



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

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JULY 2016

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 22, No. 7

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## THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy everyone,

Field Day was a big success again this year. We operated on emergency power all weekend and made more contacts this year that we have made in years. I sure had a lot of fun and I think everyone else did as well.

We just started our 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Event of the year, Red River Bridge War, last Friday evening. We are off to a great start. As I write this we already have 130 contacts in the log with 7 days to go. I sure would like to see our club make 500 contacts during the event this year. With your help we can make this happen. All club members can participate using their own stations and operate on any band and use any mode you want to. There are only 2 requirements. First you have to follow the band plan for the license you hold, and second you must log all the contacts you make and provide me with a copy of your log at the end of the event.

We will be setting up a station out at the Perrin Field Museum this coming Saturday, July 23, from 9 AM until 4 PM. We'll make a few contacts for the Red River Bridge War Special Event while there and provide hot dogs, chips and drinks to all who visit. Should be a very fun day.

Again during this special event I'll open my shack for anyone who wants a chance to operate and doesn't have a radio to use, or would like to learn about some digital modes that I really enjoy. Give me a call if you are interested and we'll set up a time when you can come for a visit.

Coming up in August is the Kiwanis Red River Bike Rally. That is being held on Saturday, August 13. Ben, KF5OEB, is working with the Kiwanis and needs our help to support this event. If you're able to help that day let Ben know and he'll get you set up.

Our Helping Hams program has been keeping busy. Over the last couple of weeks we have helped 4 hams with their tower/antenna projects. Great work and thanks to everyone who helps with these projects. If you need help let me know and I'll see what we can do to make it happen. It is very rewarding to those that help out and we see a lot of smiling faces from those that we help.

That's it for now. Enjoy your summer and I hope you'll be able to participate in our club activities.

Thanks & 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: James Frank KW5CW  
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: Mike Bernier KF5NPM  
To submit news or e-mail changes: Send E-Mail to [KF5NPM@gmail.com](mailto:KF5NPM@gmail.com)  
Submission: 12 midnight on the Sunday  
Deadline: following each monthly meeting

### WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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### 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 Monthly Meeting – July 15, 2016

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club met on July 15, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Lee Sly (N5SLY) with 20 members and 1 guest in attendance.

Motion to accept June Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report was made by Ben Sly (KF5OEB) and seconded by Marvin Schiavone (KG5GMA). Motion passed.

- ❖ Rick Simmons (K5ECX) presented an update on the next ARES meeting scheduled for July 26, 2016. The next field training event is scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- ❖ President Lee gave a recap of the Perrin AFB Historical Museum special event. Club members made a total of 474 contacts.
- ❖ ARRL Field day June 25<sup>th</sup> had a great turnout of members and of visiting guests. 260 contacts were logged for the event.
- ❖ Helping Hams has had several opportunities to help members from cleaning up after the storms to securing and taking down antennas. Several more projects are still to be completed.
- ❖ The Red River Bridge War special event will begin on July 15<sup>th</sup> and continue for 9 days. We will have our special one day event at the Perrin AFB Museum July 23<sup>th</sup>. Plans are to set up at 9:00a.m. and take down after 3:00p.m.
- ❖ Roy Reed (AF5VA) made a motion to donate to the Perrin AFB Museum \$50.00 as a thank you for letting us host our Red River Bridge War Special Event. Ben Sly (KF5OEB) seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- ❖ Ben Sly (KF5OEB) stated that the Red River Bike Rally has not established the routes yet, but anyone wanting to assist the club to please contact him.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30

The next meeting will take place at 7:00pm on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Grayson County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Assembly Room, Sherman, TX.

Meeting minutes submitted by  
Sheila Sammons (KF5TDP) Treasurer  
In the absence of Stacy Branam (W5ORD)

## GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance as of 7.15.16 Club Meeting

Operating Fund Beginning Bal		2,151.77	
Funds Received			
Dues		20.00	
Less expenses			
L. Sly - food	1103	61.68	
M. Pilkilton- food	1104	121.11	
Clothing	1105	156.59	
ARRL Banner		38.49	

