

LARG Radio News – de K4LRG



Loudoun Amateur Radio Group, P.O. Box 1004, Purcellville, VA 20134

Contacts:

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Vice-Pres.	Bill McCourt (WF1L)	(703) 467-9272
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Treasurer	Jeff Slusher (KE5APC)	(703) 737-7370
Editor	John Unger (W4AU)	(540) 338-4620
Training	Currently Vacant!!!	

MEETING LOCATION: The February 17, 2007 LARG meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. in the Leesburg Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 605 West Market Street. The church is located at the intersection of Market Street and Catoctin Circle on the west side of town. It is just east of the bypass. From the Bypass, take the Leesburg exit at the west end of town and the church is on the right just past the stoplight. Please enter through the door on the east side of the building where you will see both steps and a ramp by the door.

February Meeting Plans – Your new officers will take charge at the February meeting; see the masthead above for the 2007 LARG Officers elected at the January meeting.

Your 2007 dues were due in January, but it's still not too late to pay up! For your convenience, we have again this month attached a copy of the LARG club membership application at the end of the newsletter. You can just print that page and bring it to the February meeting with you or just mail it to our new Treasurer (address is at the top of the application).

Contesting News – We are still in the midst of the winter contest season; "...When the weather outside is frightful, 40 meters can be so delightful...". You can get warmed up for the Virginia QSO Party by working one, two, or three state QSO Parties the first weekend in February. You can get the details of the Minnesota QP at <http://www.w0aa.org>; for the Delaware QP go to <http://www.fsarc.org>; and for the Vermont QP visit their web site at <http://www.qsl.net/w1bd>. These smaller state QSO Parties are an excellent way to get practice for other contests such and for the Virginia QP.

The big DX contest(s) coming up in February and March are the ARRL CW and SSB DX contests. The CW version is the weekend of February 17-18, and the SSB contest is held the weekend of March 3-4. In this DX contest W/VE hams work DX stations around the world; the DX amateurs can only work W/VE stations. The exchange is simply a signal report and your state/province. You will get back a signal report and the Check out the complete rules at the ARRL web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/intldx.html>

Of course, the contest that everyone in the club can enjoy and take part in is the Virginia QSO Party, the weekend of March 17-18. The VAQP starts Saturday afternoon after the LARG March club meeting. Our club has had a long tradition of participation in this QSO Party, and in spite of its somewhat arcane and peculiar rules, club members have done well individually and the club has done outstandingly well collectively by winning the Virginia Club category in the past. Other state QSO Parties, such as the Pennsylvania QSO Party are more fun to participate in for both in-state and out-of-state hams because they have more reasonable operating times, emphasize working US and Canadian hams, and eliminate the temptation for in-state participants to work DX stations who are operating in other contests. However, the VAQP is our own state QSO Party, and we have to take what we can get.

Also, because apparently SPARC does not count hand-written logs towards the in-state club competition for working the most in-state stations, the contest committee will make an effort this year to manually type in the hand-written logs from our members before we submit them to SPARC.

As far as my records go, 1997 was the first year we participated as a club in the VAQP. Using my own data and the excellent summaries for the VAQP that Norm, **AI2C**, has put on the K4LRG website (see http://www.k4lrg.org/Contests/DX_Contest_Links.htm and scroll near the bottom of the page) I have put together the following data for LARG's participation in the VAQP as a club. The increases in the total club score is interesting, but the way in which the number of participants has increased is even more important, to my way of thinking, at least. It looks like LARG has contributed between 10% and 20% of all the in-state logs over the years and typically has more than 75% of the mobile operations.

Year	Total Club Score	Club Place Overall	No. LARG Participants
1997	47,786	3 rd	?
1998	277,396	2 nd	22
1999	458,138	2 nd	24
2000	639,395	2 nd	32
2001	846,379	1 st	24
2002	909,125	2 nd	26
2003	1,067,163	1 st	32
2004	497,934	2 nd	28
2005	720,195	2 nd	27
2006	754,356	2 nd	37

Club News – In case you haven't heard, Charlie, **K4LJH**, was selected as LARG Outstanding Member for 2006. Charlie was unable to attend the Holiday Dinner in December, when we traditionally present this award. John, **W4AU**, was able to present Charlie with his plaque after the January meeting; you can read more about the award and Charlie's contributions to LARG on the K4LRG web site at <http://www.k4lrg.org/Announcements/index.html>.

It's becoming a LARG tradition, and Denny, **KF4TJI**, has produced a LARG calendar for 2007. Again it features photos of our club members at various events throughout 2006 and was put together in a truly professional manner by Denny. You can have one for your very own. They will be for sale at the February club meeting for \$5.00; all proceeds go directly into the club's treasury.

Ongoing On-the-air Events (local times shown)	
Every Sunday 8:30 p.m.	Club Radio Net, 145.310 MHz duplex
Every Tuesday 8:00 p.m.	Club CW Net, 3545 kHz
Every Thursday 8:00 p.m.	Club SSB Net, 3762.5 kHz
Every Weekday Morning & Evening	Club Commuter Net, 147.480 MHz
Third Saturday of every Month 8:30 a.m.	Club Meeting

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Meeting Minutes for January 20, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Boyd Garrett, N5CTI, at 8:45am with 25 members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A visitor, Vic Carter, KB9WXV, was introduced and welcomed by the club.

