



**LETARC history issue**

# September Minutes

Minutes of the September 2023 Monthly Meeting Of

Longview/East Texas Amateur Radio Club

## I. Opening Ceremonies

- a. Call to order at 0909
- b. Prayer and Pledge by John Zenter
- c. Introductions
- d. Welcome from Chris Crawford

## II. Adoption of Agenda

- a. Meeting agenda adopted.

## III. Adoption of Minutes

- a. Reading of minutes from the August 2023 meeting. No objections. Adopted.
- b. Reading of finance report from August 2023. No objections. Adopted.

## IV. Reports from Officers

- a. President, Bert Sharp – Not Present
- b. Vice President, Chris Crawford – Always looking for program ideas. Please let him know if you are interested in doing a presentation.
- c. Secretary/Treasurer, Rhett Pilcher – Gave an update on the K5LET renewal which has officially been renewed and is good until 2032. We have also regained control of the K5LET QRZ page.
- d. Media Director, Don Gamble – Spoke about the Rusk County Amateur Club's Fox Hunt on October 21st
- e. Communications Director, Jim Rogers – Not Present

## V. Reports of the Board

a. No report.

## VI. Reports by Committees

a. Social Dinner Committee Recommendation, David Luchak – Butcher Shop in Longview, TX on October 10th at 6:30pm.

## VII. Reports by Members

a. Chris Crawford got a chance to operate from Galveston State Park.

b. Wyatt spoke about a wildlife management area near Jefferson that he activated.

c. Charles spoke about his experience with a new radio and the importance of making sure that you read the instructions before operating.

## VIII. Recess

## IX. Reconvene

## X. Program

a. Operating POTA on 1/10th of a watt, Thomas Witherspoon, K4SWL.

## XI. Unfinished Business

a. None

## XII. New Business

a. 2nd Saturday POTA will be on October 14th at Lake Bob Sandlin SP K-3023.

b. Rusk County Amateur Radio Club Fox Hunt will be on October 21st.



XIII. VE Testing headcount

- a. There are enough VE's available for testing.

XIV. Adjourn –

XV. Notes

- a. There were 17 people in attendance.

**Thanks to Rhett KG5NWI  
for the meeting minutes**



# Notes from John W5BWC, Jo Ann KA5AZK, and Terry KG5WO about the founding of LETARC

From John - When Jo Ann and I moved to Longview from Garland in the summer of 1985 the Ham club "LARK - Longview Amateur Radio Klub" consisted of four old guys who met at a McDonald's on HWY 80 on a Saturday Morning. When we approached they were not interested in much more, so we set out to start a new club.

Jo Ann went through the "Call Book" which was only available in print in 1985 and highlighted all Hams in the 5th call district in Gregg and surrounding counties. She then entered the contact information into our brand new DOS computer using a program called "Rapid File" which was a predecessor to our data base programs, but much easier to use! She compiled several hundred contacts to whom she then sent a letter of invitation to join us in the break room of Rockwell International at 3501 Gilmer (the Microwave telecom plant where I was the lead engineer and had gotten permission to use).

We could seat approximately 40, but to our surprise, we had 20 or so standing after all the chairs were taken - at this first meeting. We invited Bob Jones W5BJ to come speak from Garland RACES and as an officer of the Garland club. To say the least there was a lot of enthusiasm for starting a new club and it was voted to continue the process the next month, same location. I then gave a tour of the Terrestrial Microwave manufacturing plant.

The next month we brought in extra chairs and met again to start the process in earnest. A committee was formed volunteers that were approved informally by the group in attendance. I was selected as chairman - then WB5DJE.

This is where it gets a little hazy, as I can't remember who the committee members were, however they went on to become the first officers. I remember these folks were in that group; Tom Wilbeck N5KGN, Gary Luce WM5K, Pat DeSain , Loyd Jackson WO5W, Phil Houck, Bruce Mason, Don Brooks, Bill White, Jo Ann KA5AZK and of course myself WB5DJE. Sorry I can't remember all the calls - I would have to dig out old records.

