

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

President Gary Lewis WG5L opened the May 2013 monthly meeting of the Longview/East Texas Amateur Radio Club at 9:00 am on Saturday, May 18 with 20 members present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by voice vote after a motion to approve was made by John Zenter AE5OY and seconded by Tom Wilbeck N5KGN. The treasurer's report for the current period was read and approved by voice vote after a motion to approve was made by Jim Quinn AA5CX and seconded by Jim Quinn AJ1MQ.

Tom Wilbeck N5KGN then presented a very interesting and informative program on a recent kit building project he undertook. Tom described how he built a Doppler radio direction finder from the Ramsey Radio Direction Finding Kit DDF-1 available commercially from Ramsey Electronics. Tom explained what the Doppler effect is and how the principle is used in applications such as weather radar and sonograms. Tom explained how the Doppler Effect is compensated for in the frequency change needed to track amateur satellites as they make a pass. When pirate radio signals cause problems for legitimate ham operations, direction finding equipment is often necessary to locate and ameliorate the problem. The DDF-1 kit is taken from a design by WA4EBY published in QST magazine. The design is solid state and uses the latest CMOS technology for signal conditioning and audio processing. Tom displayed the unit and the antenna system and discussed many of the techniques he used to build the unit. He discussed many of the challenges of building the unit, particularly the need to insure competent solder joints. The antenna system employs four magmount antennas and an LED direction indicator. All parts necessary for the unit and complete assembly directions are provided with the kit. An FM receiver supplied by the user completes the system. A question and answer period completed the Tom's presentation.

After a break for refreshments, the business portion of the meeting proceeded.

Gary Lewis announced that his DSTAR simplex hotspot is now online at 146.46 Mhz. Jim Rogers N5VGQ announced that his hotspot is active on 147.06 with a positive offset but was experiencing some distortion and he will replace the radios currently being used.

Gary discussed the Wal-Mart grant for which he has applied on behalf of LETARC. Action on these grant requests usually takes about 90 days and disposition of the grant should take a few more weeks.

License classes at LeTourneau University continue for anyone interested in upgrading. The General class will be May 25 and the Extra class is scheduled for June 29th. Anyone interested in taking the classes should check the LETARC website for information.

VE Testing will take place at LeTourneau University this afternoon and all available VE's are requested to help.

Upcoming activities of interest to the ham community are:

Museum Ships Weekend, an on the air special event, will take place June 1 and 2.

Ham Com, the largest hamfest in Texas, will be held June 7 and 8 in Plano, Texas

Field Day will be held on June 22 and 23. All LETARC members and area hams who are interested in participating are invited to come to the Red Cross for the biggest on the air event of the year. Dennis Kippa W5DPK is the coordinator for this year's Field Day effort. See Dennis for further information.

After much discussion, it was decided that the next LETARC Eatin' Meetin' will be held at the Corner Bakery at 6:00 pm Sunday, June 2.

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

ATTENDEES

Tom Wilbeck	N5KGN	Terry Johnson	KG5WO
John Zenter	AE5OY	Arlie Long	N5RDD
Charles Fricks	AF5FB	Horace Richardson	N5ZQD
Dennis Kippa	W5DPK	Jerry Richie	WA5OKO
Todd Hoover	N5TJH	Jim Quinn	AJ1MQ
Priscilla Quinn	AA5PQ	Cliff Scott	AE5ZA
Tom Nance	KB5ZFS	Dennis Smith	WB5SRM
Jay Rowe	KB5UBO	Carolyn Morton	KF5GLT
Jim Quinn	AA5CX	Richard Fleming Jr.	N3DNU
Jim Rogers	N5VGQ	Gary Lewis	WG5L

TREASURER'S REPORT MAY 18, 2013 TO JUNE 14, 2013

Brought forward from the last reporting period was \$1,514.68. Income for the period was \$45.00 generated by the sale of three club shirts. Expenses for the period were \$16.50 to Donut Palace of Longview for donuts for the May monthly meeting and \$177.09 for the club web site hosting and domain name fee for total expenses of \$193.59. This leaves a current account balance of \$1,366.09.