

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Minutes October 14, 2023

Venue: Leesburg Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order at 8:35 AM. The President was not present, so Steve KS1G, Vice President presided over the meeting.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- John W5ODJ presented information pertaining history and structure of the club website (URL: k4lrg.org). Key points presented included the following:
 1. History based on website docs and why constructed this way (<https://history.K4LRG.org>)
 2. Transition from newsletter to website to current website
 3. Oldest history: LARG started 1994 (loose band of brothers....). First officers elected 1995. Newsletter editor identified in 1995.
 4. Around 1997 Norm Styer (AI2C) created 'webmaster' role and he used Adobe 'Dreamweaver'; content created as newsletter format, Norm would process/post to website. John estimated Norm invested thousands of hours to develop the website, which replaced the printed newsletter in 2009, website hosted by volunteers within LARG.
 5. John, W5ODJ assumed Secretary role in 2013, Norm remained Webmaster until 13Mar2015 (SK), Ben Packard N3FQ assumed Webmaster role in 2015.
 6. Secretary role assumed Webmaster role around 2017-2018.
 7. To ensure this vital early club history isn't lost, John has archived all history to this date at <https://history.K4LRG.org> and decided to build a new website w/o Dreamweaver; this archived history is stored as read-only (static) content.
 8. The new website/system is designed as a professional site so it may be maintained well.
 9. Website hosts multiple services: schedules, reflector, document store, file repository and more
 10. LARG had 175 members at one point when John was Secretary & Webmaster (we now have about 75).
 11. With this new website, LARG owns & operates this platform under an IT committee to maintain brand. The K4LRG.org domain was transferred to a registrar controlled by IT committee under Board governance. All site content is database-derived and managed by WordPress, which easily manages content display on computer, tablet and phone.
 12. How can club members post content to the site directly: via menu go to Members Area | Contribute, need username/password which can be obtained from the IT Committee by sending an email message to LARGIT@K4LRG.ORG.

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- Call from Dave KE4S for more participants on 80 m/general class voice & CW. He will post notes on the website. People usually meet around 3.813 MHz. Comment that a good Bushmaster commercial antenna (off-center dipole) can be used to work split operation.
- John W5ODJ noted it may be possible to drop our monthly website operating costs by 50% if we commit to AWS for 3 years; W5ODJ to investigate.
- Paul N4PD confirmed that VFW will accept our trailers/antennas @\$500/year donation. This includes one trailer with a crank-up tower and one trailer with antennas used for satellite work.
- John W5ODJ noted there is a MARS event week of 06Nov, similar to 'worked all colonies'.
- Dave WA4TXE provided status information about the 2-meter repeater he runs in Leesburg. The repeater is used for the Sunday evening net.
- Jeremiah K4HCO working on bags/radio for quick deployment. He related his story recently that while out for a weekend drive he heard on a local repeater of a motorist (K3STE) stranded in a remote area who was getting concerned he wouldn't be able to get home quickly with a wife with a medical condition. Jeremiah responded to the call for assistance from K3STE and drive K3STE and XYL back to their home in Maryland, much to the relief of K3STE and wife.
- Steve N4RAF reminded the membership that a location for the club Field Day next year is being researched. A general objective for the event should be determined by the members. Should the participants strive for maximum points, or should we focus on expanding participation by mentoring and focusing on a social experience?
- The club checking account balance was reported to be \$11,287.71. A check in the amount of \$1200 was received from the Reston Bike Club to recognize our support for their annual 100-mile bike ride. Upcoming expenses are expected to include a donation to the Leesburg VFW and expenses associated with hosting of the club website.
- The next club meeting is scheduled for November 18.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.
- Attendance
 - W5ODJ John
 - K0ZR Jeff
 - AD7FW Roy

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K4HCO	Jeremiah
KS1G	Steve
N4RAF	Steve
W4PMP	Chris
K9TRE	Tareck
W0MPM	John
K3WD	Bill
KE4S	Dave
KT9N	Chris
N4PD	Paul