



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

MARCH 2014

WWW.K5GCC.US

VOL. 20, No. 3

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

I hope everybody is as ready for spring to be here as I am. I'm really looking forward to lots of activities in the nice weather.

There was an e-mail sent out last month regarding the proposed changes to the bylaws. The proposed changes were posted to the club's web site (www.k5gcc.org). This Friday, March 21st, we will be voting on the ratification of these changes. You will find a copy of the proposed changes and a synopsis of those changes included in this newsletter.

The soldering class that was held on February 22nd went very well. We started at 10am and finished up at about 1pm. Everyone had a really good time and made some really neat projects.

Our next activity will be on Saturday, March 29th; we will be building and testing antennas. The location will most likely be at Pecan Grove Park in Sherman. There will be more information regarding this event at this month's meeting and in the club calendar.

Hope to see everybody at the meeting on Friday where Daniel (AF5OY) will give a presentation on activities, frequencies, and modes for the Technician Class amateur.

Please visit the [Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Calendar](#) to stay in the loop of the different activities.

If you have ANY comments, questions, concerns, or ideas...Please contact me at bencsly@gmail.com

Thank You
Ben Sly (KF5OEB)



"It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to so conduct club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community."

From the GCARC Constitution

CLUB INFORMATION

2014 OFFICERS

President: Ben Sly KF5OEB
Vice President: Jeannie Dopson KF5PDM
Secretary: Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
Treasurer: Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
Activity Directors: Daniel & Amber Boehmisch
(AF5OY & KF5WPS)
Trustee: Rick Simmons K5ECX

MEETINGS

When: 3rd Friday of each month
Time: 7:00pm (1900 hours)
Location: Grayson County Courthouse
2nd Floor Assembly Room
100 W. Houston Street
Sherman, TX 75090
GPS: 33.38.18N, 96.36.59W

MAILING ADDRESS

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club
718 Highway 82 E, # 198
Sherman, Texas 75090

NEWSLETTER

Published: Monthly via e-mail
Editor: Michael Bernier KF5NPM
To Submit News Send E-Mail to
or to Add/Remove KF5NPM@GMAIL.COM
from E-Mail List:
Submission 12 midnight on the Saturday
Deadline: prior to each monthly meeting

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Address: WWW.K5GCC.ORG
Webmaster: TBA
Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC
Page:

GCARC, ARES, AND SKYWARN PATCHES

GCARC club patches are available and may be purchased at each club meeting; cost is \$5.00 each. These are round patches with the club logo, and are great for wearing on vests and other non-club clothing, placing on equipment bags, go-kits, etc.

ARES and SKYWARN patches may also be purchased at each club meeting; cost is \$4.00 each. If you choose to wear patches on your club shirt or jacket, the ARES patch should be placed on the right shoulder and any other patch (SKYWARN, RACES, CERT, etc.) should go below it. Since some members have tactical shirts with pen pockets on the left sleeve we do not recommend placing any patches on that side.

CLUB CLOTHING ORDERS

Several times each year, members have the opportunity to purchase club-related clothing (shirts, caps, jackets, etc.). These items have the GCARC logo and the member's name and callsign embroidered on them. An order form with instructions will be included in the newsletter each time orders are being taken.

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Starting Balance 1/31/2014	\$379.25
Cash On Hand	\$0.00
Deposits	+ \$1,436.00
Expenses	- \$735.00
Ending Balance 2/28/2014	\$1,080.25

NOTES:
Deposits: Membership Dues, Clothing Orders, Equipment
Expenses: (No Details Provided)

Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

GCARC MEETING MINUTES

GCARC Meeting, 21 February 2014

Minutes for the February meeting were not available at press time. They will be included in the next issue.

CLUB MEETINGS, LOCAL ACTIVITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Meetings

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC)

3rd Friday at 7:00pm

Grayson County Courthouse 2nd floor assembly room, 100 West Houston Street, Sherman TX

<http://www.k5gcc.us>

Cooke County Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)

2nd Thursday at 7:00pm

Cooke County Library, 200 S. Weaver Street, Gainesville TX

<http://www.gainesvillehamfest.org/ccarc.htm>

Durant Amateur Repeater Association (DARA)

3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC)

3rd Saturday at 9:00am

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX

<http://www.k5frc.org>

McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC)

