

FEBRUARY 2024

K5LET

PROPAGATION

Newsletter of the Longview East Texas Amateur Radio Club



**ANTENNA
FEEDLINE
ISSUE**

**PICTURE
COURTESY OF
CHARLES
AF5FB**

LETARC activities

LETARC held our monthly meeting on Saturday, February 24th. Chris KG5SMZ showed us information on Single Side Band modulation. The club visited about the meets and bounds of the new tower and the upcoming foxhunt and POTA activations and the possible creation of a youth incentive program to provide an HT to new HAMS under 18 and a years membership to LETARC.

In ARRL VE testing news Kristen Hammit of Shreveport, LA and Thomas Kesterman of Carlesbad, NM both earned their technician liscenses. LETARC would like to congratulate both of them and welcome them to the world's greatest hobby.

Meeting minutes

I. Opening Ceremonies

- a. Call to order at 0909**
- b. Prayer and Pledge by John Zenter and Bert Sharp**
- 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 January 2024 meeting. No objections. Adopted.**
- b. Reading of finance report from February 2024. No objections. Adopted.**

IV. Reports from Officers

a. President, Bert Sharp - Meets and Bounds will need to be established for the tower site. We will begin going through the sign-up list and create a schedule for maintenance and the tower site. Wyatt Partney will be going out today to mow the site.

b. Vice President, Chris Crawford - Expressed his appreciation for program ideas. Keep them coming.

c. Secretary/Treasurer, Rhett Pilcher - The Austin Bank debit card did not come in. After further investigation Austin Bank dropped the ball. Rhett was told to come into any branch and they will print him a card.

d. Media Director, Don Gamble - Spoke about the POTA event and Fox Hunt in March. The fox hunt will begin at 10am on 2m. The frequency will be published ahead of the event.

e. Communications Director, Jim Rogers - Jim is continuing his work to maintain area repeaters.

V. Reports of the Board

a. No report.

VI. Reports by Committees

a. Social Dinner Committee Recommendation, David Luchak - Papacita's Mexican Restaurant in Longview on March 12 at 6:30pm.

XII. New Business

a. Youth Licensing HT Incentive Program - Don motioned to spend around \$50.00 to purchase two HTs to give to any youth's that pass their technicians test at our VE testing session. LETARC would repurchase radios as needed when youths pass their test and earn a radio. These radios will be preprogrammed with Longview area repeaters. Rhett Pilcher seconded. No Motion adopted.

b. Jim motioned to give any new ham that passes their test with our VEs a free membership to LETARC for a year. Leland Fellows seconded. Motion approved.

c. 2nd Saturday POTA March 9th @ Martin Creek SP K-3036 / Fox Hunt with RCARC

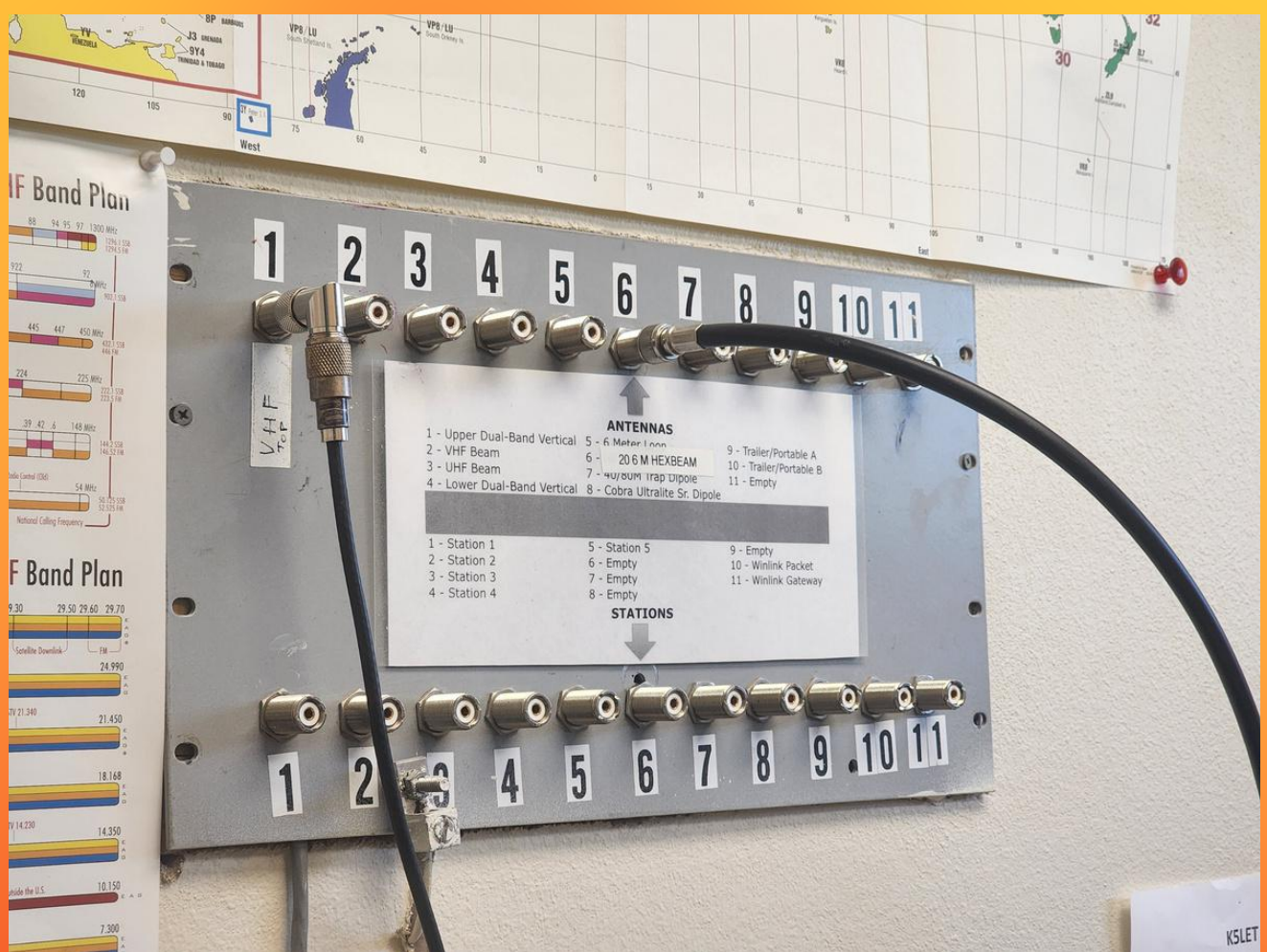
d. Rusk County ARC Marathon Help - March 23rd
XIII. VE Testing headcount

