

# Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

## Regular Meeting Minutes July 15, 2023

### Venue: Leesburg Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order at 8:40 AM.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Lisa Dopilka, the XYL of Dwight N2ALA was recognized as a guest.
- Gene N3EW presented material about using DMR and FM VHF radios to support the Search and Rescue (SAR) mission. It was noted that the mission requires deployment on short notice and operation in the RF environment at the site of the rescue operation. SAR operations often use diversely located frequencies. Repeaters are often needed to negotiate the local terrain. The frequencies available for repeater operation must often be configured to avoid conflicts with local RF activity. DMR radios are used for digital operations. When digital operation is used, linking widely dispersed repeaters is easier assuming that an Internet connection is available to carry the digital voice data stream. Operation using VHF FM is also desired for interoperation with existing ham repeaters.

A transportable DMR repeater capable of FM operation has been designed. It can be operated from a General Aviation aircraft to allow coverage of most of the State of Virginia. The repeater is a Hytera HR1062 that is capable of automatic switching between DMR and FM operation. DMR operation is Tier 2 which supports two conversations on a single frequency. It was also noted that DMR radios are one of the lowest cost solutions for digital operations. Remote HTs for the SAR mission should be programmed with frequencies that allow simplex operation should the repeater be inaccessible. Frequency assignments outside of the ham frequencies are documented in the National Interoperations Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) available from the Department of Homeland Security. Local repeater pair frequencies for testing in the ham bands can be found at the TMARC website. They are designated as Shared Non-protected Pairs (SNP).

It is recommended that HTs for radio caches be TYT MD-390 or the preferred Anytone 878 family. All HTs used for the SAR mission should include a GPS and APRS capability. Bluetooth is also recommended to allow hands-free operation. It was noted that DMR has a talkgroup dedicated to APRS traffic. It is tied into the APRS.fi website.

- Steve KS1G noted that several LARG members supported the 13 Colonies special event during the week of July 4.
- The Reston Bike Club will hold their annual century bike ride on August 20. LARG will support the event. There have been several volunteers to participate. Additional opportunities can be found at the SignUpGenius website using the URL that is distributed through the club email reflector.

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- The Lovettsville town council will hold the annual Oktoberfest event during the weekend of September 22-23. The club needs a volunteer to lead the event support.
- The club checking account balance was reported to be \$10,653.04.
- Dave KE4S reported that the FCC has received a proposal to establish high-power commercial transmitting stations immediately adjacent to the 20m band. It is believed that the RF traffic will utilize frequency hopping for communications. The ARRL is preparing a response to the proposal. Operators may send comments to the FCC using the FCC ECFS web site. The proposal is designated as RM-11953. Operators should not express unsubstantiated claims of interference, but they should register their concern.
- The next club meeting is scheduled for August 19.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.

- Attendance

N2ALA	Dwight
NoCall	Lisa
KE4S	Dave
N3GV	Gene
K4FW	Jim
W3OW	Bruce
K9TRE	Tarek
KS1G	Steve
WA4KBM	Kevin
N4FAF	Jim