

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2013 MONTHLY MEETING
OF
THE LONGVIEW/EAST TEXAS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The January 2013 monthly meeting of the Longview/East Texas Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Gary Lewis WG5L at 9:00 am Saturday, January 19 with 18 members present. Gary presented the meeting agenda and called for a reading of the December 2012 minutes. The minutes were read and approved by a majority show of hands after a motion to accept was made by Van Bullock AA5VB and seconded by Paul Piccola W5BPP. The Treasurer's Report for the current period was read and approved by a majority show of hands after a motion to accept was made by Phillip Mullins AE5KE and seconded by John Zenter AE5OY.

Tom Wilbeck N5KGN then presented a very interesting and informative program entitled "What Does Your SWR Cost You?" Tom discussed what SWR is and how it is measured. He provided information and references on how to determine the amount of signal you are losing because of your SWR and more to the point, is it really worth worrying about. Tom discussed feedline characteristics such as type of line, balanced or unbalanced, importance of line length, and line loss, which is measured in decibels per 100 feet and how feedline loss in many situations contributes to greater loss than SWR loss. Tom showed that SWR measured at a transmitter or Transmatch is not the true SWR. The true SWR is best measured at the point where the feedline is connected to the antenna. The use of a Transmatch only allows the transmitter, most of which are designed to operate at a 2:1 SWR or less to see an acceptable SWR at that point and thus not cause heat damage in the output circuits or arcing across loading coils. Attention to matching the feedline impedance to antenna impedance will yield a situation where most loss comes from feedline loss, not SWR loss. A question and answer period followed.

The business portion of the meeting then resumed after a short break for refreshments. Jerry Ritchie WA5OKO presented a report on the status of the 147.340 repeater. Jerry believes that the major problem with the repeater is the TX noise level and only 80 db of isolation is being provided by the duplexers. Jerry feels the problem can be alleviated by adding another set of cavities on the transmit side. Jim Rogers has a set of repairable cavities which he will donate for this purpose. These should be installed in the very near future.

Gary informed the club that the position of Media Director still has not filled and asked for volunteers. No volunteer was forthcoming.

Gary presented an update on the status of the 501c3 application. The IRS is now processing applications made in March 2012. LETARC's application was filed in May 2012 so our application should be processed and awarded in March or April of this year.

The East Texas Regional Tailgate Sale was the next item of business and the need for door prizes was discussed. Because of the question of legalities, the membership decided against the selling of raffle tickets for a door prize. It was decided that the club and any individual members who wished to make a donation would provide the door prizes.

Dean Patterson KE5AVH was the first to step up and offer a number of Lowes' gift cards for prizes, for which the club is extremely appreciative.

VE tests will be held in the afternoon at LeTourneau University and all available VEs are asked to participate.

Important dates to remember were announced and are as follows:

January 18 and 19 – Cowtown Hamfest in Fort Worth

February 9 – Skywarn Basic and Advanced Classes at LFD Training Academy

March 16 - Williamson County Hamfest in Georgetown, Texas

April 6 – East Texas Regional Tailgate Sale at LeTourneau University, Longview

The site of the next LETARC Eatin' Meetin' was then decided to be Jason's Deli on Sunday, February 2, at 6:00 pm.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm.

ATTENDEES

Paul Piccola	W5BPP	John Zenter	AE5OY
Dean Patterson	KE5AVH	Terry Johnson	KG5WO
Phillip Mullins	AE5KE	Tom Wilbeck	N5KGN
Rod Bartlett	N8QVR	Horace Richardson	N5ZQD
Priscilla Quinn	AA5PQ	Jim Quinn	AJ1MQ
Jerry Ritchie	WA5OKO	Gary Lewis	WG5L
Tom Nance	KB5ZFS	Dennis Kippa	N5DPK
Terry Griffith	K5PDQ	Van Bullock	AA5VB
Charles Fricks	AF5FB	Cliff Scott	AE5ZA

TREASURER'S REPORT

Brought forward from the previous reporting period was an account balance of \$1,620.72.

Income for the current period included membership dues from the following:

Phillip Mullins AE5KE; Charles Fricks AF5FB; Jim Quinn AA5CX; Rod Bartlett N8QVR; Harold Carl KE5PTU; Jim Quinn AJ1MQ; and Priscilla Quinn AA5PJ for total dues receipts of \$160.00; other income included ARRL Membership Club Rebates from the following: Tom Nance KB5ZFS; Van Bullock AA5VB; and Paul Piccola W5BPP for a total of \$6.00. Expenses for the period included a debit card charge of \$19.77 to Shipley's Donuts for donuts for the monthly meeting; \$2.38 to Fedex Kinko's for 2 copies of the recent IRS request for additional information concerning the 501c3 application for total expenses of \$22.15. Total income for the period was \$166.00 and total expenses was \$22.15 resulting in a current account balance of \$1,764.57.