



GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

OCTOBER 2017

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.COM

VOL. 23, No. 10

THE PRESIDENT'S QSO

Hi from the President,

Next meeting we will elect new officers for 2018. Please be sure to attend. If you would like to serve as an officer, please speak up during the meeting as we still have some positions without nominees.

Current Officer Nominations for 2018:

- President Trevor Reed KG5BFI
- Vice President Open
- Secretary Open
- Treasurer Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA still has one year remaining in his term

See you there,
Mark KF5UZW

[Editor's Note: Our club's President is truly a man of few words, preferring to let his actions speak on his behalf.]

CLUB INFORMATION

OFFICERS

President: Mark Pilkilton KF5UZW
Vice President: James Frank KW5CW
Secretaries: Stacy Branam W5ORD
Nancy Pierce KG5PIZ
Treasurer: Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA
Activity Director: Trevor Reed KG5BFI
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 Send E-Mail to
e-mail changes: KF5NPM@gmail.com
Submission 12 midnight on the Sunday
Deadline: following each monthly meeting

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

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

DUES AND DONATIONS

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

GCARC, ARES, AND SKYWARN PATCHES

GCARC club patches are available and may be purchased at each club meeting; cost is \$5.00 each. These are round patches with the club logo, and are great for wearing on vests and other non-club clothing, placing on equipment bags, go-kits, etc.

ARES and SKYWARN patches may also be purchased at each club meeting; cost is \$4.00 each. If you choose to wear patches on your club shirt or jacket, we recommend ARES members place the ARES patch first on the right shoulder and any other patch (SKYWARN, RACES, CERT, etc.) should go below it. Since some members have tactical shirts with pen pockets on the left sleeve we do not recommend placing any patches on that side.

CLUB CLOTHING ORDERS

Several times each year, members have the opportunity to purchase club-related clothing (shirts, caps, jackets, etc.). These items have the GCARC logo and the member's name and callsign embroidered on them. An order form with instructions will be included in the newsletter each time orders are being taken.

"It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to so conduct club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community."

From the GCARC Constitution

GCARC MEETING MINUTES

GCARC Meeting Minutes – 20 October 2017

- 10 in attendance
- Meeting called to order at 7:06
- September minutes approved by Sheila KF5TDP, seconded by Lee N5SLY
- September budget approved by John, seconded by Sheila
- We have made a record number of contacts with the Eisenhower Birthday Event, specific will be forthcoming. BE sure to get your logs to Lee.
- Perrin Field Tower Update
The club is now considering bolting the antenna to the conex box behind the museum rather than to the museum itself since bolting it to the museum may cause damage to the building; the brace on the conex box would be about 10' from the ground on the 30' antenna; Mark KF5UZW will talk to the current president of the Perrin Field Museum
- It is time for officer nominations.
 - Trevor Reed KG5BFI accepted the nomination as president, Tim Branam N5SWG offered Lee Sly as another possible nomination but Lee would prefer a younger club member take the position
 - James Frank KW5CW would like to see a new person step in as vice president, but no nominations for that position were made
 - Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA has one more year as club treasurer
 - After serving as secretary for 3 years, Stacy Branam W5ORD will be seeking a replacement
 - Andrew Bentley KG5SKM will take over the position of Event CoordinatorElections will be held at the November meeting
- Lee gave a presentation over the fact that radios have gotten very complicated over the years and is going to offer a class to help simplify all the buttons and dials found on our radios; information about days and times will be forthcoming
- The next Technician class offered by Moe Knight NT7C will be held in two sessions at the Center for Workplace Learning at Grayson College. The first session is Nov. 4 from 8:30-12:30 and the second session will be Nov. 18 starting at 8:30. The course is free, but there is a fee of \$15 if students wish to take the Technician exam at the end of the second session.

The next meeting will be Friday, November 17, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Grayson County Courthouse, 2nd Floor Assembly Room, 100 W. Houston St., Sherman TX.

