

**August - September - October - November 2007
Amateur Radio From Loudoun County, Virginia**

LARG Radio News – de K4LRG



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

Contacts:

President	Dave Putman (KE4S)	(703) 669-4480
Vice-Pres.	Bill McCourt (WF1L)	(703) 467-9272
Secretary	Randy Sly (W4XJ)	(703) 404-0754
Treasurer	Jeff Slusher (KE5APC)	(703) 737-7370
Editor	John Unger (W4AU)	(540) 338-4620
Training	Meg Gentges (AI4UX)	(703) 759-2218

MEETING LOCATION: The November 18, 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.

November Meeting Plans – This meeting will be the last one before the annual LARG Holiday Dinner. Be sure to bring your sign-up sheet with meal choices and a check for our Treasurer, Jeff, **KE5APC**. This event is always a lot of fun and also includes some excellent door prizes for all those who attend. Be sure to stick around for a special “show and tell” session by **W4AU** at the end of the meeting. You won’t want to miss seeing John’s new toy...

Contesting News – Starting at 2100Z (1600 local) the afternoon of the November club meeting will be the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contest. This contest is a great one to enter for hams with modest stations. Lots of big signals will be on the air calling CQ and listening carefully for weaker stations; in SS you can only work a station once regardless of the band. The exchange is longish, but quite simple: Serial number; Precedence, Callsign, Check, and Section. You use a sequential serial number starting with 1. The Precedence is a single letter: Q, for QRP (5 or fewer watts); A for low power (100 or fewer watts); B for greater than 100 watts; and U for being assisted with packet with any power output. The Check is the last two digits of the year that you were first licensed. The Section, of course, for most of us is VA for Virginia. So my exchange would look like: 11 B W4AU 56 VA (or on the air: eleven, bravo, whiskey four alpha uniform, five six, victor alpha). The contest goes until 0300Z on Monday (2100 Sunday night, local time). You can work a maximum of 24 out of the 30 hours. If you want to get on the air for only a short time, try Sunday afternoon or evening. You will be “fresh meat” and lots of stations will want to work you. This contest is the perfect one to work on your WAS (Worked All States) award.

Club News – Both the September and October LARG Meeting minutes are below.

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, 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 September 15, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Dave, KE4S, at 8:45 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. No new members or visitors were in attendance. Twenty-five hams signed in during the morning.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer Jeff, KE5APC, reported a current balance of \$4,337.08 which includes \$337.08 in the Balloon Fund and \$500.00 in the Emergency Equipment Fund. The report was approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Contesting – John, W4AU, announced there would be a Sprint contest from 8:00 p.m. – midnight, local time, the evening of the Sept. club meeting. A few state QSO Parties are occurring in the next few weeks, including the PA QSO Party on October 13 & 14.

Training – Meg, AI4UX, noted there are several women and a few youth in the Technician class LARG member Steve, WB4EZM, is offering in his Sterling home. Meg asked anyone who wants to take an Extra class in the spring to let her know so she can organize one if interest warrants. Grant, KB3EMT, indicated interest by a few Blue Ridge Middle School teachers; BA, KI4WSO, suggested contacting the Boy Scout Round Tables; and Jay, KI4UTB, noted the VFW Hall would probably be available as a training site.

There were no reports from **Balloon**, **Emergency/Public Service**, and **Interference** Committees.

Old Business

Holiday Dinner – Meg, AI4UX, reported that the dinner would be catered at the VFW Post sometime during the first week or two of December. Watch for more info next month and on the reflector.

DARG Repeater – Frank, K0BRA, reported on the state of the equipment and access limitations for repair and/or upgrade work. He has talked with Craig, N4FSC, who built and has maintained the repeater. There was considerable discussion about what may be needed, who may help with work, and even if relocation is warranted. Dave, KE4S, asked Frank to post an approach to fixes as help is needed.

New Business

- 1) Dave, KE4S, read a short letter from Bill, WF1L, who has resigned as LARG Vice President. Dave noted a slate of 2008 officers will soon be needed. Contact him to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- 2) Chris, KT9N, suggested the formation of a group to look into design and purchase of banners LARG could use when participating in Public Service events. Additional input was given by David, K4ARP; Denny, KF4TJI; and Jay, KI4TXP. Jay agreed to serve as chair for this ad-hoc committee. A motion was approved to allocate up to \$500.00 for banners pending report from the committee.
- 3) John, W4AU, volunteered to be responsible for obtaining door prizes for the Holiday Dinner.
- 4) David, K4ARP, announced the October 13th Ride for the Red motorcycle event to benefit Loudoun's Red Cross Chapter; no radio support is needed. He also requested reimbursement for Field Day signs.
- 5) Jeff, KE5APC, still had several Field Day pins and one kit available. He also presented a few more certificates to those who headed up activities, stations, etc. for LARG's June, 2007 Field Day.
- 6) Dave, KE4S, read an invitation from Holy Trinity for the new addition dedication service on 9/23/07.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Boehler, KF4TJJ

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Meeting Minutes for October 20, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Dave, KE4S, at 8:45 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Attending for the first time was member Gene Carnicom, KD7IAV, and his wife, Claire. There were twenty-two people who signed in during the morning.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer Jeff, KE5APC, reported a current balance of \$4,274.34 which includes \$373.17 in the Balloon Fund and \$500.00 in the Emergency Equipment Fund. LARG now has 101 members. The report was approved as presented. A few Field Day pins were still available.

