

# Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

## Regular Meeting Notes August 21, 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 club treasurer was absent. Mike N4PDY 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 July meeting.
- The Reston Bike Club Century ride is tomorrow. There are still opportunities to support the event by sitting at the rest stops.
- The Lovettsville Oktoberfest event has been cancelled due to the elevated rate of Covid infections. There are new organizers of the event. The club has established contacts with the new organizers so support for future events can be negotiated.
- 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 party is subject to cancellation if the rate of Covid infections is too high.
- It was announced that Rick N1RM and Jeff K0ZR have resigned from the Board. Also, the Board has accepted the resignation of the vice president Mark W4PSO. The Board will continue to function with four members until the next election cycle. A club member will be solicited to fill the position of the vice president.
- The Education committee has a new member, but there is no one designated as the chair. If no volunteers to fill the position of the chair are found, the Board will begin to directly ask club members.
- Paulson KG4TIH will move from his home in Sterling, so a new chair of the IT committee is needed to fill the vacancy that results from his departure. Members interested in participating on the IT committee should send email to [it@k4lrg.org](mailto:it@k4lrg.org).
- Steve KS1G gave a presentation about the new satellite station trailer that was acquired from another club in Virginia within the last year. The trailer has a tilt up tower with two circularly polarized antennas. The antennas are aimed at the satellite during a pass using rotators and the received signal is processed using preamplifiers.

It was suggested to use the trailer for club events. It has already been used during field day and as part of a demonstration of ham radio to local Scouting groups.

## Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

### Regular Meeting Notes August 21, 2021

It is possible to work all of the contiguous 48 states from northern Virginia using satellite repeaters. This is a good way to activate remote grid squares on VHF/UHF. It is not necessary to have the large antennas and electric rotators to make satellite contacts. Hand held Yagi antennas work well. The radio should be full duplex so it is possible to hear that your transmitter has activated the repeater. WD9EWK has a list of radios that are known to work well for satellite work well on his QRZ.com page.

Rubber duck antennas are not recommended because they provided an unacceptably weak signal for the receiver. Medium quality Yagis are good choices. Antennas can be home brewed. Plans can be found in the ARRL antenna book and on the Internet. Use of a Yagi removes the need for a pre amplifier. Good quality feed line from the antenna to the radio is a good idea. LMR240 is known to work well and RG-8X is a good choice. Approximately 6 to 8 feet of cable is required for handheld antennas. If the antenna has a single feed point for the signal, a diplexer is used to separate the signal when two radios are used.

Headphones make listening easier. A voice recorder is good for capturing the activity. A cheat sheet of frequencies is a good idea, but radios should be pre programmed with uplink and downlink frequencies including adjustments for doppler effect. There are several smart phone apps that report data for satellite passes at the current location. You must know your current grid square to used with your contact exchange.

AMSAT.ORG/STATUS has information on the current status of all satellites. Note that some birds should not be used in darkness because they have weak batteries. QSOs should be confirmed using cards or Logbook of the World.

- Dave KE4S offered help to any club member who is having difficulty operating using FT8 protocol.
- Kevin KO4NMN reported that he uses a gutter and downspout on his home as an antenna. The connection uses a 9:1 balan at the antenna feed point. A successful SSB QSO with a station in England was reported.
- Bill K3WD is looking for help installing his VHF antenna.
- The next club meeting is scheduled for September 18.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.
- Attendance

Chris           KT9N

Bryan           KO4QKM

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group  
Regular Meeting Notes August 21, 2021

Chris	W4PMP
David	KO4SEU
Doug	KM4GC
Dave	KE4S
Ed	KK4WXO
Jim	N4FAF
Jim	K4FW
John	WB4UNA
John	KO4PXG
Kevin	KO4NMN
Kurt	KI4FWB
Merc	N4TGA
Mike	N4PDY
John	W5ODJ
Bob	KJ4NXG
Frank	K4FWD
Denny	KF4TJI
Paulson	KG4TIH
Shannon	KK4NMR
Steve	KS1G
Val	KK4RNV
Bill	K3WD