



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

OCTOBER 2016

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 22, No. 10

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy everyone,

Wow, what a busy month we have had. We have had events going on for weeks now. This time of year has always been busy and this year was no exception.

The club set up booths for the Van Alstyne Fall-Dur-All, Denison Fall Fest and the Collinsville National Night Out events. We sold raffle tickets for some weather radios at these events. We picked the winners at the conclusion of the Collinsville event. When we counted up our sales we only sold \$154.00 in tickets...turns out we are not very good sales people. But since the radios were purchased and donated to the club by Premiere Roofing it didn't cost us anything and we made a few bucks. The proceeds were split evenly between the club and ARES. I would encourage all of you to consider Premiere Roofing for all your roofing needs...they have been very generous to our club and some of our members in need this year, and they do good work. You can contact them at 1-888-ROOF-NOW or www.premiereroofing.net.

After all of that, we had our final Special Event of the year...the Eisenhower Special Event. Another very successful event. My biggest goal as president this year was to make our special events something special. I wanted to give more members the opportunity to participate, provide opportunities for members to experience and learn new modes of operation, increase the number of contacts we make during these events, and help the club achieve some awards during the process. And I am extremely happy with what we have done this year. During the Eisenhower Special Event we made more contacts than we have ever made in any event...ever...over 570. Members who never participated in the past did during the events this year and were very excited about how much fun they had working the events. I had open houses during these events this year and had members come over to learn and experience new modes of operation. The important thing is that people got involved...they learned some things...they participated...and they had some fun. That is what this hobby is all about.

Big, big news. The leadership of the Perrin Field Museum is all in agreement that we can construct a tower on their property and have it permanently wired into the Museum. This is great news...and may lead to additional opportunities for us to increase our utilization of their facility. We'll take this one step at a time. First project is building the tower. I believe we have the tower pieces necessary already and maybe all of the concrete we'll need lined up. Ben thinks he can get the hole dug so all we need is some members to show up and mix concrete and mount the base. That's the first step. Then we'll need to put the tower up, decide what antenna we want, raise the money to buy it, mount it, buy the required cable and mounting hardware, etc. More to come on this project.

Made a suggestion at the meeting that the club needs a permanent place to store all of the club's stuff. We have a radio in a box, tables, chairs, banners, maps, antennas, mobile tower, tents, canopies, rope, hardware, the list goes on and on. Right now some of our stuff is at my house, some is at Sheila's house, some is at Stacy's house, and some is at Mark's house. It is all over the place. Anyway, John Ramsey is doing some research for us on how the club might get some money to acquire a permanent storage facility. We'll look for a report from John at next month's meeting.

We nominated members for club positions for next year at our meeting Friday. The following were nominated...

President – Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW

Vice President – James Frank KW5CW

Secretary – Stacy Branam W5ORD & Nancy Pierce KG5PIZ. They will share this responsibility.

Treasurer – Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA

My thanks to all of them for stepping forward and help lead our club next year. The election will be held at the November meeting.

No club activities planned during this coming month and I plan on working on some of my "Honey do" list items in the weeks ahead. Thanks everyone and...

73

Lee – N5SLY

lee.n5sly@gmail.com

CLUB INFORMATION

OFFICERS

President: Lee Sly N5SLY
Vice President: James Frank KW5CW
Secretary: Stacy Branam W5ORD
Treasurer: Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
Activity Director: Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW
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
P.O. Box 642
Sherman, Texas 75091

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

Memberships are from January 1 – December 31

NEWSLETTER

Published: Monthly via e-mail
Editor: Mike Bernier KF5NPM
To submit news or e-mail changes: Send E-Mail to KF5NPM@gmail.com
Submission: 12 midnight on the Sunday
Deadline: following each monthly meeting

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Address: www.graysoncountyar.com
Webmaster: Ben Sly KF5OEB
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC
Page:

DUES AND DONATIONS

Membership dues are payable upon joining and renew on January 1st 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

