

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

Gary Lewis WG5L, president, opened the March meeting at 9:00 am Saturday, March 16 with 21 members and 2 guests present. Introduction of members and guests was conducted giving call signs phonetically. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Dennis Smith WB5SRM for cooking the dinner at last year's Field Day activities. Gary then gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda. After a reading of the minutes of the February 2013 meeting, a motion to approve was made by Jim Quinn AJ1MQ and seconded by Paul Piccola W5BBP. The minutes were accepted by voice vote. The treasurer's report for the current reporting period was read and a motion to approve was made by Philip Mullins AE5KE and seconded by Jim Quinn AA5CX. The treasurer's report was accepted by voice vote. Gary then reminded members that club membership dues were now due. Joe Windham W5JDW then offered comments on the excellent pricing and quality of batteries available from Batteries America.

Weldon Pittman KC5GQM then presented a very information program on stealth antennas. Weldon emphasized how important it is in many cases to maintain a stealthy presence and not attract the attention of neighbors with respect of radio activities. This includes the practice of hiding or disguising antennas, towers, and cables. Many neighborhoods with HOA agreements and deed restrictions have very strict rules about what can be viewed on the exterior of one's home. These rules are commonly referred to as "CC&R"'s (Codes, Covenants and Restrictions) and many of these restrict or disallow the use of outside antennas and towers. In these situations, there are many options in the form of stealth antennas that are available. Thin wire antennas, slinky antennas, flagpole antennas, isotron loops, and end fed antennas are among the options. Weldon detailed an antenna constructed from a flower pot and some pvc pipes that give the appearance of a horticultural structure and gives excellent results. Antennas have been constructed in attics out of sight and allowed hams to operate without attracting attention. Good operating techniques avoid rfi which can effect a neighbors tv and other electronic devices. It is to every ham's advantage to maintain a friendly relationship with those in his neighborhood. A question and answer period followed.

After a short break for refreshments, the business portion of the meeting continued. Gary gave a brief recap of the recent Red Cross drill in which ARES was used to facilitate communications in a tornado damage assessment drill. A thank you note from Laura Hann, Red Cross director, was read to the group. Jim Quinn discussed a recent presentation made to the Rotary Club at the EOC.

Todd Hoover, N5TJH, discussed plans for the upcoming tailgate sale. Todd has visited all the clubs along the I20 corridor from Cedar Creek ARC to the Minden ARC and solicited sponsorships for door prizes. Todd reviewed the door prizes which at this time include gift cards, cash, books, an antenna mount and a dual band HT. He then passed out signup sheets for volunteers to help manage activities at the tailgate sale.

Gary then gave an update on the status of area repeaters. The power amplifier for the 146.640 machine has been removed and repaired and is operational. Jim Rogers and Jerry Ritchie are exploring a method to co-locate the 147.34 machine on the tower with the 146.640 machine which will greatly enhance coverage. The DSTAR hotspot repairs are nearly completed and that unit should be up and running soon.

Gary announced the following activities:

A class for the Technician class license will be held on April 27 at LeTourneau University. A class for the General class license will be held May 25 and an Extra class license class will be held June 29. Anyone interested in these classes should contact Gary.

VE tests will held this afternoon at LeTourneau University with John Zenter AE5OY now serving as VE Coordinator.

The 4States Hamfest will be held in Texarkana on May 4.

The ARCOS Tailgate Sale and Cookout will be held at Benton, La. on May 11.

Field Day will be conducted on June 22 and 23 this year. Dennis Kippa W5DPK has volunteered to be Field Day Coordinator this year and Dennis Smith WB5SRM has volunteered to be in charge of cooking this year. Anyone wishing to help out with Field Day activities should see Dennis or Dennis.

It was decided by majority agreement that the site of April's Eatin' Meetin' would be Uncle Joe's on Spur 63 at 6:00 pm on Sunday, April 6.

Commented on but reserved for discussion at a future date was equipment insurance through the ARRL.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

ATTENDEES

Dean Patterson	KE5AVH	Paul Piccola	W5BPP
Todd Hoover	N5TJH	Phillip Mullins	AE5KE
Joe Windham	W5JDW	John Zenter	AA5OY
Jim Quinn	AJ1MQ	Priscilla Quinn	AA5PQ
Dennis Kippa	W5DPK	Andy Aloia	Guest
Charles Fricks	AF5FB	Arlie Long	N5RRD
Dennis Smith	WB5SRM	Dave Luchak	KL7BX
Jerry Ritchie	WA5OKO	Cliff Scott	AE5ZA
Weldon Pittman Jr.	KC5GQM	Gary Lewis	WG5L
Jim Quinn	AA5CX	Tom Nance	KB5ZFS
Barbara Farr	Guest	Barbara Luchar	KL5BL
Terry Johnson	KG5WO		

Treasurer's Report

Brought forward - \$1,770.49

Membership Dues (\$25.00 each) – Arlie Long N5RDD, Dennis Smith WB5SRM, Jerry Ritchie WA5OKO, Weldon Pittman KC5GQM, Joe Windham W5JDW, Marty Duplissey N5KBP, Gary Newman N5XPD, Pack Killingsworth KF5UNK, Roy Sherow WJ5Z, Guy Howell W5CMK, Terry Griffith K5PDQ, (family memberships \$35.00 each) Carolyn Morton KF5GLT and Morton Family; John (W5BWC) and Jo Ann(KA5AZK) Keith
Total Dues - \$345.00

Donations – Richard Brown K5RRB \$25.00

Tyler Amateur Radio Club donation for tailgate sale \$200.00

Total Donations - \$225.00

Total Income - \$345.00 plus 225.00= \$570.00

Expenses – Shipley Donuts DC donuts for monthly meeting \$19.77

Main Trading Co. Paris, Texas Wouxon HT for tailgate sale \$129.85

Main Trading Co. Paris, Texas 2 Wouxon Ht's for tailgate sale (Tyler & Minden ARC's tailgate sale donation) \$259.69

American Red Cross Donation \$150.00

Total expenses- \$559.31

\$1,770.49 + 570.00= \$2,340.49 - \$559.31 = \$1,781.18 Current Account Balance