JULY 2023

NEWSLETTER

PROPAGATION

LONGVIEW EAST TEXAS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

HT ISSUE

Join LETARC for our next meeting on August 26th.

LETARC Activities

LETARC held our monthly meeting on Saturday, July 22nd. Chris KG5SMZ had a "show us your shack" photo presentation idea that was fun to look at. There were lots of great stations with good ideas for us to look at.

We discussed the tower and land in East Mountain (pics on another page) and the upcoming Shreveport hamfest on Saturday, August 12th. Chris KG5SMZ passed out the Ed Fong antenna orders. Thank you Chris for organizing that.

We discussed how much fun the 2nd Saturday POTA was at Caddo Lake SP. We had about 11 people come out, most operated and it was a lot of fun. There will be no 2nd Saturday POTA in August due to the Shreveport hamfest that Saturday.

We visited about the Texas QSO Party on Sept. 16th and operating from Mims VFD.

Our next 2nd Tuesday dinner will be at T. Blanco's on Tuesday, August 8th 6:30 P.M. T. Blanco's is located at 1045 Gardiner Mitchell Parkway, Longview, TX 75603. Look for emails from Dave KL7BX about it. Thanks Dave.

In ARRL VE testing news Wyatt Partney W5IQE upgraded to general. Congratulations Wyatt!

And most importantly, we had 4 dozen donuts at the meeting.

LETARC meeting minutes

I. Opening Ceremonies
a. Call to order at 0920
b. Prayer and Pledge by Leland Fellows and Rhett Pilcher
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 June 2023 meeting. No objections. Adopted.
b. Reading of finance report from June 2023. No objections. Adopted.
IV. Reports from Officers
a. President, Bert Sharp – Gave an update on claiming the donated land. Spoke about the Shreveport Hamfest coming up on August 12.
b. Vice President, Chris Crawford – He has the Ed Fong antenna order ready to distribute for those
c. Secretary/Treasurer, Rhett Pilcher – Talked about renewing the K5LET Callsign and paying domain expenses this next month.
d. Media Director, Don Gamble – There will be no 2nd Saturday POTA in August due to the Hamfest is Shreveport. He posted the monthly LETRAC survey on QRZ and received over 70 responses. A lot of people showed up to the Caddo Lake POTA event and it was a big success.
e. Communications Director, Jim Rogers – Gathered information for the K5LET renewal. Gave an update on what is needed for the donated land and for the 160' tower to get it working. He also gave information on what we already have there.
V. Reports of the Board
a. No report.

VI. Reports by Committees
a. Social Dinner Committee Recommendation, David Luchak – T-Blancos at 6:30pm on August 8, 2023.
VII. Reports by Members
a. Leland spoke about the Scouts Jamboree this weekend.
VIII. Recess
IX. Reconvene
X. Program
a. LETARC Show Your Rig Program
XI. Unfinished Business
a. None
XII. New Business
a. Texas QSO Party – Mims Fire Department – 9/16-9/17
XIII. VE Testing headcount
a. There are enough VE's available for testing.
XIV. Adjourn – 1133
XV. Notes
a. There were 24 people in attendance.

Thanks to Rhett KG5NWI for the meeting minutes

The East Mountain tower

pics courtesy of Wyatt W5IQE and Buddy W5DW

LETARC 2nd Tuesday dinner @ Cotton patch - Pics courtesy of Dave KL7BX

Join LETARC on Tue. August 8th, 6:30 PM at T. Blanco's near the airport

2nd Saturday POTA
July was Caddo Lake SP

POTA at Caddo lake SP was a lot of fun. Several activated and several came to chew the rag.
Wyatt W5IQE had his first activation. His wife Crystal KJ5BNI was kind enough to log for him.
There will be no 2nd Saturday POTA in August as we will be at the Shreveport hamfest.

ARRL section manager Steve Smith KG5VK visits the Rusk County Amateur Radio Club

Steve Smith KG5VK and his wife Gail were kind enough to visit the Rusk County ARC during their July meeting. Steve spoke about the ARRL, the North Texas Section, and a proposal to use the HF frequencies for high speed monetary transactions by businesses that would be near our amateur frequencies.