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

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

GCARC MEETING MINUTES

GCARC Meeting Minutes -- Oct. 21, 2016

- September meeting minutes were not in the previous newsletter but were approved by members present at the meeting
- We currently have \$1527.27 total in the bank
- We sold a total of \$154.00 in raffle tickets for the weather radios that were purchased by Premier Roofing
 - 10 winners were drawn, we gave 9 radios away. We couldn't find one winner so another will be drawn
 - We will divide the sales with ARES so each group receives \$77.00
 - A thank you note will be sent to Premier Roofing
- The club set aside \$50 to be spent for the Eisenhower Special Event. That money was not spent, Lee Sly N5SLY proposed that money be given to Stacy Branam W5ORD for reimbursement for the damage caused by power issue we had at the event. That expenditure was approved.
- As previously discussed, a large map of the county was laminated to be used for the Red River Bike Rally to help track operators. The club budgeted \$150.00 but the project came in well under that allotment.
- The Eisenhower Special Event finished. The totals will be printed in the newsletter. Some notes of particular interest.
 - Made the most contact of any event this year.
 - We have now Worked All States EXCEPT ARKANSAS
- We received a very nice thank you note from Collinsville for participating in their National Night Out Event. They invited us back next year.
- Moe Knight's (NT7C) next technician class will be in November.
- The Perrin Field Museum has approved the installation of a permanent tower.
 - Ben Sly KF5OEB is looking to get the hole dug
 - Will decide later on antenna-concrete-tower pieces-coax etc.
 - No higher than 30' so we don't need guys
- Lee brought up the possibility of purchasing some kind of storage for all of our club stuff that is currently scattered to many different areas. No agreement or decision was made, just an idea put out there for future consideration.
- James Frank KW5CW brought up the need for spotters for an airplane race that starts at NTX Regional Airport. Contact him for further information.
- Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW also brought up the opportunity to volunteer at the Dallas marathon. Contact Mark for further information.
- Officer Nominations:
 - President-Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW
 - VP-James Frank KW5CW
 - Secretary-Stacy Branam W5ORD assisted by Nancy Pierce KG5PIZ
 - Treasurer-Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA

Meeting closed 8:07 pm.

Next meeting will be Friday, November 18, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Grayson County Courthouse, 2nd Floor Assembly Room, 100 W. Houston St., Sherman TX.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Branam W5ORD
GCARC Secretary

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance as of 10.21.16 Club Meeting

Operating Fund Beginning Bal		1,404.47
Funds Received		
Weather Radio Raffle		154.00
Less expenses		
1111 Fast Signs - banner		96.00
1112 L. Sly - Office Supplies		42.74
1113 ARES- half of Radio Raffle		77.00
		0.00
Online Fee		0.00
Operating Fund Balance		1,342.73

** 48 Members YTD

Available Equipment Funds		164.54
Funds Received - donation		20.00
K1PKZ - Paul / KI5DQ (J. Hunt)		

Less expenditures

Equipment Fund Balance		184.54
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Ending Bank Balance
as of October 21, 2016 1,527.27

Sheila Sammons KF5TDP
GCARC Treasurer

OPERATING BUDGET	
Post Office Box	0.00
Checks	0.00
Website	0.00
<i>Special Events Deposit</i>	
Denison Main Street	0.00
V.A. Fal-dur-All	0.00
RR Bridge War	0.00
<i>Food for Special Events</i>	
Perrin Field - donated	0.00
ARRL Field Day	0.00
RR Bridge War	0.00
Eisenhower Birthday	50.00
Christmas Dinner	75.00
<i>Donations</i>	
Perrin Museum	0.00
Kiwanis/Bike Rally	0.00
Toys For Tots	100.00
<i>Total</i>	225.00

EQUIPMENT NEEDS	
Amount Budgeted	0

Grayson County ARC 2016 Special Event Station Results Call Sign - W5I

Updated Excruciating Details from eQSL

		Perrin Field May 2016			Red River July 2016			Eisenhower October 2016			Totals		
		QSOs	QSLs	%	QSOs	QSLs	%	QSOs	QSLs	%	QSOs	QSLs	%
By Band	20m	381	214	56	469	252	54	448	189	42	1298	655	50
	40m	93	61	66	61	38	62	124	78	63	278	177	64
By Mode	Contesti	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	100	1	1	100
	CW	18	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	1	6
	JT65	58	48	83	40	34	85	40	28	70	138	110	80
	PSK31	346	208	60	349	214	61	399	204	51	1094	626	57
	PSK63	19	12	63	8	3	38	13	8	62	40	23	58
	SSB	33	7	21	133	39	29	119	27	23	285	73	26
Totals		474	275	58	530	290	55	572	267	47	1576	832	53

