

Vol-15, Num-05; May 2009



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Submit News to ki5dq@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 ~36 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 2009

Greetings,

This month's column is a hodgepodge of different topics.

First I would like to thank everyone that spent some of their free time on Saturday, May 9 helping with the Boy Scout Camporee at Camp James Ray in Pottsboro. The HAM Association of Mesquite was invited by the Tomahawk District to set up an amateur radio demonstration as an activity at the Camporee. Three members of HAM made the trek: Ron Abraham - KC5IMJ, Mike Malone - KD5KXF and Andy Carstarphen - WY5V. Three stations were set up: HF, VHF-FM and UHF FM. Approximately 30 Scouts rotated through the activity in four groups. Activities included 2m voice, 70cm voice, HF voice, HF CW, and APRS. The Scouts especially liked writing down their names in Morse Code and practiced sending using Mike's homemade paddles and Yaesu FT-817 as a code practice oscillator. Utilizing the 147.00 and 444.750 repeaters, Grayson hams made contacts with the Scouts. The following hams participated: Wilmer Kinsey WB5DCU, Jim Hunt KI5DQ, David Compton KC0EHR, David Woods W5COP, Moe Knight NT7C, Brad McMillon KE5UMJ, Wade Graves KF5AUD, Leo Tanner KB5SXC, Scott Day (The Sarge) KE5YPB, Linda Arnold KE5YUC and Donald Hofmann W5DWH. (If I left your name off of the list I apologize.)

Next, I would like to say that I am pleased to see an increase in activity on the 147.000+ (100.0PL) repeater. As our newly licensed hams got on the air, our seasoned vets have taken the time to answer their calls. It is always nice to hear activity on the repeaters and not just during storms.

If you watch the show Storm Chasers on the Discovery Channel then this article might interest you. <http://www.millerwelds.com/education/articles/story192.html> . It talks about the construction of the new TIV (Tornado Intercept Vehicle). BTW, I understand that on April 26 they were finally able to film inside a tornado. It should be on this season's footage.

For those interested in tornadoes, the Weather Channel began on May 10 to bring live coverage of Vortex 2, the largest experiment in history to explore tornadoes. For more info, see: <http://www.weather.com/tv/programs/Vortex.html>
<http://www.vortex2.org/home>

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact me.

73 Donald Hofmann W5DWH

You can contact me:

Via email at w5dwh.donald@gmail.com

Via the 147.00 repeater as I monitor it at various times during the day as well as evenings

Via cell phone at 903-271-0827 up until 9 pm (in emergencies call 24/7)

73 Donald Hofmann W5DWH

GCARC and Surrounding Area Event Calendar

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) Meeting

May 15, 2009 @ 19:30CST
 Sherman Municipal Airport
 1200 S. Dewey Ave
 Sherman TX 75090
<http://www.k5gcc.us>

Program: Paul Caputo K1PKZ will have a presentation on how to use radio beacons and WWV for determining propagation.

McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC) Meeting

May 12, 2009 @ 19:00CST <http://www.mckinneyarc.org>

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

May 16, 2009 @ 09:30CST for the FCARC Meeting.
 May 16, 2009 @ 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 @ 07:30CST.
 Contact: Roger Ashcroft, President
<http://www.k5frc.org>

Technician License Class

May 30, 2009

There will be another Technician License Class. The orientation meeting will be held 30 May 2009 and the review/test class will be held 20 June, 2009. Call Moe – NT7C, 903-815-0342 – for more information.

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) Meeting

June 19, 2009 @ 19:30CST
 Sherman Municipal Airport
 1200 S. Dewey Ave
 Sherman TX 75090
<http://www.k5gcc.us>
 Program: TBA

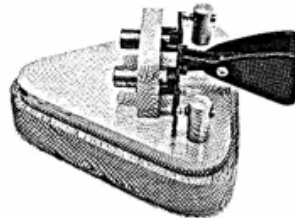
Dallas Chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, Dallas Chapter #41

June 06, 2009

Midway Pointe Restaurant, S-W corner of Loop I-635 and Midway Roads in Dallas.
 Featured Program: a 2-hour presentation of the Sun and Solar Sun Spot Cycles at 12:00CST.
 QCWZ best buckles are available for purchase @ \$24.95 each and are available for immediate delivery.
 For additional details, please contact: Steve Brodie, K5ZYZ, 903-786-4064, 903-818-0234 (cell)

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) VE Test Session

June 04, 2009 @ 19:30CST (First Thursday of every EVEN month – Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)
 Sherman Municipal Airport
 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 2009 is \$15.00 for one try of any or all elements. Retests of any failed element will require another \$15.00 fee and is at the exclusive discretion of the VE team.

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.

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 18 April 09 Technician Class and VE Session saw ten individuals in attendance. Nine new Technician Licenses were earned. You may have already heard some from this group on the air. I have every reason to believe this will be an active group. If you hear John – KF5ATZ, Rob – KF5AUA, Trey – KF5AUB, Rick – KF5AUC, Wade – KF5AUD, Carl – KF5AUE, Bob – KF5AUF, Jeff – KF5AUG, or Sarah – KF5AUH, please give them a warm welcome to Amateur Radio. Thanks to Wilmer, Leo, and Bob for your invaluable assistance.

