

LARG Radio News – de K4LRG



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

Contacts:

President	Boyd Garrett (N5CTI)	(703) 450-5093
Vice-Pres.	Dave Putman (KE4S)	(703)-669-4480
Secretary	Randy Sly (W4XJ)	(703)-404-0754
Treasurer	Gary Quinn (NC4S)	(540) 882-3017
Editor	John Unger (W4AU)	(540) 338-4620
Training	Denny Boehler (KF4TJI)	(703) 777-9427

MEETING LOCATION: No club meeting was held in December in lieu of the Annual Holiday Dinner, which was held on December 5. The next LARG meeting will be on January 20, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. in the Leesburg Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 605 West Market Street.

Holiday Dinner – On the evening of December 5, thirty-five LARG members and spouses attended the ninth annual Holiday Dinner at the *That's Amore* Restaurant in Sterling. The food and companionship were excellent, and all enjoyed a pleasant evening. The club has Meg, **N4OGE**, to thank as she made all the arrangements and handled all the reservations, etc.; thank you, Meg, for a job well done!

As usual, one of the highlights of the dinner was the awarding of door prizes to all of those present. The 'grand prize' of a Yaesu FT-1802 2-meter mobile/base xcvr was won by Frank, **K0BRA**. Kay, **KA2IJU**, won the Yaesu VXT-170 HT, as the second prize (she was cautioned to keep her new HT hidden from Norm). Carolyn, John's, **W4AU**, wife conveniently won a much-needed Daiwa coax switch. MFJ "Cleartone" speakers were won by Angie, **KG4AVR**; Carol, **KF4TJJ**; and Bill, **K8SYH**. Dave, **KE4S**, and Pat, Jeff's, **KE5APC**, wife won ladder line antenna "locks". Finally, Chuck, **KI4IEO**, won a genuine Stanley Tool bottle opener, perfect for opening those cold beverages on Field Day.

Tom, **WB3AKD**, handed out special certificates of appreciation for club members who have consistently participated in ARES exercises and true emergencies. These awards went to Gary, **NC4S**; Bill, **W3EMH**; Kurt, **KI4FWB**; Carol, **KF4TJJ** and Denny, **KF4TJI**.

Traditionally, the club makes an award to the "Outstanding LARG Member" for the year at the Holiday Dinner. The selection committee has chosen an a member to receive this award, but that member was not at the Holiday dinner, so the award will be made at the January club meeting.

Contesting News – This weekend, December 9-10, is the ARRL 10-meter contest. This contest is somewhat unique in that you can operate as SSB-only, CW-only, or mixed CW-SSB. The contest starts at 0000Z 12/9 (Friday night) and lasts 48 hours until 0000Z 12/11 (Sunday night) you can operate any 36 of those 12 hours. US and Canadian stations will be sending a signal report and their state or province; DX stations will send a signal report and a sequential serial number. Please check the complete rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/10-meters.html> .

As you know, we are near the bottom of the current sun spot cycle, so conditions on 10 are not too hot. However, the solar flux is current abnormally high, so conditions might be better than expected. You can expect opening to South America from about 1500 – 2100Z, with the best chance later in the day. Other than that, there may be propagation out to a few hundred miles at other times during the day and ground wave are possible at other "dead" times. The good news when the sun spots are so scarce is that you can get all the best band openings and only operate a few hours each day! This ARRL 10-meter contest has a 'small club' category, so be sure to indicate **Loudoun ARG** for the club score on your log when you submit it.

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President Boyd Garrett, N5CTI, at 8:35am with 32 members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Boyd called our business meeting to order. The minutes were read by LARG Secretary Randy Sly, W4XJ, and were approved. Gary Quinn, NC4S, our treasurer, was not present so no treasurer's report was given.

Committee Reports

Training – Denny, KF4TJI, reported that the class was over but no license upgrades have been reported as yet. He thanked all those who helped teach the class.

Randy, W4XJ, reported that Dave Manning, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Sterling National Weather Service Office, had passed his Technician class license at a special examining session give for forecasters at the NWS office. (Secretary's note: Dave's license was issued on November 27. His call is KI4SHL.)

Contests – John, W4AU gave a final report on the club's operation for the Pennsylvania QSO party. The team logged 2230 contacts, all counties, 76 sections, and received the DX multiplier. It looks like they will have posed the high overall score as well as the high multi-multi score.

The ARRL Sweepstakes Contest begins today at 4pm. Club members were reminded of the unique exchange used in the Sweepstakes and newer operators were encouraged to listen for awhile and then jump in.

Interference – Mark, W3ZI, said that BPL is still the hot topic in Virginia. Discussion was given to interference caused by Plasma TV's.

Emergency/Public Service – Tom, WB3AKD, reported that the everything was ready for the Fox Hunt after the meeting. The signal could be heard from the church parking lot, so the hunt could begin from the meeting location.

Tom again reminded the club that our next public service event, First Night Leesburg, is coming soon and encouraged people to plan on participating.

Old Business

Holiday Dinner – Boyd reminded the club of our upcoming Holiday Dinner, Tuesday, December 5 at That's Amore Restaurant in Cascades. Money was due by December 1st.

New Business

Nominating Committee – Boyd, N5CTI, announced the nominating committee for the new year. Denny, KF4TJI; John, W4AU; and Paul, N4PD were selected.

Newsletter – John, W4AU, brought up the issue of the Newsletter and whether we need to keep publishing it, since the website is so active. He said that he needed direction from the club as the newsletter does take a lot of work to put together and wanted to hear whether the club wanted to continue or discontinue it. Several ideas were brought up, including the reduction of the number of issues, more overlap between publication of email and website, etc. The club affirmed the need for a newsletter and it was recommended that we bring the issue back up for more discussion and evaluation at the January meeting.

Announcements

Dave, KE4S, announced a "tower party" at his house in about two weeks to move the tower onto its base.

Randy, W4XJ, announced that SKYWARN Recognition Day would be taking place at the National Weather Service Office from 7pm Friday, December 1st until 7pm Saturday, December 2nd. All club members were invited to come and operate during this special event.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Sly, W4XJ
Secretary

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, 3697 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