Steve gave away three books as door prizes. Two of them went to a new ham. Steve and Gail drove from Ben Franklin, TX which is not far from Paris, TX.

LETARC Survey:
"What is your favorite HT and why?"

Kenwood TH-79A. Dual-Band, metal chassis, BNC antenna connector for easy rubber duckie antenna swapping, or connection to a mobile or base antenna system coax cable. Easy to use, for memory channel programming and dual-band mode operations. Can be used as a Cross-Band Repeater too!

Wouxun KG UV8D Because it's the only one I have.

The one that holds a charge 😜

Yaesu FT-65. Does all that I need it to at a price only slightly more than a Baofeng

Icom ID-52 It is durable, reliable, made in Japan, and has great specs. The transmitted & received audio is outstanding.

RFinder B1 Plus - instant programming for a dual band analog/DMR HT.

UV-5R. When your retired the Baofeng fits the budget

Yaesu FT5DR. Dual band digital HT.

Wouxun (Multiple products) Affordable but good quality. Not cheap and not stuck on a high value brand.

Baofang because it is cheap

Yaesu VX 8R

Yaesu FT 70DR
Relatively inexpensive for a new Ham's first radio, offers analog & digital, sturdy construction, good audio fidelity. Downsides: terrible power management, typical Yaesu indecipherable instructions, not many Hams seem to use Yaesu HTs.

Yaesu FT-60

The Baofeng because it is cheap, if it dies on you, you just throw it away and buy another for a few bucks. It works ok, not great. Someday I might splurge on an expensive one, but for now I'll depend on my Baofeng. I don't use an HT enough to justify the expense right now.

Yaesu FT-60R - great receiver - provides banks for scanning - very solid

Yaesu FT-60
Dual band
Easy to program
LARGE display
Lighted screen AND keypad
Long battery life per charge
Full 5w transmit power
Batteries are fairly cheap/resonable
Knob-controlled squelch, channel, volume
Very clear audio speaker (fairly large speaker for small HT)
Good size and weight, not too heavy, but solid
Very strong belt clip

1. Baofeng tribander; 2M, 220, 440 bands. It's hard to find a 220 full-power HT. And because it's a $35 Baofeng, if it accidentally gets destroyed, I'm not out much $$$.
2. Anytone AT-D878UVII Plus Digital DMR Dual-band, does a lot of stuff with a nice display.

Yaesu FT-60 because it is easy to program

I am currently saving up for a Baofeng

Thanks to everyone who participates in our surveys.

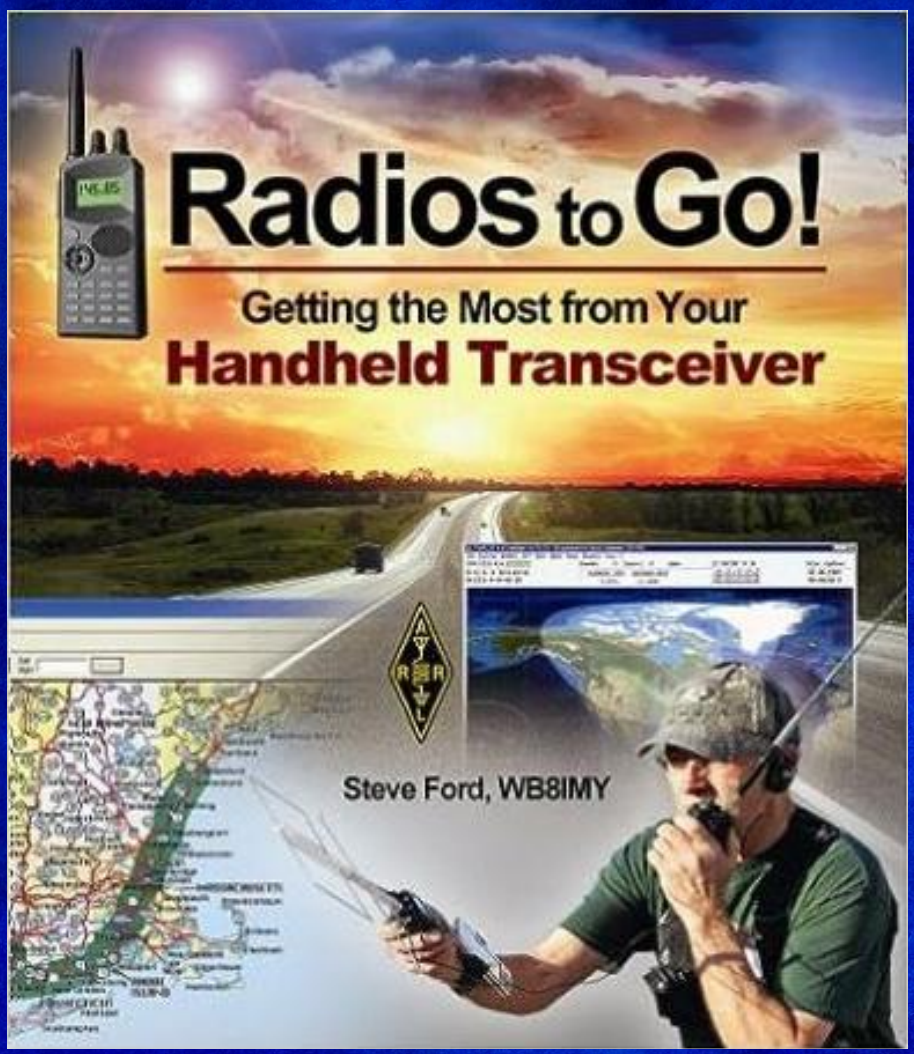
I posted this on QRZ.com's forum and had 90 responces as of this publication. Visit the forum by clicking this link -

