

# **GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

GCARC GRAYSON CO. TEXAS USA

**June** 2023

Having Fun with Amateur Radio

Vol 29, No 6

TATEUR RADIO

Events Coming Up

**EDITORS MESSAGE** 

Next Operating Club Event Hello GCARC,

Summer Field Day K5GCC June 24 & 25 2023

Location: Eisenhower Birthplace - Denison

1st and 3rd & 5th
Sunday Nets
Dates/Net Control:
7/2 & 7/16 Net Control
Op Not Named
7/30 – Jim Shiplet
Time: 8:00 PM Local
Repeater: 147.000+

Next Regular Club
Monthly Meeting
Date: June 20, 2023
Time: 7:00-8:45 PM
Eats from 6:00-7:00 PM
Location
Grandy's Restaurant

June Meeting Presentation

Final Preparation for Summer Field Day

FOXHUNT Demo and Foxhunt Antenna Display at Field Day

It's been a very hectic month for me as it has been for many of us in the beginning of summer. James was unable to provide a message for us this month, but I'm going to give it a try.

Presently, I'm in Ohio visiting my hometown and friends and family I haven't seen for decades. I've visited many POTA parks on the way and made a special visit to a few old ham friends of mine I haven't seen for just as long. I dropped in on my old buddy from West Middlesex, PA, Tim Duffy – K3LR, who happens to be the CEO/President of DX Engineering. Old friends WB8CPG, Jimmy Popovich and KE8Y- Mike Svasta also were visited after at least 40 years of being away from the area. I toured K3LR's contest property, and it is something to behold. Later in the newsletter, I will provide pictures taken of the contest shack. It is something to behold. By the way, I asked Tim if he would do a presentation for the club in the near future and he agreed to do the presentation via Zoom.

This month in less than a week is the yearly ARRL operating event called Field Day. The GCARC will be operating in the event using the call K5GCC at the Eisenhower Birthplace in Denison. Anyone is welcome to attend the GCARC FD and can operate one of the stations if desired. FD starts on Saturday, June 24th and ends on Sunday afternoon on the 25th. I'm hoping to get back to participate but there is a chance I may not be back in time for participating in the GCARC Field Day this year. Amateur Radio testing will be available, so now may be your chance to upgrade your license. If you are successful in upgrading, your privileges will be available to use immediately after passing any one of the tests except if you are waiting for your initial license. Also, there will be a FOXHUNT demo. So come out and join in on the fun at Field Day, Also, it would be great if y'all attended the club meeting this coming Tuesday. At the meeting this month, the presentation will be about preparations for Field Day.

73, James – KW5CW

#### **2023 GCARC CLUB OFFICERS**

President: James Shiplet – KI5BMN – (<u>president@graysoncountyarc.org</u>)

Vice President: Ricky Jessen - KG5FDT - (vp@graysoncountyarc.org)

Secretary: David Darcy - KF5LKG - (secretary@graysoncountyarc.org)

Treasurer: Ralph Jerome - KI5NUK - (treasurer@graysoncountyarc.org)

Director at Large: James Frank - KW5CW - (directoratlarge@graysoncountyarc.org)

License Trustee: Rick Simmons - K5ECX - (<u>rr52s@yahoo.com</u>)

Webmaster - Newsletter Editor - James Frank - KW5CW - (editor@graysoncountyarc.org)

#### **Club Address**

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 642, Sherman TX 75091

There is no Secretary Report this month. A double report will be provided in July.