2nd Tuesday at 7:00pm

Spring Creek Barbecue, 1993 North Central Expressway, McKinney TX

<http://www.mckinneyarc.org>

Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Chapter 41

1st Saturday at 11:00am

Midway Point Restaurant, 12801 Midway Road, Dallas TX

<http://www.texasqcwa41.org>

ARES® / SKYWARN®

Grayson County ARES® Training

4th Tuesday of each odd-numbered month (Jan / Mar / May / Jul / Sep / Nov) at 7:00pm

Sherman Municipal Airport Terminal Building, 1200 S. Dewey Ave., Sherman TX

<http://www.tecoares.org>

Training Classes

Antenna Building and Testing Class

March 29, 2014

Check www.w5gcc.org for details, location and time

Contact: Ben KF5OEB benclsly@gmail.com

Ham 101 Class

April 5, 2014 8:30am-12:30pm

Grayson College Center for Workplace Learning, Seminar Room C, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX

This is a class designed for newly-licensed Amateur Radio operators who would like to get some “hands-on” practice operating radios and making contacts. Information and advice regarding equipment selection is usually available.

Contact: Moe NT7C (903) 564-7115 or nt7c@atnl.net

Class Fee: No Charge

Registration: Not required, but a friendly e-mail or call to Moe to let him know you're coming would be appreciated

Radio & Electronics Lab for Hams

April 12, 2014 8:30am-12:30pm

Grayson College Center for Workplace Learning, Seminar Room C, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX
This is a hands-on class where students learn basic principles of electronics, proper use of tools and test equipment, and other tips and techniques applicable to Amateur Radio. Class content will vary.

Contact: Moe NT7C (903) 564-7115 or nt7c@attl.net

Class Fee: No charge for the class; however, there may be costs for tools and/or supplies used in the class
Registration: Required; contact Moe to register

VE Testing Sessions

Texoma VE Team – Bi-Monthly Testing

1st Thursday of each even-numbered month (Feb / Apr / Jun / Aug / Oct / Dec) at 7:00pm

Grayson College Center For Workplace Learning, Seminar Room C, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX

Contact: Moe NT7C (903) 564-7115 or nt7c@arrl.net

Durant Amateur Repeater Association – Monthly Testing

3rd Tuesday at 8:00pm (following the DARA monthly meeting)

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

Contact: Jim K5BNK (jharmon@netcommander.com)

Texoma Amateur Radio Association – Monthly Testing

3rd Saturday of each month at 2:00pm

The Java Stop Café, 5700 North FM 1417, Sherman TX

Contact: Dave K5YM (281) 743-7478

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club – Appointment-Only Testing

First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX

Contact David WA0URJ (wa0urj@yahoo.com) to schedule a session

Hamfests

Durant Amateur Repeater Association (DARA) Annual Tailgate

April 5, 2014 8:00am-12:00noon

Carl Albert Park, Durant OK

Contact: Jim Harmon K5BNK jharmon@netcommander.com

Weatherford Hamfest

April 5, 2014

Central Christian Church-Cuppett Hall, 1602 South Main Street, Weatherford TX

Talk-In: 147.040 (110 PL)

Public Contact: Jerry W. Thompson W7JT (817) 594-8091 or w7jt@charter.net

Website: www.w5pc.org

East Texas Regional Amateur Radio Tailgate Sale

April 12, 2014 7:30am

LeTourneau University, 2100 S Mobberly Avenue, Longview TX

Talk-In: 147.340 (136.5 PL)

Public Contact: Todd Hoover N5TJH (903) 399-3266 or hoover_tj@yahoo.com

Website: www.letarc.org

DURANT AMATEUR REPEATER ASSOCIATION (DARA) NEWS

The Durant Amateur Repeater Association's Annual Tailgate will be held on April 5th at Durant's Carl Albert Park on the north edge of Durant. It's a block east of Highway 69/75 within walking distance of the Durant Police Department and Oklahoma Highway Patrol towers. Opens at 8 am, winds down about noon. Lots of buy and sell equipment. Sherman area amateurs are encouraged to come. Free refreshments as always. You will enjoy our hospitality!

A special thanks to the Denison-Sherman area amateurs checking into Durant's 2 meter net, 7 pm Tuesdays.

A Tech class in Durant will end on March 25th; following the class, the Technician exam will be given. We are in need of VEs to administer the exam.

