

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group  
Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2017

Official Agenda and Minutes:

1. 8:30-8:45 Coffee, meet and greet
2. Call to Order - 8:45
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Recognition and Welcome New Members and Guests
  - Chas Holland KK4TNO
  - John Moring AF1U
5. Secretary minutes and acceptance
  - No changes from published notes of last meeting.
  - Motion to approve minutes was approved by member vote.
6. Treasurer's Report and acceptance
  - Working on a new budget.
  - Basic budget was discussed and the results of that effort will be posted on the members-only section of the web site.
  - Motion to approve the budget in it's current for was made and approved
7. Upcoming Events
  - VA QSO party March 18-19
  - Vienna Wireless Winterfest is March 19
  - Field Day is June 24-25
  - Reston Bike Ride is August 27
  - Oktoberfest is September 29-30
8. Committee Reports
  - New Committees are being created now. The new committees, so far, are:
    - Contesting (including field day)
    - Welcoming (Carol is the chair)
    - Holiday party (John Unger, Nicole, Gloria)
    - Education (Rick, Paul, Jeff Crawford)
    - Nets
    - Communications
    - Legal affairs

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- John Unger / Paul Bluehosh - Contesting committee report with details as follows:
  - VA QSO Party is next weekend!
    - Most important rule: Have fun!
    - Past in participation has fluctuated
    - Read the rules:
      - Sometimes confusing but ...
      - Decide on your category - many options
        - Where
        - When
        - How
        - How much power
        - How much wire
        - Which mode
        - Why
      - Expedition
      - Mobiles give others 3 points
      - 24 hour event (2 \* 12 hour segments)
      - Be on at the start! (10am EST)
      - Use the band plan — see [k4lrg.org](http://k4lrg.org)
      - If unsure use 40 meters
      - Don't forget the 20 meter band during the day!
      - See the band plan for working on your strategy for operating all bands.
      - Call CQ often! The rest of the world wants to talk to you.
      - "Search and pounce" OK on a new band.
      - More stations will be on phone.
      - More QRM on phone
      - CW QSO's count 2X phone QSO's.
      - Doing both is best strategy for some.
      - Mobile CW is best, if you can do that!
    - What will you learn?
      - You will learn a lot about your station!
      - You will learn a lot about propagation
      - You will learn a lot about operating in adverse conditions
      - Your score will add to LARG's club score
      - You will have a great time!
  - Chris Graves - Field Day 2017 update
    - Planning meeting last Thursday was successful start to event.
    - Planning 5A station entry this year.
    - Venue will be on Westerman's farm.

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- Motion to set aside The “full budgeted” amount to pay for field day expenses, which was made and approved. This is the historically the amount that was spent for things like portable toilets, food and other expenses.
- There will be more meetings and more ways to participate.
- We will have the “big board” on the web site where you will be able to sign up to participate in the way you desire.
- All station captains have been assigned their stations. Most station co-captains have been assigned as well.
- Get involved. We need help setting things up and tearing things down (and everything in between).
- Welcoming Committee
  - Carol: No update at this time.
- Holiday party
  - Christmas will happen this year on December 25. We believe this is the same as last year.
  - There were no further updates. Expect more later in the year.
- Communication committee
  - If anyone wants to participate
- Legal Affairs
  - No update
- EOC update
  - John Westerman gave an update on the latest at the EOC with included a discussion on the new equipment there. Among other things.
  - If you want to participate in EOC, ARES or any other program please let someone know!
- Education Committee (Paul Bluehosh presenting)
  - Too little time to prepare a quality class in the spring so we are deferring full class until fall.
  - Instead, we will be supporting a “Self-starter” program for all license classes this spring.
    - Primarily for LARG members
    - Contact the Education committee ([education@k4lrg.org](mailto:education@k4lrg.org)) to indicate participation desires
    - get license manual now and start studying
    - review session for each class of license will be held tentatively on May 6
    - Instructors will be there to explain the answers to the questions that may have you puzzled.
  - Exam session will be the following week.
    - “Elmers” will be available between the review session and the exam
  - We will keep everyone posted as dates get finalized.
  - We will hold instructor seminars this spring

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- Two or more as required
- Instructors for fall must attend
- Format will be mock classes/exams for instructors
  - Promote teamwork
  - Standardization of Fall classes
  - Comprehensive coverage of all exam material (not just radio and electronics)
- Instructors
  - Currently 8 instructors — are you interested?
    - Contact the education committee - education@k3lrg.org
    - [www.arrl.org/license-instructor-qualifications](http://www.arrl.org/license-instructor-qualifications)
    - Will require preparation outside of class
- Elmers
  - Contact the education committee if you want to be an “elmer”
  - Check the LARG Education web page on the Education tab of [k4lrg.org](http://k4lrg.org) for more information.
  - Look for notices in your e-mail inbox from the K4LRG e-mail reflector ([members@k4lrg.org](mailto:members@k4lrg.org)).
- March 2017:
  - ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB from 0000Z, Mar 4 to 2400Z, Mar 5
  - Virginia QSO Party from 1400Z, Mar 18 to 0200Z, Mar 19 & from 1200Z Mar 19 to 2400Z, Mar 19
  - CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB from 0000Z, Mar 25 to 2400Z, Mar 26
- “Getting on the Air” (GOTA) isn’t just for Field Day!
  - Get On The Air and “get your feet wet” in a contest.
  - Even if you don’t have a “Super Station”, you will gain contesting and general operating experience.
  - You don’t have to work the whole contest! Even if you are able to only get on for an hour or two, “Just Do It!”
  - Remember: Contests Exercise your Station Equipment, Antennas, and Improve YOUR Operating Skills.

