



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

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AUGUST 2016

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 22, No. 8

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## THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Howdy everyone,

I am very pleased to tell you that our club had two very successful events during the last month...the Red River Bridge War Special Event and the Kiwanis Red River Bike Rally. It is very gratifying to see that we have been making improvements with every event we do.

The Red River Bridge War Special Event this year has to be the best, most successful special event our club has had since I have been a member. I say this for several reasons:

- We had more members participate than ever before
- We made more contacts than we ever made in any event (530)
- We received more QSL cards in the mail than we have ever received
- We had members with limited HF experience operate our radio when we set up out at Perrin Field and they made lots of contacts and gained valuable experience
- And as an added bonus, we are closer now to achieving some awards from Log Book Of The World and eQSL than we have ever been

The Kiwanis Red River Bike Rally was also a great success. It was very well organized and everyone did their jobs exceptionally well. We received many positive comments from the riders about how impressed they were with how well this event was conducted. For the first time I was able to spend some time with Net Control and see and learn what they actually do during an event like this. It was very enlightening. We talked about what Net Control needs and wants and discussed ways to make their job easier.

At our meeting Friday night we had a great discussion about the Bike Rally and what the club can do to make things better. In the end the club voted to make an investment in some tools to help Net Control do their job better. Specifically, we are going to acquire a better map of the county and some White Boards to use during this event. These may also prove to be useful during ARES weather events we have during the year. We have many more of those than the one bike rally we support every year. We have \$150.00 in the budget for this project right now. It's a work in progress. Step one is getting the map and there are members working on that.

Lots going on in the coming weeks for the club:

- Van Alstyne Fall Der All – Saturday, Sept 24, 10 AM – 5 PM
- Denison Main Street Fall Festival – Saturday, Oct 1, 10 AM – 5 PM
- Collinsville National Night Out – Tuesday, Oct 4, 6 PM – 8 PM

These are all “Meet and Greet” the public events. No HF radios will be operational. We’ll be there to tell folks about Amateur Radio, our club, disaster preparedness, etc. Rick proposed that the club purchase 10 inexpensive radios to be raffled off at the conclusion of these events. We would sell the raffle tickets during each of these events. Since this will end up not costing anything, if we sell enough raffle tickets, the club voted to provide half the funds needed to purchase the radios. ARES will contribute the other half. If we sell a lot of tickets we’ll make a little money as well. Rick is proceeding to make this happen.

And, if that wasn’t enough, right after all of that we have our final special event of the year...Eisenhower Special Event being held from Oct 7 – Oct 16. We’ll be setting up our radio at the Eisenhower Birthplace on Saturday, Oct 8, 9 AM – 4 PM. Just like the other events we’ve had this year all club members can use their own radios to operate any time they want during the event using the W5I call sign. Because we have done so well this year with our other special events, I’m raising the bar to a new level for this event. Our goal is to make 600 contacts. With your help we can make this happen.

Finally, I’d like to talk a little about some basic stuff regarding Amateur Radio. In its most basic form Amateur Radio is about two people with radios trying to communicate with each other. There are many types of communications that happen every day on the radio. Some examples are:

- Rag chewing – two folks get on the radio and just chew the fat. Only purpose is to have a conversation. Some of these go on for hours.
- Individual station calling CQ – operator is just trying to make some contacts on the radio for any number of reasons. Never really know what to expect here. May only be interested in making contacts with certain stations or could turn into a rag chewing session.
- Special Event Stations – operator making contacts to tell folks about the event. Folks calling in because they may want the QSL card or are interested in the event. Information exchanged is call signs and some kind of signal report. May also have some additional conversation about the event. Rarely is anything else communicated. The whole process usually takes a minute or less.
- Contests – operator’s goal is to make as many contacts as quickly as possible. Only information that is exchanged is call signs and signal reports. Nothing else. Whole process takes only seconds.
- Nets – we are all use to our local conversation nets, training nets, weather event nets & our recently completed bike rally net. The purpose of each of these is different and it is the responsibility of the Net Control operator to make sure everyone understands what should be communicated during the net.

