

Vol-18, Num-01; January 2012



Club Officers

President:

Donald Hofmann, W5DWH

Vice President:

John Hutchison , WD0FIN

Secretary:

Brad McMillon, KF5UMJ

Treasurer:

Brad McMillon, KF5UMJ

Activity:

tbd

Editor:

James Hunt, KI5DQ

Trustee:

James Hunt, KI5DQ

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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 within reasonable time 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 Comments January 2012

Hello

I hope that your New Year is starting off successfully. First I would like to thank last year's officers for their service- David KC0EHR, Moe NT7C, Rick KC5ECX, Jim KI5DQ and Johnnie KD5NIC. Then I would like to say that I am pleased that for the first time in a long time, we did not have to beg for new officers or depend on the same hams that have done it for years. Kudos to John WD0FIN and Brad KE5UMJ for stepping up to the plate as V.P. and Secretary/Treasurer respectively.



This year we hope to bring some activities back to the club. We are planning on reinstating Field Day, having at least one Special Event Station, as well as a fox hunt to name just a few. At the January meeting, Brad will pass out 3x5" note cards to everyone and ask that you list your interests and ideas for this year's club activities. The results will be tallied and will be discussed at the February meeting. This is your chance to have a say so in what the club does.

We have already made some changes. Moe NT7C, the new EC advised us that the ARES nets have become exclusively training nets and that club activities would not be allowed to be discussed on these nets. We have therefore started the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Information Net which meets on the first and third Sundays at 8:00 pm. This net's purpose is to share information about upcoming club events, give you a chance to test your radio equipment, ask technical questions, and participate in a round table discussion. We will also have a Swap Meet session in each net.

We have taken the new net one step farther by getting the K5ZYZ Grayson County Open repeater back online. Due to a lot of hard work from Steve K5ZYZ, John WD0FIN, Jim KI5DQ, Don Markl KI5DT and myself this repeater is now up and running. A special thanks to Don Markl KI5DT for spending many hours designing the control circuitry for the repeater. It operates with a frequency of 146.630 with a negative offset and an optional PL tone of 141.3 Hz. This tone is currently not required to access to repeater. It's function is to keep your receiver from picking up any unwanted transmissions from the Tecumseh OK repeater as well as any other unwanted noise sources. Though this tone is not currently required to access the repeater, by programming your radio now with a PL tone of 141.3 Hz you will not only avoid interference from nearby transmission sources but also be ready if we have to implement the decoder tone on the repeater. At this time we have no plans of activating the decoder tone unless it is found to be necessary.

I should also make you aware that the repeater controller that has a unique "playback" feature. This feature allows you to check your transmit audio and/or see if you can access the repeater without having to "kerchunk" the repeater. The repeater controller plays back a single first transmission up to about ten seconds in length. So for example, if you want to either test your audio and/ or see if you can access the new repeater you could key it up and say "This is W5DWH (use your call, not mine) testing. 1,2,3,4,5". Then the repeater will automatically playback what you just said. If the repeater has been "on" for over 20 seconds the playback mode is cancelled and the repeater will ID with "K5ZYZ repeater, Grayson County, Texas"

If you need help programming your Wouxun radios, we will have a computer, programming software and cable available at the Java Stop on Wednesdays from about 11:30-1:00 pm. We will also have it available at the GCARC meeting on January 20.

If you have a Yaesu radio and need help programming it you can email Jim Hunt KI5DQ at ki5dq@yahoo.com and he will be glad to assist you. If you have other radios, you can probably get on the 147.00 repeater and ask for help and hopefully some one will assist you.

The repeater is currently running at a temporary location as we search for a permanent location for the repeater. If you know of a suitable location, please let us know. We are also in need of some hard line for the project. If you have any hard line or connectors and are interested in donating them to the project, please let us know as well. Once a location is found and we know what our monthly costs for utilities, etc are, the repeater will be donated to the club by Steve K5ZYZ. If the club accepts the repeater and it associated maintenance costs, the call sign will be changed to K5GCC and the club will have it's own repeater for our nets, club activities and general use.

I hope to see you at the meeting on the 20th.

73 Donald Hofmann W5DWH

GCARC and Surrounding Area Event Calendar

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) Meeting

January 20, 2012 @ 19:30CST

Sherman Municipal Airport

1200 S. Dewey Ave

Sherman TX 75090

<http://www.k5gcc.us>

Program: TBD, along with the upcoming K5GCC year agenda.

North Texas Section Convention (Cowtown Hamfest)

January 20 - 21, 2012

Website: <http://www.cowtownhamfest.com>

Talk-In: 147.280+ (PL 110.9)

Location: Lockheed Martin Recreation Area

3400 Bryant Irvin Road

FortWorth, Texas 76109

Contact: David Forbes, KC5UYR, kc5uyr@compuserve.com

QCWA of Dallas – Chapter 41

February 04, 2012

<http://www.chapter41.org>

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

February 18, 2012 @ 09:00CST for the FCARC Christmas Party.

