



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



GCARC

GRAYSON CO. TEXAS USA

Having Fun With Amateur Radio

January 2025 Issue

Events  
Coming Up

**Winter Field Day  
Eisenhower State  
Park Jan 25 & 26  
2025**

**1st and 3rd  
Sunday Nets**

Dates/Net Control:

Jan 5 – James – KW5CW

Jan 19 - James - KI5DQ

**NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS  
TO DO THE SUNDAY NIGHT  
NETS**

Time: 8:00 PM Local

Repeater: 147.000

**Next Regular Club  
Monthly Meeting**

**Date: Jan 21, 2025**

**Time: 7:00-9:00PM**

Location

Texoma Council of  
Governments

1117 Gallagher Rd.

Sherman, Texas

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**January Meeting  
Discussion**

**STRATEGIC**

**PLANNING MEETING**

## PRESIDENT'S QSO

Welcome to 2025! I hope that everyone had a festive holiday season and that you are preparing for a wonderful new year ahead!

There are so many things that we are planning for 2025. For anyone who has served as a board member in any capacity, you know that one major challenge is getting ideas from membership. Last January we had a meeting that provided an opportunity for members to participate in developing club vision and direction for 2024. I can't tell you how amazing that meeting was and I can't thank you enough for setting the pace for the year! It was fun, interactive and it really brought our club together.

This year we will be doing the same for 2025! There are so many new members and future OPPORTUNITIES:

1 Making Ham Radio an active presence in our community with our newly outfitted trailer

2 Educating and entertaining our membership and visitors to our meetings with vibrant and relevant presentations

3 Giving back to our community through participation in civic, community and emergency events

4 Having meaningful Nets with NEW (and old) Net Control operators -- let's get over that fear of the mike

5 Connecting with other Ham Radio clubs in North Texas -- making new friends and networking colleagues

6 Enjoying our hobby in the great outdoors at Field Days, Family camp-outs, picnics, and Eisenhower's Birthday

7 Racking up those contacts with Special Events -- Perrin Field Day, Red River Bridge, and Eisenhower's Birthday -- while spreading the word around the world about our local history

8 Getting to know our club better by visiting our prize-winning WEBPAGE: <https://graysoncountyar.com> It's the best in Texas! Check it often. Let the webkeepers know what you like and what else you'd like to see there

9 Increasing our participation in WinLink - Sending an E-mail via Amateur Radio, not through the internet.

10 Winning fun door prizes and getting to know other hams by attending our meetings.

11 Putting on the BEST Radio Car Show in North Texas!

12 Becoming active on DISCORD -- an exciting way to communicate and share ideas

Sincerely,

Michael Higgins KI5ZIQ - GCARC Club President

# GCARC Christmas Party a Huge Success

The 2024 GCARC Christmas Party was so much fun! There was a huge turnout of over 50 people that attended the event at Mells Grill in Denison. The food was wonderful, and no one went home that evening hungry. Also, it was refreshing to see family members also show up to have fun. Prizes were awarded to various members whose tickets were pulled and a few won the main prizes. **Lee - N5SLY was recognized as the GCARC Ham of the Year. Congratulations Lee.** The newest CW hams also received their certificates for attending the CW class. Before I forget, there was one main prize that was not present, so therefore no-one claimed it as their win at the party. It was not absent on purpose, but the prize still must be awarded to one of our members. It has been decided by the officers that this prize will be given away in a special drawing at the monthly club meeting in January. Any GCARC member that is present at the



meeting will be able to participate in the main drawing. So you must be present to learn what the prize is and



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of course to be able to win it, all you have to do to qualify is to attend the meeting.

These are just a few of the pictures taken at the Christmas Party. Obviously there is not enough room on the page to show them all. But they all can be easily accessed by going to the club website: <https://graysoncountyar.org> home page. In 2025, we will begin early to find yet an even better place for our event, as Mells Grill will be closing down in 2025. If you have any ideas of a local establishment in the Sherman area for our Christmas party in 2025, please advise one of the officers.

## Current Links to Information found on the GCARC Website

### Treasury Report – December 2024

The Treasurer is waiting for the bank to get some items documented on our account so all we have for now is the balance. Stay tuned for more details next month.

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

[Ladies Net on FaceBook - Archives](#)

### The GCARC Club Trailer

In 2024, the club purchased it's first ever club trailer. It's purpose is to help take GCARC Ham Radio operating activities mobile to different venues in order to promote amateur radio and the club and to simply have FUN!. In 2024, members of the club spent at least 3 different days to begin to give it a complete face over inside and out. The work is still not done, as the workers have only had a short time to complete the work that must be done. If you feel you have some great ideas that we should incorporate in the trailer and have some time to help, please participate in helping to convert the trailer to our needs. The club is open to any great ideas for this project. You can reach out to any of the officers or send an email to: [officers@k5gcc.org](mailto:officers@k5gcc.org).

