

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Minutes March 11, 2023

Venue: Leesburg Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order at 8:40 AM.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- The next club meeting is scheduled for April 15.
- Ed N2EC presented information about the Parks On The Air (POTA). Ed has more than 100 park activations mostly while operating QRP. POTA started as an ARRL event in 2017. It was so popular that Jason W3AAX organized a permanent organization to run the operations. There are many awards to signify operations in the program's framework. Operations include activator and hunters. Activators setup a radio in the park while hunters contact the activators. Hunters do not submit logs but activators do. HAMRS app on a Smartphone can be used as a logger.

WARC bands are OK for POTA operations. The operators are considered to be special events, not contests. The operations are coordinate using the website pota.app. Spotting of activators can be done through the website. No frequencies are designated for POTA operations. Activations can be scheduled. The reverse beacon network is used to spot CW and FT8 operations if they are scheduled.

CW is often used. It is a good opportunity to develop proficiency in CW since the general pace of the contacts is quite relaxed. It's better to complete the contact to receive credit for the park rather than to generate a high count of contacts. SSB is the most active mode for contacts. When using FT8, POTA can be added after the CQ header.

It is important to follow rules in the park. Many parks have operating hours. Some parks do not allow antennas in trees or stakes in the ground to secure the antenna. It is important to stay off private land during activations.

- A list of scheduled club activities during the coming months was presented. The Gravel Grinder bike race will be held on May 13. Field Day will be held June 24-25. The Reston bike ride will be held August 20. The Oktoberfest event will be held September 22-23. Kevin AK2M will coordinate participation for the Gravel Grinder.
- Tareck reported that the balance of the club checking account is slightly more than \$11,000.
- Dave WA4TXE reported that the repeaters that are registered with his callsign will soon have a phone number for the repeater. The repeater will echo the audio from the signal received by the repeater. This allows operators to check their signal. Dave will distribute the phone number when it is active.

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- Bill K3WD reported that he will operate as W1AW/4 as some times during the next two weeks. This operation supports the ARRL volunteers on the air event.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.

- Attendance

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| K3WD | Bill |
| N2ALA | Dwight |
| WA4KBM | Kevin |
| WA4TXE | Dave |
| N4RAF | Steve |
| W4PMP | Chris |
| K9TRE | Tareck |
| AK2M | Kevin |
| K4FW | Jim |
| N1RM | Rick |
| KT9N | Chris |
| N4PDY | Mike |
| W0MPM | John |
| N4PD | Paul |
| KE4S | Dave |
| WA4KBM | Kevin |
| N4FAF | Jim |
| N2EC | Ed |