

May 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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**MEETING LOCATION:** The May 21, 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.

**EDITORIAL NOTE:** One of the ways to tell whether or not you have job security is to stop doing your job and see if anyone notices. Well, our President, Carol, **KF4TJJ**, noticed that your editor has not published a LARG Newsletter for the past couple of months and gave us a call, so it looks like we still have a job to do! After discussions with Carol, we agreed that we would attempt to go back to the schedule where the Newsletter was issued about a week before our monthly meetings rather than after the meeting (or not at all...). As always, the Editor is looking for things to publish in the Newsletter, so don't be shy!

**May Meeting Plans** – The club will be considering sending the following letter, drafted by Dave, **K4ARP**, and Mark, **W3ZI**. The letter will be discussed at the May meeting.

Dear Congressman Wolf:

On behalf of the \_\_\_ (# to be added) members of the Loudoun Amateur Radio Group (see attached) who reside in the 10th District, we urge you to co-sponsor H.R. 691, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005. The U.S. Amateur Radio service, as a body of volunteers, is prohibited by Federal law and international agreement from accepting compensation. Therefore, we are unable to participate in the FCC's spectrum auctions. Our access to frequency bands that we depend on to conduct community-based emergency communications, international people-to-people diplomacy and technical training for young people is threatened. H.R. 691 will secure our access to the needed spectrum and enable us to continue our 90-year tradition of serving the nation.

A few of our officers would enjoy meeting with you to briefly discuss this issue and amateur radio in general during one of your up-coming work sessions or Town Meetings. Supporting information is enclosed and we will be pleased to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

David T. Mullins - K4ARP, Club Secretary

Mark Johnson - W3ZI, Interference Committee Chairman

We will also set aside some time at the meeting for our members with some new gear to show off their recent acquisitions. If you have something to "show-and-tell", please bring it to the meeting. Plan to spend no more than five to ten minutes with your presentation so that everyone has a chance to show off their latest gadget.

**Field Day, 2005** – If you haven't done so already, be sure to set aside the weekend of June 25-26 for one of the most exciting and interesting operating activities of the entire year. LARG will be setting up our Field Day operations at

Banshee Reeks Park again this year. At the first organizational meeting on May 11 for this year's FD activities, the FD committee led by Boyd, **N5CTI**, agreed operate again as a 5A station, which means five separate HF stations and a VHF/UHF station. We have Station Captains for all the HF stations but are looking for someone to set up the VHF/UHF station. In the past this stations has operated 6 meters, 2 meters, and 440 MHz. We also need to have operators to keep all of these stations on the air for the entire 24 hours of FD. Be sure to visit the K4LRG FD website at [http://www.k4lrg.org/Field\\_Day/2005/index.html](http://www.k4lrg.org/Field_Day/2005/index.html) and click on Op Schedule to see where and when the available slots are. Send email to Norm, **AI2C**, ([ai2c@earthlink.net](mailto:ai2c@earthlink.net)) with your operating choices.

### April Club Meeting Minutes:

**LARG Club Meeting Minutes April 16, 2005** – The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m. by President **Carol – KF4TJJ**, who then lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance with 38 people in attendance.

Visitors and new members were recognized and welcomed by the club. **Norm - AI2C and John – N4AJR** introduced their sons. **Walt – KI4IIT** introduced several visiting Boy Scouts interested in getting their Technician Licenses. New member **Grant – KB3EMT** introduced himself.

The March 2005 minutes were read by Secretary **David – K4ARP** and approved.

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

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Field Day 2005 - June 25 & 26:** **Tom – NA4MA** confirmed that Banshee Reeks was available for Field Day 2005. **Boyd – N5CTI** (Field Day Captain) said that he would confirm the status of the Field Day Captains this coming week and schedule a planning meeting. **Norm – AI2C** volunteered to be a Station Captain. **Charlie – K4LJH** confirmed chairing the food committee. Boyd reminded us to keep all relevant receipts for the event and submit to the club for reimbursement. The antenna/station setup will start not before 1400hrs local time on Friday and members should try to get to the site around 1600hrs. A list was started to order T-Shirts and Pins. There was discussion on how many stations would be operated this year. The general consensus was to operate 5 HF stations plus 1 VHF/UHF, as per last year. During the March meeting, **John - N4AJR** had expressed interest in captaining a GOTA Station. The general consensus was that all our stations were available for GOTA and we need to look at the cost/benefit of putting up another station with regard to manpower, etc... **Norm – AI2C** rose and stated that we must beat last years score...

**Training:** **Denny – KF4TJI** said that some people have expressed interest in both the Technician and General classes. Please contact either Denny, or Carol as to which class you may be interested in as he will be ready to start in a couple of weeks. **BA** may have a group of 10-30 from the Venture Crew interested in the technician class. She suggested that our Boy Scout visitors join the Venture Crew and attend the training. **Gary – NC4S** asked how many people are needed to start a class and where the classes would be held. **Walt – KI4IIT** offered the possibility of hold the classes at his home. **BA** suggested working through the local Scouting group to find a location; **John – N4AJR** will ask. **David – K4ARP** suggested to the group that if they had any old radios sitting on the shelf that they loan them to the new students.

