



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

DECEMBER 2016

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 22, No. 12



THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy everyone,

What a great year we have had this year with all of our club activities. It has been an honor and a real pleasure for me to serve as your president these last two years. All of you have made my job so easy and you have brought me great joy to see how well everyone pitches in, helps one another and gets involved in what we have done. Thank you one and all for your support, involvement, enthusiasm and dedication.

In addition to our club activities, this year has also brought me the most fun I've ever had in Amateur Radio. As you all know I just love the HF bands and I've participated in a number of Special Events and contests during the year and chased some DX as well. I've talked about some of these during our club meetings. The 13 Colonies Special Event and the Route 66 Special Event are always a lot of fun and this year was no different. Managed to get a Clean Sweep in the 13 Colonies event and just missed getting it in the Route 66 event.

By far the biggest event of the year was the ARRL National Parks On The Air event which has gone on all year. Still a couple of weeks to go. This event just reached a major milestone...there have been over 1,000,000 QSOs made during this event. The excitement and enthusiasm of hams all over the country for this event is really amazing. I've been very pleased with how I've done during this event. The most amazing thing to me is that there are now a few hams around the country that say "Oh, Hi Lee" when they hear my call sign when I call on the radio. Never met these folks, but we have made enough contacts that you actually remember people's names just by hearing their call sign.

I sure have had a lot of fun this year. I hope that you have too.

Don't forget that our club will be having new QSL cards printed early next year for our Eisenhower Special Event. We only have a few cards left after this year's event. I'm looking for photos of anything Eisenhower that we'll consider to be part of our new QSL card. Please email me your photos as soon as possible. JPEGs would be appreciated.

Next year Mark, KF5UZW, will be our president and I'm looking forward to what he has in store for us. The neat thing about this hobby is that there are so many different things you can get involved with. Mark's interests are different than mine so we'll just have to wait and see what he has in mind. Please join me in wishing Mark well in his new position. I'm

excited to get started on another fun year. I'll be here to help in any way I can. I know all of you will too.

Finally, I just want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanks again for a wonderful year.

73
Lee N5SLY

Merry
Christmas

and



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

There was no regular meeting in December; instead, the club held its annual Christmas Dinner.

The next meeting will be Friday, January 20, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Grayson County Courthouse, 2nd Floor Assembly Room, 100 W. Houston St., Sherman TX.

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance as of 12.31.16 End of Year

Operating Fund Beginning Bal	1,292.73
Funds Received - Clothing	50.00
Patches	10.00

Less expenses

1116 D Barnes - Christmas Meat	23.92
1117 Replaced Voided Ck # 1109	
1118 Toys For Tots	100.00

Operating Fund Balance	1,228.81
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** 48 Members YTD

Available Equipment Funds	184.54
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Donation	45.00
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Less expenditures

Equipment Fund Balance	229.54
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Ending Bank Balance as of December 31, 2016	1,458.35
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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	0.00
Christmas Dinner	0.00
<i>Donations</i>	
Perrin Museum	0.00
Kiwanis/Bike Rally	0.00
Toys For Tots	0.00
<i>Total</i>	0.00

EQUIPMENT NEEDS	
Amount Budgeted	0

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.graysoncountyar.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>

SKYWARN Spotter Training (Basic and Advanced)

February 16, 2017 6:00pm-9:00pm

Grayson College Center For Workplace Learning, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX

This is a storm spotter training class offered annually by the National Weather Service, and is strongly recommended for all current and prospective storm spotters. **This year's class will include both Basic and Advanced training.** The class is open to the general public, and no reservations are required.

Note: this is the only spotter training class that will be offered in Grayson County in 2017.

Contact: N/A

Class Fee: No charge

Registration: Not required

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

General License Training Class

One class held in weekly sessions to prepare students to take the General License exam.

Session 1: Tuesday, January 3, 2017 6:00am-9:00pm

Sessions will continue for several weeks depending on student progress. At the end of the final session the Texoma VE Team will administer the General exam

Grayson College Center For Workplace Learning, Seminar Room C, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX
Contact: Moe NT7C (903) 564-7115 or nt7c@arrl.net
Class Fee: No Charge for the class, but there is a \$15 fee to take the General exam.
Registration: Required; contact Moe to register

Technician License Training Class

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

Session 1: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:30am-12:30pm

Session 2: Saturday, March 18, 2017 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@arrl.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@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 (jharmon1940@gmail.com)

Texoma Amateur Radio Association – Bi-Monthly Testing

*** Look for new testing schedule in 2017 ***

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

Hamfests

Cowtown Hamfest

January 20-21, 2017 (Friday 3:00pm-7:00pm, Saturday 7:00am-3:00pm)

