



THE WATT



CALVERT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
November 2012

ASSOCIATION QSO

CARA members held the November 1st general meeting at the Mount Hope Community Center in order to tour the new Mount Hope HF station. Association business was attended to quickly, including the election of CARA officers. The elected executive board members for 2013 are, Dave Weaver - W3PQS, President. Brian Kress – KB3WFV, Vice President. Bob Sheskin - N3PPH, Secretary and Dick Ratcliffe – W3RBR, Treasurer. Bill Hackett – N3XMZ remains as the RACES officer. Dennis Bowling – N3QHC continues as ARES EC and Don Kirby – KR3A is the repeater's trustee.

There will not be a general meeting held in December, instead a potluck Holiday Party will be held on December 1st at the Mount Hope Community Center at 2pm. All amateurs are welcomed to attend. Bring a covered dish.

The next general meeting will be held January 3rd 2013 at 7:30pm at the County Services Building in Prince Fredrick.

Be sure to check out the CARA website at www.k3cal.org or keep an eye on the newsletter and an ear on the repeater for more information

73 – KB3WFV

CQ CQ CQ – CARA news and announcements

- The time has come for membership renewals. Membership renewals/registration forms will be sent out by mail. Please be sure to fill out the forms and send in your club dues. Don't have the forms ? 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 December 15th 9:00AM.
- **CARA's Annual Holiday party will be held this year on December 1st 2012 at 2pm at the Mount Hope Community Center.**
- The next Association general meeting will be held January 3rd 2013 @ 7:30 pm at The County Services Building in Prince Fredrick Maryland.
- Frostfest is fast approaching! On February 2, 2013 - Groundhog Day – Richmond Virginia. Doors will open at 7:30AM for everyone who has purchased a ticket online or via mail order before the day of the show! That's a full hour before General Admission starts! Plus, you'll be eligible for a special Early Bird Drawing for \$250 in Frostfest Buck\$, being held at 8:20AM just for YOU! For more information visit <http://www.frostfest.com>!



We will also have a gift exchange; the maximum amount for this year's gift is \$10.00 for those of you who would like to participate. Participation is not mandatory. Please come and bring your family to join in the fun.

There will be two events taking place at the Center that afternoon. Parking is at a premium. We have permission to park at the salt dome and come in to the Center through the back door.

If there are any questions, please contact me.

David Weaver –
CARA President

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**

Hurricane Sandy tracked north of the Washington DC / Baltimore area leaving very little damage behind. The New York and New Jersey Atlantic Coastal areas were not so lucky. Dennis passed along some information from FEMA.



Coalition members:

Our update this week is all about helping ourselves and helping others. There are still so many working toward recovery in the aftermath of Sandy. Please read on to learn helpful ways to assist and get assistance.



We also ask you to continue to share information in the following ways:

1. Like and share [FEMA's Facebook page posts](#);
2. Follow and retweet [@ReadyDotGov](#) tweets; and
3. Download and share these useful apps: FEMA – [Android](#), [Apple](#), and [Blackberry](#)
4. Forward this email to your friends and neighbors

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

The SBA, in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is offering low-interest loans to help small businesses rebuild. Information is available on the [SBA website](#).

TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR THOSE DISPLACED BY SANDY

Families and individuals in declared counties within [New York](#) and [New Jersey](#), who are registered for federal disaster assistance and seeking rental resources, can search through hundreds of listings on the [FEMA Housing Portal](#). The FEMA Housing Portal consolidates rental resources identified and provided by a variety of federal agencies and also lists rental properties provided by private organizations and property owners willing to help their neighbors during these difficult times.

Other ways that [FEMA is helping](#) include:

- Transitional Housing Assistance
- Housing Rental Assistance

FEMA is also bringing in contractors to [perform basic repairs](#) to thousands of storm-damaged homes in New York. These repairs will include patching holes in walls and roofs, replacing doors, running temporary electrical lines, fixing electrical meters and even repairing plumbing. Only residents in federally-declared counties, who have registered for FEMA assistance, are eligible to participate.

The first step to receive housing assistance is by registering for disaster assistance. To register for assistance by phone, please call toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA, or 1-800-621-3362. An easy, online registration process also remains available anytime at www.disasterassistance.gov, or by using your web-enabled mobile device at m.fema.gov.

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS & COMMUNITY RELATIONS SPECIALISTS

As of [earlier this week](#), 30 Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) are open in New York, 23 in New Jersey and seven in Connecticut and more continue to open. FEMA is working closely with state and local officials in the hardest hit areas to identify future DRC sites that are accessible to those who need help and are large enough to handle the full suite of services. Do you or someone you know need a disaster recovery center location?

Here are four easy ways to find one:

1. Search [on your computer](#)
2. Search [on your mobile phone](#) at m.fema.gov
3. Text **DRC** and your **Zip Code** to **43362** (4FEMA) For example, if you live in Atlantic City, NJ you would text: DRC 08401 (standard data rates apply)
4. Use the [FEMA smartphone app](#) and locate a DRC on the map

APPEALING A FEMA ASSISTANCE DENIAL DECISION

What do you do if you receive a letter from FEMA denying your request for disaster assistance? First of all, it does not necessarily mean your case is closed. Your letter tells you how to appeal the decision and what additional information you need to provide to FEMA, in order for your case to be reviewed again. It is important to note that survivors must submit an appeal within **60 days** of the date on the determination letter they received.

