

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Notes January 16, 2020

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

- 8:00-8:35 The Google Meeting connection was active for informal discussions.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- President welcome and meeting overview. The following individuals were recognized as visitors or new members: Clay Reis, Kevin McCorry, Rick Sprey, Chris Hawkins, Jim Sherer and Mark Stevens.
- Jim N4FAF reported that the minutes from the December meeting can be accessed via the club web site. The message is distributed using the club email reflector to allow club members to indicate their attendance of the virtual meeting will not be used this month. A snapshot of the meeting participants will be used.
- Steve KN4HOZ presented the Treasurer's report.

The starting balance was \$8,996.76. There were deposits amounting \$100 during the month. Current club treasury balance: \$9,096.76.

- Dave KE4S reported that the election resulted in the new officers as follows: President - Mike N4PDY, Vice President - Mark W4PSO, Treasurer – Steve KN4HOZ, Secretary – Jim N4FAF
- Dave KE4S reported that new members of the Board of Directors are Rick – N1RM, John W5ODJ, Jeff K0ZR and Chris – KT9N. They join the incumbent directors: Paul N4PD and Dave KE4S.
- Jeff K0ZR reported that the club will sponsor a class for the material to pass the General license test. Dates for the class are not determined, but the class will begin soon.
- Rick N4RM reported that the North American QSO party will begin later in the day. The contest is an easy exchange. It would make a good first event for an operator interested in becoming active in contesting.
- John W5ODJ presented material on digital modes of radio operation.
 - The club web site has pages containing information about digital modes. Reference <https://k4lrg.org/nets/digital-modes/>. Equipment necessary to operate digital modes and frequencies where digital mode operation is often found are highlights. Also information on the digital net associated with the club that occurs on Sunday evenings.
 - All digital modes use upper sideband (USB) regardless of frequency band.

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- o Transceivers should use the digital setting so the microphone is muted.
- o Relatively low power settings can be used when operating digital modes. Almost always less than 25 watts is adequate. Often, 5 watts is enough. If the power must be set to 100 watts, there is probably an error in the configuration.
- o JS8 Call is John's digital mode of choice. He operates with a Raspberry Pi 4 accessed with VNC. It is also possible to access the Pi using an attached keyboard and monitor.
- o A good web site to show activities of various digital modes is pskreporter.info.
- o It is important that all receiver filtering such as notch filters be disabled during digital mode operation.
- Steve KS1G reported on the opportunity to facilitate a contact at Sterling Middle School with the International Space Station. It is likely that the contact will involve a telebridge rather than a direct contact during the flyover.
- It is likely that a work party will occur in the Spring to rehabilitate the newly acquired tailer containing equipment for satellite contacts. Details will be provided as the schedule becomes firm.
- It was suggested that the virtual meetings be recorded. The recordings would be provided to members when requested. In particular, the presentations should be recorded.
- Paulson KG4TIH reported that utilities contained in the suite of Google apps is available for subgroups of the club. In particular, these tools can be used to facilitate virtual meetings.
- A volunteer is requested to lead the effort to integrate tools from SalesForce to the club. In particular, a new tool would be used to track membership information. The current tool is an annual expense of \$100. The new tools are expected to be free.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.
- Attendance

Chris KT9N

Barry KD4BK

Chris KU4FT

Chris W4PMP

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Clay	NoCall
Chris	NoCall
Denny	KF5TJI
Carol	KF4TJJ
Dave	KE4S
Doug	K4AIU
Doug	KM4GC
Ed	KK4WXO
Jeff	K0ZR
Jim	K4FW
Jim	N4FAF
John	WB2UNA
Kathleen	NoCall
Kevin	AK2M
Kevin	NoCall
Sheafer	KG4OAP
Marc	W4PSO
Mark	NoCall
Merc	N4TGA
Mike	N4PDY
Paul	N4PD
Paulson	KG4TIH
Richard	KM4RHW
Stephen	KS1G
Steve	N1ESD
Steve	KN4HOZ

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Tareck	K9TRE
Val	KK4RNV
Bill	K3WD