

July 2005 - Amateur Radio From Loudoun County, Virginia

LARG Radio News – de K4LRG



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

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NOTE – NOTE – NOTE: July balloon launch originally scheduled to be held in lieu of the July 16 club meeting has been cancelled. The regular July LARG meeting will be held as normally scheduled, see below.

MEETING LOCATION: The July 16, 2005, 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.

July Meeting Plans –The 2005 K4LRG Field Day event is now recent history. We will discuss the results and other details at the meeting. A brief synopsis of what went on (from one ham’s perspective) will be found below. We will discuss plans for our annual participation in the Reston Bike Club’s Century Ride, which will take place in late August. We have many issues related to the degree of our participation this year, so if you have some ideas, be sure to show up.

2005 K4LRG Field Day, Your Editor’s Perspective - The weekend’s activities started on Friday afternoon about 1600 at the Banshee Reeks Park Field day site. We concentrated on putting up the antennas for the seven stations that would be operating during FD (5 HF stations, 1 VHF/UHF station, and an APRS station). As might be expected Murphy had already struck when our VHF/UHF station captain was unable to participate. In the best manner of FD, the club came through and was able to put together a VHF/UHF station that bested all of our previous efforts on these bands! Mark, **W3ZI**, brought out his Kenwood TS-2000, and we mounted the 6-meter, 2-meter, and 440 MHz antennas on the club’s portable tower along with the 3-element beam being used for the 20 CW station.

John, **W4AU**, put up his 40’ aluminum mast with a 40-meter delta loop and joined Gary, **NC4S**, and Mark in the “shed”. So we operated 40-meter and 20-meter CW and the VHF/UHF stations from that location this year. Meanwhile, the 40/80 SSB station captain, Dave, **K4ARP**, and crew finally got their **K4LJH** Windom up in some appropriate trees and that station was ready to go again on the front porch, nabbing the best view at the whole FD site! As usual, Dave, **KE4S**, seemed to get his APRS mast and antenna up effortlessly and was operational in no time at all.

Across the way on the hill, Norm, **A12C**, got his antennas for 80 CW and 15-meter SSB/CW strung up and was on the air. In the major effort of the day, a big crew finally got John’s, **W4AU**, 2-element retuned for the fone portion of 20-meters and mounted on a 30-foot “ladder mast” for Don’s, **K8DSJ**, 20-meter SSB station. For some strange reason, John’s antenna had been tuned for 14.025... Norm got the award for finding the most ticks when he got home!

All of this hard work was made worthwhile when we took a break and indulged in Charlie’s, **K4LJH**, and his wife Mary’s excellent dinner treats.

We returned to the scene of the crime Saturday morning to get all the rigs tuned up and working. One of the major

problems we had to cope with was mysterious power line-type noise, which was especially bad at the 80 CW, 15 CW/SSB station, and was also present on the 20 and 40-meter CW stations. We never did pin down the source, but it seemed to come and go and noise blankers took care of the worst of the problem. After fine lunch put together by Charlie and Mary, we were all ready to get on the air and make some QSO's! The rates at all the stations started off high and fresh operators at all the stations kept things moving at a lively pace through the afternoon.

One of the highlights of the entire weekend was the family picnic / pot luck held Saturday afternoon. Again, Charlie and Mary prepared some fantastic the main dishes, and the pot luck contributions made sure that there was more than enough for everyone. The dinner was a great social event for the LARG!

As in past years, we didn't really have enough operators to keep all the stations going full bore during the wee hours of Sunday morning, but by sunrise the rates started to go up again as everyone woke up. As in years past, Tom, **NA4MA**, rewarded the early morning shift operators with delicious apple pancakes, which are worth staying awake for!

As FD came to an end Sunday afternoon, just about everyone was ready to pack up and go home. I think we set some sort of record getting all of the antennas down and the equipment put away, and we were all done by 1530.

We are still working with the logs and finalizing our score, but it looks like we should finish with more points than our record-breaking effort last year. The first cut by our computer guru and chief scorer, Paul, **N4PD**, shows us with about 2000 CW and 925 fone QSO's for the weekend! When all the multipliers, bonus points, and bribes are factored in, we should have a few hundred points more than last year, but details and the final tally will come later. One trivia-type note is the club's first 440 MHz CW contact made by Mark, **W3ZI**.

I think that I've missed one LARG FD since they started in 1994, and they just seem to get better and better as we get more and more hams involved in this activity. I can't wait until June 2006!

May 2005 Club Meeting Minutes

LARG Club Meeting Minutes June 18, 2005: The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by President **Carol – KF4TJJ**, who then lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance with 29 people in attendance.