Respectfully submitted by
Stacy Branam W5ORD
Nancy Pierce KG5PIZ
GCARC Secretaries

GCARC TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance as of 10.01.2017 1,609.62

Operating Fund Beginning Bal 1,431.97

Deposits	Dues	Checks
		Cash
		Online
		Clothes

Less expenses

	online fee	
Perrin AFB Museum		50.00

Operating Fund Balance 1,381.97

** Members YTD 41 (6 Free)

Available Equipment Funds 177.65

Donation

Less expenditures

Equipment Fund Balance 177.65

Ending Bank Balance as of October 20, 2017 1,559.62

OPERATING BUDGET	
Post Office Box	64.00
Checks	9.25
Website	103.92
<i>Special Events Deposit</i>	
Perrin	50.00
<i>Food for Special Events</i>	
<i>Donations</i>	
Memorials	
Total	227.17

EQUIPMENT NEEDS	
Tower Bracket	151.89
Amount Budgeted	0

Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA
GCARC Treasurer

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>

ARES® / SKYWARN®

Grayson County ARES® Training

4th Tuesday of each odd-numbered month (Jan / Mar / May / Jul / Sep / Nov) at 7:00pm

Sherman Municipal Airport Terminal Building, 1200 S. Dewey Ave., Sherman TX

<http://www.tecoares.org>

Ragchewing & Other Informal Meetings

Ham Talk at The Java Stop

Every Saturday 11:00am-2:00pm

The Java Stop Café, 5700 North FM 1417, Sherman TX

<http://www.facebook.com/thejavastop>

Training Classes

Technician License Training Class

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

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

Session 2: Saturday, November 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)

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 and
Swap Meets**

Texoma Hamarama

October 27-28, 2017 (Friday 5:00pm-8:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-1:00pm)

VE Testing – contact Ed Harwood w5cve@arrl.net for information

Ardmore Convention Center, 2401 North Rockford Road, Ardmore OK

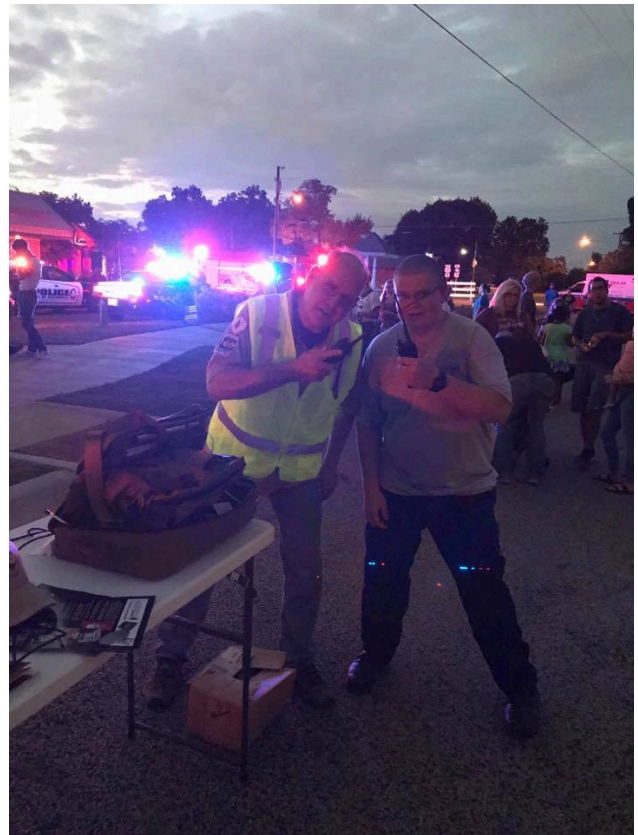
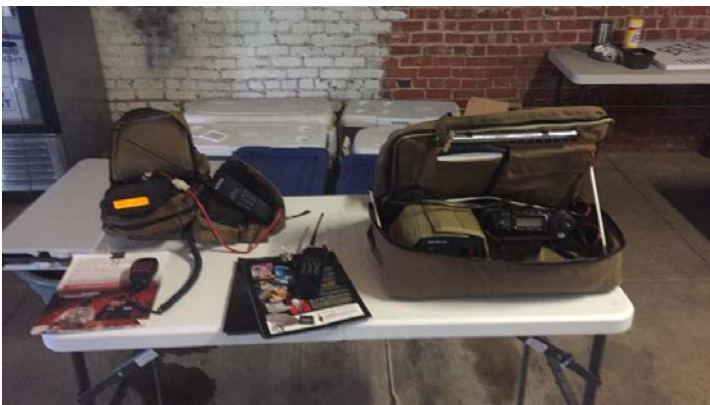
Talk-In: 146.970 (131.8 PL) & 146.835 (131.8 PL)

