



**GCARC CLUB MEETING**

**JANUARY 2024**



***Pledge of Allegiance***

# Meeting Schedule

**6:00 - 7:00      Testing**

**7:00 - 7:20      Club Business**

**7:20 – 7:40      Winter Field Day Update**

**7:40 – 7:50      CW Class Update**

**7:50 – 8:50      Break (5min) / Group Discussion**

**8:50 – 9:00      Wrap up**



# CLUB BUSINESS

**MICHAEL HIGGINS**  
**KI5ZIQ**



# Introductions – Welcome members and guest!

- ❑ Name
- ❑ Call Sign
- ❑ City
- ❑ New Members
- ❑ Guests (Visitor Packet)
- ❑ New Licensees/Upgrades
- ❑ New Call-signs





## Vice President's Report

- **The GCARC 30 year Banner**



**James Shiplet**  
**KI5BMN**  
**Vice President**

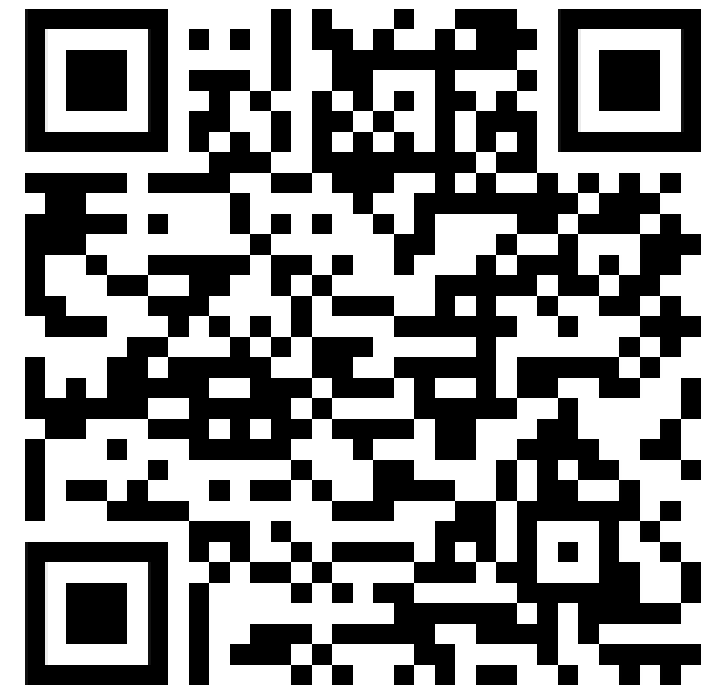
## Secretary's Report

- There were no minutes from December due to our Christmas Party
- A link to the November minutes can be found on our website.

**Motion to Approve the November 2023 Minutes**



**CYNTHIA VANSLOGTEREN**  
**N5EKA**  
Secretary



**Scan for latest Meeting  
Minutes**

# Treasurer's Report

## Approval for the 2023 Budget



**JAMES FRANK**  
**KW5CW**  
Treasurer



Scan for 2023 Budget

**Motion to Approve the 2023 Budget**



## Treasurer's Report

### Approval for the 2024 Budget

- Budget will be the same as 2023



**JAMES FRANK**  
**KW5CW**  
Treasurer

**Motion to Approve the 2024 Budget**



**Scan for 2024 Budget**

# ARES and TECO NEWS

## ARES Training Net

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at 8:00pm
- On the 147.000 repeater.
- All are welcome.
- Net Summary

## Winlink Wednesday-KF5VO

## ARES / SKYWARN / CERT Update

- *See Next Slides*



MARVIN SCHIAVONE  
KG5GMA  
Director-at-Large



Scan for ARES Application



# SKYWARN Training



## Grayson County

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**Denison**

**Tuesday, February 20th, 2024**

**6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Grayson County College

Center for Workplace Learning

Auditorium

6101 Grayson Drive

Denison, TX

WE HAVE MOVED OUR  
FEBRUARY CLUB  
MEETING TO TUESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> TO  
ENCOURAGE SKYWARN  
PARTICIPATION!







# Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT)

## REGISTER NOW!

Grayson County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training registration is open! This training is open to Grayson Co residents, 18 and older, who are looking to learn more about emergency preparedness. For more info and to register, visit our website at [co.grayson.tx.us/page/oem.cert](http://co.grayson.tx.us/page/oem.cert)



Courses will be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month, February- October, 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM. You must REGISTER to attend. Attendance at all modules is required to complete the training.



**SCAN FOR LINK  
TO  
REGISTRATION**

# Social Media/Website Update

## Website

- A google calendar has been added to for up-to-date events and meeting information.
- Ladies Net calendar and Facebook live recaps under “About GCARC/Information Nets”.

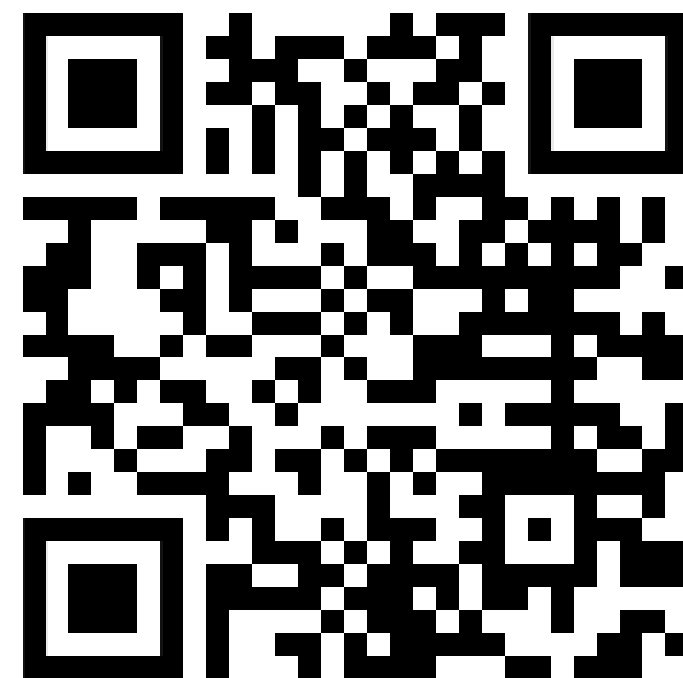
## Social Media

- Facebook: Events calendar includes all posted events with details, calendar sync, chats, and RSVP opportunities.
- LinkedIn: Non-profit as an industry. Connect to businesses.
- Instagram: 50 followers. Optics.



**TAMARA HIGGINS**  
**KI5ZIP**

**Social Media/Photographer**



**Scan for Facebook Page**

JAN 7  
Michael Higgins  
19 Participants

JAN 21  
Cynthia Vanslogteren

FEB 4  
Tamara Higgins

# Club Nets

## GCARC GENERAL NETS

- **1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at 8:00 pm**
- **On the 147.000 repeater +0.6 / 100.0**
- **Net is open to anyone and is a general net.**
- **We encourage members to act as net control. A “net script” is available on the website to use**

## LADIES NET

- **The 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month at 7:00pm**
- **On the 441.325 repeater +5 / 82.5. EchoLink 831760 and ALLSTAR 53477.**
- **Net is open to anyone.**
- **Tamara Higgins, KI5ZIP, is net control. This is a general net.**



Net Script





## Club Event/Group Updates:

**BOD Meeting: 1st Tuesday Monthly, 7:00pm**

**Winter Field Day: January 27-28**

**February Club Meeting: Feb 27, 7:00pm**

**Hungary Hams B-fast: Jan 20, Grandy's, 8:00am**

**Fox Hunt: Jan 27 at Winter Field Day, 9:00am-?**



## Club Meeting Training Topics:

**February 27: Weather Safety / Roy Reed**

TRAINING TOPICS  
SUBJECT TO  
CHANGE

**March 19: ARES, Radar, Reporting/ Wade Graves, TBD**

**April 16: Bring A Friend- Radio Introduction / Michael Higgins**

**May 21: Digital Radio, WinLink, Echo-Link / TBD**

**June 18: Guest Speaker??? / TBD**

**July 16: Guest Speaker??? / TBD**





# WINTER FIELD DAY UPDATE

**MICHAEL COFFMAN**  
**AB5MC**





# What is the goal of Winter Field Day?

## EMCOM exercise

The mission of the Winter Field Day Association is to encourage emergency operating preparedness during the winter months when the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards may present unique operational challenges.