### 9. Old Business

- See the <http://www.k4lrg.org/> web site NETS tab for all of the details for all of the nets that we participate in during the week.
- Motion made and approved to participate in these events:
  - 4th of July parade in Purcellville - info booth
  - Halloween parade in Leesburg - info booth
- Board nominations so far:
  - John, W4AU
  - Dave, KE4S
  - Paul, N4PD
  - Jeff, K0ZR
  - Denny, KF4TJI



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- Carol, KF4TJJ

10. New Business

- Recognition of the passing of David's (WA4TXE) wife. The club sends god thoughts and condolences to David and his family.

11. Several door prizes were raffled to members

12. Meeting was Adjourned at March 11, 2017 09:51

13. After the business meeting programs for today:

- SDR Radio Technology

ATTENDEES:

There were 28 people who signed the roster this morning:

1. W4AU John HAMILTON
2. K2BFY Henry STERLING
3. KG4TIH Paulson STERLING
4. KM4EKZ Chris ASHBURN
5. N4TGA Merc LEESBURG
6. KF4TJI Denny LEESBURG
7. KF4TJJ Carol LEESBURG
8. W3CUM Chris CHANTILLY
9. N3CLE Nycole CHANTILLY
10. K0ZR Jeffrey PURCELLVILLE
11. W2YE Richard LEESBURG
12. KK4MBK Todd ASHBURN
13. KE4S David LEESBURG
14. AF1U John ROUND HILL (GUEST)
15. KR9D Richard LOVETTSVILLE
16. KD7UIY Ben ASHBURN
17. K5NOB Luther LEESBURG
18. KJ4VTH William OAK HILL
19. N4PD Paul LEESBURG
20. KC5CG Chris ASHBURN
21. K9CQB Damon LEESBURG
22. KY4CMH Christina LEXINGTON
23. W3CUM Chris CHANTILLY
24. N3CLE Nycole CHANTILLY
25. N2FID Paul LEESBURG
26. W5ODJ John LOVETTSVILLE
27. KK4TNO Chaz HERNDON
28. KI4UTB Jay LEESBURG

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Photos from our meeting today:



Getting ready for the meeting



Getting ready for the meeting



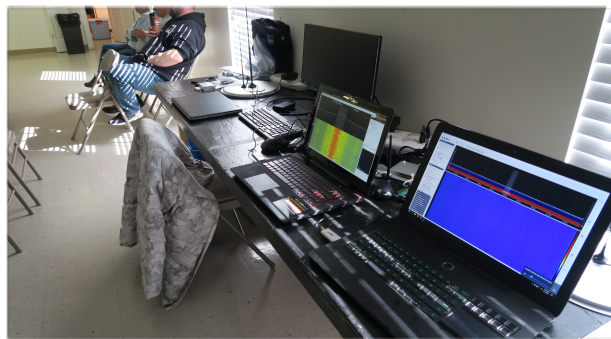
John Unger discussing contesting



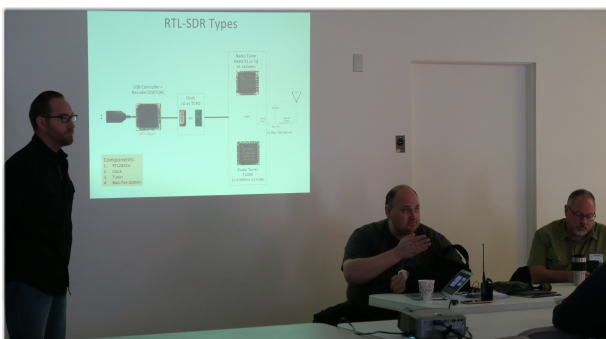
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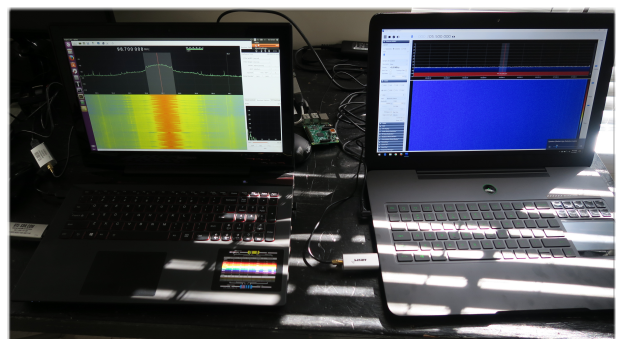
Software Defined Radio Discussion



Software Defined Radio Gear



Software Defined Radio Discussion



Software Defined Radio Gear