Operating Fund Balance 1,793.90

\*\* 45 Members      YTD

Available Equipment Funds 86.05

Funds Received - donation	40.00
Banner Cost donated	38.49

Less expenditures

Equipment Fund Balance 164.54

OPERATING BUDGET	
Post Office Box	0.00
Checks	0.00
Website	0.00
<i>Special Events Deposit</i>	
Denison Main Street	75.00
V.A. Fal-dur-All	35.00
RR Bridge War	50.00
<i>Food for Special Events</i>	
Perrin Field - donated	0.00
ARRL Field Day	0.00
RR Bridge War	65.00
Eisenhower Birthday	50.00
Christmas Dinner	75.00
<i>Donations</i>	
Perrin Museum	0.00
Kiwanis/Bike Rally	250.00
Toys For Tots	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>700.00</b>

EQUIPMENT NEEDS	
Amount Budgeted	0

Ending Bank Balance  
as of July 15, 2016 1,958.44

Sheila Sammons KF5TDP  
GCARC Treasurer

**Grayson County ARC**  
**Red River Bridge War Special Event Station**  
**Call Sign - **W5I****

**Who:** All club members can participate using their own stations

**What & Why:** Commemorating the Red River Bridge War, a dispute between Texas and Oklahoma over a bridge that was built over the Red River in 1931

**When:** July 16, 2016 0000Z – July 24, 2016 2359Z (7 PM on Friday, July 15 – 7 PM on Sunday, July 24)

**Where:** Club members can operate from their own stations every day of the event. The Club will set up at Perrin Field Museum on Saturday, July 23 from 9 AM until 4 PM. We will provide food for lunch for club members, museum staff and visitors.

Details...

Info regarding Red River Bridge War can be found using this link: [www.qrz.com/db/w5i](http://www.qrz.com/db/w5i)

Club members may operate on any band and use any mode; however, they must follow the band plan for the License they hold.

All contacts must be logged properly. Members can log contacts any way they want to, on a computer or using a paper log. However, you must include the following:

- Members Name and Call Sign...only need once for the log you'll use
- Call sign of person contacted
- Date
- Time...**Zulu time only**
- Frequency
- Mode
- Signal report

All logs must be sent to the QSL manager at the end of the event.

\*\*\*\* ADI files of computer logs would be appreciated \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\* If submitting a paper log, please write so anyone can read it \*\*\*\*

QSL Manager is Lee Sly, N5SLY. Email [lee.n5sly@gmail.com](mailto:lee.n5sly@gmail.com)

Some club members will have an Open House while they are operating so visitors can participate as well. These Open Houses are a chance to learn and participate on a new band or mode you haven't been able to use before. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. These Open House events will be published before and during the event. Watch your email & social media for the current opportunities.

(QSO details on next page)

## Suggestions for your QSO

CQ CQ CQ this is W5I Whiskey Five India Special Event Station calling CQ and standing by

Call sign this is W5I. Thank you for answering my call. We are commemorating the Red River Bridge War. You are 59 into Grayson County Texas. QSL?

When they come back you may want ask for their name and QTH if they didn't provide it. Make it personal. Make the contact feel special and glad that they contacted you. Answer any questions they may have.

Also, very important, make sure you have their call sign correctly. If you are not sure, ask the contact to verify. Don't hesitate to ask multiple times if needed. If the call sign is not correct the QSO means nothing!

End with something like this...

Call sign this is W5I. More information about the Red River Bridge War and QSL info is available at [www.qrz.com/db/w5i](http://www.qrz.com/db/w5i). Thank you for stopping by today and 73. This is W5I QRZ?

Digital and CW modes are slightly different, but not much. All the same information is exchanged. What is needed for a successful QSO is:

- Call sign of the station that called
- Date
- Time...**Zulu time only**
- Frequency
- Mode
- Signal report...really only important during contests. This is not a contest.

So the only thing you really have to get right is the call sign. Everything else you should have.

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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.graysoncountyar.com>

#### **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>

### GCARC Events

#### **Red River Bridge War Special Event Station**

Operating Period: July 15-24, 2016

The club will operate a special event station using the callsign W5I to commemorate the Red River Bridge War in July 1931 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red\\_River\\_Bridge\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_River_Bridge_War)).

Details outlined in this issue

#### **Kiwanis Bike Rally**

August 13, 2016

Tanglewood Resort, Pottsboro TX

The club will provide radio communications in support of this annual charity bike rally. Contact Ben KF5OEB at [bencsly@gmail.com](mailto:bencsly@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating.

