



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Having Fun With Amateur Radio

GRAYSON CO. TEXAS USA

SEPTEMBER 2024

Events  
Coming Up

**EISENHOWER  
SPECIAL EVENT**  
Oct 12-18, 2024

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Sunday Nets**

Dates/Net Control:

9/15 James – KW5CW

9/29 Glen – N5LDO

Oct 6 – David – W5DRT

Time: 8:00 PM Local

Repeater: 147.000

**Next Regular Club  
Monthly Meeting**  
**Date: Sept 17, 2024**  
**Time: 7:00-9:00PM**

Location

Texoma Council of  
Governments

1117 Gallagher Rd.  
Sherman, Texas

**LADIES NET**

**Monday Sept. 23rd 7PM**  
**147.28 Repeater**

**Meeting Presentation**  
**High Tech and  
Beyond**

BY

**James Hunt – KI5DQ**

**Including an  
Automated  
Satellite Station**

## PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy All!

I hope everyone is enjoying the change in weather as we move into Fall!

This is truly my favorite time of the year! Cooler weather, football, cheaper electric bills! This year I have personally found new motivation to get out and enjoy nature. As I mature a little more in my radio knowledge, I keep asking myself, "why did I put off doing POTA (Parks On The Air) for so long?"

Part of this had to do with my misconception that POTA seemed to be a bit slow-paced for my taste, but as I have recently discovered, it doesn't have to be! It can be at whatever pace you want it to be! So how did I get to this conclusion?

Well it started with my desire to be involved with SOTA (Summits On The Air). SOTA requires you to activate at a designated summit that oftentimes includes a challenging hike for activation. This is great! But, for me, being about 30 pounds overweight and carrying 50 pounds to a summit, means possible death! So I needed to find a way to get ready.

Over the next several months I will be hiking my equipment through the local state parks and activating POTA in remote locations at those parks. This will help me get acclimated for summit hikes and help me understand how to use my radio in challenging situations. And, I might even drop a pound or two in the process. If you're interested in participating with me in this journey, let me know! We can organize some fun activities.

My point to all of this is to encourage all of you to get out and enjoy all the beauty that fall has to offer. With activities like POTA and SOTA we can combine the great outdoors with our enthusiasm for radio. There is something for everyone! It is all about the fun!

Also, if you have the time, join us at the **GCARC Family Fun Days event**, held at *Eisenhower State Park*, to include POTA, camping and a Radio Fox Hunt. The dates are October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. We have partnered with the Texoma Dutch Oven Cooking Group for lunch on Saturday, and a Dutch Oven Meal and Dessert by Donation. You can also bring what you would like to eat at the event. Pending a burn ban presently in place, plans are to still have the event, but if it gets cancelled because of the ban, you will be notified by email, so if you plan to attend, be aware of this. More information will be provided at the club meeting on Tuesday, September 17th.

73,

Michael Higgins – KI5ZIQ  
GCARC President

## September 2024 Focus of the Month – Don Levstik – WD5JBC



Don Levstik WD5JBC was fascinated by electronics and pursued many aspects of the hobby. Radio was the next step and he found it was the best way to get first-hand experience. He became an Amateur Radio Operator in 1978 when he received his Advanced Class License. This license has been discontinued (while still valid) but it fell between the General Class and the Extra Class and required passing a CW test at 13 words per minute. Good job, Don!

Don is in our club because he likes associating with people having a like-minded interest and is always eager to learn and try something new. He appreciates our club because there's always someone to help with any question or problem. He is glad to see all of the recent newcomers and hopes this trend will continue. He is also glad we

are giving VE testing locally. He'd like to see us offer licensing classes.

[Continue Reading Don's Focus <click here>](#)

## QSL Managers Message

### Upcoming Eisenhower Special Event Oct.12 thru Oct. 18

#### A list of operators in the event

W5I Paul, K7RKO in Las Vegas, NV

W5S Don, WV1W in CT

K5E Greg, KJ6ER in CA...hope to get Jim, KG6UO Uncle Oscar on the air too.