February 18, 2012 @ 10:00CST for the VE Test Session.

First Presbyterian Church, corner of 9th Street and Center Steet, Bonham TX, 75418,

Talk in 145.470- PL100.0. The 145.130- repeater is down for repairs.

Topic: TBA

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

Contact: Mike Durbin, K5MJD - President

<http://www.k5frc.org>

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) VE Test Session

February 02, 2012 @ 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 2011 will remain \$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.

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 claiming credit for General test element 3) bring a copy of your old license you are using to claim credit. We have no copy machines at the testing facility.

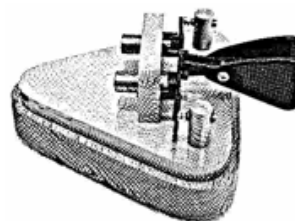
The next regular testing session is 2 February 2012.

Any other questions about testing please feel free to contact Moe Knight – NT7C – or anyone on the VE Team. You may call Moe at 903-651-3455.

The October VE session had nobody taking exams.

Thanks are still due to all VE's who came anyway.

Leo, Johnnie, Bob, Wade, and David, I really



appreciate your support; without you it wouldn't be possible.

There is a new class scheduled. The introduction class will be held Saturday, November 5th from 9 to 11:30 am in room CIS-109 at Grayson Community College. The review and test session will be Saturday, November 19th, from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm in room CIS-109 at Grayson Community College. We have added a class, called Ham 101, for new licensees and the first one is scheduled for December 10, 2011, from 9 am until noon; at Grayson Community College, room TBD. If you would be interested in this class please let me know. You can email me at nt7c@arrl.net

McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC) Meeting

February 13, 2012 @ 19:00CST

<http://www.mckinneyarc.org>

National Weather Service (NWS) Skywarn Storm Spotter Class

The National Weather Service will hold several SKYWARN training sessions in the North Texas Area during 2012. Here are some dates -- please mark your calendar now. If you attend a session at a location other than Grayson County College, please send a copy of your certificate to Wade, KF5AUD kf5aud@arrl.net for the training log. The four closest sessions are:



Basic Spotter Training Sessions

Denison, TX

Tuesday **February 16** at 7:00-9:00PM

LOCATION

Grayson County College
Workplace Center Auditorium
6101 Grayson Drive
Denison, Texas 75020

Gainesville, TX -

Wednesday, **February 8** - 7:00-9:00PM

LOCATION

[Gainesville Civic Center](#)
311 S. Weaver
Gainesville, TX 76240
311 S. Weaver
(940) 668-4530

Basic and Advanced Spotter Training Sessions

Plano, TX

Saturday **January 21** at 8:30AM-4:30PM

Basic Session at 8:30-11:00AM

Advanced Session at 1:00-4:00 PM

LOCATION

Collin College:
Spring Creek Campus Auditorium

Denton, TX

Saturday **February 25** at 9:00AM-4:00PM

Basic Training - 9:00AM-Noon

Advanced Training - 1:30-4:00PM

LOCATION

Texas Woman's University
MCL Auditorium

Additional NOAA online information can be found at:

<http://www.skywarn.org>

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) Meeting

February 17 2012 @ 19:30CST

Sherman Municipal Airport

1200 S. Dewey Ave

Sherman TX 75090

<http://www.k5gcc.us>

Program: TBD

The 10th Annual Irving ARC, Inc. Hamfest

March 10, 2012

Website: <http://irvingarc.org/iarchamfest.html>

Talk-In: 146.720- (PL 110.9)

8:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

Betcha Bingo Hall

2420 W. Irving Blvd. #125

Irving, TX 75061

Amateur Radio News Around the County

FCC Denies ARRL Petition on Vanity, Club Call Signs

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-denies-arrl-petition-on-vanity-club-call-signs>

On January 11, the FCC issued a Memorandum Opinion and Order, denying an ARRL Petition for Reconsideration concerning vanity and club call signs. Filed with the Commission in January 2011, the ARRL's Petition was in response to the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) that detailed rules changes to the vanity call sign system and call signs for Amateur Radio clubs. These new rules went into effect on February 14, 2011.

The ARRL found that most changes made by the R&O were "reasonable codifications and clarifications of existing policies." But it asserted that several amended Sections of Part 97 -- including Sections 97.5 and 97.19 -- were unclear. In its Petition, the ARRL urged the FCC to reconsider and modify these portions "in order to reflect the intent of the Report and Order."

