



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



GCARC

GRAYSON CO. TEXAS USA

Having Fun With Amateur Radio

March 2025 Issue

Events
Coming Up

1st and 3rd Sunday Nets

Dates/Net Control:

March 2 - Roy - AF5VA

March 16 - Marvin - KG5GMA

March 30 - Ricky - KG5FDT

April 6 - David W5DRT

April 20 - Greg - KD0ZWV

NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS

TO DO THE SUNDAY NIGHT NETS

Time: 8:00 PM Local

Repeater: 147.000

Next Regular Club Monthly Meeting

Date: March 18, 2025

Time: 7:00-9:00PM

Location

Texoma Council of
Governments

1117 Gallagher Dr.
Sherman, Texas

Hegungry HAMS & Trailer Work Day

Sat, March 29 8:00 a.m.

Bil Smith's Cafe, Van Alstyne
and Joe's house:

928 Spring Town Rd.
Van Alstyne

March Meeting Discussion

ROY - AF5VA

STORM CHASING

DAVE - K5EEN - DISCORD

PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy everyone,

It seems like it's been forever since we've been together! That being said I am excited to see everyone at our next meeting on Tuesday.

As we have already seen this year, the weather is changing, and with that comes our season of storms. We are looking forward to the upcoming meeting presentation in which Roy will be discussing his strategies for storm spotting. In addition several of you were able to make it to SKYWARN training. THIS IS DEFINITELY THE TIME OF YEAR. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF THOSE WHO SERVE WITH ARES.

We have some fun things coming up -- like our family camp-out in April and of course, many of you are getting your vehicles ready for the car show in June!

So we have a lot of cool things to talk about and I certainly look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting!

Michael Higgins
President of the GCARC

February Meeting Could Not be Held because of Weather March Meeting is a GO This Tuesday

It's been a few months since we met at TCOG. The weather on the eve of the scheduled meeting last month was uncertain, but it was known that temperatures would be around freezing or below with a possible accumulation of snow or ice. So the decision was made earlier in the day to cancel the meeting. This was done with much regret, because our club seems to pride itself in its meetings each month, and the meeting attendance is great. But it would be dangerous and difficult for some to drive in such poor driving conditions and that's not the environment any of us should attempt to drive in, especially at night.

The March meeting will take place as scheduled at TCOG in Sherman on March 18th, 2025.

When weather conditions present themselves like they did last month, the club will make every effort to contact members to inform them of the cancelled meeting. There were multiple HamClubOnline announcements sent via email. There was also a statement made on the club website, explaining the possibility of the cancellation at least 24 hours earlier, and then a statement was made and sent by Hamclubonline to state the meeting **was** cancelled. Also, the message definitely cancelling the meeting was put up on the website and a cancellation message was posted on FaceBook and there was a notice in the club newsletter.

Even with all the communication, some people still decided to go, apparently not seeing any of the announcements. That is unfortunate, but there may be times in the future that decisions of a cancellation could occur again and if that should happen, announcements will go out on all mediums necessary to inform you. So in the future, especially with possible bad weather coming, it is important to check and be sure that the meeting will take place.

Current Links to Information found on the GCARC Website

[Treasury Report – February 2025](#)

No Secretary Report with Cancellation of the February Meeting

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

[Ladies Net on FaceBook - Archives](#)

Sunday night Nets

The GCARC Sunday Night nets are a continuous evolving activity, with the idea in mind to pick subjects that are of interest to the net attendees. In the past, the net control operator would pick a topic to talk about and would encourage others that checked in to make comments. But when it was their turn, some would decline to make comments, either because they were not interested in that topic that was chosen or they knew nothing about it. That's fine. Anyone with suggestions about topics you'd like to see covered, please let one of the officers of the club know, either at the meeting, on Discord or by email or phone.

A few weeks ago, Cynthia - K5EKA originally tried the new format, and allowed the attendees of the net to determine the topic of the evening. It was a tremendous success and in a sense, a breath of fresh air for the net.