An airshow is scheduled at Eaker Field in Durant for March 28th-29th; hams are being requested to attend with radios to help with managing the event.

DARA is planning “show and tell” technical events for newcomers licensed in the past year or two. Still working on details, but topics would include soldering, antennas, propagation, coax, test equipment, etc.

I re-planted 16 radials on the 10-80 meter Butternut vertical in my back yard. In listening the last two nights on 40 meter CW, European stations came boiling in up to 35 over S9 each night. About 5am Japan pounded in. There was also considerable PSK31 activity. My 3-500Zs are about to be fired up. A friend runs 50 watts on PSK31 and literally works the world, often in bands closed to CW and SSB DX operators.

– Jim K5BNK

SWAP MEET

(Disclaimer: This section is provided for hams to list items they wish to buy, sell, or trade. GCARC will not be responsible for the accuracy or completeness of any descriptions, will not guarantee any items function as described, and will not participate in any transactions. The individual buyer and seller are responsible for all discussions, negotiations, and resolving of differences.)

To submit items to be listed, send the information in an e-mail to the GCARC Newsletter Editor at kf5npm@gmail.com. When listing items for sale or trade, photographs are encouraged. There is no charge for listings, and you do not need to be a member of GCARC to participate.

FOR SALE: Cushcraft ASL-670 Log Periodic Antenna

The Cushcraft ASL-670 is the ultimate multi-use antenna. Since the antenna is a log periodic, it offers continuous coverage through the 2 and 6 meter bands as well as 220 and 440 MHz. So while being a terrific antenna for operating those bands, it’s also a great aviation and public safety band monitoring antenna.

Use the antenna for contesting and mountain topping if you like. The antenna is compact and easy to assemble and disassemble with no tuning required. Yet it is rugged enough for permanent installations.

This antenna has excellent gain f/b with good VSWR bandwidth to boot. Enjoy the fun of high performance operation *and* multi-frequency.

\$190 Pick Up Only in Bonham, TX
Contact: David Reeder WAØURJ
E-mail WAØURJ@yahoo.com
Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773



FOR SALE OR TRADE: GAP Titan DX Vertical HF Antenna

I have a GAP Titan DX 10m-80m vertical HF antenna for sale or trade. It is in good but used condition. Please go to the GAP Antenna website (www.gapantenna.com) for details and price when new. I also have the optional heavy duty tilt over mounting plate. It is currently assembled and I want buyer/trader to see it that way. However, I think it will have to be taken apart to transport as it is 30 ft. tall. No ground radials needed as it has its own ground plane wires.

For sale or trade at half its new price
Contact: Sarge KE5YPB
E-mail 0101.smd@gmail.com

Special Event Stations To Mark International Marconi Day

A few dozen special event stations will take to the air April 26, 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC, to commemorate [International Marconi Day](#) (IMD). Among them will be GB4IMD in Cornwall, England, OE14M in Vienna, Austria, IY0IMD in Italy, VO1AA on Signal Hill in St Johns, Newfoundland, VK2IMD in Australia, and WA1WCC on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. All stations planning to participate are urged to [register](#). A [list](#) of registered participants is on the IMD 2014 website.

International Marconi Day is a 24 hour Amateur Radio event held annually to celebrate the birth of Guglielmo Marconi on April 15, 1874. IMD is held each year on a Saturday close to Marconi's birthday, with Amateur Radio stations on the air from around the world, including some [Award Stations](#) operating from historically significant sites.

The event is not a contest; it is an opportunity for amateurs around the world to make point-to-point contact with historic Marconi sites using HF communications techniques similar to those used by Marconi, and to earn an award certificate for working or hearing a requisite number of Marconi stations.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Malaysian ARES Calls On Hams To Help In Missing Aircraft Search

The Malaysian Amateur Radio Emergency Service Society ([MARES](#) / 9M4CME) has called on hams in and around India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, the Seychelles, and Thailand to participate in the search for the missing Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777-200ER aircraft (registration 9M-MRO), Flight MH370. The airliner with 239 passengers aboard has been missing since March 8. Investigators believe the plane was diverted on purpose by someone who knew how to turn off the aircraft's communication and tracking systems.

An initial search-and-rescue operation took place in the South China Sea, but the search area expanded significantly to the vicinity of the Malacca Strait, Andaman Sea, Bay of Bengal, and the Indian Ocean. "MARES is calling all ham stations, especially those from the countries within the search area, to participate in a daily reporting session," the organization announced March 16. "The objective is for ham stations to provide any sightings, information or evidence that might help the authorities to find the missing MH370."

