



20TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2014

WWW.K5GCC.ORG

VOL. 20, No. 9

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi All,

Great news!! In case you haven't heard, Rick (K5ECX) managed to pull a few strings and got a factory reconditioned Kenwood TS-2000 donated to the club! Special thanks to Rick and Phil from Kenwood for making this happen.

Our next event will be the GCARC 20th Anniversary celebration which will be this Saturday, September 20th at Munson park in Denison. I plan on getting there at about 9am to set up our antenna and **our new Kenwood TS-2000**. Mark (KF5UZW) will be smoking a brisket and some pork tenderloin, so plan on some great food. As long as the weather holds out we should have a great time making a few contacts, eating, and hanging out. Hope to see y'all there.

October 4th is the Denison Main Street Festival and we will be setting up a booth again this year to promote the club and amateur radio in general. We already have volunteers to work the booth, but the more the merrier. Come on out and help us spread the word about what a great hobby we have.

October 11th we will be having out Eisenhower special event station at the Eisenhower Birthplace in Denison. Set up will be 7:30am and we will be on the air by 9am. We'll probably clean up at around 4 to 4:30pm. This is a really fun event with plenty of other activities at the same location.

Hope to see everybody at the meeting on Friday where we will talk about buying a case and power supply for our new radio. There will be a presentation afterwards.

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 7/31/2014	\$1,236.15	NOTES:	
Cash On Hand	\$20.00	<u>Deposits:</u>	Dues (\$60.00), Miscellaneous (\$10.00)
Deposits	+ \$70.00	<u>Expenses:</u>	Denison Chamber of Commerce (\$75.00)
Expenses	- \$75.00		
Ending Balance 8/31/2014	\$1,231.15	<u>Outstanding</u>	
Equipment Fund	\$589.00	<u>Checks:</u>	Kiwanis (\$250.00), Flowers/W. Graves (\$30.00)

Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

GCARC MEETING MINUTES

GCARC Meeting, August 15, 2014

The Grayson County Amateur Radio Club met on August 15th, 2014 with 19 members in attendance. President Sly opened the meeting at 8:10 with a welcome to all attendees.

Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting was made by Amber Boehmisch (KF5WPS) and seconded by Bob Sholl (W5DSA), motion passed.

Treasurer Report was reviewed and motion by Tim Branam (N5SWG) and seconded by Daniel Boehmisch (AF5OY), motion passed.

Old Business

- Red River Bike Rally had a great turnout. Vice President Jeannie Dopson (KF5PDM) coordinated the event for us and Rick Simmons (K5ECX) did a fantastic job as Net Control. Special thanks to Trevor Reed (KG5BFI) and Karlee Sly (KF5ZGP) for doing an outstanding job.
- GCARC 20th Anniversary T-shirts are in. Daniel (AF5OY) and Amber Boehmisch (KF5WPS) will be sending out a signup sheet for everyone to bring food. Club agreed to meet at Munson Park in the Pavilion. Set up time starting at 8:00, and lunch at noon.

New Business

- Club approved to send a \$30.00 donation in the name of Wade Graves' dad to his church. Rick Simmons (K5ECX) made the motion and was seconded by Tim Branam (N5SWG). All approved.
- Denison Main Street Festival is October 4th, and volunteers are needed to set-up and help throughout the day. Daniel (AF5OY) and Amber (KF5WPS) to let everyone who is interested in helping the times they will need to be available. Location spot is reserved for \$75.00.

Presentation

Matt Gaskill (KF5KOY) brought a very in depth and interesting presentation on satellite communications.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

Next Meeting will be at 7pm on Friday, September 19th, 2014, in the Grayson County Courthouse 2nd Floor Assembly Room, Sherman TX.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
GCARC Secretary/Treasurer

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.org>

Cooke County Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)

2nd Thursday at 7:00pm

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

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

Durant Amateur Repeater Association (DARA)

3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm

Bryan County Emergency Management, 2808 Enterprise Drive, Durant OK

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Durant-Amateur-Repeater-Association-Ham-Radio/292030700959672>

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>

GCARC Events

GCARC 20th Anniversary Celebration

September 20, 2014 (Setup 9:00am)

Munson Park Pavilion, Denison

Contact: Daniel AF5OY kf5wpr@gmail.com

Denison Main Street Festival

October 4, 2014

Downtown Denison TX

The club will have a booth providing information to visitors about ham radio and GCARC

