

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

The November 2014 monthly meeting of the Longview/East Texas Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 9:00 am on Saturday, November 15 with 16 members and 2 guests present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by a show of hands after a motion to approve was made by Jim Quinn AA5CX and seconded by Priscilla Quinn AA5PQ. The treasurer's report for the current reporting period was read and approved by a voice vote after a motion to approve was made by Jim Quinn AA5CX and seconded by Jim Quinn AJ1MQ. Introductions of members and guests were made.

Jim Rogers N5VGQ, LETARC Communications Director, then presented the first half of the technical program. Jim discussed and compared the features and benefits of several of the current crop of popular Chinese made radios with emphasis on the Baofeng and Wouxun. Jim noted that both brands are very affordable and transmit about the same quality signal as more expensive radios. However, the big difference is in reception. Signal rejection is not as good as in the more traditional radios and it is easy to overload the front end. Both however are good starter radios or backup radios. They are not very user friendly with regard to manual programming and it is best to use computer programming to program in frequencies and repeater data. There are manufacturer produced programs available or one of the more popular programs is a free internet programming program called "Chirp". High gain after-market antennas are available for these units but usually add to the front end overload problem. There will soon be available an add-on board to the Raspberry PI to allow these units to do DSTAR and DMR.

Jerry Ritchie WA5OKO then presented the second half of the technical program. Jerry first discussed the efficiency of dual band antennas. He surmised that most dual band antennas are, at best, compromise antennas, doing well on VHF and not so well on UHF. He then discussed design and construction of an antenna to receive the Verizon LTE signals in the 746 to 787 Mhz range. The antenna is a modified coaxial dipole. The antenna consists of a plastic insulator onto which is attached two opposing 5/8 inch copper tubing elements, each containing an 85.9 mm length of #12copper wire. Coax connections are made to the copper tubing elements. Using a Vector Network Analyzer, Jerry determined that the SWR across the entire 41 MHz bandwidth was 1.5:1 or less. Jerry stated that this design could be scaled up to the 2 meter band and when used as the driven element in a Yagi configuration, would eliminate the need for an impedance matching network.

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

President John Zenter then canvassed the membership present about anyone who would be interested in becoming an officer for 2015. Ballots for voting on LETARC officers will be prepared and mailed out in several weeks and the election is scheduled to take place at the next meeting.

VE testing will take place this afternoon at LeTourneau University at 2:00 pm and all interested VE's are invited to attend.

After a thorough and exhaustive discussion, it was decided that the next LETARC informal dinner would be held at Uncle Joe's Italian Restaurant on Spur 63 at 6:00 pm on Sunday, December 7, 2014.

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

ATTENDEES

John Zenter	AE5OY	Terry Johnson	KG5WO
Dean Patterson	KE5AVH	Phillip Mullins	AE5KE
Jerry Ritchie	WA5OKO	John Feezell	AF5ZL
Jason Logan	KF5DXF	Michelle Logan	Guest
Jay Rowe	KF5UBO	Martha Rowe	Guest
Jim Quinn	AF1MQ	Priscilla Quinn	AA5PQ
Mitch Fortner	AA5D	Arlie Long	N5RDD
Jim Rogers	N5VGQ	Cliff Scott	AE5ZA
Les Larson	KA4EFO	Jim Quinn	AA5CX

TREASURER'S REPORT

November 15, 2014 to December 19, 2014

Brought forward from the last reporting period was an account balance of \$1,028.11. Income for the current reporting period consisted of dues collected from the following: John Feezell AF5ZL \$25.00, Les Larson KA4EFO \$25.00, John Mark Robertson K5JMR \$25.00, Gordon Martin WA5GM \$25.00 and 2 ARRL Membership Renewal Rebates for \$4.00 for total income of \$104.00. Expenses for the period included \$16.50 to Donut Palace for donuts for the monthly meeting, \$24.50 to the U.S. Post Office for stamps to mail out election ballots, and \$8.65 to Office Depot for envelopes to mail out election ballots for a total expense of \$49.65. This leaves a total current account balance of \$1,082.46.

Opening balance:	\$1,028.11
Income:	<u>\$104.00</u>
	\$1,032.11
Expenses:	<u>- \$49.65</u>
Ending Balance:	\$1,082.46