



THE WATT



CALVERT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
December 2012

ASSOCIATION QSO

A letter from the Executive Board of CARA

2012 Accomplishments

We had another busy year. New cable was installed at the Mt. Hope tower site, courtesy of the County, to our antenna. Our repeater was also moved to the hut at the base of the tower giving us emergency power capabilities. We also installed our own cable and secondary antenna at the site for the 440 link and control. We also installed a HF system at the Mt Hope room due to donations from Vince Thrasher's family.

The Executive Board worked hard this year to get the Incorporation completed. We are now the Calvert Amateur Radio Association, Inc. We also have a new Updated Constitution and Bylaws due to our dedicated members. We are Still working on getting the 501c(3) (Non-Profit status) established for the Association. Bill Hackett N3XMZ, our new RACES Officer, Dennis Bowling N3QHC, our ARES Coordinator along with CARA Executives and others were instrumental in getting the RACES and ARES new messaging forwarding system installed. The system covers the entire County using Winmor digital and VHF packet.

Our website is up and running providing needed information about the Association and our activities. Please visit the site to view our Newsletter. www.k3cal.org . Thanks to Ron Byzet WA4PRR.

Among the activities this year, Field Day was very successful. We had plenty of good food, visitors, and contacts. Setting up this event was a lot of fun, erecting antennas, etc. The Maryland QSO Party was held at Mt. Hope this year. We came in 10th place for clubs in Maryland. The lighthouse event was held at Cove Point Lighthouse. This was another fun activity with food and friends. Please try to attend upcoming events in 2013 and play ham radio.

The Mt. Hope Station is open for any amateurs who would like to use or train on our equipment there. Amateurs can also bring their own equipment to operate at the Station. There will be a control operator there to help with setting up and using your/our equipment. The hours of operation are posted on our website.

Our weekly Net on the CARA repeater is run by John Mumper, N3EDD. Please join us on Monday evenings at 7:00pm.

We've held monthly CARA meetings this year to take care of Association business, as well as having guest speakers and playing our popular 50/50 drawing. Thank you to those who donated their winnings back to the Association. The money was appreciated.

It takes donations from people like you to keep our Association running and active. Please consider us when you make donations.

Thank you, Everyone!

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 – KB3WV

CQ CQ CQ – CARA news and announcements

- The time has come for membership renewals. Membership renewals/registration forms have been sent out by e-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](http://www.k3cal.org)
- 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. At Dream Weavers in Prince Fredrick
- 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!>

On The Air – CARA seeks members for 2013

The annual CARA membership renewal drive has begun. Current CARA members have been emailed membership renewal forms and a membership dues invoice. Please be sure to complete the membership forms and return them to CARA treasure Dick – W3RBR as soon as possible.

If you know of someone interested in amateur radio invited them to join CARA. Friends, neighbors, relative's even members of your church, school or other social groups are all potential amateur radio operators and possible CARA members. Be sure to let them know of CARA and how they can join.

Bill WB3CII forwarded some links to me related to increase a ham club membership. In the article linked below a group of hams concerned with the decline in traffic on a local repeater decided to make sure that someone was always listening to the repeater and would answer any call that came across the air waves. The team efforts of these hams logged 140 unique regular users and dozens of QSO's with people passing through the area.

Check out the articles in the links below. If you have an idea that would help make hams aware of CARA or anyone else who may be interest in the amateur radio email with your idea @ KB3WV@YAHOO.COM.

<http://www.hamuniverse.com/repeateractivity.html>

<http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?263664-South-Dakota-Hams-Successfully-Reverse-Declining-Repeater-Usage>

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**

CAN YOU COPY THAT MESSAGE? – Dennis – N3QHC

How many times have you heard our weekly net begins by saying the net is available for handling emergency traffic. Hardly ever is there traffic to be handled but would you be ready to take a message if one needed to be passed?