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

XIV. Adjourn - 1020

XV. Notes

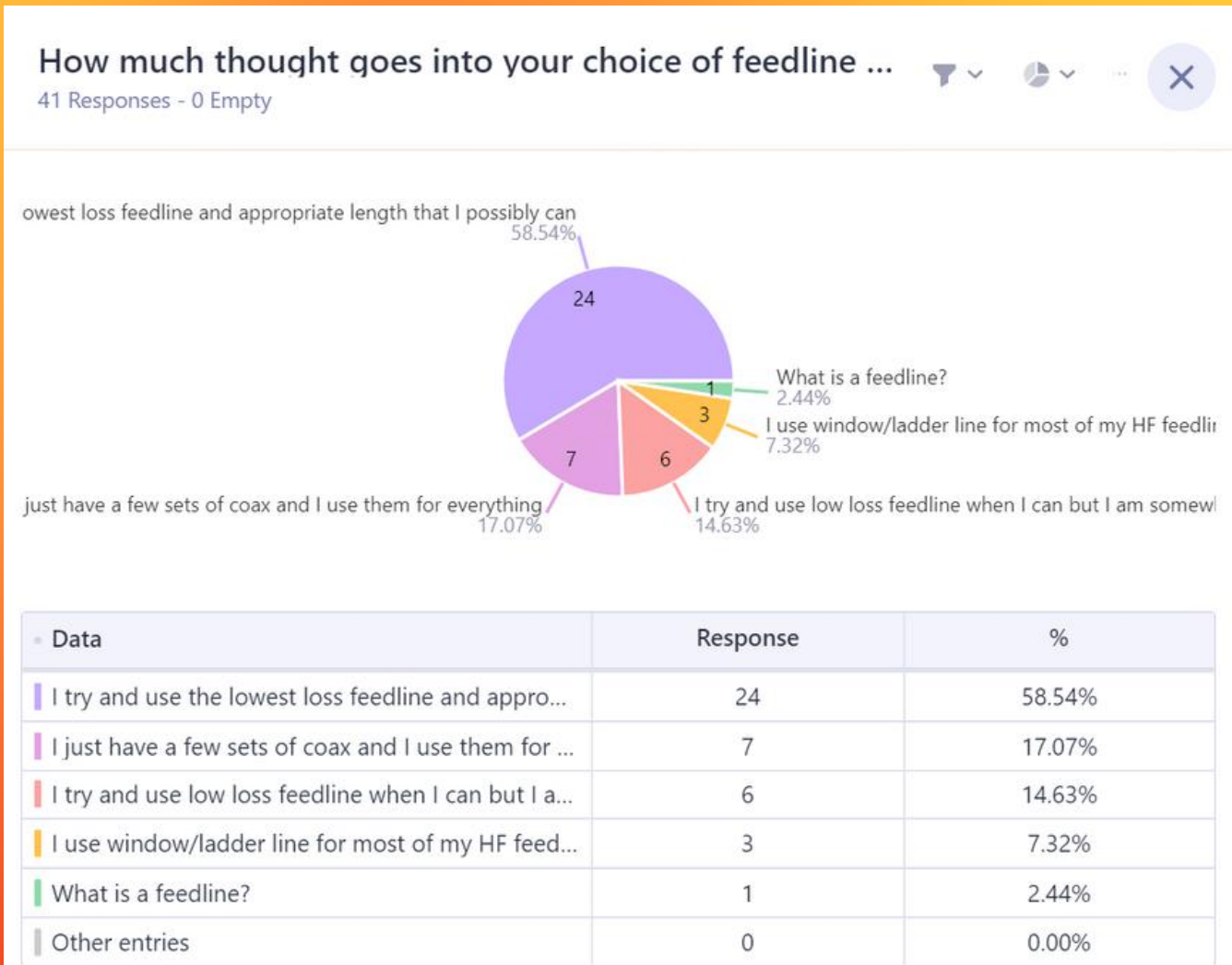
a. There were 18 people in attendance.



