

Vol-13, Num-05; May 2007



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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 @ 19:00CST 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

May 2007

A very good and dear friend of mine sent this to me knowing I am a ham radio operator. The author is unknown. When you read through it, think of your life as a comparison.



The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable.

A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the garage with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time. Let me tell you about it:

I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my ham radio in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind; he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling whom-ever he was talking with something about "a thousand marbles." I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say

"Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. It's too bad you missed your daughter's "dance recital " he continued. "Let me tell you something that has helped me keep my own priorities." And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles."

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years.

"Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime. Now, stick with me, Tom, I'm getting to the important part.

It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail", he went on, "and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays." "I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy. So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to round up 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear."

"Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away. I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life.

There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight."

"Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure that if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time."

"It was nice to meet you Tom, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. This is a 75 Year old Man, K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, good morning!"

You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter.

Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast." "What brought this on?" she asked with a smile. "Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. And hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles.

Life; the most precious thing ever given to us. Enjoy each and every day and stay radio-active.

73's
David Woods
W5COP
President

To all GCARC members:

The GCARC newsletter plays a vital role in providing information from the world of amateur radio as well as news and event updates for our local area. The newsletter is distributed to our members as well as a long list of non-member hams and area radio clubs. It takes a lot of time for our newsletter editor to compile the articles and then even more time to get them into the program format for publication and distribution. Many of our club members use this newsletter as a reminder of the upcoming club meeting or other scheduled club event. Our goal is to have the newsletter published, at the latest, on the Tuesday before the scheduled club meeting or earlier. Timely submissions have begun to be an increasing problem. It is, therefore, necessary to ask that any information to be submitted for publication in the GCARC newsletter be in the hands of the editor a minimum of 4 days before the scheduled publication date. Please submit all articles, including meeting minutes and reports to k5gcc@verizon.net . Please include k5gcc in the subject line. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Starting next month, a News Bulletin will be published the weekend prior with the upcoming meeting remainder.

David Woods, W5COP
President

GCARC and Surrounding Area Event Calendar

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Meeting

May 18, 2007 @ 19:30CST
 Sherman Municipal Airport
 1200 S. Dewey Ave
 Sherman TX 75090
 Program: '2007 Field Day Preparedness



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

May 19, 2007 @ 09:00CST for the FCARC Meeting.
 May 19, 2007 @ 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>

3rd Saturday Sidewalk Sale - Dallas

May 19, 2007
 Public parking lot under Woodall Rogers Freeway
 Corner of Woodall Rogers and Field Street, Dallas, TX
<http://www.sidewalksale.com>
 Phone: 214-432-7665 , Contact Pete info@sidewalksale.com

Chapter 41, QCWA

June 02, 2007
 The Pointe Restaurant, S-W corner of Loop 635 (LBJ) and Midway Road,, Dallas Texas.
 Featured program: Sir Isaac Newton
 The "Chat and chew" starts at 11:00, and the "dog and pony show" at 12:30.
 QCWA belt buckles are available for purchase @ \$24.95 each and available for immediate delivery.
 For information, contact Steve Brodie, K5ZYZ at 903 786 4064, (903) 818-0234 Cell

McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC) Meeting

June 11, 2007 @ 19:00CST <http://www.mckinneyarc.org>

ARBONET II Launch

May or June, 2007 ??
 Doug Loughmiller, W5BL
 The next attempt of ARBONET II launch has not been scheduled yet. A busy May, along with Field Day in June, and the 4th of July weekend could postpone the flight of ARBONET II to mid July or after. We will post new schedules to this news area, the ARBONET web page and on the ARBONET Yahoo group.

HamCom 2007

June 8-9, 2007
 The Plano Centre
 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway
 Plano, Texas
 Talk-In: 147.180+ (PL 107.2) <http://www.hamcom.org>

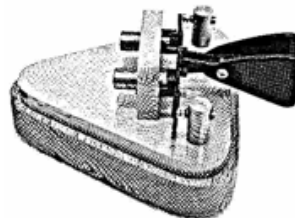
Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) VE Test Session

June 07, 2007 @ 19:30CST (First Thursday of every EVEN month – Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)

Sherman Municipal Airport, @ 19:30CST

1200 S. Dewey Ave

Sherman TX 75090



VE Testing sponsored by the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club takes place the first Thursday of every EVEN numbered month (e.g. Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, & Dec.) Testing will take place at the Sherman Municipal Airport, 19:30 hours. Testing fee for 2007 is \$14.00 for one try of any or all elements. Retests of any failed element will require another \$14.00 fee and is at the exclusive discretion of the VE team.

