



LETARC PROPAGATION

The official Newsletter of the Longview East Texas Amateur Radio Club



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Vietnam Veteran Gets His Last Wish

John Nugent, a Vietnam era Army veteran, got his dying wish in getting back on the air waves one last time. John served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and returned home to Newburgh, NY to face isolation according to his son Chris. It was ham radio that enabled Nugent to reach out to people all around the world.

Life for John was tough after returning home from the war according to his son. Ham radio allowed him to feel comfortable and help with his transition to a more normal life.

John Nugent's call sign is WA2EQJ. It came alive one final time at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center located in North Chicago, IL were the 75 year old soldier got his final dying wish to be on the air one last time.



US Army Veteran John Nugent

Ham radio was John's true love that began as a 9 year old boy after he put together his very first radio made out of an old cigar box.

In his latter years, Nugent moved from Vernon Hills to the Green House veterans housing complex located at the Lovell Center back in 2014.

Prior to this, Nugent had been living with another son, John Nugent III, until he passed away. Then he move to the Chicago area to be closer to his other son Chris.

According to Chris, when his father moved to the complex with other veterans who had geriatric and long-term care needs, his quality of live improved tremendously.

In is final wish, he let a social worker at the Lovell Center know his final wish. Alesia Behnke, the social worker, and other staff members

contacted the American Legion Amateur Radio, the North Shore Amateur Radio Club, Lake County Emergency Management and the Lake County Sheriff's office to help accommodate his last wish.

The ham radio community responded quickly and jumped into action immediately. None of the folks involved knew how much time was left for Nugent and were not sure whether they could pull if off before he passed away..

Within a very short time, the Lake County RACES, set up antennas in a court yard adjacent to where Nugent was staying and they set up radio equipment inside the facility on a table to that Nugent could have his last few QSOs.

Nugent was able to talk with folks in Sacramento and Grass Valley, California, Texas and Libertyville.

During his conversation with one radio operator, he told him that he liked his call signs and expressed that he was happy to make his acquaintances.

He later told another operator that he was dying of cancer, but said I will be around for awhile.

Then he asked another radio operator named Jim about the wattage he was using. Jim then gave Nugent a "73 to a buddy," which means "best regards".

After Nugent left the military, he worked as an electrician for General



John Nugent, is son Chris and daughter in-law Nina

Electric in New York State. For 11 years he was his wife's care giver since she was suffering kidney disease and had two transplants along with dialysis prior to her death.

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Later during the day, Nugent began to fade and grew tired from being on the radio for so long. He had to wrap up his last radio transmission by saying his goodbyes. His son Chris circulated around the community room at the Lovell Center to express his appreciation to the Lake County RACES and the veterans assistance commission.

Help a Ham 2017

It was about November 15, 2017 when I received an email from Richard Lenoir of Main Trading Company. It was one of his usual emails that I receive on a weekly basis that any savvy businessman would send out to drum up more business. But, the email received on this day and subsequent ones to show up later in December were a little different than the usual.

In Main Trading Company's email and in its associated web site, was a message about **Helping A Ham** Program designed to assist an amateur radio operator to get back on the air. Richard and his better half, Christy, asked for nominations from radio operators from all over the nation to submit names of individuals who needed assistance because they fell on some hard times.

As part of the process of nominating a person, Main Trading Company provided a mechanism in their web site where Ham Radio Operators could donate \$1 or more to the cause. On top of what was being donated by radio operators, Main Trading Company was going to kick in an additional \$500. So, there was a potential the **Help A Ham Program** could give an individual in need a very nice Christmas present. Here is what the latest update from Main Trading Company says about the program:

"We wanted to let you know that there were 79 Nominations and picking someone was hard. We actually narrowed it down and then just had to choose someone randomly because there was just no way to pick some one. \$1098 was raised to help and we kicked in the rest. We are sending Pat a New Kenwood TS-480SAT, a Powerwerx 30 amp power supply, a MFJ 1778M G5RV JR antenna, a Tram 1480 dual band base station antenna, A new Icom IC2730, coax, cables, Desk Stand and more all totaling up to over \$1500. Pat has made friends in the Longview and Tyler clubs and with their help he will be on the air soon! Congratulations to Pat, Merry Christmas. We thank you for any donations you sent in to help.