Public Contact: Don Loving KM5OX (580) 221-1894 or dloving@mscok.edu

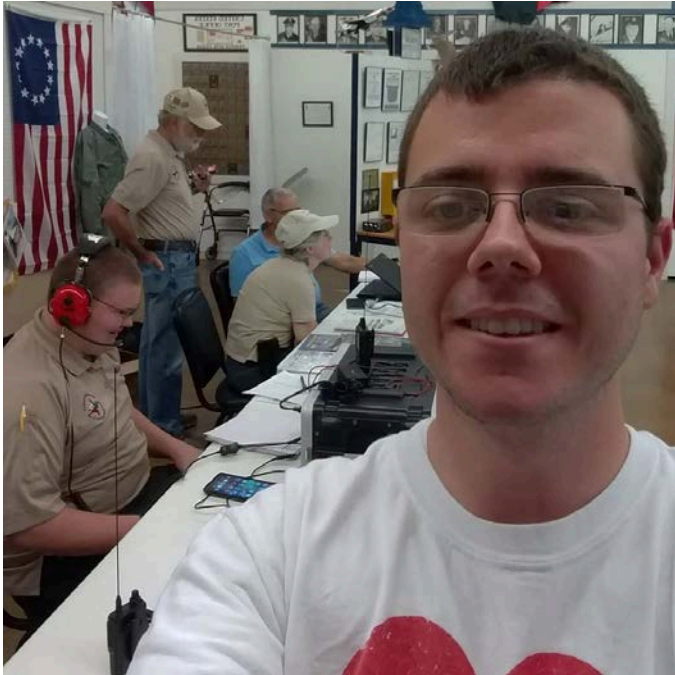
Website: <http://texomahamarama.org>

GCARC ACTIVITIES

Collinsville Night Out – October 3, 2017



Eisenhower Special Event Station – October 14, 2017



CW CORNER

What a year... it seemed to go by so fast. I guess as the saying goes, time flies when you are having fun. I surely had a lot of fun working the Eisenhower event at Perrin Field and from home using the call W5I. I had lots of fun this year with the club. With operating the special events, Field Day and the club meetings, I cannot express enough how I feel. There is only one thing that I wish better for the club. I wished others would participate more.

Next year, it will be up to a new president to help motivate the club. Maybe a new vice-president. But in my own special way, I would like to continue to be there for anyone who would like assistance with amateur radio. As Lee has decided to put together training sessions to help people learn how to work their own radios, of course I will be there with him

because I think it should be the nature of the club for others to join in. Of course what does this information refer to regarding CW?

With all the sophisticated radios these days, you would think that it would be easier to make contacts. For the most part, that is the case, except when you don't know how to use the radio. Then, all the bells and whistles that it has works against you.

For example, you would think on CW that you can just tune to a station and work them if their signal is strong. In many cases that is not the case, because just a few hertz away may be another station calling CQ and even though the person you want to work has a strong signal, you may not be able to pull out any intelligent CW from the QRN and QRM. The interfering station may not hear you or the station you are trying to work because of band conditions and QSB. That's when your radio filters come into play. As everyone in the club may know by now, but in case that you do not, I love to work CW and mainly reside on 40 meters. I have been known to stray off of 40 CW lately because I fell in love with the new mode FT8 thanks to Lee. Next month with Lee's help, I plan on putting on a live demonstration using FT8. I will ask others in the club to participate, as they will be able to make contacts at that moment using their own call using the new digital mode. But it is what it is, and I must also say that you may be able to teach an old dog some new tricks in my case, you still will never be able to pull this old man from CW, a veteran of this mode for over 51 years now. To be successful with this live FT8 demonstration, I will be remotely connected with my laptop in the courthouse meeting room, with my computer that is at my home. I will remotely access it. I will remotely key the transmitter at my home, as I do it all the time from work, 65 miles from home.

