

# Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

## Regular Meeting Notes July 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
- Jim N4FAF reported that the minutes from the June meeting can be accessed via the club web site.
- Steve KN4HOZ reported that the beginning and ending balance in the club bank account \$10,008.97. There were no transactions associated with the bank account since the June meeting.
- Several reports were given about club member experiences during Field Day. Steve KS1G ran a satellite station. Jeff KOZR ran a 3 transmitter station with two other club members. They operated mostly CW and were at the top of the points list in their category at last check. Paulson KG5TIH ran a remote station from his QTH in Sterling. Chris KO4OZJ reported that he visited some other club's stations. He observed that many operators closed early on Sunday. The early closure may have missed demonstrating to other people who are interested in the hobby. Dave KE4S operated from home. He was comfortable in his basement in a stable temperature environment. Kevin KO4NMN operated FT-8 digital mode on 6 meters. Bryan KO4QKM and his wife visited the Ole Virginia Hams station in Manassas.
- The Reston Bike Ride will be held on August 22. Paulson KG4TIH and John W5ODJ are coordinating the club support for the event. A signup website for volunteers has been setup. Send an email to the club reflector if you would like the URL.
- Oktoberfest in Lovettsville is likely to be held, but no final decision has been made by the town counsel. The club has volunteered to provide communications support. The event is expected to be smaller than in previous years.
- The recent activity for Scouts went well. Tommy KM4TOM and Steve KS1G demonstrated a satellite station. They also provided two HTs for the scouts to talk between themselves (with a licensed operator supervising).
- John W5ODJ has graciously provided his home to host the club's holiday party. Additional details will be provided at future meetings and through the email reflector.
- The Education Committee needs a chair due to a current vacancy. The previous format used for training classes is being examined to determine if it can be modified to provide a better experience for the student and for the instructor. The club is interested in

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establishing the capability to administer license exams. These activities will be part of the education committee mission during the next year.

- In-person club meetings will resume soon. The club Board of Directors will make the decision based on the current state of the Covid-19 infections in our area. Information will be posted on the website and distributed through the email reflector.
- It was pointed out that Damon K9CQB was pictured on the July issue of QST. He and other local hams are developing an ARDN network using surplus microwave equipment. The network carries Internet traffic. It would be available as a backup access point in the event of local infrastructure failure.
- Chris KT9N reported the results of a recent member survey that was conducted using email and the Internet. He pointed out that a central repository should be established for the survey results. The repository will allow the club leadership to observe trends in the interest of members about their expectations of the club. Seventy two responses were recorded by the website. The demographics of the responses indicate that the club should focus on attracting younger members. Those operators holding General Class licenses were the greatest number, followed by Extra and Advanced. These numbers indicate that the club should help members pass the license upgrade exams. Short presentations between monthly meetings showed some interest. Further analysis will be required for new subject matter answers.
- 71% of the survey responses indicated they are members of the ARRL. It was pointed out that LARG is an affiliated club to the ARRL. Benefits to the club include liability insurance during club sponsored events. It was suggested that we should investigate whether the club meets the ARRL membership requirements for these benefits.
- Dave KE4S reported that several contests are occurring this weekend. Members should try contesting with a small number of QSOs to get a feel for the contesting experience.
- Jeff K0ZR reported that he recently hosted an orientation visit to his station for some engineers at his company. It appeared that two people might be interested in studying for their license.
- The next club meeting is scheduled for August 21.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.
- Attendance

Dave              KE4S

Chris             KT9N

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Bryan	KO4QKM
Bryan	KG4UPR
Chris	KO4OZJ
Frank	K4FWD
Collins	AB3KC
Jeff	K0ZR
Jim	N4FAF
John	WB2UNA
Damon	K9CQB
Chris	KU4FT
Kevin	KO4NMN
Merc	N4TGA
Mike	N4PDY
Denny	KF4TJI
Paulson	KG4TIH
Robert	KO4AKB
Steve	KS1G
Steve	KO4ROK
Steve	KN4HOZ
Tarek	K9TRE