

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Minutes March 9, 2024

Venue: Leesburg Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order at 8:30 AM.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Henry K2BFY provided a presentation to describe the scoring software he wrote for the Virginia QSO party. He suggested that log file from the logging file be saved to a second location about once per hour to protect against significant data loss.

The QSO Party scoring program will attempt to correct scoring errors in the log files. It was noted that last year Pennsylvania reported 648 logs submitted while Virginia reported 637 logs which is third most of the state QSO parties.

The scoring software is 2000 lines of code written in SQL and Linux shell languages. Callsigns in the log are checked against the FCC license database. In 2023, 477 US callsigns were not found in the FCC records. This indicates an error in recording the callsign. Ideally logs should be submitted without errors. The log files are text based, and they should be proofread before submission.

It is recommended that LARG be specified for the club name to credit the log to the club aggregate score. Other versions of the club name are acceptable, but possible spelling errors may result in a failure to credit the score to the club. Note that the only characters permitted in the logfile are space, :, -, /, _ and @. Including invalid characters in the logfile will cause the scoring program to reject the file.

- The Alzheimers bike ride will be supported by the club. The event will be held on May 4. Approximately 22 volunteers will be needed to staff SAG vehicles, net control and rest stops.
- May 11 will be the Gravel Grinder event. The club support will be similar to previous years. One expected difference will be that an HT will be useable for many positions on the course.
- Field Day was discussed. It was suggested that the objective should be that the club member should have fun as a priority over attempting to score high points. The site for the club activity will be in Round Hill at 47 West Loudoun St. This is the Western Loudoun Sheriff's station. Several volunteers are needed for various aspects of the event.
- Dave WA4TXE reported that the Leesburg repeater is now linked to the Western transmitter using a primary telephone line with a UHF link as a backup.

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- Steve KS1G reported that a local county school has submitted paperwork to support an ISS contact. This is similar to the Farmwell Station Middle School event a couple of years ago. The event will occur in the Fall if the school is chosen.
- The Treasurer Tareck K9TRE reported that the club checking account balance is \$11,561.38. Income during the past month was \$416.09 and expenses were \$48.28.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:10.
- The next club meeting is scheduled for April 20.

- Attendance

KB4DR	David
KT9N	Chris
K2BFY	Henry
N4RAF	Steve
AK2M	Kevin
KS1G	Steve
K4FWD	Frank
W0MPM	John
KM4GC	Doug
KN4JMH	Lynette
K4AIU	Doug
K4FW	Jim
W4PMP	Chris
KN4OGS	James
KQ4MHT	Jim
K9TRE	Tareck
K3WD	Bill
W3OW	Bruce
N4PD	Paul

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WA4KBM Kevin

N4FAF Jim