LETARC Survey

"How much thought goes into your choice of feedline for your antenna?"

- 54.5 % I try to use the lowest loss feedline and length I can**
- 17 % I have a few sets of coax and I use them for everything**
- 14.6 % I try and use low loss feedline but I am somewhat limited**
- 7.3 % I use ladder/window line for most of my HF feedlines**
- 2.4 % What is a feedline?**

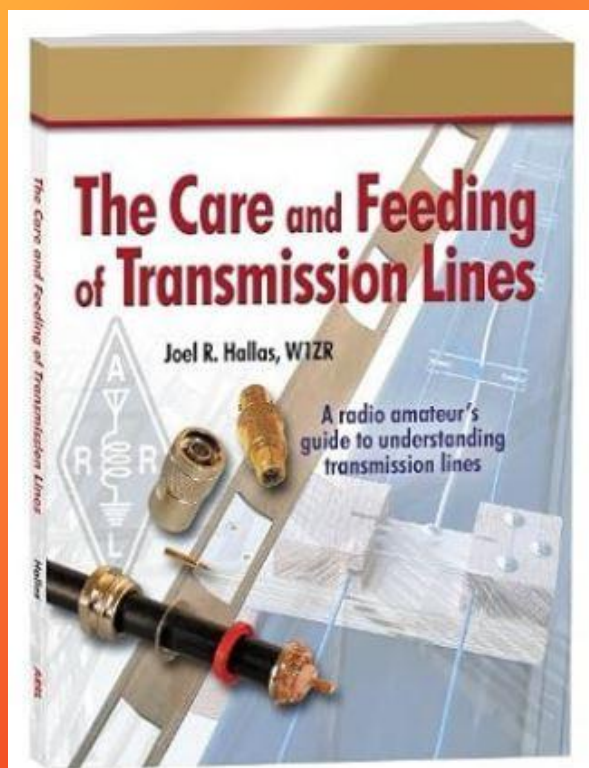


Book review:

The Care and Feeding of Transmission Lines by Joel Hallis W1ZR (SK)

You may remember Joel Hallis W1ZR (SK) from the ARRL features “The doctor is in” in QRZ magazine and podcast. Joel was very intelligent and a wealth of great information. Sadly we lost Joel in 2021.

Have you ever wondered why coax for microwave signals is terminated in N connectors? Why do QRP radios and antennas use BNC? Why is it called BNC? Joel does a great job explaining this important part of our antenna system. This book is available at Amazon or email Don KG5CMS to borrow a copy.



W1ZR

Choosing coax

Quality coaxial cable is a wise investment in your station. Your antenna system can become lossy at any point, including feedlines and connector/adapters. Resist the urge to purchase coax at the CB section of a truck stop. Try not to use 100 feet of feedline when you only need a short section. The higher the frequency, the more feedline loss you will experience. Here are some good choices for coaxial cable:

LMR-400 - This is a good general coax for permanent applications. It is low loss and is good for HF frequencies through UHF frequencies. It may not be great for portable use due to the large size, inflexibility and weight.

ABR Industries 218XATC-PL-25-5FERRITE - This is a popular coax cable for POTA and portable HF use. It has a built in set of ferrites as a choke that is heavy duty shrink wrapped. This is slightly lossier than LMR-400 but on HF the loss is manageable. The HRO link is for 25 feet but it is available in longer sections too. Click [here](#) for the link.

DX Engineering RG-8X High Visibility Orange - DX Engineering builds these cables with Field day and outdoor events in mind to help keep us from tripping over our own feedlines. RG-8X is okay for HF but you will want a different cable for VHF/UHF. Click [here](#) for a link to this cable from DX Engineering.

A special thank you to

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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