Boyd called our business meeting to order. As the minutes are being posted in the Newsletter, a motion to accept as posted was entertained and the minutes were approved. Gary Quinn, NC4S, our treasurer, was not present so no treasurer's report was given.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee – Denny, KF4TJI reported that the nominating committee is submitting the following slate of officers:

President – Dave Putman, KE4S
Vice President – Bill McCourt, WF1L
Secretary – Randy Sly, W4XJ
Treasurer – Jeff Slusher, KE5APC

A motion to election was offered by Denny with support and the officers elected by acclamation. Congratulations!

Emergency/Public Service and Balloon Committees – John Unger, W4AU gave the Public Service and Balloon Reports on behalf of Tom, WB3AKD, who could not be present.

Balloon: Currently we have 1 transmitter and 2 microprocessors functioning. Tom wanted the club to consider whether to do another Fox Hunt after the February meeting. A motion to hold a Fox Hunt was affirmed by the members.

Public Service: Thanks you's were expressed to all the volunteers for Leesburg First Night, which was very successful. The club was also reminded that another Dulles Airport Drill is scheduled for 05 May 2007.

Contests – John, W4AU mentioned that the January ARRL VHF Sweepstakes and the SSB side of the North America QSO party were both being held this weekend. February contests include the ARRL DX Contest for SSB and CW.

Also, don't forget that the Virginia QSO Party is coming up the third week in March. Now is the time to begin planning for mobile or expedition operation. Remember that there is a section on the LARG website with good operating hints concerning this contest.

Training – The position of Training Chairman is currently open.

Interference – no report

Old Business

Boyd, N5CTI reported that one of our members, Bob Olifant, KF4VBM, had passed away since the last club meeting. We had very good representation from the club at the viewing and funeral.

Bill Frisbie, W3EMH, again reminded LARG members of the opportunity to become members of the Dulles Amateur Radio Group, which owns the 145.310 repeater. The annual meeting will be held at the end of April.

Carol, KF4TJJ wanted to be sure that the club offered a big thank you to Meg Gentges, N4OGE, for organizing our Holiday party in December.

The Outstanding Member Award for 2006 was given to Charlie Preston, K4LJH for all that he has done to promote the good of the club and especially for his logistics support of our Field Day activities. Charlie was not present to accept the award.

New Business

Jay Greeley reported that the Virginia Defense Force (our state militia and the auxiliary to the National Guard) is

currently expanding its ranks to cover Guard activities, with so many Guard units deployed to Iraq. He suggested that LARG explore ways that they can assist the VDF by providing communications training for those individuals who will be using the Comm Van.

Dick Maylott, W2YE, brought a request from Gordon Miller, NQ4K, Virginia QSO Party Chairman. Two plaques for the VAQP are still without sponsors, the VHF Single Operator and the High Virginia County/Independent City Single Operator. He is asking if LARG would like to sponsor one of these. The motion was made, seconded and carried that we would sponsor the High Virginia County/Independent City Single Operator award.

The Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club will be hosting a post-holiday hamfest on January 28 from 8-12noon at the Odenton Volunteer Fire Department Hall.

Carol, KF4TJJ reminded the club that, in case of inclement weather, meetings will only be held if the parking lot has been cleared of snow.

A motion was made by Dave, KE4S and seconded by Jay Greeley that the treasurer issue a check for \$200 to the church as a donation for the use of the meeting space.

Jay Greeley reported that the Leesburg VFW Hall is available to LARG for its monthly meetings. The hall is located across the street from the Rust Library.

Our New President, Dave, KE4S, announced that we need a new net manager for the Sunday Evening Club Net, if anyone is interested. Also, we are currently looking for a Chairman for the Field Day 2007.

Norm Styer, AI2C, played a recording of LARG operators who were on the air at the time that the new band plan went into effect. At 12:01am on 15 December 2006 voice operations were heard on 3608 and 7130 Khz. Those who participated were Norm, AI2C; Paul Dluhosh, N4PD; Dale Harrison, K3CN; and Larry Hughes, K3HE

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Sly, W4XJ
Secretary

The annual membership fee is \$12.00; you can include additional family members for \$1.00 each. Please make your checks out to: Loudoun Amateur Radio Group (LARG). You can bring this form to the January meeting or mail it to our Treasurer, **Jeff Slusher, KE5APC, 211 Lake View Way, NW, Leesburg 20176 .**

Note: Your call sign, first and last name, city, and state will be posted on the publicly available LARG web site. The other information will be available to club members only and will be posted on the password protected "members only" section of the LARG web page.

Call Sign _____ (if you have one)

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Phone # _____ (please include area code)

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ (5 digits only)

email address _____

email address _____

Type of membership (please circle): Regular Family Student

Are you a member of the LARG reflector? ____

Are you a member of ARRL? ____

Are you a member of ARES/RACES? ____

License class (please circle): None Technician Tech Plus General Advanced Extra

What year did you first join LARG? _____

What year were you first licensed? _____

What was your first call? _____

Thanks for taking the time to fill out yet another form! If any of this information changes, please send me the new information so I can keep the LARG member list current.

Comments for the club officers (e.g., what would you like to see the club doing this year):