



Events
Coming Up

PRESIDENT'S QSO

**Next Scheduled
Operating Event**

Perrin Field
Special Event
May 18
thru May 24

1st and 3rd
Sunday Nets

Dates/Net Control:

- 4/21 Ricky – KG5FDT
- 5/5 Michael – KI5ZIQ
- 5/19 David – W5DRT

Time: 8:00 PM Local

Repeater: 147.000+

**Next Regular Club
Monthly Meeting**

Date: Apr. 16th

Time: 7:00-8:45PM

Location

Texoma Council of
Governments

1117 Gallagher Rd.
Sherman, Texas

LADIES NET

Monday April 22 7PM

441.325 pl 82.5

CW CLASSES

April 11 & 18th

April Meeting
Presentation

'Radio 101 Class'

Happy April!

Well, here we are entering the 2nd quarter of the year and what a year it has been so far!

Our last meeting was a huge success and we can't thank Wade Graves enough for his presentation on ARES and the structure of the local emergency management groups in Grayson County. It is refreshing to know that so many people are out there, volunteering their time to facilitate safety programs in our county. We have already experienced several activations this year and the GCARC is honored to support that process!

We also want to give a big thank you to Joe Hayes for his generous donation to the club as we expand the organization and prepare to purchase items such as a new trailer!

Just as expected, club membership is rapidly growing, and we are working diligently to meet the demand of that growth. There are so many new faces and some great ideas coming from the membership and your feedback is appreciated! Keep it coming!

As a reminder, this month we will be hosting "Bring A Friend Night." This is for anyone you may know that has an interest in radio, but not sure where to begin. Remember to invite a guest or two to attend this Radio 101 class. We will be discussing the basics of radio usage, the different types of radios, how to monitor local emergency radio groups, and help attendees figure out what the best options are for them and their family. This will be a fun and engaging presentation lasting about 45 minutes. Afterward, please hang around and meet with the attendees. We will be ready to answer any questions to help them get started with their radio set-up.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Michael Higgins – KI5ZIQ
GCARC President

Eclipse Event Re-cap

by Michael Higgins – KI5ZIQ

This was one of the most interesting events I have ever had to plan for, but in the end, it was well worth it! Not sure what to expect and prepared for almost anything, we had a group of 8 members venture to Bonham State Park early in the morning of April 8. After a quick safety briefing, we set-up our stations, had breakfast and hoped for the best! Most of the day we had cloud cover, hefty winds, and cool temperatures. We all expected the actual eclipse to be hidden by the thick clouds, but we made the best of it. We activated POTA, tested out our simplex capabilities, monitored all the local repeaters, talked, ate, and just enjoyed the park. Several of us went hiking, James Frank took a jog around the lake, and we met others waiting for the eclipse to occur.

Then, about 20 minutes before totality, the skies opened up as the clouds parted. Everyone took their place in the park, and we experienced an unhindered total eclipse. It was an amazing event that impacted each of us in a different way. A few hours after the eclipse we headed home without any issues.

Thank you to all of those who participated! We will begin planning for the next one in 2044! Hopefully more of us will be able to attend! 😊

FOCUS of the Month – Marvin Schiavone – KG5GMA



Marvin Schiavone is a wonderful asset to our club. He is very knowledgeable about all things “ham radio”. He started out getting his Ham Radio License after becoming trained in CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), responding to a call for help with communications during activations. He is Skywarn trained and is an ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Spotter. He gives the TECO (Texas Emergency Communication Organization) and ARES updates at our club meetings.

Before he retired Marvin was a Products Engineering Technician working for Texas Instruments. He also is a Veteran of the U.S. Navy from the Vietnam era.

He recently achieved his Extra Class as an Amateur Radio Operator!! Congratulations, Marvin!



He is our “Director at large” serving for two years on the Board of Directors. He creates a stability and source of wisdom and history for our club board.

[Click here](#) for the complete article on the GCARC Website...

Elmer's Corner

By – James – KW5CW



The GCARC Basic CW course is just about finished, with just 2 classes out of 8 to go as of this writing. Since the last article, there were a total of 6 classes held. Attempting to gain superiority on CW from nothing to 13 WPM in just 8 weeks is monumental to most putting to rest the idea that 8 weeks of a CW class was just too long. Most of the studying and work had to be completed at home, with online files to review and to master.

But everyone learns at their own speed these days, and I must admit trying to keep a dozen people together in this class on the same learning curve was just as impossible as it was to keep the moon from covering up the sun in Monday's eclipse.

The completed article regarding the progression of the Basic CW class can be found [<HERE>](#)

QSL Managers Message

When all else fails Amateur Radio works. It is true. When disaster strikes and electrical power is lost we can still get on our radios and communicate locally and all over the world. Now is the time to get ready. If you haven't already, get your radio equipment set up to communicate when disaster strikes.

A fun way to do this is to Go To A Park and participate in the Parks On The Air program known as POTA.

Even though this old man doesn't participate in ARES, I do enjoy the Parks-On-The-Air program and get out as often as I can into a park and make some contacts on the radio.

You'll learn how to operate your equipment, learn how to listen, learn how to talk, and learn how to accurately copy information from other stations and improve your operating skills.

My portable station consists of a 20 amp/hour battery, an Icom 7300 and an EagleOne antenna. I am completely self-sufficient and can operate my radio for hours at full power. If I turn down the power on the radio, I can still make lots of contacts and can operate even longer.

I have set up my portable station many, many times and it works well. Seldom does that evil person named Murphy visit me anymore.

Practice makes perfect. Don't wait for disaster to strike...get out and use your radio now.

73 Lee Sly lee.n5sly@gmail.com 903-818-7463

The Fun Continues at the GCARC

Gee Wiz! This time there were at least another 30 people to show up at our club meeting last month and our ARRL sponsored License Exams led by Ricky and other VE's seems to be taking off like a rocket ship. Another 5 people took tests. During Ricky's first week as leading the VE team, there were about a dozen takers of the exams. That prompted us to investigate and secure another room for testing between the hours of 6PM and 7PM. Well, we did just that. **Room 260 on the 2nd floor, a room called the 'The Planning Room'** is where testing will be held this month. There's lots of room and a lot of quiet, a perfect place for taking an amateur radio test. Our meeting night with testing is fast approaching, so if you plan to take a test this coming Tuesday, April 16th, then head up to the second floor to acquire your initial license or upgrade to any class of license of your choice.

Current Links to Information found on the GCARC Website

[March 2024 – Treasury Report](#)

[March 2024 – Secretary Report](#)

[Perrin Field Special Event](#)

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

[Next CW Classes commence on Thursday, April 11th and 18th, 2024](#)

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

The Intermediate Class CW Course is tentative for May 23rd 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 you must sign up in advance.

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