



THE WATT



CALVERT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
July 2012

ASSOCIATION QSO

July 5th marked the 7th meeting of the year 2012 for the Calvert Amateur Radio Association. Twenty CARA members attended the meeting which was presided over by Vice President Jim K3UGA. CARA President Dave W3PQS was unable to attend the meeting. Field Day coordinator Dave – N3TZO presented preliminary results of a very successful Field Day that CARA held on June 23rd and 24th. Ron – WA4PRR added to Dave's comments updating the attending members on the K3CAL/CARA Field Day log submissions to the ARRL.

Members also attended to the business of the Association's new By-Laws. Remembering the CARA June meeting, where the attending membership reviewed the Constitution of the By-Laws, and defeated a vote to hold special meetings to continue review of the By-Laws, also voting to discuss any further revisions to the By-Laws by way of e-mail. Noting the lack of any emails discussing any further By-Law revisions, members at the July meeting decided to vote for, and pass with a majority vote, to present the new By-Laws for a vote to be ratified at the August 2nd CARA general meeting.

Association Secretary Bob – N3PPH e-mailed CARA members on the K3CAL e-mail reflector with a copy of the CARA Constitution as of June 7th and a copy of the CARA By-Laws as of July 5th for CARA members to review before the August meeting.

Bryan – KB3URZ became a last minute cookie monster since one was not designated at the June meeting and provided cookies to CARA members attending the meeting during the break. Don K3RA

volunteered to be the cookie monster for the August meeting and Jack – KB3WUM won the 50/50 raffle,

After the break, meeting discussions turned to the association repeater and the continuing efforts to re-install coax on the Mount Hope tower. Bill – N3XMZ and Bob – N3PPH and Brian – KB3WFV were given with the responsibility of working with Calvert County officials and a local tower company to restore the 146.985 to the tower.

The next CARA general meeting will be held a 7:30pm on August 2nd 2012 at the County Services Building in Prince Frederick 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 21st 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 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 August 18th @ 9:00 am.
- The next Association meeting will be held August 2th, 2012 @ 7:30 pm at The County Services Building 158 Main Street Prince Frederick, Md. 20678.
- Maryland QSO Party will be held August 11th and 12th at the Mount Hope Community Center details are to be announced soon.
- International Light House and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) will be held August 18th and 19th 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 10th 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 12th 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 – It's Official CARA is incorporated

On July 8th 2012 CARA Secretary Bob-N3PPH received notice from the State of Maryland confirming CARA's application for incorporation. "We (CARA) are now an official corporation" said Bob in an email sent to members on the Association's email reflector, Speaking for the executive board Bob congratulated CARA members thanking them for their support.

Dave W3PQS CARA President also thanks CARA members for supporting the incorporation efforts, it is official now, and there is now a legal document that states the purpose of CARA, CARA's mission statement quoted from the Articles of Incorporation approved by the State of Maryland is:

“To promote amateur radio knowledge, proficiency, education, training and provide Emergency Communications assistance to include but not limited to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) programs”.

This mission statement also appears in the Constitution of the Calvert Amateur Radio Association Incorporated By-Laws, on page 01 Article II. The By-laws are to be voted on for ratification at the August 2nd meeting. “As we know this is the first step to our final goal” said Bob – N3PPH, “but it was a big one”. Congratulations to all members of Calvert Amateur Radio Association INC.

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**

Calvert ARES is now holding meetings every Tuesday at the Phillips House in Prince Frederick. ARES binders are now available for download from the ARES Yahoo Group calvert_ares. For more information contact Dennis Bowling at n3qhc@verizon.net

73, Dennis Bowling – N3QHC

ARRL ARES EC CALV MD USA

For more information about ARES contact Dennis Bowling at 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**

RACES continues to work towards identifying cables and equipment at the EOC as well as work toward restoring the 146.985 repeater coax. For RACES related activities contact Bill Hackett n3xmz.md@gmail.com.

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

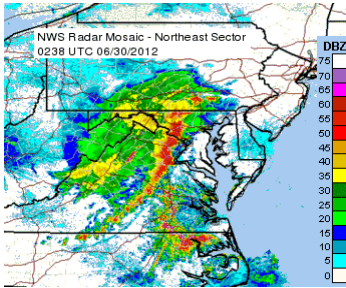
SKYWARN



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.



The evening of June 29th surprised a lot of Calvert County residents with a storm packing high winds, heavy rain and lots of lighting. This rare storm called a Derecho developed in the Midwest and raced through the Mid-Atlantic at speeds of 60mph. Traveling over 600 miles in just a few hours this long lived thunder storm produce wind of 75 mph plus, 2 reported tornados, hail, heavy rain and lots of lighting, Ultimately racing off the Atlantic coast leaving behind 20 dead, millions of dollars in property damage and wide spread power outages.

Sudden storms like this Derecho, emphasize the need for a well-trained and active Skywarn program here is Calvert County.

The National Weather Service has a web page dedicated to this storm at http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/lwx/events/svrwx_20120629/

73 – KB3WFFV

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

The Amateurs Behind The Microphone –

Once again multiple CARA members become the topic of The Amateurs Behind The Microphone. It has been a busy month.

