

LARG Radio News - DE K4LRG



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

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MEETING LOCATION: The November 20, 2004, 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.

October Club Meeting Minutes – The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by President Dale, **K3CN**, who then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance with 30 people attending.

A first-time visitor and new ham now living in Roundhill, Jeff Slusher, **KE5APC**, introduced himself.

The August 2004 LARG minutes taken by Paul, **N4PD**, were read by the Secretary, John, **W4AU**, and were approved as corrected.

Carol, **KF4TJJ**, reported for our Treasurer, Gary, **NC4S**, who was unable to attend the meeting. A beginning balance of \$2296.46 on 7/31/04 had income of \$86.73 and expenses of \$248.47 leaving a balance of \$2,134.72; the Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Larry, **K3HE**, mentioned he had more posters advertising LARG and our classes for amateur radio licenses.

Tom, **WB3AKD**, reported on the successful ARES training classes held at Loudoun Valley High School on September 17. Tom has CD's of the presentations that were given. Tom also said he still has T-shirts from the Dulles Airport drill and from the Reston Bike Club Century ride for all those who participated in those events. Tom stated that he is now on the Loudoun County EOC email distribution list, which gives him access the county emergency email notices. Tom also reported that the Reston Bike Club Century was a success and that we learned some valuable lessons for future events. One thing to consider is having a NCS station that is separate from any support function even if it is co-located with a support station.

Tom, **WB3AKD**, also reported for the Balloon Committee that we have not received any word that the payload from our last launch has been found. We will have to build a new payload package, but Tom has most of the components on hand. Tom noted that we still have the Sky-Eye still camera package that was put together by Bob Bee, **W4POF**.

Ray, **K4AJA**, asked the President to consider bestowing honorary membership on SK Bob, **W4POF**.

Tom, **NA4MA**, reported that the next building project is being launched. He is ordering 14 pocket APRS

transmitters for club members. The kits should be here in a few weeks. Tom also had a Morse code training program on a floppy disk to distribute to interested club members.

Dale, **K3CN**, reported that the annual Christmas Dinner has to be organized and that he would try to get in touch with Xerxes, **KI4CTW**, who had volunteered to be in charge of this year's event.

Bill, **WF1L**, reported that the Technician Class training was proceeding well and the final class would be held on Friday, October 29. Bill also reported that Tom, **NA4MA**, was holding a General license class training session at his home every week.

Dave, **K4ARP**, reported that a group of club members are interested in developing VHF packet communications capability for emergency use. Contact Dave if you are interested in joining this project.

Tom, **NA4MA**, reported that 7 club members successfully completed the last building project, constructing the Ten-Tec wattmeter kit.

Randy, **W4RSA**, reported that the Weather Service and Skywarn have been working on upgrading their manuals and membership lists. Check out the <http://www.147300.com> website for further Skywarn information.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Fall / Winter Contests – We are beginning to enter the end-of-the-year contesting season, when the noisy summertime band conditions improve and we can again think about hearing something other than static crashes on 40 and 80 meters. Here are some of the contests coming up that have club categories which LARG can enter.

CQWW DX SSB: 10/30 – 10/31

CQWW DX CW: 11/27 – 11/28

ARRL Sweepstakes CW: 11/6 – 11/7

ARRL Sweepstakes SSB: 11/20 – 11/21

ARRL 10-meter contest : 12/11 – 12/12

The exchange for the CQWW contests is very simple: just a sign report (nominally 59 or 599) and your CQ zone, which for us is 5. The exchange for Sweepstakes is a bit more complicated. You give a sequential serial number, a precedent letter, your callsign, a check number (the last two digits of the year you were first licensed), and your ARRL or RAC section. For me, the exchange would be 123 B W4AU 56 VA, where "B" indicates more than 150 watts output; you would send A if you were running less than 150 watts. You can get the complete rules at: www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/novss.html

Club News – If you haven't gotten on 80 meter SSB on Thursday evenings for the LARG informal net, this is a great time of year to try out your HF rig. The band has been quiet and you will get a chance to chat with far-away LARG members like Larry, **KCIYC** up in New Hampshire. Charlie, **K4LJH**, and his wife Mary enjoyed their annual sojourn to the coast of Maine this month. A bunch of us were able to keep in touch with Charlie on 40-meter CW and even on 80-meter SSB. Rumor has it that Bill, **K8SYH**, and BA will be moving back into Loudoun County; look for them soon in Purcellville. And don't forget the Tuesday night CW nets; we will go as slow as the slowest check-in, so don't be bashful!

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