

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

The monthly meeting was called to order by President Gary Lewis WG5L at 9:00 am Saturday July 20 with 19 members and 4 guests present. Introduction of members and guests was then conducted. Gary presented the agenda for today's meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by voice vote after a motion to accept was made by Jim Quinn AA5CX and seconded by Jim Quinn AJ1MQ. The treasurer's report for the previous reporting period was read and approved by voice vote after a motion to approve was made by John Zenter AE5OY and seconded by Tom Wilbeck N5KGN.

Jerry Ritchie WA5OKO then presented a very interesting program entitled "Finding Hidden Transmitters". Jerry began research into hidden transmitters during his career with the Air Force. In the military, there was a question about whether speed enforcement radar guns could cause the detonations of explosives in ammunition dumps. Jerry discussed the many types of hidden transmitters that can be employed and divided them into two categories, active transmitters and passive transmitters. Hams are very familiar with the active types, such as the hidden transmitters used in the amateur radio sport of fox hunting. These devices are usually battery powered. Some transmitters in this category can derive their power from an external source of power such as power lines, electrical lines, or phone lines. Some hidden transmitters can be designed to receive their power from the rf energy transmitted from radio stations. A less well known type of hidden transmitter is the passive device which requires no power source. These types of devices, more commonly called bugs, are used in many cases for surveillance purposes. In 1952, an unusual type of bug, a small metal cylinder containing a tiny disk, was found in a decoration at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. The cylinder contained no electronics and had no source of power, but it relayed voices in the room to a Soviet listening post outside the Embassy. By beaming 330 MHz radio waves at the cylinder from outside the Embassy, the Russians were able to pick up return signals modulated by voices in the room, which vibrated part of the tiny metal disk. Another type of passive device is laser audio surveillance. Since laser beams don't scatter and spread like ordinary light, a laser can be focused on a window some distance away. The voices in the room vibrate the window glass and cause a shift in the wavelength of the reflected beam. The reflected beam is then demodulated to recover the audio. Jerry also discussed burst transmissions. Advanced microcircuits now enable extremely small devices to electronically encode, compress, and record information. The recordings, either voice or data, can then be transmitted in a burst lasting only a split second. Such transmissions are very hard to detect on radio frequencies. After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned briefly for refreshments.

The meeting then resumed with a discussion of the business aspects of LETARC activities. Gary announced that the program for the August meeting would a presentation on the DSTAR Hotspots that he and Jim Rogers N5VGQ recently placed on the air.

A recap of Field Day activities and results was given. Over 300 contacts were made and 27 people, including club members and non-club members attended.

Gary announced that the application for the WalMart grant was still pending and that any information pertaining to possible grants or donations that LETARC could apply for should be directed to the attention of the Board of Directors.

VE tests will be conducted this afternoon at LeTourneau University and all available VE's are requested to assist.

An announcement was then made about upcoming activities of interest to hams. These included:

- July 26-27: Oklahoma City, Ok. – ARRL OK State Convention
- August 2-3: Austin Summerfest – ARRL TX State Convention
- August 9-11: Albuquerque, NM – NM State Convention

August 17-18: Huntsville, AL – ARRL AL State Convention
Sept. 7: Gainesville Hamfest – Gainesville TX

After a brief discussion, it was decided that the next LETARC Eatin' Meetin' would be held at Papacita's on Loop 281 at 6:00 pm on Sunday, August 3. Members, non-members, spouses and family members are welcome.

With no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

ATTENDEES

Dean Patterson	KE5AVH	Charles Fricks	AF5FB
Jerry Ritchie	WA5OKO	Cliff Scott	AE5ZA
Robert Parham	KD5OUF	John Zenter	AE5OY
George Plotkin	KF5WFA	Rachel Plotkin	KF5WLC
James Tredway	KF5OKD	Jason Logan	KF5DXF
Tom Wilbeck	N5KGN	Jim Quinn	AA5CX
Dave Luchak	KL7BX	Gary Lewis	WG5L
Rich Fleming	N3DNU	George Lee	K5JF
Jay Rowe	KF5UBO	Dennis Smith	WB5SRM
Terry Griffith	K5PDQ	Tom Nance	KB5ZFS
Priscilla Quinn	AA5PQ	Jim Quinn	AJ1MQ
Terry Johnson	KG5WO		

TREASURER'S REPORT

A balance of \$1,338.48 was brought forward from the previous reporting period. Income for the month included membership dues from Robert Parham KD5OUF \$25.00, George KF5WFA and Rachel KF5WLC Plotkin \$35.00, James KF5OKD and Sandy KF5OKE Tredway \$35.00 and Jason Logan KF5DXF family membership \$35.00, and an IRS 501c3 Application Fee Refund of \$300.00 for a total income of \$430.00 which was deposited to the LETARC account on July 23. Expenditures for the period included \$16.50 to Donut Palace of Longview for donuts for the July monthly meeting, and \$5.14 to Phillip Mullins AK5KE for reimbursement of the fee to file the Periodic Nonprofit Report with the Texas Secretary of State. LETARC appreciates Phillip's handling of this matter. This leaves a total ending balance of \$1,746.80.