

# Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

## Regular Meeting Notes April 17, 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 March meeting can be accessed via the club web site.
- Steve KN4HOZ reported that the beginning balance in the club bank account was \$10,125.21 at the conclusion of the March meeting. There were \$236.91 total deposits and \$284.00 total debits. The ending balance is \$10,078.12.
- Jim N4FAF will explore interest in an organized club event on Field Day in June.
- Nate Kidder will conduct his RF survey of Lovettsville tomorrow.
- Paulson KG4TIH is working on integration of the tools available from Salesforce. Additional discussions will be conducted via email among the club officers to determine how migration to the tools will be accomplished.
- The FCC has issued new requirements for amateurs to analyze the RF exposure from their transmitters. The limits have not changed, but all stations will be required to perform the analysis regardless of their power output. Rick N1RM will present information about the new requirement at the May meeting.
- Harry KI2H and Kevin AK2M presented details about their participation in the Virginia QSO party. They both have been licensed less than 5 years and hold Amateur Extra licenses. They reported that the QSO party has a web site at [https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA\\_QSO\\_Party/2021\\_VQP/2021\\_VQP\\_Main.html](https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2021_VQP/2021_VQP_Main.html). The event is organized by the Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club.

Harry and Kevin operate as a multi operator multi transmitter mobile station with low power. They use SSB and FM phone modes. They have web site that documents their activities at [www.k4h.live](http://www.k4h.live). They have APRS active with the call sign K4H-5. The equipment is installed in Kevin's Ford Super Duty truck and covers all frequency bands from HF to 440 MHz UHF.

Their original route for their operations was extended because they failed to include stops for food and extended operating. The majority of their QSOs were recorded from the VHF frequency bands. VHF is the most effective band when the vehicle is in motion. Kevin's truck has a full sized back seat which allowed Harry to operate there with room

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to spread out the equipment. Even with this separation, the use of headphones is recommended to allow the operators to focus on the audio of their own radio. It is also recommended that two computers be used for logging and that the computers be networked. It was reported that the height limit for a mobile vehicle on Virginia highways is 13 feet, 6 inches. A yellow strobe light was used for increased visibility when they pulled to the side of the road for operations.

Because multiple radios were used, power management is important to keep any auxiliary batteries adequately charged. It was also noted that multiple antennas including those that are raised during stationary operation require careful management of the signal coax cables.

- Scott WB6CFW reported that his DMR repeater is operational in Ashburn. Information about the available talk groups can be found at the web site <http://wb6efw.com/>.
- Collins AB3KC reported that he observed a meteor recently. One site on the web to report a meteor is <https://fireball.amsmeteors.org/>.
- The next meeting will be May 15.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.

- Attendance

Harry	KI2H
Collins	AB3KC
Jeff	K0ZR
Jim	N4FAF
John	WB2UNA
Kevin	AK2M
Marc	W4PSO
Merc	N4TGA
Mike	N4PDY
Bob	KJ4NXG
Denny	KF4TJI
Paul	N4PD
Paulson	KG4TIH

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Rick	N1RM
Scott	WB6EFW
Steve	KN4HOZ
Dave	KE4S
Chris	KT9N
Barry	KD4BK
Chris	W4PMP
Doug	K4AIU
Eric	KO4MBI