

### Constitution & By-Laws

The Board of Directors reviewed the 2008 edition of the Constitution/By-Laws in order to bring them up-to-date. The revised Constitution/By-Laws is attached with this newsletter and is provided in PDF format. All proposed changes are prepared in red. Please read and review these revisions. The Board of Directors will discuss these changes during the June and July meetings of LETARC. Consistent with the Constitution /By-Laws, each member will receive a copy of the proposed changes with a newsletter. Therefore, the Special Edition June 2011 newsletter provides a copy of the proposed changes. The attached copy of the Constitution/By-Laws constitutes the second notification for the proposed changes. **The final vote on the proposed change will occur during the July 2011 meeting the of the LETARC membership.**

### July 16, 2011 LETARC Meeting

During the July 16, 2011, Gary Lewis, WG5L, will provide a presentation on WinLink and EchoLink which is a wonderful follow-up to our presentation last month on D-Star. The following provides you with a brief beginning point on Winlink and EchoLink—

**Thanks to Gary for his willingness to do this presentation.**

WinLink 2000 (WL2K) is a worldwide system of volunteer resources supporting e-mail by radio, with non-commercial links to internet e-mail. The all-volunteer WinLink Development Team (WDT) is committed to continuous improvement using modern computer and networking technology with the most efficient and effective radio modes and digital protocols for local, regional and long-distance applications. [<http://www.winlink.org/>]

EchoLink® software allows licensed Amateur Radio stations to communicate with one another over the Internet, using streaming-audio technology. The program allows worldwide connections to be made between stations, or from computer to station, greatly enhancing Amateur Radio's communications capabilities. There are more than 200,000 validated users worldwide — in 162 of the world's 193 nations — with about 5,000 online at any given time. [<http://www.echolink.org>]

As mentioned in a previous issue of Propagation, June 2011 LETARC meeting focused on D-Star [presented by Mike McCrary and John Mark Robertson]. The July 2011 meeting will focus on WinLink and EchoLink and there is more good news. Jim Rogers, N5VGQ, announced that he is assembling a D-Star “hot spot” which allows local hams to use D-Star voice communications [one of three channels]. More information will follow as the D-Star “hot spot” develops.

Longview East Texas  
Amateur Radio Club

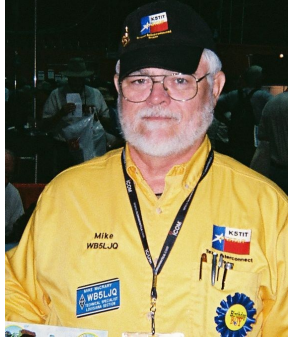
LETARC.ORG

[groups.yahoo.com/  
group/LETARC/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LETARC/)

Club Repeater  
K15UA/147.34  
(+ 136.5Hz tone)

## June 18, 2011 LETARC Meeting

Mike McCrary, WB5LJQ [left] and John Mark Robertson, K5JMR [right] provided a D-Star



presentation for the benefit of the LETARC membership. This was an interesting program as it was our introduction to Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio [D=Star]. Mike and Mark are from Shreveport area radio clubs and are intimately involved with the original set up and configuration of D-Star systems and D-Star repeaters in the Shreveport and Minden areas specifically.



They brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to the program. D-Star uses a protocol that converts analog sounds to digital equivalents allowing for the direct packet transmission by way of the internet to a receiving radio which decodes the signal. The truly cool thing is the quality of the signal that can be either local or very long distance. Therefore, this opens up another avenue for Amateur Radio. For an initial experience with D-Star, the “ham” can purchase a “Dongle” for about \$200.00. This unit also converts the analog signal to digital packets. Therefore, it plugs directly into your PC by way of the USB port. ICOM produces a dual band mobile radio [ID-880] with D-Star that is just under \$500.00. Or, the Ham can purchase a more expensive model [loaded] for just less than \$1,000.00 [either the HT or mobile configuration].

As mentioned elsewhere Jim Rogers, N5VGQ, [LETARC Communications Director] reports that he is establishing a D-Star “hot spot”. Jim’s thinking is that we should have a place where our club can try out this new type of service. This way, you can make an informed judgment regarding how best for you to enter the world of digital transmissions.

Thanks to Mike McCrary and John Mark Robertson for their willing to come to Longview for this presentation. You will hear more about these men as you become more involved with D-Star!

## The LETARC VE Team

Let me take this opportunity to introduce the members of the 2011 LETARC Volunteer Examiners. Each member of the team holds the Amateur Extra Class License and available each month to administer FCC Amateur License Exams to individuals.

The members are from left to right are: Rod Bartlett, Gary Lewis, Jim Quinn, Priscilla Quinn, Jim Quinn, Terry Johnson, Tom Wilbeck and Cloys Tolbert. You noticed that we have two men with the name of Jim Quinn. That is correct!! Sometimes, we refer to them as “The Elder” or “The Younger”!

Thanks to each member of this team as they have dedicated hours and hours to new or upgrading ham radio operators. By the way, Rod is the ARRL VE Team Liaison.



If you have questions or comments, send an email to Todd Hoover, N5TJH.  
HOOVER\_TJ@YAHOO.COM

# August through December 2011 LETARC

The program for the August 2011 meeting of LETARC will focus on “Grounding Your Station”. This is important program will be presented by our charter member John Keith, W5BWC. September 2011 meeting will focus on “Slow Scan Television” and will be presented by Robert Parham, KD5OUF.

November meeting is tentatively set to include a program on software programs. We definitely need your help on this!!!! We want to know about the software you are using that supports Amateur Radio. Software might include “logging” software for general contacts or for contesting. Software for tracking satellites would be good so that we can anticipate making contacts. How about packet radio software or software for programming your HT?

December is reserved for a program on individual accomplishments including the “Ham of the Year”. We will also have a Powerpoint program showing all of the events that LETARC established and contributed to during the 2011 calendar year. Finally, the elections of new officers will be completed during this final

## June 25-26, 2011 Field Day



Richard Brown, K5RRB, coordinated the field day events for 2011 which were held at the Red Cross Building. Richard contributed a lot of time and supported the costs for t-shirts, food and other things. A bit more than 25 people participated in this event that began at 1:00 pm Saturday and concluded at 1:00 pm Sunday. Terry Johnson did 24 hours non-stop!!!!

Field Day is an operating event designed to test emergency preparedness and *operating skill in less-than-optimal conditions*. LETARC’s Field Day used a new dipole antenna and a new rotor for the beam antenna [thanks to Jim Rogers, N5VGQ]. During the weekend, radio operators contacted over 750 stations located throughout the United States. LETARC used two ICOM 718 radios and one ICOM 6 meter radio [loaned by Tom Noe, N5TDN] and one satellite station [loaned by Harold Carl, KE5PTU]. Thanks to Tom Wilbeck, N5KGN, for a final directional tuning to the beam so that the rotor and beam matched.



**Lynn Fitzgerald, KF5JXT makes first HF contact**