The formation committee wrote constitution and by-laws, had them approved by the informal group and elected officers. We then begin work on incorporation with the help of Tom N5KGN and a couple other "paralegals". The State approved our application and we were a real club.

The Rockwell building was too small so Jo Ann set about finding us another low cost [as in none] venue. She was at the time working with the Red Cross helping GIs with family emergencies get back to the states. She mentioned something to the Red Cross Director and next thing you know we had a large meeting room in the Red Cross. Back then the entire bottom floor was one room, before they installed the divider.

Jo Ann and her volunteers saw to it that we had great refreshments, coffee, drinks and snacks at every meeting. Jo Ann also contacted ARRL who sent her a wide variety of handouts that she displayed for members to take what they wanted.



We had a printed roster that was mailed to all members [yes by USPS!] and a monthly news letter also mailed each month.

Sometime in the 90's after our daughter became a teenager we drifted away from the club while trying to deal with her and several other events in our lives. Jo Ann had also been manager of the 7290 Traffic Net during this time and had to pull away from that as well.

I think our constitution and by-laws were approved April 7, 1987 and the incorporation approved December 14, 1987.

Let me know if you want me to make a trip to the attic and thanks for doing this for LETARC, which by the way was pronounced Let - Arc not Le - Tarc by the founders. Longview East Texas - ARC.

By the way, the four old guys did eventually join us and became good members - hi...

John  
W5BWC

From Jo Ann - we helped start the club shortly after we moved here in 1985 and I went through the call books to find Hams in this area to let them know about the new club. John W5BWC then WB5DJE, was the first president. We started out meeting at the Alcatel facility on Gilmer Rd but quickly out grew the building. I was a volunteer at the Red Cross building just off the South loop so asked if we could use their meeting room which they agreed to. We met there for several years and moved upstairs to their rooms up there.

From Terry - LETARC was founded around 1987 through the efforts of John and Joann Keith. First meetings were held on first floor of Red Cross building.

# Results from the 1st LETARC interests survey

HF & rag chew	72%	RC models	39%
DX	64%	Comp programs	36%
Kit building	61%	Satellites	33%
CW	58%	Photography	33%
Health & emergency	56%	Metalsmith	33%
Tower erection	53%	PC etching	33%
RACES	53%	Radio design	33%
Radio repair	50%	QRP	28%
Special events	50%	Silkscreening	22%
HF Traffic	47%	FS TV	18%
HF Public service	44%	Public speaking	19%
Packet	44%	Computer control	19%
RTTY	44%	Antennas	19%
Contests	39%	Slow scan TV	11%



# Minutes for the first LETARC meeting in 1987

**please note that John's call sign is now W5BWC**

Minutes for the first meeting of Longview area HAMS

January 27, 1987 7:00 P.M. at the Rockwell International Plant  
3501 Gilmer road Longview, Texas.

The meeting was called to order by organizer John Keith WB5DJE. He introduced himself, Jo Ann Keith KA5AZK, Billy White KB5AJE, and Clesta White KB5AJF as some of the hams that came up with idea of this meeting. A tour of the Rockwell plant was then given by Bruce Mason W5UZN and John Keith WB5DJE. When everyone returned, John explained further how the call book was gone through by Jo Ann and invitations were sent to 266 HAMS in the Gregg, Harrison, and Upshur counties area to attend the meeting. We then had a standing roll call of the people attending.

John then introduced Bob Jones W5BJ and Ken McNatt N5EDI from the Garland Amateur Radio Club as our guest speakers. Bob and Ken talked about some of the activities of the GARC and things we could do as a club and answered questions.

Questionnaires were handed out to everyone so that we would have a better idea of topics for future meetings. John then thanked everyone for coming and invited them back next month. Coffee and cookies were available and everyone enjoyed meeting and talking with each other.

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Note: 47 people, including 2 children and 1 XYL attended the first meeting. WE had standing room only. 31 questionnaires were returned with 31 saying they would like monthly meetings and 24 were ARRL members.