Visitors and new members were recognized and welcomed by the club. Returning member **Gabe – KF4YBW** reintroduced himself.

The April 2005 minutes were read by Secretary **David – K4ARP** and approved. The May 2005 minutes (no quorum) were read and will be entered in the record as corrected.

The Treasurer's report was read by **Gary – NC4S** and approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Training: Denny: KF4TJI reported that two students are taking the current technician class. There are more slots available for teachers, see Denny. There will be another technician class this fall on Friday evenings with two students already enrolled.

Emergency Services / Public Services: Tom – WB4AKD reminded everyone of the upcoming Reston Bike Club Ride on August 28th.

Interference Committee: Nothing to report.

FAR: Bill – WF1L had nothing to report. **David – K4ARP** has posted the AutoCall club submission for June.

Contests: Jack – K4VV purchased a DVD set of the PVRC Contest College for use by the club. **Gary – NC4S** said the set will be available for loan to club members. Gary is also looking into setting up a program to view DVDs after the club meetings. **Jack – K4VV** mentioned that there is an upcoming opportunity to get salvaged sections of Rohn tower. Check with Jack if you are interested. The club congratulated our 2005 VA QSO Party plaque winners **Kurt – KI4FWB** for High Single Operator VHF Only and **Norm – AI2C** for High Virginia Single Operator All Mode.

Balloon Committee: Tom – WB4AKD is trying for a launch during the third week of July. The launch will take place instead of the meeting. If the launch is postponed the meeting will take place as usual.

Field Day 2005 - June 25 & 26: Boyd – N5CTI (Field Day Captain) still has operator slots to fill, send your requested time(s) and station(s) to **Norm – AI2C**. Station Captains discussed equipment needs and any last minute concerns On Friday the 24th, the antenna party will start at 1600hrs. Talk in will be on 147.48. **Charlie – K4LJH** (Food Captain) passed around the menu signup sheet for Saturday evening dinner and reviewed the food plan for the event.

David – K4ARP announced that the press releases for field day had been sent and that **Randy – W4XJ's** idea of having the last week of June proclaimed "Loudoun Amateur Radio Week" by the County Commission had been realized. **David – K4ARP** will be sending out press releases this weekend and all are invited to attend the ceremony June 21st at the Loudoun Government Building starting at 0930hrs. **Jack – K4VV** suggested that we all contact our representatives and invite them to the field day activities and to send the press release to Congressman Wolf. **David – K4ARP** will contact the Leesburg Today Newspaper and try and arrange for an article to be written highlighting the event and the role amateurs play in the county.

The H.R. 691 support sheet for was passed around for additional member signup.

Dave – KE4S mentioned that a similar Spectrum Defense Bill has now been introduced into the Senate.

Paul – N4PD setup a TR Log demonstration after the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Venture Crew: BA spoke to the District Commissioner for Goose Creek regarding the best way to get scouts interested. He suggested making up some flyers and attending the September Joint Scouting Night to recruit members. Once done, a charter for the venture crew can be submitted in the fall. Candidates for the crew must be 13+ years old, or have passed the 8th grade.

Star Party: Alan - KB3LVU reports that their special event station **K4S** made around 100 QSOs despite the wet weather. They

did get a tour of the facility and some good stargazing on Saturday evening.

Carol – KF4TJJ has the certificate of appreciation for **Craig Brown N4FSC** for the use of his repeater for the club's Sunday Night Net Meetings. Carol contacted Craig to present the certificate, but he was not able to attend today's meeting and the certificate will be presented to him on another date.

LARG Calendars and Field Day Pens are still available for sale and all proceed are donated to the club.

Carol – KF4TJJ is looking for volunteers to host the Sunday Night On Air Meetings. See Carol to sign up.

NEW BUSINESS

Kurt – KI4FWB was congratulated for recently passing his General License Exam. **Chris – KI4BRG** was congratulated for recently passing his Extra License Exam.

Don – K8DSJ noted that during the upcoming Fredric Ham Fest all license upgrade exams will be free of charge.

Tom – NA4MA is still looking for more line handlers for his Sunday the 19th antenna party – lunch will be served.

Gary – NC4S asked the members if the club should have replacement insurance on the tower trailer. The cost is between \$80-\$100/yr. for a value of between \$1,600-\$1,800. A motion was made and approved to buy the insurance.

BA volunteered to be this years Christmas Dinner Party Captain.

Gary – NC4S raffled off 4 repeater directories and raised \$33.75 for the club.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15am.

David T. Mullins – K4ARP, Secretary LARG

Ongoing On-the-air Events (local times shown)

Every Sunday 8:00 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