

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2014 MONTHLY MEETING  
OF  
THE LONGVIEW/EAST TEXAS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am on April 19, 2014 by President John Zenter AE5OY with 16 members and 1 guest present. The minutes of the previous were read and approved on motions by Jim Quinn AJ1MQ and Cliff Scott AE5ZA. The Treasurers Report for the current reporting period was read and approved on motions by Jim Quinn AJ1MQ and Dean Patterson KE5AVH.

Charles Fricks AF5FB then presented the program on Logbook of the World. Logbook of the World is the ARRL's web based database for confirming contacts between amateur radio operators worldwide and can be used to replace the costly QSL card and direct mail and QSL Bureau method to confirm contacts. Charles began by discussing his entrance into ham radio as a novice licensee in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. He operated a crystal controlled Eico 720 using CW and a straight key. Logging was done via pencil and paper. After a lapse of many years, Charles renewed his interest in ham radio several years ago, became an Extra Class and became active in DXing and HF. Charles used a power point presentation to present the basics of what LoTW is, how to sign up for it, and how to upload contact files to the system. LoTW allows hams to confirm their contacts much faster and with much greater reliability and with much less cost than the old system. As of April, almost 66,000 amateurs were using LoTW and the system had recorded 577,000,000 QSO's and the system is gaining growing about 20% annually. A question and answer period followed.

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

Todd Hoover N5TJH reviewed the recent I20 Corridor Hamfest . Approximately 178 people signed up for door prizes which represented an 11.9% increase over last year. Fifteen clubs and one vendor, Main Trading Company, co-sponsored the event and one additional club, the Hopkins County Amateur Radio Club, showed up to boost the number of sponsoring clubs to 16. An informal meeting of the club officers present was conducted by Jim Quinn AJ1MQ and Priscilla Quinn AA5PQ and a tentative October meeting was scheduled. Twenty three door prizes were given away and a good time was had by all.

Gary Lewis WG5L then discussed the status of the local repeaters. The callsign change on the 147.34 repeater should be made before the next club meeting. Jim Rogers N5VGQ is currently working on the 146.64 machine and needs another board in the controller. The DSTAR UHF module is currently awaiting official coordination approval from the Zone 1 coordinator. Jim received an email from the coordinator stating that he has not had time yet to look at the coordination. The DSTAR "B" module is cabled up and ready to go. The preamp had been taken out but was put back in without the filters and this improved the coverage. The "B" module will be unlinked for local coverage and the "C" module will be permalinked to the 4Bravo reflector. Purchase of backup batteries is being considered. A hands on programming course is being considered but no dates have been set.

It was announced that the proposed Technician Class will probably be held in the fall of this year.

John Zenter asked for volunteers to help move a desk upstairs for the Red Cross after today's meeting.

Field Day is fast approaching and John requested that everyone began thinking about possible Field Day operations.

VE testing will be held this afternoon at LeTourneau University and John requested the presence of all available VE's.

After considerable discussion, it was decided that Newk's would be the site of the next LETARC Sunday evening meal on May 3 at 6:00 pm.

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

## ATTENDEES

Charles Fricks	AF5FB	Dot Fricks	Visitor
John Zenter	AE5OY	Terry Johnson	KG5WO
Dean Patterson	KE5AVH	Gary Lewis	WG5L
Horace Richardson	N5ZQD	Eric Smith	KF5YAF
Jay Rowe	KF5UBO	Jerry Ritchie	WA5OKO
Cliff Scott	AE5ZA	Jim Perry	KA5BCM
Priscilla Quinn	AA5PQ	Jim Quinn	AJ1MQ
Rich Fleming	N3DNU	Arlie Long	N5RDD
Todd Hoover	N5TJH		

## Treasurer's Report

Brought forward from last reporting period was \$1,699.94 which consisted of \$1,399.66 club funds, \$294.28 DSTAR funds, and \$6.00 Tailgate Sale Funds. Income for the period included membership dues of \$25.00 each from Jerry Lentz N4KI, Butch Ragland KE5OHC, and Robert Parham KD5OUF for a total of \$75.00. Expenses for the period included Donut Palace Longview, donuts for monthly meeting: \$16.50, Hay Companies Liability Insurance Premium:\$300.00, U.S. Post Office, annual post office box rental: \$62.00, American Red Cross, annual donation: \$150.00, stamps to mail out letters of appreciation to club sponsoring the Tailgate Sale: \$6.00 for total expenditures of \$ 534.50. This leaves a current balance of \$1,240.44 which consists of \$946.16 club funds and \$294.28 DSTAR Funds and 0 Tailgate Sale Funds so the Tailgate Fund is officially removed from books for this year.