

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

The May 2014 monthly meeting of the Longview/East Texas Amateur Radio Club was called to order on Saturday, May 17 by Vice-President Gary Lewis WG5L. An introduction of the 18 members and 4 guests present was then conducted. Gary gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved by a show of hands after a motion to accept was made by Charles Fricks AF5FB and seconded by Cliff Scott AE5ZA. The Treasurer's Report for the current reporting period was read and approved by a show of hands after a motion to accept was made by Jim Quinn AA5CX and seconded by Jim Quinn AJ1MQ.

Jerry Ritchie WA5OKO then presented a very interesting program entitled "What is so great about digital?" Jerry compared the traditional analog mode with the currently popular digital mode. In the analog process, the microphone takes the voice acoustical energy and creates a variable electrical signal that is applied to the modulator. The variable signal is mixed with a carrier frequency that generates two additional frequencies, one above and one below the carrier frequency. At the receiving end, the demodulator subtracts the variable information from one of the modulated signals and sends it a speaker where it is converted to acoustical energy. The digital mode encodes the acoustical information into a digital format, essentially 0's and 1's. The transmitter has a digital to analog converter at its output and the receiver has an analog to digital converter at the receiver input. A string of 0's and 1's cannot be used to generate electromagnetic energy, so the RF link between the transmitter and the receiver is analog. One great advantage of the digital process is that digital makes the modulated signal more resistant to noise. Even if a receiver sees "noisy" 0's and 1's, it can still distinguish a 0 from a 1 and the signal can be regenerated without degradation. Digital modes allow the use of "error correction", a process whereby the system reduces the received errors that would occur from reception of noisy signals and through various algorithms, produces a valid signal. A technology called code-division multiple access allows many signals to be present but only one signal will be processed and heard. Many of today's consumer technologies such as HD TV, satellite radio and cell phones use digital technology and it is becoming a very popular mode in amateur radio. After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned temporarily for refreshments.

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

Gary Lewis gave a brief update on the status of LETARC's repeaters. Battery backups have been donated for both units and are awaiting install. The "B" module on the DSTAR repeater has been installed and is being finely tuned to afford the greatest coverage. An FET is on order for the preamp and once installed, will complete the tuning process. A DSTAR net is being held on the "B" module each Thursday evening at 8:30 pm and is linked to the Tyler machine allowing coverage for both DSTAR communities.

Gary then initiated a discussion on preparations for the upcoming Field Day event by issuing a request for a co-chairman to help put together plans for this activity. Dennis Smith WB5SRM has volunteered to lead the cooking activities for the day. The club station K5LET will be used for the 24 hour event. Gary will post a sign-up form on the LETARC Yahoo group for those interested in participating in Field Day. Further planning will take place at the June meeting on June 21.

John Nordlund AD5FJ of Little Rock, Arkansas then made a brief presentation about the Diamond State Digital network that he has been employed through a grant by the Arkansas State Health Department to put together to link the entire state of Arkansas with DSTAR, analog, packet, and multi-media systems. A website devoted to the project is in the final stages of being completed and John can be contacted via his QRZ.com webpage.

Gary announced that a VE test session will be held at 2:00 pm this afternoon at LeTourneau University and that all available VE's are welcome to assist.

Upcoming events of interest to club members include HamCom at Plano on June 13 and 14 and Field Day will be held at the club station at the Red Cross on June 28 and 29.

After a very thorough discussion, it was decided that the next Sunday evening meal would be held at Uncle Joe's Pizza and Italian Eatery on Spur 31 at 6:00 pm on June 1, 2014.

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

ATTENDEES

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|----------------|--------|-------------------|---------|
| Charles Fricks | AF5FB | Horace Richardson | N5ZQD |
| Gary Lewis | WG5L | Dean Patterson | KE5AVH |
| Jay Rowe | KF5UBO | Jerry Ritchie | WA5OKO |
| Dennis Smith | WB5SRM | Tom Wilbeck | N5KGN |
| Cliff Scott | AE5ZA | Rich Fleming | N3DNU |
| Diana Fate | KF5ZBH | Leslie Shles | Visitor |
| Terry Johnson | KG5WO | Brandon Bryd | AF5MM |
| Mitch Fortner | AA5D | Van Bullock | AA5VB |
| Butch Ragland | KE5OHC | Jim Quinn | AA5CX |
| Jim Quinn | AJ1MQ | Priscilla Quinn | AA5PQ |
| John Hale | AE5AR | John Nordlund | AD5FJ |

TREASURER'S REPORT

Brought forth from the last reporting period was an account balance of \$1,240.44 consisting of \$946.16 club funds and \$294.28 DSTAR funds. Income for the period included membership dues of \$25.00 each from Roy Sherow WJ5Z and Louis "Joe" Gimbert KC5RMO for a total of \$50.00. Additional income included \$30.00 from John Zenter AE5OY for 2 club shirts yielding a total income of \$80.00 for the period. Expenditures for the period included \$16.50 to Donut Palace for donuts for the monthly club meeting (taken from club funds) and \$273.00 to Hayes Companies for replacement insurance for the DSTAR system (taken from the DSTAR fund) for total expenditures of \$289.50. This leaves a current account balance of \$ \$1,030.94 which consists of \$1,009.66 in club funds and \$21.28 in DSTAR funds.