

Vol-14, Num-04; April 2008



Club Officers

President:

Wilmer Kinsey, WB5DCU

Vice President:

David Compton, KC0EHR

Secretary:

Kevin Knight, KD7MSX

Treasurer:

Ross Chlapecka, NE5NAV

Activity:

Kelly Gross – KE5HNG

Rod Gross – KD5HQF

Editor:

James Hunt, KI5DQ

Trustee:

Jesse Heiman, AC5OY

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Submit News to k5gcc@cableone.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

Presidents Corner

April 2008

At the last club meet the membership voted to sponsor a Technician license class as well as furnish the manuals or study guides to those who signed up for the class. There is more information in the newsletter about this class, including time ,dates, etc.

We voted to give a year's free membership to those individuals who tested and passed their license exam at our test sessions. We would like to congratulate those who took their amateur radio exam at our last test session and passed, Thursday April 3, 2008. I believe we now have four new club members.



We have as a club from time to time discussed becoming an affiliated ARRL Club. To become an affiliated club we must meet a few requirements:

At least 51% of our voting membership must be full or associate ARRL members.

At least 51% of our voting membership must be licensed amateurs.

We must have a club constitution.

Our club's goals must not conflict in any way with the goals of the ARRL.

As an ARRL Affiliated Club, our group can take advantage of certain benefits which are only available thanks to the large membership and widespread services of the ARRL. Some of the following may or may not be important to our club.

1. The opportunity to order (for free) the ARRL Annual Report (this is the ARRL business report)
2. ARRL-sponsored liability and equipment insurance
3. Referrals of prospective radio amateurs to your club (great for new member promotion)
4. \$15 commission for every *new ARRL member recruited and \$2 for each ARRL renewal submitted by your club.*A new member is defined as any individual who has never been an ARRL member, or who has allowed their membership to lapse for two or more years.
5. Free mailing labels or lists of ARRL members or clubs once a year
6. Access to the New Amateur page with monthly update to new hams and recently upgraded hams in your area. Download CSV files or PDF format to print mailing labels.
7. Free clip-art, great for fleshing out your newsletter
8. Only affiliated clubs are eligible for participation in the gavel competitions in the ARRL DX Contest, the November Sweepstakes and the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
9. Affiliated clubs can obtain a complete set of ARRL publications for the discount price of \$170 good for donating to your local library
10. Free lists of other affiliated clubs in your Section—for coordinating large-scale events
11. 50% discount on club advertisements in QST

I have been a member of the ARRL for most of the past 37 years and will continue to be because of the services that it provides for us. I think the membership fee is relatively cheap when you consider what ARRL does for its members. The ARRL has people who keep an eye and ear on what's going on in the cities, state houses and the U.S. Congress and Senate that might affect our hobby. I believe that we would not have the many frequencies available to us if it were not for the ARRL. QST the magazine published by ARRL has improved greatly. It has good technical articles that covers circuits, components, coax connectors, amateur radio software, and a Q & A section that is exceptionally good. Many other articles about band conditions, operating procedures, public service, contesting and much more information for the amateur radio operator, newbie's as well as the "Old Timers".

If you have internet access go to the ARRL web site, www.arrl.org, and look up the page with the information on becoming an affiliated ARRL club, check it out let me know what you think it.

If you are not a member of ARRL I would encourage you to consider becoming a member. There are a number of benefits in being a member.

Hope to see everyone at Friday night's meeting, members and visitors.

Wilmer
WB5DCU

GCARC and Surrounding Area Event Calendar

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Meeting

April 18, 2008 @ 19:30CST

Sherman Municipal Airport

1200 S. Dewey Ave

Sherman TX 75090

Program: Steve LaNore of the KXII Weather Team will be providing weather program.

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

Technician License Class

April, 19, 2008 @ 08:30CST

May 03, 2008 @ 08:00CST

The Grayson County Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a Technician license class for those interested in obtaining an Amateur Radio Operator's License. There are no age restrictions on a license.

The class will consist of two sessions. The first session will take place 19 April 2008. This session will cover information on how you will obtain your license, will have ham equipment on display, have hams present to answer any questions, pass out the loaner study book and reading assignments. This session will start at 8:30AM and you can leave whenever all of your questions are answered. We will be done no later than 10:30.