DX Countries with Confirmed Contacts

Perrin Field	Red River	Eisenhower
Argentina	Argentina	Argentina
Brazil	Belarus	Brazil
Canada	Canada	Canada
Chile	Chile	Colombia
Cuba	Colombia	Costa Rica
Dominican Republic	France	Cuba
Ecuador	Haiti	Hawaii **
Guatemala	Russia (Euro)	Iceland (2 confirmed)
Italy	Venezuela	Mexico
Mexico		Puerto Rico
Puerto Rico		Venezuela
Spain		
Venezuela		

** Hawaii is listed as a DX "country" in eQSL

QSLs Still Needed for eQSL WAS Award

North Dakota
Rhode Island
Vermont

ARRL Logbook of The World (LoTW)
K5GCC/W5I QSLs for Basic WAS Award

US State	CW	Phone	Digital
Alabama (AL)		NA4RR	KC4QWM
Alaska (AK)			WL7CG
Arizona (AZ)	K6LL	WY7H	W3HOT
Arkansas (AR)			
California (CA)	K6NV	W6DOJ	KK6RQA
Colorado (CO)		N0LP	N0GOS
Connecticut (CT)		K1PL	KA1PPV
Delaware (DE)			KA8UWA
Florida (FL)	K3RLL	W4UH	N4KXO
Georgia (GA)	N4N	KK4FOF	N4MEP
Hawaii (HI)			WH6TAT
Idaho (ID)			W7FYV
Illinois (IL)	NA9M	AC9EM	N9BT
Indiana (IN)	K9KJ	N9CXI	N9WVM
Iowa (IA)	W0GXA	K8OM	W0GQ
Kansas (KS)	KS0MO	WB0FTY	N0LLH
Kentucky (KY)	AJ4A	KC4TAC	K4KRK
Louisiana (LA)	W5EA	WE5EE	AA5AT
Maine (ME)	N1ME		WA2HIP
Maryland (MD)	W3AO	W3AO	NG3Y
Massachusetts (MA)		KA1EKR	N1EEK
Michigan (MI)	W8UM	KD8OSD	N8XAH
Minnesota (MN)	N0AT	N0DOW	AC0XB
Mississippi (MS)	K5GDX	W5SGL	KK4IOU
Missouri (MO)	W0KEM	W7KAM	K0BRT
Montana (MT)	K0SN	KF7SOJ	W7PAQ
Nebraska (NE)			K0DLJ
Nevada (NV)		K7NKH	K7DMB
New Hampshire (NH)			W1HS
New Jersey (NJ)	K2AA		K2GFM
New Mexico (NM)	K5TQ	W5MPZ	N5UVQ
New York (NY)	NF2RS	W2VL	KA5BJC
North Carolina (NC)		W4JNH	K4MWE
North Dakota (ND)			KF5SR
Ohio (OH)	N8BC	N8TCP	AC8NP
Oklahoma (OK)	K5CM		
Oregon (OR)		W7C	AF7TT
Pennsylvania (PA)	AA3B	NS3L	WA3CAS
Rhode Island (RI)	W1OP		
South Carolina (SC)		NN4F	WD4MST
South Dakota (SD)		KF0XO	N0MHL
Tennessee (TN)	K9UQN	K4LFB	NW4KU
Texas (TX)	W5CT	W5VQ	KF5OED
Utah (UT)	K7UM		KF7F
Vermont (VT)	W1NVT	W1NVT	N1AFT
Virginia (VA)	K4RC	KJ4WNW	NA3Z
Washington (WA)	K7LED	W7DK	N7AME
West Virginia (WV)		KA3CZY	N8FL
Wisconsin (WI)	W9PN	W9PN	W9AKS
Wyoming (WY)			KC8WSM

The LoTW Basic WAS Award requires at least one confirmed QSL in every state regardless of band or mode.
State not confirmed: Arkansas

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.graysoncountyarc.com>

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

Visit website for meeting location

<https://qcwachapter41dallas.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>

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>

Training Classes

Technician License Training Class

One class held in two sessions to prepare students to take the Technician License exam.