W5N Kerri, KB3WAV will operate from TN this year. She will also recruit some ham friends from MD to participate.

W5H Dom, NC4XL in NC. Dom is one of the best operators I've ever heard handling a pile up.

W5O James, KW5CW in TX. James loves CW.

W5W Julie, NF1T in FL

N5E John, KN4SWS and Diane Martin, KO4FHS in FL. A great husband and wife team.

**W5R Members of the GCARC in TX. We'll operate from the Eisenhower Birthplace State Historical Site in Denison, TX.**

Remember the event this year runs from October 12, 2024, 0000z until October 18, 2024, 2359z Ike's birthday is October 14, 1890. He was born here in Denison, TX and his family moved to Kansas when he was 2 years old.

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

## Elmer's Corner – September 2024 by James Frank – KW5CW



Back in November 2023, I had the privilege to tag along with another fellow ham in town, K5SJC – Steve Chepey, on a 3-day venture traveling through Oklahoma and Arkansas, doing SOTA activations. A list of activations can be found at the bottom of this note. It goes without saying that all we did were CW operations, but SOTA is very popular with other modes including SSB, Digital and FM. Everyone has heard so much lately about POTA, but **SOTA (Summits on the Air)** is just what you may think it is. It's yet another way to get out of the house, take your equipment out to enjoy the outdoors with exercise to boot, but this time, it's up on mountain peaks, and not in parks. Clean air, a fantastic view, and easy to make contacts on 2-meters or 70 cm via Simplex, or on the lowbands using SSB or CW and digital is what you should expect to do. So where do you

go around Texas to do a SOTA activation? The answer is that you can activate SOTA in the state of Texas but it is not very popular due to low heights and some on private land. Out in west Texas, it's a different story, but not around North East Texas. But you may be surprised just north of the border in Oklahoma and throughout Arkansas, there are plenty of SOTA summits with great trail hikes where you can bring your equipment, and travel with a backpack to the destination summit peak of your choice. Then you find a spot to settle down with a portable chair you took along or maybe just sit on a rock and make the minimum required number of contacts needed to activate the summit which happens to be just 4 contacts. If I'm going to go that distance, I'll sometimes make 30 contacts or more in an hour timeframe on CW, then head to the next summit.

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

## The Fun Continues at the GCARC

As stated in the August newsletter, the upcoming Eisenhower Special Event is one that is the highlight of the special events put on by the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club throughout the year. It will be taking place before the next club meeting in October, so now is the time to get the word out for everyone to participate in it if you would like to. There will be stations participating using 1x1 callsigns as mentioned in an earlier article by Lee Sly – N5SLY. It is not normally a POTA event, but it can be if you decide to take a trip to the Eisenhower birthplace and activate the park at the same time you are making contacts in the special event. Also, like other GCARC Special Events, you can make contacts in the comfort of your own home. Even if you may not be using one of the special 1x1 calls to operate, you can contact one of the 1x1 stations that you may hear help in that way. It's not a contest, but even a simple, short contact with a special event station is welcome, especially from members of our club. But if you really wanted to operate as a special event the callsign W5R can be used by anyone in the club in the comfort of their own home. If you think you may want to operate during the special event using the W5R call, then do so, but remember that you can operator only by FCC rules that governs your own personal call, i.e. if you have a general license, then you can only use the 1x1 call under your privileges. Come to the meeting for more details of the special event.

At the upcoming meeting this month, the presentation will be given by one of our members, James Hunt – KI5DQ. The topic of the presentation is 'High Tech and Beyond, including amateur radio satellite stations.'

## Current Links to Information found on the GCARC Website

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

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

[Ladies Net on FaceBook](#)

[Focus of the Month – August 2024](#)

[The Elmers Corner August 2024](#)

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

Congratulations are in order for the 1 person who successfully passed his ham test last month on

July 16<sup>th</sup> at the GCARC Test session.

**Matthew McClellan – Technician Class**

## GCARC OFFICERS

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