



LARA Newsletter

Volume 4 - Issue 3 March 11th, 2019



Editor: Ron Bath
KG5VIS
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Breakfast & Club Members Meetings - January, 2019

Breakfast

- 2 - Saturday @ 8AM Site A.
- 9 - Saturday @ 8AM Site A.
- 16 - Saturday @ 8AM Site B.
- 23 - Saturday @ 8AM Site A.
- 30 - Saturday @ 8AM Site A.

Business

- 16 - Saturday @ 8AM Site B.

Breakfast

- Saturdays @ 8AM Site A.

Key:

Site A. - IHOP at I-35 and Main St.
647 West Main St.
Louisville, Texas

Site B. - Lewisville Central Fire Station Training Room
188 N. Valley Parkway

Association Contact Information:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 292282
Lewisville, TX. 75029

Email Address:
W5LVC.Club@gmail.com

Check us out:

Facebook: facebook.com/w5lvc/

Minutes for the Monthly Club and Officer's Meetings may be viewed on our website w5lvc.org.



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Send your articles / photographs to:
aro.kg5vis@gmail.com

Congratulations to our Two New "Extras"!



Jim Horton WB8YWA



Mike Reitz W5EVT

2017 - 2018 Officers & Support

President

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(Vacant)

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Association membership is open to all persons interested in amateur radio. Join at any meeting, by mail or on-line through our web site. Annual dues are \$25 individual, \$30 family.



From the President's Shack

Thanks to Jim, WB8YWA, for his fine presentation on SWR and Resonant Antennas at the February meeting. Also thanks to Roger, AE5EZ, for his demo on a device/software used for tuning antennas. If you missed the meeting, Jim's presentation can be found on the association's web site -- <https://w5lvc.org/club-meeting-minutes-2018>.

Please don't forget to access and update your profile with your emergency contact information in HamClubOnline. See the January newsletter for access instructions. This only needs to be done once and the records for all clubs that you belong to who use the system will be updated.

Just a reminder that officer elections are coming up in April. Perry Abernethy, NE5ET, the Nomination and Election Chair has mailed out the nomination form. He has mailed out the link to the nomination form and all members should have received it via email. Nominations will be accepted through the month of March with the election taking place in April prior to the April 20 membership meeting. The new officers will take effect on May 1. **PLEASE** consider being nominated for one of the elected officer positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Operations Director, or Technical Director. You can self-nominate or be nominated by another member.

If you are a member of Denton ARES and you attended the SKYWARN training last weekend don't forget to send a copy of you attendance certificate(s) to Gerald Marchant, at sec-treasurer@dcara.net.

Don't forget that the countdown is on for the Scouting World Jamboree to be held at Bechtel Summit WV this summer, and we're not really that far away. Send an email to na1wj@groups.io requesting to join the mail list so you'll receive information as to when the scouts will be on the air along with mode and frequency information. Also, Dale KB5NFT, and others will be operating from the Philmont Scout Ranch during the Jamboree period. Not only will they be making contact with the World Jamboree site but will also be looking for other contacts for the scouts out there.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on the 16th. The presentation will be assembly and packaging of our recently acquired Go Box. Please come and bring a guest.

73, Ron KF5OMH

TREASURER'S REPORT

Greetings members and friends of LARA,

February was a busy month for finances. A number of renewals and new members boosted income from dues. We also received several cash donations from an employer matching program. In addition, your Amazon purchases paid off with a check from Amazon Smile for \$25.50. As of this moment, I do not anticipate any major income or expenditures in the short term.

As a friendly reminder, we have t-shirts in all adult sizes for \$25 each in addition to club stickers for \$1 each. I bring both items to every meeting.

Clark Highsmith, Treasurer
K5LGX

LARA Treasurer's Report - February 28, 2019

Checking Account

Beginning Balance		\$3,215.63
Income		
	Dues	\$155.00
	Donations	\$300.00
	Amazon Smile	\$25.50
	Miscellaneous	\$50.00 Deposit refunc
	Total Income	\$530.50
Expenses		
	Fees	\$3.09
	Miscellaneous	\$50.00 Yaesu Mic.
	Total Expenses	\$53.09
Ending Balance		\$3,693.04
Petty Cash (Included in balance)		\$3.00

CLUB ASSETS

For Sale	\$0.00
Stock (Not for Sale)	\$1,869.28 Increased for Yaesu mic.
Loaner Equipment	\$375.00
	\$2,244.28

LARA NET VALUE

\$5,937.32

Our Technical Director



It only took 45 plus years, but now I hold an Extra Class License.