Session 1: Saturday, November 5, 2016 8:30am-12:30pm

Session 2: Saturday, November 19, 2016 8:30am-5:30pm (at the end of this session the
Texoma VE Team will administer the Technician exam)

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

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

Class Fee: No Charge for the class, but there is a \$15 fee to take the Technician exam. Study guides
will be e-mailed to registered students prior to the start of the first session.

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@arll.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 (jharmon1940@gmail.com)

Texoma Amateur Radio Association – Bi-Monthly Testing

***** NO MORE TESTING SESSIONS OFFERED THIS YEAR *****

Contact: Dave K5YM (281) 743-7478 or k5ym@yahoo.com

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

FROM THE QSL MANAGER

K5GCC & W5I QSL Information from your QSL Manager – Lee, N5SLY

This has been a very successful year for the club as far as the number of contacts we have made. We got on the air 4 times this year...

- Perrin Field Special Event
- Field Day
- Red River Bridge War Special Event
- Eisenhower Special Event

We made over 1800 contacts this year. Our club has never done that before. What a fantastic achievement and it only happened because of those that participated during these events. Thank you!

It is one thing to make a lot of contacts, but what really counts are the QSLs you get from those contacts. QSLs are confirmations that you indeed made the contact and are used for many different awards from many different groups. Two of the most popular are eQSL and LOTW (ARRL's Log Book of The World) for different awards. Then there are always the traditional QSL cards that get sent through the mail. Our club uses all of those ways to send QSLs for the contacts we have made.

Like everything in Amateur Radio, what each ham does is personal preference. Some hams use eQSL, but not LOTW. Some hams collect QSL cards through the mail. Some only use LOTW. Some don't send any QSLs. And some use all the different ways to send QSLs. Because of this you may get an award from one group before you get the same award from another group. One of the first awards I got was my WAS (Worked All States) from eQSL. It took months before I was able to get the same award from LOTW.

Our club is very close to getting its WAS award, and we'll probably get it from LOTW first. We only need one confirmation from a contact in Arkansas and we'll earn our Basic WAS award. The Basic WAS award means you have confirmed contacts from all 50 states using any mode and on any band. It is the easiest award to get. You can then get it again by getting confirmations using one mode only or on one band only. So you can win that award many different times because there are so many different modes and bands that you can work with.

With eQSL we need confirmation from contacts in 3 states...North Dakota, Rhode Island and Vermont.

What about QSL cards through the mail? Well as you can imagine, because we made so many contacts we also have received more QSL cards through the mail than ever before. It is averaging a little more than 10% on the contacts we made. For the Eisenhower event for example we have received just over 60 cards in the mail and we made 573 contacts. I still expect to get some more in the weeks ahead.

In this issue are our stats for both eQSL and LOTW. Lots of information. Neat stuff as far as I'm concerned. You may care less. But, again, Amateur Radio is all about personal preferences. The important thing is that you do what you like to do in this hobby and have fun doing it.

Thanks & 73

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. 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

HELPING HAMS

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. 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
Bob Sholl Needs help with a rotator on a 100' tower.
W5DSA

Sherman
Davy Ln, Denison

Philippine Hams Team Up To Confront Back To Back Typhoons

Philippine Amateur Radio Association ([PARA](#)) Ham Emergency Radio Operations (HERO) network volunteers were ready for Super Typhoon Haima, which struck the northeastern Philippines on October 19 with winds peaking prior to landfall at more than 180 MPH – a Category 5 storm. Roberto Vicencio, DU1VHY, reported that HERO had already activated its net on 7.110 MHz for an earlier Category 3 storm, Typhoon Sharika, which hit Luzon Island before moving west and weakening. But the powerful Haima forced thousands of residents to flee. More than a dozen deaths in the Philippines were blamed on the storm.