**Contests:** **Norm – AI2C** said the 22 logs totally 694,000 plus points were check for the VA QSO Party. This was better than last years score of 400,000 plus. He needed missing information from several members and asked them to check with him. **Paul – N4PD** asked **Dick – W2YE** if he would still accept logs and Dick said that he would through the weekend.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Norm – AI2C** asked for editorials, club history, meeting minutes, etc... to post on the web site [www.k4lrg.org](http://www.k4lrg.org). He also asked members to check the e-mail bounce list.

**Carol – KF4TJJ** stated that the club will not support the Senior Expo this year.

**Tom – WB3AKD** Said the he did get an e-mail from the EOC during the last weather event, but the EOC was not activated. Also, the balloon may be ready for another launch in July. He brought extra past event shirts to anyone to take.

**Boyd – N5CTI** furthered the discussion on Life & Honorary Memberships in the club. Life Member would be for someone whom has paid a sum of money to/for the club and therefore pays no further dues and retains voting rights. Honorary Members don't pay dues and would have no voting rights. **Dave – KE4S** asked if we had any Life members to date. **Gary – NC4S** said that there is a member, not present, that has donated a significant amount of money to the club and wanted to know how to account for this on the books year to year. It was also mentioned, that the donator of the club tower was not a member and it would be nice to honor this individual in some way.

**Carol – KF4TJJ** reminded the group of the upcoming Potomac Safety Day May 15<sup>th</sup> between 1:00pm and 3:00pm. The event will be held at the Tolbert Elementary School. Club members will setup a tent with various radio and antenna demonstrations. **Dave – KE4S** will setup an APRS demonstration. **Bill – WF1L** will bring old QSTs for handouts. **Tom – NA4MA** asked who had the club display and if we were going to use it. **Allon – KE4FYL** said he has the display and will bring it, but can no longer store it. **Tamara – KI4IIS** volunteered to store the display.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Carol – KF4TJJ** asked if anyone knew the story of how and when the club got started. **Gary – NC4S** reviewed how the club got its start about 12 years ago, with around 30 members in Purcellville. **Carol – KF4TJJ** made the suggestion that history of the club be researched, written down and published on the club web site. **Bill – WF1L** volunteered to chair the History Committee with **Gary – NC4S's** help.

**Boyd – N5CTI** brought up the upcoming MS 150K Bike Tour. The organizers are looking for amateur volunteers. Contact either **Boyd**, or **Bo Pierce - N4VEC** at bpierce@nova.org Cell: 703-855-1656. The organizers are asking the SAG vehicles to have APRS. **Dave – KE4S** advised that there is a new path for APRS mobiles, contact Dave for the information. **Boyd – N5CTI** commented on his past experience using APRS bike-mobile in events. He noted that you need a better antenna and signal for the APRS than voice. **Steve – KB2CEV** noted that this year's event is to be within Loudoun County with an expected 1,500 to 2,000 riders. **Carol – KF4TJJ** advised of the possibility of carpooling to the Raleigh, NC hamfest on June 5<sup>th</sup> for the VA QSO Party award presentations.

**Carol – KF4TJJ** reviewed an e-mail from **Bill – WF1L** on H.R. 691, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005 and how to support this bill through our congressman. **Norm – AI2C** made a motion that the interference committee discuss the issue and have the club secretary draft a letter for review at the next meeting. **Tom – WB3AKD** suggested an amendment to the motion to have the draft letter distributed for review one week prior to the May meeting.

**Dick – W2YE** brought up the bill H.R. 1183 currently in Congress to force the US Fish and Wildlife Service to allow public access to Navassa and Desecheo islands, which are islands near Puerto Rico. Public access has been denied for over a decade, despite many, many requests for permits by amateur radio groups. Due to ARRL's DXCC rules these count as separate DXCC entities, and are known by their amateur prefixes of KP1 and KP5. According to DX magazine, they are now the 7th and 8th most needed countries in the list of 335. All amateurs are asked to support this bill by writing your congressman.

**John – N4AJR** will be setting up a special event call station in associate with the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club's Almost Heaven Star Party event at the Spruce Knob Observatory June 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. The observatory is concerned about light pollution as is the amateur group concerned

about spectrum interference. Astronomers and amateurs are getting sharing ideas on how to protect their spectrums. **Norm – AI2C** asked if they had permission to operate the station, as the observatory is in a radio quiet zone. **Walt – KI4IIT** said that they did get permission for the station operation. There is a \$50 registration fee, camping is available and tours will be given of the telescope. Special event QSL cards will be provided. **John – N4AJR** is looking for support of this event, contact him for details.

**BA** reported that the Explorer Clubs (Scouts) has been replaced by Venture Crews. She spoke with the Goose Creek Crew and they are very interested in starting a Ham Radio Venture Crew. **Bill – K8SYH** has volunteered to be the first Ham Radio Crew Advisor. **BA** will get a flyer together for the next meeting and is looking for members that know kids that would like to join.

**Larry – K3HE** made a motion that the club presents a certificate of appreciation to N4FSC for the use of his repeater for the club's Sunday Night Net. The motion was passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56am.

Respectfully submitted

David T. Mullins – K4ARP, Secretary LARG

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

<b>Every Sunday 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Club Radio Net, 145.310 MHz duplex</b>
<b>Every Tuesday 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Club CW Net, 3697 kHz</b>
<b>Every Thursday 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Club SSB Net, 3762.5 kHz</b>
<b>Every Weekday Morning &amp; Evening</b>	<b>Club Commuter Net, 147.480 MHz</b>
<b>Third Saturday of every Month 8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b>