



THE WATT



CALVERT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2012

ASSOCIATION QSO – CARA votes to become Incorporated

Twenty association members and the CARA executive board completed a lot of work at the April 5th association meeting. The 2012 budget was discussed and approved. New members were voted in bringing the association membership to 51 members.

The biggest news of the meeting was the unanimous vote to incorporate CARA and register its name for copy-write protection. The attending members also voted and approved the purchase of liability insurance. The incorporation of CARA now paves the way to allow CARA to become a non-profit organization. There is still a lot of work to do. Association Vice President Jim - K3UGA was appointed to chair a committee charged with re-writing the by-laws to accommodate the non-profit organization. The members of the executive board and the bylaw committee hope to bring information about the non-profit organization to meetings in the near future.

In other news Calvert County has given the Association permission to install antennas on the roof at the Mt Hope repeater site in Sunderland Maryland. This will allow the association membership to use the repeater room to operate HF rigs

Association President Dave Weaver – W3PQS plans to organize a work party to clean and possibly paint the repeater room at MT Hope details to be announced soon,
Be sure to check out the CARA website at www.k3cal.org or keep an eye on the newsletter and an ear on the 146.985 repeater for more information.

73 – KB3WFV

CQ CQ CQ – CARA news and announcements

- Want to become a member of the Calvert Amateur Radio Association? You can find the membership application forms and more information about a CARA membership on the CARA web site or click on the link provided for you here: [K3CAL Join CARA](#)
- Be sure to join the CARA net every Monday night @ 7:00 pm on the 146.985 repeater, negative offset with a 156.7 PL.
- CARA breakfast meetings are held every third Saturday of the month. This month the breakfast will be at Dream Weavers on May 19th @ 9:00 am.
- The next Association meeting will be held May 3rd, 2012 @ 7:30 pm at The County Services Building 158 Main Street Prince Frederick, Md. 20678.
- Field Day 2012 will be held June 23rd and 24th. Field Day Coordinator Dave Moore N3TZO can be contacted at nutzo488@comcast.net
- International Light House and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) will be held August 18th and 19th 2012. At Cove Point Lighthouse.

On The Air – It's a Ham Nation

In the world of ham radio there are a bazillion ways to communicate with another amateur radio operator. UHF, VHF, HF Sideband, AM, FM. Voice, Digital and more. There seems to be just as many modes and frequencies as there is equipment to transmit on. Regardless of the frequency or the mode there are hundreds of amateur radio operators willing to take a few moments and talk to you. All of them with a story to share about their ham radio experience. One such amateur radio operator is Bob Heil. A familiar name in ham radio Bob Heil owns Heil microphone the manufacturer of high fidelity microphones for the amateur radio and recording industries, as taken his love of amateur radio one step further. He is

producing an online internet TV show dedicated to the amateur radio. Bob's show called Ham Nation records live every Tuesday at 6:00pm PT/9:00pm ET. It can be seen on the TWIT.TV website. All Ham Nation episodes are listed on the website and can be viewed at any time, a real convince for those who cannot sit down to view the live taping.



“Bob Heil, with various co-hosts and guests, will cover the excitement and importance of ham radio - from tossing an antenna wire in a tree allowing you to talk to the world, to the importance of ham radio operators in time of disasters.”- TWIT.TV

There are now 43 episodes listed on the website. Topics vary from episode [#3: Ham Radio Basics](#) to factory tours of manufacturers such as episode [#20: MFJ Factory Tour](#) . The show also chronicles the efforts of Leo (a show regular) as he learns the ham radio material needed to pass the FCC amateur license exam.

A bazillion ways to enjoy ham radio and now another high tech way to learn about the world of amateur radio, Check out Ham Nation by visit the web site by clicking here <http://twit.tv/show/ham-nation>

73 – KB3WFV

ARES REPORT – Dennis Bowling - N3QHC



The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

**The Amateur Radio Emergency Services Coordinator (EC)
for Calvert County is:
Dennis Bowling - N3QHC**

Dennis - N3QHC has no ARES news to report
for the month of April.

For more information about ARES contact Dennis Bowling at <mailto:n3qhc@verizon.net> or visit <http://www.arrl.org/ares>

RACES Report – Bill Hacket – N3MXZ



The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a standby radio service provided for in Part 97.407 of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations. It consists of only those amateur radio operators who have previously registered with State and local governments to provide or supplement communications during emergencies where normal communication systems have sustained damage.

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service Officer (RO)
for Calvert County is Bill Hacket N3MXZ

Bill – N3MXZ has no RACES news to report
for the month of April.

