



THE WATT



CALVERT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
August 2012

ASSOCIATION QSO

August 2nd 2012 marked an important date for Calvert Amateur Radio Association. 16 members attended the meeting and voted on the ratification of the association new by-laws. The by-laws passed with a vote of 14 to 1 with one abstaining. The acceptance of the by-laws goes hand in hand with the Incorporation of CARA and its future plans to become a non-profit organization.

The attending membership enjoyed various cookies provided by the August cookie monster Don K3RA. Jim – K3UGA volunteered to be cookie monster for the September meeting. The 50/50 raffle was won by Association President Dave – W3PQS. Additional raffle drawings were made for a pair of hats that were donated by Ron – WA4PRR which Don – K3RA and Les – N3YR won.

CARA equipment list continues to grow. Don – K3RA donated to the association an Icom 251A that belonged to Woody – W3ZNW a CARA founding member. Chuck AA3CS returned the K3 that was donated by another CARA founder Vince – KB3FS. Chuck had performed firmware updates, aligned and calibrated the radio and donated a microphone for it.

The graciousness of Association members prompted Ron – WA4PRR to suggest naming the new Mount Hope HF station in memory of CARA founding members. Several fellow association members agreed with Ron and the membership decided to get the input of all CARA members for an appropriate memorial name for the Mount Hope HF station. Keep an eye on the K3CAL reflector for an email in regards to the memorial HF station name.

The next CARA general meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Thursday September 6th 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 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 – KB3WFFV

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 September 15th 9:00AM.
- The next Association meeting will be held September 6th, 2012 @ 7:30 pm at The County Services Building 158 Main Street Prince Frederick, Md. 20678.
- 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 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

In order to get on the air using amateur radio bands we all had to answer the questions on an FCC exam. Do you remember the answers to the questions that allowed you to get on the air?

Here are 6 questions from the new FCC question pool. The answers are posted at the end of this newsletter

73 – KB3WFV

- 1) Which of the following establishes grounding requirements for an amateur radio tower or antenna?
 - A. FCC Part 97 Rules
 - B. Local electrical codes
 - C. FAA tower lighting regulations
 - D. Underwriters Laboratories' recommended practices

- 2) Which of the following propagation types is most commonly associated with occasional strong over-the-horizon signals on the 10, 6, and 2 meter bands?
 - A. Backscatter
 - B. Sporadic E
 - C. D layer absorption
 - D. Gray-line propagation

- 3) Which of the following amateur radio HF frequencies are least reliable for long distance communications during periods of low solar activity?
 - A. 3.5 MHz and lower
 - B. 7 MHz
 - C. 10 MHz
 - D. 21 MHz and higher

- 4) What problem can occur when making measurements on an antenna system with an antenna analyzer?
 - A. SWR readings may be incorrect if the antenna is too close to the Earth
 - B. Strong signals from nearby transmitters can affect the accuracy of measurements
 - C. The analyzer can be damaged if measurements outside the ham bands are attempted
 - D. Connecting the analyzer to an antenna can cause it to absorb harmonics

- 5) With your transceiver displaying the carrier frequency of phone signals, you hear a DX station calling CQ on 3.601 MHz LSB. Is it legal to return the call using lower sideband on the same frequency?
- A. Yes, because the DX station initiated the contact
 - B. Yes, because the displayed frequency is within the 75 meter phone band segment
 - C. No, my sidebands will extend beyond the edge of the phone band segment
 - D. No, USA stations are not permitted to use phone emissions below 3.610 MHz
- 6) Which of the following creates a magnetic field?
- A. Potential differences between two points in space
 - B. Electric current
 - C. A charged capacitor
 - D. A battery

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**

The following is a letter from Jim Montgomery PGRE EC. Jim is requesting volunteers for the September 15th ARESMAT exercise being held in Prince Georges County on September 15th. Read the letter for details. Please note that Jim is asking for those who are interested in participating in this event to respond to him directly by August 30th.

