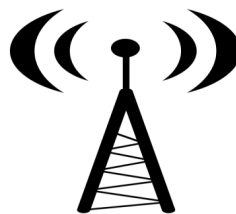


The Watt



Volume 9, Issue 2

March 2015

Calvert Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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—County Services Building)

Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Meetings held every first Thursday of each month

Next Meeting — April 2, 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2015

March 10, 2015 — First Extra Class, 7:00 p.m., 150 Main St, Prince Frederick (1st level County Services Building). Every Tuesday except on ARES Meeting nights.

March 14, 2015 — Antennae Cleanup Party, 10:30 p.m., QTH of KC3AEN

March 17, 2015 — ARES meeting, 7:30 p.m., 150 Main St, Prince Frederick (1st level County Services Building). Extra class does not meet this night.

March 21, 2015 — CARA Club Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. Traders Seafood-Steak-Ale Restaurant, 8132 Bayside Rd, Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732

April 2, 2015 — CARA Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 150 Main Street, Prince Frederick (1st level County Services Building)

April 21, 2015 — ARES Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 150 Main Street, Prince Frederick (1st level County Services Building). Extra class does not meet this night.

Upcoming Hamfests:

April 4, 2015 — RARSfest 2015, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Jim Graham Building State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607 (www.rars.org/rarsfest)

April 12, 2015 — Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service Springfest, Moose Lodge #898, 1400 N. George Washington Hwy., Chesapeake, VA 23323

May 2, 2015 — Hagerstown Hamfest, Washington County Agricultural Center, MD Rte. 65 South Sharpsburg Pike, Hagerstown, MD. Sponsored by the Antietam Radio Association—W3CWC

May 24, 2015 — Memorial Day Hamfest, Howard County Fairgrounds, Rte. 144, West Friendship, MD

June 14, 2015 — Manassas Hamfest (More info in future newsletters)

September 12, 2015 — Virginia Beach Hamfest, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 (www.vbhamfest.com)

For a more extensive list of hamfests and similar events, check QST, or check CQ Amateur Radio.com if you don't already know about this magazine. I came across it while searching for hamfests to include in our letter.



Club Officers

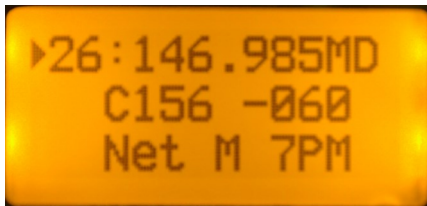
President	Bob Sheskin
N3PPH	president@k3cal.org
Vice-Pres.	Eric Christensen
W4OTN	vicepresident@k3cal.org
Secretary	Ron Byzet
WA4PRR	secretary@k3cal.org
Treasurer	Dick Ratcliffe
W3RBR	treasurer@k3cal.org
Director	Dave Hardy
KB3RAN	director@k3cal.org

What is APRS?

Brrrrpppppp! What's that sound? If you've tuned in to the APRS 144.390 MHz frequency recently you've likely heard a lot more noise from Calvert County stations. Stations from as far north as K3UGA to KB3RAN in the south have been seen on the bands. APRS is a fun way to find resources and people around you and exchange messages with other hams.

When APRS was first developed, users had to cobble together bits of gear to get on the air. Today there are many ready-made, embedded tools that allow amateur radio operators to get on the APRS network with little trouble. It started with the Kenwood D700 mobile radio and expanded to other radios, including Yaesu's FTM-400DR mobile transceiver which also supports System Fusion. These radios not only integrate a GPS, modem, and transceiver together but also add a small computer to process incoming data and make consuming that information easier.

