



Events
Coming Up

Next Operating Club
Event

Winter Field Day
2024
January 27-28
Eisenhower State
Park – Cabin 35

1st and 3rd & 5th
Sunday Nets

Dates/Net Control:

1-7 Michael Higgins
1-21 Cynthia Vanslogteren
2-4 Tamara Higgins
Time: 8:00 PM Local
Repeater: 147.000+

Ladies Net

January 22nd, 7PM
441.325 + 5MHZ
Net Control
Tamara – KI5ZIP

NEXT CLUB
MEETING at TCOG
& License Testing
January 16th, 2023
7 PM

President's QSO

Happy New Year!

First of all, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of the GCARC, the hobby that brings us all together and the Grayson County community at large. It is an absolute honor to serve this group as the 2024 president!

There are not enough words to express my gratitude to the outgoing board members for their leadership in 2023! I am particularly grateful to James Shiplet for his ongoing commitment to the club by serving as vice president! And of course, to all the members who have stepped-up to organize events, lead the monthly nets, and participate in club activities! I believe 2024 will continue to be a great year for the club!

The 2023 Christmas party was a great success, and it was such a pleasure to spend time with many of you individually just to talk about life! I can think of no other person more deserving than Ricky Jessen to receive the first annual "Ham of the Year" award. He is always available to share his knowledge and thoughts. Ricky is not only a great resource for the hobby, but he is also a wonderful person and friend.

In taking the position of president I would like to make it very clear that my focus is on the club and the membership. I will always make myself available to hear your thoughts and opinions about the club. One way to expedite the process will be at the first club meeting on January 16. During that meeting we will be hosting an informal "seminar style" program that will provide all attendees the opportunity to help create goals and a vision for 2024 and beyond. This will be most effective with full membership attendance, so I want to encourage you to participate!

Finally, we will also have the Winter Field Day event at Eisenhower State Park on January 27 and 28. This event is open to everyone and is a great way to work with and learn from members who are champions in the field! It is also a great time to just enjoy some great food and comradery with other members and the public at large!

Again, thank you so much for all that you do for the club! See you soon!

73, Michael Higgins – KI5ZIQ

January Club Meeting

Looking forward to seeing everyone for the first meeting of 2024. We will be discussing the upcoming Winter Field Day, new training opportunities, including a CW program throughout the year and an interactive seminar that will focus on our goals, vision and plans for 2024.

NOTE: The February Club Meeting Date is now February 27, 2024 – 4th Tuesday of the Month. Meeting was moved because of an same day conflict with Skywarn.

Upcoming Operating Event – Winter Field Day

All events are considered very special events for the GCARC. But the next operating event will take place on January 27 and 28th, to be one that many amateurs around the country and beyond will take part in, known as Winter Field Day. It began in 2007 by a non-ARRL group with the purpose of preparing for and practicing Emergency Communications across North America and beyond, like Summer Field Day, offering additional challenges of wintertime operations, but with a more streamlined scoring system.

For the second year in a row, the club will be running the GCARC Winter Field Day – Class 30, at the Eisenhower State Park located in Denison, Texas. Modes of operation will include SSB, CW, Digital, PSK-31 and JS8 Call as desired, (excluding FT8 and FT4 per the rules of the event), and a Fox Hunt starting at 9AM on Saturday. Events will include a directional antenna build and demo, a solar build, Winlink instruction and demo, power-pole install training, and some very great food for breakfast and dinner on Saturday, culminating with the GCARC Chili Cookoff.

VE testing will take place during the entire day. Anyone who visits the GCARC Field Day this year will be able to walk in and take an amateur radio test as soon as they arrive at the Field Day location, as testing will be provided throughout the day on Saturday, whether it be for Technician, General or Advanced Class. If you are already licensed and plan to take another exam, bring along your FRN number associated with your present FCC license.

Everyone is invited to attend and take part in the fun of the GCARC Field day.

(Focus #1) Membership FOCUS – January 2024

The member focus for the month of January is our very own Ham of the Year for 2023, Ricky Jessen. He began his interest in ham radios as a youth and pursued the hobby by learning Morse code while in the Boy Scouts where he reached the rank of Eagle Scout. He is an active member of our Ham Family, always willing to help in whatever way he can. As he says, “I enjoy the most being associated with like-minded men and women. Being part of a group that together can accomplish much more than being a Lone Ranger. I like giving back and paying forward.”

Ricky holds an Extra license (KG5FDT) and is on the ARES team. He is very active with POTA (Parks-On-The-Air) and builds antennas.

Ricky’s set-up is a Yaesu 991-A with a G5RV antenna. He also operates an Icom-756 Pro III with an AL-811 amplifier and AT-1000Pro II Auto Tuner and he has several VHF/UHF radios. He has recently started collecting old CB radios, especially the ones his father had and operated.