### Summer Field Day 2023 – June 24th and 25th

Well guess what? It's here. Summer Field Day is upon us. 5 days to go. Next weekend we will be at the event. This year we will have the GCARC Field Day at the Eisenhower Birthplace, using our club call - K5GCC. Many of you may recall that the club originally planned to operate Field Day at the Eisenhower State Park instead of the birthplace. That is true, but thanks to the State Park location NOT being open for Field Day this year because of road renovations, we had to find another place. Luckily, we did find a place that some of us frequent often when doing POTA activations and that would be to what we know as K-6553, the Eisenhower Birthplace. It is a very friendly place. The management there seem to love us coming around. We can put up our tents, use the amenities throughout Saturday night, have lighting and electrical power if needed, but as far as I know, all of us that plan to attend will be using battery power. On the next page is a flyer full of the info for the event. There may be some dignified visitors showing up, and lots of planned operation on CW/Digital and SSB. All are welcome to participate and operate the radios when you arrive to have fun at this yearly special event. Several of us will be putting up tents, and as always at all our operating events, there will be lots of food available, starting with lunch provided by Ralph Jerome - KI5NUK on Saturday at 12:00 Noon prior to the start of Field Day. On the menu for those who helped set up, there will be gourmet Beanie Weenies and corn bread. For dinner on Saturday, a Catfish Fry is on the menu along with sides. If you plan to eat at either sitting, for lunch or dinner, the officers request that you contact any one of them so that they can plan the amount of food that will be needed for each sitting.

Exams administered between 2-4PM in the Red Building at the Birthplace on Saturday June 24



# 2023 FIELD DAY

Saturday June 24 1pm thru Sunday June 25 12pm

Location Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site 609 S. Lamar Ave. Denison, TX 75021





Activities
Phone, Digital & CW Operations
VE Testing Session 6/24 2pm - 4pm
Digital Operation Instructions & help

Join us and talk to the world using amateur radio!

More info at the GCARC June 20th meeting. 7pm at Grandys Restaurant Sherman, TX or at graysoncountyarc.org

## Treasury Report for May 2023 - by GCARC Treasurer Ralph Jerome

May 23 Club Financial Report		
		Amount
Bank Balance at time of last months report 5/31/23		2,507.20
Bank Balance at time of report 6/3/2023		2,572.01
Income - Note PayPal payments don't include fees		
PayPal Dues	· ·	18.81
Total Income		18.81
Annual Dues Income - 2023	total	544.10
Expenses		
Total Expenses		0.00
		2.00
Cash on hand		20.00
Petty Cash		20.00



Total Checks & other funds deposited		
50/50		46.00
Dues-PayPal Final Total at time of report		18.81 <b>64.81</b>
50 - 50 Raffle Christmas Gift Fund	Deposit to checking	Total
Beginning Balance	0.00	0.00
January	97.00	97.00
February	79.00	79.00
March	59.00	59.00
April	58.00	58.00
May	46.00	46.00
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
Ending Balance	339.00	339.00



Grayson County ARC Budget Items Calendar Year 2023	Budget	Actual Expenses
	Amount	·
Operating Events		ı
Winter Field Day 2023	200.00	0.00
Food, Drinks & Supplies		
Camping Spot		-138.60
Perrin Field Museum Special Event	50.00	0.00
Food, Drinks & Supplies		
ARRL Field Day	138.60	0.00
Food, Drinks & Supplies	50.00	
Red River Bridge War Special Event	50.00	0.00
Food, Drinks & Supplies	30.00	0.00
Eisenhower Birthday Special Event	50.00	0.00
Food, Drinks & Supplies		
Operating Events Total	400.00	-138.60
QSL Management /Administrative		I
PO Box Rental	165.00	-166.00
Web Domain	25.00	0.00
QSL Management /Administrative/Finance Total	190.00	-166.00
Christmas Party		I
Christmas Party Expenses	150.00	
Christmas Party Total	150.00	0.00
Equipment Hard/Soft	E0.00	40.05
Accessories (Cable Antenna Tuner) GCARC Signs for Events	50.00 133.67	-49.95 -133.67
GCARC Signs for Events	155.07	-155.67
Equipment Hard/Soft Total	183.67	-183.62
Total Budget Approved	923.67	
Total Budget Spent		-488.22
Estimated 2023 Dues Income		940.00
Budget approved 01/17/23		



#### **QSL Managers Message**

I hear this question all the time..." What is the best radio to buy?"

The answer is..." All radios are good. They all do the same thing and they do it well."

Well, that wasn't real helpful was it. Let me ask you a question, "What do you plan on doing with the radio?" That will have some bearing on which one you chose to buy.

I went into a very long and detailed description of a number of very popular radios and then realized that all I was doing was rewriting what has already been written about them. So, I erased what I had written and I'll keep this simple...

If you want a small radio that doesn't have a lot of buttons and dials...look at the Yaesu.