# 2024 Winter Field Day

## WFD Operations

Saturday 1/27 1pm - Sunday 1/28 12pm

Phone, CW & Digital modes

## Camping

Friday 1/26 3pm - Sunday 1/28 12pm

## Location

Eisenhower State Park

Ike's Cabin

Deer Haven #35

50 Park Rd 20

Denison, TX 75020



## Planned Activities

3 Radio Outdoor 24 Hour Operation

Phone, CW & Digital modes

Winlink Email Demonstration & Setup Help

VE Testing Session

Fox Hunt & Directional Antenna Build

Solar Build Project

2nd Annual Chili Cookoff Competition

Camping & Day Passes - reserve through state park

Join us and talk to the world using amateur radio!

Additional information available at:

GCARC January 23rd meeting. 7pm located at TCOG building - 1117 E  
Gallagher Dr. Sherman, TX 75090

Website & club info - [graysoncountyar.org](http://graysoncountyar.org)

Camping reservations - [tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/eisenhower](http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/eisenhower)



# WFD Operation Plan

## Operating as K5GCC 3ONTX

- 3 radio, outdoors, North Texas region

**Available bands** = All Amateur bands may be used except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters

**Modes** – All modes; CW, Phone & digital with exception of FT4 and FT8

- Digital = PSK31, JS8 Call, VARA AC, RTTY, etc.

## QSO Points

- Phone = 1
- CW = 2
- Digital = 2



**Multipliers** – each mode worked on each band =1

- o Example 1 – CW & phone on 20 & 40 = 4
- o Example 2 – CW & Phone on 80/40/15/10 = 8 + CW & PSK31 on 20 = 2 & FW on 2m and 440 = 2 for Total of 12

# Objectives

- Operate more than one mile from home or group station. ✓
- Deploy multiple antennas. ✓
- Operate on at least 6 different bands with at least 1 QSO. ✓
- Send and receive at least 1 Winlink email. ✓
- Operate at least 6 continuous hours ✓
- Alternative Power = Batteries, Solar, Generator, any non-commercial grid power for operations
  - Batteries can be charged by any means when not in operation = we need batteries.
  - All accessories except logging device must be on battery power.
  - We will need to carefully manage power rules. Mark Miller KA5TXN will be captain. ✓
- Make a Satellite contact. Does not include in QSO points, but cross band contact is exempt for satellite. **WE WILL ATTEMPT**

✓ = achievable



WINTER  
FIELD DAY  
OBJECTIVES

**Each objective is worth 14.3%**

**Goal is at least 86% with hope of satellite contact to get 100% of objectives**



### **3 Radio Outdoor Operation in Screened Shelters**

- Need operators. This is the main purpose of WFD.

### **Camping**

- Camping starts 3pm Friday 1/26.
- Observe park rules & quiet times.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Cookoff Competition**

### **VE Testing open session**

### **Fox Hunt**

- Observe park rules; parking, stay on trail. Fox will be hidden on established and mapped trails somewhere in park.
- Hunt will be non-competitive open through 10 on Sunday 1/28. Unique QSL card will be awarded for locating.
- Directional Antenna Build Saturday morning then fox hunt demo.

### **Winlink over RF demonstration**

- Winlink station set up help.

### **Solar Project Build & Demonstration**

- Bring your equipment for help building or show off your solar equipment. Put it in use for alternative power obj.

### **Power Pole Station**

- Bring your equipment for power poles.



