

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Minutes May 20, 2023

Venue: Leesburg Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order at 8:35 AM.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- One visitor was recognized. Brian W1FOX
- Steve N4RAF presented information about Winlink. Winlink is a method of sending and receiving email using radio signals. The program uses HF or VHF for transmissions. It was developed in the 1990's with sailors as the original users so they could have email connections while at sea.

The service is used today by hospitals, MARS, the Red Cross and other disaster recovery organizations. It is especially helpful to provide coverage in areas where cell phone signals are not available. Although the signals are not encrypted, they are not readily readable.

The service is organized in three layers. The client is the lowest layer. It is possible for two clients to exchange messages. The clients communicate with a Radio Mail Server (RMS). Many RMS sites have a gateway to the Internet that allows interconnection between radio operators and all Internet email addresses. Winlink servers store messages for 21 days to allow monitoring of traffic and ensure compliance with Amateur Radio regulations.

Hardware required includes a radio, a sound card for the radio and software. Compatible software is available for several hardware platforms. See the website at windlink.org/clientSoftware. Approximate data rates are 300 baud for HF transmissions and 1200 baud for VHF. VARA modem is a download at rosmodem.wordpress.com.

The Windows program is named Winlink Express. It includes forms used by FEMA, the Red Cross and other organizations. It is necessary to register to use the program. This sets up an email address of the format <callsign>@winlink.org. Tactical callsigns are an option which can function as a mail list.

- The Lovettsville Town Council has requested comm support for their Mayfest event on the 27th. Information and a link for sign-up will be distributed via a club email reflector.
- The treasurer's report indicates that the current balance of the club checking account is \$10,959.19. There was income of \$101.21 and expenses of \$277.96 since the last club meeting.
- Club members are reminded that presentations for monthly club meetings are always needed. If you have a radio-related interest or a project that you would like to present to the group, send an email to vice-president@k4lrg.org.

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- The next club meeting is scheduled for June 17.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.
- Attendance

W1FOX	Brian
WA4KBM	Kevin
K4HCO	Jeremiah
KS1G	Steve
W4PMP	Chris
N4RAF	Steve
KM4GC	Doug
K9TRE	Tareck
K3WD	Bill
KD4BK	Barry
KI4UTB	Jay
KJ4BRH	Bonnie
WA4TXE	David
KE4S	Dave
N4FAF	Jim