

# LARG Radio News – de K4LRG



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

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**MEETING LOCATION:** The November 19, 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.

**November Meeting Plans** – Our entertainment committee, Bill, **K8SYH**, and his XYL BA, will report on the arrangements for this year's annual Holiday Dinner. These events are not only great fun, but this year Gary, **NC4S**, picked up a whole lot of door prizes on his trip to the Dayton Hamfest; you might even win a new 2-meter rig!

**Contesting News** – We are coming up on the height of the amateur radio contesting season, and three “big” contests are looming in the future, one for SSB, one for CW, and one mixed SSB and/or CW. First, on the day of our next club meeting, November 19, the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes contest begins. The contest period lasts for 30 hours, from 2100Z on the 19<sup>th</sup> to 0300Z on the 21<sup>st</sup> (that's 1600 EST Saturday afternoon to 2200 EST Sunday evening). You can work a total of 24 hours out of the 30 available, but your “time off” periods have to be at least 30 minutes. You can work a station only once regardless of the band. The exchange is sort of complicated and consists of 5 elements: 1) a serial number; 2) your precedent; 3) your call sign; 4) your check; and 5) your ARRL section. The precedent is a single letter that shows what class you are entering, e.g., A=low power; B=high power; Q=QRP; U=unlimited; etc., etc. The “check” is simply the last two digits of the year you were first licensed. For example, my exchange on my 123<sup>rd</sup> QSO would be something like this if I am operating high power: **123 B W4AU 56 VA**. You should read the full set of rules before the contest just to make sure that you understand everything; they can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2005/novss.html> It is not very difficult to work all 50 states during this contest if conditions are favorable; what a way to get a great start on your Worked All States award!

The CW contest coming up is the CQWW DX contest on the weekend of Saturday November 26; it is one of the largest (most participants) contests in the world. This contest last for 48 hours starting at 0000Z on the 26<sup>th</sup> (Friday night), and, yes, some individuals stay up and operate for the entire period! The exchange is very simple, just a nominal signal report (599) and your CQ Zone, which for us here in Virginia is 5. The multipliers are DXCC countries and CQ zones, and you get to count them on each band! It is not impossible to work at least 100 countries on one weekend during this contest. You can find the full set of rules and lots of other interesting information at: <http://cqww.com>

The final big contest of the year is the ARRL 10-meter contest. This contest also runs for 48 hours starting at 0000Z on December 10<sup>th</sup> (the evening of December 9<sup>th</sup> for us); you can operate 36 of the total of 48 hours. The way propagation is right now near the bottom of the sunspot cycle, 10 meters will not be open much of the time with “good” conditions. Basically, the band may open to Africa and western Europe during the morning to early afternoon and be open to the western US in the mid-afternoon timeframe. Local backscatter QSO's may be possible at other times, but you don't have to stay up for 48 hours to get the most out of the propagation on 10 meters this time in the solar cycle! In this contest US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province as the exchange; DX stations send a signal report

and a sequential serial number. You have many operating options for this contest. Besides the usual power categories, you can operate CW only, phone only, or mixed phone and CW. Mults are states, provinces, and DX countries and you get more points for CW QSO's than phone ones. Again, see the full set of rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2005/10-meters.html>

**Club News** – If you can't make the November club meeting, be sure and contact Bill, **K8SYH**, or his lovely wife BA, [babuchholz@yahoo.com](mailto:babuchholz@yahoo.com), to make a reservation for the annual Christmas Dinner . The buffet dinner will take place the evening of December 16, at Magnolias in the Old Mill in Purcellville. The menu sounds delicious, and the buffet format will give you the opportunity to sample a variety of entrees. The cost for the meal, inclusive of everything except wine, beer, etc., is \$45.00 per person. Charlie, **K4LJH**, reports excellent HF conditions from coastal Maine during his trip in mid-October. His rental cabin had a direct over-the-water path to Europe, and his 40-meter Windom performed admirably. He was also able to check into the LARG 80-meter phone net on Thursday night. Speaking of antennae, Charlie also reports that his new 80-meter full wave loop that he recently installed in his back yard is “the best low-band antenna for 40 and 80” that he has ever had up!

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## LARG Club Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by President **Carol – KF4TJJ**, who then lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance with 42 people in attendance.

### **Visitors and new members were welcomed**

**Henry – ex-K2BFY, Frank – K0BRG and Thomas - KD8BJH.**

The September 2005 minutes were read by Secretary **David – K4ARP.**

The Treasurer's report was read by **Gary – NC4S.**

**Gary – NC4S** read a letter received from the Reston Bicycle Club thanking the group for their support, and in appreciation included a donation to the club of \$500.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Web Site: Norm – AI2C** reported that he is working on some new items for the site and putting up the report from the Reston Bike Ride.

