



GCARC NEWS



Grayson County Amateur Radio Club

Volume 32

January 2026

Number 01

PRESIDENTS QSO:

Howdy and Welcome to the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club, one and all!



Jo VanSlogteren

I am calling this year “The Year of Participation and Involvement”! We have a lot planned and many things that have been initiated in the past that we want to see come to fruition. For example, we want to finally get the License Training Classes off the ground. Although there are plenty of opportunities to study for a license or upgrade on your own, we feel that many people will benefit from a local class taught by one of our very own Elmers. We also see this as a way to increase our membership.

Another thing that we have talked about and not accomplished in recent years is having a presence at community events. We are planning on selecting 4 city events from our county. We will have a booth and interact with the communities. This will make us visible and hopefully will also increase our membership.

Other projects that have been on-going will continue to proceed forward – such as getting the trailer stocked with tables and a grill and get it wrapped with our logo and taking it out to Field Days and other Special Events.

Now back to that “participation and involvement” – to paraphrase John F. Kennedy, “Ask not what your club can do for you. Ask what you can do for your club.” All of this activity will need volunteers and planners, leaders and followers. Please think about how you will help the club become the very best we can be this year.

I’m looking forward to our first Club Meeting. We have a lot to talk about and the main feature of this January meeting will once again be looking forward to the year and getting your ideas and feedback about the club’s direction.

Hope to see you there!

Jo, K5EKA

Christmas Party 2025 Highlights



Image credit: Tamara Higgins

We had a "GREAT" Christmas Party on December 16th at Calhouns 2.0. in Denison. There were 34 members and guests in attendance who enjoyed a great barbeque meal. President Michael Higgins recapped our 2025 events and recognized members for outstanding service to the club. The highlight of the evening was the awarding of the newly created "Lee Sly Award for Excellence in Amateur Radio Operation". As you know Lee has been a longtime member, officer and a elmer to many in the club, especially when it came to HF or POTA. The 2025 Lee Sly Award was awarded to James Frank KW5CW. James, like Lee has been a long time member, officer, newsletter editor and webmaster among other things. Congrats to James Frank!

We had some door prizes from MTC in Paris, Texas that were won by several members. David Turner won a dual band base antenna, Ricky Jessen won a power supply, James Johnson won the handy-talkie/mag mount dual band antenna and Lee Sly won the stick antenna. To round out the evening we had some great music by our DJ, some Karaoke and dancing.

Merry Christmas!

[Click here for Christmas Party Pictures](#)

Winter Field Day 2026 January 23 - 25, 2026



Image credit: Tamara Higgins

Winter Field Day is upon us!



Winter Field Day 2026 will be held again at Eisenhower State Park on Friday, January 23, through Sunday morning, January 25. We have "Ike's Cabin" reserved, and several members will be camping in adjacent shelters. Operating will begin Saturday at 1000 hrs CST and end Sunday at 1600 hrs CST. Radio and antenna setup will begin Friday evening and again Saturday morning. Lunch will be provided Saturday, and that evening we will have our 4th annual Chili Competition. Ralph Jerome, KI5NUK, will be trying to hang onto his title.

This year we are operating as a 3-O club, which means we will operate 3 radios and will be outdoors. The club has purchased a canopy with sides and we have heaters in case it's too cold.

The Winter Field Day event aims to help participants improve their preparedness for disasters and enhance their operational abilities in adverse conditions. Amateur radio operators have the freedom to use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands while employing voice, CW, and digital transmissions. The event designates specific objectives to encourage a diverse range of activities, including the use of non-commercial power sources, the deployment of multiple antennas, establishing satellite contacts, and more. Click [here](#) to read more about the history and purpose of winter field day.

See you at Eisenhower!