If you want a big radio that has a lot of buttons and dials, then...look at the Kenwood.

If you want something in between then...look at the Icom.

A good rule of thumb is...the more buttons and dials there are, the fewer menus there will be.

So, which HF radio did I get? I got the Icom IC-7300. I got it for a number of reasons. First, I've only heard good things about the radio from other hams. I liked the touch screen. I liked the fact that it had a memory slot where I could record things for future use. It is easy to use and very intuitive. I seldom must look at the manual.

The next question is..." What is the best antenna to buy?"

The answer is... "There is no best antenna." "All antennas are a tradeoff."

"A good antenna can make a bad radio good, and a bad antenna can make a good radio bad."

At home I use 4 antennas. When operating my vehicle, I use 2 antennas.



At home I have a 40' tower with a Hy-gain TH-5MM, 5 element tri-band beam antenna which is by far the best antenna I have. It works on 10, 15 & 20 meters and with the rotator I can turn it to point in the direction of the station I want to contact. I use this antenna as often as possible.

My  $2^{nd}$  HF antenna is a G5RV up about 35' and strung between 2 trees. This antenna works on everything from 6 – 80 meters. It works well, but I have to use a Tuner with it to get the SRW down to acceptable levels. Don't get nearly as good reception using it as I do with the beam.

My 3<sup>rd</sup> HF antenna is a EFLW that I use when I want to get on 160 meters. Don't use this very often but it does work.

My last antenna is a VHF/UHF vertical antenna that I use with my 2-meter, 70 CM radio. Works great hitting the repeater about 5 miles away. I'm not much of a VHF/UHF guy so I seldom use it.

When I'm operating from my vehicle, I use an Eagle One HF antenna. It is nothing more than a EFLW vertical and with a tuner it will work on all bands from 6 meters to 80 meters. I use this while operating POTA activations. The reason I use this antenna is because I can set it up and take it down all by myself...I don't need any help. It doesn't require any radials and I've never used any with it. One of the top Activators in the POTA program uses this antenna and she always sounds great whenever I contact her. It didn't cost a lot of money. Actually, the turner costs more that the antenna.

I have heard a lot of stories from other hams doing POTA activations that the park rangers didn't like wires in trees, wires on the ground, stakes pounded in the ground, etc. With the Eagle One antenna I am completely self-contained in the vehicle. Nothing is touching the ground except the tires on my vehicle. So... the Park Rangers don't have anything to complain about and I've never had any difficulty with any of my activations.

The last antenna I use is a VHF/UHF vertical with a mag mount that I use every once in a while when I want to make a 2- meter contact in a POTA park.



So, you can see that I use multiple antennas because there isn't one that will do everything, I want it to do.

You must ask yourself a question about the antenna that you are using..." Does it do what I want it to do?" If the answer is Yes...then it is a good antenna. If the answer is No... then you need to get a better one.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

73

Lee N5SLY lee.n5sly@gmail.com 903-818-7463

#### SUPER CONTEST STATION - K3LR - West Middlesex, PA

Well, my dream finally came true. I can't tell you how long I have dreamed of visiting a topnotch contest station of one that belongs to a past friend of 40+ years, Tim Duffy, K3LR. Yes, at least 40 years since I've seen him. This is my first trip back home to Youngstown where I was born and I couldn't return to Dallas unless I finally met Tim again. I was hoping to maybe work a contest with him sometime at his station, but there is a long list of people in line waiting to do so. I'd never get a chance any time soon.

If any of you purchase equipment from DX Engineering from time to time, you may be interested to know that the company belongs to Tim, as he is the CEO/President of DX Engineering. If you have been into ham radio for any length of time, you most likely purchased radio equipment or antennas from Tim. At a moment's notice, Tim literally agreed to meet me and another close friend, Ray DeRamo – WD8DFW on June 18, 2023 at his contest station and what I witnessed is something that could only appear in ham radio heaven. So, I can say a miracle has happened, and I was in heaven on earth for a few days before Fathers Day. And yes, I was living a dream. I can't say enough of what I saw at that special place. Imagine having a radio for every band except for WARC bands (no contest bands) of 60, 30, 17 and 12 meters. I'm talking one 20K radio for CW on each band and another for SSB on each band, with a 2-KW linear amplifier for each station. Not just any radio, but ICOM 7851's in every operating position, one that was made partially of GOLD. The price tag of a regular ICOM 7851 - \$20,000. The price tag of the rare Gold model - \$35,000 and that's because it came down a little in price. With price, you get

performance. If you're a contester as I am, everything I witnessed at the station is a contesters dream.

