

# LARG Radio News – de K4LRG



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

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**MEETING LOCATION:** The September 20, 2008 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 come up the front steps (facing Market St.) and enter through the right-hand door. Proceed left into the hallway and make the first right into the new room.

**Confession** – No, you have **NOT** missed any issues of the LARG Newsletter between April and now. Your Newsletter Editor has been remiss and no Newsletters have been published since April's issue. We will attempt to catch up with all that has gone on since then, but in reality, the LARG email reflector and the LARG website make the Newsletter somewhat redundant. What follows is an attempt to catch up to date with what your club has been doing for the last few months. We've also include the Minutes from the April, May, and June club meetings.

**Balloon Flight** – LARG balloon launch 2008/A was under the able direction of Tom, **WB3AKD**, and took place on July 19 in lieu of our regularly scheduled club meeting. Tom had designed the electronics package and the balloon hardware for this launch. Basically, this flight was one of the most routine and flawless balloon launches that the club has done. We launched the balloon about 0900 from a Jefferson County park outside of Summit Point, West Virginia. Tracking and recovery went well, and the flight package and balloon were recovered on the ground just east of Taylorstown. Gary, **NC4S**, was first to spot the bright orange parachute and led the rest of us to the recovery site. For more information, great photographs, and the Mission Control, Launch Site, and Tracker stories check out: [http://www.k4lrg.org/Balloon/Flight\\_2008A/index.html](http://www.k4lrg.org/Balloon/Flight_2008A/index.html)

**Field Day** – Wow, if you missed this year's LARG FD, you missed one of the best ones ever. Under the leadership of Gary, **NC4S**, we set up our 5A operation at a familiar site, Banshee Reeks Park; however, due to new regulations and constraints on where we could operate, virtually all of our stations were set up in new locations on the property. In addition to the five HF stations, we had our most successful GOTA station ever as well as a VHF station. The most dramatic result for this year's event was our total score, which surpassed all of our previous records. We made a total of 4299 QSO's, 2386 on CW and 1913 on SSB and FM, and with our bonus points our total score is over 15,000! Norm, **AI2C**, is working hard to document this effort on the K4LRG website with literally hundreds of photographs and chart; it should be up and available for viewing soon. Don't miss it!

**Reston Century Bike Ride** – As we have done for many years, on August 24 LARG provided communications support for this large and popular cycling event. Again, our participation gave club members the opportunity to set up and test VHF/UHF equipment along with APRS tracking. Helping out with this event takes a lot of hands and resources, but we managed to do our usual excellent job.

**Pick Your Net** – LARG currently is running weekly nets for just about anybody and any mode. It all starts off

with the CW net on 3545 KHz at 2000 local on Tuesdays. Bill, K8SYH, is the NCS and runs the show. At 2100 on Tuesday the digital net gets on the air also on 80 meters at 3578 KHz (usually) using Olivia. The digital folks are still checking out various modes and frequencies, so keep an eye out for announcements on the LARG email reflector or check directly with Gary, **AI4IN**, for more details.

On Thursdays at 1900 LARG has a slow-speed MCW net on the Leesburg repeater at 146.700. Contact Henry, K2BFW, for more details on this net.

Later on Thursday evening starting at 2000, LARG has its most popular net, the 75/10 meter SSB net starting out on 3675 KHz. After a few rounds of comments on 75, the net moves to 28405 KHz to check out propagation on 10 meters. NCS duties rotate weekly and we usually listen up in the General Class license section of 75 for check-ins there, too.

**Training Classes** –Steve, **KW4H**, continues to lead our very active training program. We started off this summer with a Basic Electronics class given July 12/13. This course was followed up by a General License Class on July 26/27. Finally, a Technician License Class course will be given this weekend, September 20/21. All of the classes are being held at the Leesburg VFW hall.

**Contesting News** – The contesting season is fast approaching. Late summer and early (before the snow...) is the time to check out your existing antennas and to install new ones. Three state QSO parties will be on the air this weekend: Colorado, Washington, and South Carolina. The Texas QSO party is the weekend of September 27. If you are more interested in DX-type contests, the Scandinavian Activity Contest is on the air this weekend, CW version, and the SSB version is on next weekend. If you are into digital modes, the arguably most popular RTTY contest, CQ WW DX RTTY Contest, will be on the air the weekend of September 27 for a full 48 hours.