### 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 ([jharmon1940@gmail.com](mailto:jharmon1940@gmail.com))

### **Texoma Amateur Radio Association – Bi-Monthly Testing**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each odd-numbered month (Mar / May / Jul / Sep / Nov) at 2:00pm  
The Java Stop Café, 5700 North FM 1417, Sherman TX  
Contact: Dave K5YM (281) 743-7478 or [k5ym@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:wa0urj@yahoo.com)) to schedule a session

## **Hamfests**

### **Ham Holiday (Oklahoma Section ARRL Convention)**

July 22-23, 2016 (Friday 3:00pm-7:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-3:00pm)  
VE Testing: Saturday 9:00am  
Biltmore Hotel/Convention Center, 401 S Meridian Ave, Oklahoma City, OK  
Talk-In: 146.490 Simplex  
Public Contact: Thomas Webb WA9AFM/5 (405) 737-6716 or [wa9afm@arrl.net](mailto:wa9afm@arrl.net)  
Website: [www.hamholiday.com](http://www.hamholiday.com)

### **Austin Summerfest (Texas State ARRL Convention)**

August 5-6, 2016 (Friday 6:00pm-9:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-3:30pm)  
VE Testing: Saturday 12:30pm  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 6121 North IH-35, Austin TX  
Talk-In: 146.940 (107.2 PL)  
Public Contact: Joe Makeever W5HS (512) 345-0800 or [w5hs@arrl.net](mailto:w5hs@arrl.net)  
Website: [www.austinsummerfest.org](http://www.austinsummerfest.org)

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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.*

### **FREE: Handmade Radio Desk**

Handmade desk made for owner's father's (SK?) shack. Owner is moving and can't take it with her. Due to sentimental value, she would prefer it go to another ham who can use it. Located in the Sherman area; **must arrange to pick up next week.**

Contact: Lynn  
Phone: (916) 607-7500





## 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)

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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
Bob Sholl	Needs help with a rotator on a 100' tower.	Davy Ln, Denison
W5DSA		

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## NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

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### Future FAA Rules Could Affect Some Amateur Radio Antenna Support Structures

Yet-to-be-developed Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules stemming from the recent passage in Congress of H.R. 636, the FAA Reauthorization Act, could pose additional marking requirements for a small number of Amateur Radio towers. The bill instructs the FAA to enact rules similar to state-level statutes now in place that are aimed at improving aircraft safety in the vicinity of meteorological evaluation towers (METs) set up in rural areas. In the wake of fatal crop dusting aircraft collisions with METs, often erected on short notice, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommended in 2013 that states enact laws – sometimes called “crop duster” statutes – requiring marking and registration of METs. While some state crop duster laws exempt ham radio towers, the federal legislation does not. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said, however, that the list of exemptions in the federal legislation restricts application of the new rules to a very small subset of Amateur Radio towers.

“The FAA Reauthorization Act has very little application to Amateur Radio antennas. We will have a good opportunity to address the final FAA rules through the normal rulemaking process,” Imlay said. “We’ll be meeting soon with FAA officials to learn their intentions as well as to advance our own concerns to the agency. Uniform federal regulation is beneficial to hams, because it eliminates a patchwork of state statutes that can impose significant constraints on ham antennas in rural and agricultural areas.”

The FAA Reauthorization Act gives the FAA 1 year to issue regulations requiring the marking of towers covered by the new legislation. Marking of towers covered by the legislation will be in the form of painting and lighting in accordance with current FAA guidelines.

The law covers towers that are “self-standing or supported by guy wires and ground anchors;” are 10 feet or less in diameter at the above-ground base, excluding concrete footings; are between 50 feet above ground level at the highest point and not more than 200 feet above ground level; have accessory facilities on which an antenna, sensor, camera, meteorological instrument, or other equipment is mounted, and are located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town or on land that is undeveloped or used for agricultural purposes.

Imlay said the law excludes towers erected adjacent to a house, barn, electric utility station, or other building, or within the curtilage (enclosed area occupied by a dwelling, grounds, and outbuildings) of a farmstead, among other exclusions. He said “undeveloped” land refers to a defined geographical area where the FAA determines that low-flying aircraft routinely operate, such as forested areas with predominant tree cover below 200 feet, and pasture and range land.