If testing, you must show a picture ID issued by a governmental agency. Other ID (such as a school picture ID) will be at the discretion of the VE team. For young children a parent's ID and some school record of the student may be accepted. For this circumstance please contact me in advance if possible. For upgrades, please bring your original license. For paper upgrades (i.e. old Tech or Tech Plus claiming code credit)

bring a copy of your old license you are using to claim credit. We have no copy machines at the testing facility.

We had two persons testing for upgrades this past Thursday. Both persons successfully passed their Extra Class examinations. Please congratulate Butch – KD5NIW and Paul – KF4PAK when you hear them on the air.

Any other questions about testing please feel free to contact Moe Knight – NT7C – or anyone on the VE Team. You may call Moe at 903-815-0342.

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Meeting

June 16, 2007 @ 19:30CST

Sherman Municipal Airport

1200 S. Dewey Ave

Sherman TX 75090

<http://www.k5gcc.us> .

2007 Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) Field Day

June 23-24

<http://www.arrl.org/FieldDay>

HamHoliday 2007 - Oklahoma Section Convention

July 20-21, 2007

Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs, Inc.

State Fair of Oklahoma - OK City Fairgrounds (Oklahoma Expo Hall)

NW 10th Street & May Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Talk-In: 146.82 (-) (PL 151.4) <http://www.HamHoliday.org>

Contact: David Duskin, NE5S

CORA, PO Box 55600, Del City, OK 73115-5600

Phone: 405-386-6739, HamHoliday@hotmail.com

3905 Century Club 2007 Eyeball

July 27-29, 2007

American Legion Building, 123 North 1st Street, Guthrie, Oklahoma

3905 Century Club

Talk-In: 147.135, <http://www.3905ccn.com>

Jim Richardson, N5OHL, 1810 NW 18th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Phone: 405-473-8009, Fax: 405-739-2839, n5ohl@cox.net



North Texas License

Training & VE Team

Following is the 2007 license training and VE schedules.

Technician Class (ARRL #562)

January 27
 February 3, 10, 17, and 24
 March 3
 9:00 to 12:00 Noon
 Whiteright Church of Christ
 Whiteright, TX

VE Sessions

February 10
 March 10
 10:00 to 12:00 Noon

General Class (ARRL #564)

July 7, 14, 21, and 28
 August 4
 9:00 to 12:00 Noon
 First Baptist Church
 Melissa, TX

VE Sessions

July 7
 August 11
 10:00 to 12:00 Noon

General Class (ARRL #642) *New*

March 24 and 31
 April 7, 14, 21, and 28
 May 5
 9:00 to 12:00 Noon
 First Baptist Church
 Melissa, TX

VE Sessions

April 14
 May 12
 10:00 to 12:00 Noon

Extra Class (ARRL #565)

September 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
 October 6, 13, 20, and 27
 November 3
 9:00 to 12:00 Noon
 Whiteright Church of Christ
 Whiteright, TX

VE Sessions

September 8
 October 13
 November 10
 10:00 to 12:00 Noon

To register for a class or VE session contact Dick Raitt, WA5VKS at 972-422-3021 or wa5vks@wt.net

Amateur Radio News Around the County

Grayson County March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon

Loy Lake Park
Hwy 75 @ exit 67 East
Denison TX

Editor note (KI5DQ): I did not receive a report for this event by the newsletter press time, but thanks to Tammy and Johnny – here are some action photos of some of the participating amateur radio operators assisting with the event.



N5MME, Elane Morris, Jo McDonald



KD5NIC



WB5DCU, David, NT7C, KD7MSX

2000' Radio Tower – Cooke County

The following link is to a story in the Gainesville Texas newspaper about the 2000 foot tower located in southwest Cooke County near Rosston Texas, which is the home of the 147.220+ repeater @ ~1000AGL.
http://www.gainesvilleregister.com/local/local_story_130174239.html

EB - Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions

Amateur Radio enforcement correspondence -- with some exceptions -- will be available to the public on the FCC's "Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions" Web site.

<http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/Welcome.html>

The listing will be cumulative, and Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth anticipates updating it every 7 to 10 days. The site will not be a comprehensive listing of enforcement correspondence. For example, it will not include letters requiring retesting pursuant to §97.519(d) of the FCC's rules, letters regarding radio frequency interference to amateur licensees and letters requesting an initial response to a complaint.