VE Testing Friday and Saturday (times not published yet)

Forest Hill Civic & Convention Center, 6901 Wichita Street, Forest Hill TX

Talk-In: 146.940 (110.9 PL)

Public Contact: David Forbes KC5UYR (817) 925-5126 or kc5uyr@compuserve.com

Website: <http://cowtownhamfest.com>

2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

A reminder to all GCARC members: club memberships expire on December 31st. Please plan to attend the January meeting to renew your dues for 2017, or you can pay them online through the club's website <http://www.graysoncountyar.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. 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	Sherman
Bob Sholl	Needs help with a rotator on a 100' tower.	Davy Ln, Denison
W5DSA		

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

Christmas Eve SAQ Alexanderson Alternator Transmission Set

The [Alexander Association](#) has announced that it plans to have Alexanderson alternator transmitter SAQ on the air for its traditional Christmas Eve transmission. The 200 kW Alexanderson alternator will transmit on 17.2 kHz on the morning of Christmas Eve, December 24, starting with transmitter tune-up at around 0730 UTC. The message transmission will take place at 0800 UTC.

“Since the plant is old, there is always the risk that the transmission will be cancelled on short notice,” the Association said in an announcement. Repairs following an early October fire in the longwave antenna, attributed to arcing, had put the Christmas Eve transmission in jeopardy this year.

Dating from the 1900s, the Alexanderson alternator – essentially an AC generator run at extremely high speed – can put out 200 kW but typically is operated at less than one-half that power level. Once providing reliable transatlantic communication, it is now a museum piece and only put on the air on special occasions. It was built in the 1920s.

Christmas Eve activity will also take place on Amateur Radio frequencies from SK6SAQ on or about 7.035 and 14.035 MHz (CW). [Send](#) reception reports of SAQ or SK6SAQ.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

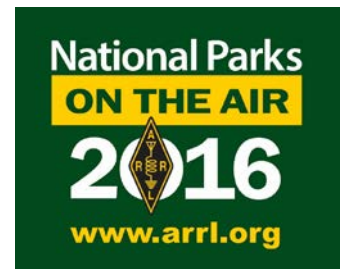
National Parks On The Air (NPTOA) Contacts Top One Million

Participants in the ARRL's National Parks on the Air ([NPOTA](#)) program have completed more than 1 million contacts! Activators operating from National Park Service units across the US and Chasers around the world pushed the contact tally over its goal this week. ARRL sponsored NPOTA to help the [National Park Service](#) celebrate its centennial.

“National Parks on the Air has become one of the most popular events in the history of the League,” NPOTA Administrator Sean Kutzko, KX9X, said. “It’s been fun seeing so many hams take part.”

Kutzko said the [NPOTA Facebook group](#) really helped drive participation, especially in the last 3 months, when it became clear that the 1 million-QSO goal was within reach. “Some 25,000 NPOTA contacts were uploaded to Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)) every week since October,” he noted. “The entire group came together and simply willed the 1 million-contact mark to be broken. It was incredible to watch!” He said some real friendships developed among those who frequented the NPOTA Facebook page.

Those taking part in NPOTA made nearly 20,000 visits to 460 of the 489 NPS units eligible for NPOTA credit, including portions of the [National Trails System](#) and the [National Wild and Scenic Rivers System](#). Nearly 150 Chasers completed contacts with more than 400 of the 489 NPOTA units this year, while one Activator transmitted from more than 250 different NPS units in 2016. Kutzko said the activations effectively transported those National Park Service units via radio to all 50 states and more than 100 countries during 2016.



Kutzko said NPOTA garnered interest from hams at all proficiency levels, but he was especially gratified to see how it encouraged less-experienced hams to acquire new skills, such as operating a portable station on battery power, learning CW, or discovering digital modes. “Pileups from some activations rivaled those during a major DXpedition — if only for a few hours at a time,” he added.

Jim Clark Jr., an NPS Ranger at [Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park](#) in Vermont, said NPOTA helped to generate greater awareness of his unit. “National Parks on the Air has afforded us the opportunity to connect with a much larger and more diverse audience than we could have ever imagined,” he told ARRL. “We are pleased and proud that the world of Amateur Radio helped us to celebrate 100 years of service to the nation.”

Kutzko said being able to blend Amateur Radio with the history and scenery offered by the National Park Service was a wonderful gift. “We heard from countless amateurs who learned something about our country while operating from an NPS unit and experiencing ‘the other side’ of a pileup. There will be other on-air events from ARRL, but National Parks on the Air was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I don’t think there will ever be anything quite like it in Amateur Radio again. I will miss it.”