The FAA will develop a database containing the location and height of each covered tower, but Imlay noted that the database contents may only be disclosed for purposes involving aviation safety.

“We do not anticipate that a significant number of Amateur Radio antennas will be subject to these rules,” Imlay said, “but we need to monitor the FAA rulemaking process carefully to head off requirements that could put the cost of installing and maintaining affected structures out of any reasonable reach.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## **FCC Finds a Fix for Amateur Radio Application Batch Processing Problem**



It’s taken a couple of weeks, but the FCC has resolved a computer programming problem that had affected its ability to accept and process batch-filed Amateur Radio applications, resulting in a backlog for the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) and others taking advantage of automated processing. The FCC information technology staff had been attempting to fix the glitch affecting the Universal Licensing System (ULS) Electronic Batch Filing (EBF) system, since it first cropped up on June 28. At first, the problem affected the processing of all Amateur Radio and commercial license applications, said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, who alerted the FCC IT Department.

By June 30, it appeared that the FCC had corrected the broader problem, but the EBF remained unable to process ARRL VEC’s automated, batch-filed applications and exam sessions. VECs that were manually logging in to upload their files were unaffected. ARRL and FCC IT staffers put their heads together to get to the bottom of the blockage.

“The FCC IT staff was astutely attentive to the problem every step of the way as they worked with our IT department to find a solution,” Somma said. “We appreciate the specialized service we received.”

ARRL’s IT Department and the ARRL VEC confirmed on July 14 that the problem had been fixed, the backlog of more than 1200 applications and 300 exam sessions cleared, and the flow of automated, batch-filed applications and exam sessions able to resume.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## **Ham Radio Outlet to Acquire Some AES Employees, Re-Open Milwaukee Location as HRO Branch**

Ham Radio Outlet ([HRO](#)) has announced plans to hire an unspecified number of Amateur Electronic Supply ([AES](#)) employees when AES shuts down its four locations in late July. In addition, the current AES Headquarters store in Milwaukee will become HRO’s newest location later this summer, following renovation. On July 1, AES announced that it was going out of business and ending retail operations at its Milwaukee, Las Vegas, Cleveland, and Orlando locations.

With the approval of AES management, HRO senior managers visited each AES location to interview staffers in hopes of “acquiring some of the Amateur Radio retail employee talent in each of the current AES locations,” an HRO [news release](#) said.

“Together with this interview process, HRO examined what it would take to perhaps acquire one or more of the AES store locations. At the time of these interviews, many opportunities were explored with current AES senior management,” the release continued. “We are very excited to announce that HRO was successful in providing offers of employment to a number of soon-to-be-former AES employees, and that to some, we have offered positions that involve HRO-sponsored and funded relocation.

HRO announced that once AES shuts its Milwaukee location at 5710 W Good Hope Road on July 28, Ham Radio Outlet will undertake an extensive remodeling project to create a new HRO Milwaukee store at the same site, which will open at the end of August.

“It is with great pleasure that we are able to continue Terry Serman and Phil Majerus’ legacy of providing a fantastic Amateur Radio store in Milwaukee, Wisconsin,” HRO President Robert Ferrero, W6KR. “It is our immediate goal to have the largest, most well-stocked Amateur Radio retail store in North America and perhaps even the world.” HRO National Sales Manager Steve Gilmore, W4SHG, said the Milwaukee location will be “a showplace that all must come see!”

After AES closes on July 28, all former AES locations’ direct and toll-free telephone numbers will be redirected to the closest HRO location, and the AES website will be directed to HRO’s website.

A family-owned business, HRO is the world’s largest Amateur Radio dealership, with locations from New England to the West Coast. It opened a new outlet in Plano, Texas, in February 2015 and is relocating and expanding its Portland, Oregon, store, which will open on July 25 at 14405 SW Pacific Highway.

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

## **ARRL 600 Meter Experiment: 200,000+ Hours of Operation, Zero Complaints**

The [ARRL 600 Meter Experiment](#) under the WD2XSH Part 5 Experimental license reports that *no* interference complaints have been received from other services operating in the 465-515 kHz band over the course of more than 202,400 hours of operation, nor was interference from other operations an issue for any of the experiment’s participants. That statistic was contained in the Experiment’s March 1 to May 31, 2016, report, prepared by Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, with participants Rudy Severns, N6LF, and John Langridge KB5NJD, and released on July 3. Utilities expressing fears of interference to their unlicensed PLC systems prompted the FCC to consider regulatory provisions that include a possible notification requirement by some radio amateurs to utilities with systems in the pending 630 meter (472-479 kHz) and 2200 meter (135.7-137.8 kHz) bands, prior to operating. Utilities use unlicensed PLC systems to control parts of the electrical power grid.



