

# Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

## Regular Meeting Minutes March 8, 2025

Venue: Leesburg Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order at 8:32 AM.

- Pledge of allegiance.
- Henry K2BFY spoke about the Virginia QSO party that will be held next weekend. Scoring originally was performed as written logs. Scoring was difficult and labor intensive. The logs were subject to damage by pets or coffee stains. Now the event encourages the use of computer logs.

Seven local clubs have participated in the QSO party. There is one group that submits as the WVCC Shenandoah Valley Wireless Contest Club. No evidence of the club can be found on the Internet. The email addresses in the submitted logs were queried to get details about the group, but there was no response. There is no website and not logo that could be found. Other current clubs have logos and meetings.

The QSO party scoring software is implemented in a powerful database system. The database performs the scoring automatically without the need to write additional code.

The QSO party has taken the mission to have the participants have an enjoyable experience and earn the highest possible scores. Log scoring is based on what the majority of participants put into their logs. The QSO Party committee defines the rules for processing the logs. Do-overs of the log contents after submission are permitted.

A goal of the QSO party is to beat Florida by having more participants. Last year, Florida had 848 logs submitted in their QSO party. Virginia had 721 logs and Pennsylvania had 634 logs.

This year, there will be six bonus stations worth 50 points each. Spotting webpages should be monitored to determine the frequencies on which the bonus stations will be operating. See the rules for the VA QSO party at the webpage [qsl.net/sterling](http://qsl.net/sterling).

A significant part of all contesting is the need to submit an accurate log. The accuracy of the log is the responsibility of the operator. Extra effort should be taken to ensure that the callsign and exchange is recorded in the log correctly. The format of the logfile is specified in the format defined as Cabrillo. See the website <https://wwrof.org/cabrillo> for a description of the format. All submitted logs should include an email address so the scoring committee can contact you if there are questions.

The QSO exchange is the your callsign, your location (county, city, or state for DX) and a serial number. The scoring program checks all 11 fields of each QSO record. Any record or omission causes rejection. The operating category of the station must be included in the log. Without the category, the log cannot be scored.

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- Doug KM4GC talked about the Ride to End Alzheimers'. The event is a bike ride that will occur on May 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year. The ride is intended to raise funds and awareness for Alz research. The route of the ride will be the same as last year. The club will provide comm support by supplying continuous radio comms and location telemetry.

At the April 19 meeting an overview of the comm plan will be presented. The various operator position assignments will be noted.

On April 26 there will be a comms test and dry run.

On April 29 there will be an online presentation for SAG (Support And Gear) vehicles and Rest Stop operation.

On May 2, SAG vehicles will be available for radio installation. Private vehicles are not allowed for SAG use. There will be a high current cigarette lighter type socket available to power a radio, but plenty of wire should be allowed to run from the socket to the driver's position.

On May 3 club support should be present at Morven Park in Leesburg not later than 0645.

- Scott WB6EFW is the Emergency Coordinator for the Loudoun chapter of ARES. The group is planning ARES group meetings that will occur occasionally immediately after the LARG club meetings. The group is looking for help. ARES members must complete online training to be prepared for deployment. See the website LCARES.ORG for additional details.
- Steve N4RAF will begin populating documents on the website for the club Field Day site. The event will be held at the same site as last year: The Loudoun County Sheriff's office in Round Hill.
- Some short discussions occurred.

There will be no club support for the Gravel Grinder bike race this year. The event will be moved to Indianapolis.

A local 220 MHz repeater is being considered. An application for grant funds to purchase the repeater and install it at Inova Loudoun Hospital is being considered.

The club website has changed the Files website. Any problems accessing data on the website should be communicated to [largit@k4lrg.org](mailto:largit@k4lrg.org).

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- Tareck K9TRE gave the treasurer report. The checking account balance is \$11,252.12. Income was \$80.00 from dues. Expenses were \$224.50 which included the annual fee for the club P.O. Box.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:10. The next club meeting is scheduled for April 19.
- Attendance

N4RAF	Steve
K2BFY	Hanry
KM4GC	Doug
KM6VRX	Bryce
K9TRE	Tareck
WB6EFW	Scott
WA4KBM	Kevin
W0MPM	John
KE4S	Dave
N4PD	Paul
KG4UPR	Bryan
N3UW	Rich
KD9UGR	Jay
W4PMP	Chris
KQ4IBI	Ron
K3WD	Bill