Ham-Com 2009 - West Gulf Division Convention

June 12-13, 2009 <http://www.hamcom.org>
 Ham-Com, Inc. & Plano Amateur Radio Klub
 Talk-In: 147.18 (PL 107.2)
 Contact: Barry A. Goldblatt, WA5KXX wa5kxx@verizon.net
 PO Box 12774 Dallas, TX 75225-0774
 Phone: 972-596-4669 Fax: 972-596-6161

Ham Holiday 2009 – Oklahoma Section Convention

July 24-25, 2009 <http://www.hamholiday.com>
 13301 S. Pennsylvania Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73170
 Phone: 405-843-4705 Fax: 405-841-2624
 Talk-In: 146.82 (PL 151.4)
 Contact: Bill Wilburn, N5NUK n5nuk@sbcglobal.net

Cook County ARC Hamfest

August 22, 2009 <http://www.gainesvillehamfest.org>
 Gainesville Civic Center 311 South Weaver Street Gainesville, TX 76240
 Talk-In: 147.340 w/100Hz PL & 442.775 w/100Hz PL
 Contact: James K. Floyd, N5ZPU 1704 East California Street Gainesville, TX 76240
 Phone: 940-668-7511 jfloyd@swbell.net

Amateur Radio News Around the County

National Weather Service (NWS) Skywarn Storm Spotter Class



Gary Woodall, the Grayson County Warning Coordinator Meteorologist of the National Weather Service conducted the free annual SkyWarn Storm Spotter class for individuals interested in learning fundamental severe weather formation and reporting instruction in VanAlstyne Texas. This will allow the individual to become part of the Grayson County early warning program and is the recommended prerequisite for the advanced Skywarn Storm Spotter Class. Additional NOAA online information can be found at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/sptrsch.html>

For more local information, call Chief Brett Bearden at the VanAlstyne Fire Department (903-482-6222).



Gary Woodall, National Weather Service, KD5WUT

The VanAlstyne Fire Department hosted this seminar to about 80 people, which included: KD4WLZ, KD5HQP, KD5WWZ, KE5HNG, KE5WMJ, KI5DQ & W5GDC. Several of the attending individuals were from the Sherman TX NWS March 26 seminar, which missed ~50% of the program due to a real "hands on" scenario.



Brett Bearden, VanAlstyne TX Fire Chief introducing Gary Woodall, NWS

North Texas Balloon Project – ARBONET-3

<http://www.arbonet.net>

April 11, 2009 Launch date was Scubbed. Please check the website for further details on the ARBONET-3 balloon launch at Clarksville, TX.

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 (Introduced in House)

richard.reed@hq.dhs.gov
 HR 2160 IH
 111th CONGRESS
 1st Session
 H. R. 2160

To promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of amateur radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of amateur radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response. IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 29, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (for herself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. KILROY, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of amateur radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of amateur radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the `Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

- (1) Nearly 700,000 amateurs radio operators in the United States are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service.
- (2) Amateur Radio operators provide, on a volunteer basis, a valuable public service to their communities, their States, and to the Nation, especially in the area of national and international disaster communications.
- (3) Emergency and disaster relief communications services by volunteer Amateur Radio operators have consistently and reliably been provided before, during, and after floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, forest fires, earthquakes, blizzards, train accidents, chemical spills, and other disasters. These communications services include services in connection with significant examples, such as hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Hugo, and Andrew; the relief effort at the World Trade Center, and the Pentagon following the 2001 terrorist attacks; and the Oklahoma City bombing in April 1995.
- (4) Amateur Radio has formal agreements for the provision of volunteer emergency communications activities with the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Weather Service, the National Communications System, and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, as well as with disaster relief agencies, including the American National Red Cross and the Salvation Army.
- (5) The Congress passed Public Law 103-408 which was signed by the President on October 22, 1994. This included in Section 1 the following finding of Congress: `Reasonable accommodation should be made for the effective operation of amateur radio from residences, private vehicles and public areas, and the regulation at all levels of government should facilitate and encourage amateur radio operation as a public benefit.'
- (6) The Congress passed Public Law 109-295 which was signed by the President on October 4, 2006. This included a provision in the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2007 that directed the Department's Regional Emergency Communications Coordinating Working Group to coordinate their activities with `ham and amateur radio operators' among the eleven other emergency organizations such as ambulance services, law enforcement, and others.
- (7) Amateur Radio, at no cost to taxpayers, provides a fertile ground for technical self-training in modern telecommunications, electronic technology, and emergency communications techniques and protocols.
- (8) There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio stations, and that performance must be given support at all levels of government and given protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of these valuable communications.

SEC. 3. STUDY OF ENHANCED USES OF AMATEUR RADIO IN EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RELIEF COMMUNICATION, AND FOR RELIEF OF RESTRICTIONS.