“Considering the limited access to other communication channels, ham radio is being used to support affected communities to communicate with their loved ones and provide feedback to their evolving needs,” the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a report.

Typhoon Haima left in its wake a path of debris, destroyed infrastructure, some 46,000 damaged homes and businesses, flooding, and landslides. The storm also impacted agriculture and fishing. Haima was the latest of a dozen storms to hit the Philippines archipelago this year.

Vicencio said that 130 stations checked into the HERO net to give reports on weather conditions, power outages, and flooding. Other groups of radio amateurs, including the United Methodist Amateur Radio Club (UMARC), sent members north to the Province of Isabela. OCHA reported that UMACR and PARA provided solar generator sets to radio amateurs in Isabela. It took a team of three radio amateurs more than 10 hours to reach Santiago City, Isabela, by road. They were able to report via HF that electrical power had been cut and phone coverage was intermittent in the province.

Most areas in Cagayan Province had limited access to communication, with electricity expected to take 3 weeks to be restored. The army, police, the Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies were deployed in the area.

According to the Philippines Department of Social Welfare and Development, more than 60,000 residents were affected by the typhoon as it traveled across the island chain, and nearly 15,000 evacuees were in shelters.

- Originally published online at [ARRL.org](#)

Rule Making Petition to FCC Calls for Vanity Sign Rule Changes



The FCC is inviting comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11775](#)) from a Nevada radio amateur that seeks changes to the rules governing the Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Program. Christopher LaRue, W4ADL, of North Las Vegas, is proposing that any licensee obtaining a vanity call sign be required to keep it for the full license term. LaRue contends in his petition that excessive and frequent vanity call sign filings are hampering the ability of other qualified licensees to obtain vanity call signs in one of the more desirable 1×2 or 2×1 formats. LaRue said that since the FCC dropped the fee to file for a vanity call sign, some applicants are taking advantage by regularly obtaining new call signs, thereby keeping them out of circulation.

“Some are changing call signs almost monthly, just to keep the newer code-free Extra class operators from obtaining a shorter call sign,” he said in his petition. “I even saw an older operator that said he does it all the time and has not even owned a radio in over 6 years. When I looked him up, he has had 16 different [call signs] in 18 months.”

LaRue said his proposed minor rule change would require any licensee applying for and obtaining an Amateur Radio vanity call sign “be required to keep it for the duration of the license, which is currently 10 years.”

He said this would “alleviate a lot of the stress on the ULS system and manpower requirements” at the FCC. “It will also keep inactive amateurs from changing call signs regularly, thereby tying up call signs for 2 years after dismissal of said call.”

Interested parties may comment using the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)). Comments are due within 30 days of the October 26 posting date.

- Originally published online at [ARRL.org](#)

Broadcasters and Jammers in IARU Region 1 Wreak Havoc on Amateur Radio Frequencies

The battle continues between Radio Eritrea (Voice of the Broad Masses) and Radio Ethiopia, which is said to be jamming the Eritrean broadcaster with broadband white noise. The problem for radio amateurs is that the battle is taking place in the 40 meter phone band – 7.145 and 7.175 MHz – with the jamming signal [reported](#) by the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS) to be 20 kHz wide on each channel. The on-air conflict has been going on for years; Ethiopia constructed new transmitting sites in 2008 and is said to use two or three of them for jamming purposes. While the U.S. is in IARU Region 2, the interfering signals are so powerful they can be heard in North America after dark. According to IARUMS Region 1 Coordinator Wolf Hadel, DK2OM, Radio Eritrea is airing separate programs on each frequency. He said in the IARUMS September newsletter that telecommunications regulators in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland have been informed, so they could file official complaints.

Other AM broadcast intruders on 40 meters include Radio Hargeisa in Somaliland on 7.120 MHz, which, Hadel said, is audible in Australia and Japan. He further reports that the Voice of Iran’s signal on 7.205 MHz is splattering up to 5 kHz on either side of its channel, while Radio France International, which operates on the same frequency, is splattering down to 7.185 MHz.

