



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

AUGUST 2015

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 21, No. 8

## THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy everyone,

It's been a very productive month money-wise for the club. On August 1 we completed a tower installation for Dr. Stewart and received a \$600.00 donation to the club. My thanks to all who came out to help. And we also took down a tower for Johnnie, KD5NIC, who is moving to a new home. Note to all club members...if you run across someone who needs help putting up a tower or doing something radio related let them know that we can provide assistance for a reasonable donation. The club could sure use a few more projects that bring in the kind of money Dr. Stewart donated.

I want to remind everyone that the club does have an ongoing "Helping Hams" project and all you need to do is let me know when you need something done and we'll see what we can do to make it happen. For regular club members that have paid their dues this service is free. We'll help you do whatever it is you need to have done. That's a great benefit of being a member. You may not need any help this year or next, but down the road a piece we may be able to help you get done what you need. We still have a number of members that are on our list of needing help... September will be a great month to get some, or all, of these done because we have no other club activities planned. If you need help just give me a date when you want to do it.

On Saturday, August 15, we assisted with the Kiwanis Red River Bike Rally. An uneventful day...no serious problems with the riders. The most serious problems were encountered by Stacy, cows in the road, and Roy, turtles in the road. I can't tell you how pleased I am with everyone who helped and with how well organized the event was this year. A special "At-ta Boy" to Ben for a job well done in setting things up this year. Everyone did a fantastic job and you should be proud. In the end I think we were the last ones to still be working. Ben, Brad and Matt stuck it out to the very end to follow the last 2 riders back to Tanglewood. Great job everyone!!!

For those of you who enjoy HF there is a great special event coming up in September... Route 66 On The Air. Contact stations from Chicago to Santa Monica all along the old Route 66. All together there will be 22 stations participating...W6A through W6U. Get all of them for the "Clean Sweep". This is one of my favorite special events to contact. It's a challenge to get them all but can be done if you are persistent. They will be on the air from 9/12 - 9/20.

And finally, I'll ask two trivia questions:

1. During the Kiwanis Red River Bike Rally they used SAG vehicles...what does SAG stand for? I asked many folks during the bike rally and no one knew what it meant.
2. For a long time now I have been closing QSO's on HF with the phrase, "Happy trails to you until we meet again." What does this phrase have to do with me? So far no one has figured it out.

Thanks everyone and I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on Friday, August 21.

73

Lee

N5SLY

[lee.n5sly@gmail.com](mailto:lee.n5sly@gmail.com)

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## CLUB INFORMATION

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### OFFICERS

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President: Lee Sly N5SLY  
Vice President: Trevor Reed KG5BFI  
Secretary: Stacy Branam W5ORD  
Treasurer: Sheila Sammons KF5TDP  
Activity Director: Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW  
Trustee: Rick Simmons K5ECX

### MEETINGS

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

### MAILING ADDRESS

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

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

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Individual: \$20.00/yr  
Family: \$30.00/yr  
Associate (non-Ham): \$15.00/yr

**Memberships are from January 1 – December 31**

### NEWSLETTER

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

### WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

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Address: [www.graysoncountyar.com](http://www.graysoncountyar.com)  
Webmaster: Ben Sly KF5OEB  
Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC](http://www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC)

### DUES AND DONATIONS

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Membership dues are payable upon joining and renew on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Donations to support the club are always welcome. Dues and donations may be paid by cash or check at any monthly GCARC meeting and by mail, or by using a credit or debit card online at the GCARC website.

### GCARC, ARES, AND SKYWARN PATCHES

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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, we recommend ARES members place the ARES patch first 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

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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.

*"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

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## GCARC MEETING MINUTES

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### GCARC Meeting, July 17, 2015

Called to order at 7:02. 22 members in attendance plus 5 guests.

#### Meeting Minutes

- Minutes from previous meeting approved.

#### Treasurer's Report

- There was a discussion of discrepancies in the treasurer's report; Sheila KF5TDP explained some bills haven't been paid yet, and the Treasurer's report is for June. The July report was not available yet.