Nets have been established from 1300 to 1500 UTC on 14.250 MHz and 21.250 MHz. Outside of net sessions, MARES requests any urgent traffic be routed to it [via e-mail](#). MARES said it will forward all information and evidence obtained to the Malaysian Department of Civil Aviation and Malaysian National Security Council. No trace of the plane has been located since its disappearance less than an hour after it took off from Kuala Lumpur on its way to Beijing.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

New Website Offers Treasure Trove Of Vintage Ham Radio Photos And QSL Cards

The grandson of Thomas "Tom" Russell Gentry, W5RG (SK), has developed a [website](#) that is certain to be of interest to vintage radio enthusiasts. Don Retzlaff, who is not a ham, said his grandfather was among the earliest Amateur Radio operators, getting his license in the early 1920s -- at one point identifying as NU5RG -- and remaining active until he died in 1979. The W5RG call sign has since been reissued.

[Editor's Note: Tom Gentry was a native of Dallas, Texas.]

"He collected QSL cards from other amateur operators all through his life," Retzlaff said of his grandfather, some 5700 in all. "In recent years I became interested in those cards and my grandfather's hobby."

With the help of his father Donald Retzlaff, W5MIY, Retzlaff located all of the QSLs as well as other memorabilia documenting his grandfather's ham radio activities and his time in the Army Air Corps shortly after World War I. He painstakingly scanned both sides of each card along with dozens of photos of now-vintage stations -- many with operators -- that his grandfather had collected and posted them all on a website dedicated to his grandfather and his life as an Amateur Radio operator.

Among other features, the site offers an opportunity to leave comments. “This has definitely been a labor of love,” said Retzlaff, who retired this year as a Principal Lecturer in the Computer Science Department at the University of North Texas.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Ham’s Experimental VLF Signals Heard In The UK And Europe

In what’s believed to be a “first,” a very low frequency (VLF) signal from a ham radio experimenter in New York was heard across the Atlantic. Bob Raide, W2ZM, was transmitting on 29.499 kHz under a Part 5 Experimental license, WH2XBA/1. His very slow-speed (QRSS) CW signal was initially detected in the UK just before 0000 UTC on March 3 by Paul Nicholson, an SWL, and later by Mike Dennison, G3XDV, and Markus Vester, DK6NM, in Germany. Nicholson also copied a 29.501 kHz transmission from Dex McIntyre, W4DEX, in North Carolina, operating as WH2XBA/4.

“In recent weeks a number of amateur tests have been running from the USA to Europe around 74 kHz and at 29.499 kHz using several hundred watts to large antennas,” [blogged](#) Roger Laphorn, G3XBM. He said that signals on 74 kHz were “well copied,” but that “the surprise” was detecting the 29.499 kHz signal. “As far as I know, these 29.499 kHz VLF signals are the first amateur VLF [transmissions] to span the Atlantic -- fantastic results by well-equipped stations using suitable receivers and good software.”

Warren Ziegler, K2ORS, who is on the Experimental license as WH2XBA/2, told ARRL that he and several other radio amateurs have obtained Part 5 licenses to experiment on 500 kHz and on 137 kHz. “It got so 137 kHz was becoming routine, that my signal was copied hundreds if not thousands of times all around Europe, North America, and South America,” he said. Ziegler has been a participant in the [ARRL-sponsored experimental operations](#) on 500 kHz as WD2XSH/23. He said Raide wanted to be the first amateur signal to span the Atlantic on VLF, which he defined as between 3 kHz and 30 kHz, so Ziegler applied for and received the WH2XBA Experimental grant, and included Raide and four others on the license.

“I was ready,” Raide told ARRL. His transmitter has a 3CX3000A7 tube in the final, running grounded grid and generating 800 W. The effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP), however, was estimated to be approximately 1 mW. To operate on 10,000 meters, Raide has a 90 foot vertical antenna using a reconfigured Zepp, fed via a huge loading coil that is 4 feet tall, more than 1 foot across and comprised of some 2000 feet of #14 wire. He employs a few thousand feet of “chicken wire” for his radial system.