If you are not a regular when it comes to CW, noise conditions on a band really can interfere with your ability to copy. Within my present radio, a Kenwood TS-590SG, as there is in others, you can store your favorite CW frequencies, as one of mine is 7.045 MHZ. another is 7.074 MHZ. There is a CW/FSK button to select CW. Two noise blanker selections (NB), along with two Noise Reduction (NR) types with NR1 and NR2 selections which are IF (Notch) filters. To complement these filters, you need to know how to tune the radio. I use Receiver Incremental Tuning (RIT) to tune the radio up 500 hertz (1/2 KC) to listen to a receiving station down 500 hertz, where I transmit. This selection is to compensate for a combination of filtering that I use to pull the station out of the noise. This way I can pull the station out of the noise with multiple stations close by that would normally interfere if I were listening right on the frequency I am transmitting on. I ALWAYS listen 500 hertz above from where I transmit when running CW.

For these reasons, I would highly recommend that if others are having issues receiving stations and not just with CW, to get with Lee and he will be more than happy to help you with the radio and mode that you are using. In the end, you will benefit more than I can say. I hope many show up at the next meeting on November 17, 2017, as there will be a lot going on including the election of officers.

I hope everyone who attends stays for the live FT8 demonstration after the regular meeting.

73,
James Frank
KW5CW - GCARC Vice President

QSL MANAGER'S DESK

Preliminary Results for the Eisenhower Special Event

Don't have the final numbers yet because I've not received all the logs from club members, but I can tell you that this is the most successful event our club has ever had in terms of the number of QSOs we were able to get. We contacted over 900 other stations during the event...and we got some great DX as well.

How did we get so many this time? The answer is simple. I've always said that making contacts is a lot like fishing. We broadcast our call sign out into the ether and see what we can catch. We spent a lot of time in that new ham radio "pond"

called FT8 during this event because that's where all the "fish" were and we were not disappointed. Got about 650 contacts using this new mode. So far we have 49 states confirmed and are only needing one from North Dakota for our WAS award using FT8.

Closest contact was about 3 miles from my QTH in Denison...and the longest has to be the one I got in South Africa, 9130 miles away using the short route. But my antenna was pointed towards the station I contacted in Indonesia at the time so my signal must have made the trip to South Africa the long, long way around to get there.

The other great DX catch was the station in Gibraltar.

So far I've sent QSL cards to over 50 who sent their QSL cards to us and I expect to at least double that number over the next week or so that cards will be arriving.

All in all we had a great time, but I'm tired. Think I OD'd on ham radio over the last week. Time to relax awhile.

73
Lee Sly N5SLY

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: Yaesu Fusion Radios

FTM-100 – asking \$225

FTM-400 – asking \$350

Both are in mint condition.

Contact: Barry - W5BGD

E-mail: barrydavidson0269@yahoo.com

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 W5DSA	Needs help with a rotator on a 100' tower.	Denison
Sheila Sammons KF5TDP	Needs help with antenna repairs – damaged from falling tree limbs. Looking at sometime later in the year.	Sherman
Mike Bernier KF5NPM	Needs help with replacing damaged HF antenna plus installing two additional antennas and grounding. Looking at sometime late in the year.	Denison

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

Communications Interoperability Training With Amateur Radio Community Set

Elements of the US Department of Defense (DOD) will conduct a “communications interoperability” training exercise November 4-6, once again simulating a “very bad day” scenario. Amateur Radio and MARS organizations will take part.

“This exercise will begin with a national massive coronal mass ejection event which will impact the national power grid as well as all forms of traditional communication, including landline telephone, cellphone, satellite, and Internet connectivity,” Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, explained in an announcement.

During the exercise, a designated DOD Headquarters entity will request county-by-county status reports for the 3,143 US counties and county equivalents, in order to gain situational awareness and to determine the extent of impact of the scenario. Army and Air Force MARS organizations will work in conjunction with the Amateur Radio community, primarily on the 60-meter interoperability channels as well as on HF NVIS frequencies and local VHF and UHF, non-Internet linked Amateur Radio repeaters.

Again this year, a military station on the east coast and the Fort Huachuca, Arizona, HF station will conduct a high-power broadcast on 60-meter channel 1 (5330.5 kHz) on Saturday from 0300 to 0315 UTC. New this year will be an informational broadcast on Sunday, on 13,483.5 kHz USB from 1600 to 1615 UTC. Amateur Radio operators should monitor these broadcasts for more information about the exercise and how they can participate in this communications exercise, English said.

