



# THE WATT

---



CALVERT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER  
June 2012

---

## **ASSOCIATION QSO** – Repeater news and Bylaws

---

Twenty one CARA members and one guest speaker attended the June 7<sup>th</sup> general meeting. Bobby Fenwick Division Chief of the Emergency Management and Safety Division of the Calvert County Department of Public Safety outlined a plan to make back-up emergency communication systems more reliable in Calvert County, See the “On The Air” section in this newsletter for the full story. After hearing from Bobby Fenwick, CARA members thoroughly enjoyed the cookies and brownies that were provided by the June cookie monster Jack – KB3WUM and his wife Judy. The meeting continued with a presentation from By-law committee chairmen Jim – K3UGA. Jim reviewed the first three draft version pages of the By-laws, He and the committee noted any suggestion from members and plan to revise and re-present the By-laws at a future meeting. The meeting finished up with Dave Moore – N3TZO who firmed up some plans for Field Day 2012. The next CARA general meeting will be held a 7:30pm on July 5<sup>th</sup> 2012 at the County Services Building in Prince Fredrick MD.

Please note that for now the repeater is operational on a temporary antenna mounted on the Mount Hope Community Center's building. Since its coverage is very limited CARA Monday night nets are being held on 28.350 Mhz USB. If you do not hear net control on this frequency be sure to tune up or down from that frequency to find the net. The May 21<sup>st</sup> net was held on 28.355 due to a station already using 28.350.

Be sure to check out the CARA website at [www.k3cal.org](http://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.

Note: Due to the lack of coverage of the repeater CARA nets are currently being held on 28.350 USB

- CARA breakfast meetings are held every third Saturday of the month. This month the breakfast will be at Dream Weavers on July 19<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am.
- The next Association meeting will be held July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 7:30 pm at The County Services Building 158 Main Street Prince Frederick, Md. 20678.
- Field Day 2012 will be held June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Field Day Coordinator Dave Moore N3TZO can be contacted at [n3tzo@comcast.net](mailto:n3tzo@comcast.net)
- Maryland QSO Party will be held August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> details on location and times are to be announced soon.
- International Light House and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) will be held August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2012. At Cove Point Lighthouse.
- Ken LaCapria -KA3POX President of the Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club announces two guest speakers at upcoming meetings, SMARC meetings are held at the Prince

Georges County District 5 police station in Clinton Maryland at 7:00pm.

- SMARC Presents August 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 Bryan Dorbert - N3ST of TMARC talk about what TMARC is all about and how they go about coordinating repeaters in the Washington metropolitan area.
- SMARC Presents October 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 SMARC member Mike Martin - K3RFI PEPCO employee and operator of his own company RFI Services. Mike's expertise is locating sources of radio interference caused by power lines and equipment.

## **On The Air** – Bobby Fenwick speaks to CARA members

---

Robert Fenwick Division Chief of the Emergency Management and Safety Division of the Calvert County Department of Public Safety met with CARA members during the association's June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and outlined a plan to make back-up emergency communications more reliable, Mr. Fenwick, who asked to be called Bobby, said "We (Calvert County) want the ability to pass back-up emergency communication messages throughout the County or to neighboring jurisdictions by using R.A.C.E.S.". Bobby told CARA members that he has met with Yvette Myers Chief of Communications for Calvert County and decided to install new coax on the Mount Hope tower in Sunderland Maryland. "The County wants to make sure that the infrastructure is in place for emergency back-up communications" said Bobby. The installation of new coax allows CARA to return the 146.985 repeater to a normal coverage area. In addition to the coax replacement Bobby plans on moving the CARA repeater into the communications equipment shelter at the Mount Hope tower which would provide back-up generator power to the repeater in case of commercial power failure. The idea here is to make sure that back-up emergency communication for Calvert County is available when needed. David Weaver CARA President was cautiously optimistic saying "If you look at the history of CARA from starting out at the Naval Research Lab to the current location at Mount Hope the addition of the repeater to

the communication shelter is a giant step forward". "We look forward to continuing the work with Calvert County to ensure that emergency back-up communication is always available. said Bob Sheskin CARA Secretary "it is a good thing for the County, its residents and the Association"

Bobby Fenwick addressed concerns from association members about access to the repeater in order to make repairs or adjustments and to meet FCC and TMARC requirements by saying "24 hour access to the repeater can be arranged, The coax will be installed and CARA can plug in its equipment. I want to turn the switch and leave it on". Asked when the coax installation may take place Bobby knowing that the 146.985 repeater coverage area is severely reduced was hopeful that the installation could be done soon, " We want it up and running as soon as possible there is a process to go through. I would hope it could be done in the next 30 to 90 days but I cannot say for sure."