Global Amateur Radio Beacons

Check out: <http://www.ncdxf.org/Beacon/BeaconSchedule.html> which lists all of the amateur radio beacons around the world on 20 through 10 meters and there schedule of operation.

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.

McKinney Info Net

Each Sunday @ 2000CST on the 146.740-repeater with Dave Dunbar, N0RQ as net manager

McKinney 6 meter AM Net

Each Wednesday @ 22:00CST on 50.400MHz



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/118.8Hz PL

147.255+ MHz w/118.8Hz PL

Van Alstyne TX

443.800+ MHz w/103.5Hz PL

Gainesville TX Repeater

147.340+ MHz w/100.0Hz PL

Bonham TX Repeater

145.470- MHz

McKinney TX Repeater

146.740-MHz w/110.9Hz PL

MERA 443.2+MHz w/100.0Hz PL

Ethyl TX

147.220+MHz w/100.0Hz PL, 1000' AGL

GCARC Treasury Report

Bank Statement of 05/012007

Starting Acct. _____ \$ 1,253.29

Deposits _____ \$0.00

Expenses _____ \$ 0.00

Account Balance of 05/01/07 is ___\$ 1,253.29

NOTES:

Deposits:

\$ 0.00 – None

Expenses:

\$ 0.00 – None

I recently received a phone call asking if I had lost a check. No, I hadn't "lost" a check, but I did have a deposit that did not make it to the bank. I have corrected this and if you have had an outstanding check to the club for 2—7 dues, it should clear this month. I apologize for any inconvenience.

Moe Knight, NT7C

GCARC Treasurer

Grayson County RACES and ARES

Wilmer Kinsey, WB5DCU
EC Grayson County

Spotter Safety: Your Number One Priority

Accurate and timely spotter reports are critical to your local community and to the National Weather Service. However, your first priority as a storm spotter is to **STAY SAFE!** Severe storms present a number of hazards, any of which could lead to injury or death if you're not extremely careful. Depending on whether you are spotting from your vehicle or from a fixed location (like a home or business), there are hazards you need to be aware of and plan for when you're observing storms.



Mobile Spotter Safety Concerns

Mobile spotters are those who observe storms from their vehicle or from a position other than their home or business. In many communities, spotters have assigned observation locations – when spotters are activated, they go to their designated spot, and observe and report weather conditions. Some mobile spotters stay mobile during the storm and attempt to move along with the storm to maintain a view of the “action area” and report any changes as the storm progresses.

NOTE: The National Weather Service does not condone, endorse or recommend storm chasing. It is a dangerous practice and should not be attempted.

As a mobile spotter, there are important safety considerations you should think about. The following is a partial list of the hazards you may face as a mobile spotter:

Being on the Road

Even on a sunny day with no storms, driving a vehicle on a public roadway can be dangerous. When you add storms – with heavy rain, gusty winds, hail, blowing dust, etc – the danger increases dramatically. To stay safe as a mobile spotter, keep these things in mind:

Always spot with a partner – This allows the driver to focus on the road while the passenger watches the sky. This also provides an extra set of eyes to keep an eye on rapidly changing situations.

Watch for water on the road – Hydroplaning is a serious threat for drivers, and it doesn't take much rain to cause roads to become slick and hazardous.

Obey traffic laws – Speeding, parking too close to the edge of the road and making sudden turns and stops on unfamiliar roads all spell trouble.

Watch out for the “other guy” – Severe storms in the Plains often draw a crowd of onlookers, from casual observers to organized groups of storm chasers. Be extra careful when stopping to view a storm, making sure to pull completely off roadways and keeping an eye out for traffic, even in places where you would never expect to see traffic.

Make sure your vehicle is ready for action – A well-maintained vehicle with a full tank of gas is crucial for a mobile spotter's safety and success.

Lightning

All thunderstorms produce lightning, and people are killed and injured each year by lightning. Storm spotters may put themselves at risk from lightning by being in the open, being on a hill or high spot (for better visibility), parking or standing next to metal fences or underneath power lines, standing close to camera tripods or using radio equipment attached to antennae.

Remember that lightning typically provides no warning – the first strike that you see may be the last.

Follow these basic lightning safety guidelines:

Avoid being the tallest object, and stay away from other tall objects (like trees, power pole/lines)

Don't stand close to fences or power poles/lines. Even though you may not be in an area of frequent lightning, lightning can travel a considerable distance along these pathways.

