

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Minutes June 21, 2025

Venue: Leesburg Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order at 8:30 AM.

- Pledge of allegiance.
- Kevin WA4KBM presented information about configuration and operation of the NanoVNA vector network analyzer. The NanoVNA can measure SWR of antennas, match the impedance of networks and check coax cables for faults. These functions are also available by using an antenna analyzer, but the NanoVNA is a less expensive solution. Kevin demonstrated the operation using a 2 meter magmount and a flowerpot antenna. The screen of the NanoVNA is quite small, but a PC can be connected using a USB cable to provide a larger display. The PC must run software that communicates with the NanoVNA. Two such programs are NanoVNA saver and NanoVNA App.

It was noted that the SMA connectors on the NanoVNA have a limited number of mating cycles before they wear enough to result in an intermittent connection to the device under test. It is recommended to use the short SMA cables included with the device at all times to avoid wearing out the connectors on the device.

It was noted that there are other inexpensive products available on amazon.com to measure SWR and RF power of an active RF signal.

- It was reported that the club checking account balance is \$11,520.09. Income during the previous month was \$341.50 and expenses were \$206.02. The expenses included a payment of \$191.52 for an annual fee to use the 1Password product. There was also a monthly fee of \$14.50 for hosting the club website.
- There was a discussion of activities during Field Day next weekend. In addition to providing the Radio Merit Badge class for scouts, we will bring a “fox” transmitter to demonstrate RF signal direction finding to the scouts. Club members are requested to bring their tape measure yagi antennas to be used during the event. It was noted that radio operators using insect repellent containing DEET must clean their hands before using the radios because DEET will attack the plastic of the radio controls. The WA4TXE 2 meter repeater includes a capability to rebroadcast weather alerts for thunderstorms.
- Upcoming club events are expected to include the Reston Bike Club century ride on August 17. The Berryville hamfest will be held on August 3. The previous support for the Oktoberfest event in Lovettsville is expected to be unneeded this year since the management of the event has been outsourced to a commercial company. It was suggested that the club should look for an alternative event for which to provide community support.

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- Chad KQ4UMW reported that someone has been using his name and callsign to fraudulently advertise radio equipment outside of our local area. Investigation is continuing.
- Steve N4RAF recently attended a meeting in Richmond to advocate for prohibition of inclusion of antenna restrictions in new HOA covenants. Existing covenants would not change if the new rules are adopted.
- There was a discussion of the new Echolink connection of the WA6EFW 2 meter repeater. It is suggested that the repeater should be used to coordinate the Sunday night 2 meter net and allow out of town club members to participate.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:25. The next club meeting is scheduled for July 19.

- Attendance

None	Chris
N4RAF	Steve
KR4DPS	Eric
KD1G	Steve
K2BFY	Hanry
KO4OZJ	Chris
KJ4NXG	Bob
W4PMP	Chris
KQ4UMW	Chad
KQ4MHT	Jim
WA4KBM	Kevin
KE4S	Dave
K9TRE	Tareck
K3WD	Bill
N4PD	Paul
KQ4VZF	Patrick
K4FW	Jim

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KM4DCV Dave

N4FAF Jim