Our winner, Patrick Brown AK5TX has endured many hardships. In 2008 He was struck by lightning and he suffered a permanent

visual disability. In March of this year he lost his wife after a brief illness. They were in the process of moving to Tyler Texas where she was going to take on a new teaching position. After Pat's wife passing he decided to continue with the process of relocating to Texas to start a new life and to get away from the harsh Alaska winters. Despite these setbacks and others Pat remains positive and always tries to put the best foot forward. There have been many bad hands dealt to Pat but he keeps plugging away and takes life in stride. I hear that his humor and laughs are contagious. In his move to Texas he had to sell many of his worldly possessions including all of his ham radio equipment. He misses ham Radio and wants to become active again. I talked to Pat yesterday and he is very, very excited. I still don't think he believes it but he will when that UPS truck rolls up. If you would like to personally help some of these others we would be glad to forward that info to you. Richard and Christy Lenoir thank all who participated in making this year's campaign a success. Both feel the ham radio community is awesome,"

Well, ya know, the ham radio community is awesome and it stepped up to the plate to help out a ham radio operator in need. People from all around the nation showed that they cared about others; which is characteristic of Ham Radio Operators. And it is very generous of Richard and Christy Lenoir at Main Trading company to dip into their own pockets and provide such a generous donation to the program. Richard, Christy and ham radio operators all around have clearly demonstrated that ham radio isn't so much about radio than it is about friendships and lending a helping hand when in need. Each of these people have definitely put a bright spot into Pat Brown's life by showing him there are folks who care during the Christmas Holiday. Yes Pat, there is a Santa Clause.

A few Volunteers will be need to help Pat ouf. If you would like to help volunteer in assisting Pat get his radio setup operational, please contact John Armstrong at KG5LWD@yahoo.com.

LEARC Gets A New Radio Room

In case you missed the last LETARC meeting on December 16, 2017, it became official.



LEARC now has a new radio room at the new Mims, TX Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) building.

room will be approximately 12'x14' in area and located in the northwest corner of the building where accommodations have been made for the required electrical power and conduits for running coax to a new Rohn 45 tower. The new radio room will be located at 9902 FM 729, Avinger, TX 75630 about seven miles southeast of HWY 155. This new location will allow LETARC to get back into competition during HF contests as well as providing a base for communications during natural and man made disasters. LETARC will have access to this radio room 24/7 since the facility will always have someone on duty such as EMTs.

At the time photos above were taken, none of the interior offices, break-room, kitchen and radio room have been built.

The donation of a room at the MVFD was made possible by Jim Perry (KA5BCM) who lives not too far from the new facility. The new radio

The Newbie Corner - When Buying Used Radio Equipment

Ham Radio Operators, who are also called amateur radio operators, use radios to communicate with one another and many times provide emergency notification services during times of natural and man made disaster. And, with the advancement in communications technology, the use of mobile phones, the Internet, and satellite communication, have by some accounts, reduced or eliminated the need for amateur radio during times of emergency and is now considered more of a hobby than anything else. Go tell that to Ham Radio Operators who were instrumental during Hurricane Harvey and Irma that struck the US in two different places in the US within a week of each other.

We all saw where cell phone towers, phone lines, electric utility lines were all but destroyed during these extreme weather events and Ham Radio was relied upon for many necessary communications. So, the use of Ham Radio has NOT been eliminated and reduced to a mere hobby. It is still just as important today as it was in yesteryear.

Before proceeding further, the terms Ham Radio Operators and Amateur Radio Operators and Ham Radio and Amateur Radio will be used interchangeably in this article.

In days past, ham radio equipment was once considered very expensive. Those with deep pockets were thought to be the only ones who could afford this equipment. Today, electronic radio equipment is much more affordable and allows folks with fewer financial means to enjoy a hobby and be of service to the community. Today, there are radio kits on the market that allow amateur radio operators to build their own radios using kits purchased from the Internet at a fraction of the price. These kits are valuable in teaching the individuals about the different components of a radio and how they work. Additionally, radio operators can also purchase new and used equipment over the Internet at reduced prices as opposed to buying at a brick and mortar store front. Regardless of whether a ham radio transceiver kit or a manufactured transceiver is purchased, they all basically have the same things inside; a receiver, a transmitter, amplifiers and perhaps a computer. And depending on the complexity of each will dictate the cost of the equipment. However, buying a used kit is a great way to save money. It is certainly possible to find a good bargain at a ham-fest, tailgate sale or over the Internet. The same could be said for equipment that was manufactured by companies such as Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood, Drake, etc. What is important here is to learn how to inspect ham radio equipment for any signs of damage regardless if it is a kit or manufactured radio.