**WINTER  
FIELD DAY  
ACTIVITIES**

## **Schedule for Operations & Activities**

- Scheduled, but will be laid back. Great comradery in a great location!  
Enjoy operating and enjoy the park!

## **Reserve your requested time for operating**

- Contact Michael Coffman AB5MC
  - 469-408-4748
  - AB5MC@ARRL.NET

## **Captains**

- Camp Kitchen Captains - James KI5BMN & Cynthia K5EKA
- Safety Captains – Ricky KG5FDT & Marvin KG5GMA
- Alternative Power Captain – Mark KA5TXN

**Schedule WFD will be laid back, great comradery in a great park.**

## **Need list Discussion**

## **Food List Distribution**

**GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB K5GCC**  
**2024 WINTER FIELD DAY**  
**OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

		WINTER FIELD DAY OPERATIONS			ACTIVITIES								
	TIME	RADIO 1 IKE'S CABIN	RADIO 2	RADIO 3 CW	Camp	Meals	FOX HUNT	WINLINK	BUILD PROJECTS	VE TESTING	TIME		
FRIDAY 1/26/24	3:00 PM	Antenna Set up			Camp Arrival and Set up						3:00 PM		
	4:00 PM										4:00 PM		
	5:00 PM										5:00 PM		
	6:00 PM					GROUP DINNER				6:00 PM			
	7:00 PM									7:00 PM			
	8:00 PM									8:00 PM			
	9:00 PM									9:00 PM			
	10:00 PM				Eisenhower State Park Quiet Time 10pm to 6am  Quiet hours are 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Respect your neighbors and celebrate nature's night noises.						10:00 PM		
	11:00 PM										11:00 PM		
	12:00 AM										12:00 AM		
	1:00 AM										1:00 AM		
	2:00 AM										2:00 AM		
	3:00 AM										3:00 AM		
	4:00 AM										4:00 AM		
	5:00 AM										5:00 AM		
SATURDAY 1/27/24	6:00 AM										6:00 AM		
	7:00 AM										7:00 AM		
	8:00 AM					BREAKFAST					8:00 AM		
	9:00 AM						FOX HUNT START		DIRECTIONAL ANTENNA BUILD & HUNT DEMO K15ZIQ	VE TESTING OPEN TIMES N5SLY	9:00 AM		
	10:00 AM											10:00 AM	
	11:00 AM											11:00 AM	
	12:00 PM					CAMP LUNCH						12:00 PM	
	1:00 PM							WINLINK DEMO & SET UP HELP AB5MC				1:00 PM	
	2:00 PM											2:00 PM	
	3:00 PM											3:00 PM	
	4:00 PM					CHILI COOKOFF						4:00 PM	
	5:00 PM					CHILI DINNER						5:00 PM	
	6:00 PM										SOLAR BUILD K15BMN		6:00 PM
	7:00 PM												7:00 PM
	8:00 PM										POWER POLE STATION		8:00 PM
	9:00 PM								9:00 PM				
	10:00 PM				Eisenhower State Park Quiet Time 10pm to 6am  Quiet hours are 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Respect your neighbors and celebrate nature's night noises. Please operate quietly per park rules.						10:00 PM		
	11:00 PM										11:00 PM		
	12:00 AM										12:00 AM		
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	3:00 AM										3:00 AM		
	4:00 AM										4:00 AM		
	5:00 AM										5:00 AM		
SUNDAY 1/28/24	6:00 AM										6:00 AM		
	7:00 AM										7:00 AM		
	8:00 AM					BREAKFAST					8:00 AM		
	9:00 AM										9:00 AM		
	10:00 AM				Camp Break Down & Departure		FOX HUNT END				10:00 AM		
	11:00 AM									11:00 AM			
	12:00 PM									12:00 PM			



# CW TRAINING PROGRAM

**JAMES FRANK**  
**KW5CW**



# GCARC CW Course

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## OVERVIEW

The purpose of the course is for new and non-seasoned Amateur Radio Operators become very proficient in sending and receiving morse code.