To speak with someone directly about your particular situation, you may also call the helpline at **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 800-462-7585** or [visit a Disaster Recovery Center](#). Either way, you can get more information about what to do next and give FEMA information that might change the determination about your eligibility to receive federal assistance. [Learn more here.](#)

VETERANS HELPING SURVIVORS ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

Finally, with Thanksgiving less than a week away, we wanted to share a story about veterans helping survivors on the road to recovery.

With so many New Yorkers facing the overwhelming and exhausting task of cleaning up after Hurricane Sandy, a group of former veterans known as [Team Rubicon](#) have become very popular. And rightly so.

“We were exhausted after the first few days,” said Rockaway homeowner Barbara Millet, “but they just showed up. My mother-in-law calls them angels.”

Read the whole story and watch the [video here](#).

EDITOR'S NOTE

Editor's note: in the newsletter that was sent last week titled: "Are You Prepared for Winter Weather Storms?" it should be noted that FEMA does not name storms. FEMA uses only the National Weather Service as its official source for storm names.



Questions?
[Contact Us](#)

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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**

Hurricane Sandy prompted the activation of the Calvert County EOC. Bill N3XMZ responded to the EOC on both Sunday October 28th and Monday October 29th. RACES remained active through Tuesday morning October 30th. Bill N3XMZ called for the activation of emergency communication at the Huntingtown High School Shelter on Monday Morning. Dave W3PQS CARA President and Brian KB3WFV CARA Vice President and Assistant Emergency Coordinator responded to Huntingtown and set up a 2 meter base station antenna and radio on site with the assistance of Bryan KB3URZ while Bob N3PPH CARA Secretary acted as net control as Bill N3XMZ RACES officer attended to EOC duties.

At the request of the County Bill N3XMZ directed Dick W3RBR CARA Treasurer to set up 2 meter communications at the Chesapeake Ranch Estates (CRE) offices in Lusby. The high winds and Heavy rain from Hurricane Sandy reduced 2 meter propagation, requiring messages from CRE to be relayed through Wayne N1WR Assistant Emergency Coordinator to net control.

Communications remained active and ready to pass any messages if needed for roughly 24 hours, all day and overnight Monday in to Tuesday. Several Amateur Radio Operators covered various positions. Shawn N3AE Assistant Emergency Coordinator and Dennis N3QHC Emergency Coordinator worked relief shifts at Huntingtown High School while Ron WA4PRR operated at the EOC relieving Bill N3XMZ for overnight. John N3EDD relived Dick W3RBR at the CRE on Monday evening with communication overnight being handled by Charlie AB3LE. Ron WA4PRR Charlie AB3LE, Bryan KB3URZ (who continued his day time shift without a break) and his brother covered the overnight shift with NIWR as net control.

Several other amateur radio operators were on a waiting list ready to assist with communications if needed on Tuesday. Thankfully Hurricane Sandy spared Calvert County from any major damage and the EOC decided to close the Huntingtown shelter on Tuesday Morning ending the need for back up emergency communications at both Huntingtown and CRE.