**Interference Committee: Mark – W3ZI** said that they are dealing with one problem at this time.

**FAR: Bill – WF1L** Nothing to report

**Emergency Services / Public Services: Tom – WB3AKD** – reminded the group that the Loudoun Hospital Exercise is October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Around 8 volunteers will be needed at the Cornwall and Lansdowne Hospitals to provide voice and packet data support. Start time is 0730 hrs. for a half day. Duties involve communications backup and passing status of the Decon Tents. **Jay Greeley** expressed concern over who was in overall charge of the exercise in order to provide the support from our end. **Bill – W3EMH** again discussed the possibility of permanent locations for amateur support operations at the hospitals.

**Training: Denny - KF4TJI** announced that a signup form will go out on the reflector for training sponsors and knowledge experts.

**Club Nets: Carol – KF4TJJ** advised the group that starting October 30<sup>th</sup> the Sunday Night Net will move back to its starting time of 8:00pm, or 2000 hrs. local time until next spring.

**Public Relations: Larry - K3HE** announced that there will be meeting after the club meeting for those interested in helping with the Rust Library display. The display will start November 1st.

**Amendment Committee: Dick – W2YE** reviewed examples from different clubs on how they define a quorum, voting requirements to change the constitution and levels of membership.

An open discussion followed on defining a quorum with members purposing and commenting on a very wide diversity of options for the club to adopt, including setting a specific number of members, using a percentage of the voting membership and using only the members present at regularly scheduled meeting. **Tom – WB3AKD** made a motion to prepare a motion for the club to set the members required for a quorum at 15. The motion was seconded with general discussion. **Tom – WB3AKD** amended the motion to have the committee propose language and criteria to be presented at the next business meeting. The motion passed.

There was an open discussion on the voting requirements to change the constitution with a general consensus that 2/3 majority would be needed. **Gary – NC4S** made a motion for the committee to provide language that would require a 2/3 vote for a constitutional change and for the provision of voting via e-mail. The motion was seconded.

There was an open discussion on the various types and privileges of membership. **Norm – AI2C** also suggested that we add how to handle silent keys.

Send comments to **Dick – W2YE**, or **Carol – KF4TJJ**. The committee will draft sample language to be presented at the November meeting for further discussion.

**Balloon Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Contest Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Venture Crew: Bill – K8SYH** Nothing to report.

**Christmas Dinner Party: BA** will condense the responses from the various venues and post them to the reflector. **Gary – NC4S** says he already has the door prices – goodies from the Dayton Hamfest.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Field Day 2005: Boyd – N5CTI** reviewed the results from the ARRL. Details will be posted to the reflector. This was the first year for electronic submission with no feedback, or confirmation. There was a 26 point discrepancy between the ARRL results and the club's score, against the club. Boyd will provide some feedback to the ARRL on the process.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Steve – KB2CEV** made a motion to have the \$500 donation from the Reston Bicycle Club used to purchase radio equipment for the Loudoun Chapter of the Red Cross. Steve noted that the Reston Bicycle Club advertising states that the proceeds are to benefit the Red Cross. The motion was seconded. There was a general discussion with the general consensus that the funds should be used for broader purpose. **Jay Greeley** made a friendly amendment suggesting that the funds be used for emergency services in the county. **Steve – KB2CEV** agreed with the amendment and the motion passed.

**Gary – NC4S** made a motion to get rid of the old donated pop-up camper trailer (not the tower trailer) explaining that it really needed a lot of work and did not see the club using it. The motion passed.

**John – W4AU** has information on how to download a Morse Code ring tone for your cell phone.

**David – K4ARP** offered to the LARG members the ability to get discount pricing on large equipment orders through Tescoco.

**Denny - KF4TJI** is in the process of creating a 2006 Club Calendar. If you have pictures that you would like to submit for the calendar, please put them on a CD for Denny, or e-mail pictures to **Boyd – N5CTI** for collection.

**Norm – AI2C** asked that if anyone is interested in sending comments to the FCC regarding killing “No-Code” please contact him, **Randy – W4XJ**, or **Gary – NC4S**.

**Gary – NC4S** asked the group if they would like to see another presentation from the Contest CD collection after the next meeting. The choices are Calculation of Terrain Analysis, or Rover. The group choice was the former.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26am.

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