By Jim Horton WB8YWA

I was 30 years of age when I took and passed my first Amateur license. This was back in 1975 and they had five classes of licenses you could take. The Novice Class, which was pretty easy theory and five words per minute code, CW). Then there was the Technician Class which was the General Theory questions and the five words per minute code. Then there was the General Class with the same questions as the Tech but you had to take 13 words per minute code. The next class was Advance which had harder theory questions and the same 13 words per minute. A lot of older Hams feel the Advance was the hardest test of them all. Then the last class was Extra Class which had even harder theory questions and you needed to pass 20 words per minute code. Also at this time you had to go to your closest FCC office to take these tests. Closest office to me was a mere 150 miles away in Detroit. My first try was in the spring of 1975 I went to the Detroit FCC office and sat down and took the Technician theory test. Then, I sat down and passed the five words per minute code test. You would copy what you could and then there were about 20 questions that asked what his call was, his QTH (city & state), what rig did he say he was using, what power output, what was his antenna and so on. You did not have to copy perfectly, but had to put the right things together to answer the questions. I passed and went back home to wait for the mail to come. Back in those days it took sometimes up to two weeks or longer to process and get it to your mail box. Today you wait a couple of days or so.

Well, it did come in the mail and I opened it up and found I was “WB8YWA”. That evening I made my first contact on six meters SSB and talked to Denis (yes spelled correctly with one “n”), WB8SKP. I still talk with Denis on our 40 meter Morning Group. I had a ball working six meters all over the state of Michigan and on band openings all over the North American. Winter times during Aurora Openings I would sit with my beam pointed north and work round tables from New York to Alaska. I was having a ball. BUT, sitting beside that Clegg Venus Six Meter rig was a Drake A-Line that I could only use for CW in the Novice parts of the bands. It started working on me to upgrade. Plus, my new found friend Denis was already an Advance, wow I would think what it would be to have that license. So in about two years and doing a lot of CW in the Novice bands and pouring over the books (no internet or QRZ back then) I headed off to Detroit to take my Advance license. When I sat down I took the code test first for the 13 WPM. I passed which made me a General right then. Then I sat down for the Advance Theory with visions of what I could do with my new General ticket dancing through my head. Well maybe it was the dancing in my head thoughts or just did not study enough but I missed the Advance by a couple of questions. Yes I was saddend, but knowing that I could get on the Drake A-line in a couple of days took that pain away for way too long of a time.

All the years 1977 until now I was very happy being a General, oh there have been a few times I thought about it, but took pride that I was called upon by Extra's all the time to help put their stations on the air or fix a pieces of equipment for them. I knew I had the knowledge that counted, but when I take a sample test I would only score a 50 or maybe a 60. I wasn't studying like I should, and I did not just want to memorize the questions and

By Jim Horton WB8YWA

answers. Then, six years ago I retired. My first year project was to redo our home from the bare walls. I got that done, then I got to thinking I should study and get my Extra. I Met Bob K5DCZ (an Extra) that I was helping all the time in his station. He gave me an "Extra" book he had. I studied my butt off and would get hung up on the Resonance and Inductance math questions, wasting time and getting discouraged. Finally, the time came and I thought I was ready, so what did they do, but change the Question Pool. Oh my, all that work for nothing. Then I found our Club and joined. A year or two later I became the Technical Director; oh my again! I should be an Extra. I met Mike W5EVT and we became accountably partners to push each and encourage each other to get this license. We (think Mike more than me) were ready about 1 ½ years ago. We could not find a place to test and we let time slip away. We should have look harder. Little over a month ago, we both decided that we were going to study and get this behind us. For at least three weeks that is all we did. We used QRZ sample test and section questions, the ARRL "Extra" book and a couple of other web sites that had flash cards. Each test I took, I would write down the missed question element number. Then after the test I would go to the ARRL Extra Study Book and study that section, by re-reading and then take practice section test. Again if I miss I repeat the cycle. The day before testing I took all 712 questions of the pool and miss 88 of them. I wrote each of the 88 I miss element number and redid the process over and over. I need to tell you I was brain dead Friday evening and was scared I would be brain dead when I took the test. But I wasn't, and was really prepared for it. I only missed 2 questions and scored a 96. Mike did about the same.