#### Old Business

- Kiwanis Bike Rally
  - Mark KF5UZW and Ben KF5OEB discussed guidelines and information about the Kiwanis bike rally coming up on August 15.
  - Rick K5ECX and Wade KF5AUD will be net control. Ben and Moe NT7C worked to set up a digipeater at Moe's to increase APRS coverage.
  - Joe Brown of the Kiwanis club came to speak and thank us for helping with the rally. They couldn't do it without us. He informed us that there are 1,000 chapters worldwide and they focus on serving children of the world, funding scholarships, donating school supplies, and providing gifts at Christmas time. The Kiwanis have been Sherman for 90 years, making it one of the oldest clubs, and have held the bike rally for 10 years.

#### New Business

- The Perrin Field Museum will allow us to set up a tower and have a permanent antenna at the site. Ben will talk to the museum group and help set up a plan for getting that done. He has a lead on beam antennas.
- The club needs to buy some additional supplies. The purchase of 100' of coax and a CW key was approved. However, Moe donated a key. Tim volunteered to purchase the coax.
- Ben sold the tower at Lee's house for \$150.00

#### Program/Guest Speaker

James Frank KWCW spoke to the club. He has been a ham for over 50 years and is dedicated to CW. After having a poor experience at another club, he came to our Field Day and felt immediately welcomed and appreciated.

During the meeting he was appointed the CW Elmer of the club.

He would like to help others learn CW, so beginning August 21st he is going to be offering CW classes for an hour after the regular meeting is over. You need to bring a notebook, a pen, and yourself. Please email James at [jimkw5cw@gmail.com](mailto:jimkw5cw@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending so he can send you some information.

Meeting closed at 8:20.

Next Meeting will be 7:00pm on Friday, August 21, 2015, in the Grayson County Courthouse 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Assembly Room, Sherman TX.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stacy Branham W5ORD  
GCARC Secretary

## GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

### Bank Balance for the Month of July, 2015

Operating Fund Beginning Bal	511.98
Funds Received from dues (9 members dues received)	60.00
Fund Received from donations	75.00
Less expenses	
RRBW- pd to Perrin Mus	50.00
Food For ARRL & RRBW	62.14
Operating Fund Balance	534.84

OPERATING BUDGET	
Mail Box	Paid
Perrin Special Events	Paid
ARRL Field Day / RRBW- Food	Paid
Red R B W (Perrin Museum)	Paid
RR Bridge War Cards	Paid
Denison Main Str Festival	Paid
Christmas Dinner	75.00
<b>Donations to Fund Raisers</b>	
RR Bike Rally (Kiwanis)	Paid
Marine Corps League (Toys For Tots)	0.00
Total	75.00

\*\* 49 Members    YTD

Available Equipment Funds	307.56
Funds Received	0.00
Less expenditures	0.00
Texas Towers	109.00
Equipment Fund Balance	198.56

EQUIPMENT NEEDS	
	0.00
	0.00
Amount Budgeted	0.00

Ending Bank Balance as of July 31, 2015	733.40
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Sheila Sammons KF5TDP  
GCARC Treasurer

**Dues can be paid and donations made online through the club website using a credit or debit card. Visit [www.graysoncountycarc.com](http://www.graysoncountycarc.com) for more information.**

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## CLUB MEETINGS, LOCAL ACTIVITIES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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- Club Meetings**
- Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC)**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 7:00pm  
Grayson County Courthouse 2<sup>nd</sup> floor assembly room, 100 West Houston Street, Sherman TX  
<http://www.k5gcc.org>
- Cooke County Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00pm  
Cooke County Library, 200 S. Weaver Street, Gainesville TX  
<http://www.gainesvillehamfest.org/club.htm>
- Durant Amateur Repeater Association (DARA)**  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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)**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 9:00am  
First Presbyterian Church, 818 North Main Street, Bonham TX  
<http://www.k5frc.org>
- McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC)**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00pm  
Spring Creek Barbecue, 1993 North Central Expressway, McKinney TX  
<http://www.mckinneyarc.org>
- Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Chapter 41**  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 11:00am  
Midway Point Restaurant, 12801 Midway Road, Dallas TX  
<http://www.texasqcwa41.org>
- ARES® / SKYWARN®**
- Grayson County ARES® Training**  
4<sup>th</sup> 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>
- Ragchewing & Other Informal Meetings**
- Ham Talk at The Java Stop**  
Every Saturday 11:00am-2:00pm  
The Java Stop Café, 5700 North FM 1417, Sherman TX  
<http://www.facebook.com/thejavastop>
- VE Testing Sessions**
- Texoma VE Team – Bi-Monthly Testing**  
1<sup>st</sup> 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@arll.net](mailto:nt7c@arll.net)
- Durant Amateur Repeater Association – Monthly Testing**  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:jharmon@netcommander.com))
- Texoma Amateur Radio Association – Monthly Testing**  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:wa0urj@yahoo.com)) to schedule a session