Ham Radio Signals.

Regardless of the type ham radio one uses, it broadcasts its signals in analog or digital modes or a combination of the two. When buying a used piece of equipment, one should consider what the advantages of each mode offers as well as location.

To broadcast signals, ham radio transceivers use either analogue or digital means, or a combination of the two. Buyers should consider the advantages and disadvantages of each, as well as their location.

Analogue Ham Radio

Analogue ham radio transceivers use a mechanical system. These radios seem to offer more stability with respect to power consumption. This is very important, particularly while in the thick of an emergency when the

ham radio needs to be able to run with limited power resources. Adding a computer to the ham radio increases the power requirements.

Digital Ham Radio Transceivers

Digital ham radio transceivers use digital technology, as opposed to analogue. These radios allow for additional modes of operation, including digital radio teletype (RTTY), voice over IP (VOIP), and TCP/IP-based packet radio. Digital modes have replaced the antiquated



radiotelegraphy methods. For example, RTTY has taken the place of Morse code, allowing

operators to communicate non-verbally over the radio. Digital ham radios also offer stronger signals and better adaptability to changing weather conditions than analogue models. Also, they are easier to operate and are typically more dependable.

People on digital ham radios can have multi-person conversations from various parts of the world via the radio waves. They can also use signal repeaters and other ways such as bouncing signals off the Northern Lights, to communicate with operators as far away as space. This allows astronauts occupying the International Space Station to remain in contact with folks here on earth. Repeaters are devices that receive a weak signal and re-transmit them at a stronger level so that they can reach a further distance without losing power.

Analogue and Digital Ham Radio Transceivers

Analogue and digital ham radio transceivers can handle both analogue and digital signals. These transceivers are ideal in regions where digital coverage is inconsistent as they ensure that there is no loss of signal. Analogue and digital transceivers are often more expensive because they need to factor in additional electrical circuits.

Types of Ham Radio Transceivers

There are various types of ham radio transceivers. When choosing the best type, buyers need to consider the intended use. Buyers should also bear in mind their budget. Handheld models are usually less expensive than fixed transceivers.

Handheld Ham Radio Transceivers

[Handheld ham radio transceivers](#) are ideal for buyers who spend a lot of time on the go and need portability. They are small and lightweight, making them ideal for travel. However, these transceivers offer a lower level of output as compared to mobile radios, allowing operators to communicate solely with others in the local area without the aid of a repeater.



Fixed Ham Radio Transceivers

Fixed ham radio transceiver units are larger and offer operators the most features. These transceivers are often installed in a permanent location, such as a ham shack located in the home or office. They typically have a very high level of output power in comparison to handheld units and are usually paired with large outdoor antenna towers for greater range. Those who do not travel frequently or who want to reach others over long distances should consider a fixed transceiver.

Mobile Ham Radio Transceivers

[Mobile ham radio transceivers](#) are ideal for operators who spend a significant amount of time in the car. These transceivers are designed to be installed in vehicles and run on low voltage direct current (DC) power. When paired with a vehicle mounted antenna, the operator is able to communicate from the field or during periods of travel.



Target Frequency Band for Ham Radio Transceivers

Ham radio transceivers vary by the type of band that they can be used for. Buyers should always make sure that the transceiver is designed for the ham bands that they prefer when choosing a model. Smaller, more portable devices often have limited frequency band options, transmitting only two or six meter very high frequency (VHF) bands. Such frequency bands are ideal for operators who only need to access local two meter networks of repeaters. Conversely, operators who require a lower, high frequency spectrum should consider a fixed transceiver.

