

THE WATT

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4

NOVEMBER 2014

CALVERT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

MEETING INFORMATION

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC...YOU DO NOT HAVE
TO BE A MEMBER,
OR EVEN A LICENSED AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR TO ATTEND.
150 MAIN STREET (FIRST LEVEL)
PRINCE FREDERICK, MD 20678

FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
MEETING TIME: 7:30 PM LOCAL
(FIRST MEETING IN 2015 IS JANUARY 8)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2015!

PRESIDENT—BOB SHESKIN N3PPH
VICE PRESIDENT—ERIC CHRISTENSEN W40TN
SECRETARY—RON BYZET WA4PRR
TREASURER—DICK RATCLIFFE W3RBR
DIRECTOR—DAVE HARDY KB3RAN



Congratulations to KARL LONG!! (KG1L)

On his retirement from the Federal Government!

Karl invites you to his Retirement Party on

January 10, 2015

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

At the Grace Brethren Church
(Multipurpose Room)

9870 Old Solomons Island Road

Owings, MD 20736

(410) 257-0026 (church phone number)

Please RSVP Karl_g_long@hotmail.com



2014 PATUXENT RIVER APPRECIATION DAYS!

The Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD) is a 2-day festival celebrated on Solomons Island, MD, in mid-October every year. CARA, being a part of PRAD for several years, set up its base station on Saturday, October 11 in front of the Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) to showcase what CARA and Amateur Radio are all about. Also, this year, as in past years, CARA provided the main source of communications for the PRAD Parade, traditionally held on Sundays.

Several of CARA's members moved out on Sunday from their base station in front of CMM to positions as the parade announcer (Dave, KB3RAN); shadow for the assistant parade director (Ed, KC3AEN); shadow for the parade director (Kathy, KM4CRL); assistant to the parade announcer (Bob, N3PPH); communications coordinator (Les, KH6CUJ); starting area communicators (Chip, K3AWD) and (Peter, KB3SXB); and last but certainly not least, the END-of-the-parade-communicator (Dave, W3PQS). Manning the CARA net control for the parade from the base station was Jim (K3UGA), while Monica (KC3DAS) fielded questions from festival attendees and maintained the information brochures and raffle prizes.



The Colors flying and the CARA antenna standing over the Calvert Marine Museum to officially launch the Patuxent River Appreciation Days

CARA events are always fun because of the members who work them, but they are also valuable learning experiences in the world of amateur radio. Every contingency faced during these events transfers over to those times when amateur communications become the only means of connecting people with critical emergency services. The person carrying the banner for the color guard was John (N3EDD)" (on the right in the photo below).



L to R: Randy Geck, PRAD Parade Director; Les (KH6CUJ), Dave (W3PQS), and Dave KB3RAN setting up the CARA base station on Saturday



Bob's (N3PPH) thoughts on the parade communications: "The announcer's area was very noisy and hectic, at times there was no way to hear my radio. My main goal was to feed info to Dave (KB3RAN) as fast as possible so he had something to say. Dave did a really bang up job, he kept things moving and even had interaction with some of the participants."



CARA's very own Dave (KB3RAN) as Parade Announcer Extraordinaire!! (above)

The CARA K3CAL Limousine (below)



Jim's (K3UGA) input on the PRAD and the Parade: "There were 10 amateur radio operators participating in this event. 40 hours of time. 1 base station, 2 meter radio; 1 30 amp 12-volt power supply; 1 2-meter vertical antenna and 50 feet of coax cable. 10 Handy Talkie 2-meter radios. 1 Net Control; 8 Tactical stations along the [parade] route; 1 Station monitoring backup and talk-in frequencies for Net Control. Amateurs: kh6cuj, kb3ran, w3pqs, n3pph, k3awd, km4crl, kc3aen, kb3sxb, kc3das, K3uga. Thanks to all those that gave their time to make this Public Service event happen."



Calvert County relies on CARA for emergency communications, but CARA also relies on Calvert County to keep its activities going. For the Field Day in June, CARA sold raffle tickets for a TV and two weather stations as its 1st, 2d, and 3d prizes. Susan Dean, the store manager (*pictured above left with Bob (N3PPH)* for West Marine in Solomons Island, and Ramona Garrett, the store manager (*pictured above right*) for Mattress Warehouse in Dunkirk were instrumental in helping CARA sell those raffle tickets by offering their store sites as venues to reach a larger audience and accomplish our funding goals. And a very happy Mike Elder, (*pictured below*) from Columbia, MD, was the 1st Prize winner of the Samsung TV that CARA raffled at its Field Day.