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

<b>Every Sunday 8:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Club Radio Net, 145.310 MHz duplex</b>
<b>Every Tuesday 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Club CW Net, 3545 kHz</b>
<b>Every Thursday 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Club SSB Net, 3675 kHz</b>
<b>Every Thursday 8:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Club SSB Net 28405 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>

## **Loudoun Amateur Radio Group**

### **Meeting Minutes – April, 2008**

The meeting was called to order President Bill Buchholz, K8SYH, at 8:35 am at the Leesburg Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 605 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There were no new members or guests in attendance.

An amendment to the March minutes was offered by Tom Dawson, WB3AKD. An announcement recorded under the balloon committee should have been placed under public service. The minutes were approved as revised.

The treasurer's report was presented by Jeff Slusher, KE5APC. A motion to accept the report as read was moved, seconded and carried unanimously.

### **Committees**

**Public Service** – Tom Dawson, WB3AKD

No news to report.

**Balloon committee** – Tom Dawson, WB3AKD

Current plans are for a launch sometime in July when the winds calm down a little. There will a balloon meeting coming up and members are advised to watch the reflector for an announcement.

**Interference, Education** committees – no report

**Field Day** – Gary Quinn, NC4S

Field Day announcements were postponed until later in the meeting.

**Training** – Steve, KW4H

Dates have been established for classes as follows:

Basic Electronics: 7/12-13, General Class: 7/26-27, Technician Class: 9/20-21

Will have another instructor meeting in the upcoming weeks

**Contest** – John, W4AU

John reported that this weekend there are several state QSO parties including Ontario and Michigan. He mentioned the times and frequencies to look for them. Next weekend will be the Florida QSO party which is a very big one. He encouraged everyone to work the QSO parties to learn about propagation and station capabilities.

John also mentioned some information on ARRL sweepstakes.

**Website** – Norm, AI2C

Nothing new to report.

**PR** –

No report.

### **Other Announcements**

Jeff – KE5APC: Field Day T-shirts and GOTA pins are in and available for pick up.

Nancy – KE4RTP and Carol – KF4TJJ: YLRL is selling tickets for their scholarship fund. Drawing for awards is in August.

### **New Business**

Tom – FD Insurance

Tom – WB4AKD reported that the ARRL now has group liability insurance plans for clubs. They offer \$2M liability protection for clubs from lawsuits from outside the club. The average fee is around \$320/yr depending on several things.

A motion to apply for quote was made and seconded, and passed on unanimous vote.

John – W4AU made a motion to authorize to officers to go ahead and get coverage if the annual premium is less than \$500. In the discussion, Gary – NC4S cautioned the club about incurring an

annual expense. John clarified that his motion would be for one year only. The motion was passed.

Chris – thanked John and Jeff for helping with his antenna installation. He also announced that he had information on using a Radio Shack cable to interface Icom radios with a computer.

**Field Day** – Gary, NC4S presented an extensive report on the status of Field Day 2008. Highlights of his presentation included:

- Committee chairs and station captains were introduced
- He suggested Field Day goals for the club this year. They were to 1) have fun; 2) learn; and 3) be safe. He thinks we should try to get 3300 QSO's this year, averaging 25 QSO's per hour. We should shoot for 12,000 points total and break the top 25 nationally, and beat W9LO. We should double the number of phone QSO's, and the GOTA station should shoot for 400 points.
- Gary also assigned mentors to the GOTA operators
- All assignments will be listed on the web site.
- He outlined the plans for each station, including several antenna upgrades.
- There has been lots of work in finalizing the site for Field Day. Currently under consideration are Moorefield Station and Banshee Reeks. Several other possibilities exist. Currently, Banshee Reeks is the most likely location right now. We need to work out authorization. Gary and Jeff will continue to work this issue.
- There were several suggestions during the discussion on how to improve and help get more operators involved.
- Gary asked that all station captains send him a list of assets that are needed at their stations before the next meeting.

A motion was made and seconded that the Field Day committee be authorized to spend up to \$700 for new antennas. The motion was passed.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Field Day committee to spend up to \$500 on fees for the use of a Field Day site. The motion was passed.

### **Other new business**

John – W4AU reminded everyone that the Dayton Hamvention was coming up. Historically, this has been a great place to shop for door prizes for the Holiday Party. A motion was made and seconded to authorize him to spend up to \$500 for door prizes for Holiday Party. The motion passed.