As mentioned before, you should not wait for some type of warning (hair standing on end, sounds on AM or other radio equipment, etc) before taking shelter from lightning – the first strike from a storm could be the one that gets you. Treat lightning with respect and stay in a protected area when lightning is in the area. CPR training is an excellent idea for all mobile storm spotters. Remember that a person struck by lightning carries no residual charge and CPR could save a life.

The Storm

If a mobile storm spotter is well trained, experienced and knowledgeable about severe storm structure and behavior, they can usually avoid becoming a victim of the storm itself. However, the environment in and near a severe storm can change dramatically in a short period of time, and these changes can catch you by surprise. These basic tips can help you stay safe:

Avoid the most intense areas of storms – This seems obvious, but each year spotters, for one reason or another, make decisions that place them in the core of a dangerous storm. Storm chasers call this “core-punching” and it’s a very dangerous practice for a number of reasons. First, you may drive into very large hail, which can damage your vehicle and injure you. Second, you could drive right into the path of a tornado with very little time to react. And finally, the core of the storm is a dangerous place with low visibilities, heavy rain, and violent winds.

Keep your head on a swivel – When observing a storm, it is easy to lose focus and become fixated on some feature you’re watching. You should maintain awareness of what’s going on all around you and always be mindful of a surprise event. This points out the importance of spotting with a partner, who can be an extra set of eyes and ears to help you stay safe.

ALWAYS have an escape route in mind – Mobile spotters should always plan an emergency escape route that will take them out of harm’s way should the storm change direction or otherwise threaten them. Determining that escape route requires a great deal of knowledge about the storm’s movement and behavior. A detailed set of current maps of your spotting area is a critical part of a mobile spotter’s toolbox, but be mindful of the fact that roads sometimes change before maps do, and they may not reflect reality in every case.

Never drive into areas where water covers the road – This is especially true when you cannot be certain how deep the water is. Many people die each year by driving into flooded areas and drowning in their vehicles. Find another safer route.

Keep your engine running – Especially when operating close to a severe storm. You do not want to find out about a vehicle problem as a violent storm bears down on you.

Be extra cautious at night – Obviously, it is more dangerous to deal with something you cannot clearly see. Storms at night present special problems for spotters and you should be extremely cautious when observing storms after dark.

Fixed Spotter Safety Concerns

When it comes to being safe, storm spotters who observe storms from a fixed location have some advantages, but also some disadvantages as compared to mobile spotters. Fixed spotters may have access to shelter and will not be exposed to the elements and all the hazards that mobile spotters face. However, there are instances when mobile spotters might be able to get out of the path of a dangerous storm, while fixed spotters cannot.

Fixed spotters should be mindful of all the hazards a severe storm can bring, including lightning, large damaging hail, violent straight-line winds, torrential rains and tornadoes. And just like everyone, fixed spotters should have a severe weather safety plan for wherever they may be. Remember these basic safety guidelines:

Tornado safety – Get underground or into a safe room or basement if possible. If none of these are available, get on the lowest floor of a sturdy building, putting as many walls between you and the outside as possible. Avoid windows, doors and outside walls. Cover your head and body to protect yourself from deadly flying debris. Mobile homes and vehicles should be abandoned for more substantial shelter.

Lightning safety – Stay away from doors and windows. Avoid using electrical appliances and stay away from plumbing fixtures, as these can be pathways for lightning to enter a building. Stay off the telephone, especially corded phones, as much as possible.

Hail and wind safety – Severe thunderstorms can produce destructive hail and damaging winds, even without a tornado. Follow the tornado safety rules, especially when a storm contains very large hail and/or violent winds.

The above information came from NWS Fort Worth Office Web Page:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/stormspotting>

When storm spotting please keep your reports brief and to the point, don’t forget to tell us where you are at!!!

Sherman Warning Siren Test Net

The next warning siren test will be on Wednesday June 6, 2007 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!!!!

When To Display ARES Magnetic Door Signs

Always display your ARES magnetic door signs when you are storm spotting. Most Public Service and/or law enforcement officers in Grayson County will recognize them and will know what you are doing when storm spotting, especially at night time.

Whenever we provide communications for public service events or other events you will be ask to display them so all event officials and participants will recognize who you are and what you are doing.

When participating in any events or storm spotting make sure you wear your ARES picture ID badge.

Always have your RACES picture ID badge along with you in case an emergency is declared by a public official. Should that happen we will immediately roll over into a RACES net.