Eisenhower Birthday Special Event Station

October 11, 2014 (Setup 7:30am, Operating 9:00am-4:00pm)

Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, TX

The club will operate as special event station W5I in honor of Dwight Eisenhower's birthday

Fall-Der-All Festival

October 18, 2014 from Noon-6:00pm

Downtown Van Alstyne TX

The club will have a booth providing information to visitors about ham radio and GCARC

Training Classes

Radio & Electronics Lab for Hams

2nd Saturday of each month from 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@arrl.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

General License Training Class - sponsored by the Durant Amateur Repeater Association (DARA) and Durant/Bryan County Emergency Management

All five Tuesdays in September from 6:00-8:00pm

Donald W. Reynolds Library, 1515 W. Main Street, Durant OK

This is a 5-week class to prepare students to take the General Class license exam. You must already have a Technician Class license to participate.

Contact: Jim K5BNK (jharmon@netcommander.com) or Kenneth AB5CC (keppler@durant.org)

Class Fee: No charge for the class or study materials; those choosing to take the exam at the end of the course will be charged a \$15 exam fee.

Registration: Recommended; contact Jim or Kenneth for details.

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 of each month 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

Gainesville Hamfest

September 27, 2014 7:00am-1:00pm (VE Testing starts 9:30am)

Gainesville Civic Center, 311 South Weaver Street, Gainesville TX

Talk-In: 147.340 (PL 100.0) or 442.775 (PL 100.0)

Public Contact: James Floyd N5ZPU (940) 668-7511 or jfloyd54@suddenlink.net

Website: www.gainesvillehamfest.org

Texoma Hamarama (Oklahoma Section Convention)

October 24-25, 2014 (Friday 5:00pm-8:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-1:00pm)

Ardmore Convention Center, 2401 N Rockford Rd, Ardmore OK

Talk-In: 146.97

Public Contact: Don Loving KM5OX (580) 221-1894 or wallcloud2001@yahoo.com

Website: www.texomahamarama.org

QSL MANAGER'S CORNER

Hi everyone,

Ham radio is like a box of chocolates...you never know who you are going to contact. Sorry, I couldn't resist stealing this quote. But it is true. Every time I get on the radio I'm making a contact with someone new. What a great experience. What a great hobby. I'm having loads of fun on HF.

Making HF contacts isn't the only thing you can do. That's the neat thing about this hobby. There are so many things you can get involved in. Whatever your passion... go for it and enjoy!

The club's 20th Anniversary is coming up and we will be on the air and enjoying some good eats this coming Saturday. Looking forward to seeing all of you there.

The only problem I have as QSL Manager is that the club doesn't have any QSL cards to send out for the contacts we make. We have QSL cards for W5I for Perrin Field, Eisenhower, and will have for the Red River Bridge War, but we don't have any for K5GCC. I'm hoping the club will OK a vote to spend about \$70.00 so I can purchase QSL cards for K5GCC. We'll discuss this at the meeting on Friday.

Remember...the most important thing is that you have fun!

73,

Lee
N5SLY
kf5oed@gmail.com

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 ALS2010 8-Element Log Antenna

Recently working, was taken down to replace with a new T8 log. SWR 2.0 to 2.5 but a tuner brings it into line just fine. Located in Savoy; will need to be partially disassembled for transport.

Asking \$150
Contact: Gary Stone N5PHT via e-mail -- n5phtgs@gmail.com

FOR SALE: HF and CB Transceivers

Kenwood TS-130SE HF SSB transceiver; needs power and antenna.
Realistic Navaho TRC 431 40-channel CB base transceiver; has house plug needs antenna.

Both belonged to a ham operator relative, now needing a good home.

Asking \$130 for both
Contact: Larry Macomber
E-mail: maczhere3542@att.net
Phone: (903) 337-0189

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.