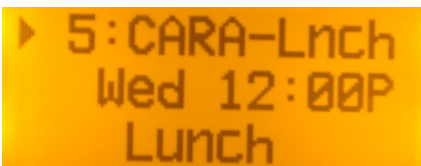
APRS, as it was originally thought of, is a network of resources. Sure, you can keep track of where stations are but you can also discover what's around you just by taking a look at your display. You might find a local repeater to use:



Maybe you're looking for some local weather along the trail:

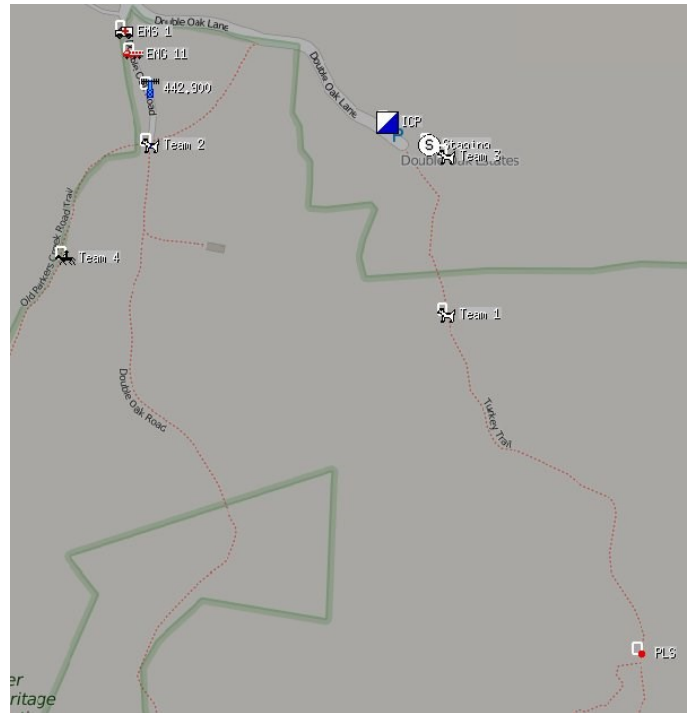


Or maybe just some lunch:



Whatever the information, there is likely a way to have it displayed on APRS for the traveler and local, alike.

APRS is not only suitable for day-to-day communications but also makes a great tool for emergency and auxiliary communications. When combined with a cartographic resource, mission planning and operations become much easier. The ability to share the information in real-time with others can be invaluable.



By having the ability to share a common operating picture allows everyone to be on the same page.

Since APRS data can be decoded from a simple receiver (scanner) or across a local area computer network (LAN), view-only systems can be setup at command posts, staging areas, events, and anywhere else a supported agency or the public might benefit.

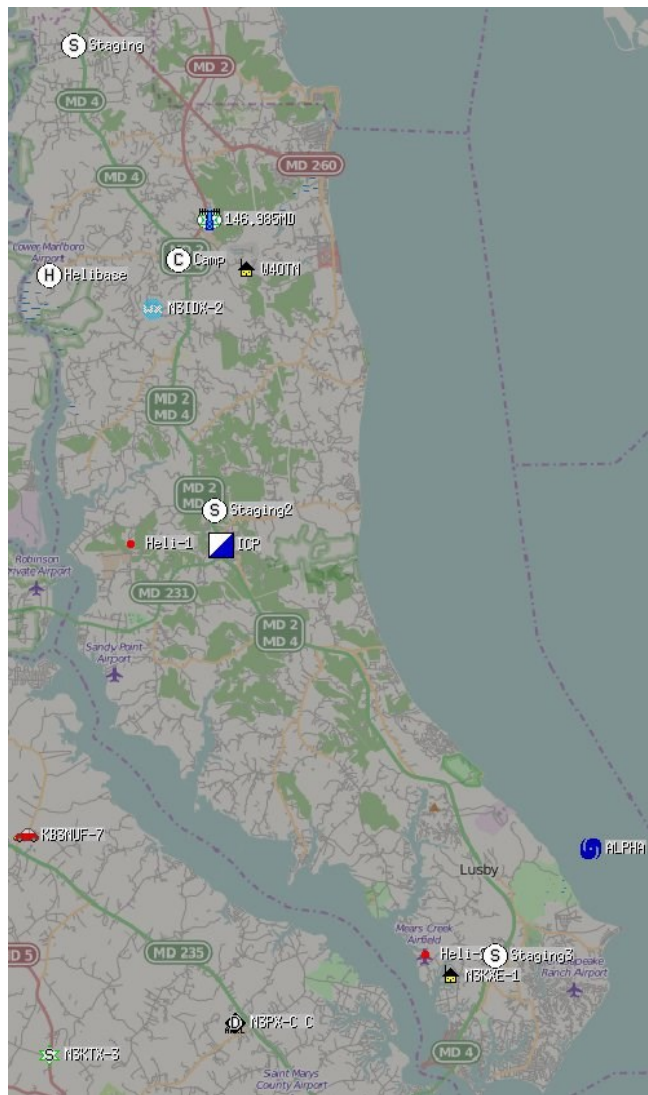
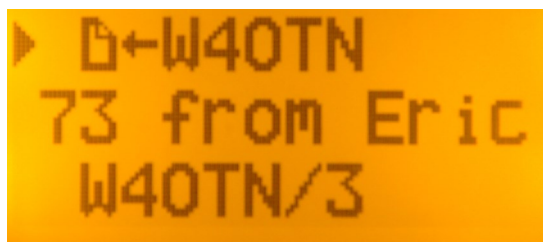
So how can you get involved? If you recently purchased one of the Yaesu System Fusion transceivers then you've already got enough to put yourself on the map and start consuming information. The Kenwood D710 and D72 does those things as well and has the ability to connect to an external computer that allows displaying of information on a map.

