

April 2008 - Amateur Radio from Loudoun County, Virginia

LARG Radio News – de K4LRG



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

Contacts:

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MEETING LOCATION: The April 19, 2008 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 come up the front steps (facing Market St.) and enter through the right-hand door. Proceed left into the hallway and make the first right into the new room.

April Meeting – We will begin to finalize our plans for ARRL Field Day operation the last weekend in June.

Contesting News – We have a couple of QSO Parties this weekend, Michigan and Ontario. These “contests” are pretty low stress and a lot of fun. They are also a great way to check out your rig, antennae, logging software, etc. For the Michigan QSO Party see, <http://www.miqp.org> ; for the Ontario Party look at, <http://cco.ve3xd.com/oqp/index.htm>

A major QSO Party, the Florida QP, will be held the weekend of April 26, 27. Check out <http://www.floridagsoparty.org> for further detail. This QSO Party has a lot of participation from mobiles that travel throughout the state to make sure that all the Florida counties are activated.

Training – Steve, **KW4H**, has put together new proposed dates for our ham radio classes (all held at the VFW Hall in Leesburg):

Basic Electronics - July 12/13, with July 19th if needed

General Class - July 26/27, with August 2nd if needed

Technician Class - September 20/21

Note that the General Class course would end "just in time" for the Berryville Hamfest on August 3rd, where the students can take their exams. In all likelihood, the General Class course would just run over the two days of July 26/27, giving a week for the students to practice for the exam.

Club News – Don't forget to tune into one of the two Thursday night LARG SSB nets that are currently operating. Activity starts on 3675 kHz. at 2000 local and then migrates to 28405 kHz by 2045 at the latest. The NCS will also be listening up in the General Class portion of 75 meters and running spilt for those unable to transmit on the lower frequency.

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2008

The meeting was called to order Vice President Rick Miller, AI1V, at 8:40 am and the Pledge of Allegiance said. President Bill Buchholz, K8SYH, was out of town. Rick welcomed new members and guests to the meeting.

The minutes were accepted as published on the website.

The treasurer's report presented by Jeff Slusher, KE5APC, moved and accepted

Committee Reports

Public Service – Tom Dawson, WB3AKD

Tom reported that a SKYWARN Flood class will be held in Leesburg and information would be coming on it through the reflector.

Balloon Committee – Tom Dawson, WB3AKD

Tom told the group that we are establishing a digital committee for balloon payload. We should have an anticipated launch in July of 2008.

Interference, Education committees – no report

Field Day

Shirts and pins are now available from ARRL. Rick mentioned that we should put an order in as soon as possible.

Contest

VA QSO Party starts this afternoon at 2:00 pm. Every amateur in the club is encouraged to participate as much as possible.

Website – Norm

Our new home page design is now up and running.

Other Announcements

Carol KF4TJJ announced the upcoming YLRL conference, July 2008, in Huntsville, AL. She has raffle tickets for sale.

Jay, KI4TXP announced that we have two “damaged” banners for sale at half price – 37.50.

New Business

Jay, KI4TXP, moved that we donate \$100 to VFW to go toward their oil for heating. Motion carried.

Jeff Slusher, KE5APC, stated that we don't have a program committee and there are most months where the program is not already scheduled such as the meeting close to Field Day, VA QSO party, etc.

It was noted that according to our constitution the Vice President heads the Program area for the club. Jeff Slusher and Jay Greeley volunteered to help.

Jay Greeley, KI4UTB, mentioned that Walter Reed Hospital is interested in re-activating their MARS station. We need to make a presentation to soldiers, making the world of ham radio known to them and also request activation from the commanding officer. Emcomm people in Maryland and DC have indicated they will support the activity as well.

He also wanted to see if there was interested in setting up a MARS station at the VFW Hall.

AOL donated 800 T-shirts for wounded soldiers.

Anyone interested in visiting wounded soldiers at Walter Reed on Thursday afternoons, see Jay.

Jeff, KE5APC, mentioned that two members of LARG are members of Army MARS and would be interested in helping out. We could also provide training and licensing support for the soldiers.

Dave, KE4S, reported that we have a Kenwood transceiver available to set into a station at the VFW.

Jay, KI4TXP, asked a question about getting non-profit status for the club. He would be willing to take the initiative to investigate. Rick indicated that, according to Gary, NC4S, it was investigated years ago and decided against it.

This may also require constitutional changes for the club. We tried to accomplish this a few years ago without success.

Jay, KI4TXP, was assigned responsibility to work on a 501.C.3 possibility for the club with others who were interested in looking into it.

Jay, KI4UTB, has indicated that the Loudoun Red Cross is going through very tough economic times, including lay-offs, etc., and encouraged the club to give a donation.

A motion was made by Jay to send a check to the Red Cross for their Heroes Fund for \$200 seconded by Dave, KE4S. Motion carried.

Denny, KF4TJI, presented a short program on homebrew direction finding antennas after the formal portion of the meeting ended.

Motion to close the meeting, moved, seconded and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:23am.

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, 3645 kHz
Every Thursday 8:45 p.m.	Club SSB Net 28405 kHz
Every Weekday Morning & Evening	Club Commuter Net, 147.480 MHz
Third Saturday of every Month 8:30 a.m.	Club Meeting