June 2023

PROPAGATION

LONGVIEW EAST TEXAS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

FIELD DAY AFTER ACTION REPORT

JOIN LETARC ON JULY 22ND FOR OUR NEXT MEETING

LETARC activities

LETARC held our monthly meeting on June 24th at the Fire training center. Our program was a review of what was planned for Field day. Chris Crawford KG5SMZ took orders for the Dr. Ed Fong antennas, hope you snagged yourself one. Bert Sharp KJ5W showed us a small 49:1 unun by Balundesigns.com that was rated for 150 watts. Bert also spoke about the DFW hamfest and some POTA activities.

Speaking of POTA, our next 2nd Saturday POTA will be at Caddo Lake State Park (K-2994) Northeast of Marshall, TX on Saturday, July 8th.We usually operate from 8:30 A.M. until around noon as it gets hot.

Our next LETARC dinner will be at Cotton Patch on McCann street in Longview the evening of Tuesday, July 11th at 6:30 P.M. Thanks to Dave KL7BX for heading that up.

Our friends in the Rusk county amateur radio club will have our ARRL section manager Steve L. Smith KG5VK visit their next meeting on Thursday, July 13th at 7 P.M. They meet at the South Main Church of Christ, 402 S. Main street in Henderson.

LETARC June meeting minutes

I. Opening Ceremonies

a. Call to order at 0900

b. Prayer and Pledge by Bert Sharp and John Zenter

c. Introductions

d. Welcome from Bert Sharp

II. Adoption of Agenda

a. Meeting agenda adopted.

III. Adoption of Minutes

a. Reading of minutes from the May 2023 meeting. Typos need correcting. No objections.

Adopted.

b. Reading of finance report from May 2023. No objections.

Adopted.

IV. Reports from Officers

a. President, Bert Sharp –

b. Vice President, Chris Crawford – Spoke about the Ed Fong antenna orders.

c. Secretary/Treasurer, Rhett Pilcher – Informed everyone that our website domain will be paid in the next month.

d. Media Director, Don Gamble – Expanded on what Chris said about the Ed Fong Antennas. He also talked about the 2nd Saturday POTA at Martin Creek. Send him anything that you might like for the newsletter.

e. Communications Director, Jim Rogers – Talk about trying to get a real estate lawyer to help us claim the donated land to the club.

V. Reports of the Board
a. The board has decided to meet in July to discuss the donated land and the next steps to claim it.
VI. Reports by Committees
a. Social Dinner Committee Recommendation, David Luchak – Cotton Patch Café in Longview at 6:30pm
VII. Reports by Members
a. Bert gave a report from the Lewisville Hamfest. He also showed a balun from Balun Designs based in Texas.
VIII. Recess
IX. Reconvene
X. Program
a. Field Day 2023
XI. Unfinished Business
a. None
XII. New Business
a. 2nd Saturday POTA July 8th, Caddo Lake State Park. We will be inviting the
Harrison County Ham Club to join us.
XIII. VE Testing headcount
a. There are enough VE's available for testing.
XIV. Adjourn – 0947
XV. Notes
a. There were 15 people in attendance.

Thank you to Rhett KG5NWI for the meeting minutes and congratulations Rhett on upgrading to general!

LETARC survey

"What would you like to see for next year's Field day in 2024?"

- Somebody show us how to use the Yaesu FT-991A on CW mode
- Steaks
- It was a great success. Maybe a tad more planning and maybe bring into play and educational time or two
- 2F with 2 hex beams is an excellent idea. Leland's battery setup was fantastic.
- Mexican food
- Reach out to LeTourneau and get young people out
- Plan big meals to get more people out to Mims and involved

It seems as though food is an important part of LETARC's field day.

LETARC Field Day 2023

Field day 2023 is in the books. K5LET operated as a 1F station (meaning we had 1 HF transceiver in a fire department) in the North Texas section. A big thank you to Leland Fellows N5DGH for all the equipment he brought. Thank you to Rhett Pilcher KG5NWI for the logging computer and food. Thanks to Chris Crawford KG5SMZ for bringing food. It was great to see everyone who came out. We got to answer lots of questions and some new LETARC members got to see their first field day.

