

Vol-12, Num-10; October 2006



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Submit News to k5gcc@verizon.net with K5GCC in the subject line along with your message title. If K5GCC is not in the subject line, the message will be deleted. Format: text in *.doc or *.txt file extension and electronic pictures in any format

Deadline: Saturday @ 07:00CST before GCARC Meeting. The K5GCC Newsletter will be published ~48 hours following this deadline.

Thank you for visiting the GCARC Newsletter

"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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Presidents Corner

Greetings,

Well, it is time for a meeting again. Seems like the time flies when one is having fun. After being gone for 6 weeks and driving over 4000 miles, it is time to get back in the routine.

Our trip through southwestern Colorado and Arizona was very nice and we did immediately find some cooler weather. In fact, it was already getting cold in the mornings and evenings in Pagosa Springs, Co.

After leaving Pagosa Springs, we visited some places in Arizona where the "silence was deafening". That is a weird feeling. We are all used to noises of society. If a power source is available, we can still use ham radios with the help of skip or repeaters. In the year 2001 all air travel was shut down after the 9-11 tragedy. We were in a remote area then and had never really noticed airplanes going overhead but were well aware of the silence when they stopped.

My wife is fascinated with Anasazi Indian ruins. I wonder what broke the "silence" of their life. The sound of a coyote, the cry of a baby across the canyon, the call of a bird - how did they communicate. Stories will tell of smoke signals and then just plain walking or riding to meet with other people to swap stories or trade objects. Travels that would take days and weeks to complete.

Science has brought us a long way. Remember the QSL cards? When we found a person on the airwaves to talk with, we anxiously awaited the confirming QSL card. I have a shoe box full of cards that were passed along to me as well as some I received from my own contacts. Many times the cards were designed to reflect the personality of the sender. That was fun! Now things have become real easy. We save the time, postage and paper. If we wish, we can immediately go to the internet. Talking long distance is not the thrill it used to be. Field day is a time to make sure that radio communication is not lost and that we are prepared should a disaster occur. Club activities also keep the airwaves limbered up and ready for more serious projects. But time brings change and that is good. One wonders what will be next.

73,s

Bob

GCARC and Surrounding Area Event Calendar

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) Meeting

October 20, 2006 @ 19:30CST

Sherman Municipal Airport

1200 S. Dewey Ave

Sherman TX 75090

<http://www.k5gcc.us>

Program: Jory McIntosh, KJ5RM, ARRL Assistant Director, will provide a well rounded discussion of all BPL technologies that are currently being used/tested in the US, along with a brief discussion of current status of each of the implementations in the West Gulf Division, and finally a short Q&A session. Currently TXU is testing BPL in Grayson County.

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC) Meeting / VE Test Session

October 21, 2006 @ 09:30CST for the FCARC Meeting.

October 21, 2006 @ 10:00CST for the VE Test Session.

Bonham VA Hospital, 1201 East 9th St., Bonham TX, 75418, Talk in 145.470 - offset no PL.

Topic: TBA

Informal breakfast - meeting before the meeting - at Cappy's Restaurant @ 07:30CST.

Contact: Doug Loughmiller - W5BL, President

<http://www.k5frc.org>

IARC Mentorfest

October 21, 2006

<http://www.irvingarc.org>

Irving ARC

Betcha Bingo Hall

Irving, TX

Talk-In: 146.72 (PL 110.9)

Contact: Coleta Taylor, KD5QFH kd5qfh@verizon.net

PO Box 153333 Irving, TX 75015-3333

Phone: 972-579-9089 Fax: 972-534-1226

Texoma Hamarama:

October 27th & 28th; 2006

<http://www.angelfire.com/tx5/TexomaHamarama>

Located at Lake Texoma Lodge, on Hwy 70, 5 miles East of Kingston Oklahoma.

<http://www.touroklahoma.com/Pages/resort6.html>

Talk-In: 147.390+ w/118.8Hz PL or 7.295 MHz LSB

Contact: Henry Allen, K5BUG, (800)588-2841, texbug@ev1.net

Chapter 41, QCWA

November 04, 2006

The Pointe Restaurant, S-W corner of LBJ and Midway Road,, Dallas Texas.

Featured speaker will be ??.

The "Chat and chew" starts at 11:30, and the "dog and pony show" at 12:30.