He has great ideas and vision for our club. Specifically, that we need to define who we are and have distinct goals by which we can gauge everything we do. He’d like to see the club give back more to this community — public service events, scholarships, helping the needy, education about the hobby.

We are proud to have Ricky as a stalwart pillar of the Club!



Elmers Corner

Solar Charge Panel Setup

Solar power is one of the very popular ways to power radios when you are off-grid, or on a Winter or Summer Field Day for example. All that is required to charge your batteries is a sufficient source called the sun. During sunny days, it is possible, for example, to charge your Bioenno Li-Ion rechargeable batteries which in specific cases will allow you to run your radio throughout the day without a battery recharge and possibly last throughout the night. That will be one of the ways that the GCARC will power their radios during Winter Field Day weekend. Our club expert on the subject is our Vice-President, James Shiplet – K15BMN. He's the one to ask for more details if needed. Here is a brief rundown of the parts needed...

The following list is what is needed for a solar powered system...

- 1) A Rechargeable battery
- 2) An **MPPT** (Maximum Power Point Tracking) Controller or a **PWM** (Pulse Width Modulated) Controller. The controller allows you to keep track of the charging voltage, the current amperage and the cumulative AmpHours generated over the past day, and finally the charging status. This will tell you if the battery is charged to capacity when charging stops.
- 3) One of two types of **Solar panel technologies** which one type of panel is more efficient than the other.
 - a) Monocrystalline – more efficient and generally more expensive than Polycrystalline.
 - b) Polycrystalline – less efficient and generally less expensive than Monocypstaline

Depending on the configuration of the solar cells used to gather light, variable currents of power will be generated to charge the attached batteries. During Winter Field Day this year, most likely all three stations setup will use solar power for battery recharging. James – K15BMN will further explain their configuration and make available a parts list in case you would like to build your own solar charge panel Setup to help you understand how they can be your source of backup power when needed.

QSL Managers Message

Knots to be Familiar With

Winter Field Day is coming up at the end of the month, and we'll be setting up some antennas at Eisenhower State Park again this year. Time for a little review of some knots you should know how to tie to make setting up your antennas easier.

First of all...this is not a knot...



It's a mess. It might hold, but it will be very difficult to untie. [Click to Learn More...](#)

AT Last Month's Meeting...

Last month's general meeting was replaced by the GCARC Christmas party as this happens every year for the month of December. It was a great event, and everyone walked away that night with a Christmas gift, compliments from the club. There was great food from Mariachi's in the form of a Fajita Bar. Special certificates were created by James Shippet, the outgoing President to his officers, and to others who excelled throughout the year, and a second very special certificate to Ricky Jessen – KG5FDT, who was nominated by the other officers as the 'Ham of the Year'. Michael Coffman – AB5MC, the GCARC Winter Field Day Coordinator, gave a brief summation on the happenings of the upcoming Winter Field Day event at Eisenhower Park.

Our incoming President for 2024, Michael Higgins – KI5ZIQ introduced himself to the attendees of the party and shared his future vision of the club. With the important, first new year meeting right on the horizon, he is promoting a group oriented, seminar type of meeting format for the first meeting in 2024. The goal is to help create a business plan that can help aim the club more towards the desires of the members. Further into 2024, the February meeting will be the second program discussion of the year, where the meeting will center around the topic of ARES and Skywarn. Further discussion around Radar, and how to set up your vehicle for Skywarn and be prepared for what may be coming in the form of weather with the end goal of how we can serve the community.

Tamera helped end the meeting taking pictures of officers and club members, just as she started when she volunteered to be the club photographer in January of 2024. The party culminated a terrific year for the GCARC.

CW Secret Message – Can you decode this Chicken Scratch?

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Current Links to Information found on the GCARC Website

[December 2023 – Treasury Report](#)

[December 2023 – Secretary Report – Christmas Party, No Report Taken](#)

[January 2024 GCARC Winter Field Day Flyer](#)

[License Testing at TCOG in Sherman, Texas](#)

[Upcoming CW Class Instruction beginning February 2024](#)

[Local Repeaters List, Meeting Information, Amateur Radio Connection, Member Information](#)

President	Michael Higgins	KI5ZIQ	president@graysoncountyarc.org
Vice President	James Shippet	KI5BMN	vp@graysoncountyarc.org
Secretary	Cynthia VanSlogteren	KF5LKG	secretary@graysoncountyarc.org
Treasurer	James Frank	KW5CW	treasurer@graysoncountyarc.org
Director at Large	Marvin Schiavone	KG5GMA	directoratlarge@graysoncountyarc.org
License Trustee	Rick Simmons	K5ECX	rr52s@yahoo.com
Club Email	gcarclub@gmail.com	Officers Email	officers@graysoncountyarc.org
Webmaster / Newsletter Editor:	James Frank	KW5CW	editor@graysoncountyarc.org

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 642, Sherman TX 75091