So remember, it is never too late, but waiting is wasting time you could be enjoying more of the hobby. QRZ and the other many web sites make it so much easier to find and practice the questions. Coming to our Clubs VE sessions is a whole lot easier then driving 150 miles and sitting in a grey, very unfriendly place called the FCC.

I have an Extra book if someone wants to borrow it. The club has one also to loan out.

I am still floating, but wanted to tell the story of how I study and what got me to the point of only missing two questions.

73 Jim



Club News - If you've received good news to share with us in the event you've received your new license, gotten married or won the lottery, etc., please share it with our club members. Email your Good News to Newsletter Editor Ron Bath at: aro.kg5vis@gmail.com.

New "Extra" Licensees

Congratulations are in order for Jim Horton WB8YWA and Mike Reitz W5EVT. They both passed their "Extra" license exam this past weekend.

Correspondant: Ron Ford - KF5OMH

Election Coordinator

Perry Abernethy, NE5ET, is hard at work in his position of Election Chairperson for our 2019 LARA officers election. He has sent out the election ballots and is eagerly awaiting your nominations for these important club office positions. Please feel free to contact Perry with any election business. Contact information for Perry is: (505) 221-3993, desertyachter@gmail.com.

Speacil Thank You

A special thank you to our President Ron Ford - KF5OMH for submitting his creditials to the VE authority for consideration, recognition and authorization on the road to becoming our newest Volunteer Examiner.

Upcoming Events

Officers Meeting - Tuesday, March 12th at 5:30 PM , the Korner Cafe

ARES Training Net – Feb. 21 @1930 on 146.92 repeater

Texas State Parks on the Air – Apr. 13, 0800 – Apr. 14, 1200

Summer Field Day – June 22, 1300 thru June 23, 1300

Club Leadership Vacancies



Operations Director - Officer: Anyone wishing to fill this position may send their self nomination to President Ron Ford

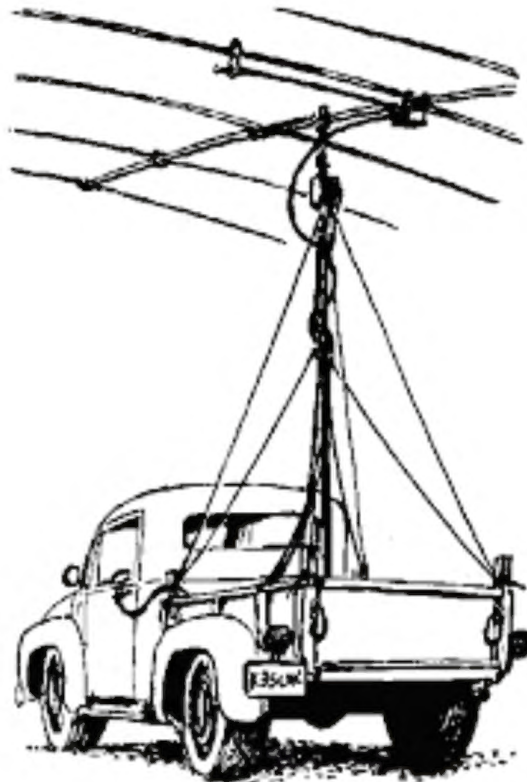
PIO (Public Information Officer) - Appointed Position: Anyone wishing to fill this position may volunteer by contacting President Ron Ford



Ham Humour



Looks like Jim Horton WB8YWA and Mike Reitz W5EVT driving home from Hamfest



Use of Editorial License

While your editor strives to publish your submitted articles verbatim within our newsletter, please note that certain amendments, corrections, words, phrases, capitalization, grammar alteration, etc. is employed so as to adhere to standard journalistic practices and/or to provide clarity to the narrative and to fit within allocated column space..

Ron Bath, Newsletter Editor
KG5VIS



You may address any articles, comments or suggestions to the editor
at: aro.kg5vis@gmail.com

