



August Presentation - PK-232 Data Controller

Tom Welbeck N5KGN gave a presentation on the history of the PK-232 data controller, a device that enables digital signals to be exchanged by amateur radios for use in sending text data, images, location information and other forms of data. Over the years, TNC controllers have evolved from relatively “techy” hard-wired units to more software friendly, computerized devices with more capabilities, smaller footprints and displays rather than blinking lights.

Rather than try to display the multiple photos, diagrams and such in this newsletter, we’d like to have you go to the LETARC page for reading the entire article at your convenience. Simply bring up the article at www.letarc.org and click the “Tech Talk” tab to find the story that Tom posted on our site. For downloading and viewing of

the PDF file itself, click here: <http://letarc.org/main/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/PK-232-LETARC2-2.pdf> and it will be opened unto you.

Thanks to Tom for such an informative article!

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Repeater Status Report

Jim Rogers N5VGQ reports that the 147.34 machine is down for repairs due to damage possibly occurring during the last heavy storm we had three weeks ago, however it will be reinstalled in the near future for on-air testing. A backup repeater is available in case the repairs that have been made are not a pure fix for the entire problem with the repeater’s operations. Jim has asked that the normal 147.34 local traffic be moved to the 444.725 machine (versus the 146.64 machine) until further notice since that repeater experiences fairly light traffic most of the time. Of course, since it is the primary repeater for area Skywarn activities, he asks that during those periods of the Skywarn net activation, users please refrain from non-related traffic until the Skywarn net is brought down after the weather event. The 146.64 machine is now linked with the Freedom Link network of repeaters in northeast

Texas, northwest Louisiana, southeastern Oklahoma and western and central Arkansas and is going through final adjustments and testing. Currently, as with the 147.34 repeater that shares the same antennas, the transmit/receive antennas are swapped, meaning that contrary to the normal configuration, the receive antenna (its “ears”) are on the tower at a lower elevation than the transmit antenna on top. This does affect the capability of the repeater to “hear” the transmissions into the repeater giving folks the impression that the footprint is smaller for the time being. Since the 64 machine is part of the Freedom Link network, users are asked to be cognizant of the fact that any local lengthy conversations will be heard all over the four-state coverage area since the 64 machine is linked the majority of the time (see next article below).

Repeater Changes for Nets, Etc.

Due to the recent repeater changes please make note of the following requests: To avoid local radio traffic clutter on the 146.64 machine on the Freedom Link system, Jim Rogers N5VGQ has requested that local users in the Longview area please migrate to the 444.725 machine (except during Skywarn net activations for inclement weather) for the time being and until further notice. Though it is possible for the 64 machine to be unlinked, it is much easier to migrate the local traffic than it is to unlink the 64 machine from the Freedom Link system. Too, the Freedom Link system is used for Skywarn purposes and covers a large area of northeast Texas, southeast Oklahoma, northwest Louisiana

and western Arkansas, locations that may be experiencing weather events when we are not. For more information on the system go to www.freedom-link.org.

For the LETARC Wednesday night nets, please expect to be using the 444.725 machine until advised otherwise or during Skywarn activation. (Thank-you's to Tom Noe W5TDN and Kurt Harris KD5UVB with Gregg County Emergency Communications (GCEC) for their support!) Please keep an eye on the Yahoo Groups email announcements for any updates or further information.

Informal Dinner Gathering at Golden Corral Sept. 6th



This month's First Sunday Informal Dinner Gathering will be held at the Golden Corral in Longview at 6:00 p.m. on September 6th. The restaurant is located at the southeast quadrant of the intersection of Loop 281 and Fourth Street, across the street from Longview High School.

Club Picnic in lieu of Meeting



LETARC's Annual Picnic will be held instead of the regular monthly meeting September 19th. The picnic will be at McWhorter Park's Pavilion #2 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. More information is to follow...