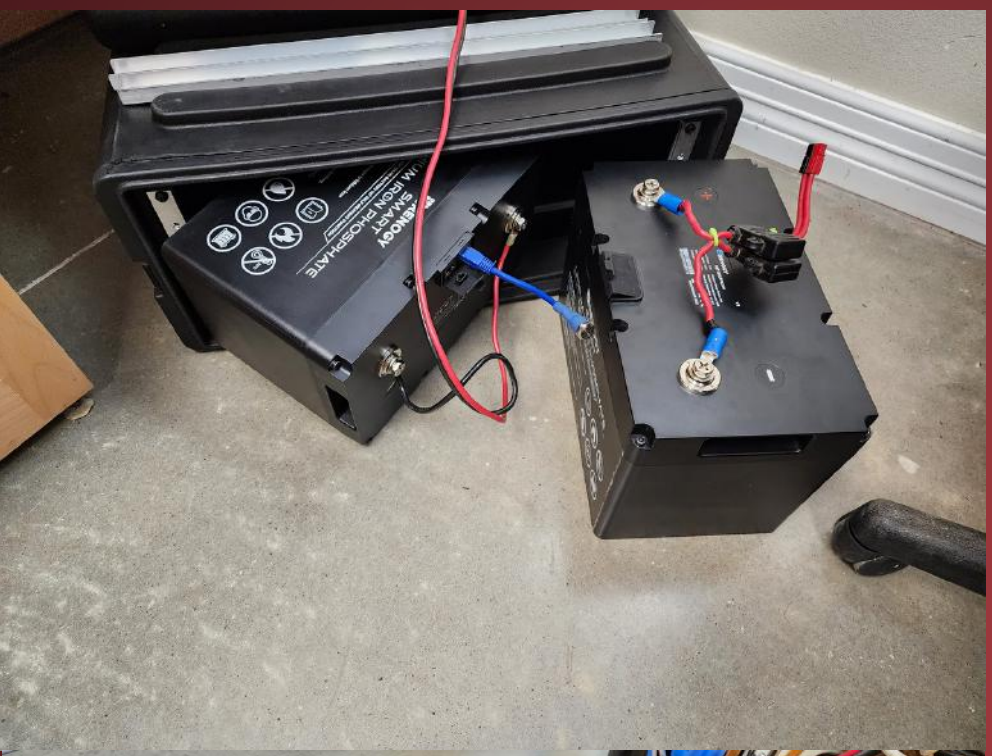
Left: Chris KG5SMZ monitors the Yaesu FT-991A

Below: Leland N5DGH operates SSB while Rhett KG5NWI logs contacts.

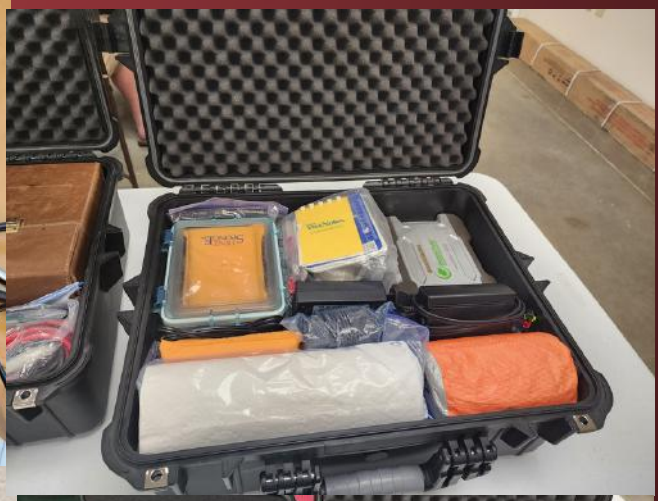
Above left: Rhett KG5NWI practices CW

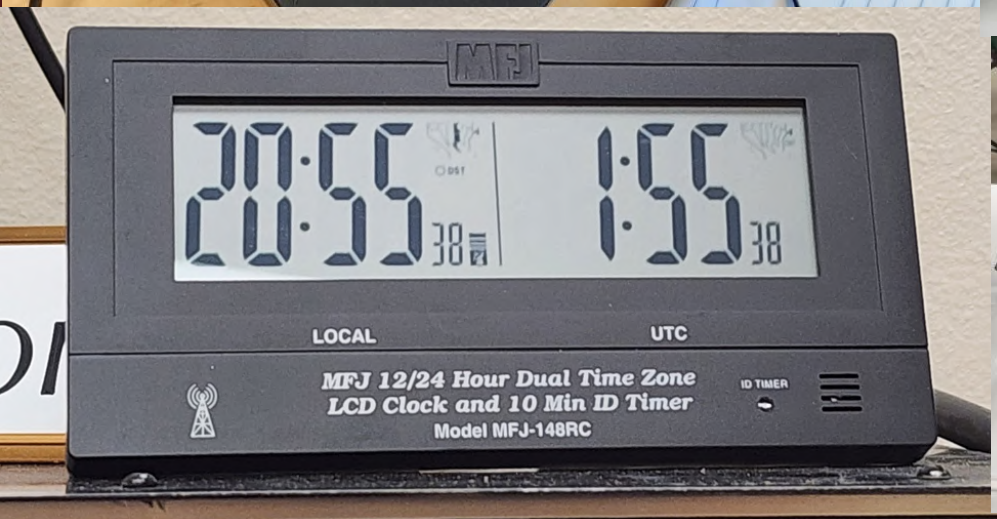
Above Right: Leland N5DGH operate SSB

Left: Rhett, Leland, and John AE5OY solve the world's problems.