Other odds and ends on 40 meters include the so-called “V beacon” on 7.091.5 MHz. The looped CW signal, which sends the letter “V” over and over, is audible every day. Hadel said the signal originates in Kazakhstan.

Hadel has reported HF radar signals from Russia on 40 and 20 meters, with “long-lasting transmissions, often with many spurious emissions.”

A Russian Air Force frequency-shift keyed signal identifying in CW as “REA4,” has been active on 7.117 MHz, while a Russian Navy FSK signal “Sevastopol” has been observed on 14.180. Hadel said Germany’s telecommunications regulator has filed an official complaint. Other Russian military signals have been heard on 7.016 MHz.

Chinese broadband over-the-horizon (OTH) radars on 14 MHz generated some “Woodpecker” complaints, “but this was not the Russian ‘Woodpecker,’” Hadel clarified. Mario Taeubel, DG0JBJ, observed 11 OTH radars on 40 meters, 40 on 20 meters, 13 on 15 meters and 2 on 10 meters during September.

Hadel reports that signals from Spanish and Portuguese, UK, and Irish fishing operations, Indonesian and Philippine pirates, and OTH radar signals are sprinkled throughout 80, 40, 20, and 15 meters, while signals from oceangoing sensor buoys are heard widely on various discrete frequencies on 10 meters.

- Originally published online at [ARRL.org](#)

Battleship U.S.S. Missouri Serves as Amateur Radio License Class, VE Testing Venue

The ARRL-affiliated Emergency Amateur Radio Club ([EARC](#)) in Honolulu held the first-ever Amateur Radio licensing classes and test session aboard the battleship *USS Missouri*, now a World War II memorial berthed in Pearl Harbor. The October 8 test session culminated 5 weeks of classes and a tour of [KH6BB](#), the ship’s club station. The club reported that eight applicants passed the Technician exam, and two of them went on to pass the General class test as well.

Applicants included a couple that lives aboard a sailing vessel and are part of the cruising community. They wanted to be able to stay in touch while under way. Four military personnel wanted to get ham tickets, “so they would be better at their jobs,” the club said. One military dependant always wanted to get licensed and “thought it would be fun,” according to the EARC. A teen who had worked on a project in Alaska involving satellites also was among the successful applicants. A team of four Volunteer Examiners from the EARC administered the tests.



The *Missouri* – also known as “Big Mo” or “Mighty Mo” – was the last battleship that the U.S. commissioned, and it was where the Empire of Japan surrendered in September of 1945, ending World War II. After seeing service as recently as the early 1990s, the vessel was donated to the [USS Missouri Memorial Association](#) in 1998. The battleship’s radio room now is home to KH6BB, operated by the Battleship *Missouri* Amateur Radio Club.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

AO-7 Still Going Strong After 42 Years In Space

In less than a month, the venerable [AO-7](#) Amateur Radio satellite will mark 42 years in space. AMSAT says AO-7, the oldest ham radio satellite still in operation, is now switching between Mode A and Mode B on a daily basis, after coming up in Mode A on September 30.

“That suggests that the satellite is now in constant sunlight and receiving enough power from the solar cells for the 24-hour timer to stay on throughout its entire orbit,” AMSAT-NA Secretary Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, said. “Expect daily mode switches between Mode A and Mode B to occur for the next three months or so. As AO-7’s orbit precesses and the periods of constant sunlight become fewer and fewer, there will be less of an opportunity to use Mode A on a yearly basis, so enjoy it while it lasts!”

In Mode A, earthbound amateurs transmit on 2 meters and receive on 10 meters. Stoetzer said the type of 10 meter antenna isn’t fussy. “Try whatever you can,” he said. When continuously illuminated, AO-7’s mode will alternate between Modes A and B (70 centimeters up/2 meters down) every 24 hours.

November 15th will mark 42 years since AO-7 was launched into space from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. AO-7 was the second so-called “Phase 2” Amateur Radio satellite that AMSAT-NA constructed and launched into low-Earth orbit. It remained in operation until a short circuit occurred in a battery in 1981. More than 20 years later, however, AO-7 unexpectedly returned to life, its 2 meter beacon showing up on 145.9775 MHz.

