

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Minutes February 17, 2024

Venue: Leesburg Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order at 8:35 AM.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Two unlicensed guest were recognized. Brian Barnes and Siva Vejalla.
- Kevin WA4KBM presented details about homebrew wire antennas for use with HTs and other VHF radios. One was a half wave antenna built with RG-8x. The design was developed in Australia. Kevin uses an antenna analyzer or a coax bridge to measure the SWR of the antenna.

A ladder line antenna was shown. Kevin indicated that looping the antenna feed coax to form a choke can improve that SWR.

Kevin has built a moxon antenna for operation on the 6 meter band. The structure of the antenna is PVC pipe. 14 AWG wire is strapped to the structure to form the antenna. The antenna is mounted horizontally. See jpole-antenna.com for details of the construction.

- The Treasurer Tareck K9TRE was not present. He provided a slide in the presentation that reported that the club checking account balance is \$11,193.57. Income during the month was \$703.11 and expenses were \$250.65. Dues for 2024 have been received from 39 members.
- Chris W4PMP introduced three candidates for the club Board of Directors. Dave Boltson, John Brown and Bill Daniels were elected unanimously after a voice vote from the members present.
- Club events during 2024 were discussed. It was noted that the club has submitted a request to the ARRL for a monetary grant. The money, if received, will be spent to purchase APRS beacons that can be used to support bike rides and other events where mobile event support is needed. John W0MPM suggested that the club consider support for Mayfest and other events where club members rove on foot. The officers will discuss these events. Bill K3WD reported that the Lovettsville town council will outsource upcoming Mayfest and Oktoberfest event planning. It was suggested that club participation and support should consider the club mission before committing club support.
- Paul N4PD reported that he has a source for 900 MHz HTs. There is a repeater in Lansdowne. The repeater is linked to several other repeaters in the area.
- There was a discussion about Parks on the Air (POTA) events. Recent activators reported their experiences operating in parks. Acceptance by the resident park rangers

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is more likely if the rangers are contacted before beginning operations. The positive aspects of the operation and local restrictions should be discussed.

- Jeremiah K4HCO reported that a bill has been introduced to a Senate committee that will codify the right for operators to erect antennas in HOA restricted communities. It was noted that the Villages in Florida has a 40 page presentation containing advice for addressing problems with HOA restrictions.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:20.
- The next club meeting is scheduled for March 9. Note that this is the second Saturday because the third Saturday is the beginning of the Virginia QSO Party.
- Attendance

KI4GFI	Karen
N4PD	Paul
NoCall	Brian
KQ4OCG	David
KS1G	Steve
K4HCO	Jeremiah
NoCall	Siva
W4PMP	Chris
W0MPM	John
N4RAF	Steve
K3WD	Bill
K4FW	Jim
KM4GC	Doug
KE4S	Dave
KQ4MAM	Megan
N4UW	Rich
KJ4NXG	Bob
KJ4BXA	Harry

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WA4KBM Kevin

N4FAF Jim