K5LET JANUARY 2024

PROPAGATION

Newsletter of the Longview East Texas Amateur Radio Club

in this issue

Rhett KG5NWI and Wyatt W5IQE are LETARC hams of the year!

LETARC interviews Gordon West WB6NOA

Give your input on the info that LETARC gives new HAMs that pass their technician license

Helping technicians and new HAMs issue

Join our discussion with any ideas about how LETARC can serve these amateurs.

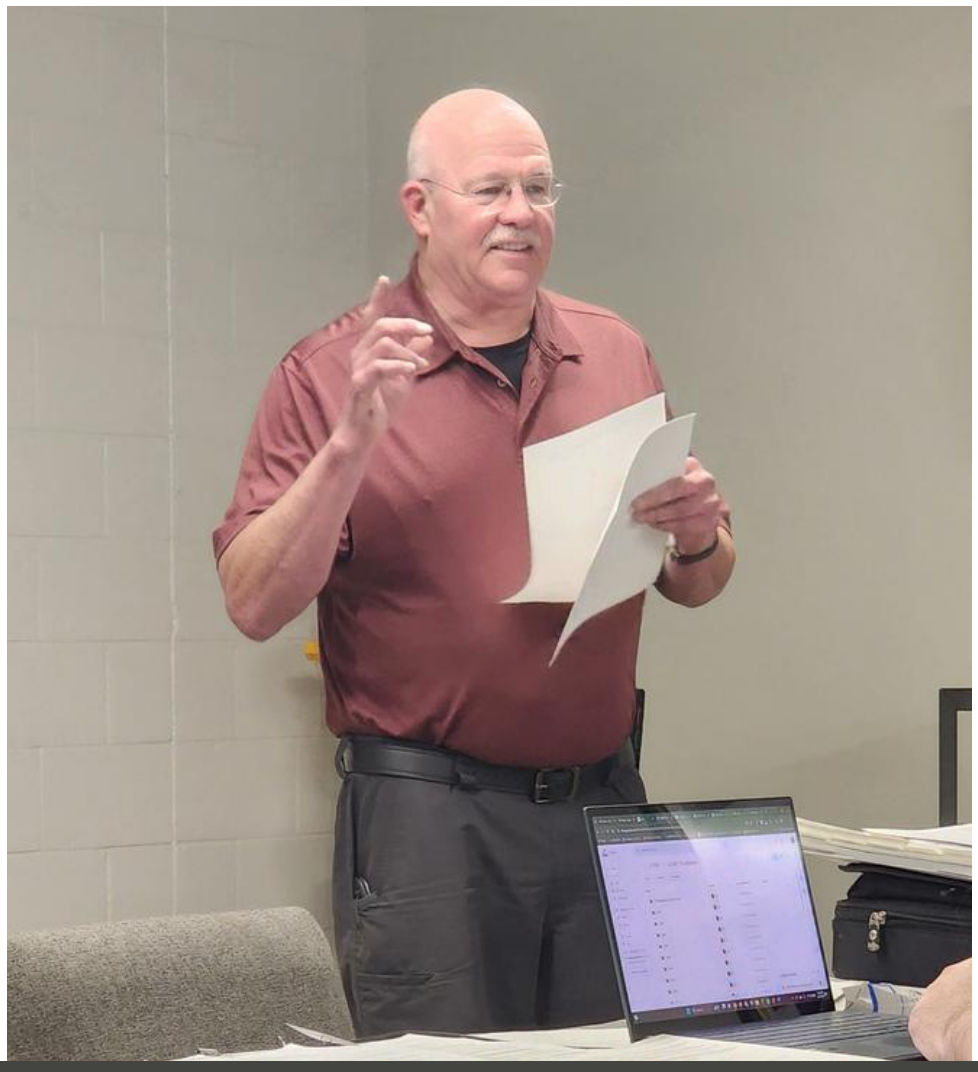
Join LETARC at our next meeting at 9 AM on Feb. 24th

LETARC activities

LETARC held our monthly meeting on Saturday, January 27th. We discussed how to help new amateurs and the club's new tower in East mountain. Rhett KG5NWI spoke about joining the ARRL. Jim N5VGQ shared information on various repeaters in the area.

Leland N5DGH gave a very informative presentation on NIMS, ICS, AUXCOMM, and other training available for amateur radio personnel.

In ARRL VE testing news Tim Newcombe of Kilgore earned his technician license. LETARC would like to welcome him to the hobby. Congrats Tim!



Leland N5DGH teaches about emergency training

Wyatt W5IQE and Rhett KG5NWI are LETARC HAMs of the year Congrats Rhett & Wyatt!

