

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Regular Meeting Minutes September 20, 2025

Venue: Leesburg Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order at 8:30 AM.

- Pledge of allegiance.
- Three visitors were recognized. Henry KR4GIQ with his father (no call) and Art KD4CSO.
- Patrick KR4DTF presented material about the Virginia Defense Force. Patrick is currently licensed as a Technician, and he holds the rank of First Lieutenant in the VDF. The VDF is a reserve of the Virginia National Guard. There are three battalions within the VDF first regiment. They are the 11th Civil Response Battalion, the 21st Liaison Battalion and the 31st Cyber Battalion. All members are uniformed members of their unit, but they never carry weapons when deployed. The VDF is never deployed overseas.

The time commitment for membership is one Saturday per month. In addition, two full weekends per year at Fort Pickett are required. Members are paid if they are deployed, but no payment is made for any drill exercise. New members must meet height and weight limits and the maximum age is 65. Members must complete the basic ICS online courses from the FEMA website so they are familiar with the organizational and command structure during an emergency event. These are the same minimal courses that are designated for members of ARES. The VDF does not work directly with ARES, but they could coordinate duties during an emergency response.

Any persons interested in joining or supporting the VDF should visit their website at vdf.virginia.gov.

- Steve N4REF reported about the HT connect exercise earlier in the month. Club members were stationed in several places in the County. Radio connections to other members using their HT were tested. The ability to reach various repeaters was also tested. Alternate antennas were used in attempt to improve the results. The positions the contact results are recorded and will be compared with results from a similar future event.
- Doug KM4GC reported the ARRL ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) exercise is scheduled for October 4 between 10 and 12 local time. ARES has agreed with the Loudoun Emergency Management office that support during an emergency should be focused on enhancing communications between the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and the various shelters and hospitals. County High Schools and recreation centers have been designated as candidate shelters because they have large indoor spaces and the capability to provide food for those people in the shelter. The SET will position radio operators at predetermined High Schools to check potential comms.

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- The club has developed a frequency plan for use with the club activities. Members should program their radios using the designated frequencies and tactical names. The Virginia ARES group also has a frequency plan that includes HF frequencies. The club plan will be updated to include the HF frequencies. Watch the club email reflector for further information.
- The club is planning a POTA activation on October 11 from 9 to 12 at the Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg. Any member who is interested in POTA should attend to observe how it can be done. This is also an opportunity for hams licensed as a Technician to operate on HF.
- On October 16 at 10:16, hams are encouraged to participate in the Great American Shakeout. See www.shakeout.org/southeast/index.html for information.
- The Monday 220 MHz net will be changing time and date. There are now two repeaters within reach of most club members, so there will be two nets each week. Details about the changes will be posted on the club website.
- Jim N4FAF reported that the minutes from the August meeting were distributed using the club email reflector and posted on the club website. The August minutes were approved by the members present.
- Tareck K9TRE reported the club checking account balance as \$10,730.19. \$24.25 was collected during the previous month and expenses were \$14.50.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:25. The next club meeting is scheduled for October 18.
- Attendance

K1NSA	Bryan
KR4DTF	Patrick
WA4KBM	Kevin
AK2M	Kevin
KG4UPR	Bryan
K4FWD	Frank
KQ4MHT	Jim
KR4GIQ	Henry
K2BFY	Henry
KD9VGR	Jay

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KM4GC	Doug
KD4WLF	Bryan
KE4S	Dave
KQ4IBI	Ron
KO4OZJ	Chris
KR4EON	Nigel
KD4CSO	Arthur

MEMBERS OF BOD PRESENT:

K4FW	Jim
K3WD	Bill
WA4TXE	David

OFFICERS PRESENT:

N4RAF	Steve
KS1G	Steve
K9TRE	Tareck
N4FAF	Jim