For information, contact Steve Brodie, K5ZYZ at 903 786 4064

McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC) Meeting

November 07, 2006 @ 19:00CST <http://www.mckinneyarc.org>

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) Meeting

November 17, 2006 @ 19:30CST

Sherman Municipal Airport

1200 S. Dewey Ave

Sherman TX 75090

<http://www.k5gcc.us>

Program: TBA

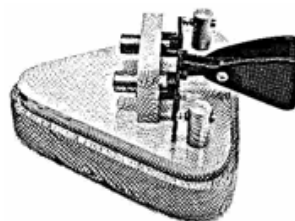
Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) VE Test Session

December 07, 2006 @ 19:30CST (First Thursday of every EVEN month – Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)

Sherman Municipal Airport

1200 S. Dewey Ave

Sherman TX 75090



Test Session requirements: The '2006 test fee is \$14.00, a copy of a Picture ID (Drivers License, state ID card etc.), copy of current license, plus a copy of original license if you are doing a paper up grade. We do not have a copy machine at the test site. Copies will be filed with test papers and NEVEC605 form. You are entitled to take any or all elements (tests) for that one fee. If you were to fail any test element you must pay another fee to retest on that element. Retesting is at the exclusive discretion of the VE team and

may be denied for any reason including, but not limited to, insufficient time or lack of test materials. Entry is via the rear door of the main building. Additional information can be obtained from Moe Knight, NT7C @ 903-564-6549 or 903-564-7115.

Amateur Radio News Around the County

W5CT – Silent Key

Herbert T. Wiley, W5CT, QCWA Chapter 41 Member of Sherman, TX. Herb passed away at the age of 93. No other details are known at this time. The estate sale is found on page 5.

KB5WRQ – Silent Key

Kenneth L. Reese, of Denison TX. No other details are known at this time.

NTS.

Both have very good links. They cover beginner training, times, and frequencies.

<http://www.7290trafficnet.org>

<http://www.dfwtrafficnet.com>

Amateur Radio Service rule changes

The FCC has issued a number of rule changes that affect the Amateur Radio Service. Please review the following:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-149A1.pdf

K5GCC Website

Thanks to workmanship of James Hubbell, N5COP – the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club now has its own domain of: <http://www.k5gcc.us> .

Buy- Sell-Trade Net 10/08/2006

FS - ICOM 471A 70cm all mode transceiver.
 Yeasu 757GX
 Kenwood 9130 All Mode
 Icom 225A

N5TPO has your electronic hardware needs.
 He has hose clamps, cable ties, alligator clips, terminal blocks and other assorted hardware. N5TPO, Gordon 903-868-0479

FS - Kenwood TS-850S/AT 160 through 10 meters (Including WARC) transceiver – 500KHz-30MHz receiver, 100 watts with built-in antenna tuner. MARS & 60 meter modifications done. Also has the additional BC band attenuator defeated. This is the rig that has been to GCARC Field day in the past few years.

Kenwood TS-50S – 160 through 10 meters transceiver – 500KHz-30MHz receiver, 100 watts. Mars & 60 meter modifications done. Those interested, please contact Moe, NT7C at 903-815-0342 or email at nt7c@arrl.net

Wanted – Kenwood TM-455a
 David Woods, W5COP,

Wanted – Face Plate for Kenwood TM-V7A
 W5DPS, G.B. Hartman , 903-892-9945

Wanted – Diamond X500HNA Duel Band 2 meter/70CM antenna. Mounting bracket and microphone for an Alinco DR135. KE5GPG, Kevin, 903-227-5972

Wanted – ICOM IC2800H
 KD5HQP, Rod45

The following is Herbert T. Wiley, W5CT estate amateur radio gear:

- PAKRATT 232 (2 each)
- Kenwood SM-220 Station monitor
- Kenwood TS-930 HF Transceiver
- Kenwood TS-711 HF Transceiver
- MFJ 986 Antenna Tuner
- Kenwood TS-520 w/ DG5 readout
- Yaesu G-800S Antenna rotator (on tower)
- Heathkit SB-220 Linear Amplifier
- Sigma RF-2000 RF Power/SWR Meter
- Diawa Fluke 8600 Solid State Digital VOM
- Kenwood TMV-7A VHF FM Transceiver (dual band)
- Rohn 20 Tower with attached HF Beam, 2 Meter Beam and a Comet(?) style antenna (unknown). The tower has a side-mounted attachment, in which the Yaesu rotator is mounted, along with the listed antennas. The device allows the raising/lowering of the antennas for service. (Hazer)

For further information, or to make a bid on any item on the above list, please contact Herb's daughter, Cheryl Rodgers at: y2ivy@hotmail.com OR you may contact Steve Brodie, K5ZYZ, at 903-786-4064 or at: stevebrodie@texoma.net .

Nets:

Fannin County Amateur Radio Weekly Net

Every Tuesday @ 21:00CST on the 145.470-repeater

This is an informal information net.

Grayson County ARES Net

2nd/4th Sundays @ 21:00CST on the 147.000+ repeater.