If you think what I just mentioned about the radios is something, his antenna farm is something to behold. How about one of his towers setting at 275 foot tall, with multiple stacks of beams mounted on it, that uses ring rotators of course. But the antenna rotates around the tower and uses extremely accurate control boxes that each antenna uses. Receive antennas everywhere along with many more towers full of antennas. He has one of his towers sitting on top of a ceramic insulator. In once instance the wires hanging from it act as a director, but in another is a reflector. More details regarding the insulator and this special tower is detailed in one of the videos below. It's at least 100 feet tall and I think he said it was actually 120 foot tall.. So, what if the tower shifted in any way, sitting on top of a ceramic insulator? Of course, the ceramic insulator would break. But Tim came up with a solution. The antenna actually floats on top of the ground but mounted solidly to the ceramic insulator below the tower. It was his idea with the ceramic insulator, and how to keep it from crumbling from the weight and movement of the tower.

The first link below is to a video made in 2016 which is basically a fly-over using a drone above his antenna farm, and then another link that gives more information on his antennas and operating positions inside the contest station. Tim also explains the operating costs, and maintenance costs of such a station. At a later date, I will include some of the pictures I took in person just a few days ago at the contest station.

https://youtu.be/LzzXM5j\_CMQ

#### https://youtu.be/XIHbjzUJqqO

While visiting his station, I asked Tim in person if he would be willing to give our club one of his presentations. I asked him what his schedule was, and he agreed to take time to visit with us via zoom during one of our meetings and give us a presentation.

One thing I will share with you is that I was taken aback by a man of his stature, his success in contesting, business and his knowledge of radios, antennas, and contesting and his second to none contest station and the largest antenna farm that I have even seen. With all that said, besides being the CEO and Owner of DX Engineering, Tim is the most down to earth man you will ever talk to. He looks down to noone and is willing to share his knowledge and experiences with everyone. He has nothing to hide and wants everyone who visits to dream your dream in amateur radio. When I visited a few days ago, it was like I left this earth, and I arrived at a place where nothing else existed, nothing but amateur radio, somewhere in heaven I must think. If anyone has the chance to visit Tim's wonderful place, you owe it to yourself to see it. Even if you are not into

contesting, you need to someday take some time out and witness for yourself

what I witnessed in a very special place in West Middlesex, Pennsylvania. It's Tim's dream coming true and he's sharing it with the world. I've never seen anything like it.

The following picture was taken when I visited Tim and the K3LR contest station and antenna farm just a few days ago. I've been waiting for at least half of my amateur radio career to take this picture with Tim. He didn't forget who I was, even after 40 years of no contact. The man on the left is Ray DeRamo, WD8DFW, another friend who now lives in Warren, Ohio that I may have seen twice in 40 years because he came to visit me in Dallas in his travels throughout the country in a beautiful motor home. Tim – K3LR is on the right side of this picture, (my left).





#### Last month Presentation on Survival Preparedness

by

#### Michael Higgins - KI5ZIQ and Cynthia Vanslogteren - K5EKA

I believe all would agree who attended the May meeting last month were extremely impressed with the professionalism and preparedness of Michael and Cynthia's presentation. For the first time, the audience did not have problems viewing the screen that was so vitally important to display information needed by Mike and Cynthia about Survival Preparedness. The presentation was clean, and the facts were precise. A special thank you to Mike for a job well done. Talking about taking control of a presentation, that one was control in overdrive. I can't remember a presentation of anything like it in the past. Cynthia also did an excellent job. WOW!