Overall the CARA membership is optimistic that in the very near future the association repeater will return to serving the residents of Calvert County. Many CARA members are looking forward to continuing emergency preparedness exercises on the repeater in order to be prepared for any need that may arise.

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**

There are four phases of Emergency Management that all of our activities can be grouped into. The following is a short definition of each.

#### PREPAREDNESS:

Preparing to handle an emergency - This includes plans or preparations made to save lives and to help response and rescue operations. Evacuation plans and stocking food, water and other supplies are all examples of preparedness activities taken BEFORE an emergency occurs.

#### RESPONSE:

Responding SAFELY to an emergency - This includes actions taken to save lives and prevent further property damage in a disaster or emergency situation. Response is putting your preparedness plans into action. Seeking shelter from a tornado or turning off gas valves in an earthquake are both response activities. Response activities take place DURING an emergency.

#### RECOVERY:

Recovering from an emergency includes actions taken to return to a normal, or even a safer situation following an emergency. Recovery includes getting financial assistance to help pay for repairs. Recovery activities take place AFTER an emergency.

#### MITIGATION:

Preventing future emergencies or minimizing their effects. It includes any activities that might prevent an emergency from happening again, or reducing the amount or severity of damages of unavoidable emergencies. Buying flood insurance and fire insurance for your home and business are good examples of mitigation activities. Mitigation takes place both before and after an emergency takes place.

After examining the four phases of Emergency Management we can see that Emergency Management is a full circle of never ending activities. No matter where you live, or what emergencies have occurred in the past Emergency management is working to assure that when an emergency does happen a minimum of lives and property are impacted.

**73, Dennis Bowling – N3QHC  
ARRL ARES EC CALV MD USA**

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

## **RACES Report – Bill Hackett – 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 Hackett N3MXZ**

Passed along from Dennis – N3QHC

### **Require ARES and RACES courses;**

**IS-100a, Introduction to Incident Command System -  
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100FWA.asp>**

**IS-700a National Incident Management System (NIMS),  
An Introduction -  
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700a.asp>**

**IS-200b, ICS for Single Resources and  
Initial Action Incidents -  
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is200b.asp>**

**IS-800b, ICS for National Response Framework,**  
**An Introduction -**

**<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS800b.asp>**

**You will be hearing more information on these courses. Many of the CALV ARES members that have been around for years have completed these courses. The newer ARES members may want to get a jump start and start now to learn the material and pass the test since these are REQUIRED for Amateur Radio operators participating in EmComm's nowadays by Department of Homeland Security (DHS). For those that do test and pass please send a copy of the completion to the EOC and to me (the EC). At June's ARES Meeting we will discuss if there is a need to have classes on these four subjects.**

**For more information about RACES contact Bill Hackett at [n3xmz.md@gmail.com](mailto: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.***



## Baseball size hail Beats up Dallas Texas

Severe storm season is in full swing. On June 13<sup>th</sup> a storm dropped baseball size hail throughout the Dallas Texas area damaging cars, trees and buildings. Insurance claims are approaching 1 billion dollars as thousands of claims are filed.

Check out the news story here

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com - Dallas Hail Storm>

Watch some videos of the hail storm here

<http://www.youtube.com - Egg Size Hail>

and here

<http://www.youtube.com - Baseball Size Hail>

Thanks Bob – N3PPH for the story

73 – KB3WFV

*For more information about SKYWARN visit*

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/skywarn/> or <http://skywarn.org/>

## **The Amateur's Behind The Microphone – CARA**

---

This month the Amateur Behind the Microphone should be renamed the Amateur'S Behind the Microphone for the CARA members who have been charged with the task of writing the By-laws for the association. The By-law committee, Jim K3UGA, Ron WA4PRR, Shawn NA3E, Bill N3XMZ and John KB3SXC have spent so far over 50 hours developing the current 16 page draft version of the By-laws. They deserve a very big THANK YOU from the CARA membership.