https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/what-is-your-favorite-ht-and-why.871205/

Photo courtesy of Wyatt Partney W5IQE

Book review: Radios to go by Steve Ford WB8IMY

Former QST editor-in-chief Steve Ford WB8IMY has compiled a detailed explanation about HTs. Steve explains PL tones, offsets, antenna upgrades, programming manually and via software, plus other info good for handhelds. One tip not mentioned to to program your repeater but swap the input/output frequencies so that you can monitor traffic while the repeater is down. All of Steve's books that I have read have been winners. I miss his podcast "The doctor is in" with the late Joel Hallis W1ZR (silent key.)



You can buy this from amazon by clicking this link -

https://www.amazon.com/Radios-Go-ARRL-Inc/dp/087259307X

LETARC nets, meetings, dinners, POTAs, and VE test sessions

We have a 2 meter FM net every Wednesday evening at 8:30 P.M. on the 147.34 MHz LETARC repeater. All hams are welcome to check in. There is sometimes an informal simplex net on 146.52 MHz afterwards.

Our next dinner is Tuesday, August 8th, 6:30 P.M. at T. Blanco's located at 1045 Gardiner Mitchell Parkway, Longview, TX 75603.

There is no official POTA activation in August.

Please join us at LETARC's next monthly meeting which will be at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, August 26th at the Longview Fire Training Center located at 411 American Legion drive Longview, TX 75601. Anyone interested in amateur radio is welcome to attend.

There will be a VE test session at 2:00 P.M. that same day at the Glaske science building of LeTourneau University. Walk ins are welcome. Testing costs $15.00 and you will need a government issued identification such as a driver's license, a valid email address and an FCC issued FRN number. LETARC VEs can help you get your FRN that day if you need help.

For more information about VE testing please contact John Zenter AE5OY at j.zenter@w-rg.com.

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 AUGUST 08 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	01	02 LETARC NET	03	04	05
06	07	08 LETARC DINNER T. BLANCO'S	09 LETARC NET	10	11	12 SHREVEPORT HAMFEST
13	14	15	16 LETARC NET	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 LETARC NET	24	25	26 LETARC MEETING
27	28	29	30 LETARC NET	31	01	02

Upcoming stuff

Aug. 5 10-10 Summer contest, SSB
Aug.5 North American QSO party, CW
Aug.5 ARRL 222 MHz and up distance contest
Aug. 12 ARRL EME contest
Aug. 12 Maryland/D.C. QSO party
Aug. 12 Shreveport hamfest
Aug. 19 North American QSO party, SSB
Aug. 20 ARRL rookie roundup, RTTY
Aug. 26 Hawaii QSO party
Aug. 26 Ohio QSO party
Aug. 26 Kansas QSO party
Sept. 16 Texas QSO party