## Hamfests

### **Gainesville Hamfest**

September 26, 2015 7:00am-1:00pm (VE Testing begins 9:30am)

Gainesville Civic Center, 311 S Weaver Street, Gainesville TX

Talk-In: 147.34 and 442.775 (both 100.0 PL)

Public Contact: James Floyd N5ZPU (940) 668-7511 or [jfloyd54@swbell.net](mailto:jfloyd54@swbell.net)

Website: [www.gainesvillehamfest.org](http://www.gainesvillehamfest.org)

### **Texoma Hamarama**

October 23-24, 2015 (Friday 5:00pm-8:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-1:00pm)

VE Testing: Saturday beginning at 10:00am

Ardmore Convention Center, 2401 N Rockford Road, Ardmore OK

Talk-In: 146.970 and 146.835 (both 131.8 PL)

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

Website: [www.texomahamarama.org](http://www.texomahamarama.org)

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## **TEXOMA VE TESTING AND CLASS NOTES**

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*Moe Knight (NT7C) heads up the Texoma VE Testing team, and he also offers several classes for hams, prospective hams, and anyone who is interested in increasing their knowledge of electronics. Testing sessions and classes are held at the Grayson College Center for Workplace Learning (CWL) in Denison; check the Upcoming Events list for dates and times. Contact Moe (903) 564-7115 or [nt7c@arrl.net](mailto:nt7c@arrl.net) for more information.*

- **ARRL VE Testing:** Testing continues to be offered the first Thursday of every even numbered month. Testing takes place at 7 pm in Seminar Room C, Grayson College Center for Workplace Learning on the main campus, building 10 of the campus map. Walk-ins are welcome, but a call in advance to let us know you are coming is appreciated. Test fees, set by the ARRL, are \$15.00. Cash is appreciated. If you plan to claim prior license credit it is your responsibility to bring in a copy of proof for us to forward with your license paperwork.

We will be present for testing at the Gainesville Hamfest on Saturday, September 26, 2015. That testing will start at 9:30 am. Walk-ins are welcome.

Don't forget, the new General License (Element 3, 1 July 2015) Question Pool is now in use for exams.

- **Technician License Class:** The next scheduled Technician License Class is scheduled for November 7th (8:30 am until noon) and November 21st (8:30 am until 4:30pm). The test will be administered immediately following the November 21st class. There is no charge for the class, but there is the usual \$15 fee for the exam. Please email in advance to register.
- **General License Class:** The Fall 2015 class has been canceled. Three individuals had expressed an interest, but when asked to confirm recently, none responded.
- **Radio & Electronics Labs:** The class has suffered a downturn in attendance. I've asked for suggestions and received one asking to make the class more relevant to ham radio instead of electronics in general. I am now reconsidering how to incorporate this suggestion. If anyone else has suggestions, please let me know. Until I come up with a new plan I am suspending the class.

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## SWAP MEET

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*(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](mailto:kf5npm@gmail.com). Photographs are encouraged. There is no charge for listings, and you do not need to be a member of GCARC to participate.

### FOR SALE AS IS: Assorted Electronics/Test Equipment

The following items were donated to GCARC and are in need of a new home. No set price per piece – make us an offer!

- Heathkit RF Signal Generator
- Square Wave Generator Model 71
- Broel & Kjoer Voltmeter
- Sierra Electronic Corp. Carrier Frequency Voltmeter 104A
- Polytechnic Research Heterodyne Frequency Meter Type 504

**NOTE: These have not been tested and are offered “as is” with no refunds.**

Contact: Lee Sly N5SLY  
E-mail: [lee.n5sly@gmail.com](mailto:lee.n5sly@gmail.com)

### FOR SALE: Vintage Heathkit Gear

1. Heathkit AJ-53 Hi-Fi AM tuner 4 tube with doubling detector. Similar to the Heathkit AF-63. \$30.00
2. Heathkit AJ-33A AM/FM Stereo receiver. \$40.00
3. Heathkit AV-3 AC (audio) VTVM. Meter cracked. \$10.00 works.