Until month’s end, NPOTA Activators will make a big push to get on the air from NPS units all across the country in a final sprint to the finish line. [Get in on the action](#) as NPOTA ends with a roar on December 31 at 2359 UTC!

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Chinese Over-The-Horizon Radar QRMing Low End of 40 Meters

The IARU Region 1 ([IARU-R1](#)) Monitoring System [newsletter](#) reports that one of China's HF Over-the-Horizon radars (OTH-R) has been transmitting on 6.999 MHz, impinging on the very low end of the 40-meter band.

As the newsletter reported: "A jumping Chinese OTH radar covered the CW DX-edge of our exclusive 7 MHz band on November 17 at about 1500 UTC and later (long lasting)." The signal was 67 sweeps per second with a 10 kHz bandwidth.

Elsewhere on 40 meters, military ALE transmissions have been heard from Kyrgyzstan on 7050.0 kHz. IARUMS also reports that the Australian Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN) has been heard on 10.131 MHz in the amateur 30-meter band; Amateur Radio is secondary on 30 meters.

Radio Eritrea appeared in November on 7180 kHz together with white noise from Ethiopia. The frequencies 7146.5, 7175, and 7185 kHz were reported to be still in use as well.

Reports of Amateur Radio band intruders may be [logged](#) on the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System logger.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

FCC Chairman Wheeler to Step Down in January



FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler has announced that he will step down in January, when President Barack Obama's term ends. An Obama appointee, Wheeler has headed the Commission for 3 years.

"Sitting in this chair has been the greatest privilege of my professional career," Wheeler said on December 15, during his final FCC monthly open meeting. "I'm grateful to President Obama for the opportunity to serve and for the confidence he placed in me. I am especially thankful to the talented Commission staff for their service and sacrifice during my tenure. Their achievements have contributed to a thriving communications sector, where robust investment and world-leading innovation continue to drive our economy and meaningful improvements in the lives of the American people. It has been a privilege to work with my fellow Commissioners to help protect consumers, strengthen public safety and cybersecurity, and ensure fast, fair and open networks for all Americans."

Wheeler was a staunch proponent of the FCC's net neutrality policy, which has been opposed by Republicans as government overreach.

When Wheeler departs on January 20, the FCC will be left with two Republicans – Ajit Pai and Michael O'Rielly – and one Democrat – Mignon Clyburn, whose term ends in mid-2017. Democratic commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel failed to gain confirmation for another term before Congress adjourned and is expected to depart by year's end. The FCC can have up to five commissioners, which are appointed by the president, the political balance favoring the party holding the White House.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Mexico Not Yet Extending Operating Permission to Non-Mexican Radio Amateurs



Broad changes in Mexico's radio communication regulatory environment 2 years ago continue to hinder Amateur Radio licensing there and still do not provide reciprocal permission for non-Mexican radio amateurs to operate south of the border. Mexico's International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) member society the Federation of Mexican Radio Amateurs ([FMRE](#)) has been working with the new regulator, the Federal Telecommunications Institute (IFT) to craft more Amateur Radio-friendly licensing procedures and regulations, and there has been a little

positive movement. *The new regulatory regime considers the radio spectrum as an exploitable resource, and all former Amateur Radio regulations have been deemed null and void* (emphasis added). To help acquaint regulators with the nuances of Amateur Radio, all IFT administrative staff completed the United States Telecommunications Training Institute ([USTTI](#)) Amateur Radio Administration Course last February, and this has yielded some positive results.

FMRE's new president, Alfonso "Poncho" Tamez, XE2O – the son of a radio amateur and a DXer – is spearheading the society's negotiations with the IFT. At FMRE's National Convention in September, IFT Commissioner Adriana Labardini announced to loud cheers that her agency will get Amateur Radio licensing going again, after a 2-year delay. FMRE has estimated that of the 3,500 existing Mexican Amateur Radio licenses in place before the new law went into effect, more than 1,000 have expired and their renewal put on hold until the IFT works procedural details. She said the IFT expects to process more than 800 applications by year's end, with another batch of more than 1,400 to follow. An initial license will cost about \$30 US. One fly in the ointment: Amateurs must physically sign their "concession" at IFT when it's granted, but Mexico City is currently the only place they can do so. The status of Amateur Radio clubs also has been put in limbo by the new regulatory regime.

A revised IFT draft of Amateur Radio licensing procedures included specific provisions to grant Amateur Radio operating permission and to make licensing requirements more consistent with the nature of the Amateur Radio Service. But significant gaps still exist. At this point, it is not even necessary to take an examination to obtain an Amateur Radio license – called a "concession" – in Mexico.