The Mount Hope repeater site now has the ability to use HF at CARA's station. Thanks to the generosity of association members. Ron WA3PRR , Dave N3TZO , Dick W3RBR , Bryan1 KB3URZ , Brian2 KB3WFFV ,Eddie KB3WLG and Dave W3PQS who spend Saturday June 30th installing Bob N3PPH Alpha Delta DXCC antenna above the Mount Hope Community Center roof top.

The station made its first HF contact using the K3CAL call sign with K2G a 13 colonies special event station. This single contact

entitles CARA to a certificate from the 13 colonies event coordinators. This certificate not only verifies the contact made with K2G but also represents the first official QSO from the new K3CAL HF station.

Vince Thrasher – KB3FS(SK) a CARA founder continues to touch the lives of association members. Dennis – N3QHC reports that he and Don - K3RA met with Vince's sons this month. The Thrasher family donated to CARA several pieces of ham radio equipment that had belonged to Vince. Don and Dennis cataloged the equipment and delivered it to the association's repeater room at Mount Hope. Various items of ham radio related equipment such as meters and antennas now belong to CARA. Including 3 transceivers, an Elecraft K3 and 2 Kenwood TS440s. CARA member Chuck Shefflette – AA3CS has volunteer his services to check out the K3 to ensure that it is operating correctly and has up to date firmware. Chuck is also taking a look at the Kenwood transceivers. Dave – W3PQS is working on plans to install the donated Gap antennas at the Mount Hope site for the use in the association's new HF station.

In the near future CARA members will be able to visit the Mount Hope Station and operate a radio or just hang out with other amateur radio operators. Details as to how and when the station can be used are being worked out now and are anticipated to be announced soon.

While only Amateur's Behind the Microphone these radio operators are true professionals with dedication to the promotion of the amateur radio hobby. Nice work guys

73 – KB3WFFV

Field Day 2012



Field Day 2012 was a huge success. On July 23rd CARA moved into the The Broomes Island Community Center and transformed it into a multi-station field day operations center.

Dave – N3TZO who gained the nickname “Field Dave” from Judi (Jack KB3WUM's Wife) said that in just over two hours, five antenna's and five stations were setup and running on back-up power.

The resourcefulness of CARA members was evident everywhere one looked. Bill – N3XMZ was able to restore the community center’s Air Conditioning to working order. Steve – N3IPN and his massive beam called the “beast” was installed on a tower that was assembled on site. Bob – KF3AA had set up a large vertical antenna complete with ground radials. Jim – K3UGA had two large tripod mast supports and a GV5RV antenna that any ham would be proud to own.

The list goes on and on from. Dick – N3VKW and Ron - WA4PRR with their ICOM stations to Dave – W3PQS’s GOTA station and Bob – N3PPH Digital station. Everywhere you looked there were demonstrations of the amateur radio operator’s ability to get on the air quickly. Wayne – N1WR set up a packet station and made a contact, adding to K3CAL overall Field Day score. Chuck – AA3CS set up his K3 and operated CW overnight Saturday in to Sunday while Dave – KB3RAN operated Digital. Several CARA members were even able to come up with a replacement radio and install an additional antenna at a moment’s notice after two of the stations were having poor contact results.

These last minute changes helped to bring CARA’s total field day contacts to 604, contributing to the total Field Day points of 1,696. Operating as a 4A station, QSO’s were made on six different bands 160, 80, 40, 30, 15 and 6 meters in 3 different modes 160 contacts with CW, 90 with Digital and 340 with Phone. Ron – WA4PRR, Bob – N3PPH, Dave – W3PQS, Bob – KF3AA, Jim – K3UGA were just a few of the Fifteen different operators that kept all of the stations on the air, Bryan KB3URZ, Dave – N3TZO, Steve – N3IPN, Jack – Kb3WUM, Dave – KB3RAN and Chuck – AA3CS and other members manned the radios overnight.

Visitors to CARA’s field day operations included dozen of CARA members and their families. Jim Cross – WI3N ARRL section manager for the Maryland-District of Columbia (MDC) and Bobby Fenwick Division Chief of the Calvert County Emergency Management and Safety Division also stopped by to see CARA’S public demonstration of emergency preparedness and enjoyed some of the large variety of food that was on hand.

Through the coordination efforts of Jack – KB3WUM and his Wife Judi there certainly was a large variety of food. Burgers, Hot Dogs, and bottled water were available through-out the day. Potluck dishes such as Fruit bowls, baked beans, potato salad, water-gate

salad. Pork barbeque, meatballs and of course the raved about Steve N3IDX's chicken were just some the items on the menu. All of this food was topped off with various cookies, cakes, brownies and other sinfully delicious homemade sweet treats. Sunday morning Dick – N3VKW provided a breakfast that was as equally enjoyable as the rest of the food that was available. There was no doubt that several CARA members ended up as stuffed hams.

The coordination efforts and planning of field day by various Association members and the participation of many others made Field Day 2012 a very enjoyable event for all. Through-out the weekend the same compliments were echo by several Association members "This was a very successful field day". One member even commented "This is the most fun I have had with my pants on in a long time"

73 – KB3WFO

Maryland QSO 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 11th and 12th 2012.