Prepared by Jo Ann Keith KA5AZK



**Check out the next pages for  
the sign in sheets from the 1st  
LETARC meeting in 1987**



1-27-87

7:00

SIGN IN SHEET

at Rockwell Internate Plant

CALL	CLASS	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
1. WBSDJE	A	JOHN L KEITH	RT 5 BOX 627 GILMER	75644 297-2
2. KASAEK	G	JO ANN KEITH	" " "	" "
3. KASYW	G	Eric Stewart	101 S. Stewart St.	297-2289
* 4. HSBWF		Chuck Miller		
5. NSJDM	A	George McBride	618 Oregon	7578115
6. NSFGG	A	Paul M. Maydes	RT 2 Box 18A	759-9073
7. XWASPZ	A	Joe Bell	RT 9 Box 158 Gilmer	750510
8. NSIFY		Ronny Still	RT 1 Box 321 Long	668-295
9. KBSYD		PAVE STARKEY	RR #1 Box C F OVERTON TX	75657 834-308
10. W5WZV		Bruce Mason	RT 2 Box 57-D Gladewater	75647 845-632
11. KBSAX/AA		Marty Duplissy	616 Dean Longview	753-0805
12. K5100		Weldon Perry	2206 Pinner St Gladewater	845-59
13. NSIRN		Fred E. Pearce	307 S. Main Dr. Marshall TX	75670
14. KNSYV		Arlyb Stewart	101 S. Stewart W/O	297-2289
15. K5HT		GEORGE LEE	612 GEM, LONGVIEW	759-
16. KB5AJE		Billy White	314 Robinwood White Oak	
17. KC5MK		JOE STINSON	300 E. SHOENER DR. LHO	759-29
18. WB5NRI		LEAN CARPENTER	2801 Billoways #160 Longview TX	75602
19. KR5G		LA. STANLEY	RT 7 Box 190 Longview TX	75830 75600
20. K5JAV		Don Brooks	2600 Edgwood Kilgus TX	75662
21. NS5XX		Harry Hertz	600 Truini Longview	753-292 75602
22. KB5AJF		Celesta White	314 Robinwood White Oak	297-
23. KESLN		Bill Stephens	RT 1 Bx 5A HALLSVILLE	668-4
24. WMSK E		Gary Luce	Rt 10, 203 Jessica Longview	75601 663
25. K5RHM		O. D. Swell	1800 McComa Longview	756



CALL	CLASS	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
26. NSDUR	GEN.	HARDY JOHNSON	509 FAIRMONT	753-8533
27. W5FNV	"	Nelson Bates	2601 N Ridge Dr LGV	759-1606
28. NSDER	GEN.	PAUL HOUGH	209 REBECCA CIR WALGREN	663-155
29. KB5BHT	T	TOM WILBECK	1207 GLENCREST	7537
30. NSHLO	A	Jim Hall	1302 Dale St	757-688
31. WK5Q	E	BUD LYNES	2504 REDBUD	984-59
32. K5GRI	E	ED METCALF	109 JANET LGU.	753-07
33. W5UPC	A	TONY DEPAERE	501 SHEFFIELD	
34. W5GBN	A	Clarence Bessley	Box 7 White Oak 302 E Center W.O.	759-21
35. K5KA	A	DAVE BOTTINS	113 VINE Longview	663-19
36. W5JET	A	Bill Ege	2602 Fleetwood	758-254
37. K5LC	E	Nick Cropper	1104 Seminole	753-24
38. NSBZO	A	Jim Graham	Rt. 4 Box 145 Gilmer	- 734-72
39. W5PHC	T	Bill Wilson	139 Jester Circle	297-71
40. K5JF	E	JAMES FALL	3013 MARLBORO	297-37
41. W05W	E	Lloyd W Jackson	Rt 7 Box 251 Longview	668-31
42. W5F10	T	J.D. Roberts	500 Lorraine Ct Longview	297-2
43. W5BS	E	Bill Jones		Saraland
44. NC5T	T	Ken McCall		Saraland
45.				
46.				
47.				
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51.				



# 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**

**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](mailto:Don.gambledon@gmail.com).**

**Please visit our website at [letarc.org](http://letarc.org).**

**-73 de Don KG5CMS**

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