“We want to continue building on the outstanding cooperative working relationship with the ARRL and the Amateur Radio community,” English said. “We want to expand the use of the 60-meter interop channels between the military and amateur community for emergency communications, and we hope the Amateur Radio community will give us some good feedback on the use of both the 5-MHz interop and the new 13-MHz broadcast channels as a means of information dissemination during a very bad day scenario.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

“Force of 50” Volunteers’ Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery Mission Ends



The 22 “Force of 50” radio amateurs who deployed to Puerto Rico earlier this month as American Red Cross volunteers have ended their mission and returned to the U.S. mainland. They had been in Puerto Rico for about 3 weeks.

“The Force of 50 volunteers demonstrated an extraordinary range of skills possessed by this accomplished team,” said ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF. “There was no task that they wouldn’t tackle. It also demonstrated the generosity of these volunteers, who not only performed their roles as communicators, but also engaged the population with their many acts of personal kindness.”

Val Hotzfeld, NV9L, who filed situation reports documenting the team’s activities, said the volunteers accomplished everything they went to Puerto Rico to do, “and then some.” She said that the Red Cross felt they had exceeded all expectations.

“We opened a lot of peoples’ eyes when we started going to the ESF-2 communications task force meetings. They had no idea of our capabilities,” Hotzfeld told ARRL. “When they heard what we’d accomplished, we were swarmed; everybody was wanting us.”

Hotzfeld said the volunteers’ initial mission was to provide a way to gather outbound health and welfare messages and put them into the Red Cross’s Safe and Well System using *Winlink*. However, the mission changed once they were on the ground when they discovered the needs were much greater.

“No one had any communications, so the mission morphed to communications,” she said. “But, we did both.” She said the Red Cross recognized the value of ensuring communication for hospitals, and other volunteers handled Safe and Well messages.

She said the volunteers possessed a wide range of talents, from medical to mechanical, not just communications. For example, Andy Anderson, KE0AYJ, set up the helicopter landing pad at Guajataca Dam, Hotzfeld said, and provided communications where there was none.

Ten [SHARES](#) (Shared Resources) HF Radio Program operators replaced the Amateur Radio volunteers who had worked on behalf of the Red Cross. The SHARES operators are federal employees who happen to be radio amateurs and volunteered for the duty in Puerto Rico. Hotzfeld said they will be stationed in four different zones, with two operators at headquarters in the San Juan Convention Center. “The hospitals did not want us to leave,” Hotzfeld said. “They were begging us to stay.” She noted, though, that the hospitals also have access to satellite telephones.

“I was so proud of our guys,” Hotzfeld said in summary. “They were rock stars.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Tennessee Radio Shack Re-Opens, Partners With Local Ham Radio Club

The *Citizen Tribune* newspaper in Tennessee recently [reported](#) that a newly re-opened RadioShack store in Jefferson City has partnered with the Lakeway Amateur Radio Club ([LARC](#)) to offer licensing classes. Manager Reed Freers also created a new addition to the store, which he has described as the “Makers’ Space,” the newspaper said.

This open area of the store will be home to classes in such subjects as soldering, using drones, setting up a Facebook page, and configuring and using a smartphone.



“These types of programs were dropped by RadioShack years ago,” Freers told the newspaper. “Now we have the opportunity to bring them back. We have to get to the next generation. RadioShack will die out if we don’t get to them.”

The bankrupt RadioShack has closed its company-owned retail outlets. Freers' store was among the last to go dark. He was given the opportunity to reopen as a franchise store, however, and he purchases his stock from a RadioShack distribution center.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

FCC Affirms Huge Fine in New York Interference Case



The FCC has affirmed a huge fine of more than \$400,000 on Jay Peralta, a Queens, New York, man who has admitted to making unauthorized transmissions on New York City Police Department (NYPD) radio frequencies, maliciously interfering with officers' communications. The FCC had sent Peralta a *Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)* last April 14. Peralta, 20, is alleged to have transmitted false bomb threats, false claims of criminal activity involving firearms, false distress calls from purported NYPD officers, and threats against individual NYPD officers. The unauthorized transmissions began in 2016, according to the FCC.