While the IFT has not yet determined what to do about foreign radio amateurs wishing to operate in Mexico, the agency has received 45 petitions to do so and is considering how it can issue permits; a foreigner cannot obtain a license under the new law, but may be given permission to operate as XE#/<home call sign>. Further, *no regulations are in place regarding power output, license classes, licensing zones, interference, and other regulatory aspects* (emphasis added).

IARU Region 2 Area C Vice President Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK, said a week doesn't go by in which Region 2 doesn't receive a request for help in obtaining a reciprocal license. On the other hand, Santoyo said, under the new rules, radio amateurs may loan their license to anyone, as long as operation will be within accepted parameters. "Therefore, it seems that the only way for a foreign amateur to operate is through a borrowed call sign," Santoyo said. He said IARU Region 2 gave the IFT a copy, in Spanish, of the ITU *Handbook of Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio Services*, hoping to point up the problems in the new legislation.

"There is plenty to do to correct these legal aberrations," Santoyo concluded, "but the process we have seen is that while amateurs are highly respected and beloved, we compete for the attention of a regulator and Congress with the big industry players, which in this world of economic interests, makes it hard to keep their attention in taking care of us."

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

ARRL Vows Continued Pursuit of Amateur Radio Parity Act in the 115th Congress

The Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, died an unbecoming death as the 114th Congress of the United States drew to a close. After having passed the House of Representatives on a unanimous vote, the bill stalled in the Senate due to the intervention of only one member, Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL).

Over the course of the past year, Sen. Nelson has received thousands of e-mails, letters, and phone calls from concerned constituents asking for his support of H.R. 1301. Numerous meetings were held with his senior staff in an effort to move the legislation forward. Negotiations, which led to an agreement with the national association of homeowner's associations and publicly supported by CAI and ARRL, were brushed aside by Sen. Nelson as irrelevant.

In a final meeting with the Senator's staff, it became clear that no matter what was said or done, the Senator opposed the bill and refused to allow it to move forward. Unfortunately, as the bill did not receive floor time, the only manner in which it could get passed in the Senate would be through a process that required unanimous consent, which means no one opposes the bill.

The legislation will be reintroduced in both houses of Congress after the 115th Session begins in January.

- 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

Holiday Wishes, Looking Back, and Looking Ahead

By Mike Bernier KF5NPM
GCARC Newsletter Editor

We've reached the end of another year, and I'd like to take a moment to share some thoughts with you on the holidays, the year that's soon to end, and the one that's about to begin.

First, a word about this photo. As many of you know, I'm the commander of the local Civil Air Patrol (CAP) squadron, and each year we have a service project called Wreaths Across America where we solicit sponsorships for wreaths that are placed on veteran's graves in December. We set a sponsorship goal this year, and I promised if we reached the goal that my squadron's Cadets could paint my hair. As you can see, we reached the goal and I made good on my promise at our squadron's Christmas party. (In case you're wondering, it all washed out okay – after three rounds of shampoo.)



I wanted to share that photo because I believe it shows the importance of setting an example for others. CAP cadets are teenagers, and the mission of CAP's adult members is to help guide and mentor them as they learn the skills needed to become tomorrow's leaders. It's a job we take very seriously, and I can think of no better way to do so than to show them we are willing to make promises and keep them. Sometimes we may feel or look silly in doing so, but it's a small price to pay for a life lesson they won't soon forget.

As a club and as individual operators, we've all had opportunities throughout this year to set an example for our hobby by teaching classes, working Special Events, manning information booths, participating in ARES, or simply chatting with our non-ham friends, neighbors, or co-workers about Amateur Radio and its many benefits to the community. There have also been plenty of times when you have stepped up to help your fellow hams when they needed some work done such as installing towers or fixing antennas. From what I can tell, Amateur Radio in our community has benefitted from everyone's participation in these activities over the past year, and for that we all deserve a good pat on the back and the words "well done!"

Looking ahead to 2017, I believe there will be even more participation, more education, and simply more people involved in our area, and all of it is due to your efforts. We will have a new club President who I'm sure will both follow along the successful path of his predecessor, as well as introduce new ideas and suggestions for activities the club can do to increase interest and involvement in the community. I look forward to working with him in the coming year.

Speaking of changes, I wish to announce that 2017 will be my final year as the editor of this newsletter. Next Christmas will mark five years as editor, and I believe it is time to hand over this position to someone else who can bring in new and fresh ideas. I am announcing this now so that there will be plenty of time to find a successor and work out a smooth transition. I'm not disappearing completely; I'll still be around to help out every now and then.

As I told my squadron members, the holidays to me have always been a time to get together with family and friends to share happy moments and create lasting memories. In my house we say "Merry Christmas", but regardless of whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, some other holiday I don't know, or nothing at all, I hope you will take some time to relax and enjoy the good tidings that come with the season.

73
Mike KF5NPM