Club Information Page

1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday Nets

Dates/Net Control:

Jan 18 – Matt – KJ5HTD

Feb 1 – Ricky – KG5FDT

Feb 15 – Jo – K5EKA

Time: 8:00 PM Local

Repeater: 147.000

Next Regular Club Meeting

Date: January. 20, 2026

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

License Testing

Date: January, 20. 2026

Time: 6:00-7:00 PM

Location

Texoma Council of

Governments

1117 Gallagher Rd.

Sherman, Texas

Hungry Hams Breakfast

Saturday Jan 31st at 0800 hrs. at
Sweetberries

Treasurer's Report and Meeting Minutes

Click the links below for these reports.

[December 2025 Treasurer's Report](#)

[November 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)

2026 Club Events

Winter Field Day 2026 – January 23rd - 25th

Spring Campout – April 24th- 26th

Ham Radio Car Show – June 16th

ARRL Summer Field Day – June 27th & 28th

Fall Campout – October 2nd, 3rd, and 4th

Eisenhower Birthday Special Event – Oct 10-16
(Formal Celebration at Birthplace on Oct 11)

GCARC 2026 OFFICERS

- President: Jo VanSlogteren K5EKA – president@k5gcc.org
- Vice-President: Steve Ollmann KC5NK – vp@k5gcc.org
- Secretary: Mark Armstrong KJ5LKN – secretary@k5gcc.org
- Treasurer: Matt McClellan KJ5HTD – treasurer@k5gcc.org
- Director-At-Large: James Shiplet KI5BMN directoratlarge@k5gcc.org

ADDITIONAL ROLES

- License Trustee for K5GCC: Rick Simmons, K5ECX
- Public Information Officer: Steve Ollmann KC5NK- vp@k5gcc.org
- Activities Director: – Summer and Winter Field Days
- Field Day Coordinators: All Officers – officers@k5gcc.org
- Net Manager: Matt McClellan – KJ5HTD – treasurer@k5gcc.org
- Club Asset Manager: Steve Ollmann KC5NK- vp@k5gcc.org
- QSL Manager: James Frank KW5CW- qsl@k5gcc.org
- ARRL VE Team Leader and Testing Coordinator: Ricky Jessen – testing@k5gcc.org
- Newsletter Editor: James Shiplet – KI5BMN – editor@k5gcc.org
- Webmaster: Jo VanSlogteren – K5EKA – president@k5gcc.org

Local Repeaters and Nets

Local Area and Regional Nets

North Central Texas Connection

Radio link system covering a large portion of North Central Texas
<http://www.nctc.info> Thursdays at 2000hrs. on 443.750+ PL 100

North Central Texas 2 Meter Simplex Net

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1239747529713248>
Fridays @ 8PM on 146.580 +/-

North Texas 1.25m Simplex Net

Every Friday night after the 2m Simplex Net, by 9:30pm, you can test your 220 MHz rig on FM simplex. We start the Net on the 220 Texas Link System repeaters, get a list of check ins, and then QSY to 223.500 to see who can make simplex contacts.

There's not a linked 220 MHz repeater in our area yet, however you can talk simplex when conditions are right.

List of repeaters located in Sherman

147.000 +0.6 MHz PL100 W5RVT OPEN FM
147.280 +0.6 MHz PL 107.2 W5COP OPEN FM EchoLink
444.750 +5 MHz PL 100.0 W5RVT OPEN FM
441.325 +5 MHz PL 82.5 KG5SKM OPEN FM
ECHOLINK node - 831760 / ALLSTAR node - 53477

Other Area Repeaters

W5DWH Denison 145.330 -600kc offset PL 100 Transmit and receive
WD5U Rosston 145.490 -600kc offset PL 85.4
K5FRC VHF Bonham 145.470 -600kc offset PL 100
NCTC UHF Bonham 443.750 +5 Mhz offset PL 100
KF5SOX UHF Bells 444.950 +5 Mhz offset PL 88.5
N5MRG UHF Tom Bean 441.625 +5 Mhz offset PL 100
N5MRG 220 Tom Bean 223.840 -1.6 Mhz offset PL 100

2026 is ARRL's Year of the Club -- A Celebration of Amateur Radio Clubs

Click here for more info.