Only the first 3 pages, the Constitution, of the By-laws were covered with the attending members during the June 7<sup>th</sup> general



meeting. So far the overall document looks real good. Aside from some re-wording, spelling and grammatical adjustment most of the meeting attending members seemed to feel the first three pages were acceptable. For now the By-laws are being revised to reflect the comments of the meeting and hope to be re-presented at the next meeting.

Once the Constitution is accepted by the membership the real hard work, as some of the association members have said begins. The going over of the remaining 13 pages of the document referred to as The By-laws.

The task of going over these documents and making revisions is a difficult one. It is one that absolutely needs to be done. It is a task that will require a lot of time but time that needs to be spent.

These documents lay the foundation for how the association is to conduct itself in order to meet its objectives and protect CARA and its assets. They are indeed very important and tricky.

By-laws have to give clear guidance without hindering or slowing down the process that CARA goes through to conduct business. The By-laws have to be rigid enough to provide protection of not only CARA itself but its members and its assets. They cannot be so rigid that the By-laws cannot be changed to reflect any future needs of CARA.

CARA with the decision to become incorporated has taken an all important step to become as big or as small as the Association's membership want CARA to be. These By-laws if written and accepted properly can and will allow the CARA to remain as it is today or perhaps someday own its own building or clubhouse where amateurs can meet or repair or upgrade equipment. Maybe even own a D-Star repeater, maybe a 440 or 220 repeater. How about a Digipeater or other equipment to support A.R.E.S. or R.A.C.E.S.? All of these things can be done or not done so long as the By-laws are laid out in such a way that they allow the CARA membership to act on or not act on whatever opportunities' come their way.

As these documents are presented and discussed at future meetings it needs to be remembered that the CARA membership is a collection of people who enjoy ham radio. Some have joined the association because they like VHF others HF some like contesting others are after DXCC some are A.R.E.S and R.A.C.E.S. and yet others just like to rag-chew with other hams and enjoy cookies. Whatever the reasons that bring these amateurs together the By-laws

will reflect this and allow the many interest of many individuals to function as a group, as an Amateur Radio Association.

Someone after the meeting said "We all want to go swimming but before anyone can take the first dive we have to build the pool."

So, hats off to the By-law committee and congratulation to the CARA membership, the difficult steps have already been taken. All that is left to do is hammer out a few kinks and go swimming.

73 – KB3WV

## Field Day 2012

---



Field Day 2012 is this weekend  
2pm Saturday June 23rd until  
5pm Sunday June 24th at the Broomes Island  
Community Center 4080 School Rd, Broomes  
Island, Maryland 20615 Station set up time will  
begin at 9am Saturday morning.

The public invitations and posters that were distributed by CARA members invite folks to stop by on Saturday from 12pm until 8pm and Sunday from 9am until 12pm. Local Fire Department members, Several Calvert County Commissioners, Several public Safety Officials and members of the press are expected to stop by to see CARA's public demonstration of emergency preparedness.

Burgers, Hot Dogs, and water will be available throughout the day Saturday for both the general public and any CARA members. A pot luck meal is expected to start around 3pm Saturday for CARA members and their families. Members have been asked to bring their own choice of drinks. A Sunday morning breakfast will be available for CARA members.

A 24 hour event Field Day is a great chance to get on the air. Several members have expressed an interest to operate stations during field day and some are planning to operate overnight. At this time there is no set roster or schedule for operators. This year CARA plans to operate as a 4 Alfa station. Plans include antennas and radios to operate HF and VHF using Voice, Digital and CW. A RMS packet station will also be available to demonstrate the ability to send and receive email without the internet. Depending on conditions multiple bands should be able to be used. Power for the radios will be

provided by a generator meeting the ARRL Field Day requirements for running on emergency power. Logging of all contacts will be done using a logging software on computers set up at each station.