Asking \$190 Pick Up Only in Bonham, TX
Contact: David Reeder WAØURJ
E-mail: WA0URJ@yahoo.com
Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773

FOR SALE OR TRADE: GAP Titan DX Vertical HF Antenna

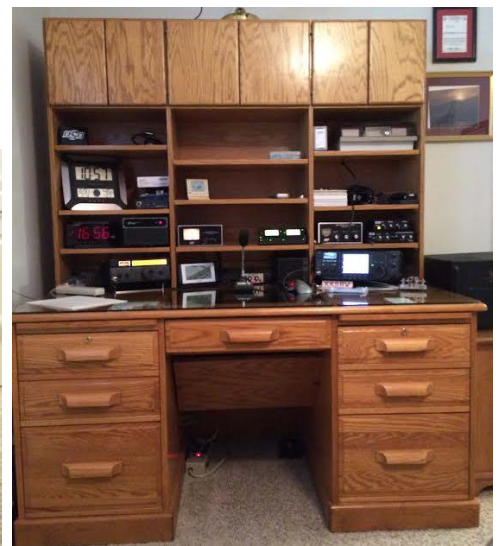
I have a GAP Titan DX 10m-80m vertical HF antenna for sale or trade. It is in good but used condition. Please go to the GAP Antenna website (www.gapantenna.com) for details and price when new. I also have the optional heavy duty tilt over mounting plate. It is currently assembled and I want buyer/trader 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

FOR SALE: Computer and Radio Station Desk

Desk is light oak, 62" w x 33" d with glass panel to see monitor from below. Power distribution panel included. Hutch is white pine stained to match the desk, 60" w x 42" h with adjustable shelves. Desk can be disassembled for transportation and reassembled easily.

Asking \$400 for the set.
Radios not included.
Contact: Bill KK5RW
Phone: (281) 217-9942
E-Mail: 3bewens@gmail.com



New \$21.40 Vanity Call Sign Fee Now in Effect

The new Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$21.40 became effective on September 11. The FCC released a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (R&O) on August 29, in which it recalculated the fee to \$21.40 for the 10-year license term. The \$5.30 increase represents the largest vanity fee hike in many years. In past years, new vanity fees did not become effective until 30 days after their publication in The Federal Register, which occurred on September 11.

The FCC reported there were 11,500 “payment units” in FY 2014, and that the vanity program generated an estimated \$230,230 in FY 2013 revenue. The Commission estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100 in FY 2014 vanity call sign fees.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable when applying for a new vanity call sign or when renewing any vanity call sign designated as “HV” in the FCC’s ULS database.

As of October 1, 2013, the Commission no longer accepts checks -- including cashier’s checks -- for the payment of regulatory fees. All payments must now be made by online ACH payment, online credit card, or via wire transfer. Any other form of payment will be rejected and returned to the applicant.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

ARES/RACES Volunteers Mobilized in Wake of Nevada Flash Flooding

ARES/RACES members in Clark County, Nevada, activated Monday, September 8, after heavy rains sparked flash flooding. The Amateur Radio volunteers deployed after being called up by local emergency managers to support communication during recovery efforts in the Moapa Valley northeast of Las Vegas. At least two people died as a result of the flooding.

A slow-moving storm that spun off from Hurricane Norbert dumped nearly 4 inches of rain within the space of 90 minutes onto the town of Moapa. Heavy flooding and mud closed nearly 50 miles of Interstate 15, stranding motorists and truckers, buckling or washing away pavement in many areas. Nevada Department of Transportation officials said they expected that it would take several days before the highway would be reopened. Some alternate routes also were impassible. The flooding has been called the worst in more than 30 years.

Emergency sheltering was needed for nearly 200 tribal members of the Moapa River Reservation, as well as nearly 90 elementary and high school students. Stranded motorists were being cared for at a middle school in Mesquite, on the Arizona border.

ARES personnel staffed the Emergency Operations Center in Las Vegas, and the Clark County Mobile Communications Vehicle was on the scene

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

No Easy Answers for Radio Shack’s Slow, Downward Slide

Back in the day, RadioShack employees would answer the phone by saying, “You’ve got questions, we’ve got answers.” But RadioShack now seems stumped, and the “B” word is looming ever larger as the retailer -- once a go-to shop for electronic components and, at one point, even Amateur Radio and shortwave receivers -- casts about for a white knight. Last March, in the wake of a substantial drop in holiday sales and a big fourth-quarter loss, the Fort Worth, Texas-



based RadioShack announced plans to close 1100 of its outlets, leaving the chain with 4000 stores, including more than 900 dealer franchises. The last quarter was more of the same.

According to [CNNMoney](#), though, the retailer has only been able to shutter 200 of those shops -- because it costs a lot of money even to close locations, and RadioShack has none to spare. It's already bleeding cash -- some \$149 million just this year -- in its struggle to board up unprofitable locations and keep its head above the rising waters, and, as CNNMoney reported, credit rating agency Moody's expects the company's bank account to run dry within another 12 months. One Wall Street analyst already has warned of impending bankruptcy, and Forbes.com [reported](#) that the retailer itself has confirmed the likelihood of a Chapter 7 or Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing, if it cannot find a buyer or restructure its debt.