Committee Reports

Contesting – John, W4AU, enthusiastically announced the virtual start of the “winter” contesting season with the CQ WW SSB contest 10/27-28. CQ WW CW is 11/24&25. The exchange is simply a signal report and the CQ zone (“5” for VA). The first weekend of Nov. is ARRL’s Sweep Stakes – CW portion. The ARRL SS, SSB is 11/17&18. The exchange for SS is more complicated: serial #; precedence (letter indicating power or category); call sign; check (last two digits of year you were first licensed as a ham); and ARRL section. John demonstrated sample exchanges for himself by both voice and CW.

Field Day – Jeff, KE5APC, presented two final certificates to Gary, NC4S, for himself and his wife, Patty, as the perfect host and hostess for the event this past June at their home location.

Interference – Paul, N4PD, said he was not aware of any issues. Merc, N4TGA, reported hearing music and extraneous noise on 147.48 earlier in the week. Paul requested being contacted when anyone knows about such incidents.

Emergency/Public Service –

- 1) Gary, NC4S, extended a big “Thank You” to all who helped with the Reston Bike Club Ride in August: net control and station operators, sag riders, organizers (including Bill, W3EMH) and the digipeater coverage provided by Allon, KE4FYL. Especially helpful this year was the use of the cross band repeat station at the home (a few blocks from Reston Town Center) of LARG member Rick, AI1V. Gary had tee shirts for those who did not get one on the day of the ride. He also read a letter from the bike club thanking LARG for communications support this year (the 25th for their charity ride) and requesting support again in 2008. A donation to LARG in the amount of \$500.00 was included.
- 2) Dave, KE4S, reported that a few LARG members were currently at the Douglass Community Center in Leesburg participating in a Public Safety Fair (9:00– noon). He requested that anyone else who could help should drop by there following the meeting. He had helped set up and would also be returning.
- 3) Jay, KI4UTB, is “the sheriff” in re-enactments on the courthouse lawn today (10/20).

Training – Meg, AI4UX, indicated plans for a General and/or Extra class in the spring to be held at the VFW Hall. She has talked to a Blue Ridge Middle School teacher who is interested in a radio club.

There was no report from the **Balloon** Committee.

Old Business

Holiday Dinner – Meg, AI4UX, reported that she has checked with several caterers. The cost would not be significantly lower than using a restaurant and we would be responsible for set-up and clean-up. She is going to check a few restaurants and put info, when available, on the reflector.

DARG Repeater – Frank, K0BRA, and builder Craig, N4FSC, have checked out the equipment. The antenna connection had gotten wet from a rain shower; sealing it seemed to solve the problem. Frank is preparing a new antenna and coaxial feed line. Watch the reflector for information about a work day. A different call sign (and license) will be needed for the repeater. LARG is once again using the DARG machine for the Sunday night net (2030 in DST; 2000 when standard time resumes).

New Business

- 1) Jake, KI4SPX, requested any members having time today (10/20) to tune in to 146.97 (OVH repeater in

Manassas) to respond to the Scout JotA (Jamboree on the Air).

2) Gary, NC4S, is "looking for no brains, just brawn" to help pick up radio equipment from John Massie's Fairfax home on Nov. 10. Watch for an announcement on the reflector.

3) Jeff, KE5APC, conveyed a report from the ad-hoc banner committee chaired by Chris, KT9N. Copies of two designs were distributed with request for approval of a design (using "Group" or "Club"? include logo? which slogan?). Boyd, N5CTI, expressed concern over the fairly large number of colors used; Paul, N4PD, thought the club web site should be noted on the banner; others thought the club call and/or words "Amateur Radio Station" should appear. Meg, AI4UX, made a plea for simplicity. Merc, N4TGA, made a motion to approve a banner with the ARRL and club logos at either end, proclaiming "Loudoun Amateur Radio Group", "Serving the Community" and adding the club web address (www.K4LRG.org). After a second and much discussion, the motion was approved. Further questions concerned banner size and need for grommets in corners and along the top edge. Jay, KI4TXP, had told Jeff that the sign man had given an estimate of \$500.00 for two such banners. Today's task was just to approve a design.

4) John, W4AU, asked if anyone had noticed (or cared) that no newsletter had gone out for the past few months. With the web site and the reflector, he wonders if the newsletter is redundant. Dave, KE4S, asked John to open the question for discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Boehler, KF4TJJ