This is a directed information net. Wilmer Kinsey, WB5DCU, Net control

28.480MHz ARES Net

2nd/4th Monday @ 19:15CST on 28.480MHz USB.

McKinney ARES Net

2nd Sunday @ 2100CST on the 146.740 repeater.

Grayson County Repeaters

Primary – 147.000+ MHz w/100HZ CTSS PL

Secondary A – 147.080+ MHz w/100HZ PL

Secondary B – 146.520 MHz

444.750 MHz w/ 100Hz PL

Durant Oklahoma Repeaters

147.390+ MHz w/118.8PL

147.255+ MHz w/118.8PL

Van Alstyne TX

443.800+ MHz w/141.3PL

Gainesville TX Repeater

147.340+ MHz w/100.0PL

Bonham TX Repeater

145.470- MHz

McKinney TX Repeater

146.740-MHz w/110.9PL

Ethyl TX

147.220+MHz w/100.0PL, 1000' AGL

Rosston, TX (KD5IKD)

927.5625+ w/123.0PL, 1500' AGL

443.7375+ w/141.3PL, 1500' AGL

145.490- w/100.0PL, 1500' AGL

53.130 (out), 52.130 (in) w/107.2PL

McKinney Info Net

Each Sunday @ 2000CST on the 146.740 repeater with Mike N5BQZ as net manager

McKinney 6 meter AM Net

Each Wednesday @ 22:00CST on 50.400MHz



GCARC Treasury Report

Not available.

Grayson County RACES and ARES

Wilmer Kinsey, WB5DCU
EC Grayson County

Red Cross Requiring Background Checks

Below is the entire article from the ARES E Letter concerning background checks for Red Cross volunteers. The Red Cross said their national policy requires everyone that works in a Red Cross Shelter to have a background check on file. This includes persons that are signed up at the last minute. The Red Cross has a contract with an on-line company that performs background checks. There is a fee for each background check and the Red Cross is currently picking up the cost. The results are only sent to one local Red Cross office.



The Web site is <http://www.mybackgroundcheck.com/arcvts> and you must select the state map and then the local chapter. After requests for clarification on this policy from ARRL HQ, Red Cross supplied this statement:

Background Checks For American Red Cross Volunteers and Employees

In the aftermath of a huge visible disaster such as Hurricane Katrina there are several post-evaluations that occur looking at systems, procedures, protocols and overall response to determine what systems could be more efficient. Recently, the American Red Cross established a policy mandating that all volunteers undergo a criminal background check, just as their employees have done in the past. The intent of this policy is to safeguard the clients, volunteers and employees. The organization has contracted with a private company to perform these background checks and has provided a means for their volunteers to apply for the background checks without disclosing any confidential information to a Red Cross volunteer or employee. Prospective volunteers can go to a secure online website and only need to submit their full name and social security number to the contracted company. No additional information is needed.

The overall results of the background check are not shared with the Red Cross. The only information provided is that a person has successfully completed the background check with no adverse information or that a person has potentially adverse information and that additional research is required. When additional research is required the contracted company will notify the prospective volunteer and will address the issue with no Red Cross intervention.

Several people have indicated the desire to go to their local law enforcement agency rather than use the private contracted company. Because the American Red Cross is not a governmental agency, as required by their guidance of impartiality, it is unlawful for a law enforcement agency to share this information with the Red Cross. This requires them to use the private, contracted firm. Also, many have expressed concern about the use of their security number, however this is required to be assured that the background check is being performed on the right person. The Red Cross has gone to great lengths to make sure the prospective volunteer is not giving out their social security number to anyone other than the contracted company and then only through a secure, encrypted website. Unfortunately, in this day and age it is critical that the American Red Cross and other agencies, employers and organizations perform due diligence in researching the people who will represent them. We hope volunteers, who have provided blood, sweat and tears in helping fulfill the mission of the American Red Cross will understand the importance of performing this due diligence. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to backgroundchecks@usa.redcross.org or 1(800)507-3960.

I have a letter from David, W5COP who has done all of the background checks on RACES members. This letter will go to the local Red Cross Chapter. He included the State of Texas requirements for membership in the state RACES organization. We used those same requirements for membership in Grayson County RACES. His letter states that anyone who is a member of the Grayson County RACES group has had a criminal background check done by him. This background check for RACES will cover our group for the interim time. I will supply a list of RACES members names to the local Red Cross Director, Sharon Watson.