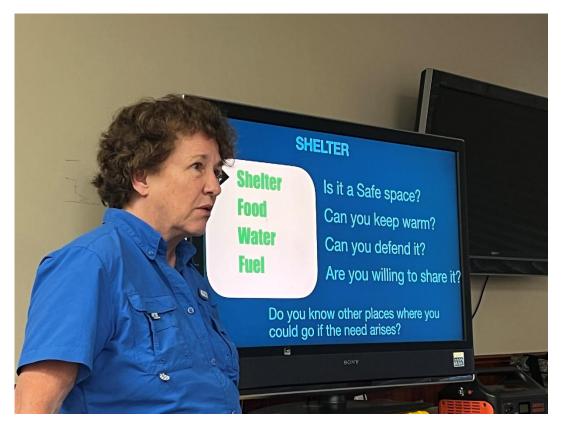
















#### Director-at-Large Election Just 2 Months Away - August 2023

Yes, it already is that time of year that one of the officer positions must be vacated and a new officer must be elected. The Director at Large position has been held by James KW5CW for the past two years. In July, at the meeting next month, nominations for the Director at Large position for the next two years must take place, according to the GCARC by-laws. It's time to find out who will take James's place.

The by-laws, Section 2d and 2e state the following:

"Nominations for Director at Large shall be taken at the regularly scheduled meeting in July.

In the event that there is not an accepted nomination, nominations from the floor will be allowed prior to the election during the regular meeting in August. Election for Director at Large shall be conducted by secret ballot with a write in option.

The vote for Director at Large shall take place at the regularly scheduled meeting in August.

The new Director at Large shall immediately take office."



#### Nominations for Regular Officer Elections Take Place in October

It's never too early to start thinking about the upcoming year, especially this one with the GCARC. All officers must step down from their elected posts, as each of them has served two consecutive years in their current position. Ralph was elected to his position as Treasurer in the mid-term of his 1<sup>st</sup> year, so since he was an officer for any length of time in 2022, and full term in 2023, he also must vacate his office.

So, the easy deduction here is that ALL officers must be replaced in January. Nominations for officers take place at the October meeting and are elected at the November meeting. Since there is no meeting in December because of the Christmas party that replaces that would-be meeting every December, the new officers for the upcoming year must be known at the regular meeting in October. Section 2a and 2b state the following:

- a) "Nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be made in the regularly scheduled meeting in October.

  In the event that some or all of the offices receive no accepted nominations, nominations from the floor will be allowed prior to the elections during the regular meeting in November. Election for officers shall be conducted by secret ballot with a write in option.
- b) The vote for election of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be taken in the regularly scheduled meeting in November following the nominations."

It's time to start thinking now who may be willing to lead the GCARC in 2024.



# Another New Subdomain on graysoncountyarc.org zipfotos.graysoncountyarc.org by James – KW5CW

I believe that everyone would agree that our club photographer is doing a great job. The club NEVER had someone as dedicated in taking pictures as Tamara Higgens - KI5ZIP has since she's taken on her role in January of 2023. Her husband Mike – KI5ZIQ did a great job in his presentation last month on Survival Preparedness with Cynthia. Tamera has the support of her husband Mike while they both continue to support this group in ways that you may not know.

Because our meetings sometimes run quite late, last month I was unable to discuss the upcoming BBS feature on the website at gcarc.graysoncountyarc.org at the meeting. Likewise, since I'm out of town at the moment and most definitely won't make the next meeting, I needed to update you here on what's been happening with the website which also involves Tamara.

I have created a new subdomain for her on our website where she can publish every picture she takes, or cares to share with the club on the new sub-domain called zipfotos.graysoncountyarc.org. Tamara and I briefly discussed the new subdomain to become reality just briefly at the last meeting. She and I jokingly made comments to each other stating that I only had a week to get it done. She said she was going to hold me to it. Well, I love challenges, so I took her on and immediately had some pages active on the new subdomain the very next day. However, you pay the price when you rush, and that's what I did. Consequently, the website is running a little slow these days, and it is something that will be fixed when I return from my trip. The issue is not serious. Presently, I'm on a trip that still needs to cover several states up north, with a return trip to include states from Ohio, through North and South Carolina, eventually reaching Florida, west to Louisiana and Texas.