Factors to Consider when Buying a Used Ham Radio Transceiver Kit

When buying a used ham radio transceiver kit, buyers should take certain precautions to ensure the quality of the product. The kits should be carefully examined for signs of damage, missing pieces, and other factors that could compromise the ham radio transceiver's ability to function.

Damage of the Used Ham Radio Transceiver Kit

Buyers should examine all components of the ham radio transceiver kit for signs of damage. Cosmetic issues, such as dents, scratches, and chips, may degrade the appearance of the system. However, as long as the transceiver is in proper working condition, buyers should not immediately disregard it. Any damage to the ham radio transceiver's wiring can also pose a problem and should not be overlooked. Frayed, or exposed wires are a major safety concern and can lead to electrical accidents.

Missing Components of the Used Ham Radio Transceiver Kit

When buying used electronics, it is important to make sure that all of the components of the kit are accounted for. A missing piece can hinder the ham radio transceiver's ability to function as was intended. It is also a good idea to ask about any instruction manuals. Without the instruction manual, buyers may have difficulty putting the kit together. If the kit does not include directions, buyers should check the manufacturer's website or call to find out about receiving a replacement manual before purchase.

Battery Life for the Used Ham Radio Transceiver Kit

Buyers should test the battery life of the used ham radio transceiver. The power should last for a significant time after installing fully charged batteries. If the battery life does not hold, this can pose a major problem, especially with handheld transceivers, which are designed to be used in locations where power outlets are not always available.

Buying Used Ham Radio Transceiver Kits on eBay

To begin shopping for used ham radio transceiver kits, go to the [eBay home page](#). For all related item listings, type "[used ham radio transceiver kits](#)&" into the search field at the top of the page. Alternatively, search for "[ham radio transceiver kits](#)&" then filter for "Used" items. You are free to browse all of the results, or narrow down the listings by price. Check eBay's [customer support](#) pages for additional information on searching with keywords.

Buy a Used Ham Radio Transceiver Kit with Confidence

Read the item listing for used ham radio transceiver kits carefully before making a purchase. Check the price of the item, as well its delivery costs. Examine available photos carefully for signs of wear or damage to the kit. If additional images or information is desired, ask the seller. Sellers are usually happy to provide additional information to promote a positive transaction.

Feedback Ratings

Check a seller's feedback rating before buying a used ham radio transceiver kit. Ratings are determined by information provided by previous buyers within the past year. This information, along with the number of transactions that a seller has completed, can offer a good insight into the level of service that a seller provides. Upon receiving a used ham radio transceiver kit, leave feedback for the seller. This can help good sellers to find new customers. If you are dissatisfied with your purchase, contact the seller to see if a resolution can be reached before leaving negative feedback.

Conclusion

eBay offers high quality used ham radio transceiver kits at a fraction of the price of new kits. It is always important to examine used products carefully for signs of excessive wear and tear, and missing components that can hinder the transceiver's ability to work properly. In addition to the item's condition, buyers should also consider the type of ham radio transceiver that best fits their needs. Buyers who spend a great deal of time away from home should consider a mobile or handheld transceiver, while a fixed unit offers a greater target frequency band and is ideal for use at home.

As well as the type, buyers need to understand the differences between analogue and digital broadcasting. Digital broadcasting offers ease of use and advanced technological features, while analogue broadcasting is more reliable, especially in areas where digital coverage is patchy. eBay is an ideal place to find a used ham radio transceiver kit to communicate over the air waves.

LETARC MEETINGS

City of Longview Fire Training Facility, 411 American Legion Blvd, Longview, TX.

LETARC's monthly meeting held the third Saturday of each month at 0900 at the Longview Fire Training Facility at 411 American Legion Boulevard. Talk-in on 147.34 (+136.5). **Presentations, free coffee and donuts and friendship!**

NEWLY ELECTED LETARC OFFICERS FOR 2018

The LETARC Officers / Board Members for 2018 are:

President
Jim Quinn AA5CX

Vice President
John Zenter AE5OY

Secretary/Treasure
Carolyn Morton KF5GLT

Media Director
John Armstrong KG5LWD

Communications Director
Jim Rogers N5VGQ

**BREAK, BREAK
....We have two
Ham License
upgrades.**



Dr. Preston Harrison - K5POF passed his Extra exam Saturday. *Congratulations!*

David Raney – K5NAX passed his Extra exam on Saturday. *Congratulations*

Freedom Link Update

As of 1/1/2018 No updates since the February 2017 LETARC Propagation Newsletter.
<http://www.freedom-link.org/>