Whenever we provide any services to the local Red Cross wear your RACES badge. We will try and take little time at one of our club meetings to discuss this a little further. I am waiting to see what the fall out

from this will be on a national level, etc..case, the only thing you should discuss is your part of the communication effort, but only if you are part of a separate emcomm group such as ARES, and only if that organization's policy permits it. If they are impeding your ability to do your job, briefly explain this to the reporter and politely but firmly direct them to the PIO or an emcomm management person. (from the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course Level I)

Sherman Warning Siren Test Net for November 2006

The next warning siren test will be on Wednesday November 1, 2006 at 9:00AM. The net will be called up at 8:40AM from the Sherman EOC using the EOC call WC5GC. The Net Control Operators will either be Johnnie, KD5NIC or Daniel, KD5LLW. If the test is canceled all stations will be notified at this time. I will send out a roster each month prior to the test to all participants who have e-mail capability listing the station calls and siren numbers.

We are in need of more volunteers to monitor the sirens or as back-ups for the folks that are assigned a siren. This exercise takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. You DO NOT have to live in Sherman to participate. If anyone would like to volunteer to monitor one of the sirens the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00AM give me a call. If you have any questions about the siren test net or if you can not participate please give me a call on the radio or on the phone, the phone numbers are at the bottom of the article.

Anyway the warning siren net is going very well. Keep up the good work!!!!

ARES E-Letter

The ARES E-Letter offers a useful source of timely information for those interested in public service and emergency communications. The ARES E-Letter includes time-sensitive news, informative items, and ideas of interest to ARES communicators. Monthly issues will bring the ARES communicator a wealth of after-action reports, editorials, technical tips, news, and views in a more expeditious manner than QST with its integral editorial delay.

Timeliness, utility and inspiration are the goals of this new monthly devoted entirely to Amateur Radio emergency communication, all for you, the field activists. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery: ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site, <http://www.arrl.org/members> . You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of the The ARES E-Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. ARRL members may subscribe to

The ARES E-Letter by going to the Member Data Page at:

<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html?modify=1>

Note that you must be logged in to the site to access this page. Scroll down to the section "Which of the following would you like to receive automatically via email from ARRL?" Check the box for "ARES E-Letter (monthly public service and emergency communications news)" and you're all set.

2 Meter/70CM Antenna and Coax Installed at GCSO Dispatch Center

Coax and 2 meter/70cm antenna are installed, checked out and ready. The 2 meter/440 radio is installed permanently at the GCSO Dispatch Center.

Kevin, K9COP and Ron, WA5AQG are dispatchers at GCSO. This is a very important asset to ARES/RACES/SKYWARN. This provides a direct link between our nets and the dispatch center. This will allow us to pass emergency or weather related traffic over the air. Should we have a declared disaster man made or natural we can send an operator to the center to run the radio.

ARES Magnetic Door Signs and TECA Patches

I have 10 sets of magnetic door signs available. They are \$6.00 per set(2). Call me or e-mail me if you need a set. I also have a supply of Texoma Emergency Communications Association patches. They are \$2.00 each.

Dual Band Antenna to be Installed at TMC

Still waiting on the maintenance folks at TMC to get the coax installed from the roof of the new ER wing into the EMT lounge. As soon as they get that done we will finish installing the antenna system. I hope we can get this project finished up this year, I call about once or twice a month.

The Back Up Net Control Station

The function of the back up net control station is just that, back up the NCS. As stations check into the net record their call and name. Try to keep a running account of the net operation. Mark off the stations that check out or those that might be ask to move to another net. Be ready to take over as the NCS should the main NCS lose power, have equipment problems or just needs a break.

On our ARES Net as the Back Up NCS all you need to do is copy the stations calls as they check in. Should I have some problem with my equipment, lose power or some other calamity the Back Up NCS could continue on with the net or at least have a record of the check-ins so that he or she could get stations checked out and close the net.

Grayson County Races

If you need to fill out a RACES application please contact me or David, W5COP. Return the completed form to either of us. All of the information is confidential and will not be made public. The forms will be kept in a secure location. If I don't have a digital picture of you on file I will be glad to take one, just let me know.

RACES will only be activated if a disaster is declared by a government entity or upon request of the local Emergency Management Directors. David Woods, W5COP or myself, WB5DCU are the local RACES contacts.

Want to join ARES or RACES? Need an ARES badge? I can also take digital pictures for your badges. Please contact me.

I appreciate each and every ones hard work and dedication to ARES, SKYWARN and Public Service in Grayson County during 2005.

Thank you,
 Wilmer O. Kinsey - WB5DCU
 EC Grayson County
 350 Mitchell Road
 Sherman, TX 75090-3223
 Home - 903-893-5872

Work – 903-868-7496
 Cell – 903-271-3557
 Pager – 903-867-7294

Send me an ALPHA page –
 9038677294@pageaci.com

Meeting Minutes 15 September 2006 Meeting

No meeting minutes this time, just wonderful fellowship with a potluck dinner ☺ .