There will be **3 courses** provided with desired goals. Each up to 8 weeks

- **Basic Course (Send and Receive 13 WPM minimum)**
- **Intermediate (Send and Receive at 20 WPM minimum)**
- **Advanced (Send and Receive between 25 and 35 WPM minimum)**

**These courses will be free to all Amateurs who want to take them.**

**No written test: Proficiency to be shown by making 2 live on the air contacts.**

- ▶ **Contest Certification** can be achieved if you successfully complete the Advanced class course. Benefits to GCARC membership exist if one successfully completes the Advanced Course and works a CW contest for a minimum of 1 hour without stopping. (30-40 WPM)

# GCARC CW Course

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There will be 3 separate classes available, but they cannot be taken at the same time. Completing the previous class qualifies you for the next course.

- ▶ Up to 8 weeks for each class. – Dependent on ability to achieve goals Classes held at Michael Higgins Residence – Classes start in March
- ▶ **Basic Class GOALS** – Main Goal to Achieve 13 WPM.
  - Learn how to Send and Receive at 13 WPM using the Farnsworth Method.
  - Farnsworth method – practice at higher speed (18 WPM) with extra spacing between characters.
  - 26 Letters in the Alphabet - 5 new characters each week. You will know all letters and numbers in 5 weeks. Numbers 0-9 will be added in special lessons along with ., ? /
  - After learning characters, drills will be with words and callsigns, phrases and sentences.
  - Practice assignments received via email – a workbook will be used to copy the practice assignments sent via email.
  - When you make 2 contacts on the air to prove your proficiency, you are done.



# GCARC CW COURSE

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## Intermediate Class – Goal to Achieve 20 WPM.

- ▶ **Learn how to Send and Receive at 20 WPM** using the **Farnsworth Method**.
- ▶ **Farnsworth method** – practice at 18-20 WPM characters. (20-25 WPM) with extra spacing between characters. You must already know all characters at the start of this class.
- ▶ **Goal** in this class is to attain proficiency between **20-25 WPM**.
- ▶ In each class, starting with Week 1, you will graduate up 2 WPM. i.e. you practice at **15 WPM in your first class** and practice drills with your workbook the first week. **17 WPM in your second class** and practice drills with your workbook in the second week. **19 WPM in your third class** and practice drills with your workbook in the 3rd week, etc.
- ▶ After the 3rd week, you will know if you can attain the needed proficiency to move forward. Dedication to practice will get you there. (Confidence and attained skills)
- ▶ **Drills** will be with words and callsigns, phrases and sentences at the desired speed.
- ▶ Practice assignments received via email – a workbook will be used to copy the practice assignments sent via email.
- ▶ When you feel proficient enough, you make 2 contacts on the air between 20-25 WPM to prove your proficiency.

# GCARC CW COURSE

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**Advanced Class** – Goal to Achieve 25 to 35 WPM to move forward.

- ▶ Learn how to **Send and Receive at 25-35 WPM** using the Farnsworth Method.
- ▶ Farnsworth method – practice at full target speed (20-25 WPM) with NO extra spacing between characters. You will already know all characters at the start of this class.
- ▶ **Goal** in this class is to attain proficiency between **25 WPM** or higher.
- ▶ In each class, starting with Week 1, you will graduate up 2 WPM. i.e. **you practice at 22 WPM in your first class** and practice drills with your workbook the first week. **24 WPM in your second class** and practice drills with your workbook in the second week. **26 WPM in your third class** and practice drills with your workbook in the 3rd week, etc. ARMCHAIR COPY ACHIEVED AT 25WPM at the end of this class.
- ▶ After the 3rd week, you will know if you can attain the needed proficiency to move forward toward contesting skills. No need to attend further unless you want to acquire contesting skills. (**Need a minimum of 25WPM to continue with Contesting.**)
- ▶ When you feel proficient enough, you make 2 contacts on the air between 25-35 WPM to prove your proficiency to successfully complete the Advanced Class.

