



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



GCARC

GRAYSON CO. TEXAS USA

Having Fun With Amateur Radio

Events Coming Up

EISENHOWER SPECIAL EVENT Oct 12-18, 2024

1st and 3rd Sunday Nets

Dates/Net Control:

8/18 Cynthia – K5EKA

9/1 James – KI5BMN

9/15 James – KW5CW

Time: 8:00 PM Local

Repeater: 147.000

Next Regular Club Monthly Meeting

Date: August 20, 2024

Time: 7:00-9:00PM

Location

Texoma Council of
Governments

1117 Gallagher Rd.

Sherman, Texas

LADIES NET

Monday August 26nd 7PM

147.28 Repeater

Meeting Presentation
**QSL – A Silent Key's
Journey**

BY

David Piekarski

K5EEN

**STOP BY AND TOUR
THE NEW CLUB
TRAILER at Meeting**

PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy everyone!

I hope all of you have had a wonderful summer as many of us have been traveling, taking time off for vacation, and just generally staying busy!

I for one am hoping for an early Fall! I think we can plan on having a fantastic sprint to 2025! Please remember that we will have many events planned each month as we end the year!

See you soon!

Michael Higgins – KI5ZIQ

August 2024 Focus of the Month – Cynthia VanSlogteren – K5EKA



This month’s Member focus is — Ta-DA! ME! -- Cynthia VanSlogteren K5EKA. I was never really interested in ham radio even though my brother-in-law has been active for decades until I decided I should find another way of communication in case our trusted ways “go down.” I thought I would just get a few items and have them on hand in case I need them. Well, that was a fantasy! Once I visited the Club meeting, I was drawn into getting to know other hams and found the camaraderie pleasing. So you might say I came into the Radio world “kicking and screaming” against it. But now I’m hooked and am enjoying the hobby immensely. And now I’m learning CW. I’m finding it frustrating since I’m not getting faster very fast. Haha. (old brain and all that)

My “few items” have turned into quite a collection of radio things. My first radio was a Baofeng which I found very handy (pun intended). Then I won the door prize at my first GCARC club meeting — a TYT TH 6800 — which is now in my car. Not satisfied with not being able to go beyond 2 meters, I got a Base Station covering 10, 11 and 12 meters so I can contact CB’ers (not to leave any means of communication out of my plan). But that didn’t get me very far. So I bought a Yaesu FT 991A and it is set up in my home station. I have also put up...

[Continue Reading Cynthia’s Focus <click here>](#)

QSL Managers Message

W5B Red River Bridge War Special Event Results

We didn't have as many folks participate this year as in the past, however I think we still did just fine. Here are our results...

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	0	0	24	24	2
40	5	2	105	112	11
30	0	0	57	57	6
20	27	226	367	620	63
17	3	1	86	90	9
15	0	0	50	50	5
12	0	0	4	4	0
10	0	0	19	19	2
6	0	0	2	2	0
Total	35	229	714	978	100

The digital mode FT8 continues to be the most popular mode. Followed by Phone, FT4, CW and PSK 31.

We managed to make contacts in 48 states...only missing Hawaii and Vermont. And we made contacts in 40 different countries (not counting the USA). Great results!

[Continue Reading QSL Manager Article <click here>](#)

Elmer's CW Corner – August 2024 by James Frank – KW5CW



The Intermediate CW Class Course has been completed. I want to thank the students that attended and made their way down to my home in Anna for the classes. The three students that made it through the class were **Cynthia VanSlogteren – K5EKA**, **Levent Kahveci – KB5TMU** and **Mark Miller – KA5TXN**. All three were also in the basic CW class earlier this year. They had to put up with me, and each week whenever they could attend, they were there. Learning CW is not an easy task for most and the reason why most hams will not even attempt to learn it. The next class to be given will be the Advanced Class CW Course. The start date is TBA, but hams from other clubs are also interested in attending. None are interested in attending from the

Sherman Club. With the summer heat and people on vacation, we may not have another class this year, and maybe wait for springtime next year if more interest builds. Also, there is interest in another Basic Class so keep tuned to find out what class is next and when.

In the world of CW, people communicate with each other in a mode that others think as antiquated, an old-fashioned way to communicate or trying to be just a nerd. From today's world and in the direction which the hobby is moving to other modes such as digital and satellite, it is understandable, especially with the no-code licenses out there, why there may be hesitation to learn. CW isn't for everyone. But how do you know if it's not for you if you haven't tried it. If the thought of working that mode bothers you, then stay away from it. Enjoy all the other modes that Amateur Radio has to bring...

[Read more on the CW Corner <click here>](#)

The Fun Continues at the GCARC by James KW5CW

The Red River Bridge War Special Event is already history, but the next event is staring us in the face already. The Eisenhower Special Event runs from October 12 through the 18th. The event celebrates the birthday of President Dwight Eisenhower who was born on October 14, 1890, in a little white house that you can tour at the Eisenhower birthplace location in Denison, Texas. It's the last operating event of the year, and it's always a good thing to plan to participate early, before the event starts. The Red River Bridge War crept up on me this year and I was not able to participate but I'm going to make an effort to work this next event, which is considered the major special event of the year, 'saving the best for last' as the saying goes. The event is not a contest, as you are competing for nothing, except to make contacts in memory of President Eisenhower.

At the upcoming meeting this month, the presentation will be given by one of our members, David Piekarski – K5EEN. The topic of the presentation is 'QSL – A Silent Key's Journey.' I can only speculate on what it's about, and I'm looking forward to seeing it.

One more thing. The club finally did it. THE CLUB PURCHASED A CLUB TRAILER, that can be used for club events and used for storage. The club trailer will be on display in the meeting place parking lot after the presentation and can be viewed after the meeting. After 30 years of operation, the club finally has its own trailer. Thanks to major donations that were made by one of our members – Joe Hayes – KJ5BFD, the purchase was possible. Plans are to get it decaled and wrapped and taken to events. Special thanks go to Jimmy Patterson KC5OLH who used his own truck to pick up the trailer that was found in Decatur Texas. The price was right, and the trailer will fit our needs. Thanks go out to the trailer committee consisting of Jimmy Patterson – KC5OLH, James Shippet – KI5BMN, Joe Hayes – KI5BFD, James Frank – KW5CW, and Mike Gaffney KG5EHC.

Current Links to Information found on the GCARC Website

[Treasury Report – July 2024](#) **Latest**

[Secretary Report – July 2024](#) **Latest**

[Ladies Net on FaceBook](#)

[Focus of the Month – August 2024](#)

[The Elmers Corner August 2024](#)

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

The Intermediate CW Class is now completed.

Again, a special CONTRATS to the 3 students of the Intermediate CW class.

Cynthia VanSlogteren – K5EKA Mark Miller – KA5TXN Levent Kahveci – KB5TMU

Congratulations are in order for the 1 person who successfully passed his ham test last month on July 16th at the GCARC Test session.

Bradley Sample - TECHNICIAN

GCARC OFFICERS

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