This message is being sent to all MDC Section Emergency Coordinators touching the borders of Prince George's County. Please forward to your members.

Since its inception in 2004, National Preparedness Month is observed each September in the United States of America. Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA) within the Department of Homeland Security, Preparedness Month encourages Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools, and communities. FEMA's Ready Campaign educates and empowers Americans to prepare for, and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

Since "September 11th," the US Government has taken steps to encourage all citizens to make their own survival preparations. September was chosen as National Preparedness Month, as the tragedies of September 11th highlighted to the nation the importance of being prepared.

On Saturday, September 15, Prince George's County ARES will hold its first ARESMAT training exercise. The purpose of the exercise is to see how well the ARES 'mutual aid' concept brings to bare local ARES volunteer resources to support our county hospital program in situations lasting more than 72 hours. The secondary purpose is to get ready for a possible Inauguration Support as we did four years ago. We had not trained for the Inauguration then. We need to do it now.

The situation is this: The county has six hospitals, the health department and the county EOC. If the remote possibility calls for all eight facilities to request EmComm support (voice and digi ops), this would require 16 operators. . .and that is just for one shift! How do we support the remaining day? We have run out of operators. That is the reason for the ARESMAT exercise.

The exercise will commence around 0900, lasting through noon ending with lunch during an after action session. You will be directed to a hospital from home to observe PRGE ARES operating conditions sending and receiving voice and digital traffic through the county. All the hospitals have VHF and UHF Amateur radios. Volunteers will be not be required to bring any radio gear, nor required to do any operating. However, you may operate if you wish. This is rain or shine exercise held indoors.

The classical approach would be to pre-stage radio operators and hand out the assignments per Incident Commander at the EOC. We will already have the "assignments," so deployments from home will suffice. Talk-in will be available.

I am looking for volunteers from the following county ARES groups: ANAR, CALV, CHAS, DC, HOWA and MONT. Others are certainly welcome. Even numbered volunteers makes it easy to split the groups up and pair with local hospital teams. Deployment from home to the assigned hospitals will be the order of the day. After the exercise, we will meet at Collington Community Radio Club, K3CCR, for an exercise review and lunch.

The exercise Comms plan is 90% ready and will be mailed out to all participants as soon as the information below is received. Repeater frequency, contact points, assigned hospital and addresses, maps and directions will be in the plan.

We need to know as soon as possible how many will attend in order to (1) determine how many hospitals to have open; few participants mean fewer hospitals needed, and (2) see how much to order for lunch. . .very important!

Please have your members respond to me directly. (Jim Montgomery ec@pgares.org)
Respond with name, call and cell number by August 30. As the responses come in, I will add them to an email "group" to keep you updated and informed on how this is coming together.

We value your interest and the time you donate to this event. It will undoubtedly benefit all of us.

Let me know if you have any questions. I hope to hear from you soon.

tnx es 73 de

Jim Montgomery
WB3KAS
ARRL ARES PRGE EC
ec@pgares.org

IMPORTANT CALV-ARES NOTES

- ALL CALV ARES Nets and Meeting will be held on Tuesdays at 1930-Hours (L) per this schedule:

1st Tuesday
CALV ARES Net at 7:30 P.M. (L)
Sit-Rep and ICS 214a Forms*

2nd Tuesday
COMMEX Drill with CALV ARES/RACES Teams at 7:30-8:30 P.M. (L)
(September through May)
Sit Rep, ICS 214a and ICS 213 Forms*

3rd Tuesday
CALV ARES Meeting at 7:30 P.M. (L)

4th Tuesday
CALV ARES Net at 7:30 P.M. (L)
Sit-Rep and ICS 214a Forms*

5th Tuesday
CALV ARES Net at 7:30 P.M. (L)
Sit-Rep and ICS 214a Forms*

*Suggested to have 3 Sit-Rep Forms and 1 ICS 214a on-hand.
All Forms can be printed from Calvert_ARES Yahoo Group site under FORMS or stored in Section 8 of CALV OPS Plan Manual.