Doesn’t matter why you’re on the radio. In all cases what we want is to communicate with each other. We want the other station to understand what we said. What I want to hear from the other station after I’ve finished my transmission is “Roger” or “QSL!” They heard and understood what I said. What I don’t want to hear is “What?”, “Repeat” or something else that means they have no clue what I said.

I try hard to make it a habit to speak clearly and distinctly and I don’t want to talk too fast. Simply doing those things goes a long way to insure I’ll hear that “Roger” or “QSL!” I also strive to follow these rules while I’m on the radio:

### **DX Code of Conduct**

- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station’s call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.

- I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

Want a little practice following these guidelines? Well, you have a great opportunity coming up in a couple of weeks. The Route 66 On The Air Special Event will be held from Sept 10 – Sept 18. 21 stations from Chicago to Santa Monica, CA will be on the air all along old Route 66 using the call signs W6A – W6U. Join in the fun, listen to how each station handles the pile ups, how they conduct themselves as the station operator, listen to how callers are conducting themselves, break thru the pile ups and make the contacts. Get them all for a “Clean Sweep”. Your time spent doing this is a great way to learn and practice how to operate for our club events.

Have fun using your radios.

73

Lee – N5SLY  
903-818-7463  
[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 – August 19, 2016

- The minutes for the July meeting and treasurer's report were unanimously accepted.
- We currently have approximately \$1900 in the bank and have 2 checks out to the Kiwanis and Denison Main Street.
- Just finished the Red River Bridge War
  - Lee declared it was the best we've ever had in terms of contacts and member participation
  - made 530 contact during the event which is a record
  - at the Perrin Field event Marvin, Trevor, and Sheila did a fantastic job and made 130 contacts in 4 hours - their paper logs showed continuous improvement and one had 4 contacts he wasn't able to read. However he received QSL cards from 3 of the ones he wasn't able to read, resulting in only 1 bad contact. Well done!
- Just finished the Red River Bike Rally
  - Ben did a fantastic job of coordinating
  - Kudos to all for their participation
  - Lee went over a list of items he thought would be beneficial to Net Control as far as communications were concerned. There was some discussion over items such as reporting location when not requested and calling 911 first in case of emergency and then contacting Net Control to alert them to the situation.
  - One specific need was for a larger map of the county so Net Control can more easily track radio operators on the course. This was agreed to and a motion to spend up to \$150 on new map was passed.

### Upcoming Events

- September 24 Fall-Der-All in Van Alstyne (Ben will head-up)
- October 1 Denison Main Street (Ben will head-up)
- October 4 Collinsville Night Out (Rick will head up)
- October 7-16 Eisenhower Special Event
- October 8 Set up at Eisenhower Birthplace

For the Collinsville Night Out Rick made a brochure using information from FEMA and proposed to raffle 10 weather radios (valued at \$30 each) to raise money. He suggested the ARES group donated half the money to purchase the radios and GCARC donate the other half. It is possible he might have a sponsor for the purchase of the radios but that is still in the works. Ben motioned for approval to use club funds to purchase the radios (approx. \$150) and Mark seconded. ARES and GCARC will split the money raised by the raffle.

The next meeting will take place at 7:00pm on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Grayson County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Assembly Room, Sherman, TX.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacy Branam (W5ORD)  
GCARC Secretary



# Grayson County ARC YTD Special Event Station Results Call Sign - **W5I**

Excruciating Details from eQSL

		<b>Perrin Field SES May 2016</b>			<b>Red River Bridge War SES July 2016</b>		
		QSOs	QSLs	%	QSOs	QSLs	%
By Band	20m	369	209	57	469	226	48
	40m	93	59	63	61	35	57
By Mode	CW	18	1	6	0	0	0
	JT65	58	46	79	40	32	80
	PSK31	334	202	60	349	190	54
	PSK63	19	12	63	8	3	38
	SSB	33	7	21	133	36	27
<b>Totals</b>		<b>462</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>49</b>

### Countries Contacted and Confirmed

<b>Perrin Field SES</b>		<b>Red River Bridge War SES</b>	
Argentina	Guatemala	Argentina	France
Brazil	Italy	Belarus	Haiti
Canada	Mexico	Canada	Russia (Euro)
Chile	Puerto Rico	Chile	Venezuela
Cuba	Spain	Colombia	
Dominican Republic	Venezuela		
Ecuador			