"Mr. Peralta has not filed a response to the *NAL*," the FCC said in an October 10 *Forfeiture Order (FO)*. "Based on the information before us, we find no reason to cancel, withdraw, or reduce the proposed penalty, and we therefore assess the \$404,166 forfeiture the Commission previously proposed in the *NAL*."

The FCC has calculated the precise forfeiture at \$404,166.

The FCC said the transmissions occurred from April through August 2016. The NYPD subsequently provided the FCC with a written statement by Peralta, who is currently in custody pending trial for related charges, in which he acknowledged making nine unauthorized transmission on the NYPD radio system, the FCC said.

"If such payment is not received within 30 days, the matter is referred to the Justice Department for collection," the FCC said.

Peralta was arrested last fall along with two other men suspected of committing several robberies. According to news accounts, police found a cache of scanners and radios in one of the suspects' homes.

The FCC said it was alerted by a Twitter post about an unlawful intrusion on the NYPD radio system and dispatched an Enforcement Bureau agent to check it out. On September 30, 2016, the NYPD contacted the FCC's New York Office and advised that it had arrested Peralta and another individual in connection with unauthorized transmissions on NYPD's radio system. According to police reports, the other individual arrested – Ricardo Torres, 29, described as "a ham radio enthusiast" in some news accounts – allegedly provided the radios used.

Torres is said to hold an FCC General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) license. Police said they found 15 portable radios, 9 scanners, roof-top antennas, an amplifier, and assorted other electronics in Torres's apartment.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

Caribbean Telecommunications Union Head Calls for "New Generation" of Hams

In remarks made on International Disaster Reduction Day, Friday, October 13, Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) Secretary-General Bernadette Lewis described Amateur Radio as a "bedrock of sustained communications" during emergencies, and strongly suggested cultivating a new and younger generation of radio amateurs to carry this role forward. She spoke as [part of a panel](#) on emergency telecommunications during the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 ([WTDC-17](#)) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The CTU, she said, has been considering the role of Amateur Radio in light of this "very, very, violent hurricane season."

“Amateur Radio has been a staple, and it is because of...the Amateur Radio operators in the region that we get a lot of the information that we need,” she told her audience. Her presentation defined Amateur Radio as one component of the coordination of preparedness, response, and recovery efforts on the part of national emergency management agencies.

Moderator Vanessa Gray later asked Lewis what “one concrete step” could be taken to make better use of information and communication technologies (ICT) for disaster management.

“We really have to cultivate a new generation of Amateur Radio operators,” Lewis replied without hesitation. “We found that they are all on the northern side of 50.”

“Amateur Radio has been the bedrock of sustained communications during such emergencies,” she continued, “and one of the things we’re looking at is actually facilitating this process of having a network of disaster-resistant centers that that, in times when you *don’t* have a disaster, could be used for training new operators and generating that interest across the region.”

Lewis, of Trinidad and Tobago, reiterated her remarks in condensed form during a subsequent [interview](#), in which she called hurricanes “a fact of life” for Caribbean countries, and suggested that hurricane-devastated countries need to think carefully about how to rebuild their infrastructure to make it less prone to storm damage.

WTDC-17 considered topics, projects and programs relevant to telecommunication development. The conference theme this year was “ICT for Sustainable Development Goals.”

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

QRZ DX and The DX Magazine Publisher Carl Smith, N4AA, SK



QRZ DX and *The DX Magazine* Publisher and Editor Carl Smith, N4AA, of Asheville, North Carolina, died on October 20. An ARRL member, he was 77 and had been a radio amateur and DXer for more than 6 decades. Smith and his late wife Miriam, KB4C, bought the two publications’ parent [DX Publishing](#) in 1997

“Carl was a ham’s ham, as he dabbled in many aspects of our great hobby,” [The Daily DX](#) Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, observed. “He did a lot for Amateur Radio over the years.”

Licensed in Kansas City in 1954 as WN0YFT (later W0YFT), Smith served in the US Air Force from 1958 until 1966. He became W4NQA after moving to North Carolina. From 1968 until 1970, he was on the ARRL Headquarters staff and held the call sign W1ETU. When he moved to Virginia in 1970, he regained W4NQA and, after moving back to North Carolina, obtained N4AA in 1976.