In the R&O, the FCC pointed out that it had "amended and clarified its rules with respect to vanity call signs and club station licenses to promote processes that are more to limit club stations to holding only one vanity call sign and to limit an individual to being the trustee for only one club station license." It said that the purpose of the rules change was "to prevent club stations from obtaining an unfair share of desirable call signs, given that individuals are limited to holding one operator/primary station license (and, therefore, one call sign), while there was no limit on the number of licenses a club could hold."

The FCC said that it had heard from radio amateurs who urged the FCC to limit the number of club stations for which an individual could serve as trustee, "pointing out that limiting the number of vanity call signs that a club can obtain would accomplish nothing if an individual could bypass the rule by creating multiple clubs."

<snip>

The original news bulletin:

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0111/FCC-12-1A1.pdf

The K7RA Solar Update

01/13/2012

The average daily sunspot numbers were up this week by a tiny bit, from 88.1 to 90.6, while the average daily solar flux was down slightly, from 136.2 to 134.9. Sunspot numbers for January 5-11 were 99, 118, 110, 90, 90, 63 and 64, with a mean of 90.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 141.3, 135.5, 140.5, 135.8, 142.3, 128.8 and 120.1, with a mean of 134.9. The estimated planetary A indices were 5, 5, 5, 4, 6, 4 and 5, with a mean of 4.9. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 6, 5, 5, 7, 5 and 5, with a mean of 5.6.

I'm looking at recent sunspot data since May 2011 using the WA4TTK Solar Data Plotter (<http://www.craigcentral.com/sol.asp>) . The activity had a rising trend throughout 2011 and seemed to peak around mid-November, but since then has softened.

The latest daily projection from NOAA/USAF shows solar flux about 20 points lower than the average for the week, at 115 on January 13-15, 120 on January 16-20, and then a jump of 25 points to 145 on January 21-26. It declines again to a minimum of 135 on January 3-February 6, but then rises to a peak of 165 on February 17-21. The predicted planetary A index is 5 on January 12, 8 on January 13-14, 5 on January 15-17, 8 on January 18-19, and then back to 5 on January 20-27.

Rulon Passey, W7QR, of Ogden, Utah, pointed out that the solar flux and Ap index forecast were missing from last week's bulletin.

You can get the same data, updated daily (<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/forecasts/45DF.html>) .

It is a shame that archives of these forecasts going way back aren't available. They are up for less than three weeks, or at least the current ones are. But let's try something interesting: The predicted solar flux of 165 for February 17-21 is rather extraordinary. This is a period of five days, and happens to be right in the middle of what will be our data reporting period for bulletin number 8 on February 24, February 16-22. If we are to take this forecast literally, with a solar flux value of 160 predicted on both the first and last days, on that would be an average solar flux value for that seven days of 163.6.

Informal Ham Radio Operator hang-out

Dennis (AB5NX) and Beckki (KC5MOA) Goncalves, have re-opened their Java Stop at 5700 North Highway 1417, Sherman Texas. 903-271-4776

A number of local hams, some of whom you are familiar, meet their on an occasional and unscheduled basis.

Talk-in is usually on 147.500Mhz

Buy- Sell-Trade 11/13/2011

Wanted – Rohn 25g Tilt Over Base Plate (used). I can repair if necessary.

Contact: Sarge – KE5YPB 214-796-5458

Wanted – Rohn 25g center 10' section (used).

Contact: Sarge – KE5YPB 214-796-5458

Wanted – Microphone for a ICOM 706 Mark II

Contact: Tom, N5WDV 903-267-2549

FS – Cushcraft 5-element, 6 meter beam antenna, model A5-50-S

LDG AT-100PRO automatic antenna tuner, 125w, 160-6 meters

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 – Spool of 2.50" x ~80' of ground braid (new). Asking \$150obo (for spool) or by the foot.

Contact: Jim – KI5DQ, ki5dq@verizon.net

FS – ICOM IC-T7A 144/440 Handheld, with AC wall wart, mobile 12vdc charger, ICOM mic, rubber duckie antenna, new battery. \$175

Contact: David Reeder – WA0URJ, wa0urj@yahoo.com

FS – MFJ 16010 Portable Antenna Tuner, with blue case. 100 watt rating. \$20

Contact: David Reeder – WA0URJ, wa0urj@yahoo.com

FS – Yaesu VX-150 2 meter handheld, with wall wart and rubber duckie antenna. 5 watts out put.

Excellent condition. \$95 Programming software and Cable \$25 extra.

Contact: David Reeder – WA0URJ, wa0urj@yahoo.com

FS – FlexRadio SDR-1000 @ 100w, w/ auto-tuner, Delta 44 sound card, Microphone/w stand, all computer connection cables, printed software manual and /cd with programs. \$700 local pickup, \$725 shipped to lower 48 states.

