

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group
Regular Meeting Notes August 17, 2019

Venue: Leesburg Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

- 8:30-8:40 Coffee, meet and greet
- Pledge of Allegiance
- President welcome and meeting overview. Barry KD4BK was recognized as a new attendee to the meetings.
- Attendance
 - 26 club members signed the sign in roster
 - 3 club officers were present. The Vice President was absent.
- Jeff K0ZR is putting up a tower on his property. Pictures were shown to document the project's tower base and the guying points. The process of obtaining a permit in Loudoun County was discussed. Jeff indicated that finding a supplier for ready mix concrete is difficult. It was suggested that Handyman Concrete should be contacted.
- The membership was notified that the club Board of Directors has proposed an increase to the club dues. The increase will avoid a shortfall in the budget that will occur in the event that no contributions are obtained from the Reston Bike Club or other organizers of events covered by LARG. The current amount is \$12 for a year. The proposal is to increase the annual amount to \$25 for an adult member with additional \$5 to cover all additional family members in the same household and \$10 for a student or youth member that is not part of a family membership. The membership will vote on the dues increase at the September meeting.
- A presentation about noise in receivers was viewed. The various elements of the receiver were discussed. Each element will affect the signal by adding loss or noise to the signal. Examples of elements are cable, antenna baluns, amplifiers etc. The elements closest to the antenna are the most important in terms of affecting signals because the added noise or other effects to the signal are propagated through the entire receiver.
- The minutes from the July member meeting were accepted as written.
- The Treasurer gave the financial report.
 - The checking account balance is \$6,368.57.
- The Education committee indicated that a Technician license class will be conducted in the Fall. The dates of the class are expected to be September 27 through November 15.

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The classes will meet from 6:00 to 8:30 at the VFW in Leesburg. Instructors will meet for an organizational meeting on September 9.

- Steve KS1G announced that the AMSAT general meeting will be held this year in Ballston in Arlington. See the web page at <https://www.amsat.org/amsat-symposium/> for details or to join the Amateur Radio Satellite Corporation.
- Steve also described events during Space Day at Farmwell Middle school. The events did not include contacting the International Space Station (ISS) which is scheduled for late October. The ISS event will require significant support to coordinate an interface to the Internet, local speakers and microphones and the RF link to the ISS. Some help is still requested to support the event.
- Tommy KM4TOM announced that the Boy Scout Jamboree on the air (JOTA) will occur on October 19 – 21. A station will be set up in Great Falls for scouts to participate in the event. See also the web page at <https://www.scouting.org/jota/>. Club members are encouraged to have a QSO with scouts during the event.
- Joe KD4HAX announced that students and interested adults to be introduced to STEM subjects. The name of the group is Crypt Kids. An event will occur in Washington DC on October 25 through 27 for hands on activities. Tickets are required. Reference <http://www.bsidesdc.org/cryptkids.html> and <https://bsidesdc2019.busyconf.com/bookings/new> (for tickets).
- Chaz KK4TNO suggested that additional references to entry level material should be added to the club web site. Paulson KG4TIH suggested that all ideas for modifying the web site should be sent by email to largIT@K4LRG.org.
- Paulson presented material related to the layout of the new web site. It was noted that several areas of the web site require login credentials to access or update the content in the areas. Requests for login credentials should be emailed to largIT@K4LRG.org. There is a secondary site accessed using the URL <https://files.k4lrg.org>. The intent of the secondary site is to provide a method of securely transferring electronic files between club members. It should be used for club and amateur radio business only.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:40.