I put the subdomain pages together kind of quickly, and now when you try to bring up the subdomain by clicking on the photos link on graysoncountyarc.org which takes you to zipfotos.graysoncountyarc.org,, the pages load very slowly. After they are accessed the first time, they will load allot faster, because they are now resident in Cache memory. Again, it is an issue that I can fix when I get back to Texas .



#### Very Important: Paying GCARC Club Yearly Dues

Just as a reminder, you can renew your yearly dues at <a href="http://hamclubonline.com">http://hamclubonline.com</a>. At that URL, you will find the amateur radio management system that can be used to pay your dues to the GCARC. Remember, to continue to be a voting member, your dues must be paid on time. Yearly dues are good for 365 days from the day that you originally sign up.

#### New Club Email Address and Website Bulletin Board

The GCARC acquired a new email address a few months back. The address is <a href="mailto:gcarcclub@gmail.com">gcarcclub@gmail.com</a>. The old address can no longer be used. Anyone sending a proper email to this address whether it is just a query or to provide information to the club will receive a response. Stay in touch with the club. If you cannot make the monthly meetings and you have something the club should know about, such as ideas for upcoming meetings or upcoming events, let the club know. There will be various forms on the website on the new bulletin board that you can update available to members only. The Club Google Calander will also be included, and accessible by everyone.

#### Writing Articles for the Newsletter

Anyone out there in the club that would like to have some space in the GCARC newsletter to write something you are interested in? If there is something you would like to share with the members by posting your stuff in the newsletter, all you must do is send your article as an attachment to our club email address.

Again, everyone should keep this address handy and keep it in their contact list.

gcarcclub@gmail.com



#### Local and Regional Repeater Systems in and near Sherman Texas

<b>Frequency</b>	<u>Offset</u>	Tone Up / Down	Location	<b>County</b>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Use</u>	Modes
<b>147.0000</b>	+0.6 MHz	100.0 / 100.0	Sherman	Grayson	W5RVT	OPEN	FM
<u>147.2800</u>	+0.6 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	Sherman	Grayson	W5COP	OPEN	FM
441.3250	+5 MHz	82.5 / 82.5	Sherman	Grayson	KG5SKM	OPEN	FM EchoLink +AllStar
<u>444.7500</u>	+5 MHz	100.0 / 100.0	Sherman	Grayson	W5RVT	OPEN	FM

Make note of the KG5SKM Open repeater, owned, and operated in Sherman by one of our club members – Andrew Bentley – KG5SKM. The repeater has been recently activated. It is located at Sherman Radio Station KQDR, 900 E Pecan Grove Rd, Sherman, Texas 75092. It contains an Allstar Node – 53477 and an Echolink Node 831760. The antenna is located just 20 feet off the ground and has a 35 mile range.

#### Other repeaters accessible from Sherman are as follows:

#### W5DWH Denison

145.330 -600 offset PL 100 Transmit and receive

#### **WD5U Rosston**

145.490 -600 offset PL 85.4

#### K5FRC VHF Bonham

145.470 -600 offset PL 100.0

#### NCTC UHF Bonham

443.750 +5 offset PL 100.0

#### **KF5SOX UHF Bells**

444.950 +5 offset No PL at this time



# **Grayson County Amateur Radio Club General Info**

Become a Member of the GCARC click here: https://graysoncountyarc.org/membership/

- 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday GCARC Information Net Control Schedule: <a href="https://graysoncountyarc.org/about-gcarc/net-control-schedule/">https://graysoncountyarc.org/about-gcarc/net-control-schedule/</a>
- Visit the GCARC Website www.graysoncountyarc.org
- ♦ Visit the GCARC Facebook page: http://www.facebook.com/groups/k5gcc
- ₱ Submit articles for GCARC newsletter to: editor@k5qcc.org
- E-mail change updates @ http://hamclubonline.com

# Club Patches and Clothing Options:

**Option 1.** From Ham Threads: <a href="https://www.hamthreads.com/">https://www.hamthreads.com/</a> get a large variety of clothing styles with GCARC, ARES and or Skywam Logos, Call Sign and Name. See Examples Below:







**Option 2.** Order from the club Treasurer using the form below. Additionally, you can order premade ARES and Skywarn patches for \$4.00 each and GCARC Club Patches for \$5.00 each.