- Calvert ARES is now holding meetings every Tuesday at the Phillips House in Prince Frederick @ 19:30 PM (L)
- ARES binders are now available for download from the ARES Yahoo Group calvert_ares

**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**

On August 10th RACES was asked to participate in an emergency exercise with the Calvert County EOC and Department of Health. The mock emergency was a tornado had struck the White Sands area which activated the EOC and the Huntingtown High School Shelter.

CARA/RACES members were activated and emergency backup communication was established at Huntingtown High School using a portable antenna mast, a tri-band antenna, power supplies and VHF transceivers. Dave - W3PQS, Bob – N3PPH, John - KB3SXC and Brian - KB3WFV staffed the Huntingtown shelter. They successfully passed messages to and from the EOC which was staffed by Bill – N3XMZ, Wayne – N1WR and Dick W3RBR.

The department of social service and shelter director Althea Berry was extremely happy to have Amateur Radio Emergency Communication available to them, especially after the EOC advised police officers at the shelter that all 800Mhz communications was down.

The exercise highlighted areas in preparedness that need additional training and planning. During an after-action lunch, EOC personnel identified these areas but overall were pleased with the results of the exercise. EOC assistant Director Carl Brown was very pleased with RACES performance thanking the amateur members for participating.

Future exercises are anticipated to take place with RACES and the EOC.

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

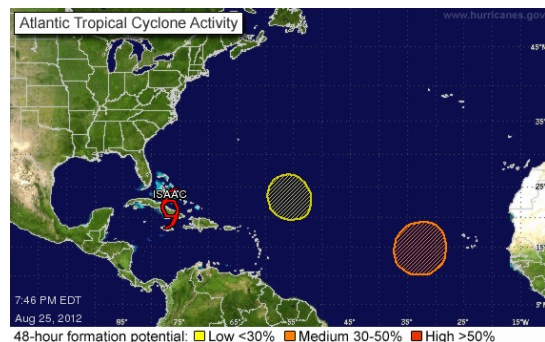
SKYWARN



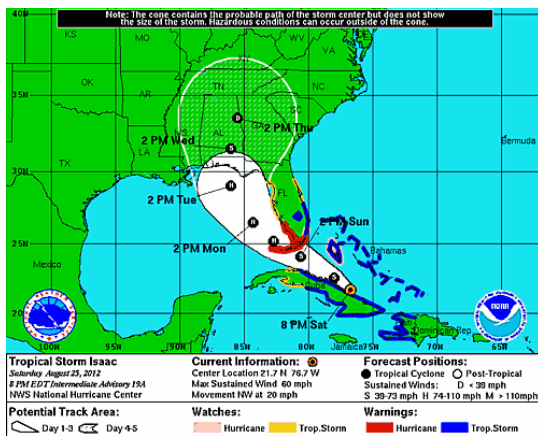
Many Americans feel the effects of severe weather every year. To obtain critical weather information, NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, established SKYWARN

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.

Tropical weather threatens the United States again this year. Tropical storm Isaac is expected to bring heavy rains and wind to the South East United States by Sunday afternoon. Isaac has every potential of affecting Calvert County weather by the end of the week.



The National Hurricane Center website is a very useful source of information about all tropical weather related events. Information such as



predicted storm path and current advisories is available on the site. Check out the web site at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

73 – KB3WFFV

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

The Amateurs Behind The Microphone –

Food seems to be an essential staple in any ham shack perhaps more important than solder and coax connectors. There are two things that most amateurs seem to be able to do very well. One is they can talk and the other is they can eat.

If you have made it to any of CARA's events or meeting this year chances are you have sampled some of the CARA members home brew cooking. From devilishly delicious baked goods to stick to your ribs meat, hams who know how to eat know how to cook or at least know someone who can cook for them, and CARA members are certainly no exception.

