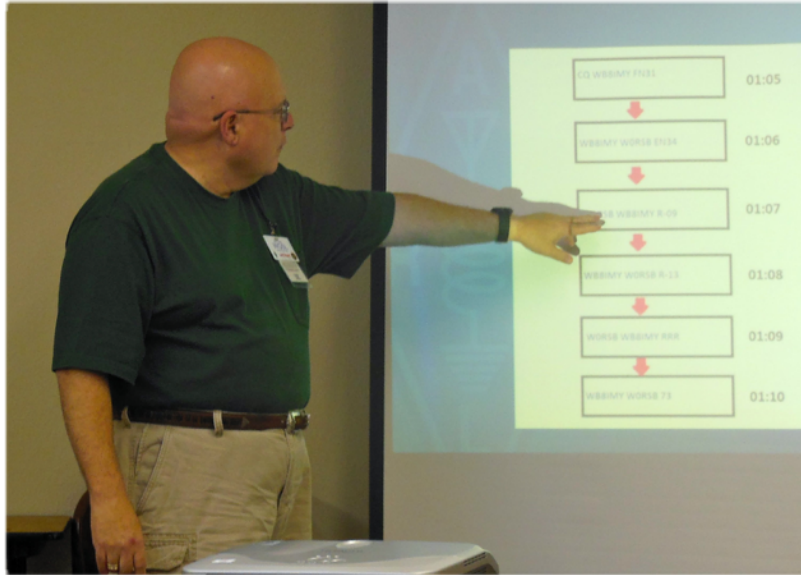




LETARC Propagation

LONGVIEW / EAST TEXAS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

October Presentation - JT-65 HF Communications



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Gary Lewis WG5L points to a diagram of a JT-65 QSO.

Photo: Priscilla Quinn AA5PQ

Gary Lewis WG5L, LETARC's Vice-President, gave the October meeting's presentation on an unusual (and often unknown) subject - JT-65 - a fairly new mode for HF communications. This mode of transmission is used almost exclusively for quick digital QSO's while contesting. With a restriction to the number of characters contained within a message, JT-65 is not designed for regular messaging but rather for exchanging ID data such as call sign and grid location between stations. Using HF bands and computers with timing coordinated within two seconds UTC, the software simply causes the radio(s) to transmit CQ requests for communication and receive

acknowledgement, then exchange call signs, grid coordinates, acknowledgements and then sign off. Though the exchange is very limited in both time and content, the JT-65 mode is gaining popularity with HF contestants since the software is automatically self-correcting, coordinated and hands-free and sanctioned by various contest scoring entities including ARRL. Because of these features, the weakest of signals can get through when other modes cannot thus leading to its geometrically increasing popularity. You'll be hearing more about this mode in the near future, we're sure.

Suggestions for Activities

John Zenter AE5OY says that we are still open to suggestions from club members for club participation in any sort of community activities to provide communications services. Some activities may include fun-runs, parades, walk-a-thons, bicycle rallies and the like. Please send your ideas/suggestions to letarcnewsletter@yahoo.com, and they will be forwarded to the club's board of directors.

“Surprise Second Presentation” at October Meeting



Charles Fricks AF5FB displays two examples of disguised cellular antenna towers in place during a California road trip; a pine tree (left) and a palm tree (below).

Photos: Priscilla Quinn AA5PQ



Due to previous member discussions concerning discrete antenna placements (especially cellular towers) in sensitive areas throughout the country, Charles Fricks AF5FB made a short photo presentation of some antenna installations he saw during a road trip to California.

VE Attendee Passes Tech, General and Extra in One Sitting!



VE Team Liaison John Zenter AE5OY (right) congratulates John Fezell's success at attaining his Technician, General, and Extra Class License(s) in one sitting October 18th.

John Fezell of Longview attended the October 18th VE session at LeTourneau University with the hopes that he would get his Technician License and start his ham radio hobby in the near future. Little did he know that not only would he get his Technician ticket, but his General as well after the VE team advised him upon passing his Tech exam that he could “keep testing without paying for it” until he failed or completed all three exams. He did just that! He successfully attained his Extra in one sitting, one of the few folks who have achieved that feat in the history of our LETARC VE team. The ink is barely dry on his new license with the call sign AF5UH. Congratulations, John!

Upcoming Club Officer Elections for 2015

Elections for the club officers for 2015 will be here before we know it! Elections are held at the December meeting, with the officers taking their seats the first of January.

Please consider helping the club by giving a bit of time and effort and volunteering for one of the positions. By stepping up to the plate and volunteering to serve, you'll be helping out those who have been donating their time and efforts in recent years and you'll help steer the club down

the right path with documentation (instructions/guide books) provided by the club.

LETARC has a good reputation in all of northeast Texas for its service to its members, other clubs and the community and we should continue this tradition. Remember - the positions are only for one year or twelve months (eleven if you don't count the picnic) and you'll definitely be appreciated for your efforts.

Dinner Gathering at Five Guys Burgers and Fries in Longview

This month's Informal Dinner Gathering is at Five Guys Burgers and Fries. As always, the gathering is held on the first Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Details on these events may be found in two places; our club website at www.letarc.org under the Calendar tab and on the Yahoo Groups page at www.groups.yahoo.com/group/letarc under the events tab. Email reminders are sent by the Yahoo system five or six days ahead of each event, and again one day prior to it. If you are not a member of the Yahoo Groups page simply go to the page and click the "Join" button and once approved, you will get the reminder emails.

VE Session Report

John Zenter AE5OY, LETARC President and VE Team Liaison reports that Adam Lewis of Longview successfully attained his Technician Class license while John Feezell, also of Longview, successfully passed his Technician, General and Extra Class examinations in one sitting at this month's VE Session held on October 18th at LeTourneau University. Congratulations, Adam and John! Well done!

How I Got into Ham Radio..

Unfortunately we did not have any submissions for this feature this past 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.

Upcoming Events

November 1st	Informal Dinner Gathering at Five Guys Burgers and Fries	(see above)
December 20th	Minden Hamfest hosted by Minden Amateur Radio Association	www.n5rd.org

Note: If you are aware of any upcoming events and wouldn't mind sharing the information with us so that we may include it in this newsletter (as well as on the net and in the online calendars) please drop us a note at letarcnewsletter@yahoo.com. Thanks! Jim & Priscilla

Attention VE Team Members:

If you are on the VE Team and we have not taken a new photograph of you for the congratulatory greeting cards that we send out to the newly licensed (or upgraded) hams, please let us know so that we may take a one for the card redesign. Drop us a line at letarcnewsletter@yahoo.com.

Next Meeting:

Saturday, November 15th at 9:00 a.m.
American Red Cross Building in Longview
Northeast quadrant of the intersection of Hwy 31 and Loop 281

Next VE Session:

Saturday, November 15th at 2:00 p.m.
LeTourneau University Glaske Building for Science & Technology

(For complete details see the calendar listings at www.letarc.org)

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