LETARC 2024 Officers

President - Bert Sharp KJ5W
Vice President - Chris Crawford KG5SMZ
Secretary/Treasurer - Rhett Pilcher KG5NWI
Media Director - Don Gamble KG5CMS
Communications Director - Jim Rogers N5VGQ

January meeting minutes

I. Opening Ceremonies
a. Call to order at 0917
b. Prayer and Pledge by 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 December 2023 meeting. No objections. Adopted.
b. Reading of finance report from December 2023. No objections. Adopted.

IV. Reports from Officers
a. President, Bert Sharp – The club needs to talk to a county clerk to see if we will have to pay annual taxes on the tower land. We believe that we will not have to due to our 501c3 status. But that will need to be verified.

Bert presented Wyatt Partney and Rhett Pilcher with the 2023 “LETARC Ham Radio Operator of the Year” awards.

b. Vice President, Chris Crawford – Appreciates the ideas for programs.

c. Secretary/Treasurer, Rhett Pilcher – Excited to announce that half of last year’s membership have already paid dues through mail ins and our membership numbers for 2024 are looking strong. The Austin Bank debit card was somehow copied and there was some fraudulent activity on our bank account. None of the transactions went through as Austin Bank was able to stop payment. No money was lost. We will be receiving a new debit card in the mail within the next two weeks.

d. Media Director, Don Gamble – Wanted to congratulate LETARC charter member Jo Ann Keith for being recognized by the ARRL. LETARC POTA magnets are available for free to anyone who wants one. Don has made a packet of information for new hams to hand out to people who earn their technician license at a VE testing session. Don has partnered with the Rusk County Amateur Radio Club to offer a POTA activation and Fox Hunt with area school robotics clubs. This event will be held at Martin Creek State Park.

e. Communications Director, Jim Rogers – Got the 90’ tower back up after a big storm knocked it over. The DMR and Fusion repeaters are back up. The GMRS repeater is also on this tower but will eventually be moved to a 400’ broadcast tower. The old Kilgore 45 FM machine is now back up on the same 90’ tower. Plans for the new tower site include a digipeater.

We will need to run another
feed line up the tower due to copper thieves pulling one of the feed lines down.

Jim would like to put a fusion and DMR repeater on the new tower as well. The
64 machine will be repaired and connected back to the Freedom Link.

V. Reports of the Board
a. Bert Sharp – We will need to go out and make sure that we mark the right meets and bounds for the tower land. We will need to figure out a plan to maintain the grounds. The small building out there is rotting away on one side. We will need to explore options on getting a new small building. We will need to find out how much it is going to cost to get electricity running back at the tower site. Leland Fellows has volunteered to follow up on the electricity.

VI. Reports by Committees

a. Social Dinner Committee Recommendation, David Luchak – Bucher Shop in
Longview on February 13, 2024.

VII. Reports by Members

a. Leland Fellows mentioned a grant program available through the Irving Amateur
Radio Club.

b. Randal reported that CW Academy has already opened their signups for the new
semester. Sign up early because classes fill up quick.

VIII. Recess

IX. Reconvene
X. Program

a. Introductory Overview of Emergency Management Topics

XI. Unfinished Business
a. None

XII. New Business
a. None

XIII. VE Testing headcount

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

XIV. Adjourn – 0110
XV. Notes

a. There were 22 people in attendance.

Thank you Rhett KG5NWI

POTA @ Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Wyatt's bigfoot bag.

Randal KG5IEE operates from his vehicle

Above: Charles KI5WWH and Jerry KI5KAR operate from the vehicle

Left: Bert KJ5W operates using the awesome Scorpion mobile verticle

LETARC 2nd Tuesday dinner @ Cracker Barrel

Thanks to Dave KL7BX for organizing our dinners

Our next dinner is 6:30 P.M.Tuesday, Feb. 13th at the Butcher Shop on Lehigh st. in Longview

LETARC survey
"What are you interested in?"

1-Antenna building and modeling
2-POTA
3-SSB
4-Portable operations
5-CW
6-FM and repeaters
7- Digital modes such as FT8 and PSK
8-QRP
9-SKYWARN and stormspotting
10-DX
11-Foxhunting
12-Homebrewing
13-M obile radio
14-VHF/UHF operating
15-Kit building
16-SDR
17-Propagation
18-Testing equipment and analyzers
19-ARES and RACES
20-EME moonbounce

Thank you to everyone who participates in our surveys

LETARC conducts this survey every January. Contact Don KG5CMS if you would like a category added.

LETARC New HAMs folder

LETARC reached out to our new HAMs and our technician class members and asked for info about how the club could better serve these amateurs and we got some good feedback.

Chief amongst these was visiting with people and finding their individual needs. We also got feedback about radio programming, QSL card info and protocol, radio etiquette, Q-codes and abbreviations, manual tuners and helping new people pick out radio gear.

