

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Notes March 12, 2022

Venue: This meeting was intended to be held in person at the Lutheran Church in Leesburg. Inclement weather forced a virtual meeting 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 February meeting can be accessed via the club web site.
- John W0MPM was absent, so Mike N4PDY reported that the bank account balance is a little less than \$13,000.
- The club is still in need of a lead for the Education Committee. Providing education for current and prospective club members is an important part of the club mission.
- We have learned more about the Gravel Grinder bike race to be held on May 7 of this year. This is a national race. The organizers are in Texas, and 500 racers are expected from all over the country. We need a leader to help organize this event. There will be at least two fixed stations and hams will accompany members of a local Jeep club to provide mobile comms and support. The event will run from 7 AM to 3 PM.
- The club had accumulated quite a bit of donated equipment. The equipment was recently sold to club members resulting in a deposit of \$1300 in the club bank account.
- Winterfest is March 26 at the Annandale campus of NVCC. The club had rented two tables during the event. One or more club members are need to tend the tables.
- There was a request to provide a hybrid meeting format when the club returns to in-person meetings at the church. Since there is no WiFi available at the church, we are not expected to be able to provide this meeting format. The club intends to resume in-person meetings in April.
- Rick N1RM presented information about beginning contesting with a focus on the Virginia QSO party (VAQP) that will be held next weekend (March 19 and 20). It is possible to participate in the VAQP with a 5-watt handheld radio and a mag-mount antenna. All contacts must be simplex; use of repeaters is not permitted. If you use your home station, the party is a good opportunity to see the coverage of your transmitter.

All modulation modes are permitted except FT8 since there is no way to include the information for the exchange within the protocol. See the event rules for details about operating hours and the exchange. All bands are permitted except the WARC bands (12m, 17m and 30m). The QSO party is a contest to contact as many operators in the

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state and out of state if you are operating in-state. All QSOs should be logged, DX or local.

One can operate from home, in a car as a mobile operator or as an expedition by setting up a station at two or more stationary locations that are not one's home. Be sure to check your equipment before the event start. How will you log your contacts?

It is important to spend plenty of time on the radio to accumulate a good score. After the event, you can post a summary of your participation on Facebook or other social media. Be sure to set the club affiliation in your log submission. Use Loudoun ARG for our club. Be sure that the times in the log are UTC, not local time.

It was noted that Crossover runs more efficiently as a Windows emulator on Linux rather than WINE.

- The next club meeting is scheduled for April 16 at the Lutheran Church in Leesburg.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.
- Attendance

KT9N	Chris
KD4BK	Barry
KE4S	Dave
K4AIU	Doug
N4FAF	Jim
K4FW	Jim
KD4HAX	Joe
W0MPM	John
WB2UNA	John
WA4KBM	Kevin
N4PDY	Mike
KS1G	Steve
KN4HOZ	Steve
K9TRE	Tareck
KK4RNV	Val

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K3WD	Bill
KM4GC	Doug
Guest	Seth