### QSLs Still Needed for WAS Award

<b>(As of 5/23/2016)</b>			<b>(As of 8/20/2016)</b>	
LoTW		eQSL	LoTW	eQSL
AK	MT	NH	AR	NH
AR	ND	OR	WY	OR
CT	NE	RI		RI
HI	RI	WY		WY
ME	WY			

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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

#### **Van Alstyne “Fall Der All”**

September 24, 2016 10:00am-5:00pm

Downtown Van Alstyne, TX

The club will operate an information booth at this event to inform the public about Amateur Radio.

#### **Denison Main Street Festival**

October 1, 2016 10:00am-5:00pm

Downtown Denison, TX

The club will operate an information booth at this event to inform the public about Amateur Radio.

#### **Collinsville National Night Out**

October 4, 2016 6:00pm-8:00pm

Downtown Collinsville, TX

The club will operate an information booth at this event to inform the public about Amateur Radio.

#### **Eisenhower Birthday Special Event**

Operating period: October 7-16, 2016

Club Station at the Eisenhower Birthplace in Denison: October 8, 2016 9:00am-4:00pm

The club will operate a special event station using the callsign W5I in celebration of President Dwight Eisenhower’s birthday. All members may participate using their own equipment during the event.



**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](mailto: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**

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**

**HamEXPO**

October 1, 2016 7:00am-1:00pm  
VE Testing: 9:30am  
Bell County Expo Center, 301 West Loop 121, Belton TX  
Talk-In: 146.820 (123.0 PL)  
Public Contact: John Hobson WD5BFS (254) 338-8620 or [expo@tarc.org](mailto:expo@tarc.org)  
Website: [www.tarc.org/hamexpo](http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo)

**Texoma Hamarama**

October 21-22, 2016 (Friday 5:00pm-8:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-1:00pm)  
VE Testing: Saturday 10:00am  
Ardmore Convention Center, 2401 North Rockford Rd., Ardmore OK  
Talk-In: 146.970 (131.8 PL)  
Public Contact: Don Loving KM5OX (580) 221-1894 or [dloving@mscok.edu](mailto:dloving@mscok.edu)  
Website: [www.texomahamarama.org](http://www.texomahamarama.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.

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

Sherman  
Davy Ln, Denison

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## NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

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### Louisiana ARES Volunteers Standing Down

In an August 20 (2116 UTC) status update on Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) operations in Louisiana, Assistant Section Manager Matt Anderson, KD5KNZ, said that [Louisiana ARES](#) is in the process of deactivating from the recent flood response, and the need for volunteers has ended.

“All ARES personnel should be released by this evening,” said Anderson, who has been currently serving as the Incident Point of Contact in Baton Rouge. “Several amateurs will remain on site,



reporting directly to the Red Cross as they begin to transfer to recovery operations. We greatly appreciate all the assistance from ARRL HQ and the many Sections who provided support to the operation.”

ARES volunteers in Louisiana were in the 6th day of operations in response to the recent flooding catastrophe in Louisiana, which also affected parts of Mississippi. ARES has been providing communication support to the Red Cross in five Louisiana parishes following record flooding in the state. Several shelters and Red Cross chapter offices are operating at full capacity.

Amateur Radio volunteers from Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi volunteered to serve at multiple Red Cross chapters and shelters throughout the affected area. With local and parish resources stretched to the limit, ham radio volunteers have been serving as the communication link between Red Cross shelters and command centers, relaying information on the needs at each shelter back to Red Cross offices.

Brad Kieserman, the Vice President of Disaster Services Operations and Logistics for the American Red Cross, called the flooding disaster “the worst to hit the United States since Superstorm Sandy, and we anticipate it will cost at least \$30 billion – a number which may grow as we learn more about the scope and magnitude of the devastation.”