We compiled a sample “Welcome, how can we help you?” folder with info about our club, our activities such as dinners and POTAs, a club calendar, local repeater frequencies, tones and offsets, the ARRL band plan chart, a Q-code chart, RST signal report chart, the Radio Amateur’s code (not CW but the one about being considerate, loyal, etc.) a copy of LETARC’s QSL card for station K5LET, a LETARC application with the ARRL application, and a brochure inviting them to join our club.

What would you include to in this folder that would be helpful? What info do you wish you had access to when you were first licensed? Email Don at gambledon@gmail.com or strike up a discussion on LETARC’s groups.io email reflector.

Nets

Please join us each Wednesday night at 8:30 P.M. for our weekly LETARC net on the 147.34 MHz repeater. The tone is 136.5.

Our friends in the Rusk County Amateur Radio Club hold a net at 7:30 P.M. on the 146.78 MHz repeater. The tone 131.8

All are welcome to the Uphsur ARES net is held on Thursday nights at 8 P.M. on the 146.94 MHz repeater with a negative offset. The tone is 107.2.

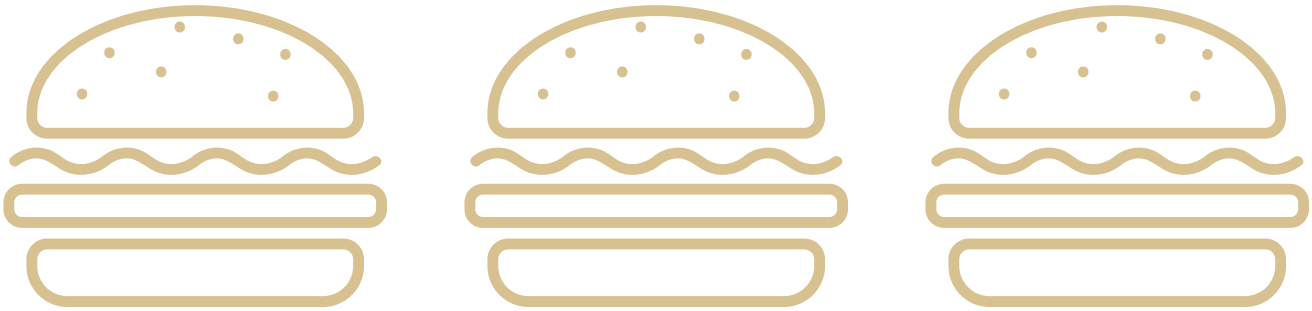
Sunday nights at 8:30 P.M. there is a net on the Daingerfield repeater frequency of 145.23 Mhz. The tone is 151.4

Our friend Lance McNeel W5TWM has invited everyone to his net on Sunday nights at 7 P.M. on 3.813 MHz LSB. The net sometimes moves frequency a bit out of courtesy to others.

Allen Matthews KA5TJS from San Augustine, TX holds an informal slow speed CW net on Monday nights at 7 P.M. local time on either 7.066 MHz or 3.566 MHz depending on band conditions. Be advised that there is more than one operator named Allen, that can be confusing when copying code in the net.

Our next 2nd Tuesday dinner

Please join us at LETARC's next dinner gathering at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 13th at Butcher Shop in Longview. Their address is 102 Lehigh Street, Longview, TX 75601.



Our next meeting

Please join us at LETARC's next monthly meeting which will be at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, February 24th 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

Gordon West WB6NOA
Mims volunteer fire department
The Longview fire training center on American Legion BLVD
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
JoAnn 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
John Zenter AE5OY
Rhett Pilcher KG5NWI

Thank you for reading our newsletter. We hope to see you at our meetings and dinner gatherings and we hope to hear you on our nets. If you would like to contribute to the PROPAGATION please email Don at gambledon@gmail.com.

Please visit our website at letarc.org.

73 de Don Gamble KG5CMS.

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73

FEBRUARY LETARC 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07 LETARC NET 8:30 PM	08	09	10 LETARC POTA DAINGERFIELD SP
11	12	13 LETARC DINNER @ BUTCHER SHOP 6:30 PM	14 LETARC NET 8:30 PM	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 LETARC NET 8:30 PM	22	23	24 LETARC MEETING 9AM
25	26	27	28 LETARC NET 8:30 PM	29		

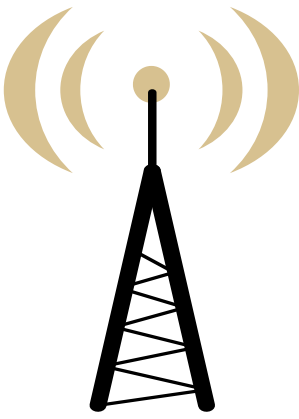
Upcoming amateur radio events

Feb. 12 ARRL school club roundup

Feb. 15 Nantucket QSO party

Feb. 17 ARRL international DX contest, CW

Feb. 24 South Carolina QSO party

Feb. 24 North America QSO party, RTTY

Feb. 25 North Caroline QSO party