Of course if you still have a TNC just collecting dust in the closet you might consider dusting it off and connecting it to a two-meter transceiver. There are several software packages out there that will help you get on the air.

There are also several websites that do their best to display APRS data on their maps. Unfortunately, you can never guarantee the availability of the Internet or the I-gates that act as gateways between the RF world and that of the Internet. These systems are also view-only and don't allow interaction with stations on the map. The best way to join in on the fun is to get a radio connected up and beaconing.

There are many resources available in books as well as the Internet. The ARRL has included APRS in their handbook and Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, has put lots of notes and whitepapers on this website (<http://www.aprs.org>).

I hope this article has convinced you to join us on the APRS network and that I'll be seeing you soon. Until then...



APRS



Not APRS

(not W40TN either!)

Dave, W3PQS, writes: Hello from Southwest Florida. This is the station I'm running down in Florida. I have made several contacts with club members. I'm running an Astron power supply, Daiwa SWR meter, LDG tuner, and the radio is an ICOM 7000 HF VHF with Alpha Delta DX-CC antenna. I also use my cell phone to call in most mornings on Echolink to our repeater. I've been able to stay in contact with most club members. Shows you that ham radio is an easy way to stay in contact with your friends and family.

Dave



See the photos below for Dave's other hobbies in Florida!



Organization

Calvert Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 306
Huntingtown, Maryland 20639

We're on the web!

www.k3cal.org

CLUB COMINGS AND GOINGS

Congratulations to Me for winning the Nobel Prize for Newsletter Writing and Editing. I will be accepting my \$1 million prize in Downtown Huntingtown on June 27. Yes, folks, I'll be missing the first day of Field Day, but what the heck. Best Wishes to Me.

NOW, SEND ME YOUR STUFF OR I'LL KEEP MAKING THINGS UP FOR THIS COLUMN.

I CAN ALSO POST PHOTOS OF DAVE IN FLORIDA AND HIS STORE-BOUGHT FISH THAT HE SWEARS HE CAUGHT THAT MORNING.

Note: If you really would like to share personal triumphs, new additions, notable achievements, and such, please send them for inclusion to the CARA Newsletter to Monica (KC3DAS mnoell1@verizon.net) or Ed (KC3AEN, enoell@verizon.net).

Mark your calendars for Field Day, JUNE 27-28,
2015!!

And don't forget lunch every Wednesday at noon at
Mount Hope Community Center, Sunderland, MD



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

Dear Readers,

This is YOUR newsletter. If you have stories or photos of your hobby that you would like to share with the club, please do so! We will keep covering all the CARA Club events, but it's also nice to get those personal perspectives to include. Connecting through experiences is what makes CARA a real club. Thanks, Monica and Ed

