

Vol-14, Num-05; May 2008



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Activity:

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James Hunt, KI5DQ

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James Hunt, KI5DQ

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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

May 2008

Here we are again, time for another club meeting, time flies when you are having fun. Fun, that's what ham radio is all about. Its fun to be able to talk to other hams across town or across the oceans via ham radio. I remember when I was in the Boy Scouts and was introduced to ham radio. What a thrill it was to visit one of the local hams while he was having a QSO with someone in another state. We had an old Hillcrafters S20R receiver that a friend of mine loaned me. I would get up at 6:00AM during the summer when school was out, run out to my little SWL shack just to listen to the Russian hams on AM. There was no SSB during that time only AM. It was hard to believe what I was hearing, how far away they were from San Antonio Texas. They were our enemy, yet they would talk to U.S. hams and vice versa.



It was about that time that the Russians launched their first satellite, SPUTNIK. I would listen to it when its orbit was in our favor. It would just beep as it orbited around the earth. As simple as that was by today's technology we were all amazed.

I still think as I stated above that ham radio is fun. We do have some serious times when operating public service events, passing traffic, ARES nets or our Skywarn Nets. These are the things that help us keep our hobby going and retain our operating frequencies. Keep in mind as you operate and enjoy this hobby that it is a privilege and not a right. That it is the only hobby that is authorized by a Congressional Act, the Communications Act of 1934.

We as ham operators do not own any frequency. We share them with all other licensed amateur radio operators, domestic, as well as foreign. Even regularly scheduled nets, such as the Maritime Mobile Net has to shift frequency occasionally because someone has a QSO in progress on 14.3MHz at the time the net is scheduled to begin.

It is up to each and every licensed ham radio operator to enjoy and protect the hobby and the frequencies assigned to the service. It is the responsibility of each licensed ham radio operator to help newly licensed hams. Being good examples and showing them the proper way to operate on the ham bands. Answering any and all questions that they might have regarding the hobby, be a MENTOR to a new ham!!!

Last but certainly not least, we want to welcome the 7 new hams who attended Moe's Technician license class and passed their FCC exam on Saturday May 3rd. They all did very well on their test and I expect you will find them to be an asset to amateur radio. So again, **CONGRATULATIONS** on passing your exam!!!

Also we want to thank Moe, NT7C for all of the work and time he has spent preparing his presentation, for developing the reading assignment each student must complete to prepare for the class and the test. This is a successful method; it has worked very well for two classes. Thank you Moe for your time, work and devotion to amateur radio.

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

May 16, 2008 @ 19:30CST
 Sherman Municipal Airport
 1200 S. Dewey Ave
 Sherman TX 75090

Program: Learn about feedline characteristics, VHF/UHF connectors and installation tips by WB5DCU and KI5DQ.

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

McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC) Meeting

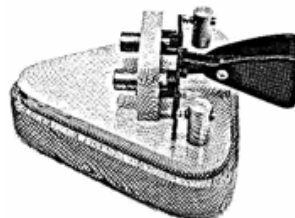
June 02, 2008, @ 19:00CST <http://www.mckinneyarc.org>
 Dave N0RQ, presenting on PROPNET

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 technician class held 19 April (introduction) and review 3 May 2008 was a success. We had seven individuals participating. All attendees passed their Technician Class exams. Congratulations to these people for their accomplishments and please welcome them as new club members. They are:

Belinda Roberson	KE5UMI
Brad McMillon	KE5UMJ
David Buechler	KE5UMK
Joni Lane	KE5UML
Larry Coleman	KE5UMM
Bill Swanson	KE5UMN
Richard Mutz	KE5UMO

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.

