



GCARC NEWS



Grayson County Amateur Radio Club

Volume 32

February 2026

Number 02

PRESIDENTS QSO:

Howdy good friends and hams,



Jo VanSlogteren

Well, 2026 didn't mess around with bringing us a good weather challenge right off the bat, did it? Hopefully everyone came out of it as unscathed as I did: no broken pipes, no power outages, no falls on the ice. Just a whole lot of time on my own with no place to go. Let's have warmer weather now, please. [I like snow in pictures.] A heartfelt thanks to all those who responded at the first meeting with good ideas and suggestions and by volunteering to help make this the year of Participation and Involvement!

Some of you, though, must have needed more time to mull over the possibilities of what you can do for your club. We welcome those volunteer forms still! We are looking at offering licensing courses and are debating things like: do one at a time (Technicians, first) or offer them all at once; who will be good teachers / presenters; who can organize the location, enrollment, and advertising; and when would be a good time to hold them. Your feedback is most welcome! We are also going to be setting up at a few community events, as was mentioned before. The first one may be the Doc Holliday Festival in Denison on April 25th. This will be both fun and challenging. But it may result in more members and more interest in amateur radio! Working together we will have a great year! Thanks for being a part of our club!

Your President,
Jo K5EKA

ALERT: Our Monthly Nets Are Changing

1st Sunday Information Net = 147.00 +.6 MHz 100 PL tone

3rd Sunday Information Net = 147.280. +.6 MHz 107.2 PL tone

5th Sunday Information Net = 444.750. +5 MHz 100.0 PL tone

More information about this change at the meeting.

Winter Field Day 2026



Image credit: Mark Miller

After all of our best made plans for Winter Field Day, Mother Nature had other plans. So with that info the Club voted to cancel our trip to Eisenhower State Park and just operate from home. Winter Field Day 2026 was held on Friday, January 23, through Sunday morning, January 25. We had "Ike's Cabin" reserved, and several members braved the Ice and Snow and went to Eisenhower anyway to POTA activate on Friday. Mark Miller, KA5TXN ventured back on Saturday to Activate for WFD,

Several members did operate from home during the WFD hours.

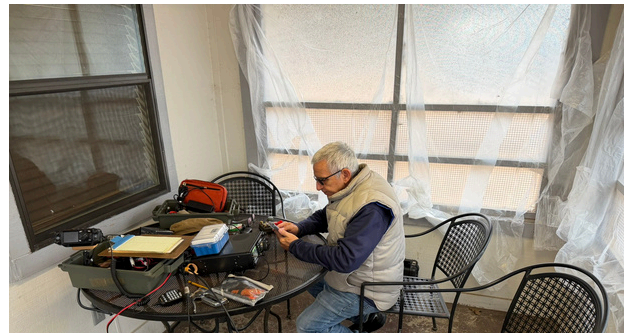


Image credits: Ricky Jessen



Parks On The Air



Pictured here are several members activating Eisenhower State Park along with the Texoma Dutch Oven Cookers. Image credit: Ronnie Chilton

Parks on the Air (POTA) is a popular international amateur radio ("ham radio") program that encourages licensed operators to set up and operate portable stations from designated public parks and protected lands. It promotes emergency communication awareness and outdoor activity, with operators ("activators") making contacts with others ("hunters") to earn awards based on the number of parks or contacts.

Key Details About POTA:

- How it Works: Activators travel to parks, set up portable antennas and radios, and must make a minimum of 10 contacts to "activate" the site. Hunters try to make contact with these stations from home or elsewhere .
- Locations: POTA covers thousands of locations globally, including National Parks, State Parks, and 95+ national forests or trails.
- Origins: The program grew out of the ARRL 2016 National Parks on the Air event. It is now managed independently at parksontheair.com.
- Awards: The program offers various awards for achievements like "Worked All States" or accumulating a high number of park activations.
- Participants: Anyone with a valid ham radio license can participate as an activator or hunter.

POTA is designed to be accessible, allowing for various operating modes (voice, Morse code, digital) and most all equipment setups. We have many members that "Activate" at local parks and would be glad to show you the ropes.

Club Information Page

1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday Nets

Dates/Net Control:

March 1 – James– KW5CW

March 15 – OPEN

March 29- James –KI5BMN

Time: 8:00 PM Local

Repeater: 147.000

Next Officers Meeting

Date: March 03, 2026

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

First State Bank, Sherman

Next Regular Club Meeting

Date: February 17, 2026

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

License Testing

Date: February, 18, 2026

Time: 6:00-7:00 PM

Location

Texoma Council of

Governments

1117 Gallagher Rd.

Sherman, Texas

Hungry Hams Breakfast

Saturday Feb 28th at 0800 hrs. at

Sweetberries

Treasurer's Report and Meeting Minutes

Click the links below for these reports.

<https://graysoncountyar.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/GCARC-Financial-Report-January-2026.pdf>

<https://graysoncountyar.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Minutes-2026-January-GCARC-Meeting.pdf>

2026 Club Events

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)



Click here for more info.

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

Board Meeting Location Change



The GCARC Officers Board Meetings are now held at First State Bank in Sherman on the First Monday of each month at 1900hrs CST. Located at 2315 N. Hwy 75 Sherman, TX 75090. All members are welcome to attend, however please eat prior to attending the meeting.

Want GCARC Apparel?

GCARC logo ball caps are available at monthly meetings, other logoed items such as shirts, jackets etc. are available from

<https://www.hamthreads.com/clubs>

Have a "topic" that you would like to present?

We are looking for amateur radio, preparedness, or related presentations for our monthly meetings. If you have a topic or an idea for a presentation please contact James-KI5BMN or Jo-K5EKA. We can assist you with preparing your presentation

Proposed topics (thus far)

March - Radio Reviews - pros and cons of different radios

April - Outfit your car with a radio and antenna

May - Antennas (kinds / purposes, build, etc)

June - Ham Radio Car Show

July - Programming on the go - using the menus (trouble shooting on the air)

August - POTA -

September - CW - (Mike Mitchell ?)

October - DX Engineering - Contesting Station

November - Elections and Go Kit building

December - Christmas Party