The troubled electronics retailer continues to actively seek a substantial cash infusion, which, CNNMoney speculated, could come from its single largest investor, hedge fund Standard General, which owns nearly 10 percent of the company. RadioShack also has been negotiating with lenders, bondholders, shareholders, and landlords about a financial turn-around plan.

RadioShack CEO Joseph Magnacca said in a statement on September 11 that while the company was making progress in its turn-around efforts, "we are actively exploring options for overhauling our balance sheet and are in advanced discussions with a number of parties." A filing the retailer submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) this week was far more blunt. In short, it said that if RadioShack cannot sell the firm, partner with another company, or restructure its debt, "we may not have enough cash and working capital to fund our operations beyond the very near term, which raises substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern." And if Plan A does not work out, the retailer told the SEC, "we would likely be required to liquidate under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code."

RadioShack once offered entry-level short-wave receivers, Citizens Band gear, a wide array of discrete components -- including transistors, resistors, and capacitors -- and, for a time, a fairly popular 2 meter hand-held transceiver and two different models of 10 meter single-band transceivers. It failed in its effort to market a dualband VHF/UHF hand-held radio, however. Over the years, RadioShack has offered fewer discrete components in its brick-and-mortar stores, moving that stock and other products to its online outlet, as it shifted its marketing focus to cell phones, consumer electronics, and various battery-operated gadgets.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Team USA at the Amateur Radio Direction Finding World Championships in Kazakhstan



Members of Team USA competed in the 17th [Amateur Radio Direction Finding](#) (ARDF) World Championships, which were held September 6 through 13 in the mountains of Kazakhstan. Invitations to join the US team were issued earlier this summer, based on results of the 2014 USA Championships near Boston and the 2013 USA Championships in North Carolina. Up to three competitors in each age/gender category may be on a national team. The basic goal is to locate the greatest number of hidden radio transmitters -- or "foxes" -- in the shortest time. ARDF enthusiasts call themselves "foxhunters," "foxtailers," "radio-orientees" and "ARDFers." Team USA brought back 13 medals from the 2012 ARDF World Championships, said Joe Moell, K0OV, ARRL ARDF Coordinator.

"Many of those medals were from the World Cup competitions for individuals, which will not take place in 2014," Moell said this week. "Since there will be fewer events this year, I do not expect our team to get as many medals. Also, our team is much smaller this year. Because some members had to drop out for various personal reasons, we have five men and three women, ranging in age from 29 to 72."

China had the largest contingent, with 64 registered competitors. Not too far behind was Russia, with 40 members registered. The Czech Republic signed up to field 37 competitors, while Finland registered just two team members.

The first days' activities were primarily involving training on 80 and 2 meter foxhunts, with the official opening ceremony on Sunday, September 7, just ahead of the first "classic competition" on Monday. A second classic competition took place on Wednesday, and "sprint" competitions were held Thursday. Friday was set aside for "[foxoring](#)" competition.

Foxoring was developed to get classic foxhunters interested in ARDF and is currently done only on 80 meters. At the starting line, foxoring competitors are given a map marked with circles for at least 10 transmitters, plus the start and finish. The fox transmitters, which run about 10 mW into foot-tall vertical antennas, are close to or within the map circles, and all operate continuously. Competitors start at 2-minute intervals and navigate to the circles using map and compass. They complete the final approach by direction finding. After "punching in" at all required foxes, they head to the finish line.

The Kazakhstan Federation of Radiosport and Radioamateur sponsored the World Championships, which were held in Kazakhstan for the first time in the resort town of Burabay.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

FCC Ups the Ante in Proposing Huge Fine on CB Operator

Right on the heels of a whopping \$14,000 [proposed forfeiture](#) for a Florida CBER for failing to allow a station inspection, the FCC Enforcement Bureau is recommending a \$22,000 fine for a New York CBER. The FCC issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)* in the case of James Engle of Lewiston, New York, on August 28, alleging that he interfered with the communications of other CBERs, operated with an external linear amplifier, operated without authorization, and disregarded earlier FCC warnings.

