

# Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

## Regular Meeting Notes July 18, 2020

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

- 8:00-8:30 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.

- Jim N4FAF reported that the minutes from the June meeting can be accessed via the club web site. A message is distributed using the club email reflector to allow club members to indicate their attendance of the virtual meeting. Reply directly to the message to register your attendance.
- Steve KN4HOZ presented the Treasurer's report.

There was no financial activity during the past month  
Current club treasury balance: \$7,938.92

- Jeff K0ZR presented information on the subject of radio station assembly. Grounding is very important for safety. Providing a good RF ground is less important. All equipment should be grounded to a single point. The single point can be a solid copper bus from which a connection to a rod driven into the earth can be made. Connections should not be made from one piece of equipment to another before connecting to the point ground as this method can result in unwanted RFI. Device connections for all equipment can be wound through a MIX31 toroid to reduce RFI. Use 8 to 10 turns passing through the center of the toroid. This method can be used for microphone connections, AC power connections, CW keys, etc. Use of toroids becomes more important when transmit power exceeds 500 watts. An alternative to a rod driven into the earth is a four foot section of one inch copper pipe in a hole that is back filled with bentonite. Coax connectors outside in the weather should be soldered to the cable to provide additional physical strength required when the wind blows. Crimp on connectors can be made more quickly but are less strong. Sealing coax connections is important. The recommended sequence presented was several turns of electrical tape followed by Scotch Moisture Seal tape and finally more electrical tape. Another product that can be used is Coax Seal, but it is extremely sticky and is difficult to undo. An RF choke near the antenna is recommended to reduce RF currents on the coax shield.
- It was noted that the Reston Century has been cancelled this year. The Berryville hamfest also has been cancelled. The Oktoberfest event in Lovettsville has been

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cancelled. There are currently no events scheduled for the club to provide public service using the 2020 calendar year.

- Ideas for presentations during the monthly club meetings should be sent via email to [vicepresident@k4lrg.org](mailto:vicepresident@k4lrg.org).
- The education committee will discuss license level classes during the remaining calendar year. All operators or prospective operators who would like to take a license exam should visit the web page <https://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>. Testing sponsored by the club will be announced if suitable arrangements can be made.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM.
- Attendance

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| W0MPM  | John    |
| K4AIU  | Doug    |
| KM4GC  | Doug    |
| KG4TIH | Paulson |
| W4PMP  | Chris   |
| KN4OGS | James   |
| N4PDY  | Mike    |
| N1RM   | Rick    |
| KJ4NXG | Bob     |
| KG4UPR | Bryan   |
| KN4HOZ | Steve   |
| KS1G   | Steve   |
| AB2KC  | Collins |
| KD1BK  | Barry   |
| K0ZR   | Jeff    |
| N4TGA  | Merc    |
| KU4FT  | Chris   |

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N2ALA        Dwight

KK4TNO      Chaz