

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Notes April 18, 2020

Venue: Due to the ongoing national health crisis, the meeting was held virtually using Google Meeting.

- 8:00-8:35 The Google Meeting connection was active for informal discussions.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- President welcome and meeting overview.

Doug K4AIU presented an overview of the meeting. He noted that today is World Amateur Radio Day. A QSL card is available from the ARRL.

- Steve KN4HOZ presented the Treasurer's report.

Beginning balance was \$8,060.41

There was no income during the past month

Expenses \$99 to renew the on line service for the club database

Ending balance: \$7,961.41

An IRS report has been filed to preserve the 501(c)-3 status of the club. A meeting will be scheduled with the Board of Directors of the Club will be scheduled to finalize the budget plan for 2020. The meeting will likely be a virtual meeting.

- Jim N4FAF reported that the minutes from the February meeting are posted to the web site. An empty report for the March meeting will be posted to the web site. The meeting was cancelled because of the ongoing health crisis.
- Upcoming club events were noted. All events are dependent on guidance from the Virginia Governor's office allowing group gatherings.
 - Field Day is schedule for June 27 – 28
 - The Reston Century Bike ride is scheduled for August 23. Paulson KG4TIH volunteered to coordinate club support for the event.
 - Oktoberfest in Lovettsville is scheduled for September 25 – 26. Kurt KI4FWB volunteered to coordinate club support for the event.
 - The Holiday Party is expected to be held in early December.
- Chris KT9N will be hosting virtual Monday lunch sessions via Zoom. Each session is scheduled from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM local time.
- Rick N4RM presented material related to his small business that will repair Amateur Radio RF amplifiers. The point that there are extremely high voltages present in most

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amplifiers was made. Adequate precautions must be observed if an amplifier is energized with the cover removed. It is good practice to touch the unit under test with only one hand to avoid providing a path for current to pass through the heart. Rick specializes in tube amplifiers. He presented some material about basic tube circuits and theory. Grounded Grid Triode and Grounded Cathode Grid driven tetrode designs were presented. The main elements of a tube – Cathode, Anode, Grid and Filament were discussed. It is important to warmup an amplifier before a signal is applied. The warmup period is typically between 2 and 3 minutes.

- Kevin AK2M and Harry KI2H presented notes about their experience during the recent Virginia QSO party. They used the special event call sign K4H so they could easily combine their points. They operated as multi operator mobile. Their experience is chronicled at the web site <http://k4h.live>. Some lessons learned reported were the need to schedule vacation time around the event so that adequate time is available to prepare the vehicle and the radios. Deployment of the antennas should be practiced if the antennas are stowed for vehicle movement. Practice minimizes loss of time during each stop for radio operation. The final lesson relates to using headphones. This is necessary because the operators are so close when operating in the vehicle that their voices become a distraction for the other operator.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:18 AM.
- Attendance

Chaz	KK4TNO
Chris	KU4FT
John	WB2UNA
Barry	KD4BK
Bob	KN4ZZI
Rick	N1RM
Roy	AD7FW
Paulson	KG4TIH
Dwight	N2ALA
Bob	KJ4NXG
Collins	AB2KC
Dave	KE4S

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Bill	K3WD
Carol	KF4TJJ
Denny	KF4TJI
Steve	KS1G
Jim	K4FW
Chris	W4PMP
Kevin	AK2M
Harry	KI2H
Bryan	KG4UPR
Doug	K4AIU
Mike	N4PDY
Steve	KN4HOZ
Jim	N4FAF