The need to handle traffic via Amateur Radio is going away with texting and emails on cell phones or computers. There may be a time you check into a net and someone says they have a message that needs to be delivered. Would you know how to take the message?

Nets are not only for telling everyone what you have been doing that day or for the past week, they are also for training. Some of that training is in the form of learning to send or receive messages. Since most of the messages that are handled by Amateur Radio are in the form of the ARRL RADIOGRAM that should be the form to train with.

It would be nice to have someone bring a message to each net to pass to someone else. That way everyone learns how to send and receive messages. You would be surprised how many mistakes are made while sending and receiving messages when you are first learning.

One day you may have to take a message and deliver it to someone else. It would be nice to know how to do it.

It is all practice till it is not.

***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**

No RACES Report available for December

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.

ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER? – Dennis – N3QHC

Soon we find ourselves just about to swing into winter. **But ARE YOU READY?** Are you prepared for the cold, snow and loss of services at home? How about your vehicle? Now is the time to prepare. Some things to consider **NOW** >

- Power outages
- Water Freezes
- Heat
- Wind
- Roads Closed
- Grocery Store Shortages
- Driving Challenges

Your home should also have the winter check on:

- Generator and fuel (these should be exercised every month)
- Batteries and flashlights operable (batteries should be replaced with new ones+ consider L.E.D. flashlights that uses less drain on batteries)
- Emergency heaters are operable
- Fireplace and fuel is in working order and good supply on hand
- Blackout bag ready for service
- Winter clothes and boots ready to go
- Gasoline (with sta-bil)
- Spare propane tanks
- Antennas and coax should be checked now and made in good working order

Now check your vehicle, the last thing you want is to be testing your survival skills when preparation would alleviate that.

- Windshield washer solvent
- Full tank of fuel > never travel with less than a half a tank of fuel in severe weather
- Cell phone & charger
- Road Flares
- Good spare tire
- Snow Shovel
- Ice Scraper
- Sand or Kitty Litter > Use quantity two of liter bottle to carry sand = will not spill out
- Road map of area
- Medicine
- Food and Water
- Toilet Paper
- Blanket
- Candle and matches > Candle must be in a container. Uncontained candle's wax can crack exposing wick causing fire to spread
- First Aid Kit

When one travels in the winter even for short distances make sure your Bug-Out-Bag is your vehicle.

Lists are a good planning tool. These items are suggestions – we know list can include many more items and become pages long. The bottom-line is to have backup plans.

Murphy certainly finds a way to test our resolve when things go wrong.

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 KB3WV

If Santa were a ham, then all on the air,
Not a Q'so too weak, not even hams at sail.
Antennas would be hung on chimneys with care,
In hopes that St. Nick would soon be on the air.

The hams would be nestled snug in their chairs
While sounds of the ham gear filled the air.
With XYL's watching tv, and hams in their shack
who just settled down for the one special contact



Then out on the air would be such a clatter,
Hams springing from chairs to see what was the matter.
Away to the rigs they move like fire,
Turn up the volume and tune up the wires.

A signal on the boom of a small little beam
Would give a quiver of sound, the radios could gleam,
When, what to their wondering ears should they hear,
Sounds of a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,



With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
they would know in a moment it must be St. Nick
From the sand of a beach, all sunny and warm
St, Nicks call would cause quite a storm.

All chubby and plump, a right jolly old man,
Surely to resemble just about any fellow ham
Including the broad face and a little round belly,
That shakes, when he talks like a bowlful of jelly.

More Q'so's than field day his contacts they came,
As he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"CQ, DASHER! CQ, DANCER! CQ, PRANCER and VIXEN!
CQ, COMET! CQ CUPID! CQ, DONDER and BLITZEN!
Five nine copy no station too small!
73 and best wishes to all!"

The flurry of contacts, to soon to fade
One last Q'so was definitely made
Stations near and far heard St Nick exclaim

“MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT”

– 73 - KB3WFV

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

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