Contact: Doug Mentzer – K7DAM, dougment@gmail.com, 903-989-2210

Nets:

Grayson County ARC Bi-Weekly Net

1st / 3rd Sundays @ 20:00CST on the 146.630-
, (141.3 PL) repeater.

This is an informal information net and
Buy/Sell/SwapNet.

Ladies Net – every Thursday

Ladies Net every Thursday @ 20:00CST on the
147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater.

Linda, KE5YUC Net Control Operator.

Scout Ham Net – every Tuesday

Scout HAM Net every Tuesday @ 20:00CST on
the 147.000+ (100.0 PL) repeater. This net is
designed for all registered Scouts, Adult Leaders,
and active Merit Badge counselors who are
Amateur Radio Operators.

Grayson County ARES Net

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

This is a directed information net.

Grayson County Repeaters

147.000+ MHz w/100PL W5RVT
147.080+ MHz w/88.5PL W5COP
146.630- MHz w/141.3PL K5ZYZ
444.750 MHz w/ 100PL W5RVT

Durant Oklahoma Repeaters

147.390+ MHz w/118.8PL
147.255+ MHz w/192.8PL

Van Alstyne TX

443.800+ MHz w/103.5PL

Gainesville TX Repeater

147.340+ MHz w/100.0PL

Bonham TX Repeater

145.130- MHz w/100.0PL

IRLP 3602, Echolink 143902

Digital SSTV 446.460

443.750+MHz

McKinney TX Repeater

146.740-MHz w/110.9PL

MERA – Melissa TX Repeater

443.200+MHz w/100.0PL

Rosston TX

147.020-MHz w/84.5PL

Kingston OK

146.985-MHz w/118.8PL

Fannin County ARC Weekly Net

Every Tuesday @ 21:00CST on the 145.130-
,PL100 repeater.

This is an informal information net.

McKinney ARES Net

2nd Sunday @ 2100CST on the 146.740
repeater.

McKinney Info Net

Each Sunday @ 20:00CST on the 146.740-
repeater and the net control rotates.

All hams are welcome to check in.

McKinney 6 meter AM Net

Each Wednesday @ 22:00CST on 50.400MHz



GCARC Treasury Report

Bank Statement of 12/30/2011

Starting Acct. _____	\$793.63
Cash On Hand _____	\$ 0.00
Deposits _____	\$ 48.00
Expenses _____	\$ 336.60
Account Balance of 12/30/2011 _____	\$ 505.03

NOTES:

Deposits:

\$ 48.00 – (cash \$36 plus dues \$12)

Expenses:

\$ 250.00 – Marine Corps League – Toys 4 Tots

\$ 086.60 – Payment for Christmas Dinner

David Compton, KC0EHR

Acting Treasurer

Grayson County RACES and ARES

... Not available at press time.

Meeting Minutes 19 November 2011 Meeting

Call to order by President David Compton, KC0EHR- 1930 hrs.

David welcomed our members and visitors (23 hams and 1 guests).

Old Business

- Treasurers' report and Minutes were approved as published in newsletter.
- Election of Officers – Nominations from prior meeting, motions and votes resulted as follows; President- Donald Hofmann, W5DWH. Vice Pres. John Hutchison , WDOFIN, Secretary and Treasurer, Brad McMillon, KF5UMJ, These gentlemen were all nominated and failing other nomination s elected by acclimation, Congratulations all.

New Business

- Donald W5DWH reported a gin pole had been donated to the club by Steve Brodie, K5ZYZ. He suggested a lifetime membership be given for similar donated items. After much discussion concerning valuations, sources of information and such the idea was tabled for more research by Donald and David KC0EHR, a report due at the January meeting.
- Re: December meeting. I t was decided the club would celebrate Christmas by having a pot luck dinner. A motion that the club provides the meat from Cackel and Oink BBQ with the dinner on Dec 16th at 6 pm was passed. A list was passed around for members to sign up and note what they were going to bring. David will republish the list prior to the event. It was also decided via a motion which passed, to donate \$250 to the Marine Corps League (Toys for Tots) at the dinner.
- QSL cards for a recent Special Event station were passed around for newer Hams to review and learn about HF traditions regarding SE events and QSL cards.
- Moe NT7C noted upcoming testing session at Grayson Co College; VE's are needed to help out. Also the ARES Net after Thanksgiving Sunday may not be held.
- David announced the Red Cross open house will be held at the chapter office Dec 15th from 11 am to 4 pm.

No further business before the club, the meeting was adjourned at 2010.

Several informal discussions followed.

Next meeting is A Pot Luck Dinner, December 16th @ 1800 at Sherman Municipal Airport.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Simmons-K5ECX- Secretary