Plans are currently being made for CARA to participate in the Maryland QSO party from the Association repeater site Mount Hope in Sunderland, Maryland. Final details are still being worked out look for more information about CARA's QSO party to be presented at the August Association general meeting or on the Association e-mail reflector.

For more information about the Maryland QSO party in general visit the MDQSO website at <http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/>

73 – KB3WFO

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.

Cove Point Lighthouse is located at the end of Cove Point Road in Lusby, Maryland on Cove Point. By water it is four miles north of the entrance to the Patuxent River on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

Latitude: 38.38631
Longitude: -76.38172

**Click on the link below for
a Google Map**

<https://maps.google.com/Cove Point Lighthouse>





An informative website on the history of the Cove Point Lighthouse can be found here <http://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=431>

This 48 hour HF event will be held this year on August 18th and 19th 2012. After much discussion it has been decided that CARA will miss the actual event start time (8:00PM Friday night) and set up on Saturday morning August 18th 8:00AM local time and operate continuously overnight until Sunday afternoon or evening August 19th depending on operators enthusiasm. The event ends at 8:00PM Sunday August 19th.

Please note: Do not confuse this event with any other Lighthouse related event that may be occurring in August.

CARA is registered for participating in only "The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend" aka ILLW which is schedule for August 18th and August 19th.

CARA member support and involvement is growing. Currently there are tentative plans to operate 3 stations at Cove Point. One Digital and 2 HF. Bob – N3PPH is setting up the same digital station that he had at Field Day. Ron WA4PRR and Dick both are also setting up the same HF stations that they had at Field Day. Ron has also created a special QSL card for the lighthouse event.

		MARYLAND Calvert County FM18	
Cove Point Lighthouse ILLW# US0140		K3CAL	
Confirming QSO with	Date	UTC	MHz
	Day Month Year		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pse QSL <input type="checkbox"/> Trx QSL		CARA P.O. BOX 306 Huntingtown, Maryland 20639 U.S.A.	
 Calvert Amateur Radio Association			

Steve - N3IPN and Bob – KF3AA have offered their Field Day antennas for use at Cove Point. Tentative plans to use Steve's tower and an A3 beam for the lighthouse event are being finalized. Dave – N3TZO has volunteered to handle the public information booth that will be set up at the event.

Through the efforts of Wayne – N1WR the "Enlisted House" a small two bedroom cottage has been secured for CARA to use during the weekend. This building is located on the Cove Point Lighthouse Property and is air-conditioned.

Excitement is growing be sure to stop by, visit the lighthouse and hang out with fellow amateur radio operators. If you would like to participate or operate a station at the Lighthouse event please contact Brian – KB3WFFV at kb3wfv@yahoo.com

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

I recently participated in a Special Event that for the most part I enjoyed but found myself disgusted with the behavior of some of my fellow hams.

The Original 13 Colonies Independence Day Special Event celebrated America's birthday from June 30th through July 7th. The object was to make a QSO with any or all of the 13 Original Colonies. Special Event Stations in NY-NJ-RI-GA-PA-NH-SC-VA-CT-DE-MD-MA-NC were all on the air at one time or another. A simple QSO

logged with any one of the 13 Colonies Special Event stations would yield a certificate commemorating the event. Make a QSO with all 13 and you would receive a “clean sweep” endorsement. Make a QSO with a 14th special bonus station in PA and you would receive a “Bonus Station” endorsement. This simple fun filled event seemed to be a mental challenge for some operators.

To my fellow hams who seem to be real men of genius.. Mister Neanderthal Radio Operator.... here's to you.

You tune dead on the operating frequency of the special event station without regard to others, inflicting pain on those of us that are wearing headphones and just to be absolutely sure that you are tuned you tune for 5 minutes straight.

Now that you have tuned you repeat your call sign over and over and over and over and over and over and over again. Here's a clue mister broken record, you said your call sign soooo maaanny times in a row that you completely missed the event station returning your call .., way to go moron.

Realizing that the event station hasn't heard your repetitive call you resort to using an abbreviated call sign and some lingo from who knows what phonetic dictionary to pronounce your call sign, being too stupid to understand that this does nothing but confuse the event station who is trying to log your call for the event resulting in yet another missed QSO Dude your on fire.

Somehow miraculously, your call is finally logged by the event station, but you mister knucklehead have to ask the event station for his call. Perhaps if you were not so busy tuning and repeating your call or making up some wild phonetics for your call you might have heard the event station call. Of course it is always a special treat to hear you ask what the event is all about in the first placeThis move is so good that you make the box of rocks look like it has a PHD.

So hears to you Mister Neanderthal Radio Operator this code is for you. The next time you decide to press on that PTT and open your mouth for a special event take the time to read this before you do.



DX Code Of Conduct

- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling
 - I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
 - I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.

- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
 - I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

For more information about the DX Code of Conduct visit
<http://www.dx-code.org/index.html>

73 – KB3WFV

Suggestion or comments for THE WATT

e-mail us at newsletter@k3cal.org

THE WATT

CALVERT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

July 2012