An avid DXer and at the top of the DXCC Honor Roll, Smith was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame in 2012.

Smith was a member of the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC). He re-established QCWA Chapter 145 for the primary purpose of establishing the Southern Appalachian Radio Museum – now the [Asheville Radio Museum](#) – on the campus of Asheville-Buncombe Community College. He also was a long-time Roanoke Division Assistant Director. For many years, he was the owner and manager of Georgetown Communications, an Amateur Radio store in Asheville.

In the 1970s, Smith was instrumental in the formation of the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society and served a few terms as president. Through WCARS, he instituted the annual Asheville Hamfest. WCARS became a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator in the 1980s.

He also established the KB4C Miriam Smith Award, in memory of his late wife. The award, presented annually by the ARRL Roanoke Division, honors an Amateur Radio operator from Western North Carolina who has demonstrated an active commitment to public service and emergency communication through ARES/RACES.

Smith was among the founders of the SouthEastern DX and Contesting Organization (SEDCO) [W4DXCC](#) Convention, and his wife’s call sign is used on the air at the annual convention and for various operating activities.

- Originally published online at ARRL.org

LOCAL RADIO NETS

Daily

Texas Slow Net (CW only)

Daily 7:45pm CT on 3.570 MHz

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 3.873 MHz 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 50.400 MHz

Ladies Net

Thursdays 8:00pm 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

Sparks, Crackles, and Other Random Thoughts

By Rick Simmons K5ECX
Grayson County ARRL EC

The Last Hurrah

Well if you don't know by now, it's old news that like so many things now a days after a couple of weeks is just a distant memory. At our last face to face training I introduced our New ARRL Emergency Coordinator, Wade Graves KF5AUD. Wade will do a fine job, and I hope you will encourage him and give your support as he works to improve our abilities.

It was just over five years ago I began the learning experience of what the task is of those that take this role. I was fortunate to have Wade and Moe Knight NT7C along as my wingmen to help with that understanding. The AECs did a fine job of offering assistance and guidance also. We've had some folks leave and some folks join, all were appreciated and I thank them for the close support.



In those five years we have accomplished a great deal. Some was mundane administrative work and a great deal was fun, creative and involved working with you folks that make up ARES in Grayson County. Mike Bernier KF5NPM built the TECOARES website. Brad McMillon KE5UMJ, Robert Massey KF5FLN, and Wade administered our database so we can report to ARRL accurate information on meetings, man-hours and similar report information. We got on Facebook. We became better known. We developed a relationship at GCC that has led to Moe's classes where over 100 persons have taken Amateur radio classes and received licenses. We have reworked and updated our SKYWARN SOP as well as our constitution and bylaws. Oh yes, at the same time we also developed the organization into a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit. Working with our Director of County Emergency Management, Sara Somers K1EMC, we updated and improved the ARES portion of the Grayson County Emergency Operation plan.

Yes, a lot of work was done but we served our communities also. Innumerable SKYWARN nets were held at all hours of the day or night, and you responded. Who can forget the Mother's Day storms, the floods, ICEMageddon, the tornadoes in Howe and Whitesboro? Several thousand of your hours were spent in service to our towns and the county. Then there was our Search and Rescue operations in the Pottsboro area working with multiple agencies for most of a day. Siren tests (thanks Brad!), annual Simulated Emergency Tests, and over 120 training nets were held. Training emphasis increased with the use of the Task Book. Our SKYWARN training has grown from Basic training to now include Advanced training for over 200 persons last session. Our relationships with the NWS Meteorologists and the Amateurs that serve in Ft Worth has improved due to your work in spotting and reporting.

You have made this a great experience. Working with volunteers is a challenge, and I know I have not made everyone happy. I know some have left for other operations. That's unfortunate. I worked to do the best I knew how to allow our ARES operators to become better. Many had never been a part of an organization devoted to community service in distressed times. You are a special group of people with special gifts and talents. I will continue to cherish the relationships we have developed. In the end that's what it's all about, people meeting people where they are, seeing to the needs of others, and caring for them in such a manner they come away better for the experience.

73
Rick
K5ECX