Leland N5DGH brought all kinds of useful equipment. His battery system was first class and we barely used any of its power operating 100 watts on both Saturday and Sunday. He was kind enough to bring a rig runner and a clock set for local and UTC time in case we needed paper logs.





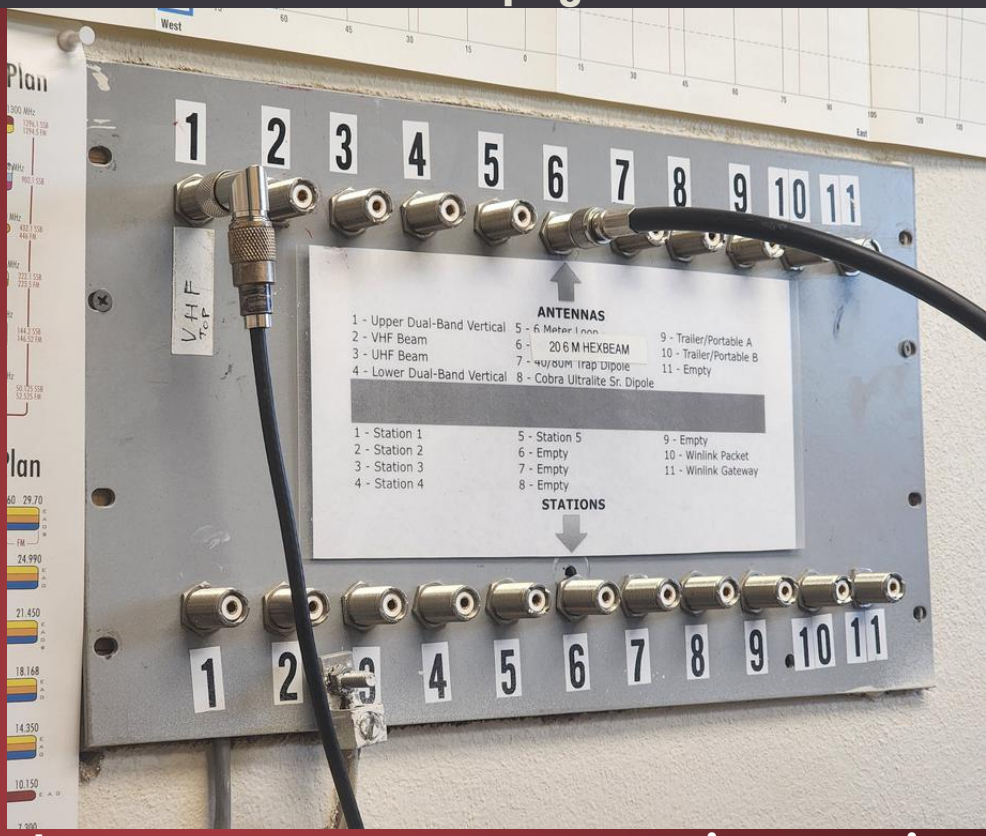
LETARC radio room equipment

Have you ever been to LETARC's radio room located at Mim's Chapel Volunteer Fire Department near Avinger, TX? LETARC is fortunate to have a tower and hexbeam, a dedicated air conditioned radio room complete with two HF stations and a dedicated VHF/UHF FM station (the HF rigs also have VHF/UHF but they are usually used on HF.)

LETARC gets to use this nice facility thanks to the generosity of Mims VFD, the generosity and foresight of Jim Perry KA5BCM, the foresight of Richard Brown K5RRB (SK) and the foresight and hard work of our communications director Jim Rogers N5VGQ.

Right: Our Yeasu FTM-400XD We use this to monitor the repeater from Mims
Below: One of our Yeasu FT-991A's. These are HF/VHF/UHF all mode rigs. 160 meters - 70 centimeters.