Operating the nets have always been at the discretion of the net control operator. In recent nets, including the net that happened this weekend, the net control operator - Marvin - KG5GMA, allowed the attendees to again pick what they wanted to talk about. Check-ins occur first and then the discussion begins. The way Marvin ran it, there was no need for 'Short-time' announcements during a check-in if you didn't want to make a comment on the subject matter for the evening. There was no roll call after check-in. In Marvin's net, only people that had a topic that they wanted talked about came forward and stated a question or would make a statement that he wanted others to comment on. Only those who wanted to comment would come forward.

So now, there was no further need to call everyone who checked in, because if you didn't want to make a comment, you could just listen and not be worried about missing your turn.

For those who never like to make comments because they are not interested in topics that were chosen, now you would have the ability to talk about something you **were** interested in. As far as net control operators go, they don't have to worry about what they need to talk about. The attendees will do that for them.

In any case, the net control operator can run the net as he or she deems fit, as long as it is carried out in a formal manner. There are still a few openings for net control operators, so give it a shot by signing up.

Upcoming Meeting Discussions for March Meeting

STORM CHASING and

Understanding Storm Conditions by Roy - AF5VA

With the upcoming spring season and the weather events that are expected to visit the Sherman area in the near future, it is important to re-visit the precautions that you should take. Just when you think that it could never happen to you, Murphy's law takes effect and it's happening to you.

Education is about what to do in times of bad weather, whether it be just heavy wind conditions, to heavy rain and the threat of tornadoes. If a tornado is heading directly to your home, what do you do? Hopefully you will have ample notice that such an event may be about to come so very close to your own property. Before such an event occurs, you should have a plan. Do I stay because I have a safe place to go to, or do I leave? In most cases, since you do not know that a tornado is coming, it is upon you before you ask the inevitable questions. In most cases, staying is the only option, but where do you hide in your own home to stay safe if a tornado looks to be imminently going to strike your home? This discussion should help you with your decision to either stay or leave, and answer the question of what you need to do with an inevitable, almost immediate threat. If you have to ask yourself the question, "Where shall I go?", then you are not prepared and chances are that you will make the wrong decision of where to go in your own house to protect yourself and your family.

At the next meeting - Roy Reed - AF5VA will again demonstrate what can happen in these violent weather events, that can take just moments to develop. People like Roy chases these storms, and understand how they develop and assist the National Weather Service with updates of storms as they pass through the area. Once the threat is discovered, Roy helps to determine its path and what areas of town may be affected. Information is passed on to the authorities and every minute that the threat is active Roy keeps

track of the storm, and the local ARES net keeps hams throughout the area informed of what's actually happening on the ground. Your best option is to go to your pre-designated safe place. You do need to actually have a pre-designated place to go to within your home. Do YOU know where to go? What is considered a safe place in your home and which places are not? Roy will help answer these questions for you.

So it's important to keep your family safe. Know the answers to these questions and if you don't know, go home after the meeting and determine what the safest place is to hide from a tornado. Educate your own family and show them what to do and where to go in a time of bad weather approaching.

DISCORD by Dave - K5EEN

A new LIVE CHAT service provided to the GCARC

Also this month, Dave Piekarski - K5EEN will talk about the new service that the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club is getting into. He will talk about the service called 'DISCORD'. It's a place to go online for live chat, meetings, either with just audio or with video if needed, and truly a place to stay in touch with your friends from the GCARC in real time. It's basically a place to chat about specific topics. On the server set up by Dave for the club, there are specific meeting places to go to talk about what you want to talk about, and at the same time, ignore all the noise that you are not interested in. The rooms are topic specific. Join the fun!

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 3rd Tuesday of each month.

General Meeting Location - First Floor

Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG) – 3/18/2025 @ 7 PM

1117 Gallagher Dr, Sherman, TX.

TESTING OCCURS on the 2nd Floor – Room 260 AT 6 PM

GCARC OFFICERS

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