The project is going much slower than we had hoped, but we hope to have the trailer available for Winter Field Day this year, for those who would like to work on it. The original inside wood sheets were pulled down from the walls, and foam insulation was installed before reinstalling the wood sheets. We have a table ready to be installed to create an operating position for operators and we want to install lighting in the ceiling. We plan to create a storage area for bins at one end and we will have power channels coming in from the outside to power radios and charging circuits for recharging batteries. We will also set it up air conditioning and heating when necessary.

A special thanks go to **Joe Hayes - KJ5BFD** who has provided his location for the re-build of the trailer. Joe Hayes has recently gone through Knee Replacement Surgery, so the Club wishes him a speedy recovery and thanks him for everything he has done for the club. Without Joe, the club would not have this trailer. For many, this trailer has only been a dream, but Joe made it a reality.

Soon in the final stages, the electrical work will be completed and the club can then use the trailer as intended. Again, it has been a slow process, but persistence and help from club members willing to give up a good part of a day to help with the re-build is helping make our future dream a reality.

**As a Reminder:** The Grayson County Amateur Radio Club administers all Amateur Radio Tests starting at 6:00PM preceding the club monthly meeting that begins at 7:00PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

### Future Meeting and Testing Location

**Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG) – 1/21/2025 @ 6 PM**

**1117 Gallagher Dr, Sherman, TX. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – Room 260**

**The regular club meeting is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor @ 7 PM**

## GCARC Winter Field Day - January 25 and 26, 2025

With 2024 now history, the club begins its 31st year as an amateur radio club. With the Christmas party behind us, it's already time for Winter Field Day that will be held at the Eisenhower State Park in less than a week. The club plans to run at least **3 different modes (SSB, CW, and Digital)** during the event. **Winlink** and possible **Satellite contacts** can also be made. So there will be a lot to see and do. The club will be more focused on making a great score this year, to work as many modes as possible on as many bands as possible to achieve the possible highest score. All club members are invited to participate. Bring your friends along to enjoy the fun! The man in charge of preparing and implementing the event is **Michael Coffman - AB5MC**. He will be at the upcoming meeting on January 21st to give us a complete rundown as to the preparations and what everyone can do to help make this event - FUN! This will be our 3rd year at the Eisenhower Park. Plan on **license testing** not only at the upcoming club meeting, but at the Winter Field Day site on January 25. We will repeat events within our WFD such as the **Chile Cookoff, antenna building, a fox hunt, and lots of good food and drink** to keep us fat and happy. Of course, anyone who wants to operate will have the opportunity to operate a mode at the time that they can choose in advance. There will be signup sheets at the meeting on Tuesday for both desired operating times and a food list if you would like to bring a food item that can be shared by everyone.

## 1st Club Meeting of the Year - January 21, 2025

With 2025 now upon us, our first general meeting of the **club begins its 31st year** on January 21, 2025. So the club moves forward, and it seems to be growing by leaps and bounds. With only 50 members on the roster on January 1, 2024, the club has grown over 50% in just 1 year. Never before in the past history of our club has there been so much interest in what we do and the willingness of others to participate in order for our club to be successful. Everyone has the chance at the first first meeting of the year to sign up. Our HamClubOnline roster now shows a total of 86 members. Our goal for 2025 is to top 100 members. Thanks to the terrific leadership of **Michael Higgins - KI5ZIQ** and the other officers who all agreed to serve a second year, the club has an excellent chance to make that goal a reality. Our meeting participation seems to grow each month. License testing is always available each month except in December, when there is no scheduled meeting because of the Christmas party that takes place on the 3rd Tuesday of December, instead of a regular meeting. The monthly discussion always demands the attention of the members during the meeting. As done last year, there will be a strategic planning, gathering in groups to discuss our path forward, with the intention of what? Of course to HAVE FUN!

## GCARC OFFICERS

President	Michael Higgins	KI5ZIQ	<a href="mailto:president@k5gcc.org">president@k5gcc.org</a>
Vice President	James Shiplet	KI5BMN	<a href="mailto:vp@k5gcc.org">vp@k5gcc.org</a>
Secretary	Cynthia VanSlogteren	K5EKA	<a href="mailto:secretary@k5gcc.org">secretary@k5gcc.org</a>
Treasurer	James Frank	KW5CW	<a href="mailto:treasurer@k5gcc.org">treasurer@k5gcc.org</a>
Director at large	Marvin Schiavone	KG5GMA	<a href="mailto:directoratlarge@k5gcc.org">directoratlarge@k5gcc.org</a>
License Trustee	Rick Simmons	K5ECX	<a href="mailto:rr52s@yahoo.com">rr52s@yahoo.com</a>
Club Email	<a href="mailto:gcarclub@gmail.com">gcarclub@gmail.com</a>	Officers	<a href="mailto:officers@k5gcc.org">officers@k5gcc.org</a>

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