Bob – KF3AA served up a delicious dish for those at the Cove Point Lighthouse Saturday night called Cincinnati Chili. Cincinnati-style chili is quite different from its more familiar Texas cousin. What makes it different is the way the meat is cooked. The chili has a thinner consistency and is prepared with an unusual blend of spices.

Bob prefers to purchase his Cincinnati Chili spice as a pre-packed mix from on-line sources. Following the recipe on the package Bob adds hamburger, spaghetti noodles, tomato paste, water and tops it off with some cheese.

A quick search on line will provide several sources for the pre-packaged Cincinnati Chili mix and several recipes for those who have the culinary talent to make their own spice mix. One such do it yourself recipe can be found on whatscookingamerica.net. Below is a Cincinnati Chili recipe from that web site.

Enjoy
 73 – KB3WFFV

Cincinnati Chili Recipe - How To Make Cincinnati Chili

Recipe Type: [Beef](#), [Soup/Stew](#), [Chili](#), [Pasta](#)

Cuisine: [Great Lakes](#), Cincinnati, Ohio

Yields: 6 to 8 servings

Prep time: 15 min

Cook time: 90 min

Ingredients:

1 large [onion](#), chopped
1 pound extra-lean ground beef (hamburger)
1 clove [garlic](#), minced
1 tablespoon chili powder
1 teaspoon ground allspice
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon red (cayenne) pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa or 1/2 ounce grated unsweetened [chocolate](#)
1 (15-ounce) can tomato sauce
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon cider vinegar
1/2 cup water
1 (16-ounce) package uncooked dried [spaghetti pasta](#)
Toppings (see below)

Preparation:

In a large frying pan over medium-high heat, sauté onion, ground beef, garlic, and chili powder until ground beef is slightly cooked.

Add allspice, cinnamon, cumin, cayenne pepper, salt, unsweetened cocoa or chocolate, tomato sauce, Worcestershire sauce, cider vinegar, and water. Reduce heat to low and simmer, uncovered, 1 hour 30 minutes. Remove from heat.

Cook spaghetti according to package directions and transfer onto individual serving plates (small oval plates are traditional). [Learn How To Cook Pasta Properly](#).

Ladle Cincinnati Chili mixture over the cooked spaghetti and serve with toppings of your choice.

Oyster crackers are served in a separate container on the side.

Toppings:

Oyster Crackers
Shredded Cheddar Cheese
Chopped Onion
Kidney Beans (16-ounce) can

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Do you have a recipe that you would like to share? Send it to KB3WFFV@yahoo.com and we will get it in a newsletter.

-- 73 -- KB3WFFV

Maryland QSO Party



The Calvert Amateur Radio Association held their Maryland QSO Party this year at the Mt Hope Community Center in Sunderland Maryland. This event is sponsored by the Anne Arundel Radio Club. On August 11th and 12th 2012 CARA members set up and operated 3 stations using the Associations HF station and member owned equipment. CARA members operated from Noon on Saturday until about 10pm and resumed on Sunday around Noon until around 5pm.

Several members stopped by to visit the station and enjoyed a Saturday evening meal of Chicken and potato salad with homemade pie for desert.

A preliminary review of the MD QSO Party Log book shows that CARA members had made 56 QSO's. Final scoring details should be amiable soon.



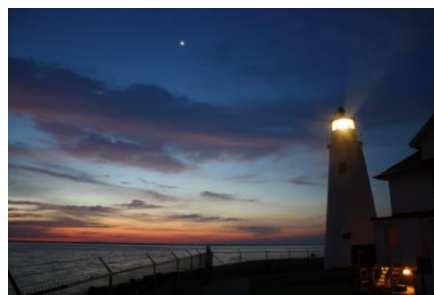
73 – KB3WFO

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend



CARA members spent Saturday August 18th and Sunday August 19th operating from the Cove Point Lighthouse in Lusby Maryland as a Special Event Station for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend.