According to estimates, more than 40,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, leaving tens of thousands of residents displaced. The flooding also left 13 people dead. As of early today, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was reporting that about 3100 evacuees remained in Red Cross shelters. The Louisiana Emergency Operations Center remains at full activation, and more than 2800 National Guard personnel have been conducting flood relief operations around the clock.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## Comments in FCC “Symbol Rate” Rule Making Proposal Due By October 11



The FCC will accept public comments in response to a July FCC *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* ([NPRM](#)) in WT Docket 16-239 -- the “Symbol Rate” proceeding -- until October 11. Reply comments -- ie, comments on comments already filed -- are due by November 10. The *NPRM* now has been published in *The Federal Register*, thus opening the respective 60-day and 30-day comment/reply comment windows.

In response to a 2013 ARRL *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11708](#)), the FCC proposed to revise the Amateur Service Part 97 rules to eliminate current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL’s *Petition*, but it declined to propose a bandwidth limitation for data emissions in the MF and HF bands to replace the baud rate limitations. ARRL had asked the FCC to change the Part 97 rules to delete the symbol rate limits in §97.307(f) and replace them with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz.

*[Editor’s Note: The reason this is important to hams is because currently all digital modes in the HF bands are speed restricted to 300 baud for 160 through 12 meters and 1200 baud for 10 meters. This worked okay when the rules were first implemented in the 1980s, but improvements in technology allow for much faster speeds today. This change would allow the use of those faster speeds.]*

Interested parties may comment on the [NPRM](#) in WT Docket 16-239 via the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing Service ([EFCS](#)), as well as by mail.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## Amateur Radio Plays Critical Role in Mountain Rescue

Glenn Fowler, N5TDJ, of Allen, Texas, reported via Facebook that Amateur Radio served him well on August 4.

“We were on a treacherous Jeep trip up at about 13,000 feet with several other Jeeps in Colorado,” he said in his post. “One person there from Texas had a heart attack. There was no cell phone service.”

“I tried a few repeaters and the National Simplex Frequency and was amazed that no one was monitoring any of them. I kept trying and finally reached an ARES station on a Breckenridge linked repeater that took our GPS coordinates and dispatched an ambulance to meet us at the first place they could intercept the trail.”

Fowler reports the individual who suffered the heart attack was hospitalized, “and, thankfully, he received lifesaving help from paramedics a lot sooner, due to ham radio.” Fowler is a member of the Plano Amateur Radio Club.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

## September is National Preparedness Month

September is recognized as National Preparedness Month (NPM) which serves as a reminder that we all must take action to prepare, now and throughout the year, for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, and also where we visit. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and FEMA have worked together for several years to raise awareness and promote NPM through a variety of programs, including webinars, media campaigns, printed materials, and the DHS website [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

Last year’s theme for National Preparedness Month was so popular that it was adopted again for this year: “Don’t Wait, Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today.” The emphasis also remains the same – planning for emergencies wherever they may be and including everyone who may be affected, including youth, older adults, people with disabilities and with access and functional needs.



This year’s campaign is divided into themes: Preparing Family & Friends; Preparing Through Service; and Individual Preparedness. Each theme leads up to the National Day of Action and *America’s Prepareathon* on September 30.

Among the information and activities available through the Ready.com website are worksheets for creating a family communications plan to help everyone stay in touch during an emergency, tips and lists for assembling emergency supplies, suggestions for volunteering in local communities, and much more.

## Growth in New Amateur Radio Licensees Ahead of Last Year

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) reports that 20,447 new US Amateur Radio licenses have been issued since January 1. That’s nearly 1500 ahead of the number that had been issued by this time last year. At the present pace, the US is on track to exceed 30,000 new radio amateurs for the third straight year by the end of the year.



“While I am thrilled with this prospect, I’m also keenly aware that without some mentoring, these new hams’ initial curiosity and enchantment may fade if they don’t get on the air right away,” said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. “Let’s show these new hams what the magic is all about,” she urged.

In addition, the ARRL VEC reports that upgrades are on track to reach nearly 11,000 by year’s end.

- 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**      **Texas Statewide ARES Net (HF) (NEW Listing!)**  
 Mondays 7:30pm CT on 3.873MHz LSB  
 This is an information net open to all Texas ARES members. Check in when your District is called; if you are not sure of your District, your County will also be listed.
- 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 (HF)**  
 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**      **North Texas Section ARES Net (HF)**  
 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)	WC5GC

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## GRAYSON COUNTY ARES AND RACES

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### Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX  
Grayson County ARRL EC

#### WOW That Was Close!

Our friends and neighbors over in Louisiana and Mississippi are mopping up according to my sources. I appreciate the chance to poll our team for possible deployment. In hind sight there is a lot to learn from seeing this event unfold “across the fence.”

