



GCARC NEWS



Grayson County Amateur Radio Club

Volume 32

August 2026

Number 08

PRESIDENT'S QSO:

Let's all keep cool...



Jo VanSlogteren
K5EKA

Hello Hello Hello! How's everyone doing?

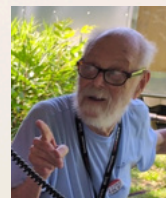
I haven't melted yet and I hope you all are doing what you can to keep cool and get things done indoors!!

We are moving forward with getting rid of the extra inventory we've accumulated. The table will be set up again at the meeting on the 18th. A lot of things aren't priced, so do a little research yourself and make us an offer. If you want to add a label to anything with what you think we should get for it, you are welcome to do that.

We're looking forward to hearing from Zach (Elrod) all about meshtastic and meshcore – what it is, how it differs from other communication means (GMRS, Amateur radio, cellphone texting, etc.) It may present solutions for staying in touch with loved ones and friends in grid-down scenarios. Hope you will all come and bring your questions for Zach.

Our club website has a new look! Check it out! (I got creative one day. :-) Look around at all the menus and find something you didn't know was there. I still want to go through all of the "QSL Manager's Messages" (found under GCARC Documents). Year 2023 has some very enticing topics such as: DX Code of Conduct, Should I keep a log?, What is the best radio to buy?, Six Things Required In Your Log, etc. etc. etc.

Also in 2024 Lee Sly N5SLY (our previous QSL Manager – soooo much knowledge in his brain!!) posted some cool knots that might come in handy for you someday! [Thanks, Lee for all you have done for our club – and continue to do!]



Lee Sly N5SLY

All members, let me know your thoughts and desires concerning the club!

See you soon!