The transmission consisted of “XBA” sent at a rate of 120 seconds (2 minutes) per dot and 360 seconds (6 minutes) per dash of CW. In the UK Nicholson copied the signal on software using a PC sound card with a preamplifier ahead of it. His antenna is a pair of orthogonal loops, each 20 meters square, at ground level, transformer coupled to the preamplifier.

“It is actually a makeshift temporary antenna set up for a site test about 3 years ago,” Nicholson explained. This summer he hopes to rebuild it with a larger area and more copper in the loops to improve sensitivity “and steel guys to make it sheep proof.”

Ziegler said German and UK experimenters have been experimenting at frequencies below 9 kHz, which is unregulated. Stefan Schaefer, DK7FC, was detected in Iceland -- some 900 miles distant -- while transmitting in this frequency range to a kite-borne antenna.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Jack D. Nash, N5MME (SK)

Local ham Jack Nash N5MME passed away on February 19th, 2014 following a battle with cancer. Jack was 86.

In addition to being a long-time member of the GCARC, Jack was a veteran of the U.S. Navy in World War II, a member of Civil Air Patrol, a Shriner, and a volunteer at the Bonham VA and Habitat for Humanity among other interests.

GCARC would like to express our deepest condolences to Jack’s family and friends.

LOCAL RADIO NETS

- Daily** **Texas Slow Net (CW only)**
 Daily 7:45pm CT on 3.570MHz.
 This is a training net for operators interested in building proficiency in CW and learning about handling procedures for CW traffic nets.
- Weekly** **Durant ARC Weekly Net**
 Tuesdays 7:00pm CT on the 147.390+ (118.8 PL) repeater.
 No net on the 3rd Tuesday of each month due to the DARC monthly meeting.
- Fannin County ARC Weekly Net**
 Tuesdays 8:00pm CT on the 145.130- (no PL) repeater.
 This is an informal information net.
- McKinney 6 meter AM Net**
 Wednesdays 10:00pm CT on 50.400MHz
- Ladies Net**
 Thursdays 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.
 Net Control Operator: Linda KE5YUC
- McKinney ARC Info Net**
 Sundays 8:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.
- Semi-Monthly** **Grayson County ARC Information Net**
 1st & 3rd Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.
 This is an informal information net and Buy/Sell/Swap net.
- Grayson County ARES Net**
 2nd & 4th Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.
 This is a directed information net used for training.
- RACES Command Net Check**
 2nd & 4th Sunday at 2:00pm CT on 7.255 MHz LSB
 This is a RACES Command Net check for statewide RACES Command Net members ONLY. All other Amateur stations are welcome to listen, but DO NOT check in!
- Monthly** **Scout Ham Net**
 1st Tuesday at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.
 This net is for all active Scouts, Adult Leaders, and active Merit Badge Counselors who are Amateur Radio operators.
- North Texas ARES HF Net**
 2nd Wednesday at 8:30pm CT on 3.860 MHz LSB
 This is an information net open to all ARES members in the ARRL North Texas (NTX) Section.
- McKinney ARES Net**
 2nd Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.

AREA REPEATERS

Sherman TX	147.000+ MHz (100.0 PL) 147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL) 444.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT W5COP W5RVT	Kingston OK	146.985- MHz (103.5 PL)	K5BQG
Bonham TX	145.470- MHz (no PL) 145.130- MHz (no PL) 443.750+ MHz (no PL)	K5FRC K5FRC K5FRC	McKinney TX	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL) 145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRC N5GI
Durant OK	147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL) 147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL)	K5KIE K5CGE	Melissa TX	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
Gainesville TX	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI	Rosston TX	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
			Van Alstyne TX	443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
			Grayson County ARES (portable)	441.375+ MHz (67.0 PL) (on the air only for emergencies & training)	WC5GC

GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC

Surprise, Surprise, Surprise!

Can't you hear Gomer Pyle saying that? ...if your old enough, that is.

Well, Well, Well, didn't the gremlins give us a little surprise on the March 9th ARES training net? There we were about to get to the topic of the evening, "What To Do If The Repeater Fails", and wouldn't you know it right in the middle of announcements and updates as Ben KF5OEB was about to describe the next GCARC meeting topic he went silent in that special kind of way. You knew something was up if you thought about it... there was no squelch tone at the end of his last word. "Wonder what happened" you thought -- did he lose power? Did the repeater drop out? Is it my rig? Did my lights blink? Wow, it's sure quiet. Then slowly it dawns on you and you put all that together... no squelch tail, drop dead silence, your stuff is still on... Ahhh, the repeater failed! And now you try to remember what to do, or what the backup frequency is.



