August 2023

Longview East Texas Amateur Radio Club

PROPAGATION

Software Defined Radio Issue

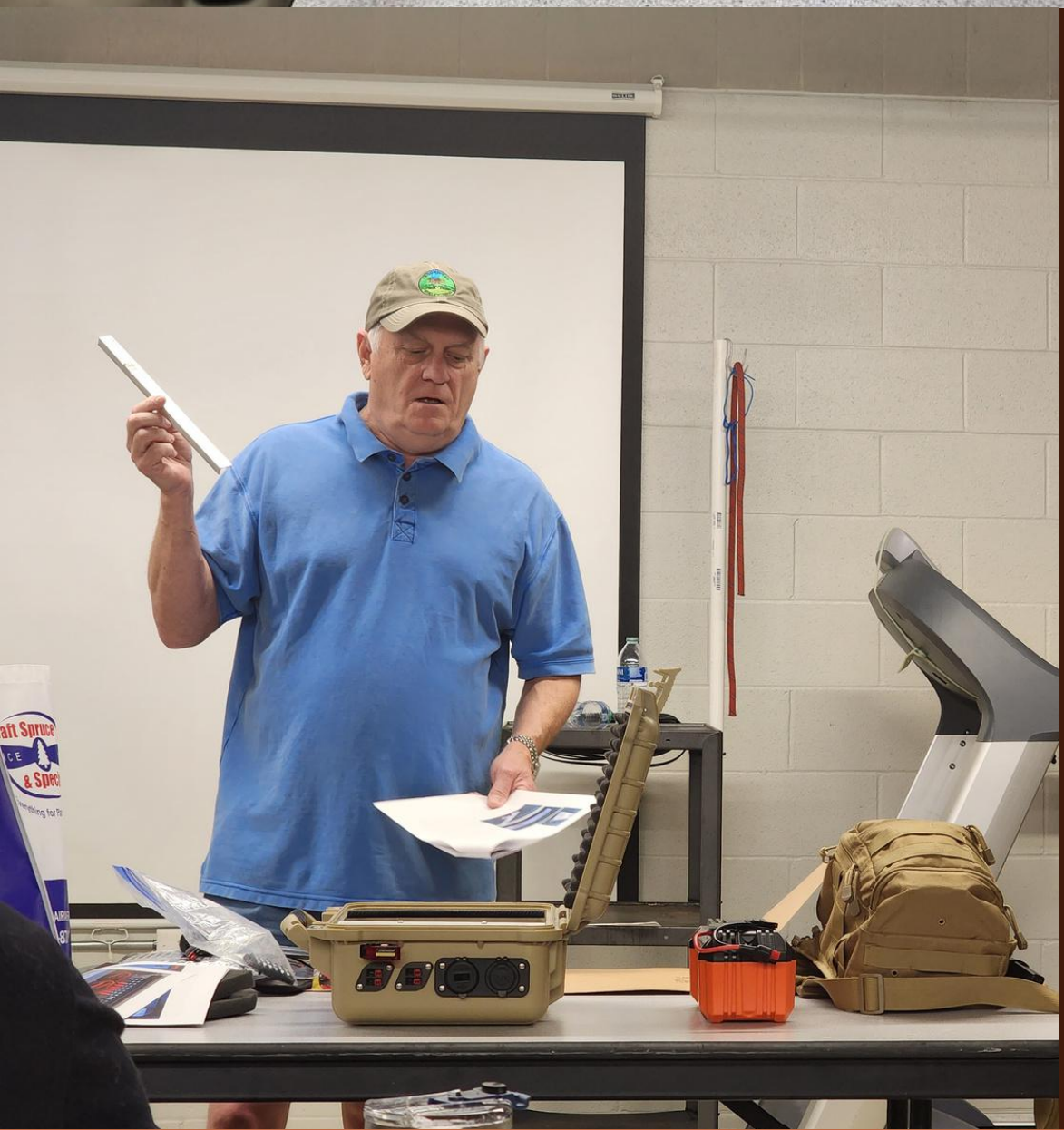
LETARC activities

LETARC held our August meeting on Saturday, August 26th. Wyatt W5IQE did an excellent presentation on two battery boxes he constructed. Wyatt provided a detailed color print out that looks helpful if anyone wishes to use his design. We also visited about the Shreveport hamfest and what a good time we all had.