73 – KB3WFV

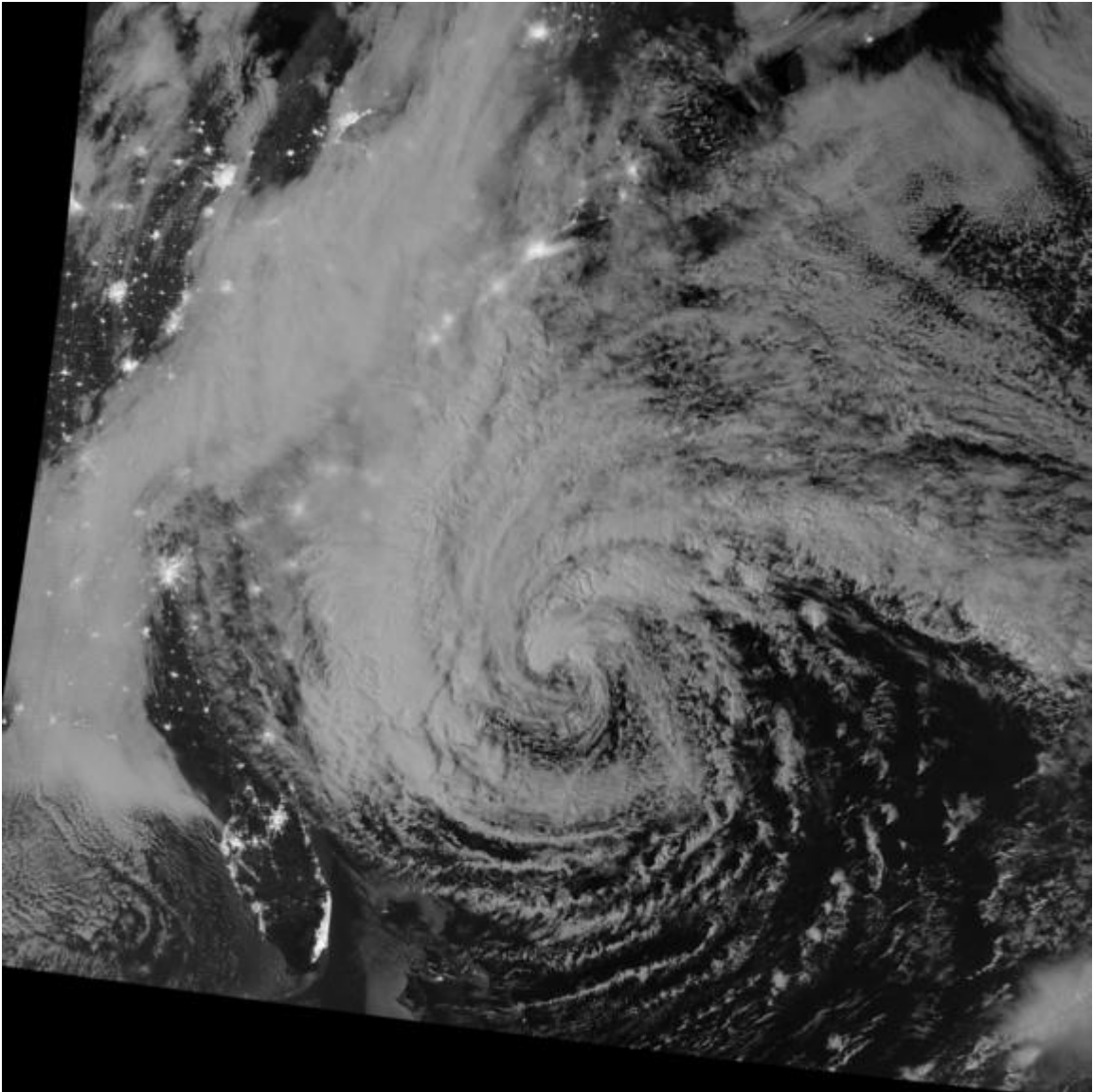
SKYWARN



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.

Hurricane Sandy an unprecedented storm tracked just off the Eastern seaboard before making a hard left into the New Jersey and New York shoreline. This storm had the potential of bringing heavy wind rain and possible snow to the Calvert County area.



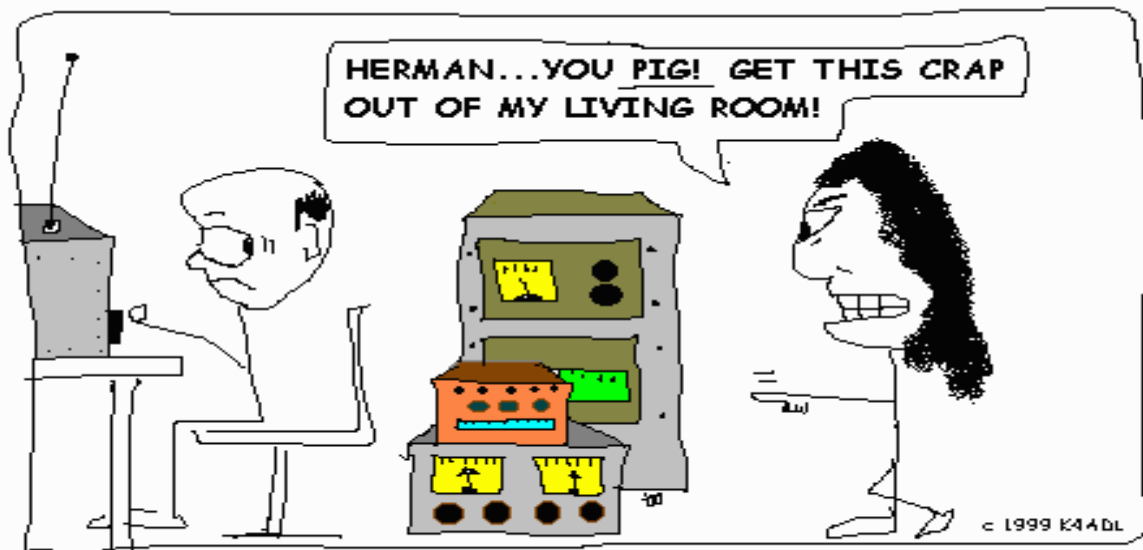
Instead this MASSIVE storm set records all over the north east setting a record for the lowest pressure of any storm ever recorded. Effects of this storm could be felt for thousands of miles. Extensive damage occurred to the New Jersey and New York coast line, heavy flooding in the interior northeast as well as heavy snow in West Virginia were just some of the weather produced by this storm.

Some weather forecasters are concerned that storms like Sandy may be the new normal for storms of the future.

73 – KB3WFV

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

The Blind Side – Stray RF and White Noise from KB3WFV



THE REAL ORIGIN OF THE TERM "HAM RADIO."

Courtesy of <http://www.qsl.net/k4adl/> -- 73 – KB3WFV

Suggestion or comments for THE WATT
e-mail us at newsletter@k3cal.org

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