



GCARC NEWS



Grayson County Amateur Radio Club

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PRESIDENT'S QSO:

Summer's Halfway Over...



Jo VanSlogteren
K5EKA

Howdy!

Are we having a great summer? It's halfway over... but unfortunately, the heat will last into October most likely.

How many of you are making contacts for the Special Event: Red River Bridge War – a vitally important historical event that the whole world should know about!! (Texas, our Texas forever!) Use W5R and keep your logs. Submit your counts to me so I can keep track and prod others to do more! :) “It's a competition, silly.”

Our meeting is this week – Tuesday – 7 p.m. at 1117 Gallagher Dr, Sherman. TCOG building. See you there! Steve Coleman WB4GHY will be telling us how he set up antennas around the world for the military! Too cool! His talk will start early in the evening – like around 7:15.

There will be a Table Sale at the meeting of items in the club's inventory – mostly acquired from SKs.

Don't forget to visit the club's website to read announcements, the Secretary's Report and the Financial Report. Also we have a revised script for Nets. I hope you'll all take a turn being Net control. We want to share the fun...

As always, we welcome ideas, constructive criticism, volunteers, and sharing!

See you Tuesday night!

Your President,
Jo K5EKA

All Nets begin at 2000hrs



Red River Bridge War Special Event

The Bridge War, also called the Red River Bridge War or the Toll Bridge War, was a 1931 bloodless boundary conflict between Oklahoma and Texas over an existing toll bridge and a new free bridge crossing the RED River. The Red River Bridge Company, a private firm owned by Benjamin Colbert, had been operating a toll bridge between Durant, Oklahoma and Denison, Texas carrying two US highway routes. Texas and Oklahoma had jointly built a new, free span northwest of the existing toll bridge. On July 10, 1931, the Red River Bridge Company obtained an injunction against the Texas Highway Commission, keeping them from opening the new bridge. The company said that the highway commission had promised in July 1930 to buy the old toll bridge for \$60,000, equal to \$847,052 today.

In reaction to the injunction, the Governor of Texas ordered that the new free bridge be barricaded from the Texas end. On July 16, the Oklahoma governor ordered the new bridge to be opened, by executive order. Murray issued this order on the grounds that the land on both sides of the river belonged to Oklahoma, per the Louisiana purchase treaty of 1803. Murray sent highway crews across the new bridge to destroy the barricades on the Texas side. The Texas Governor sent Adjutant General William Warren Sterling and three Texas Rangers (not including Chuck Norris) to the new bridge to defend the Texas Highway Commission workers enforcing the injunction and rebuild the barricade that night. The next day, Oklahoma crews under Oklahoma Governor Murray's order demolished the Oklahoma approach to the toll bridge, rendering that bridge impassable. The Texas state legislature called a special session on July 23 to pass a bill allowing the Red River Bridge Company to sue the state over the issue, partially in response to meetings in Grayson County, Texas, demanding the free bridge be opened.

The next day, Oklahoma Governor Murray declared martial law at the site, enforced by Oklahoma National Guardsmen, and appeared at the site armed with a revolver, hours before a Muskogee, Oklahoma court issued an injunction prohibiting him from blocking the northern toll bridge approach. Murray directed the guardsmen to allow anyone to cross either bridge. Murray discovered on July 27 that the free bridge was in danger of being closed permanently. He expanded the martial-law zone across the river, stationing guardsmen on both free bridge approaches. The injunction against the bridge opening was dissolved and the martial law order rescinded on August 6.

News of the dispute made national and international headlines. Adolf Hitler may have believed that the events were evidence of in-fighting between the American states, weakening the union. The free bridge that was the cause of the dispute was opened on Labor Day, September 7, 1931. It was replaced in 1995, though a portion of the bridge was saved as a historical attraction and relocated to a park in Colbert, Oklahoma. Here is a great video about the Red River Bridge War, it is long but gives you a lot of history about how this all happened...

Check out the video link on the W5R page on QRZ.com

Club Information Page

1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday Nets

Dates/Net Control:

August, 02 - Marvin KG5GMA

August, 16 - OPEN

August 30 - Ship KI5BMN

Time: 8:00 PM Local

Repeater: 147.000 - 147.280 = Backup

Echolink node: 436088 KG5SKM-L

Next Officers Meeting

Date: August 03, 2026

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

First State Bank, Sherman

Next Regular Club Meeting

Date: July 21, 2026

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

License Testing

Date: July 21, 2026

Time: 6:00-7:00 PM

Location

Texoma Council of Governments

1117 Gallagher Rd.

Sherman, Texas

Hungry Hams Breakfast

Saturday July 25th at 0800 hrs. at
Little Store and Kitchen in Sherman

Click the links below for the following reports.

Meeting Minutes

<https://graysoncountyarcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Minutes-2026-June-GCARC-Meeting.pdf>

Treasurer's Report

<https://graysoncountyarcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Minutes-2026-June-GCARC-Meeting.pdf>

2026 Club Events

Red River Bridge War Special Event - July 17 - 23

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

Fall Campout - November 6th-8th.



Click here for more info.

Our Calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/r/month>

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 Shippet 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 Shippet - 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
444.750 +5 MHz PL 100.0 W5RVT OPEN FM
441.325 +5 MHz PL 82.5 KG5SKM OPEN FM
ECHOLINK node - 436088 KG5SKM-L / ALLSTAR node - 534770

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

Join us for our Board Meetings



The GCARC Officers Board Meetings are 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, and we eat at Golden Corral 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>

Meshtastic - Off Grid Comms For Everyone

Several members of our Club are looking into setting up a mesh network between members and we hope to give a presentation to the club soon. You could additionally set up a local mesh for your family as a way to communicate when cell towers are down and the internet is out or log jammed. It's not just for ham's, everyone can participate, so that family member that doesn't want to take the tech test and just want's to "text", Meshtastic is perfect for them.

Meshtastic® is a project that enables you to use inexpensive LoRa radios as a long range off-grid communication platform in areas without existing or reliable communications infrastructure.; no cell service or internet needed. This project is 100% community driven and open source!

Features

- Long range (331km record by MartinR7 & alleg)
- No phone required for mesh communication
- Decentralized communication - no dedicated router required
- Encrypted communication
- Excellent battery life
- Send and receive text messages between members of the mesh
- Optional GPS based location features
- And more!

How it works

Meshtastic utilizes LoRa, a long-range radio protocol, which is widely accessible in most regions without the need for additional licenses or certifications, unlike ham radio operations. These radios are designed to rebroadcast messages they receive, forming a mesh network. This setup ensures that every group member, including those at the furthest distance, can receive messages. Additionally, Meshtastic radios can be paired with a single phone, allowing friends and family to send messages directly to your specific radio. It's important to note that each device is capable of supporting a connection from only one user at a time. If you are interested in a more technical overview of how Meshtastic works, visit www.meshtastic.org