Tear down and clean-up is expected to occur sometime Sunday afternoon depending on band conditions and the number of operators still willing to work the contest.

For more information contact Field Day oordinator Dave N3TZO at [n3tzo@comcast.net](mailto:n3tzo@comcast.net) .

For information on food or to arrange a PotLuck dish to bring contact Jack -KB3WUM at [kb3wum@gmail.com](mailto:kb3wum@gmail.com)

73 – KB3WFV

## Maryland OSO Party

---

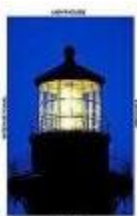


The Maryland QSO Party is coming up fast. This event sponsored by the Anne Arundel Radio Club in Davidsonville Maryland will be held on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2012. For more information visit the MDQSO website at <http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/>

Plans are currently being made for CARA to participate in the Maryland QSO party. Details on the location are being worked out now. Be sure to pay attention to the CARA email reflector and the newsletter for more details,

## International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

---



CARA will operate this event from the grounds of the Cove Point Lighthouse which is listed as US140 with the ILLW.

This 48 hour HF event will be held this year on August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2012. Stay tuned for more details about this event. More information about the ILLW can be found on line at <http://illw.net/>

73 – KB3WFFV

## **The Blind Side** – Stray RF and White Noise from KB3WFFV

---

Technology is stupid. My house is full of modern day technology that all communicate their status by beeping. The refrigerator beeps to let you know the door has been left open but isn't smart enough to close the door. The oven beeps to let you know not only that it has reached operating temperature but also beeps to let you know that the dish you are cooking is done but it isn't smart enough to turn off. The cell phone will beep and beep and beep some more to signal that someone has sent a message, but won't shut up unless the message is checked. The seven, yes seven, smoke alarms will beep in unison signaling a low battery but are too stupid to tell you which one of the seven is the offender. Oh and by the way they seemed to be programmed to check for low batteries at two am in the morning. My neighbor has a car that will beep any time the doors are locked or un-locked, for some reason there seems to be a need to do this several times a day even without getting in the car to go anywhere. Perhaps they are just making sure the car will still beep.

All this beeping is enough to drive sane men nuts. My wife and I were enjoying a nice evening on the porch of the house awaiting our evening meal to finish cooking in the oven. Beep Beep Beep. Great! Dinner is ready ... No the beep was a message on the cell phone. Back to the porch..... Beep Beep Beep. Great! Dinner is ready..... Nope, the fridge door was left open. Back to the front porch. Beep Beep Beep.... Great! Dinner is ready..... Noooo .... Beep Beep Beep. What the bleep ?? Beep Beep Beep Oh it's just the neighbor's car. Back to the front porch. Beep Beep Beep Great! Dinner has got to be ready this time for sure .... Oh bleep not a chance, this time the Beep Beep Beep was the fire alarms but not because of a low battery but because dinner is now overdone.

Apparently with all this bleeping beeping going on here the Beep Beep Beep that told us dinner was ready was missed. Beep

Beep Beep now all I have to do is get these bleeping beeping fire alarms to shut the bleep up and find something else to eat for dinner. After chasing down all seven fire alarms the offended alarm was found and reset.

Silence at last ..... Beep Beep Beep. What the bleep. Beep Beep Beep. Will someone please shut that bleeping beep up?! Beep Beep Beep .. Slowly I came to my senses, Beep Beep Beep removed the pillow from head, Beep Beep Beep kicked off the bed covers Beep Beep Beep and sleepily reached over and beat the bleeping snot out of the bleeping beeping alarm clock! Do-doot-doot was the alarm clock last gasp. Finally silence but it was time to get up. I laid there for a moment wondering why I wanted dinner so early in the morning. Then I realize, Technology may not be so stupid but I am pretty sure that technology has made me stupid.

73 – KB3WFFV

---

**Suggestion or comments for THE WATT**

e-mail us at [newsletter@k3cal.org](mailto:newsletter@k3cal.org)

**THE WATT**

June 2012

---