# GCARC CW COURSE

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## GOALS FOR CONTESTING SKILLS

- ▶ After the week 3 in the Advanced Course, we will begin tasks in learning how to send and receive CW using the **N1MM Contesting log** (configure and usage) and proper procedures for specific contests.
- ▶ Can attain a **CW Contest Certificate** if you can successfully prove making contacts for a minimum period of 1 hour during a LIVE Contest.
- ▶ If you survive that 1 hour of contest operation, the club will provide some benny's such as a **possible 1-year membership with the club**, or something else like a special gift, other than a free 1- year membership. **Contest speeds vary from 25-40 WPM.**

# Things to Know in Addition to taking Course

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- ▶ One-on-One Tutoring is available if it can be scheduled.
- ▶ In Receiving (harder in basic course, easiest in Advanced)
- ▶ In Transmitting with a keyer paddle (need to be proficient with it to pass)
- ▶ Head Copy is an art to assist you in copying higher speeds.

Write down what you hear up to 20 WPM.

Above 20 WPM, you should head copy and not try to write.

25 and above, listen for words.

Above 30 wpm listen for phrases and complete sentences.

# GCARC CLUB DISCUSSION

**MICHAEL HIGGINS**  
**KI5ZIQ**

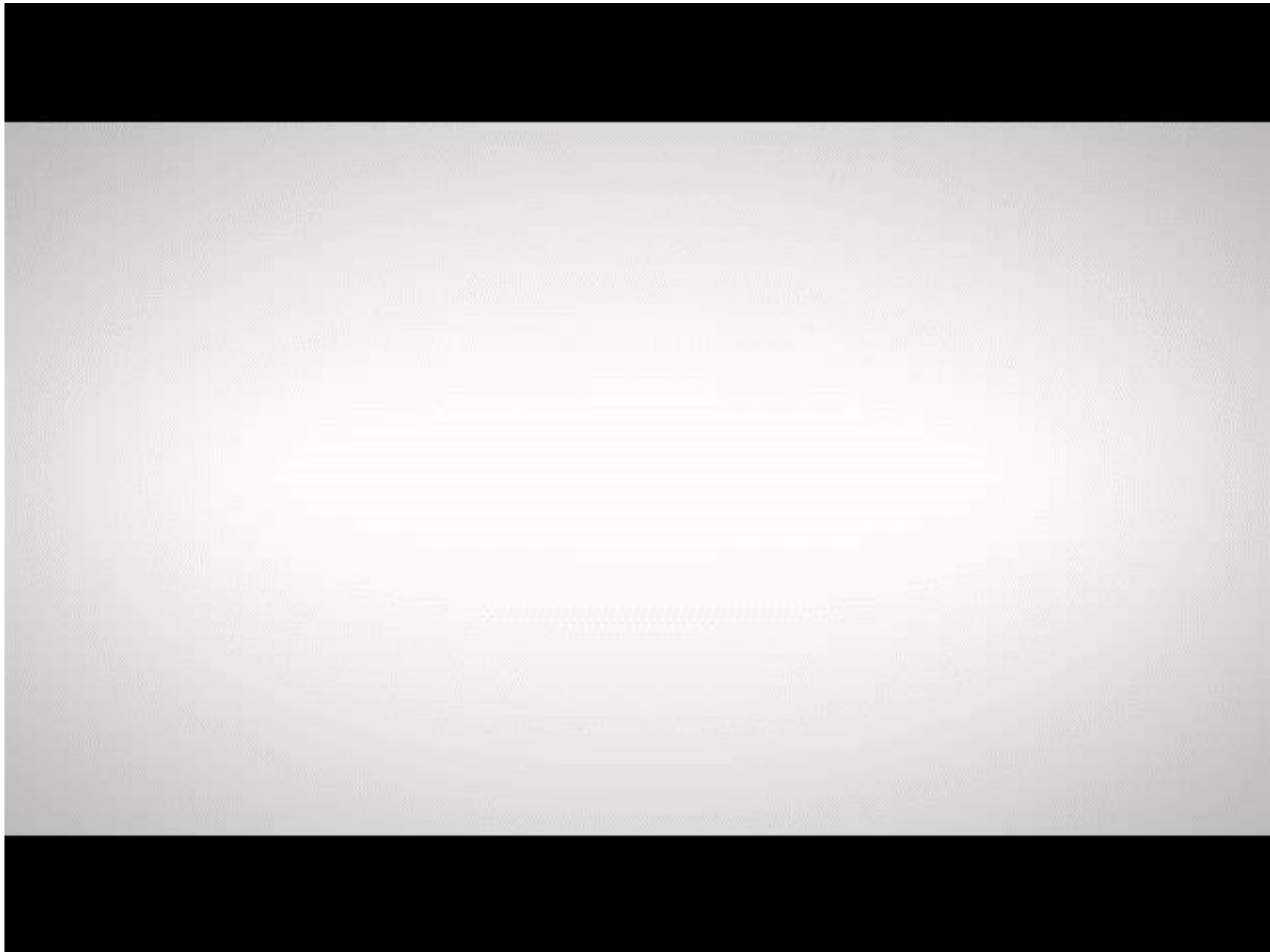


# **BUILDING A COMMON SENSE ORGANIZATION**



VIDEO

# Common Sense



# Common Sense

## What is common sense?

- Defined as:
  - sound and prudent judgment based on a simple perception of the situation or facts



**Sense**

a meaning conveyed or intended

*that is*

known to the community

**Common**

# Common Sense

Does Common Sense Exist?

**AND THE WORD  
IS....**

# Common Sense

## How to create an environment of Common Sense

- **Step 1: Find equal ground for the participants in the culture**
- **Step 2: Create common vision for the organization**
- **Step 3: Develop policies and procedures that move towards that vision**
- **Step 4: Communicate, communicate, communicate!**



# Group Discussions

## Break into groups



- A board member will help navigate each group through discussions on various club topics