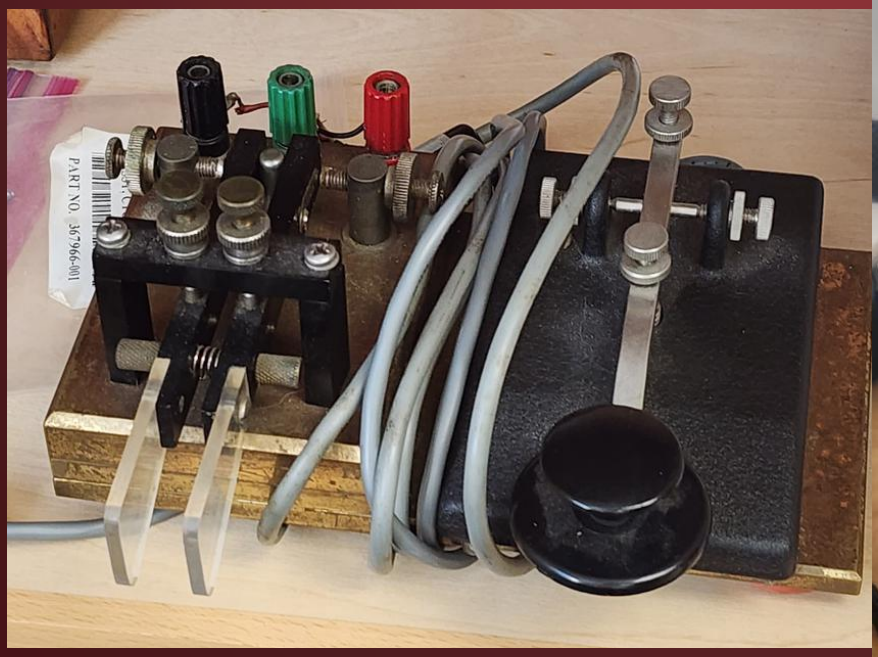
Our Hexbeam antenna makes Field day a lot easier, especially during bad band conditions. There is a VHF/UHF vertical on top of the hex. Below is the Hy-gain rotator controller we use to turn the hexbeam.



These are our antenna connections at Mims

We have Astron power supplies when we are not using battery power

This the world's heaviest CW key



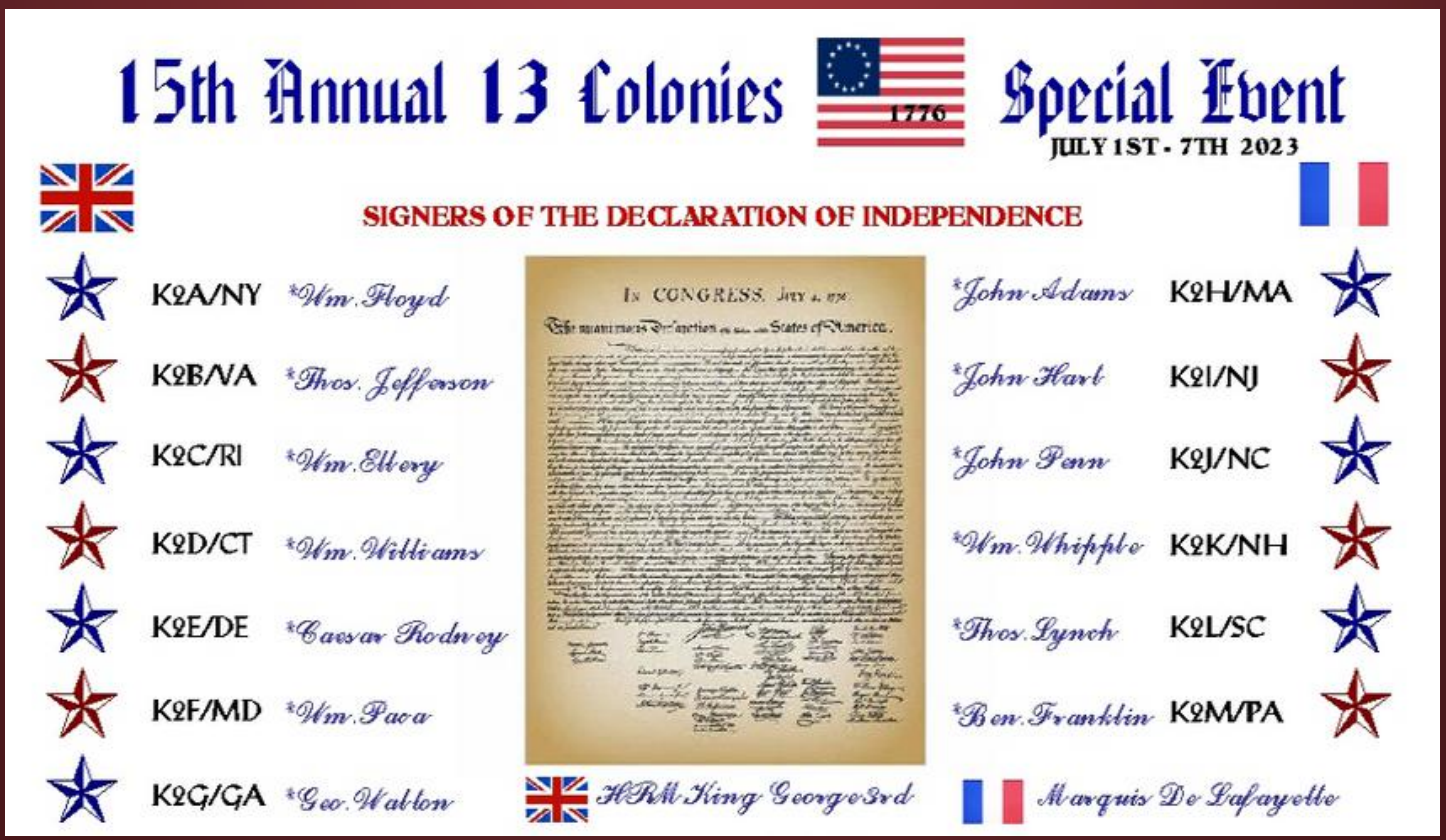
LETARC has Heil headsets and MFJ headsets for operators and loggers. We have foot pedals for PTT, this makes it easier for one person to operate and log on a computer with both hands in case there is not a logger. Heil sound makes incredible gear. Dr. Bob Heil W9EID visited with LETARC for a club meeting in 2021.