You will read the various reading assignments and review the multiple choice questions listed in the back of the book (don't worry the correct answer is also in the book). As you do this you may develop an understanding of the material but don't worry if you don't. Then, on 3 May 2008 we will meet again from 8:00AM until 3:30 or 4:00 to review the material and then you will take a 35 question multiple choice test on the material. If you get 26 or more correct, you have earned your license.

There is no cost for the class or the loan of the book. If, at the end of the course, you decide to keep the book as a reference you may do so by paying the cost of the book. (Less than \$20) There IS a cost for taking the exam. That fee is \$14.00 this year and payable before the exam. Upon successful completion of the exam you will receive a free membership for the remainder of the year in the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (this is normally \$12 per year)

The classes will be held at the Sherman Municipal Airport, 1200 S. Dewey Ave., (Highway 11), Sherman, TX. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email Moe Knight at NT7C@arrl.net or 903-815-0342.

Thanks, Hope to see you there!

Moe

Belton HamEXPO

April 19, 2008

Bell County Expo Center, 301 West Loop 121, Belton TX

Temple Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.beltonhamexpo.org>

Talk-In: 146.820 (PL 123.0)

Contact: Mike LeFan, WA5EQQ, 1802 South 13th Street, Temple, TX 76504

Phone: 254-773-3590, Fax: 254-231-4128, mlefan@vvm.com

Chapter 41, QCWA

May 03, 2008

The Pointe Restaurant, S-W corner of Loop 635 (LBJ) and Midway Road., Dallas Texas.

Featured program: PBS Series Connections – part 2, hosted by James Burke.

Will be presenting to two QCWA members their 70 year certificates.

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.

Is their enough of interest in North Central Texas/Southern Oklahoma to start a QCWA Chapter?

For information, contact Steve Brodie, K5ZYZ at 903 786 4064, (903) 818-0234 Cell

McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC) Meeting

May 05, 2008, @ 19:00CST <http://www.mckinneyarc.org>

Dave NORQ, presenting on PROPNET

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

May 17, 2008 @ 09:00CST for the FCARC Meeting.

May 17, 2008 @ 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: Roger Ashcraft KE5CCJ, President <http://www.k5frc.org>

3rd Saturday Sidewalk Sale - Dallas

May 17, 2008

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

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) VE Test Session

June 05, 2008 @ 19:30CST (First Thursday of every EVEN month – Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)

Sherman Municipal Airport, @ 19:30CST

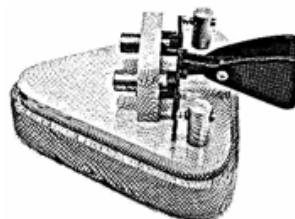
1200 S. Dewey Ave

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 2008 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. In 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.

The next regular testing session is 5 June 2008.



The testing session held 3 April 2008 was a success. We had five individuals testing. We ended the evening with one person earning their first Technician Class license, two Technicians upgrading to General, and one new person earning their General Class license (passing both the Tech and General written at one sitting). Congratulations to these people for their accomplishments and please welcome them as new club members. They are:

James Wade – KE5KOP (now General)
Donald Hofmann – KE5TWO (new General)
James Johnson – KE5HMT (now General)
Carl D Thurman – KE5TWN (new Technician)

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.

Buy- Sell-Trade Net 04/13/2008

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 - Comet GP6 antenna 2 meter/70cm.
 mint shape, never mounted.
 146MHz 6.5dB, 446MHz 9.0dB
 Jim. KI5DQ - ki5dq@yahoo.com

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

FOR FREE - Lead acid batteries, weigh about
 110 lbs. each.
 WB5DCU 903-893-5872 for details!!!

Amateur Radio News Around the County

Federal Communication Commission Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions

...one list to stay off...

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

Dust off that VHF/UHF SSB rig and join in many Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas radio operators on 144.225MHz USB on vertical polarized antennas. Usual start time is 20:00CST daily. Many multimode / multiband transceivers are on the market today which provides excellent possibilities for the new or veteran amateur radio operator. de KI5DQ

Sunspot Cycle 24 is Official

January 04, 2008

<http://tinyurl.com/2lta8t>

and

<http://www.remote.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/01/07/100/?nc=1>

For those who want a quick history trip into sunspot activity

<http://www.spaceweather.com/java/sunspot.html>

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/118.8Hz 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

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



GCARC Treasury Report

Bank Statement of 3/31/2008

Starting Acct. _____	\$ 1,436.79
Deposits _____	\$ 72.00
Expenses _____	\$ 0.00
Account Balance of 03/31/08 is ____	\$ 1,508.79