Useful Links

LETARC Web Site
<http://www.letarc.org>

Radio Tools and Utilities for amateur radio operators
<http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Software/Utilities/>

eham.net – Product Reviews
<http://www.eham.net/reviews/products/41>

Android Apps - Tools
<https://play.google.com/store/search?q=ham%20radio%20tools&c=apps>

ARRL
<http://www.arrl.org/>

Testing – Get Upgraded

LETARC is working with LeTourneau University to help with facilities for VE testing. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the University for helping facilitate this endeavor.

Directions to LeTourneau Campus

LeTourneau University is located on 2100 S. Moberly Avenue in Longview, TX.

Upon entering the main entrance to the campus, turn right at the stop sign and follow the road around past the Solheim Center parking lot on the right to the first intersection. The building across the street



and to your right is Glaske Center. Turn right and go to the parking lot at the rear of Glaske Center. Enter Glaske Center rear entrance and go to classroom 103.

Now that you know where the place is, why not study a little and upgrade your license. If you have a Technician's license, you can upgrade to the General. And if you pass the General exam, the VE Volunteers will offer you the opportunity on the day of your exam to test for the Extra at no additional cost.

Where: LeTourneau University Glaske Engineering Center - Classroom C103.

January is membership renewal month. Please complete the form on the following page to renew your membership and mail your check to the address shown at the top of the application. Application on last page.

REGIONAL CLUBS

Click on underscored name to visit site.

Tyler <http://www.tylerarc.org/>
Nacogdoches <http://w5nac.com/>
Athens <http://www.athensarc.org/>
Cedar Creek <https://k5ccl.wordpress.com/>
Marshall <http://marclub.net/>
Minden <http://www.n5rd.org/>
Shreveport (ARCOS)
<http://www.qsl.net/nwlam/arcos.htm>
Shreveport (SARA) <http://www.k5sar.com/>
Rusk County (Henderson)
<http://www.ruskcountycarc.com/>
Four States (Texarkana)
<http://www.4444sarc.org/>
Palestine-Anderson County
<http://www.pacarc.org/>
Navarro, Freestone, Limestone and Leon County <http://www.nflarc.com/>
Panola County (no website)
LeTourneau University – LUARC (no website)

ARES – RESCHEDULED TIME

Upshur County ARES net authorized by LETARC to begin on 30 Nov 2017 and on each Thursday thereafter at 8 PM on 147.34 repeater.

Upshur **ARES Team Meeting** Saturday, January 13, 2018 9 AM Gilmer Fire Dept.

LETARC CALENDAR

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 DINNER	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 LETARC MEETING VE TESTING
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Calendar Detail

Sunday

Saturday, January 20, 2018, 9:00 AM – LETARC Monthly Meeting - City of Longview Fire Training Facility, 411 American Legion Blvd, Longview, TX.

Saturday, January 20, 2018, 2:00 PM – VE Testing LeTourneau University, Glaske Science and Engineering Building, Rm 103, 2100 S. Mobberly Avenue in Longview, TX.

LETARC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
PO BOX 5613
LONGVIEW, TX 75608-5613

Membership: * New * Renew

Calendar Year: 2018

Date: _____

CALL SIGN: _____ LICENSE CLASS: _____

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____ MI: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ CELL PHONE (optional): _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

ARRL MEMBER? * YES * NO

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TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (check one)

- Full Membership: \$25.00 per year. A full member shall be an FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operator
- Family Membership: \$35.00 per year. A family membership is available to members of the same family, provided they reside at the same residence. Each member has the same privileges and same membership requirements as a full member.

Privacy: Member names, addresses, (including e-mail addresses and other personal information shall not be supplied to any third party without expressed consent of the individual.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

=====

Please list **all** of your Amateur Radio **Interests**: [Examples: Contesting, CW, 6 meter, 1.2 GHz, Kit building, ISS, AMSAT, Emergency Communications].

Entered master database;__ Confirmation letter sent:__ Entered master email list: __

For use by LETARC