

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST MEETING OF THE LONGVIEW EAST
TEXAS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

AUGUST 17, 2013

1. Meeting was called to order at 9 am by president Gary Lewis, WG5L.

2. Secretary's report for the June meeting were read by club president Gary Lewis, WG5L.

Motion was made to accept minutes as read by Jim Quinn the elder, AA5CX.

Second was made by Arlie Brown, N5RDD. Minutes were approved as read.

3 . Treasurer's report for the June meeting were read by club president Gary Lewis, WG5L.

Motion was made to accept the report as read by Harold Carl, KE5PTU.

Second was made by Cliff Scott, AE5ZA. The report was approved as read.

4. Gary Lewis, WG5L , gave an overview presentation on D-Star digital technology for amateur radio.

Topics included system overview, reflector overview, current model D-star radios, types of hotspots, Raspberry Pi usage, local available hot-spots, example radio programming, and potential local D-star repeater project. Presentation (which is available on the LETARC website) included several diagrams depicting typical operating scenarios and configurations, reflectors, current D-star radios, types of dongles, analog hot spots, the Raspberry Pi, local hot spots, programming, and the potential local repeater project. Gary explained the similarities between D-star and both the cell phone system in terms of equipment and operation, and the Echolink system, particularly that both Echolink and D-star allow worldwide communication by utilizing the Internet. He enumerated the reflectors that access Texas and Louisiana as well as that worldwide, and gave an example including the concept of linking. Next was a brief discussion of D-star radios, all of which are currently made by Icom, followed by discussions of the two types of dongles, DVAP (VHF & UHF radio

access point) and DV, which only provides Internet access.

An introduction and summary of simplex and duplex hot spots was given, followed by a brief description of the Raspberry Pi.

The current locally available hot spots were then listed, of which there are two:

WG5L-C 146.64 simplex no tone - linked to 004B reflector

N5VGQ-C 147.06 + offset no tone - also linked to 004B reflector
(RPT1 of N5VGQ RPT2 of N5VGQ are G enforced)

A short instruction on programming followed, including a table of basic commands. Gary then mentioned that registration of a D-star radio is required before it is used, that radios can also be encoded to identify a specific ham with whom you want to make contact. Also, since D-star is digital, it is either on or off, i.e., "you have it or you don't." Since it involves the use of the Internet, D-star is also affected by Internet bandwidth, meaning that some applications (RV's, for example, or other scenarios where the available Internet access system provides lower speeds and/or smaller bandwidths) may meet with limited or no success.

The presentation next touched on a discussion of a potential D-star repeater sponsored by LETARC, describing the costs, equipment requirements, and other factors. There is currently a promotion being put on by Icom for the repeater which expires at year's end. Gary concluded the D-star presentation by making contact with two stations, one in Canadian, Texas, and a second 18 miles north of Edinburgh, Scotland.

After a brief break for refreshments, the meeting recommenced with a discussion of upcoming events, including the Gainesville hamfest on September 7, the LETARC potluck picnic on September 21, and the ARES SET, to be conducted on October 26, and a possible EC-001 emergency communications class. The meeting was adjourned after determination was made that the next informal dinner gathering would be held at the Corner Bakery on September 1, 2013 at 6 pm.