For more information about RACES contact Bill Hacket at n3xmz.md@gmail.com or visit <http://www.usraces.org/>

SKYWARN



Many Americans feel the effects of severe weather every year. To obtain critical weather information, NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, established SKYWARN

SKYWARN is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

There is no report for SKYWARN
for the month of April

*For more information about SKYWARN visit
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/skywarn/>or <http://skywarn.org/>*

The Amateur Behind The Microphone – Jack KB3WUM

New to the amateur radio world Jack KB3WUM has got to have one of the coolest Ham Radio station locations in the area. He and his antenna are almost 200 feet in the air.

Jack works for United Crane and Rigging from Baltimore Maryland. He currently operates an 180 foot tower crane on a remodeling construction project at The National Gallery of Art in NW DC. Sitting at 155 feet Jack has a commanding view of the DC area and an awesome operating location for any amateur radio band. From the seat of the Potain 345 tower crane Jack currently operates 70 cm, 2 meter and 10 meters reporting to the area amateur operator's weather conditions and other distant events.



One recent such event was the Space Shuttle Discovery's parade through the area on the back of NASA's 747. Jack was the eye in the sky for several amateur operators trying to get into position for a photo of the historic event. Reporting on the Shuttle's location and direction of travel as it made its way through the area and on to the Air and Space museum at Dulles Airport. He remained on the air through the duration of the fly-by's pausing only a few moments to take some photo's for himself.



Having his amateur ticket for only 6 months, Jack has already upgraded to an Extra class ticket and plans on testing to become a VE. He is willing to talk to anyone anywhere and can often be heard discussing various topics on several area repeaters. Amateurs in Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware are all familiar with the KB3WUM call sign that is a mouth full to say. Offering help whenever he can

Jack – KB3WUM is another amateur radio operator that CARA is proud to have as a member.

73 – KB3WFV

Field Day 2012



Dave Moore N3TZO with the help of Dick Terlisner N3VKW has secured the Broomes Island Community Center (the Old Schoolhouse) as the official location for this year's Field Day. A historic building built in 1930 It has a large open field for antennas, plenty of parking, two large rooms to set up in. And the all important AIR CONDITIONING!!!! Mark your calendars now June 23rd and 24th is just around the corner. Additional information and location instructions, etc, will be provided as Field Day draws closer.

Contact Dave Moore (nutzo488@comcast.net) for any additional info.

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend



The International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend (ILLW) is all set. CARA has the permission of the Calvert Marine Museum to operate the event from the grounds of the Cove Point Lighthouse. CARA's application to the ILLW for the Cove Point Lighthouse has been approved and Cove Point is listed as US140. This 48 hour HF event will be held this year on August 18th and 19th 2012. Stay tuned for more details about this event. More information about the ILLW can be found on line at <http://illw.net/>

The Blind Side – Stray RF and White Noise from KB3WV

I made a conscious decision to actively engage in a complete act of stupidity this month. I decided to re-arrange my Ham Station. A task that left me not only confused and frustrated but completely exhausted as well.

My Ham station which also doubles as an office is located in the main part of the house. A location chosen intentionally fearing that any other location would cut me off from the family. As a result it has to not only function as a Ham station but as an office and look good as well. A real trick when dealing with all the equipment and cables required to support such a space.

It started off as just a simple addition of counter space to accommodate some additional equipment turned into a complete revamping of the entire set up. It has taken me three weeks (so far) and several trial versions of desk configurations to get to the point where I may have found a decent set up. I now have a new counter top, a completely reconfigured desk with new custom built shelves, new storage cabinets and a new computer with new software. I am currently road testing this set up just so it can come apart for staining of the shelves and final assembly.

Talk about shock. Nothing is the same in this room except the radios and even then they are in different places. Just in case you are planning to do the same. Here are some tips that developed from the loud thumping of my head against the wall during my remodeling.

#1) a remodel of a station can be cheap or it can be fast but NEVER will it be cheap AND fast. The laws of monetary physics prevent it.

#2) store bought furniture will never fit all of the Ham equipment used in a station, at least the furniture in a price range that Ham's who refuse to throw anything out want to spend.

#3) carefully plan out all wiring requirements Coax access for antenna's, grounding wiring for equipment, cabling for computers, DC wiring and AC wiring. Especially those stupid wall warts that come in 15 million different sizes. They seem to be specifically designed to promote the sale of power strips, and just when you think you found a

power strip to accommodate all of the wall warts the last wall wart to plug in is different, it changes plug direction.

#4) an exercise regiment similar to that of a professional athlete is highly recommend at least a week before you plan on crawling around under, over and through the station desk and shelving chasing cabling into impossible places from even more impossible positions. For those that hate exercise a stiff drink and a couple Advil seems to do the trick also.

My project started out as a simple idea, turned into more work than I wanted took longer to complete than I wanted and spent more money than I should have. In fact it's not completely done yet. I still have to order a custom made counter/desktop and stain the shelving. BUT when it is finally all said and done it will be one hell of a nice set up at least I think so.

73 – KB3WFFV

Suggestion or comments for THE WATT

e-mail us at newsletter@k3cal.org

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April 2012