Wyatt W5IQE presents to LETARC

Larger battery box

Smaller battery box



Above: Wyatt shows the toggle switch and meter on the battery box.

Left: Wyatt speaks t o LETARC

August meeting minutes

I. Opening Ceremonies
a. Call to order at 0911
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 July 2023 meeting. No objections. Adopted. b. Reading of finance report from August 2023. No objections. Adopted. IV. Reports from Officers
a. President, Bert Sharp – The attorney Bert talked to was on vacation.
b. Vice President, Chris Crawford – No report.
c. Secretary/Treasurer, Rhett Pilcher – Gave a report from the ARRL update at the Shreveport Hamfest. Also, gave an update on the renewal of the K5LET license. d. Media Director, Don Gamble – September 2nd Saturday POTA will be at Daingerfield State Park. The Texas QSO Party is September 16 and 17. We will be operating K5LET from Mim's Fire Department those days.
e. Communications Director, Jim Rogers – Gave an update on what is needed to clean up and get the donated property marked.
V. Reports of the Board
a. Shreveport Hamfest report – Bert Sharp
VI. Reports by Committees
a. Social Dinner Committee Recommendation, David Luchak – China King, 6:30pm on September 12.

VII. Reports by Members
a. Bert told a good story about being approached by park officials while operating and how important it is to make sure that you are operating legally and get all permits required for the day. He also told a story about operating legally but unintendedly causing other operators to operate illegally.
VIII. Recess
IX. Reconvene
X. Program
a. Building a mobile battery box, Wyatt Partney, W5IQE
XI. Unfinished Business

Thank you to Rhett KG5NWI for the meeting minutes

The Icom 7300 may be the most popular SDR ever made

Shreveport Hamfest

The Shreveport Hamfest was Saturday, August 12th. The air conditioner there is top notch and felt good. Lots of LETARC members made the trip.

Chris KG5SMZ, Jay KF5UBO and Rhett KG5NWI at the Shreveport hamfest

Somebody bought this huge Pelican case out from under our friend Bert KJ5W

Jim N5VGQ at the Shreveport hamfest

Leland N5DGH always seems to win a prize or two at Shreveport

LETARC 2nd Tuesday dinner at T. Blanco's

Photo courtesy of Rhett KG5NWI

LETARC Survey "What is your experience with Software Defined Radio?"