Cove Point Lighthouse, designated as US0140, was on the air continuously from about 11am Saturday morning until about 1pm Sunday afternoon when looming bad weather forced Association members to deactivate the stations. Early Saturday morning several Association members Dave - W3PQS, Bob – N3PPH Dick – W3RBR Wayne – N1WR, Dick N1VKW, Jack – KB3WUM and others arrived at Cove Point to set up several stations and antennas.





Ron WA4PRR set up his HF station with a long wire and a microwave 10Ghz station. Bob – KF3AA and Steve N3IPN set up 2 sections of tower and a tri-band beam along with a vertical antenna and two stations, a digital station and a SDR station (software defined radio). Bob – N3PPH set up his HF station and a 20 meter dipole antenna. Dick – N1VKW provided his HF rig, power supply

and tuner which took turns with the Associations K3 making contacts throughout the weekend. Jim K3UGA provided his dual band mobile radio and power supply for use as the crossband repeat talk in station.



Once again the participation and the talents of CARA members are evident. Dave – N3TZO set up and manned the Amateur radio information booth and met with 60 visitors on Saturday. Dave also spent a lot of his time photographing the historical Cove Point Lighthouse. Jack – KB3WUM and his wife provided sandwiches and desserts for the

Association members that were operating and who had happened to stop by.

Saturday evening Bob – KF3AA's Cincinnati Chili fed those who were staying the night and those stopped by to visit. Sunday morning Dick – N1VKW provide his scrambled egg casserole dish for breakfast.

Several members and their family members stopped by during the event John – N3EDD, Dennis – N3QHC, and Bill N3XMZ, Chuck - AA3CS also stopped by and took some time to provide Association members a quick lesson on operational features of the Associations K3. Charlie – AB3LE stopped by Saturday afternoon and returned Saturday night for more.



Overall the event was very successful, even though the HF bands seemed to be very quiet and the rain on Sunday force an early departure the event was still very enjoyable. CARA wants to thank the Calvert Marine Museum and the Cove Point Lighthouse for making this event possible, and looks forward to participating in next year's International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend.

Photo's used with the permission of Dave – N3TZO

73 – KB3WV

The Blind Side – Stray RF and White Noise from KB3WFFV

Inch Worm Economics

Inch worms are actually caterpillars with large appetites for leafy vegetation. Their unique movement gives them their name. Leading with their heads first they stretch out their bodies as far as they can go and then bringing up the rear arching their back until the rear is just behind the front. They continue this inching motion, progressing forward inch by inch towards their destination.

One may find themselves practicing a similar move in their quest to get ahead or even keep up with things in everyday life. The bills or thing that they may want to purchase are often just out of reach, while the income to provide for these things is often lagging behind.



Inch worm economics, the head of the worm being what things cost and the tail being the income one has to spend is often the standard economic model that most ham operators live by. Just like the inch worms tail the income one makes never seems to get in front of the price that things cost. The head of the inch worm, the cost of things somehow always manages to stay out in front. Oh sure just as the inch worms head and tail can come very close together so does the balance in the check book to covering the cost of things, yet somehow the head of the worm always stays out in front.

Amazingly though the methodical movement of the inch worm slowly inching forward results in progression, much like how a ham operator builds their station. Slowly the ham station grows one piece at a time, a transceiver here, an antenna there, occasionally a good deal on other equipment elsewhere.

Eventually the ham station becomes a collection of useable equipment that will provide hours of enjoyment despite the head of the worm always running away. It takes hard work, some research, a little luck and a lot of patience to build a state of the art ham station with inch worm economics, but the rewards are endless. Just like the inch worm that patiently inches his way toward his destination, a ham that has patience will eventually achieve the ham station of their dreams.

There is a secret though a trick if you will to building a ham station with inch worm economics. Teach that inch worm to do a back bend, that way the tail will always be out in front!

Answer to the On The Air Section

- 1) B
- 2) B
- 3) D
- 4) B
- 5) C
- 6) B

Suggestion or comments for THE WATT

e-mail us at newsletter@k3cal.org

THE WATT

CALVERT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

August 2012
