

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Minutes August 16, 2025

Venue: Leesburg Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order at 8:30 AM.

- Pledge of allegiance.
- Three visitors were recognized. KO4WQD Mark Skinner, KR4BXD Jerry Picard and Adam Black who has not yet passed his license exam.
- Gene N3EV presented material about his portable communications kit. The kit includes a STARLINK SATCOM station. STARLINK is a commercial product that provides high speed data communications via satellite using Internet protocols. The first generation products provided local connection using WiFi only. The current version of STARLINK also includes an Ethernet interface for computing devices to access the satellite connection. The antenna is a phased array to facilitate connection to the low earth orbit satellites as they pass overhead without reorienting the antenna. The STARLINK is a good solution for communications needed during emergency situations including Search and Rescue. STARLINK allows comms without line of sight or repeaters.

Gene has also built a kit that allows voice data to use the STARLINK connection as well as providing a plug-in data connection to various computing resources. The Magic Jack product plugs into an RJ-45 data connection of the STARLINK system. Using the Magic Jack product allows a standard POTS (Plain Old Telephone Service) telephone with an RJ-11 plug to access a VoIP channel.

Some of the equipment that Gene includes in his kit uses power voltage levels other than 12 volts. There are readily available power converters to provide 5, 24, and 48 volts for equipment using a 12 volt source. It was noted that the project previously known as Hamshack Hotline has been replaced by Hams Over Internet (www.hamsoverip.com).

- Dave WA4TXE will be coordinating the communications for the Reston Century bike ride this year. He plans to use the repeaters in Leesburg and Charlestown that are assigned with his callsign. He noted that the phone number used by the riders to access net control is 304-261-8112.
- Several bits and pieces were discussed: The club is not expected to support the Lovettsville Oktoberfest event this year. A Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is scheduled for October 5. The DC MS bike ride is scheduled for September 13. The club will not support the bike ride as a group, but individual members are encouraged to participate. The club is expecting to provide an example of a POTA activation on September 13. A handheld radio comms test is expected to occur on September 6. There is now a Meshtastic node on a tower in Ashburn.

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- Tareck K9TRE reported the club checking account balance as \$10,720.44. \$25 was collected during the previous month and expenses were \$1450.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:10. The next club meeting is scheduled for September 20.
- Attendance

K4AIU	Doug
KQ4MAM	Megan
KQ4MHT	Jim
KQ4VZF	Patrick
KM6VRX	Bryce
N3EV	Gene
KJ4NXG	Bob
KD4NYX	Wendy
KD4HAX	Joe
KQ4UNC	Scott
KQ4IBI	Ron
K4FWD	Frank
KQ4CUE	Shelly
KC4CG	Gump
KR4BXO	Jerry
KE4S	Dave
W3OW	Bruce
N3EV	Gene
KO4WQD	Mark
W3RJT	Rob
WA4KBM	Kevin
KD9VGR	Jay
WB6EFW	Scott

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KQ4UMW	Chad
K1NSA	Bryan
KR4EON	Nigel
N2ALA	Dwight

MEMBERS OF BOD PRESENT:

W4PMP	Chris (chair)
K4FW	Jim
K3WD	Bill
N4PD	Paul
WA4TXE	David

OFFICERS PRESENT:

N4RAF	Steve
KS1G	Steve
K9TRE	Tareck
N4FAF	Jim