



LETARC Propagation

LONGVIEW / EAST TEXAS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

November Presentation - Antenna Types & Efficiency



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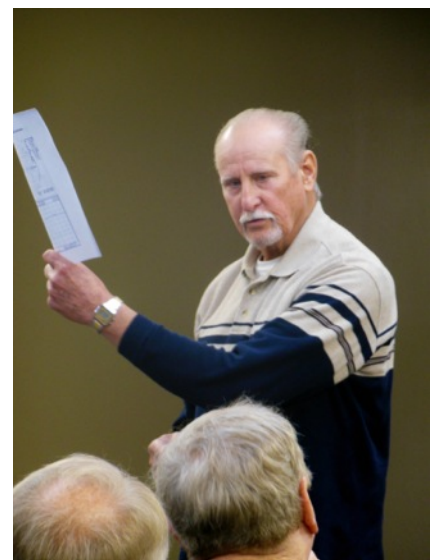
Jim Rogers N5VGQ explains HT antenna efficiency at the November meeting

Photo: Priscilla Quinn AA5PQ



November's meeting attendees were treated to not one, but two presenters for the monthly presentation. Jim Rogers N5VGQ discussed various antenna options for hand-held radios, with corresponding pros and cons for each. Since most new ham operators historically purchase HT's for their first radio, this was a timely and informative discussion. Antennas for HT's come in various forms starting with the "standard" manufacturer-supplied OEM pieces that come in the box with the radio, and the others available from various manufacturers that offer higher gain, more flexible whips and more accurate tuning with each band installed in the radios. It has often been said that a radio is only as good as its antenna, and in the past many manufacturer's have not really put their design emphasis on the antenna shipped with the radio, allowing third-party manufacturers to get some pretty serious inroads into the ham's budget and discretionary funds.

In part two of the presentation, Jim was tag-teamed with Jerry Ritchie WA5OKO who delivered more information about fixed and mobile antennas, including information about size, shape, materials and other details that affect antenna efficiency within different operational bands. Jerry described just how critical design and engineering affect antenna performance for better or worse.



Jerry Ritchie WA5OKO discusses critical antenna analysis at the November meeting

Photo: Priscilla Quinn AA5PQ

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 (even if you don't count the picnic) and you'll definitely be appreciated for your efforts.

Dinner Gathering at Uncle Joe's Pizza & Pasta in Longview



This month's Informal Dinner Gathering is at Uncle Joe's Pizza & Pasta. 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 Sarah Greenlee, Matthew Epp, Dan Dropka and Benjamin Casey of Longview and Lowell McBryde of Shreveport successfully attained their Technician Class licenses while Stephen Rangeloff of Jefferson returned this month to successfully attain his General Class license at this month's VE Session held on November 15th at LeTourneau University. Congratulations to all! Well done!

Tim Allen Gets His Ticket

According to this week's American Profile magazine, actor Tim Allen who plays character Mike Baxter on the hit program "Last Man Standing" joined two dozen of the sitcom's crew by earning his Technician Class license in September. Our hobby just keeps getting more popular every day!

Upcoming Events

December 7th	Informal Dinner Gathering at Uncle Jim's Pizza & Pasta	(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

How I Got into Ham Radio..

From Clarence Shilling WB5BYV in Texarkana, Arkansas:

It all started on a dark, rainy night in October 1941.....oops..that is ANOTHER story! No really it started before I was born (1941), when my Dad, Clarence Shilling Sr. bought a 1938 AMERICAN Bosch radio. This was the first model they made that did not have the NAZI Swastika on the front of it, and at that time there were some bad feelings about the Nazi Party in Germany and the Bosch Company felt the radios would sell better in the United States if they left the emblem off. The ones with the emblem are worth something! I still have the radio...still works..has original tubes, speaker, grill, knobs...but back to the story...it had a SHORTWAVE band! Covered the International Shortwave (radio covers 6MHZ to 15Mhz) . I was amazed because, as a 10 year old I could listen to people talking from the other side of the World! About this time my Uncle James Shilling, who had been the radio op on a B-17 in the War, found out I was interested in radios/electronics and gave me his 1946 American Radio Relay League Handbook...which I still have, one of my prized possessions. It could do fair with the loop antenna fastened to the back cover, but with an outside antenna that Dad and I fixed up out of single strand "bell" wire in a "zepp" configuration (about 100ft long) I could pick up the World! Thank goodness it had a power transformer and not a "hot" chassis, so I lived through the experience.

Anyway to make a long story short as possible...Got my Novice in 1958...inactive during the College years, became a General in 1968, became an Extra 2007 and I continue to learn and enjoy Amateur Radio! Presently the Education Committee Chairman, Trustee and one of the Directors of the Four States Amateur Radio Club(FSARC) of Texarkana, Texas.

73's

Clarence Shilling
WB5BYV

Our thanks to Clarence for taking the time to share his story! If you would like to share your own story of how you got into ham radio, please do! Send it to letarcnewsletter@yahoo.com.

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.

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, December 20th 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, December 20th at 2:00 p.m.
LeTourneau University Glaske Building for Science & Technology

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