

# Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

## Regular Meeting Minutes July 20, 2024

### Venue: Leesburg Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order at 8:35 AM.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Dave WA4TXE presented material about his repeater system. The system consists of three stations. They are located in Charles Town WV, Purcellville VA and Leesburg VA. The repeater in Purcellville is used to link the Charles Town and the Leesburg locations. The system provides a live audio link between radio operators in Charles Town and Leesburg which is not possible from a single location due to the terrain between the points which prevents line-of-sight signal propagation.

The repeater has been serving the northern Virginia area since 1975. The first transmitter included a 50 watt transmitter constructed using surplus Motorola radios. Coverage provided by the initial system was from Sterling to Tyson's Corner.

The current system uses a telephone link between Charles Town and Leesburg. If the phone link is disconnected, the RF connection is used as a backup. The system includes a receiver for broadcast messages from the National Weather Service. When a weather emergency is declared, the repeater immediately drops all traffic and rebroadcasts the weather emergency notification. It was noted that if the DTMF tones for 1,1,1,4 are transmitted, the repeater will play the identification announcement.

At times, the two inputs located in Leesburg and Charles Town may become active at the same time. A device called a voter is used to determine which receiver signal will be transmitted by the repeater.

- Steve N4RAF reported the results of the club Field Day activity. 782 QSOs were logged earning 3139 points. The site at the Western Loudoun Sheriff's station provided an air conditioned room to allow relief from the extreme heat. Twenty two scouts earned their Radio Merit Badge during the event.

It is expected that the same site will be available during Field Day next year. The club will look at missed bonus point opportunities. The list of club equipment will be examined to determine if any equipment is no longer usable for club activities. It was also agreed that the club will look at buying a shed to be placed on the premises of the Leesburg VFW. The shed will store the majority of the club assets.

- The club support for the Reston Century Bike Ride is being organized. A reference to a web page that allows sign up to support the event is being distributed using the club email reflector.

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- Jeremiah K4HCO reported that he attended Hamvention in Ohio. He met several of the YouTube influencers for Ham Radio. He recommended the N8RAT repeater found at frequency 224.28 MHz. They have several nets during the week. He has purchased the Explorer backpack from Gigaparts that can be used for transport of radio equipment for SOTA or POTA operations.
- The Treasurer Tareck K9TRE reported that the club checking account balance is \$9679.12. The grant money was received from ARRL to purchase the APRS trackers as club assets. The trackers were ordered and the purchase is reflected in the account balance.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:55.
- The next club meeting is scheduled for August 17.

- Attendance

WA4TXE	David
N4RAF	Steve
K4AIU	Doug
N4PD	Paul
KM6URX	Bryce
W4PMP	Chris
K4HCO	Jeremiah
KE4S	Dave
K4FW	Jim
K0ZR	Jeff
WA4KBM	Kevin
KS1G	Steve
K9TRE	Tareck
N4FAF	Jim