

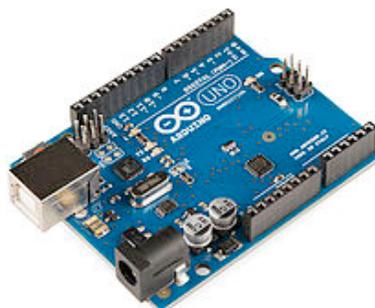


# LETARC Propagation

LONGVIEW / EAST TEXAS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## *June Presentation - "What the heck is an Arduino, anyway?"*

Well, Tom Wilbeck N5KGN answered that question for many of us during his captive presentation at the June club meeting. "It's a circuit board micro-controller developed in the 1970's, commonly found in vehicles and consumer products" was his first answer to his own question. It turns out that there are as many as fourteen Arduino controllers per vehicle,



and such consumer items as remote controls, appliances and a variety of other items around the house probably have an Arduino. The Arduino-Uno (pictured right) came to be when Massimo Banzi, one of the founders of the Interaction Design Institute in Ivrea, Italy, started it as a student project at the institute in 2005. The device was a basic controller with serial inputs and outputs, and later models allowed for "stacking" the boards to perform custom functions for various applications such as LCD and LED displays, lawn irrigation systems and even smartphone functions. Tom demonstrated just how different Arduino controllers could be used and how the most common devices use them by conducting a demo of LED flashing lights and LCD displays, similar to those electronic name badges found at hamfests everywhere. Tom explained that Arduino processors are so popular in ham radio circles that ARRL has published the book "Arduino for Ham Radio". More information can be found all over the web by searching for the term "arduino". Many thanks to Tom for his presentation, and the work behind the scenes involved in preparing for it.

### Inside...

- How I Got into Ham Radio
- VE Session Report
- Suggestions for Activities
- Upcoming Events
- Next meeting & VE Session



Tom Wilbeck N5KGN makes a point during his presentation  
(Photo: Priscilla Quinn AA5PQ)

## *Field Day 2014*

Though the atmosphere was good inside the LETARC radio room, the atmosphere outside the room wasn't quite as hospitable. The "Field Day Curse" struck again this year when the HF bands tended to be quiet most of the 24 hours of the event. Spirits were good, however, and the social activity flourished between brief periods of activity with the radios. Ham radio reports from around the nation seemed to confirm our local results: contact counts were fairly dismal throughout the country. A variety of modes were used but with mostly the same results, unfortunately. (Continued...)

# Field Day 2014 (continued)

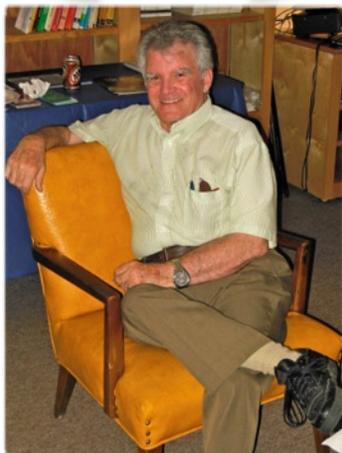
The annual event did give some of us an opportunity to visit with one another and share stories of past Field Days and ham radio in general, and to partake of a huge, delicious submarine sandwich and a variety of desserts in order to maintain strength. For those who had not previously experienced a Field Day, their time was not wasted but rather spent learning more about the equipment, the procedures and protocols and visiting with more experienced hams. As one person offered during the discussion of the quiet bands, "There's always next year!" And yes, we'll be there.



Dennis Smith WB5SRM and John Zenter AE5OY check the manuals



Gary Lewis WG5L changes antenna assignments on the antenna/radio patch panel



Butch Ragland KE5OHC enjoys the social activity

Gary Lewis WG5L attempts PSK31



Jordan Trewitt KF5COQ from LeTourneau searches for a contact



## How I got into ham radio..

Unfortunately we had no submissions for the newsletter this month. If you would like to share your own story of how you got into ham radio, please do! Send it to [letarcnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:letarcnewsletter@yahoo.com).

## VE Session Report

John Zenter AE5OY, LETARC President and VE Team Liaison reports that Charles Klein of Gladewater successfully attained his Technician Class license at this month's VE Session held on June 21st at LeTourneau University. Congratulations, Charles!

## Suggestions for Activities

We are still open to suggestions for club members to participate in any sort of community activities to provide communications services. Please send your ideas/suggestions to [letarcnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:letarcnewsletter@yahoo.com)

## Upcoming Events

July 29th-August 2nd                      Balloon Race in Longview

### Next Meeting:

Saturday, July 19th at 9:00 a.m.  
American Red Cross Building, Upstairs  
SE Corner of Hwy 31 and Loop 281

### Next VE Session:

Saturday, July 19th at 2:00 p.m.  
LeTourneau University Glaske Building for Science & Technology

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Longview/East Texas Amateur Radio Club (LETARC)  
PO Box 5613  
Longview, TX 75608