

# Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

## Regular Meeting Notes April 16, 2022

Venue: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Leesburg

- Call To Order at 8:00 am.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Jim N4FAF reported that the minutes from the March meeting can be accessed via the club web site.
- John W0MPM was absent, so Mike N4PDY reported that the bank account balance as of the end of March is \$12,772.77.
- 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.
- The Gravel Grinder bike race will be held on unpaved roads in Loudoun County. Approximately 500 riders are expected to complete in the race. Kevin AK2M is the lead for the LARG support of the event. We will provide communications from the course to the network control location. A local Jeep club will provide transport services if necessary.
- Jim N4FAF reported that he will organize club support for the Reston Century bike ride. The event will be similar to previous years. The event will occur in August. Notice of opportunities for participation will be available closer to the event.
- Field Day is scheduled for June 25 1400 to June 26 1700. Setup for the event will be on Friday. The club will setup to simulate portable operations with emergency power. The club needs to focus on community outreach during the event by raising awareness of the public service aspect of Amateur Radio. Opportunities for Station Captain positions and other volunteer positions will be sent using the club email reflector. Landsdown Hospital and the Leesburg VFW are possible locations for the event. All volunteers for event positions will be provided mentoring if necessary.
- Members are asked to contact Dave KE4S if they have any club equipment. A list of all assets is being compiled.
- Kurt KI4FWB will organize support for the Oktoberfest event in Purcellville. Support requires the use of HT radios. We will coordinate with the local Rescue Squad to facilitate quick response when needed.
- Jack Smith KE4LWT attended the meeting to present material about his recent election to the office of the Virginia Section Manager of the ARRL. He intends to focus on three C's during his service. Communications, Collaboration and Coordination. All clubs and organizations that participate in Amateur Radio operations should follow these

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objectives. Efforts should be made to contact local service organizations such as Lions Club, Elks Club and local event organizers. Presentations should be made to these organizations to represent the services that Amateur Radio operators can provide to support their objectives. In some cases, and immediate need cannot be identified, but establishing a contact will allow coordination with those groups in the future if the need arises.

Local radio clubs should be contacted to establish channels for collaboration. This may include coordinating service events to fill in gaps in the number of available volunteers for a specific event. It may also be possible to coordinate on-line meetings for celebrity guest presentations. Ideas include Joe Walsh WB6ACU or Bob Heil K9EID, both of whom are celebrities in Amateur Radio but would be unlikely to travel to a club meeting.

It was noted that incident action plans currently exist for support of community events such as bike races or seasonal events such as an Oktoberfest celebration. Look for material such as this on the web at [emcommwiki.org](http://emcommwiki.org). The wiki site has been established to facilitate tracking of collaboration and continuity documentation for events as they are completed. If documentation of the events is made available to other groups, they can use the information as a basis for their own event plans. Documenting completed events also stores evidence of community support provided by Amateur Radio. Availability of such evidence provided support for legislators to develop laws that are friendly to Amateur Radio. The documentation is also useful for a club to provide evidence and references to community groups about the capabilities of a club or organization.

It was suggested that the EC-001 training class be completed through the ARRL. Other useful on-line courses are available from FEMA. It was recommended to take the first four courses in this order: IS100, IS700, IS200 and IS800. IS2200 is now available to teach basic Emergency Operations Center Functions. It was noted that ARES needs an Emergency Operations Plan document.

Events associated with local school groups should be documented to show support for educational objectives of Amateur Radio. Outreach to these community groups may also stimulate inactive radio operators to become active through community support. It was noted that there are 134 counties, towns and independent cities in Virginia. During the past quarter, a total of four action reports were submitted to ARES leadership by the local ARES organizations.

- Dave KE4S reported that the 6 meter band has had good DX openings in the afternoon recently. Operations using FT8 are particularly successful.

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- Steve KS1G is working on the Grid Master award. The award is sponsored by AMSAT. It is awarded to operators who submit proof of contacts with each of the 488 maidenhead grids in the contiguous United States.
- Kevin WA4KVM reported that his use of a rain gutter for an antenna is very effective when using FT8 digital mode. He has made many DX contacts and is close to earning his DXCC award. It was noted that Grid Tracker is a good spotting tool. It includes a chat function that allows prompting other operators to upload their contact logs.
- The next club meeting is scheduled for May 21 at the Lutheran Church in Leesburg.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

- Attendance

KE4LWT	Jack
KO4MBI	Eric
W4PMP	Chris
KK4RNV	Val
N4RAF	Steve
KS1G	Steve
N4PD	Paul
KQ4CI	Evan
KE4S	Dave
K1NSA	Bryan
KD4BK	Barry
WA4KBM	Kevin
KT9N	Chris
KI4FWB	Kurt
K3WD	Bill
KM4GC	Doug
K4FWD	Frank
AK2M	Kevin

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K9CQB	Damon
N4PDY	Mike
KN4HOZ	Steve
N4FAF	Jim