NOTES:

Deposits:

\$ 72.00 – Memberships

Expenses:

\$ 0.00

Ross Chlapecka, KE5NAV
GCARC Treasurer

Grayson County RACES and ARES

Wilmer Kinsey, WB5DCU
EC Grayson County

I try to keep up with what is happening with the weather and what we might expect in North Texas. I start the process several days before we are expecting a severe or significant weather event in our area. I watch the local news media outlets to see what they are forecasting; I look at the Storm Prediction Centers web page, the Norman Oklahoma Weather Service Office web page and the Fort Worth-Dallas NWS office web page. I, along with others receive daily updates on impending severe weather from the Fort Worth-Dallas NWS office.



The closer the severe weather event gets to us the closer attention I pay to what it is doing and what is forecast for our county. I have two primary radar sites on internet I use, one is the NWS RIDGE radar available on the Fort Worth-Dallas NWS office web site and the other is WEATHER TAP, which is a subscription radar site. Each site has features that are a great help to us, the NWS site shows more land marks, rivers, highways and also shows the warning boxes for tornados and severe thunderstorms. The WEATHER TAP web site has a feature called "RADAR LAB" that will show you the track of the storms.

These are some of the tools that I use to keep up with what's going on with the weather. Of course we also monitor SKYWARN nets in adjoining counties to find out what sort of weather they are having and what their spotters are seeing and experiencing. Counties directly west of us use the volunteer fire departments for spotting and Mac, K5QAM usually monitors them and passes that information along to our net.

We may or may not call up a formal SKYWARN net. We will usually run as a informal net for a while, then if we see that the severe weather is heading towards or nearing our county we will open the EOC and roll over into a formal net. If we are using the call sign WC5GC you can be assured that we have a formal net in session. Please do not hesitate to check in, even if you have nothing to report. Check in and stay on standby until you have weather to report or you are given an assignment Remember a thunderstorm that produces tornados, hail 3/4" or more in diameter, or winds of 58mph or more classified as severe thunderstorms.

Keep your equipment ready to go!!

Sherman Warning Siren Test Net

Maintenance and upgrading on the Sherman Warning Sirens has been completed. The small siren west of Home Depot and the one east of Sherman high School have been replaced with larger rotating warning sirens. The small siren located near the old Woodmen Home on SH 56 and FM1417 has been taken out of service. With the new system several functional test can be run on the sirens from the EOC. Likely there will be months that we will not have an audible test, so we will not need to be on location to monitor the sirens. I will send out emails about the test each month. If you have any questions let me know.

The next warning siren test will be on Wednesday May 07, 2008 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.

SKYWARN Window Stickers

I now have vinyl SKYWARN stickers, they are \$1.50 each. We can't seem to find any of the free ones any more!

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.

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

Meeting Minutes 15 February 2008 Meeting

Call to Order by Wilmer Kinsey – WB5DCU – 1929 hours

Roll sheet passed around (14 signing in) and introductions made including visitor Brad McMillion

Treasurer's report and January meeting minutes were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

Old business

- Field Day – Glen – KT5G volunteered to chair the Field Day Committee.
- March of Dimes – Moe – NT7C reported that the Sherman office of the MOD is closed and the walk will not be held. Anyone knowing of another activity that could use our services please let us know.

New business

- New Technician Class – The Introduction/Demo day will be 19 April 2008 at 8:30 at the Sherman Municipal Airport. Books will be loaned that day and reading assignments will be given. The review class and test date will be 3 May 2008, from 8:00 until 4:00 or 5:00 (whatever it takes).
- A motion was made, seconded, and passed to spend up to \$300 for books to loan to students for this class. Moe – NT7C to purchase and the club will reimburse.
- A motion was made, seconded, and passed to grant club membership through the end of the current calendar year to anyone passing their license exam at one of our testing sessions.
- Wilmer – WB5DCU reported that Sherman will be going to silent siren testing.
- Jesse – AC5OY announced his desire to resign as the Club License Trustee. Wilmer asked for volunteers to speak up at the next meeting to replace Jesse. Wilmer requested that volunteers be an Extra Class licensee.

Presentation

Wilmer and Moe showed their emergency operating power units and Moe showed his radio 'go bag.'

Meeting adjourned at 2054 hours

Respectfully submitted,
Moe Knight, NT7C
For Kevin Knight
KD7MSX, Secretary