As some folks found, they didn't have the right tone programmed, while some found they had no way to QSY to the 28 as it wasn't set up in their radio's programming, or some such similar situation. One op even had a "Homer moment" and thought about his mobile rig after the net was over. Some were unaware of the plan for backups. After the net, Paul K1PKZ suggested we try the calling frequency if the primary fails, and that is in the plan, but as the final-final backup. It was shared with him, and you should know that had this been an actual event and real situation "we" would have had someone monitoring all the backups we could to try and round everyone back up.

The plan is published on the ARES Training page of the TECO website (<http://www.tecoares.org/>); look for the document called Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). Now, we could review the plan and change alternates for valid reasons till the cows come home, but at the end of the day there has to be a plan and the folks who worked up the SOP said this would be the best. So, there we go with a plan. And, it worked as well as could be expected. As a result, some folks may change their radios by reprogramming or consider alternative radios or HT's, while others may read the plan and some of us will try to remember the plan. That is what Hams do -- adapt to the situation.

You know on the net before this, Mike KF5NPM had a new battery issue; you can read about that on the website also. His experience and this of ours last Sunday points out the reason we do these "silly" repetitive nets. Some people say nothing ever happens, it's always some topic I don't need to know about, etc., etc. But, things do happen to us and our equipment. This is exactly why we practice now while the weather is nice. We are safe in our homes and not out the elements, cold or hot, tired and frustrated with a radio that's on the fritz because the batteries we brought are last year's, a cable is loose or the antenna is gone from our car (yes, I hear it happens). We need to exercise ourselves and equipment to test our capabilities.

So, what really happened?

Well, that was a test of sorts also. David W5COP closed the repeater briefly to simulate an outage. He got it to turn off remotely I think, and more importantly turned back on.

And so, that's what we want to do: be sure we can be on the air when we are needed. Check in next time...who knows? Something exciting might happen.

73
Rick
K5ECX

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GCARC BYLAWS

Synopsis/Summary Of Proposed Changes:

1. The Trustee position is changed to an appointed position to be approved by a vote of the membership.
2. New Officers will take office on January 1 of the New Year instead of at the first club meeting of the year.
3. The Executive Board will have the ability to create new appointed positions as that they deem necessary. They are installed by voted approval of the membership.
4. A PIO (Public Information Officer) position is added to the list of appointed positions. This position will assist the Vice President with all public information requirements of the club.
5. The duty of cataloging and tracking all assets of the club has been added to the duties of the Vice President.
6. A clause was added that will allow the club to waive the 2-year term limit for officers if all other avenues have been exhausted in seeking to fill a position. In order for this clause to be considered, there would have to be no viable party nominated in October, which would then open the nominations at the November meeting; if again there is still no viable nominations, then the membership could vote to waive the 2-year term limit and nominate a party that is blocked from nomination by the 2-year term limit. A viable nomination is one in which someone is nominated and they have accepted the nomination; if someone accepts a nomination in October or November, this clause would be void and the party who was ending their 2-year term would be ineligible to be nominated again.
7. The wording under Membership has been changed in order to give clear definition to each level of membership.
8. The Dues section has been reworded whereby the club will be able to vote on any changes in dues without requiring a rewrite of the bylaws.

Complete Text of GCARC Constitution and Bylaws, With Proposed Changes:

Constitution of the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club

Preamble:

The Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Some of the purposes of the GCARC include but are not limited to:

- a. To provide instruction and training of individuals in the knowledge and skills required to be federally licensed amateur radio operators.*
- b. To furnish communication services and support to local charitable organizations such as the March of Dimes, United Way, and others as requested.*
- c. To provide trained, licensed radio operators to support the American Red Cross, and federal, state, county, and local agencies during times of emergency, disaster, and distress.*
- d. To provide disaster relief and public service by providing trained and licensed amateur radio operators to participate in the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), and the U.S. Weather Service's SKYWARN program.*
- e. To provide open meetings to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to so conduct club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community.*

No part of the net earnings of the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services

rendered and to make payments and distributions in the furtherance of the purpose set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club shall engage in propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code.