Volunteers for Net Control Operator, Secretary/Treasurer

Rich Fleming N3DNU, LETARC's Secretary/Treasurer, has stepped down and we desperately need someone to take his place. Also, if you can help out by volunteering to be Net Control Operator for the Wednesday night nets, please let us know straight away by emailing letarcnewsletter@yahoo.com.

VE Session Report

John Zenter AE5OY, LETARC President and VE Team Liaison reports that Kenneth Nolley, Jr. of Gilmer tested and successfully attained his Technician Class License at the VE test session held on August 15th. Congratulations, Bruce!

How I Got into Ham Radio..

Unfortunately we do not have a submission for this month's newsletter. If you would like to share your own story of how you got into ham radio, please do! Send it to letarcnewsletter@yahoo.com.

STH South Texas Hamfest and Electronics Expo

**No Tricks, All Treats at
Texas Fastest Growing Hamfest !!!**

This year we have expanded to over
9500 sq ft. of exhibit hall space,
with over **100 tables**
available for vendors.

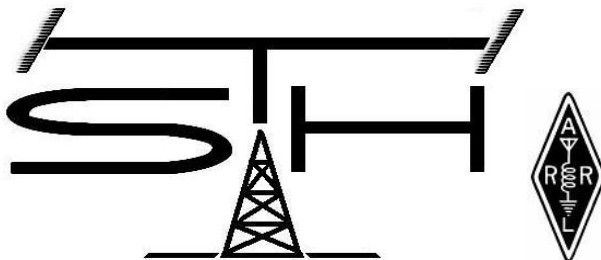
There will be plenty of **forums,**
presentations and lots of prizes.

Again for this year we will have our
Silent Auction

There is a **Large Tailgate Area.**
And RV Parking available.

A Testing Session will be held
to get your license or upgrade!
ATM available

2014 Tables were a sellout !!
Reserve yours now !!
www.southtexashamfest.org



Saturday, October 31, 2015

8am-3pm

Aransas Pass Civic Center
700 West Wheeler Avenue
Aransas Pass, Texas 78335

Check Website for Additional Activities and Details

Admission: Advance \$7 (includes 2 door prize tickets)
(Pre-Registration ends on Oct. 25th)

Door \$10 (includes 1 door prize ticket)

17 & under FREE with paying adult

Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts in Uniform - Free
(Free entries do not receive door prize tickets)

Tables 8' \$10 each (does not include entry)

New for 2015 !! Purchase 5 tables, get 2 FREE entries!!

2014 Tables were a sellout !

Reserve yours now!!

Tailgate Space \$5 each space used
(Does not include admission ticket)

Lunch: \$9 - Box Lunch from Subway, drink included
(Only available through pre-registration)

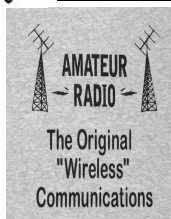
Raffle Tickets: \$1 each

See website for specifics, pre-registration discounts,
incentives and additional activities

www.southtexashamfest.org

SAVE MONEY !! REGISTER NOW!

Visit the website for
Pre-Registration Discounts
www.southtexashamfest.org



To become a donor, sponsor,
or vendor contact:

southtexashamfest@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| September 11-12th | Mena Hamfest | www.menahamfest.net |
| September 19th | LETARC Annual Picnic & Meeting | www.letarc.org |
| October 31st | South Texas Hamfest Aransas Pass | www.southtexashamfest.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

Next Meeting:

Notice: Annual Picnic in lieu of Monthly Meeting Saturday, Sept. 19th

McWhorter Park Pavilion #2 from 4:00 p.m. until....

Toler Road between Jahan Trail and Loop 281 just east of Super 1 Foods

Next VE Session:

Saturday, September 19th at 2:00 p.m.

LeTourneau University Glaske Building for Science & Technology, Room 103

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

Longview/East Texas Amateur Radio Club (LETARC)

Jim & Priscilla Quinn (AJ1MQ & AA5PQ)

Media Co-Directors

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