

Special Edition June 2011

LETARC

Propagation

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. Part of the June 2011 LETARC meeting will be used for discussing the proposed changes. The final vote on the proposed change will occur during the July 2011 meeting the of the LETARC membership.

June 25-26, 2011 Field Day

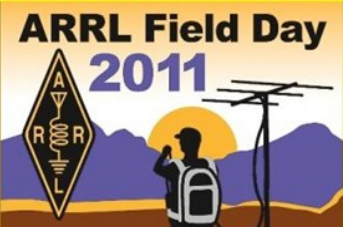
Richard Brown, K5RRB, will be coordinating the field day events for 2011. So, mark your calendars for June 25 and 26, 2011. The event will be held at the Red Cross Center—second floor.

Field Day is an operating event designed to test emergency preparedness and *operating skill in less-than-optimal conditions*. During

Field Day, operators set up in local parks, at shopping malls, or even in their own backyards, and get on the air using generators or battery power. LETARC's Field Day will set up at the Red Cross Center where we will be running a new antenna [thanks to Jim Rogers] and have generator capability. Field Day was designed to test operators' abilities to set up and operate portable stations under emergency conditions such as the loss of electricity. During the weekend, radio operators try to contact as many other Field Day stations as possible throughout North America and around the world. More than 35,000 Amateur Radio operators across the country and Canada participated in last year's event. Our membership and guests will be able to operate radios, observe the emergency operations trailer on loan from GCEC and talk with others about amateur radio. **WE WILL BE ON THE AIR FOR 24 HOURS.** Members, just stop by to check out the operations!!!! How about 2:00 AM Sunday morning or 9:00 PM Saturday evening. Or, just anytime!!!!

Field Day 2011 - June 25-26!

Field Day 2011 is fast approaching. Are you and your club ready? Download the Field Day packet, meet with other club members and get your plans finalized for the largest on-air Amateur Radio activity under the sun!



Longview East Texas
Amateur Radio Club

LETARC.ORG

groups.yahoo.com/
group/LETARC/

Club Repeater
K15UA/147.34
(+ 136.5Hz tone)

June 18, 2011 LETARC Meeting

Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio

The system today is capable of linking repeaters together locally and through the Internet utilizing callsigns for routing of traffic. Servers are linked via TCP/IP utilizing proprietary "gateway" software, available from Icom. This allows amateur radio operators to talk to any other amateur participating in a particular gateway "trust" environment. The current master gateway in the United States is operated by the K5TIT group in Texas, who were the first to install a D-Star repeater system in the U.S.

D-STAR transfers both voice and data via digital encoding over the 2 m (VHF), 70 cm (UHF), and 23 cm (1.2 GHz) amateur radio bands. There is also an interlinking radio system for creating links between systems in a local area on 10 GHz, which is valuable to allow emergency communications oriented networks to continue to link in the event of internet access failure or overload.

Within the D-Star Digital Voice protocol standards (DV), voice audio is encoded as a 3600 bit/s data stream using proprietary AMBE [Advanced Multi-Band Excitation] encoding, with 1200 bit/s, leaving 1200 bit/s for an additional data "path" between radios utilizing DV mode. On air bit rates for DV mode are 4800 bit/s over the 2 m, 70 cm and 23 cm bands.

Criticisms: D-STAR uses a patented, closed-source proprietary voice codec (AMBE). Hams do not have access to the detailed specification of this codec or the rights to implement it on their own without buying a licensed product. Hams have a long tradition of building, improving upon and experimenting with their own radio designs. The modern digital age equivalent of this would be designing and/or implementing codecs in software. Critics say the proprietary nature of AMBE and its availability only in hardware form (as ICs) discourages innovation. Even critics praise the openness of the rest of the D-STAR standard which can be implemented freely. An open-source replacement for the AMBE codec would resolve this issue. **

D-Star Repeaters in Texas

CALL	CITY	STATE	CALL	CITY	STATE
K5BIT	Arlington	TX	K5CTX	Temple	TX
K5NEM	Corsicana	TX	K5PLD	Pearland	TX
K5PRK	Allen	TX	K5TIT	Dallas	TX
KA5DRP	Kaufman	Tx	KB5DRP	Fort Worth	TX
KB5KYJ	Lubbock	TX	KC5OLO	Abilene	TX
KC5QGY	College Station	TX	KE5RCS	Walburg	TX
KE5WFB	Laredo	TX	KE5YAP	Rosston	TX
N5HDS	Houston	TX	N5MDS	Magnolia	TX
NT5RN	Mesquite	TX	W5AC	Bryan	TX
W5ELP	El Paso	TX	W5HAT	Bruceville	TX
W5HDR	Houston TMC	TX	W5HDT	Houston	Tx
W5KA	Austin	TX	W5MIJ	Rockwall	Tx
W5NGU	Denton	TX	WA5UNH	San Antonio	TX
WD5STR	San Antonio	TX			

** Text is from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/D-STAR>

If you have questions or comments, send an email to Todd Hoover, N5TJH.
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