Upshur Area Amateur Radio Club's Field day

UAARC did field day outside. My hat is off to them for being tougher than I am. They were kind enough to let me drop by for a visit before field day started. The bottom left pic is our section manager Steve Smith KG5VK visiting with the club.

13 Colonies special event

A lot of LETARC members enjoy working the 13 colonies special event. I hope somebody in Rhode Island can operate CW this year (K2C was nowhere to be found on CW last year, but I will stop whining now.) Dates for the event are July 1, 2023-1300 UTC to July 8, 2023-0400 UTC. Check out their site at http://www.13colonies.us/ for more information. Good luck hunting!



Thank you to

Mims volunteer fire department
The Longview fire training center on American Legion BLVD
Dave Luchak KL7BX LETARC dinner Chairman
Jim Perry KA5BCM for our radio room
John Zenter AE5OY and our VE team
Marty Duplissey N5KBP for his great work on the ARRL audio news
Steven Lott Smith KG5VK - ARRL North Texas Section Manager
Jo Ann Keith KA5AZK - ARES Section Manager
David Chenault W5CWT - Rusk County ARES
John Keith W5BWC - Upshur County ARES
Tom Noe W5TDN - Gregg County SKYWARN coordinator
Jim Rogers N5VGQ - Repeater trustee
Ron Case W2RLC - letarc.org webmaster
Jim Quinn AJ1MQ - groups.io coordinator
Dr. Hoo Kim AG5ZS - Letourneau university liaison
Dr. Ron Morton KF5GMA & Carolyn Morton KF5GLT Longview CERT
Our Wednesday night net control stations:
Jim Rogers N5VGQ
Dave Luchak KL7BX
Don Gamble KG5CMS
John Zenter AE5OY
Rhett Pilcher KG5NWI

Thank you for reading our newsletter. If you would like to contribute please email Don gambledon@gmail.com.

Please visit our website at letarc.org.

-73 de Don KG5CMS

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LETARC JULY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31					1 13 COLONIES BEGINS
2	3	4	5 LETARC NET 8:30 PM	6 RUSK CO NET 7:30PM UPSHUR NET 8PM	7	8 2ND SATURDAY POTA CADDO LAKE SP 8:30 - NOON
9	10	11 LETARC DINNER COTTON PATCH 6:30	12 LETARC NET 8:30 PM	13 RUSK CO NET 7:30PM UPSHUR NET 8PM	14	15
16	17	18	19 LETARC NET 8:30 PM	20 RUSK CO NET 7:30PM UPSHUR NET 8PM	21	22 LETARC MEETING 9AM
23	24	25	26 LETARC NET 8:30 PM	27 RUSK CO NET 7:30PM UPSHUR NET 8PM	28	29

We hope to see you at our events and at our meeting on the 22nd. We are probably going to cancel our 2nd Saturday POTA in August as that is the same day as the Shreveport Hamfest, Saturday August 12th. July 8th POTA @ Caddo lake is still on.