Contact: David Reeder-WAØURJ  
E-mail: [WA0URJ@yahoo.com](mailto:WA0URJ@yahoo.com)  
Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773

### FOR SALE: Drake TR-3 with MS-4 Power Supply/Speaker

Drake TR-3 with matching MS-4 power supply/speaker. Has been completely realigned, new final tubes, and other tubes replaced where needed. New SSB filters replaced as well as 20 and 10 meter crystals replaced.

Asking \$325. Will deliver or arrange to meet locally. I will ship but price doesn't include shipping.

Contact: David Reeder-WAØURJ  
E-mail: [WA0URJ@yahoo.com](mailto:WA0URJ@yahoo.com)  
Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773



## 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](mailto:WA0URJ@yahoo.com)  
Home 903-583-1023 – Cell 972-658-6773



## 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](mailto:3bewens@gmail.com)





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## HELPING HAMS

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The idea behind Helping Hams is simple – all hams need a little help sometimes, but they might not know who can help them. Our club has many talented members, with some better at certain jobs than others. What we hope to do here is match up hams needing help with other hams who have the skills to help them. Working together, we can all help our fellow hams and encourage them to continue pursuing their interests in this wonderful hobby.

The currently-requested needs are listed below. If you have a need, or know of a ham with a need, or if you or someone you know can help, contact our newsletter editor by sending an e-mail to [kf5npm@gmail.com](mailto:kf5npm@gmail.com). Be sure to include the following: 1) Who needs the help and how to contact them; 2) What needs to be done; 3) When can someone come out to do the work; and 4) Where is the location of the work that needs to be done. **You don't have to be a member of GCARC to ask for help or make an offer to help.** We're all in this together – that's what the hobby is all about!

### Current Requests:

Bennie K5DIZ	Antenna install	Sherman
Gordon N5TPO	Realign a tower-mounted 440Mhz yagi antenna	Sherman
Rick K5ECX	Help with lowering/servicing/raising antenna tower. Note: must be done in very dry weather due to tower location.	Sanger
Mike KF5NPM	Antenna installs (2), grounding cables, and lightning arrestors. Also HF antenna adjustments. Note: steep roof.	Denison

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## NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

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### Katrina 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mississippi Memorial Event Set

A [special event](#) operation from August 26 through September 2 will commemorate the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the more than 230 people who lost their lives as a result of Katrina along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and points north.

“Many lost everything they owned and many lost their lives,” said Larry Morgan, AG5Z, who is spearheading the event. “We also want to honor the hundreds of volunteers from all over the country that poured in to assist us in our time of dire need.”

Several stations along the Mississippi coast will use special event K (for Katrina) prefix 1 × 1 call signs. Operation will begin on August 26 at 0000 UTC from home stations. On August 29 at 1300 -- the time of Katrina's impact -- all stations will reduce power to 100 W, except for bonus stations K5M and K5T. Reduced-power operation will continue until September 2 at 2359 UTC.

K5Z at “ground zero” will consist of a portable QRP station set up on the beach using temporary antennas and emergency power.

Certificates will be available. See the [Katrina 10th Anniversary Special Memorial Event](#) website for details. Send logs and QSLs to AG5Z. Morgan expressed his appreciation to the 599 DX Association and the Hattiesburg Amateur Radio Club.

Active stations will include:

Call Sign	Operator	Location
K5C	AE5JG	Harrison County
K5G	KB5HC	Gulfport
K5J	AE5SK	Jackson
K5L	W5MZX	Long Beach
K5O	K2FF	Ocean Springs
K5M	W5XX	Memorial Station

Call Sign	Operator	Location
K5S	N5FG	Wiggins
K5T	KG5BA	Thank you station
K5V	K5YG	Vanceleave
K5W	AB6Z	Waveland
K5Z	W5UE	Ground Zero (QRP)
K5H	AG5Z	Hattiesburg (Point of contact)

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee to Disappear In September



The Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee is set to disappear in the next few weeks. According to the best-available information from FCC sources, the first day that applicants will be able to file a vanity application without having to pay a fee is Thursday, September 3. In [deciding](#) earlier this year to drop the regulatory fee components for Amateur Radio vanity call signs and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) applications, the FCC said it was doing so to save money and personnel resources. The Commission asserted that it costs more of both to process the regulatory fees and issue refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment.

