

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Notes March 13, 2021

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

- 8:00-8:30 The Google Meeting connection was active for informal discussions.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- President welcome and meeting overview.
- Jim N4FAF reported that the minutes from the February meeting can be accessed via the club web site.
- Steve KN4HOZ reported that the balance in the club band account was \$10,125.21 at the end of the period since the February meeting.
- A local cub scout group is having a camp event that will feature technology exhibits. The club is invited to present one or more exhibits themed on amateur radio. The decision about how to support this event will be decided by the membership. A discussion will be held through the club email reflector.
- Nate Kidder reported that he is planning a radio themed Eagle Scout project to pursue the top Scout rank with troop 2011. A repeater will be setup in the center of town in Lovettsville. A survey of RF propagation will be performed using HTs. The results will be used to identify spots of poor coverage during the club support for Oktoberfest. A similar project will be performed to determine if better coverage for the Reston Bike Ride can be provided. The expected dates for the Lovettsville project are March 27 or 28. For Reston the dates are April 3 or April 4. Send email to eaglescoutproject@hartif.com for additional details.
- Mark W4PSO presented material about a Bazooka antenna for an HT. He built the antenna to be able to more reliably hit a local repeater from inside his house. The basic idea is that an aluminum cylinder is closed on one end. A piece of coax is passed through a hole in the closed end. The center conductor of the coax is exposed for a length of $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength of the operating frequency. The braid of the coax is connected to the cylinder. The cylinder provides a high impedance to the path of common mode current in the coax braid. Dimensions and design information can be found at the website at the URL bit.ly/bazooka-balun-principles. The final project was constructed with an SMA connector and will mount directly to an HT.
- It was noted that the Virginia QSO party will be held next weekend. Harry KI2H and Kevin AK2M will operate a mobile station using the special event call sign K4H. A blog about their project can be found at the web site <http://www.K4H.live>.

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- A live DxPedition will be held at Cocos Keeling Island. The call sign will be VK9CE. Information about the event can be found by searching the web for the callsign.
- A request for volunteers to participate with the club IT committee was stated.
- Scott Morse introduced himself as a new member of the club. He will be installing a new DMR repeater on the tower owned by Evan KI4AD.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM.

- Attendance

Chris	KT9N
Barry	KD4BK
Chris	W4PMP
Clay	(no call)
Doug	K4AIU
Harry	KI2H
Jim	N4FAF
John	WB2UNA
Kevin	AK2M
Marc	W4PSO
Merc	N4TGA
Mike	N4PDY
Denny	KF4TJI
Paulson	KG4TIH
Rick	N1RM
Steve	KS1G
Steve	KN4HOZ
Bob	KJ4NXG
Scott	WB6EFW
Frank	K4FWD

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Collins AK4KC