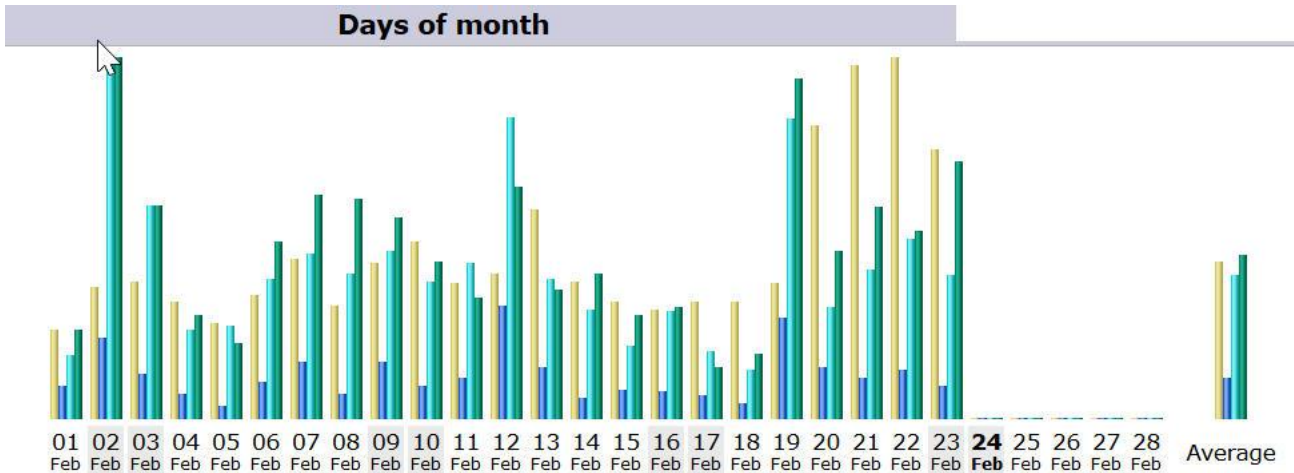
The visitor stats give me an idea on how the website performs. It also gives me an idea on what people look at when visiting. The first chart below indicates 'MONTHLY HISTORY' including the number of unique visitors, the total number of visits, the number of pages visited, how many hits per visit and finally the total amount of data has been accessed by all the visits. Keep in mind that the website went live for the first day with the new Host on February 1, so that's the reason for no data in January.

Monthly history



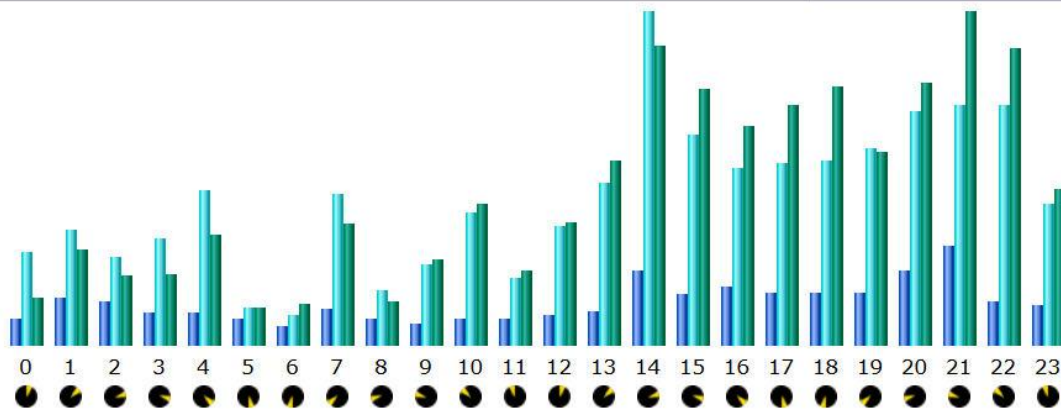
Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2019	0	0	0	0	0
Feb 2019	742	1,073	3,542	12,138	408.00 MB
Mar 2019	0	0	0	0	0
Apr 2019	0	0	0	0	0
May 2019	0	0	0	0	0
Jun 2019	0	0	0	0	0
Jul 2019	0	0	0	0	0
Aug 2019	0	0	0	0	0
Sep 2019	0	0	0	0	0
Oct 2019	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 2019	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 2019	0	0	0	0	0
Total	742	1,073	3,542	12,138	408.00 MB