“Our costs have increased over time, and now that the costs exceed the amount of the regulatory fee, the increased relative administrative cost supports eliminating this regulatory fee category,” the FCC said in its [Report and Order](#), which appeared on July 21 in *The Federal Register*. “Once [it’s] eliminated, these licensees will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments.”

The FCC raised the Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee from \$16.10 to its current \$21.40 for the 10-year license term in 2014. The \$5.30 increase was the largest such fee hike in many years. In a typical fiscal year, the FCC collected on the order of \$250,000 in vanity call sign regulatory fees.

The FCC said the revenue it would otherwise collect from such regulatory fees “will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories.” Congress has mandated that the FCC collect nearly \$340 million in regulatory fees from all services in fiscal year 2015.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## Rockwell Collins to End Mechanical Filter Production

As more and more communications equipment designs have adopted digital signal processing techniques, [Rockwell Collins](#) has announced that it will stop manufacturing its renowned mechanical filters. It did not provide a specific date.

“Over the past several years, we have seen a dramatic reduction in demand for narrowband analog filters,” the company [said](#) on its website. “Due to this and other economic reasons, [Rockwell Collins] Filter Products will be discontinuing its mechanical filter products in the near future.”

Rockwell Collins makes two different types of mechanical filters, many of which have found their way into Amateur Radio products and applications. In a mechanical filter, input and output transducers convert the electrical signal to and from resonant mechanical vibrations, respectively.

“For frequencies between 100 kHz and 700 kHz, we create filters made from rods resonating in a torsion mode,” the company explained on its website. “For frequencies below 100 kHz, we use flexure mode bar resonators.”

Collins has made mechanical filters for more than 6 decades, and their initial application was in telephone circuits. The filters gained favor for Amateur Radio use because of their excellent selectivity, especially in IF applications. It is said to take about 12 weeks to manufacture a single unit.

Art Collins, W0CXX (SK), founded Collins Radio Company in 1933 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. That same year Collins supplied the equipment to establish communication with the Byrd South Pole expedition. Over the years, Collins produced a line of Amateur Radio equipment, and its products remain popular among radio amateurs and collectors. Rockwell International purchased the company in 1973, and Rockwell Collins was

spun off in 2001. Today, the company has focused its market on electronic communications, avionics, and in-flight entertainment systems.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## **FCC Shows No Mercy, Sustains \$22,000 Fine for Egregious On-Air Behavior by Michigan Licensee**

The FCC has dropped the other shoe -- hard -- in the case of Michael Guernsey, KZ8O (ex-ND8V), of Parchment, Michigan, imposing the full \$22,000 fine it had proposed in 2014 for causing intentional interference with other Amateur Radio communications and for failing to identify. In a [Forfeiture Order](#) issued on July 22, 2015 -- exactly 1 year from its *Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)* proposing the hefty fine -- the FCC cited Guernsey's "long history of causing interference to other Amateur Radio operators" and noted that he "has been warned repeatedly in writing." Guernsey's interactions with the FCC Enforcement Bureau date back well over a decade, and, at one point agreed to have his license suspended for 9 months.

"Despite repeated warnings from the [Enforcement] Bureau regarding his on-air behavior, Mr. Guernsey's violations included the deliberate playing of music on top of the transmissions of other amateur operators in order to obstruct their ability to communicate on the frequency," the FCC recounted in the July 22 *Forfeiture Order*. "Mr. Guernsey further used various animal noises to prevent the communications of other stations with whom he had a longstanding and well-documented dispute."

The FCC said the egregiousness of Guernsey's "repeated willful acts of malicious interference" warranted the assessment of the full \$22,000 forfeiture it had proposed a year earlier. "Nothing in the record in this case, including Mr. Guernsey's financial condition, warrants any leniency or mitigation of that amount," the FCC added.