(a) Authority- The Secretary of Homeland Security--

(1) shall undertake a study on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief; and

(2) shall report its findings to Congress not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) Scope of the Study- The study required by this section shall--

- (1) include recommendations--
- (A) for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts; and
- (B) for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives;
- (2)(A) identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations; and
- (B) make recommendations regarding such impediments; and
- (3)(A) include an evaluation of section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996)); and
- (B) make a recommendation whether that section should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of an amateur radio operator licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose, in residential areas.
- (c) Use of Expertise and Information- In conducting the study required by this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall--
- (1) utilize the expertise of the American Radio Relay League, representing the National Amateur Radio community; and
- (2) seek information from private and public sectors for the study.

Grayson County TX Hams Yahoo Group:

Is a Yahoo Group for all area residents to use for sharing information. By the way, you do not have to be a ham to join. If you are interested in ham radio please join the group and post any ham radio related questions that you have. You can view the messages in the group without joining, but not the files or links. It doesn't cost anything to join. All that you need to do is to create a Yahoo account (if you don't already have one). Then ask to join the group and the moderator will let you in.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Grayson_County_TX_Hams

Buy- Sell-Trade Net 05/15/2009

FS – International Reply Coupon (IRC) issued by the USPS. They are a great way to receive international QSL cards that require an IRC. For available quantities (I have many) and pricing, contact James, KI5DQ, 903-891-1701.

FS - 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- Kantronics KPC3 Packet TNC -\$75.00
 Heathkit SWR and Power meter -\$25.00
 55' Rohn 45G Tower, rotor plate, thrust bearing and top plate, 2 guy bradcdkets, 6 Phillystran guys + turnbuckles with hardware. Complete tower and all listed hardware - \$1500.00
 Contact: Wilmer – WB5DCU, 903-893-5872 wb5dcu1@verizon.net

Free/Give Away – Military RF Signal Generator 10 to 420MHz Model #TS510A/U
 Contact: Bill, W5ET 903-819-0672

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

Rosston TX

145.490-MHz w/84.5PL

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

Bank Statement of 04/31//2009

Starting Acct. _____	\$ 1,503.38
Deposits _____	\$ 68.00
Expenses _____	\$ (300)
Account Balance of 05/11/2009 _____	\$1,271.38

NOTES:

Deposits:

\$ 68.00 – Field Day T-Shirts

Expenses:

\$ (300 place holder for non-profit filing)

Updated 05/11/2009

Ross Chlapecka, KE5NAV

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.

NWS Fort Worth Office Web Page

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

Grayson County ARES Nets

Remember that our ARES Nets are on the 2nd and 4th Sunday nights of each month at 9:00PM.

Next Net is 5/24/2009

Sherman Warning Siren Test Net for May 2009

The next warning siren test will be on Wednesday June 3, 2009 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!!!!

E-Mail Communications for Events

Please make sure that I have your correct email address and if you change make sure you pass the new address along to me. I am going to be using email more often to inform or remind everyone about events that we will be participating in or to just pass along information that I think might be of interest to all.

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. DO NOT leave them on your vehicle all of the time!!

Whenever we provide communications for public service events or other events you will be asked 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 & TECA Patches & Window Stickers

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 (TECA) 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
 Cell - 903-271-3557
 Pager - 903-867-7294
 Send me an ALPHA page - 9038677294@pageaci.com
 E-mail: wb5dcu1@verizon.net

Meeting Minutes 17 April 2009 Meeting

Call to Order by Donald Hofmann – W5DWH – 19:30 hours

Introductions were made and roll sheet passed around (with 18 members and guests signing).

Treasurer's report correct as printed in newsletter, and meeting minutes approved after deleting the typographical errors where the announcement of Wilmer reading Gov. Perry's proclamation, Pauls information on solar indices, and that Jerry KJ5I has been ill all needed to be deleted.



Sarah Somers – KF5AUH - Emergency Management Coordinator for Grayson County was the guest speaker. Sarah spoke of her first six months of work at the county.

Old Business

- Orders for Field Day tee-shirts must be in by 30 April.
- Membership dues for 2009 are due. Please get your payment to Ross if you haven't renewed yet.
- The Grayson County Ham yahoo group has photos of the Sherman Fire Dept communications trailer, a cartoon of interest to hams, and a power point presentation on NVIS antenna and propagation.
- A report of the Red Cross bike ride fundraiser was given.

New Business

- The April VE session had 4 people test. There were 2 new Technicians, 1 new General, and 1 new Extra. It is notable that none of these 4 individuals had a ham license before.
- There will be a SkyWarn training session held 23 April 2009, at the Van Alstyne Fire Department.
- The Belton hamfest will be tomorrow – 18 April 2009.
- No new launch date has been set for Arbornet yet.
- Mental Health Mental Retardation Services of Texoma will be holding a recycling fundraiser Saturday, 30 May 2009 at 315 W. McLain, Sherman. They will be accepting old electronic items. Call 903-957-4865 for more information.
- Wilmer – WB5DCU – advises that SkyWarn reports should be detailed, but concise and should include your location (within say ½ mile). "I'm at home" is not an acceptable location. "1.5 miles south of highway 56 on highway 377" is much better.

Next meeting 15 May 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 21:04 hours

Respectfully submitted,
Moe Knight - NT7C –Secretary