



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



GCARC

GRAYSON CO. TEXAS USA

Having Fun With Amateur Radio

Events Coming Up

Next Scheduled Operating Event

Perrin Field
Special Event

May 18
thru May 24

1st and 3rd Sunday Nets

Dates/Net Control:

3/17- James – KW5CW

3/31- Easter – No Net

4/7 – James – KI5BMN

Time: 8:00 PM Local

Repeater: 147.000+

Next Regular Club Monthly Meeting

Date: Mar. 19th

Time: 7:00-8:45PM

Location

Texoma Council of

Governments

1117 Gallagher Rd.

Sherman, Texas

LADIES NET

Monday Mar. 25 7PM

441.325 pl 82.5

CW CLASSES

March 18th, 25th

April 1

March Meeting
Presentation

Wade Graves
ARES & Reporting

PRESIDENT'S QSO

Exciting Times!

I must say that the meeting in February was quite a surprise! I honestly thought we would have a smaller group since we had the club meeting during an off week. We postponed the meeting to encourage our membership to participate in the SKYWARN training on February 20. We had over 20 members participate in that meeting and several people showed interest in the club and the hobby.

If that wasn't exciting enough, during our club meeting we had 35 participants, and 10 tests were taken! Several new people attended the meeting. Roy Reed did a great job with his weather safety class, and he had some great suggestions for those of us involved in storm spotting!

I can't thank the 2022-2023 board members enough for building the foundation that is preparing us for the future. Without your leadership we would certainly not be on the path we are on now! So, what's next?

As we move into the 3rd month of the year, we are keeping our eyes on the future. As we discussed during the February meeting, Grayson County is expected to grow substantially in a very short period. With that growth potential we can expect our club to also grow. It is our intention to prepare the organization to meet the demands of that growth. In the near future we will begin the process of organizing committees to help us maneuver around obstacles, while improving the club's purpose for the hobby and its membership. We encourage everyone to be involved in this process. These are fun times for sure!

Of course, with community growth there will be the need for the GCARC to promote interest in community groups. This will include communications during special events (bike rallies, 5k's), emergency services (ARES, CERT, SKYWARN), and general support for our community. This also includes preparation for situations like a national cell phone outage...surely that would never happen! Let's give a warm welcome to all the new members and keep the momentum up as we move ahead!

Michael Higgins – KI5ZIQ

Eclipse Update

As we get closer to the date of the eclipse, we are still unsure if the GCARC will be hosting an event. There are a few reasons for this. After speaking with the Fannin County and Red River Valley Radio Clubs, there is a heightened sense of urgency surrounding the impact of the eclipse in their areas. Since Fannin and Red River counties will have between 2-4 minutes of totality, they believe it will be a major attraction for people from the metroplex. Evidence of this already exists as most hotels are completely booked for April 7-8. Both radio clubs are encouraging members to stay home and be prepared to assist with communications in the event the counties experience a mass emergency. This could be in the form of weather, traffic, loss of cell service, etc. We will be discussing this in more detail during the March 19 meeting! If you have any ideas, please contact any of the board members.

Member Focus for March



Member Focus: We are so glad to have Lynda Tuma KF5JUO in our club. She is a long-time ham, having gotten her Technician license in 2010. She now holds an Extra and her call sign is short for “Just Us Okies”, having moved to Texas from Oklahoma. She knows CW and has joined the class to get her speed up. Yay!

Since she lives in a neighborhood with restrictions, she has a novelty item - a Vent Antenna for 2 meters and 70 cms. For HF she has a Chameleon antenna running along the top of a wood fence. Her

home station consists of an ICOM 7300 for HF and a Kenwood TS2000. She has a “mobile / mobile” unit in her car that she can take out and walk into the woods or a park. Pretty neat. Lynda enjoys ham radio and participating in our club. She is active with the Sherman Siren Tests and is getting acquainted with fox hunts.



Elmer's Corner

By – James – KW5CW



The GCARC Basic CW course is well on its way. The first CW class was a huge success with 13 club members attending. Also in attendance was Steve Lott Smith – KG5VK who is the NTX ARRL Section Manager for our area. He gave a few words of encouragement at the beginning of the class to all club members attending the Basic CW Course. A special thanks go to Steve and his wife who also attended and made a special effort help promote the class. Now going on its third class, interest is

high, and we are already almost halfway through the Basic Course. I am gleaming with pride for the members who have decided to take on something that is not a requirement for getting an Amateur Radio license. Learning morse code will most definitely enhance their experience with Amateur Radio. In just 8 weeks of time, the students will be able to send and receive Morse code at 13 WPM. Each student is experiencing different issues with learning, along with putting up with a few glitches with the training material, but I'm committed to do what it takes to get them on the air by the end of April, sending and receiving Morse Code at a minimum of 13 WPM. The Intermediate Class course will be available after the Basic course, starting on May 20th. In the next class, the students will face up to the 'elephant in the room', the morse code key, also known as a keyer paddle. It's time to start using it.

It should also be noted that I will also be adding a Blog session to the website so that people who register can upload or create their own blog articles. The first article may be about the progression of the CW class. More information about this will be provided at the next club meeting. Do you have an article you would like to write? Think about it!

QSL Manager's Message

The position of QSL Manager with the Grayson County ARC is now open to anyone who wants to fill that position. I am stepping down at the end of the year. Why??? Very simply, I'm not getting any younger and it's time to turn these duties over to someone younger.

So, what do I do as QSL Manager? Here is a list of what the job entails...

- Schedule the 3 Special Events that the GCARC hosts every year
 - Perrin Field Museum Special Event...always held in May around Armed Forces Day
 - Red River Bridge War Special Event...always held in July when the event happened in 1931
 - Eisenhower Birthday Special Event...always held in October around Ike's birthday, 10/14/1890
- [click here to learn more...](#)

At Last Month's 'Pretty Fun' Meeting...and In the Future...

It was another record-breaking month of attendance at the GCARC club meeting in February. A record 36 people attended. At least 7 people were visitors that did not yet have an amateur radio license. So much was happening at the meeting, including nearly a dozen people taking their a license exam. Ricky Jessen – KG5FDT, has now taken the helm as the GCARC Team Leader with ARRL testing and he had his hands full as so many people did show up to take a test. A special thanks go to Lee Sly – N5SLY who initially took up the responsibility for setting up ARRL license testing last year and has now turned things over to Ricky. At least one of the people that took the Extra Class test, Steve Chepey – K5SJC passed with a grade of 100%. So Amateur radio is alive and well when it comes to the GCARC. Because of the Skywarn meeting that took place on the day of the regular meeting day on February 20th, the meeting day was moved, but it didn't stop people from attending the meeting. Roy Reed – AF5VA gave his presentation on Weather Safety.

Current Links to Information found on the GCARC Website

[February 2024 – Treasury Report](#)

[February 2024 – Secretary Report](#)

[Perrin Field Special Event](#)

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

[Next CW Classes commence on Monday, March 18th and 25th, 2024](#)

[Time: 7:00PM – 9:00PM – Location Michael Higgins Home in Sherman, Texas](#)

The Intermediate Class CW Course will start on May 20th to upgrade your skill to 20 WPM . Any amateur wanting to take this class will have to fulfill a prerequisite to attend. Contact the Class administrator/instructor at gcarccourses@gmail.com

Classes are free but must sign up in advance.

GCARC OFFICERS

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