The latest WD2XSH update reported another 16 contacts on the pending 630 meter band, for a total of 578. The Amateur Radio community continues to wait for the FCC to release a *Report and Order* spelling out service rules and operational requirements for the two bands – both of which have become available in more than a dozen other countries, including Canada. The ARRL [petitioned](#) the FCC in 2012 to carve out the same band for US hams.

According to the report, activity on 630 meters continued through the spring, despite increasing noise levels and deteriorating propagation. “This spring was characterized by bad weather that was more persistent than normal,” the report recounted. “This kept a number of operators off the air a good deal of the time.”

Band conditions overall were described as “variable.” The path to Australia from North America was reported to have been good and “relatively predictable,” while the paths to Europe and Japan have been less active.

- 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 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**  
 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.

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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	<b>Gainesville TX</b>	147.340+ MHz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI
<b>Allen TX</b>	145.350- MHz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	<del><b>Kingston OK</b></del>	<del>146.085- MHz (103.5 PL)</del> (currently out of service)	<del><b>K5BQC</b></del>
<b>Bonham TX</b>	147.200+ MHz (100.0 PL) 145.470- MHz (100.0 PL) 443.750+ MHz (100.0 PL)	K5FRC K5FRC K5FRC	<b>McKinney TX</b>	146.740- MHz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
<b>Denison TX</b>	145.330- MHz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH	<b>Melissa TX</b>	443.200+ MHz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
<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>Paris TX</b>	146.760- MHz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD
			<b>Rosston TX</b>	145.490- MHz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
			<b>Van Alstyne TX</b>	443.800+ MHz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
			<b>Whitesboro TX</b>	442.875+ MHz (100.0 PL)	

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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

#### Now Is A Good Time

It's so darn hot, the cows are standing in the ponds trying to cool off, the birds are only flying from tree to tree, and the dog stays in the shade all day.

So thankful for the A/C. I can remember as a kid we only had a swamp cooler - if it worked. We have come a long way. Back in those days Dad had his rig on the back porch. It was a nice one, glassed in with huge folding windows salvaged from a building remodel out at James Connally airbase. It was cool in the evenings, and that's when he would talk to faraway places. Today I can sit in air conditioned comfort and send PSK signals all over the world. Not much has changed, yet everything has.



A while back I shared how contests, Field Day and Special Event Stations are good preparations for our response to emergency situations. Just like my dad's operation and mine today, many of the same activities are performed when we activate ARES, but some things are different. I guess someone at ARRL picked up on that. There is a free webinar ARRL is hosting on this topic on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> from 8-10pm EST. "Contesting as Training for Public Service" is the title; search for that on the ARRL website and you can register to listen in.

We have many activities coming up to help us in the continuing effort to improve our capability and train for various operations. Now is a good time to find a way to participate. There is a Special Event station this Saturday (the 23<sup>rd</sup>) out at Perrin Field. GCARC will be commemorating a historical event, the "Red River Bridge War". Setting up and operating HF stations in the "field" is always a good practice session. Get there early to help set up and stay late to help take down. Later in July on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> we will have our annual ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET). We will be searching out new or better locations for SKYWARN spotting using HT's, mobiles at various power levels, and operating several of our EOCs to establish the viability of locations for radio communications. Look for an email from Wade KF5AUD with details as the date draws closer. Then there is the Kiwanis Bike rally in August which GCARC helps sponsor and provides radio communications for. It's another event to stretch our legs, cover a lot of the county, and provide a chance for others to see the value of Amateur Radio in support of the community.

We will have a Face to Face training session July 26<sup>th</sup>. We are working on a discussion with our County OEM about a large scale emergency operation, maybe a wildfire situation and what would be going on so we might better understand how we fit into the logistics of such an operation. I will be sending out more info as to the location as soon as we have it finalized.

Stay cool, avoid heat-related stress, drink plenty of water, and use that sunscreen if you are outdoors.

73  
Rick  
K5ECX