

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

The February 2013 meeting of LETARC was opened at 9:00 am by President Gary Lewis WG5L with 16 members and 6 guests present. Gary introduced Laura Hann, the new Red Cross director for the Longview area. Laura gave a short presentation and discussed the upcoming Disaster Assessment Drill to be conducted on March 2 in the Longview area and requested the assistance of any ham radio operators available. Members should contact Paul Piccola W5BPP for details. Gary then gave a short overview of the meeting agenda. The minutes from the January meeting were read and then approved after a motion to accept was made by Paul Piccola W5BPP and a second by Horace Richardson N5ZQD. The treasurer's report for the current period was read and then approved after a motion to accept was made by Todd Hoover N5TJH and a second by Harold Carl KE5PTU.

Jerry Ritchie WA5OKO then presented the monthly program on Electrostatic Discharge, commonly called static electricity. Jerry discussed the various forms of ESD which can affect electronic and ham radio devices. The most common forms of static electricity are lightning and the voltage generated from walking across a carpet on a dry day and then touching a metal object. When two dissimilar materials rub against one another, a static charge can be generated. This is called triboelectric charging. There are meters available, called static sensors which can measure a static charge from 0 to 20 kilovolts. All electrical devices are subject to damage by ESD. Many devices such as resistors and capacitors are designed to require 3 to 4 times the operating voltage before damage occurs and are shipped in static protected packages. Semiconductors, on the other hand, are affected by any voltage above their operating voltage. ESD control and prevention involves using high room humidity, grounded work surfaces, ESD wrist straps, shoes or ankle straps, chairs, smocks of a carbon fiber material and protective bags, some of which have small amounts of silver in them. Using a Model 718 Static Sensor, Jerry demonstrated the voltage potential of several common items which included: synthetic material shirt=2.5 kv; cotton shirt=1.5 kv; carbon fiber smock=0 kv; Ziploc bag=2.6 kv. Jerry presented the membership with a very informative article he has authored on ESD and a question and answer period followed.

After a short break for refreshments, the business portion of the meeting continued. Gary announced that Jim Quinn AJ1MQ and Priscilla Quinn AA5PQ have agreed to fulfill the responsibilities of the previously vacant position of Media Director, with one membership vote on the Board of Directors. A motion to accept Jim and Priscilla in this position was made by Horace Richardson N5ZQD and seconded by Tom Wilbeck N5KGN and the membership voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Todd Hoover N5TJH then presented an update on the 501c3 application. A recent letter from the IRS requested that the following passage be amended to the State of Texas Articles of Incorporation to permanently dedicate LETARC assets. The passage reads "Article III: Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes." A motion to amend the Articles as requested was made by Tom Wilbeck N5KGN and seconded by Paul Piccola W5BPP. The motion was passed by majority vote. Todd Hoover N5TJH then gave an update on the upcoming East Texas Regional Tailgate Sale on April 6. At this time, 11 area clubs have agreed to be co-sponsors of the tailgate sale and

several have contributed door prizes to help attract attendance. The tailgate sale will be held on the parking lot of the Glaske Building at LeTourneau University from 7:30 am until 11:00 am.

Jim Rogers N5VGQ then gave an update on the 147.34 repeater. Jim donated a set of duplexers which were repaired and tuned by Jerry Ritchie WA5OKO. Jim and Van Bullock AA5VB then installed the duplexers and returned the transmitter to 50 watts with positive results. Further refinements are being planned.

VE tests are planned for the afternoon at LeTourneau University and all available VE's are requested to attend. Also a car wash is being held at LeTourneau this afternoon by LeTourneau students to support mission effort and all are welcome. Upcoming hamfests include:

Williamson County Hamfest – Georgetown, Texas March 16

Greater Houston Hamfest and South Texas ARRL Convention- Richmond, Texas March 23

East Texas Regional Tailgate Sale – Longview April 6

After much discussion, it was decided that Posasdo's would be the location of the next LETARC Eatin' Meetin' on Sunday, March 2, at 6:00 pm.

Paul Piccola W5BPP then announced that through his efforts, a MARS station license has been granted for the radio room. The call sign issued is AGA6PW and the licensee is the Piney Woods Chapter of the American Red Cross. Paul is the custodian of the station and anyone interested in becoming a MARS operator should contact Paul. After a brief discussion of possible future programs and activities which the Board will take under advisement, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

ATTENDEES

Paul Piccola	W5BPP	Terry Johnson	KG5WO
John Zenter	AE5OY	Horace Richardson	N5ZQD
Dennis Kippa	W5DPK	Jim Rogers	N5VGQ
Dean Patterson	KE5AVH	Phillip Mullins	AE5KE
Gary Lewis	WG5L	Jerry Ritchie	WA5OKO
Jose Cortinas	KC5THP	Todd Hoover	N5TJH
Jim Quinn	AA5CX	Joe Gimbert	KC5RMO
Tom Wilbeck	N5KGN	Tom Nance	KB5ZFS
Eric Tallman	KF5DOD	Jordan Trewitt	KF5COQ
Harold Carl	KE5PTU	Richard Fleming	N3DNU
George Lee	K5JF		

TREASURER'S REPORT FEB. 16 TO MARCH 15, 2013

Brought forward from the last reporting period was \$1,764.57. Income for the period included membership dues of \$25.00 each from Mitch Fortner KF5OEF, Eric Tallman KF5DOD, and Louis (Joe) Gimbert KC5RMO. A \$50.00 donation for doorprizes was received from the Minden, La. ARC for total income of \$125.00, all of which was deposited to the club account on February 22. Expenses included \$19.77 debit card charge to Shipley Donuts for donuts for the monthly meeting, check # 1201 in the amount of \$70.88 to Todd Hoover N5TJH to fax requested 501c3 material to the IRS and to the State of Texas Secretary of State, check #1202 in the amount of \$28.43 to Todd Hoover N5TJH to fax additionally requested 501c3 material to the IRS. Total expenses were \$119.08. This leaves a current account balance of \$1,770.49.