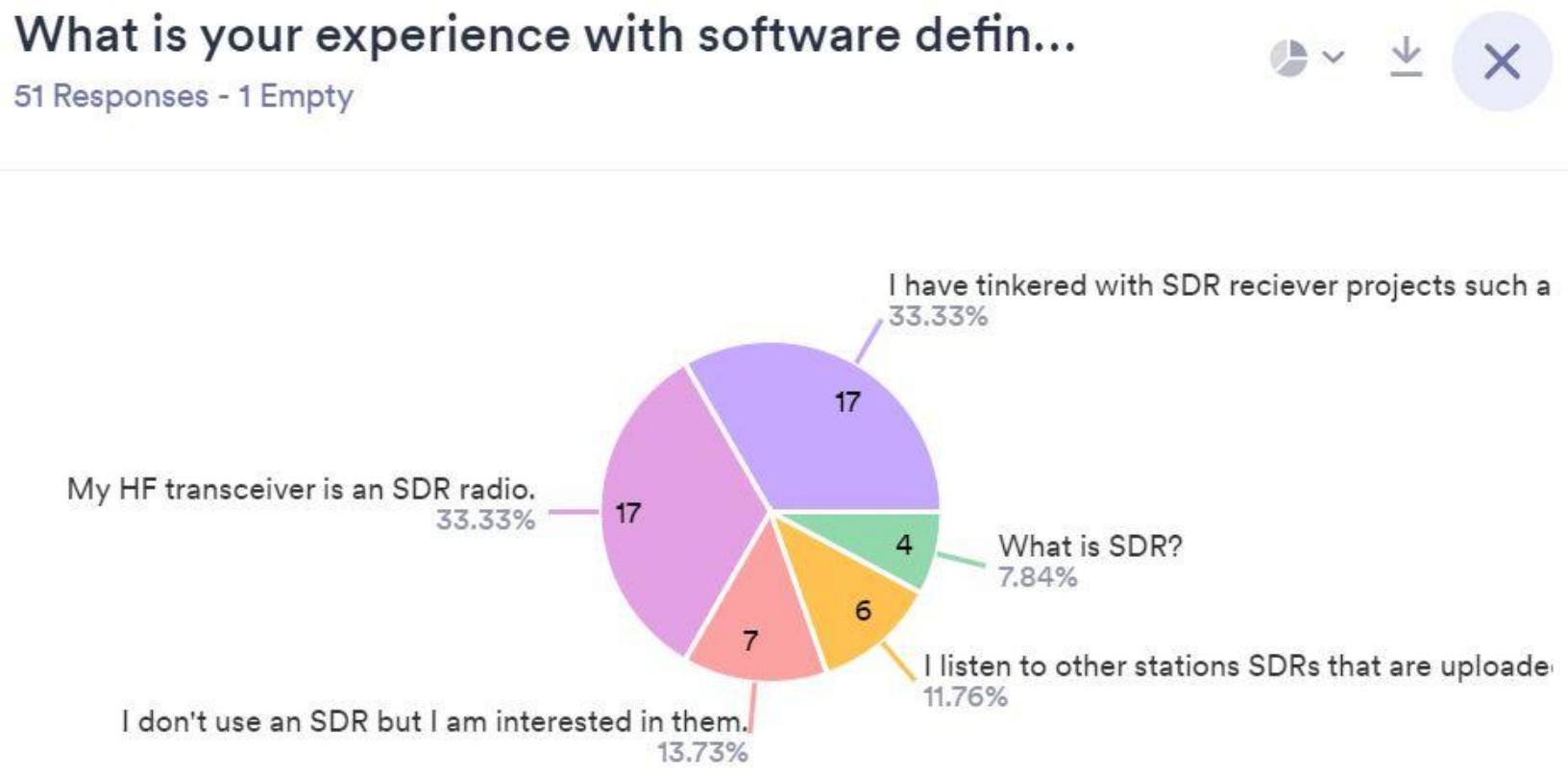
33.3% My HF transceiver is an SDR

33.3% I have tinkered with SDR transceiver projects

13.7% I don't use an SDR but I am interested in them

11.8 % I listen to other station's SDRs that are uploaded to the web

7.8% What is SDR?



Software Defined Radio

Software defined radio, or SDR for short is bringing massive changes to our HAM radio equipment. By using fewer hardware components and instead using computer processor power and software radios are getting smaller and more power efficient. Examples: Elecraft can build HF rigs a fraction of the size of older radios by using SDR. Scanners that were desktop or handheld size can now be replaced by a RTL-SDR USB drive and a small antenna. Programs like KIWISDR enable you to listen to other amateur's radios via the internet.

SDR has made its way into our common radios. Yaesu and Icom both use SDRs for most of their HF radio line. Icom's 718 and 7100 are their only double super heterodyne HF radios still in production that I am aware of. Yaesu's 891 and 991A are their only HF radios that I know of that are not SDRs. Kenwood is late to the party with SDR, they have not released a new HF radio in years (I am a fan of Kenwood anyway.)

SDR allows for our existing radios to be upgraded. Firmware updates can add features to rigs that were previously unavailable. Even non SDR radios can benefit from software updates by using programs such as Ham radio deluxe.

SDR is changing how we use our radios. The new SBITX from HFsignals.com is pre setup for FT8 and PSK and even logs your contacts in the rig. The SBITX is based upon a raspberry pi computer. The previous uBITX was Arduino based.

Radios like the QCX mini use SDR to save space and power

The Icom IC-7300 was one of the first SDRs

The Icom IC-7610 is the big brother of the 7300 and also an SDR

The main circuit board of a uBITX version 4

Thank you to

Mims volunteer fire department
The Longview fire training center on American Legion drive
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.

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