

The President's QSO – March 2018

By Trevor Reed

Hi all, we had yet another great meeting. I want to share special thanks for all who attended. So much was discussed.

First we received an update from the committee about moving the club meeting night. Roy Reed – AF5VA provided an update as to the pros and cons of changing the day of week. A decision was to continue with discussion and the committee will meet one more time to further discuss the options. At the next meeting, a vote will be taken and the meeting day may change. The members who attend the next monthly meeting on April 20th will decide.

For the next thing discussed, the pending educational class to be held called "Ham 101" at Grayson County College in Sherman is now scheduled for this Saturday, March 24th. It will start promptly at 8:30AM and run approximately 4 hours. This class is for newly licensed Amateur Radio Operators that are still trying to figure out what this hobby is all about. A variety of subjects will go a little in depth regarding the "amateur radio bands, modes of operation, basic HF radio controls, proper logging requirements, how to make contacts on the radio, how you get QSL confirmations, awards, special events, contesting, and ham radio lingo", as stated per the formal announcement of this class. If you are not familiar about emergency preparedness, you will learn about ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Skywarn), along with other community service events. The instructor will be Lee – N5SLY. You can register for this class by emailing Lee, N5SLY at N5sly@arrl.net.

Next, for our next meeting, I'm extremely pleased to announce the arrival of our special guest - Jason Johnson (KC5HWB) on April 20th. He will be making a presentation on Digital Mobile Radio, also known as DMR, as we are going to be getting a DMR repeater soon here in Grayson county. Anyone interested on how DMR really works, make sure you schedule your time and be at the next meeting, as it should be highly educational. You may know Jason from his YouTube channel called Ham Radio 2.0.

Moving on, I provided an update on the The Kings Trail Disaster Preparedness Fair to be located at Kings Trail Cowboy's Church - 498 Bethel-Cannon Rd, WhiteWrite, Texas on March 25 from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM. The club will have a table set up along with an HF, VHF and UHF station. More information is available on the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Facebook page located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC/>

Another topic discussed - NVIS antenna day, Jim - K5QOI discussed the upcoming event now set for April 28th at Herman Baker Park from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Various NVIS antennas will be tested at the event, and then a potluck style dinner immediately afterwards. Family members are also invited to also share in the fun at the park. Jim

will also put on a presentation at the next club meeting on April 20th concerning these unique antennas.

Rick - K5ECX discussed upcoming ARES net activities to include a Winlink net, where participants are encouraged to use RMS Express, and to assist them in keeping their software current. He set up a table of different for sale items made available for purchase to the club, including shirts, hats, patches, safety vests and magnetic signs, etc. If you would like more information on these items, please contact Rick - K5ECX.

Lee - N5SLY discussed a new program that the club easily voted in, called 'Rent-A-Radio. The club plans to make use of a low band radio that will be available to club members. The club will supply the radio with digital software, a power supply and antenna. Great stuff! Thanks Lee for your idea.

How about the Kiwanis Bike Rally coming up in a few months. Yes, we are an active club. We also specialize in emergency communications and special operating events like the Perrin Field Special Event, the Red River Bridge War and Eisenhower Special event, plus not to forget Field Day. We will top it off with a great Christmas party at the end of the year.

Finally, the main presentation of the evening was the demo and birth of our new club website given by James - KW5CW. The website is now located at <http://www.graysoncountyar.org>. The hesitation along with excitement was felt before, during and after the website finally was born during the demonstration. I invite everyone who gets a chance to read my message visit the new website and watch it continue to grow with many features. James plans to explain some new features at the next meeting on April 20th.

We have some awesome stuff going on and I do not want anyone to miss out so come to our meeting next month on April 20th and don't miss out in all the fun!!

73,

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