

Minutes of the February 2014 Monthly Meeting of
The Longview/East Texas Amateur Radio Club

President John Zenter AE5OY opened the meeting at approximately 9:00 am on Saturday, February 15 with 18 members present and 1 member, Todd Hoover N5TJH present via Skype. John presented the agenda for the meeting and called for the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by a majority show of hands after a motion to accept was made by Paul Piccola W5BPP and seconded by Jim Quinn AA5CX. The treasurer's report for the current period was then read and approved by a majority show of hands after a motion to accept was made by Jim Quinn AA5CX and seconded by Jim Rogers N5VGQ.

Tom Wilbeck N5KGN then presented the monthly program entitled "Insulation Breakdown Testing". Tom demonstrated the use of a Megger, a megohmmeter used to test the quality of insulation on wire and coax. Tom began his presentation by showing a video from the podcast, AmateurLogic, in which George Thomas demonstrated the use of the Megger to conduct a hipot test. Megger is the registered trademark for the company who makes the instrument. Tom used a MCM-Tenma megger to demonstrate the process. This device applies a high voltage to the terminals of a piece of coax and determines if a breakdown in the insulation is allowing current flow between the terminals of the coax, indicating a short or potential short in the coax. If there is current flow between the conductors, the meter indicates the current flow and the operator knows that the insulation is not performing correctly. If the meter indicates no current flow, then it can be assumed that the integrity of the insulation has not been compromised. A question and answer period followed.

After a short break for refreshments, the program resumed. Todd Hoover N5TJH then presented an update on the East Texas Regional Tailgate Sale via a Skype connection from Chicago. Todd has visited a number of area clubs and signed them up as cosponsors of the tailgate sale. These include clubs in Mabank, Marshall, Shreveport Amateur Radio Club, Minden, Tyler, Amateur Radio Club of Shreveport, Palestine, and the 4 States Amateur Radio Club in Texarkana. The ARRL has contributed \$50.00 in gift certificates and \$275.00 has been collected for door prizes and another \$300.00 has been pledged. Todd is also promoting the idea of an I20 Corridor of Amateur Radio Clubs council to promote greater unity and cooperation among the clubs of the area and is meeting with a great deal of interest in this concept.

Gary Lewis gave an update on the status of the DSTAR repeater. The 2 meter module is expected soon and the repeater should be on the air by next meeting.

The following announcements were made:

A SKYWARN class will be held at the LFD Training facility on Saturday, March 22 at 9:00 am. For further information, contact Tom Noe W5TDN.

A joint Red Cross Disaster Assessment drill employing both the Longview chapter and the Tyler chapter will be held in Kilgore on Saturday, March 1. The drill will utilize ham radio operators to pass the assessment data to net control operators using FLdigi and FLmsg via a local neighborhood WiFi network. For further information, contact Paul Piccola W5BPP.

March 20-22, March 27-29, and April 4-6 have been chosen as the dates for LETARC to paint the upstairs rest rooms and meeting room at the Red Cross.

A date to hold a Technician license class has not yet been decided upon.

The EC001 Emergency Communications class has been cancelled because of lack of registrants. Community Service Projects are still on the agenda but nothing has been formalized as of this date.

Jason's Deli was selected as the site of the LETARC Sunday evening meal on Sunday, March 2 at 6:00 pm.

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

ATTENDEES

Paul Piccola	W5BPP	John Zenter	AE5OY
Terry Johnson	KG5WO	Tom Wilbeck	N5KGN
Jim Quinn	AA5CX	Phillip Mullins	AE5KE
Dean Patterson	KE5AVH	Terry Griffith	K5PDQ
Arlie Long	N5RDD	Charles Fricks	AF5FB
Eric Smith	KF5YAF	Kim Smith	
Jim Rogers	N5VGQ	Cliff Scott	AE5ZA
Priscilla Quinn	AA5PQ	Jim Quinn	AJ1MQ
Todd Hoover	N5TJH (via Skype)	Gary Lewis	WG5L
Rich Fleming	N3DNU		

TREASURER'S REPORT

Brought forward from last reporting period was an account balance of \$3,137.68 comprised of \$1,768.51 club funds, \$1,094.17 DSTAR Funds, and \$275.00 Tailgate Sale Funds. Income for this reporting period includes membership dues from the following: Arlie Long N5RDD \$25.00; Tom Wilbeck N5KGN and Charlotte Wilbeck KE5YRG \$35.00 family membership; Jim Quinn AJ1MQ and Priscilla Quinn AA5PQ \$35.00 family membership and Charles Fricks AF5FB \$25.00 for a total income for the period of \$120.00. Expenditures for the period included \$16.50 to the Donut Palace for donuts for the monthly meeting. This yields a current account balance of \$3,241.18 comprised of \$1,872.01 club funds, \$1,094.17 DSTAR Funds, and \$275.00 Tailgate Sale Funds.