

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Notes September 19, 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 August 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.
- Ron Rise KO4EJG was recognized as a visitor to the meeting. Ron earned his license during the summer.
- Steve KN4HOZ presented the Treasurer's report.

The starting balance was \$7,938.92. There were deposits amounting \$417.51 during the month. Current club treasury balance: \$9,356.43.

- Elections for club officers and members of the Board of Directors will occur in January. There is a need to elect a minimum of three Board members. Requirements for membership on the Board include five years as a member of LARG and an Amateur Extra class license. See section 3 of the club bylaws for additional requirements. Send an email message to leadership@k4lrg.org if you would like to be considered for the Board or an officer's position.
- A class for earning a Technician license will be held in the Fall. The dates are September 28 to October 26. The instruction will occur using virtual technology on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:30. Currently six people have expressed interest in attending the classes. The cost is expected to be \$20 which includes the cost of the license examination. One or more volunteers is required to generate publicity for the class. Send an email to education@k4lrg.org if you are able to help.
- Mike N4PDY presented slides to describe how a relatively inexpensive station can be set up. The presentation was intended to show that large towers with antennas and expensive radios are not required to set up an effective station. One significant point is that for a vertical HF antenna, ground rods can be effectively used rather than a radial field. Mike reported that Bob Heil of Heil Sound will make a presentation at the November meeting.

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- Rick N1RM reported on a project that he has implemented in his station. The software package named FreqEZ runs on a Raspberry Pi processor to monitor commands between CAT software and the radio. The FreqEZ can perform associated tasks automatically such as activating an antenna switch.
- Jeff K0ZR suggested that hams adding HF antennas to their stations should consult with senior members of the club if they have questions about how the antennas should be installed or constructed.
- Paul N4PD has certificates for the 2020 Virginia QSO party. He suggested that LARG participation has waned in recent years. Club members with an interest in participating in the event next March should begin preparation now. It was suggested that a presentation be given during a future club meeting to cover the use of logging software and operation during the event.
- Members are suggested to reference www.contestcalendar.com to determine upcoming radio sport contest events.
- Plans for the Holiday Party are forming. One idea is that the party will be held virtually.
- Ideas for presentations during the monthly club meetings should be sent via email to vicepresident@k4lrg.org.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.

- Attendance

Paulson	KG4TIH
Dave	KE4S
Rick	N1RM
Mike	N4PDY
Chris	KU4FT
Doug	K4AIU
Merc	N4TGA
Jim	K4FW
Chris	KT9N
Chris	W4PMP
Steve	N1ESD

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Roy	AD7FW
Carol	KF4TJJ
Denny	KF4TJI
Paul	N4PD
Barry	KD4BK
Steve	KN4HOZ
Bob	KJ4NXG
Tarek	K9TRE
Jeff	K0ZR