Your President,
Jo K5EKA

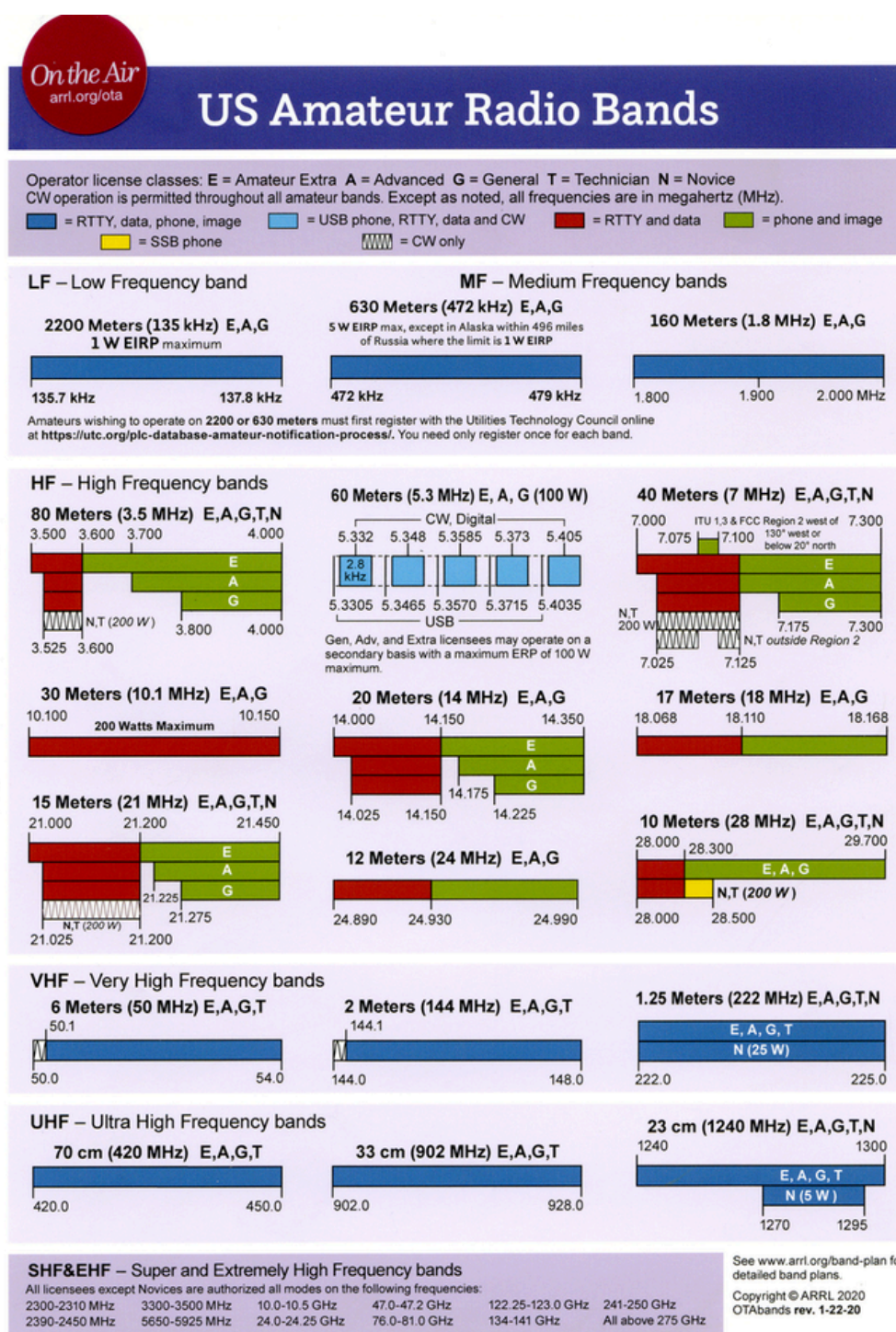
ALERT: Our Monthly Nets Have Changed

All GCARC nets have moved back to 147.00

They are still on the first and third Sundays

The ARES Info and Training Nets will still be on the second and fourth Sundays

All Nets begin at 2000hrs



Eisenhower Special Event

October 10th, 0000z, (7 pm) through October 16th, 2359z, (11:59 pm) 2026

Modes of Operation - CW Phone Digital

Bands of Operation - 80 - 60 - 40 - 30 - 20 - 17- 15 - 12 - 10 - 6 - 2

The club will be operating this Special Event for the entire week. You are encouraged to operate using W5I, W5K or W5E on all the bands at no specific time. Check in with KW5CW to make sure we're not overlapping

The Grayson County Amateur Radio Club honors President Dwight Eisenhower - the 34th President of the United States on his birthday each year. He was born on October 14, 1890 in a small house in Grayson County located in Denison, Texas within a Parks-On-the-Air park known as Eisenhower Birthplace - US-6553 that is open for everyone to see. A tour of his home will be free of charge. This year we are celebrating the 136th year since his birth. He died at age 78 on March 28th, 1969.

The special radio event in his honor will commence on Friday October 9th at 7:00PM Central Time . It ends the following Friday October 16th at 11:59PM Central Time at 2359z. There are festivities at the Eisenhower Birthplace property throughout the day on Saturday, October 10th, 2026.

Local Saturday activities at multiple locations are as follows...

- 9:00AM - Sunrise Ceremony & Brick Dedication held at the Eisenhower Monument (Hwy 75 at N. Loy Lake Rd), featuring a ceremony and honoring veterans, according to city of Denison officials.**
- 10:00AM - 3:00PM - Birthplace Birthday Party at the Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site (609 S. Lamar Ave) will host free, limited hourly tours, birthday cake, local music performances (including student bands), and children's crafts. The Club will operate from here and meet many potential new Hams.**
- Military Exhibits: The Perrin Air Force Base Museum (9AM-4PM) (436 McCullum Ave, Denison, TX) will feature a "Wall of Honor" exhibit to honor Eisenhower's military career.**
- Railroad History: The Red River Railroad Museum (11AM-4PM) (110 E. Main St. Suite 106, Denison, TX) will be open for visitors, as noted by the city of Denison.**
- Music and Entertainment: Past celebrations have included patriotic USO-style performances, which are expected to continue for the 2026 festivities, according to the [Texas Historical Commission](#).**

During these festivities, the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club will have a station set up using the Call W5I. There will be contacts made using SSB, CW and Digital modes of communication. Amateur Radio Operators from anywhere are encouraged to stop by and make a few contacts using the special callsign. The birthday celebration runs throughout the following week as amateur radio operators will be using 1 of 3 callsigns W5I, W5K and W5E.

Check out the video link on the W5I page on QRZ.com

Club Information Page

1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday Nets

Dates/Net Control:

August, 30 - Ship KI5BMN

September, 06 - KJ5LKN

Time: 8:00 PM Local

Repeater: 147.000 - 147.280 = Backup

Echolink node: 436088 KG5SKM-L

Next Board of Directors Meeting

Date: September 07, 2026

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

First State Bank, Sherman

Next Regular Club Meeting

Date: August 18, 2026

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

License Testing

Date: August 18, 2026

Time: 6:00-7:00 PM

Location

Texoma Council of Governments

1117 Gallagher Rd.

Sherman, Texas

Hungry Hams Breakfast

Saturday August 29th at 0800 hrs. at

Little Store and Kitchen in Sherman

Click the links below for the following reports.

Meeting Minutes

<https://graysoncountyar.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Minutes-2026-July-GCARC-Meeting.pdf>

Treasurer's Report

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

2026 Club Events

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 Shiple KJ5BMN 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 Shiple - KJ5BMN - 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 Tracks Restaurant 109 N. Woods, Sherman 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 will be hearing a presentation at this month's club meeting. 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 logjammed. It's not just for hams; everyone can participate, so that family member that doesn't want to take the tech test and just wants 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