If you need magnetic door signs or ID badges please read the respective paragraphs below.

Updating ARES Roster

I am in the process of updating the Grayson County ARES roster. I want to make sure I have your latest address, phone number and email address if you have one. I will have ARES forms with me at the club meetings that you can fill out and return to me. You can go to the club web site click on "ARES", when that page appears look to the lower right and you will see "Amateur Radio Emergency Service Registration Form", click on it. This is a .pdf file, print it out on your printer, fill it out and send it to me. If you have a scanner, scan it in, save as a .jpg file and attach it to a email message to me.

ARES Magnetic Door Signs & Texoma Emergency Communications Association (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.

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 ARES/RACES

If you need to fill out a ARES/RACES application please contact me or go to the website "AMATEUR RADIO in GRAYSON. Click on "ARES", look at the lower right hand corner and you should see the "Amateur Radio Emergency Service" and "Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service" forms. They are .pdf files, just download, fill them out and return them to me.

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.

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

Safety Note – Lightning Accident

Man mowing lawn struck by lightning

Published: May. 11, 2007 at 12:13 PM

ARLINGTON, Texas, May. 11 -- An Arlington, Texas, man was recovering Friday from injuries suffered when he was struck by freak lightning while mowing his lawn.

Robert Hurst, a spokesman for American Medical Response, which provides Arlington's ambulance services, said the man was taken to John Peter Smith Hospital in serious but stable condition Thursday, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Friday.

Hurst said the victim was conscious and answering the paramedics' questions en route to the hospital.

Neighbor Darren Gibson said it wasn't raining, but he heard a tremendous thunderclap as he went into his house. A few minutes later he heard the ambulance and fire truck sirens, he said.

Buy- Sell-Trade Net 05/13/2007

FS - ICOM 471A 70cm all mode transceiver.

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. Those interested, please contact Moe, NT7C at 903-815-0342 or email at nt7c@arrl.net

FS – ICOM V8000 75 watt 2 FM meter only - Larry McNeil, KE5KGP 1-214-202-1352

FS – 50' Rohn tower with top section, has to be taken down, price negotiable, Wilmer – WB5DCU, 903-893-5872

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

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

Meeting Minutes 20 April 2007 Meeting

Call to Order by President David Woods – W5COP – 1930 hours

Roll sheet passed around (18 signing in) and introductions made.

Steve LaNore – KB5DEY – Chief Meteorologist for KXII, channel 12, gave a presentation explaining what goes into a weather report, and how predicting weather pretty much works in “The Sky is Talking”.

New Business

- Moe – NT7C – Talked about the March of Dimes. We need 12 people to go. Free coffee and Doughnuts.
- Gainsville hamfest we will be administering the test there in August.

Meeting adjourned at 2038 hours

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Knight
KD7MSX



U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service – Weather Forecast Office
3401 Northern Cross Blvd
Fort Worth, TX 76137

April 9th, 2007

Mr. Tom Blackwell, N5GAR
ARRL North Texas Section Manager
PO Box 25403
Dallas, TX 75225-1403

Dear Tom,

As the 2007 severe weather season in North Texas gets underway, I want to note the important role played by amateur radio storm spotters in the mission of the National Weather Service (NWS). As you know, NWS meteorologists use state-of-the-science tools such as Doppler radar, satellites, and sophisticated computer models of the atmosphere in order to issue warnings and forecasts for the protection of life and property. Despite these tools, amateur radio storm spotters remain an essential component of the integrated warning system in North Texas, providing visual confirmation of tornadoes, damaging winds, large hail, and flash flooding. This information cannot be obtained from any other source, and directly benefits the NWS, broadcast media, local emergency managers, and the public.

In the past few years, the ability of mobile amateur radio operators to follow severe storms and report their observations to our forecasters has led to several timely tornado warnings that have undoubtedly saved lives. The most recent examples include the April 2002 east Fort Worth Tornado, the May, 2006 Collin County Tornado, and the April 2007 Tornado in Coryell and McLennan Counties in Central Texas.

The National Weather Service has earned a very positive reputation for providing timely forecasts and warnings of impending severe weather across Texas. Such a reputation could not have been earned without the outstanding skills and dedication to public safety exhibited by the thousands of amateur radio storm spotters who provide storm reports to local NWS offices. I am pleased to document this performance here, and thank you for your role in encouraging such an outstanding working relationship.

Sincerely,


William F. Bunting
Meteorologist-In-Charge