In responding to the 2014 *NAL*, Guernsey denied responsibility for the interference, in part noting that FCC agents had not inspected his station and may have heard the signal of a nearby radio amateur. He also sought a cancellation or reduction of the fine based on inability to pay. The FCC was having none of it. The Commission said its agents "positively confirmed the source" of the interfering transmissions as Guernsey's residence and monitored them for 40 minutes. Further, the FCC said that inability to pay a fine was but one criterion it uses in determining an appropriate financial penalty.

"Considering the entire record, we find no reason to cancel, withdraw, or reduce the proposed penalty," the FCC said in the *Forfeiture Order* to Guernsey, who has 30 days to pay the fine or arrange to do so on an installment plan.

In a related enforcement case, the FCC in January affirmed an \$11,500 fine against Brian Crow, K3VR, of North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, for causing deliberate interference. The FCC Enforcement Bureau had proposed fining for both Crow and Guernsey in separate, but similarly worded *Notices of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture* issued a year ago. Crow did not respond to the 2014 *NAL*.

In both instances, the FCC said, it responded in March 2014 to "several complaints of intentional interference" on 14.313 MHz, and Commission agents used radio direction-finding techniques to pin down the transmission sources.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

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## **LOCAL RADIO NETS**

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### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 7:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.

Net Control: 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**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

1<sup>st</sup> 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**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.

## Other

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ragchews**

March 29, May 31, August 30, and November 29 at 8:00pm CT on the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.

Net Control: Trevor Reed KG5BFI

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## AREA REPEATERS

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<b>Sherman TX</b>	147.000+ MHz (100.0 PL) 147.280+ MHz (107.2 PL) 444.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT W5COP W5RVT	<del><b>Kingston OK</b></del>	<del>146.985- MHz (103.5 PL)</del> (currently out of service)	<del>K5BQG</del>
<b>Allen TX</b>	145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	<b>McKinney TX</b>	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
<b>Bonham TX</b>	145.470- MHz (100.0 PL) 147.200+ MHz (100.0 PL) 443.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	K5FRC K5FRC K5FRC	<b>Melissa TX</b>	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
<b>Denison TX</b>	145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH	<b>Paris TX</b>	146.760- MHz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD
<b>Durant OK</b>	147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL) <del>147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL)</del> (currently out of service)	K5KIE K5CGE	<b>Rosston TX</b>	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
<b>Gainesville TX</b>	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI	<b>Van Alstyne TX</b>	443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
			<b>Grayson County ARES</b>	441.375+ MHz (67.0 PL) (emergencies/training only)	WC5GC

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## GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

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### Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX  
Grayson County ARRL EC

#### Tis the Season

Did you know its hurricane season? And it's beginning to get a little 'long in the tooth' as the old timers used to say. That can only mean one thing: fall is on the way!!

Yippee! Let's turn the heat index meter off and get to some really nice weather. But before the blue sky of summer loosens its sweaty grip on us, let's remember that as the weather transitions from summer heat to cooler temps that means unsettled conditions. Yep, you guessed it, fall thunderstorm season will be on us. Combine that with a little activity in the Gulf and we can have some rough weather.

So review your go kit, clean out that melted energy bar disguised as a snickers bar, the stale peanut butter crackers, replace that water bottle with a fresh one (they do have a shelf life... don't ask how I know) check the batteries in the flash light and HT, and be sure you're ready for a few rounds of weather nets this fall.



It's been a fun summer with Field Day, club SE stations and most recently the Kiwanis Bike rally. We have had a few training sessions and have couple more planned for the fall. Your AEC team will meet this month to finalize training topics and nets for the fall. We have some really good ideas coming up.

Several of the AECs, some interested team members, and myself met with the Sherman EM team a few days ago. With a new Fire chief and organizational changes, there is a fresh look at this city's EM operation and its relations with all the involved parties. We talked over a few things, reviewed changes to their planned remodel of their EOC in the basement of the Police building, and made suggestions as to how Amateur Radio equipment could be included to provide communications assistance should it be needed. Coax runs and antennas were visually checked over and plans made for their use. Also, we looked over a rather large cache of radios and equipment gathered for us to go through and check out. That process is ongoing and should provide some good equipment for the Sherman EOC.

That's about it for now. Hope you have enjoyed the summer, let's bring on some fall weather!

73  
Rick  
K5ECX

