Loudoun Amateur Radio Group
Regular Meeting Minutes November 18, 2023

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

- Two unlicensed guests were recognized. Greg Marks and Chris Nelson.

- Steve KS1G brought in his portable station and spoke about its features. A GO KIT is a collection of radio equipment that can be easily transported and used with some assembly. A GO BOX is a self-contained radio, usually in cases, that can be used without significant assembly. Steve's portable station is considered a GO BOX.

  Steve's requirements for his GO BOX include the fact that it include an HF and VHF radio. All operational modes must be supported (CW, PHONE and DIGITAL). Up to 100 watts must be supported for HF operation.

  An FT-857 radio was mounted in a weather-proof case from Harbor Freight. The removable control head of the radio is mounted in the box using a pair of RAM balls with connecting clamp. The box includes a small x86 computer from ATOPNUC. A Linux image provides FL-DIGI control of the radio and support for logging software.

  Feed-through connectors for antenna coax were supplied by Max Gain Systems to provide antenna connections to the radio in the box. The power connection between the batteries and the systems is a 4-port RigRunner. The Loudoun Public Library provided 3D Printing service for the RAM ball mount of the radio control panel.

  Steve suggested initial debugging of the system operation should be performed outside in a backyard or driveway. The system is a good choice for POTA operation. A list of the system components will be posted to the club website.

  Joe KD4HAX reported that 73 Linux from KM4ACK is a successor to Build-A-Pi. The software collection will run on the ATOPNUC computer.

- The club will organize support for the Alzheimer's bike ride next May. The club is investigating purchase of APRS beacons to be used for the various events that the club supports.

- John W0MPM showed how remote access to his Flex radio can be performed using his cell phone as a hotspot. It was noted that the bandwidth available using the hotspot is too low to allow all feature of the radio user interface to be displayed.

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- Jeremiah K4HCO showed his OUTASK light. The light has a built-in tripod, rechargeable batteries and LED lights. The LEDs can be angled to provide task lighting in the immediate area.

- Joe KD4HAX is working with Dragon OS. He has a detector application of RF signals that can be used to verify the presence of WiFi, Bluetooth or other common RF signals. It was noted that Dragon OS supports LORA devices. He also said that the Medical Reserve Corps has a callout for participation by Ham operators in local activities. Joe has been working with the Leesburg Makerspace and MakerSmith. They are willing to allow installation of an antenna mast on their building.

- The club checking account balance was reported to be $11,240.30. Expenses since the October meeting amount to $47.41. Upcoming expenses include a donation of $500 to the Leesburg VFW to compensate for storage of the club trailers and payment to Amazon Web Services of $50 for services of hosting the club website.

- There will be no club meeting in December because the third Saturday is too close to Christmas and other seasonal holidays.

- The next club meeting is scheduled for January 20.

- The meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

- Attendance

KS1G	Steve
NoCall	Greg
NoCall	Chris
N4PD	Paul
K4FWD	Frank
W4PMP	Chris
K9TRE	Tareck
K3WD	Bill
K2BFY	Henry
K4FW	Jim
KT9N	Chris
KT4BXA	Lloyd

KE4S	Dave
W3OW	Bruce
KM4GC	Doug
K4HCO	Jerimiah
N4RAF	Steve
KI4AD	Evan
W0MPM	John
WA4KBM	Kevin
N4FAF	Jim