Upon dissolution of the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

We, the undersigned, wishing to secure for ourselves the pleasures and benefits of an association of persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio and promote public service constitute ourselves the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) and enact this constitution as our governing law.

Article I: Membership

All persons interested in Amateur Radio communications shall be eligible for membership. Membership and member status shall be by application and election upon such terms as the club shall provide in its Bylaws.

Article II: Officers

Sec. 1] The regular officers of this club shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These positions will constitute the Executive Board of the Club. Other appointed positions may be designated as provided in the Bylaws.

Sec.2] The regular officers of this club shall be elected for a term of one year by ballot of the members present, at the annual meeting. No regular officer shall hold the same office for more than two years consecutively. In the event there are no qualified candidates or no candidate is nominated for the position, this section of this article may be suspended by a majority vote by the members present at the meeting in which the votes are cast for election to the positions.

Sec. 3] Vacancies occurring between elections must be filled by special elections at the first regular meeting following the resignation or reason of vacancy.

Sec. 4] Officers may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the entire voting membership.

Article III: Duties of Officers

Sec. 1] The President shall preside at all meetings, and conduct them according to the rules adopted. He/she shall enforce due observance of this Constitution and Bylaws, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents adopted by the club, and perform all other duties pertaining to the office of President.

Sec. 2] The Vice President shall assume all the duties of the President in his/her absence. In addition, he/she shall oversee the Public Information Officer for public relations and media publicity concerning the club. He/she shall maintain close liaison with the ARES County Emergency Coordinator to further club participation in the ARES or the ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator if there is not an appointed ARES County Emergency Coordinator. The Vice President shall oversee the maintenance and inventory of GCARC assets to include but not limited to tents, antennas, towers and any other tangible property.

Sec. 3] The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, keep a roll of members, submit membership applications, carry on all correspondence, read communications at each meeting, and mail notices to members as required. The Secretary shall also be responsible for required filings and reports in relation to the Club's 501(c)3 status. At the expiration of his/her term he/she shall immediately turn over all items belonging to the club to his/her successor.

Sec. 4] The Treasurer shall receive and receipt all monies paid to the club, keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended, pay no bills without proper authorization (by the club or its officers constituting a business committee). At each club meeting he/she shall submit an itemized statement of disbursements and receipts. At the end of his/her term, he/she shall immediately turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the club to his/her successor.

Article IV: Club Trustee

Sec. 1] The club trustee shall serve at the will of the Executive Board and the membership, and the performance shall be reviewed annually as provided in the Bylaws. The trustee shall be a holder of the highest order class of license available among those both interested and able to serve the office.

Article V. Meetings

The Bylaws shall provide for regular and special meetings. At meetings, a minimum of one-third of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business unless otherwise stated.

Article VI: Dues

The club, by majority vote of those present at any regular meeting, may levy upon the general membership such dues or assessments as shall be deemed necessary for the business of the organization. Non-payment of such dues or assessments shall be cause for removal from membership status.

Article VII: Membership Assistance

The club, through designated Committees on Interference, Public Relations, Operating Procedures, and others, as needed, will provide technical advice to members concerning equipment design, installation and operation to assist in legal compliance and achieve good operating practices from club member-stations. The club shall also maintain a program to foster and guide public relations.

Article VIII: Amendments

This constitution or Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the qualified members present at the meeting at which the amendments are presented for actual vote. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted in writing at a regular meeting and shall be voted on at the next following regular meeting, provided all members have been notified by mail or email of the intent to amend the constitution and/or Bylaws at said meeting.

Bylaws of the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club

Sec. 1] Maintenance of the Bylaws

- a) It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the Constitution and Bylaws of the club and have the same with him/her at every meeting. He/she shall note all amendments, changes and additions on the constitution and shall permit it to be consulted by members upon request.
- b) Every member shall be presented a copy of the Bylaws that each member may be aware of the provisions of these Bylaws.

Sec. 2] Election of Regular Officers

- a) Nominations for regular officers shall be made in the regularly scheduled meeting in October. In the event that some or all of the offices receive no nominations, nominations from the floor will be allowed prior to the elections during the regular meeting in November.
- b) Vote for election of regular officers shall be taken in the regularly scheduled meeting in November following the nominations.
- c) Officers elect shall assume their office on January 1 of the New Year.