Below are more charts that are self-explanatory



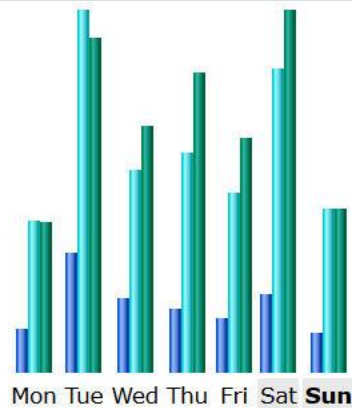
Day	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
01 Feb 2019	25	114	222	9.26 MB
02 Feb 2019	37	286	1,267	37.34 MB
03 Feb 2019	39	157	748	22.03 MB
04 Feb 2019	33	86	315	10.76 MB
05 Feb 2019	27	48	327	7.73 MB
06 Feb 2019	35	128	487	18.42 MB
07 Feb 2019	45	203	578	23.05 MB
08 Feb 2019	32	90	508	22.64 MB
09 Feb 2019	44	203	591	20.82 MB
10 Feb 2019	50	117	480	16.32 MB
11 Feb 2019	38	144	544	12.57 MB
12 Feb 2019	41	398	1,056	23.91 MB
13 Feb 2019	59	179	489	13.48 MB
14 Feb 2019	39	77	386	15.00 MB
15 Feb 2019	33	102	258	10.75 MB
16 Feb 2019	31	96	375	11.57 MB
17 Feb 2019	33	82	238	5.27 MB
18 Feb 2019	33	55	169	6.75 MB
19 Feb 2019	38	356	1,054	35.18 MB
20 Feb 2019	83	183	391	17.28 MB
21 Feb 2019	100	146	523	21.83 MB
22 Feb 2019	102	173	631	19.46 MB
23 Feb 2019	76	119	501	26.57 MB
24 Feb 2019	0	0	0	0
25 Feb 2019	0	0	0	0
26 Feb 2019	0	0	0	0
27 Feb 2019	0	0	0	0
28 Feb 2019	0	0	0	0
Average	44	147	505	17.00 MB
Total	1,073	3,542	12,138	408.00 MB

Hours




Hours	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth	Hours	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
00	94	323	5.12 MB	12	106	409	13.36 MB
01	161	395	10.39 MB	13	115	559	20.04 MB
02	147	303	7.55 MB	14	258	1,144	32.40 MB
03	110	367	7.79 MB	15	172	720	27.71 MB
04	114	529	11.94 MB	16	199	610	23.83 MB
05	95	130	4.10 MB	17	183	626	26.05 MB
06	64	106	4.58 MB	18	179	631	27.91 MB
07	127	521	13.18 MB	19	178	678	21.00 MB
08	95	185	4.78 MB	20	255	803	28.34 MB
09	74	277	9.29 MB	21	343	822	36.10 MB
10	91	457	15.38 MB	22	150	823	32.15 MB
11	94	231	8.13 MB	23	138	489	16.87 MB

Days of week



Day	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Mon	95	342	10.03 MB
Tue	267	812	22.28 MB
Wed	163	455	16.39 MB
Thu	142	495	19.96 MB
Fri	119	404	15.53 MB
Sat	176	683	24.08 MB
Sun	89	366	10.91 MB

Locales (Top 25) - Full list					
Locales		Pages	Hits	Bandwidth	
United States	us	1,314	6,709	251.90 MB	
Canada	ca	1,243	3,962	110.90 MB	
Russian Federation	ru	195	198	5.58 MB	
Ukraine	ua	174	174	4.59 MB	
Malaysia	my	124	124	3.48 MB	
Germany	de	58	133	5.37 MB	
Netherlands	nl	38	38	400.34 KB	
Brazil	br	36	36	520.92 KB	
Hungary	hu	35	35	1.55 MB	
China	cn	33	155	7.93 MB	
Laos	la	20	20	119.11 KB	
France	fr	18	18	635.30 KB	
Great Britain	gb	17	17	723.37 KB	
Belarus	by	14	14	371.26 KB	
Albania	al	12	12	72.69 KB	
Egypt	eg	12	12	71.88 KB	
Portugal	pt	11	11	493.61 KB	
Thailand	th	11	11	337.98 KB	
India	in	11	11	327.69 KB	
Sweden	se	10	10	375.03 KB	
Philippines	ph	9	169	1.89 MB	
Indonesia	id	8	8	328.82 KB	
Vietnam	vn	7	7	382.57 KB	
Lithuania	lt	6	6	149.32 KB	
Poland	pl	6	6	224.50 KB	
Others		120	242	9.41 MB	

As you can tell by looking at the charts above, there is alot of statistical data that I have access to regarding the website. Besides these standard stats, there are many others that may bore you, but this data affords me the understanding of what actually takes place on a daily basis. One of the stats that I will not show here but is interesting to note is that I have the ability to monitor any visitors surfing while on the site and record their IP address. With this information, I can tell which country they are from, what internet provider they use, what browser they use and much more. So it pays to be extremely careful on any of the websites you visit, and just know that your surfing history is easily trackable. One way to help eliminate this is by the use of VPN's (Virtual Private Networks), that hide your IP address.