- Please keep responses timely, honest, and respectful
- Information is being gathered by the assigned board member for us to discuss over the next few weeks
- Each topic will be discussed for about 5 minutes and then a new topic will be presented
- Everyone is invited to participate, member or not.







## Topic

**In your opinion, what does the future of ham radio look like?**



## Topic

**What are your personal  
interests in ham radio?**



## Topic

**What do you enjoy the most about the GCARC?**



## Topic

**What should the GCARC be focusing on to assist the community, if anything?**





## Topic

# How should the GCARC be spending resources?



## Topic

**What are your  
recommendations for  
improving net participation?**



## Topic

**Should the GCARC have additional nets,  
and what should those nets focus on?**

**Are you willing to be a net operator?**

**What reservations do you have about  
being a net operator?**



## Topic

**What are some ideas to help grow the GCARC (outreach programs, advertisements, etc.)?**



## Topic

**The GCARC is considering creating the following member-driven committees:**

- ▶ **Education**
- ▶ **Events**
- ▶ **Finance**
- ▶ **Community Outreach**
- ▶ **Benefits**
- ▶ **By-laws**

**Does this make sense for the club and if so, are there any you would like to be part of?**





## Topic

**What are some educational topics you would like to see for 2024?**

**What topics would you be willing to present in 2024 (if any)?**



## Topic

**What improvements would you like to see the GCARC make for 2024?**



## Topic

# General thoughts or questions?

**Any topic**

**Becoming a Board Member**

**Newsletter**

**By-Laws**



# GCARC CLUB WRAP-UP

**MICHAEL HIGGINS**



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**Get your tickets out!**

**RED TICKET (50/50 CASH)**



**BLUE TICKET (DOOR PRIZE)**





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**Adjourn**

**Motion**

**Second**

**Discussion**

**Vote**

**Thank you for being a  
member of our club!**



**If you are a visitor, please  
introduce yourself and fill  
out a visitor form!**