"Mr. Engle was warned repeatedly in writing by the Enforcement Bureau that his actions violated the law, and his apparent disregard for the Commission's authority warrants an increased penalty," the FCC said in the *NAL*.



The FCC said that last October 23, agents from the Commission's Philadelphia office, responding to a complaint from a CB operator on 27.325 MHz, CB channel 32, tracked the interfering transmissions to Engle's station and "heard him repeatedly interrupt ongoing transmissions of another CB operator." The following day, the agents inspected Engle's CB station and discovered two linear RF amplifiers. The FCC said Engle "admitted that he used one of the power amplifiers" the previous night. Testing showed the unit was capable of putting out nearly 150 W.

The FCC pointed out that while its Part 95 rules do not require individual CB operators to obtain licenses, CBERs who operate "in a manner that is inconsistent with the CB rules" are required to have an FCC authorization. "The Commission will presume an individual has used a linear or other external RF power amplifier, if the amplifier is located on the individual's premises," the *NAL* said, "and if there is other evidence showing that a CB station was operated with more power than allowed by the Rules." FCC rules also prohibit using an external RF amplifier with a FCC-certificated CB transmitter.

Transmitting without FCC authorization merits a base forfeiture of \$10,000, the FCC noted, while the base forfeiture for interfering with other communications is \$7,000. *[Editor: these penalties apply to Amateur bands as well, not just CB.]*

"The fact that Mr. Engle operated with a linear amplifier to cause intentional interference to other CB operators despite being warned twice in writing demonstrates a deliberate disregard for the Commission's requirements and authority," stated the FCC, in making an "upward adjustment" of \$5,000 in the proposed forfeiture.

Engle has 30 days to pay the fine or file in writing seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed fine.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

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 ARA 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 DARA 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 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) (currently out of service)	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	441.375+ MHz (67.0 PL) (emergencies/training only)	WC5GC

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC



Did You Ever See The Wheel Come Off?

There you are running along just fine and all of a sudden there is shaking, lots of noise, and you feel your pulse quicken. It's one of those "Awww Heck" moments when you realize it's happened - a wheel has come off. Then you wake up. It was just the alarm going off, that tender shake to your shoulder, and a not so gentle "it's time to get up".

I had the real experience happen one time pulling horse trailer. I looked in the mirror and saw a random tire rolling through the median and wondered what fool lost a tire... and then the shaking began. Thankfully no horse was in the trailer yet. Several hours and a few dollars later we were running again.

Yeah, but you know the feeling - the real one - things were going well and it happens. You don't recall the moment it happened but you know when it got bad and the shaking started.

Maybe it started when you forgot to ID your communication. Some folks have that issue as I read in a recent newsletter from ARRL. Cost a lot of hard earned bucks and probably some local ribbing. Section 97.119(a) of the Amateur Service Rules requires each amateur station to "transmit its assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication." I bet someone's significant other was shaking something after that episode. A wheel came off.

We just participated in a CERT class graduation. ARES was glad to get the chance to work with the new CERT team. There were all sorts of disaster around and in the Courthouse as teams worked though the building and grounds, searching for persons and assessing situations as they came to them. Somewhere it started. A team stopped to assess a victim. In the ensuing discussion and work, half the team disappeared. All of a sudden the shaking started. Where were they, who is our leader, now what do we do, how can we deal with our victim now we have lost our help? A wheel came off.

How to keep the wheels from coming off? Well, there is the million dollar question. A good start is to check the wheel's lug nuts. You don't have to do it every day but sometime it needs to be done. When I worked for living we had a certain brand of service trucks that had a history of the wheels coming off. Some had lug nut indicators installed, if the blue tabs all pointed the same way you were good to go. We found the best method was to verify the tightness of each nut during the weekly safety check. In our Amateur Radio operations we do this through monthly nets, training sessions, planning sessions and discussions about preparedness. I appreciated the chance for ARES to work with our CERT partners to refresh ourselves of simple things like frequency selection, tactical assignments, recording those, reporting procedures and cooperation with our served partner to see communications worked as planned and no wheels would come off. By the way, do you know about CERT? What it is, what it does and why are we involved with ARES? Here is the website to start you towards those answers: <http://www.co.grayson.tx.us/default.aspx?name=oem.certfaq>.

So, check the CERT site out and see if it fits with you, attend our ARES training sessions, and be sure you have checked everything you can to be sure the wheels don't come off.

I am glad to serve our communities with you.

73
Rick
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