Tailgate Fest / FoxHunt / Traffic Handling Class / Fellowship

June 07, 2008 @ 07:30CST
 Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Sulphur, Oklahoma
 Spring exercise for Zone 6, Districts 2 and 3 of ARES Oklahoma and Grayson County ARES
 07:30 - Tailgate fest, with coffee and donuts
 09:00.- FoxHunt
 10:00.- FoxHunt Review
 10:00.- 101 message traffic handling class, (about 30 minutes),
 11:00.- Hot Dogs, cold drinks and fellowship
 Questions: Please contact Joe White, K5BQG k5bqg@netcommander.com

Chapter 41, QCWA

June 07, 2008

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

Featured program: PBS Series Connections – part 3, 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

Ham-Com 2008

June 13-14, 2008

Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX 75026

Ham-Com; Plano & McKinney Amateur Radio Clubs

<http://www.hamcom.org>

Talk-In: 147.18 (PL 107.2)

Contact: Barry A. Goldblatt, WA5KXX, PO Box 260721, Plano, TX 75026

Phone: 469-361-2143 (Voice Mail) , Fax: 972-596-6161, office@hamcom.org

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

June 21, 2008 @ 09:00CST for the FCARC Meeting.

June 21, 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

June 21, 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 Meeting

June 20, 2008 @ 19:30CST

Sherman Municipal Airport

1200 S. Dewey Ave

Sherman TX 75090

Program: Field day '2008 Preparation <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/fd.html>

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

Buy- Sell-Trade Net 05/16/2008

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

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

FS - Comet GP6 antenna 2 meter/70cm.

mint shape, never mounted.

146MHz 6.5dB, 446MHz 9.0dB

Jim. KI5DQ - ki5dq@yahoo.com

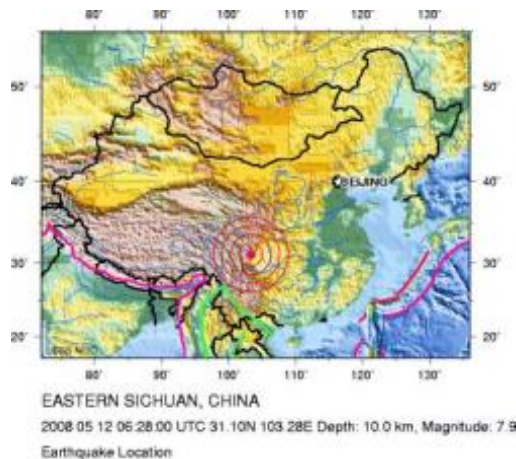
Amateur Radio News Around the County

Hams Called to Action in Aftermath of China Quake

By ARRL and CRSA

On Monday, May 12 at 0628 UTC, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit Sichuan, China. The Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA), the Chinese IARU Member-Society, has designated the following frequencies for emergency services involved in the rescue: 14.270, 7.050 and 7.060 MHz.

The ARRL encourages US amateurs to be aware of the emergency operations on those on those three frequencies.



Ronald A Parise, WA4SIR, SK

Dr Ronald A. Parise, PhD, WA4SIR, passed away Friday May 9, 2008 after a very long and courageous battle with cancer. He was 57.

Parise flew as a payload specialist on two space shuttle missions: STS-35 on Columbia in December 1990 and STS-67 on the Endeavour in March 1995.

First licensed when he was 11, Parise kept Amateur Radio at the forefront of everything he did, including his operations from space. During his two shuttle flights, he spoke with hundreds of hams on the ground. He was instrumental in guiding the development of a simple ham radio system that could be used in multiple configurations on the space shuttle; as a result, his first flight on Columbia ushered in what Bauer called the "frequent flyer era" of the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) payload.

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 20

From Tad Cook, K7RA

Seattle, WA May 9, 2008

Again this week Earth residents saw a new, but brief sunspot from new Cycle 24, judging from the polarity of the spot, sunspot 993. This one was south of the solar equator, so it has the same polarity as any Cycle 23 spot that was north of the equator. After two days it was gone, not from drifting over the edge of the visible solar disk, it just disappeared.

Geomagnetic indices were mostly quiet this week, except for some only slightly unsettled planetary A index numbers for May 2-3. The next active geomagnetic period is expected May 20, with a planetary A index of 25. For May 9-15 the predicted planetary A index is 8, 5, 5, 5, 12, 8 and 5.

For May 9-15 Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions May 9, quiet to unsettled May 10, unsettled May 11-13, quiet to unsettled May 14, and quiet again on May 15.

FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 8 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$11.70 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$12.30 for 10 years, an increase of \$0.60.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site at,

<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/howtocomment.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 4/31/2008

Starting Acct. _____	\$ 1,508.79
Deposits _____	\$ 0.00
Expenses _____	\$ 300.00
Account Balance of 05/01/08 is ____	\$ 1,208.79

NOTES:

Deposits:

\$ 0.00

Expenses:

\$ 300.00 - Materials For Tech Class

Ross Chlapecka, KE5NAV

GCARC Treasurer

Grayson County RACES and ARES

Wilmer Kinsey, WB5DCU
EC Grayson County

Skywarn Nets

Keep in mind that when we have a SKYWARN or ARES net up and running with a Net Control Station that it is a directed net. This means that the NCS had total control over the net operation. Pay close attention to the net preamble so you will know how to check into the net, what the net is about, how to check out and other important net information.

Since it is a directed net you must ask for permission to speak, meaning that you give the last letters of your call if you have a 1X2 or 3, 2X2 or 3, give your full call if you have a 2X1 call and the NCS should recognize you. Then you can pass your traffic to the NCS. Use the same procedure if you need to call another station on the net. If you miss the preamble of a net just listen for a short time, you should be able to find out how the net is operating and what you need to do as far as checking into it.

Always listen to what traffic is being passed on the net. Listen before you transmit so you don't double with someone else. Traffic being passed on the net may not concern you at the time but may impact you later, such as the location and direction of movement of a severe thunderstorm.

During Skywarn nets make your reports to the NCS short and to the point, including your present location. If you move from the location you originally checked into the net always inform the NCS of your change in location. If you are told to move by a law enforcement officer or emergency management personnel, move immediately and then notify the NCS of your change in location.

Hold all reports about weather at your spotter location if it is not at least as severe as what is being reported in the area of the most severe weather. As an example, if we are tracking a severe thunder storm in the Sherman area and you are in Pottsboro with no wind, no rain or hail please standby with that report. When things begin to calm down a bit then the NCS will be happy to take your report. This will help us determine how wide the line of storms are and how fast they might be moving. All reports are important, but we must take care of the area with the **most severe weather first**.

We want you to give your location at the end of your report so the NCS will know your location as well as the general public who have scanners that listen to our nets. I will assure you that there are quite a few folks in this county that do listen to our Skywarn net when we have severe weather in the area.

Reports that we receive from storm spotters in the field are of great interest to the NWS office in Fort Worth. We pass your spotter reports back to the amateur radio operator at the NWS in Fort Worth that is assigned to our area, usually through the 147.22 repeater. They may issue various severe weather warnings based on our reports.

I want to thank all who participate in and support the Skywarn net in Grayson County. It is an important part of our public service effort. It is important to the Emergency Management coordinators locally and the general population. Our reports may give everyone that margin of time to take shelter from severe weather and save many lives.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!



Sherman Warning Siren Test Net

The next warning siren test will be on Wednesday June 4, 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 18 April 2008 Meeting

Call to Order by Wilmer Kinsey – WB5DCU – 19:32 hours

Roll sheet passed around (15 signing in) and introductions made including visitor KXII Channel 12 Steve LaNore and new ham Donald Hofmann KE5TWO. Donald sat for his tests at the April test session and passed both his Tech and General exams.

Treasurer's report and March meeting minutes (after a correction of the meeting date of 28 March) were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

Steve LaNore, Chief meteorologist for KXII Channel 12 (<http://www.kxii.com>), gave a presentation on the severe weather patterns of the Texoma area.

Old business

- K5CPD has returned some of the completed paperwork to us for our filings for 501(c)3 status.
- Field Day – Glen – KT5G volunteered to chair the Field Day Committee.
- Jesse AC5OY has resigned at the club call sign trustee. Jim Hunt KI5DQ volunteered for the position. This was approved unanimously by members present.

New business

- Jim Hunt provided a slide show outlining the importance of proper tower installation. His important points included:
 - o Keep trees trimmed back around tower structures prior and after installation
 - o Make sure guy posts don't flex
 - o Use properly rated drop forged, welded eye bolts for securing guy cables
 - o NEVER attach guy cables to the roof of a house
 - o Don't use wooden guy posts
 - o Don't use rope for guy cables
- Jim went on to extend an offer of assistance to those installing a tower / antennas – just ask!.

Meeting adjourned at 2045 hours

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Knight
KD7MSX, Secretary