The Swap Meet section and the Helping Hams section below haven't changed in almost 2 years. If you are the owner of this information and still want it published, then I can continue to do so only if you contact me and tell me what you would like to do with the listing. Otherwise they may not be listed next month.

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. 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 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

NOTE: Anyone that has anything new for sale or have an interest in buying, please send your info to KW5CW@arrl.net and it will be installed in the above list until the units is either bought or sold, or if you decide to remove it from the list.

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. Be sure to include the following:

Who needs the help and how do we contact them.

- 1) What needs to be done.
- 2) When can someone come out to do the work.
- 3) 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
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

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 (UPDATED)

Sundays 7:30 pm CT on the 147.390+ (118.8 PL) repeater.

Fannin County ARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays 8:00 pm CT on the 145.470- (100.0PL) repeater. (Replaces 147.200 repeater). 444.525 links into 145.470 full time.

McKinney 6 meter AM Net

Wednesdays 10:00pm CT on 50.400 MHz

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!

Ladies Net (RUNNING AGAIN AS of February 21, 2019)

**Every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 8:00 pm CT on the 147.00+ repeater

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 (UPDATED 11-30-2018)

Sherman TX – 444.750+ MHz (100.0 PL) W5RVT

147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL) W5COP

147.000+ MHz (100.0 PL) W5RVT

Allen TX 145.350 – MHz (100.0 PL) N5GI

Bonham TX 145.470 – MHz (100.0 PL) K5FRC

443.750 – MHz (100.0 PL) K5FRC

~~147.200+ MHz (100.0 PL) K5FRC~~

Denison TX 145.330 – MHz (100.0 PL) W5DWH

Durant OK 147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL) K5KIE

147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL) K5CGE

Gainesville TX – 147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL) WB5FHI

McKinney TX - 146.740- MHz (110.9 PL) W5MRC

Melissa TX - 443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL) W5MRA

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

NOTE: All Nets are held on 444.750+ (100.0 PL) until further notice. 147.280+ (108.2 PL) will be backup.

2019 Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Dues Form

Instructions: Print this form, fill it out, and bring it with your dues payment to a club meeting. If you cannot make the meeting, please mail this form and payment to:

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club

**P.O. Box 642
Sherman, TX 75091**

Today's Date: _____

Yourself:

_____	_____	_____
First Name	Last Name	Call Sign
_____	_____	_____
Street Address	City	State + ZIP
_____	_____	_____
Phone Number	E-mail Address	ARRL Y/N

Additional Family Members:

_____	_____	_____	_____
First Name	Last Name	Call Sign	Class Held
_____	_____	_____	_____
First Name	Last Name	Call Sign	Class Held
_____	_____	_____	_____
First Name	Last Name	Call Sign	Class Held

Membership dues for 2019 can be accepted after the Christmas Party. Renewals received after January 31 will be considered LATE.

Dues:

Individual Membership \$20.00/year

Family Membership \$30.00 year (2 or more hams/same family)

Associate (non-ham) Membership \$15.00/year

Cash or Checks accepted. No cash in the mail. Payable to GCARC.

(NOTE: Sign-up Online. Go to www.graysoncountyar.org)



K5GGC

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Apparel Order Form



Tactical Shirt \$45

Mic loops on shoulders and front placket, dual pen pockets

2x-4x sizes + \$5



Prices plus shipping and all items have K5GCC Club Logo, your Call and first name embroidered

Polo Shirt* sm to xl \$30
Camp Shirt* sm to xl \$36
W Left pocket
Caps \$17
Jacket* sm to xl \$45



First Name _____ (as you want on clothing)

Last _____

Call _____

Payment _____

Make checks Payable to GCARC

	Men/ Ldy	Qty	Ext
Polo Shirt* sm M L XL	\$30	___	___
Camp Shirt* sm M L XL	\$36	___	___
Caps	\$17	___	___
Jacket* sm M L XL	\$45	___	___
Tactical Shirt sm M L XL	\$45	___	___
*Shirts/jackets- (2x to 4x +\$5)			
_____ Shipping \$2.00 per item	___	___	___
Total	___	___	___