“At 0739, CALV AES received this email that was posted at 0717.

THIS IS A DRILL. . THIS IS A DRILL

A tornado has just touched down in the vicinity of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency in Reistertown, MD

Attached message from MEMA requests donated communications equipment to be delivered to the Relocated MEMA Site in FRED county.

All stations responding please us the Davidsonville repeater 147.105 (+) pl 107.2 for coordination and further instructions.
73,

Jim Montgomery

WB3KAS

Maryland - DC

Section Emergency Coordinator”

The above bulletin was received by Calvert ARES, which triggered the simulation emergency test (SET) on October 4, 2014. The following article, written by Dave Hardy (KB3RAN), appeared on October 2, 2014, in a local newspaper.

The Calvert Amateur Radio Association (CARA) k3cal.org/ announces participation in the upcoming Simulated Emergency Test to be held statewide on October 4.

This is a test held annually to demonstrate amateur radio communications that would be used during an actual emergency. This year's scenario is that a tornado destroyed the radio antennas and some equipment at the Maryland Emergency Management Administration's headquarters and emergency operations center (MEMA-EOC) in Reisterstown, MD. A simulated call has gone out to all counties to help get the EOC back on the air. Nine of Maryland's 16 counties will be participating to send simulated equipment to Reisterstown.

The amateur radio operators are members of Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and most are members of a radio club in their county. They will be providing their own radio equipment, emergency power supplies, and transportation to set up stations across the state to make a seamless communications link. Part of the activity will be tracking the equipment's progress by using Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) aprs.org. This is a combined radio, computer, and Global Positioning System (GPS) that allows stations to send position data and messages to other stations that can be visualized on a map on a computer or smart phone app.

CARA ARES members will donate a simulated antenna for this exercise and will transport it from southern Calvert County near the Thomas Johnson Bridge through the county and will transfer it to Anne Arundel Radio Club participants near the county line. The package will be transported in a vehicle that will be sending out intermittent position data over the amateur radio waves and received by stations in the area. This information will be transmitted to a radio network centered in Anne Arundel County for further transmission to Frederick County which will be running an emergency EOC at a central location to be determined.

This will be the first time APRS has been tested as a statewide communications link. APRS was developed by Bob Bruninga (WB4APR) of Annapolis and is used worldwide for position reporting, messaging, and weather reporting. It is used by sailors, pilots, RVers, and travelers to report their position to folks back home on a regular basis.

Dave Hardy
Lusby

Organization

CALVERT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 306
Huntingtown, Maryland 20639

[We're on the web!
Wwww.k3cal.org **]**

Special Thanks to the CARA members who supported the Anne Arundel Amateur Radio Club for its Cystic Fibrosis Bike Race on October 19, 2014

Several CARA members helped the Anne Arundel Amateur Radio Club with the annual Cystic Fibrosis Bike Race. Special thanks also go to the following people:

Les Silva (KH6CUJ) for coordinating this effort.

Jim Tetlow (K3UGA) for being Net Control.

Amanda Christensen (KI4IWS) for being at the Start/Finish line.

Eric Christensen (W4OTN) as the spotter stationed at Chaneyville Road.

Dave Hardy (KB3RAN) as the spotter on Boyd's Turn Road and Fifth Street.

Shawn Donley (N3AE) as the spotter on Lower Marlboro and Chaneyville Roads.

Bob Sheskin (N3PPH) stationed at Rest Stop 3, Marley Run Recreation Area parking lot.

Dave Weaver (W3PQS) stationed at Rest Stop 4, Breezy Point Grill parking lot.



The Calvert Amateur Radio Association, Inc. is an active and community-minded group of Amateur Radio Operators located in Calvert County in Southern Maryland. Our association is a non-profit 501(C)3 organization supporting amateur radio operation, experimentation, and public service. Our Association is an ARRL Special Services Club.

CLUB OFFICERS

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| President | Bob Sheskin | N3PPH | president@k3cal.org |
| Vice-President | Eric Christenson | W4OTN | vicepresident@k3cal.org |
| Secretary | Ron Byzet | WA4PRR | secretary@k3cal.org |
| Treasurer | Dick Ratcliffe | W3RBR | treasurer@k3cal.org |
| Director | Dave Hardy | KB3RAN | director@k3cal.org |