

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Minutes July 19, 2025

Venue: Leesburg Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order at 8:30 AM.

- Pledge of allegiance.
- Harry K2BFY presented information about the RF bandwidth required for an FM signal. Radio manufacturers implement the deviation of the signal as narrow band or wide band. Narrow band uses 2.5 kHz deviation and wide band uses 5 kHz deviation. The deviation is the maximum modulation of the frequency swing of the carrier frequency. The modulation carries the information of the audio signal. The base swing of the signal is 3 kHz, so the bandwidth of a narrow band signal is $3 + 2.5 = 5.5$ kHz. The bandwidth of a wide band signal is $3 + 5 = 8$ kHz.

There was discussion about which radio frequencies should be used when operating on VHF/UHF. The range of frequencies allocated for amateur use is determined by the FCC. Within the allocated frequencies, the ARRL designates frequencies for specific uses in a document called a Band Plan. On the VHF/UHF bands, there are frequency ranges designated for repeater inputs and outputs. The repeater frequencies are further coordinated by a local organization. The coordination allocates a pair of frequencies to a specific repeater owner. The allocation must be respected to protect the repeater owner's equipment use. In our area, the coordinator is T-MARC. Interfering with a coordinated repeater is considered to be willful interference. The FCC enforces violations of willful interference.

It was noted that the frequency ranges designated as SIMPLEX can be used for any needed communication on a first-come-first-served basis. If a crossband repeater is used, a PL tone should be configured on the input frequencies to prevent the transmitter from activating due to noise.

- The Reston Bike Club century ride is scheduled for August 17. David WA4TXE will be setting up the net control station at the Western Loudoun Sheriff's station. All riders will receive a wrist band with a phone number that will ring directly at net control. Net control will be implemented using three radios. A 2 meter radio will communicate with SAG vehicles that have an amateur radio operator on board. The 2 meter operations will be implemented through the WA4TXE repeaters. A 70 cm radio will transmit on the linking frequency between the two repeaters to provide redundant control of the net traffic. The third radio will be a reverse pair that will allow net control to manually monitor the repeater traffic and replace the repeater if it fails.

A SAG meeting will be held on August 11 at the Herndon library.

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- There was a review of the Field Day event. The club total score was greater than 2024, but the points earned from radio contacts were lower. This was due to the loss of three hours due to thunderstorm activity. The higher score was due to a larger number of bonus points compared to 2024.
- The club has been asked to support a bike ride to benefit MS. They request that net control be stationed at Reston Town center. The ride course makes extensive use of the W&OD trail. The preliminary decision is that the club will try to coordinate support with other local radio clubs. Club members who wish to express opinions about event support should send email to president@k4lrg.org.
- The Berryville hamfest is scheduled for August 3. It was noted that the WA4TXE repeater can be used for the event. The mobile radio transmit frequency should be set to 146.10 and the receive frequency should be set to 146.85.
- Tareck K9TRE reported the club checking account balance as \$10,709.94. \$128.50 was collected during the previous month and expenses were \$938.65.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:10. The next club meeting is scheduled for August 12.

- Attendance

K1NSA	Bryan
N4RAF	Steve
K2BFY	Hanry
W4PMP	Chris
K9TRE	Tareck
K4FWD	Frank
KS1G	Steve
W0MPM	John
WA4TXE	Dave
N2ALA	Dwight
KQ4IBI	Ron
KQ4VHX	Mike
KR4DPS	Eric
KG4UPR	Bryan

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KQ4MHT	Jim
W3RJT	Rob
N3UW	Rich
N4PD	Paul
KQ4VZF	Patrick
KR4EON	Nigel
N4FAF	Jim