Sec. 3] Trustee

- a) The club trustee shall be responsible for maintaining the club's FCC license. This shall include, but not be limited to, all communications with the FCC, and others, for renewal and legal maintenance, verifying the proper use of the radio call-sign, maintaining the current club log book on all use of the call-sign and reporting to the club, matters related to this maintenance
- b) The Executive Board shall review the position of Club Trustee. At the first club meeting of the calendar year, the Executive Board shall recommend to the membership, the continued service of the current trustee or they shall recommend a qualified person to serve as a new trustee. The recommendation must be approved by a majority vote of the membership present at the meeting.
- c) If removed from office, or not recommended to continue in the position by the Executive Board, pursuant to these rules, replacement shall be immediate, or no later than the next regularly scheduled meeting. The club president shall initiate necessary actions to make the change official in necessary filings with the FCC and/or other agencies.

Sec. 4] Special Appointments

The Executive Board shall have the authority to create special positions as the need arises. The Executive Board shall jointly seek the interest of members to fill the various appointed positions. They shall be installed by voted approval of membership in a regularly scheduled meeting.

The appointees to the positions shall be members in good standing of GCARC and shall serve a term, and perform such duties as the Executive Board may, from time to time, determine.

The term of office of all appointed officers shall be indefinite, subject to review and either denied or confirmed in the regular meeting in January.

The following positions shall be established to serve the needs of the organization.

- a) Activities Director: The activities director shall organize club activities for social fun, entertainment, education and training. He/she shall plan and make recommendations to advance club interest and activity as approved by the club.
- b) Public Information Officer [PIO]: The PIO shall promote amateur radio and the activities of the GCARC to

advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio in the community as directed by the Executive Board. The PIO shall serve under and work with the Vice-President.

- c) Newsletter Editor/Publisher: The newsletter editor/publisher shall publish and distribute a regularly scheduled newsletter to the club, as deemed appropriate, and provide public news release and information support in other functions of the club.

Sec. 5] Business Committee

The Executive Board shall constitute the Business Committee. The Business Committee shall have the authority to discharge obligations of urgency needing attention prior to a regular meeting and of expenditures not to exceed an amount specified by the club in default, or of an amount designated specifically for a given matter. No monies shall be spent on any matter disapproved by club vote.

Sec. 6] Membership

There are two classes of membership: Full and Associate.

Full membership is open to licensed amateurs. Full membership includes all club privileges as well as rights to hold a club office and to vote for club officers.

Associate membership is open to those actively engaged in a class leading to an Amateur Radio license and all other interested persons. Associate membership includes all club privileges except for the right to hold office and vote.

A family membership is available. This provides membership for two individuals living in the same household. The class of membership is determined by each individual's licensure status. Any other individuals residing in the same household, who want to join, will be assessed the regular rate.

Applications for membership and change in member status shall be submitted and voted at regular meetings.

Sec. 7] Meetings

Regular meetings shall be held on THIRD FRIDAY of each calendar month. Special meetings may be called by the President upon the written request of any five club members. Notices shall be sent to members concerning special meetings and the business to be transacted. Only such business as designated shall be transacted. Such notices shall be sent so that they arrive not less than 24 hours before the meeting.

Sec. 8] Dues

Annual dues are assessed in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Constitution for the purpose of providing funds for club expenses.

A new Licensed HAM who passed a test session or has a CSCE and who has completed the current club application form will be granted membership and have current dues waived until January of the following year at which time full dues will be required. NOTE: This applies only to new licenses, not upgrades.

Sec. 9] Special Committees

Special committees shall be appointed as needed. These committees shall consist of five appointed members.

An example would be an interference committee. The committee shall direct investigation, invite proper inquires, establish technical facts and testimony and report its results to the club.

Approval

We, the undersigned officers of the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club, Inc., certify that these By-Laws, dated _____, were presented to the membership on February ____, 2014, and were then approved by a two-thirds vote of the qualified members present at the GCARC general meeting on March ____, 2014. With this approval, the former By-Laws of the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Inc. are replaced in their entirety with this document effective the ____th day of _____ 2014.

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Amendments

These bylaws were revised in January 2014 by a committee appointed by the then President of the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club. The proposed amendments were presented to the membership in the monthly newsletter on _____, 2014. The amendments were presented to the general membership at the regular stated general membership meeting on February _____, 2014. The proposed amendments were present to the membership at the regular stated general membership meeting on March ____, 2014 for final vote. The amendments (passed) (failed).