Jay – KI4TXP reported that we are still investigating the process and advisability of obtaining 501C status for the club, but that no results were yet ready.

A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rick Miller – AI1V

## **Loudoun Amateur Radio Group**

Minutes – May 17, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 8:35am by our Vice President Rick Miller, AI1V. The pledge of allegiance was said.

Welcome was given to guests and new members, including Jeff Lambert, WR5E, and his son, Nathaniel, KD5OCU.

The minutes were accepted as published on the LARG website.

Treasurer's report was read and accepted as presented.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Public Service/Emergency Service – Tom Dawon, WB3AKD**

Tom reported that the cables for the EOC still need to be pulled for the station setup to become fully operational.

He also reminded us of the upcoming Reston Bike Ride on August 24.

#### **Balloon Committee – Tom Dawson, WB3AKD**

Today's program is on our Balloon program

#### **Education/Training – Steve Reed, KW4H**

It was reported that Basic Electronics, Technician, and General Classes are all on the calendar for the future. There was discussion about the need for broader advertising of the classes in the future. Randy Sly, W4XJ, will work with Steve and write Press Releases to distribute to the media.

#### **Field Day Committee**

Gary Quinn, NC4S is chairing Field Day this year. Please sign up for operational slots on the board. There are a lot of second chair openings.

All station captains are reminded to send in requests for particular needs they might have. Jay Greeley has a tent he is offering for this year's operation.

Antenna and station assembly will begin between 3 and 4pm on Friday. There is increased security at the park now, so vehicles remaining all night will need to display a special card.

Anyone interested is invited to Gary's on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June to assemble and test a new phone antenna.

#### **Contest Committee**

The club was reminded that QSO parties are great times to gain confidence in operating, particularly in CW. This is an especially good training ground for new operators.

The VHF Contest is scheduled for June 14, 15.

#### **Old Business**

Jeff, KE5APC, reported that Don Jones, K8DSJ, is out of the hospital.

Carol, KF4TJJ, announced that YLRL raffle tickets are still available at \$1/each.

#### **New Business**

Carol, KF4TJJ, reported that the church is having a yard sale on May 31. If anyone has items they would like to done, the building will be open from 5:30 – 8:30pm daily for the week prio.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04am to be followed by the Balloon Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Sly  
LARG Secretary

## **LOUDOUN AMATEUR RADIO GROUP MEETING MINUTES**

21 JUNE 2008

The June meeting of the Loudoun Amateur Radio Group was called to order by President Bill Buchholz, K8SYH, at 8:25 AM on Saturday, June 21, 2008. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Thirty one members and guests were in attendance.

The minutes from the May meeting were approved as posted on the club web site.

KE5APC delivered the treasurer's report and a motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the report. NC4S reported that the club made \$403 in proceeds from the sale of items at the Manassas Hamfest.

### **Field Day Committee**

An extensive report on from the Field Day Committee was delivered by NC4S. Items covered included the schedule, status of material and operator needs, procedures for accessing the site, and a reminder to be safe.

### **Emergency/Public Service Committee**

WB3AKD reported that the antenna cable has still not been installed at the EOC. He also reported that there appeared to be a problem with the club PO Box and that he would investigate it. Also, the Reston Bike club has contacted us to request that we once again provide communications support for their annual race.

### **Balloon Committee**

WB3AKD reported that a balloon flight would be conducted in July in lieu of the club meeting. An attempt will be made to include GPS in the payload to report altitude.

### **Interference Committee**

N4PD reported no activity.

### **Contest Committee**

Though W4AU was not present, it was reported that the All Asia contest was coming up.

### **Training Committee**

KW4H was not present to make a report.

### **Old Business**

WB3AKD reported that the club has completed the process to get the ARRL sponsored liability insurance and that the first premium has been paid.

KI4TXP reported that the 501C classification for the club is still being investigated. The first step would be to incorporate. He agreed to put together a brief status presentation for the September meeting to outline the pros and cons.

### **New Business**

N5CTI reported that Skywarn is in need of NCS personnel as well as people to man the NWS desk and relay reports. They are having trouble staffing those assignments especially in the hours before most people get off work, so they are looking for more volunteers.

KE4RTP reported that raffle tickets to support the YLRL scholarship fund are still available.

N4PD reported that there is a Loudoun club in Great Britain. K8SYH volunteered to contact them to see if they would like to form a "sister club" relationship.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50am.

(Submitted by Rick Miller, AI1V, Vice President)