

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Minutes August 19, 2023

Venue: Leesburg Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order at 8:35 AM.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- The Reston Bike Club will hold their annual century bike ride tomorrow, August 20.
- Jeremiah K4HCO presented material related to a cross county trip. The voyage started in Northern Virginia. He travelled as far west Oregon where he noted that his family is presently located. We returned to Virginia by substantially reversing his route. Several overnight stops were made during the trip. Local repeaters were contacted during stops and while in motion. Some linked repeaters were found. In particular a repeater in Salt Lake City was determined to be linked to operators in the Las Vegas area.

It is recommended that a dual VFO radio be used. One VFO is used for the local repeater while the second VFO is used to monitor the next programmed repeater on the route. RepeaterBook can be found using the RepeaterBook app or webpage using the proximity search using various locations along the travel route. It was noted that RepeaterBook has a smartphone app on Android and on iPhone. RepeaterBook is also integrated with the RTSystems programming package to make the transfer of the frequency information easy and error free.

It was noted that there was little activity on the national 2m calling frequency (146.520). It was recommended to include a GMRS radio as it is becoming a popular method of communications during emergencies. GMRS repeaters are listed at the web site *mygmrs.com*. The repeaters are self-reported to the web site, so not all repeaters in an area may be listed.

Operating a POTA or SOTA session should be planned in advance. Carrying batteries and transport cases for the radios should be considered for these operations. Separate cases for the batteries and radios were used during the trip. Bioenno batteries are a good choice for their weight vs power capability. Note that solar panels are available to keep the batteries charged without reliance on power infrastructure.

- It was noted that a program named Calibre can be used to manage electronic documentation files. The program can catalog the files. It can also perform format conversions. Some of the conversions can support the use of an Amazon Kindle or other e-reader to provide portability.
- Another method of providing portable access to digital documentation is to use a VPN to access a file server over an Internet connection.

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- The Lovettsville town council will hold the annual Oktoberfest event during the weekend of September 22-23. Kevin AK2M reported that the Virginia Defense Force will be present at the event. Additional club support of the event is in planning.
- It was mentioned that KM4ACK has a build-a-pi web site on the Internet. The web interface allows the configuration of a Raspberry Pi operating system to support several software applications that focus on ham radio. Raspberry Pi devices were in short supply during the pandemic, but they are becoming readily available again.
- The club checking account balance was reported to be \$10,605.63.
- The next club meeting is scheduled for September 16.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

- Attendance

K4HCO	Jeremiah
KJ4NXG	Bob
KJ4BXA	Lloyd
KE4S	Dave
W4PMP	Chris
WA4TXE	David
KS1G	Steve
N4RAF	Steve
K0ZR	Jeff
KT9N	Chris
N1RM	Rick
K9TRE	Tareck
AK2M	Kevin
N4PD	Paul
WA4KBM	Kevin
N4FAF	Jim