Here is part of the update from ARRL on the 20th ---

“All ARES personnel should be released by this evening,” said Assistant Section Manager Matt Anderson, KD5KNZ, who has been currently serving as the Incident Point of Contact in Baton Rouge. “Several amateurs will remain on site, reporting directly to the Red Cross as they begin to transfer to recovery operations. We greatly appreciate all the assistance from ARRL HQ and the many Sections who provided support to the operation.”



ARES volunteers in Louisiana were in the 6th day of operations in response to the recent flooding catastrophe in Louisiana, which also affected parts of Mississippi. ARES has been providing communication support to the Red Cross in five Louisiana parishes following record flooding in the state. Several shelters and Red Cross chapter offices are operating at full capacity.

Amateur Radio volunteers from Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi volunteered to serve at multiple Red Cross chapters and shelters throughout the affected area. With local and parish resources stretched to the limit, ham radio volunteers have been serving as the communication link between Red Cross shelters and command centers, relaying information on the needs at each shelter back to Red Cross offices.

So what could we be seeing had we gone? I never saw a final shelter count, initially reported were 40 shelters opened. But as many as 7,000 persons were claimed to be sheltered across the affected area. That’s a lot of locations to service. So the need was great, as late as the 17th they were still looking to field more ARES teams from Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas where the bulk of the help came from. There were multiple frequencies in use, primary operating frequencies were 444.950 MHz (107.2 Hz), 146.940 MHz (107.2 Hz), and 146.790 MHz (107.2 Hz). Louisiana ARES HF Frequencies designated for use were 7.255 MHz and 3.873 MHz LSB. Digital operation was on 3.595MHz. In the reports I read, while the needs for operators were great, the focus on organization and structure was apparent. Ops were asked to not self-deploy but coordinate with sections and finally the ARES team in place in Louisiana. Also many of the local ops were not able to help as they had their own homes and families in trouble.

So in my eyes there are several takeaways:

1. Don’t self-deploy. We have discussed this on a local level but you can see how it would lead to chaos in a large event which is already fraught with chaos. There is reason for the organization’s function; let the Incident Command System work.
2. Go kits can be real things, especially for an extended event like this. Who would think we would ever need a 120 hour kit? Hmm...  $6 \times 24 = 144$  hours plus travel. Think more about what you might have needed on such a trip.
3. Interoperability, Power Poles, coax with “standard” connectors, power supplies of adequate capacity for your equipment... There is a lot more to realize here that space permits, but you get the drift. You show up with an old



VHF rig that can't handle tones and can't be configured, or connected to power, and well, it's a nice paperweight for now.

4. What rig do I bring? What you are comfortable operating, that's the tool(s) you need to bring. If you have a multiband radio like my TS-2000 "shack in a box" or a similar other brand you can just about cover the gamut of frequencies and modes. The club has a great portable setup that could have been well suited.
5. Depending on the need and our capability we might be spread out, so self-sufficiency is a consideration both operationally and for your personal needs.
6. Be sure your home front is in good shape before you roll out. Don't get in a pickle because you thought everything was ok but the family needed you. People will be counting on you at both ends of the event to follow through with your support.

This could go on a bit more but I want you to think on this event and read some of the reports. What do you see we need to do to be prepared to provide mutual aid, or bolster our response here at home? One request was to provide a crank up tower on a trailer. We are part of the way there. I have secured a crank up tower for us, but we need a viable trailer on which to mount it, maybe a tool chest to carry rope, coax, wire, tools for setup, etc. Along with the labor to design the layout, functionality, and the hands to put it all together.

Over the past couple of years we have hit on a number of these topics, this event is a strong reminder as we look at ourselves to be ready to serve in a time of need. Let's keep honing ourselves so when the call does come we are ready.

It's my pleasure to serve with you.

73  
Rick  
K5ECX