AMSAT describes the Mode A/B spacecraft as “semi-operational” and dependent upon its solar panels for a reliable power source; AO-7 works only as long as its solar panels are illuminated by sunlight. Satellite experts speculate that AO-7’s resurrection occurred when the short circuit in the battery opened up for some reason, allowing the solar cells to power the spacecraft. When the satellite goes into eclipse, it powers down.

Since the satellite came back to life, terrestrial users have enjoyed numerous contacts via AO-7. Last February Dave Swanson, KG5CCI, of Arkansas [achieved a distance milestone](#) on AO-7 using Mode B to work Eduardo Erlemann, PY2RN (GG66lw), in Brazil – 8030.895 kilometers – which Swanson said was “way beyond the theoretical range of AO-7” and a feat that “the math said shouldn’t be possible.”

AO-7 has beacons on 29.502 MHz (used in conjunction with Mode A) and, nominally, on 145.972 MHz (used in conjunction with Mode B and Mode C, which is a low power Mode B). The 435.100 MHz beacon has an intermittent problem, switching between 400 mW and 10 mW.

- 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** **South Texas Section ARES Net (HF)**
 Mondays 7:30pm CT on 3.873MHz LSB
 This is an information net open to South Texas (STX) Section ARES members. Other Amateur stations are welcome to listen in.
- 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 147.200+ (100.0 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**
 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 (HF)**
 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** **North Texas Section ARES Net (HF)**
 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	Gainesville TX	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI
Allen TX	145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	Kingston OK	146.085- MHz (103.5 PL) (currently out of service)	K5BQC
Bonham TX	147.200+ MHz (100.0 PL) 145.470- MHz (100.0 PL) 443.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	K5FRC K5FRC K5FRC	McKinney TX	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
Denison TX	145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH	Melissa TX	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
Durant OK	147.390+ MHz (118.8 PL) 147.255+ MHz (114.8 PL) (currently out of service)	K5KIE K5CGE	Paris TX	146.760- MHz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD
			Rosston TX	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
			Van Alstyne TX	443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
			Whitesboro TX	442.875+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WC5GC

GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC

ARES Is Hoppin'!

It's near the end of the year. I know because at our ARES planning session last night we talked more about 2017 than 2016. While we still have a few things on the stove for this year, next year's plans are intriguing. There will be a few more nets this year but because of holidays some changes are required. We will not have nets on November 27th nor December 25th due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. Also our November training session normally held on the 4th Tuesday, falls in Thanksgiving week and will be moved to the week prior on the 15th. Considering December, our Santa Net will be on the 11th so that children will have a chance to talk with Santa and determine their Christmas gift wishes. I have been in communication with our friend at the North Pole, and he is making plans to come visit with us then. So yes, there is still a lot to do in the remaining months of this year.



Now for 2017. The training programs planned for the first part of the year included topics on Packet radio and station set up, and Winlink operations and station set up, with a plan to set up stations in the field as a spring Simulated Emergency Test (SET). We have planned a session on Earthquake Response, and verification of operational needs at several Red Cross shelter sites. Now all these plans were just made and we'll need to contact various speakers and presenters and gather some equipment, but that's the plan for the start of 2017. There will be the usual local nets and also the regional nets listed on the calendar of the TECO website, www.tecoares.org. Also for your preplanning I believe the annual SKYWARN training will be out at GCC on February 16th and include both basic and advanced spotter training. Final plans with times, etc. are not announced yet by the NWS, but our partners in that effort are focused on that date.

Your AEC team has kept me busy trying to keep all this moving in right direction; as I heard it expressed the other day, "it's like herding cats". Yes, we have a lot of different directions and people involved, but that's what makes our support valuable to those we serve. You folks do an admirable job. I was eating supper the other day at a local establishment and our County Judge, Bill Magers, came in, spotted me, directly came over and asked how ARES was going. That's because you are making a difference in our community. Please know you are appreciated by those we serve locally and our partners at the NWS.

Till next time,

73
Rick
K5ECX

