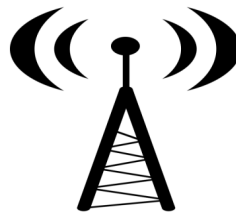


Watt's What



Volume 9, Issue 4

August 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 CARA meeting — August 6, 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2015

August 6, 2015 — CARA Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 150 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD (1st level County Services Building)

August 15, 2015 — CARA Club Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. Traders Seafood-Steak-Ale Restaurant, 8132 Bayside Rd, Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732

August 18, 2015 — ARC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 150 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD, (1st level County Services Building)

September 3, 2015 — CARA Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 150 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD (1st level County Services Building)

September 15, 2015 — ARC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 150 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD, (1st level County Services Building)

September 19, 2015 — CARA Club Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. Traders Seafood-Steak-Ale Restaurant, 8132 Bayside Rd, Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732

Upcoming Events:

August 8-9, 2015 — QSO Party, Mount Hope Community Center, Sunderland, MD. This contest begins at noon Saturday and runs until midnight Saturday, and then again on Sunday from noon until 8 p.m. Times listed here are local (DST).

August 8, 2015 — Ben Moore Memorial Half Marathon and 10k. Located off Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD., at 7:30 a.m. For further information contact Erick Graves at Erick.g@comcast.net. Les, KH6CUJ, is the CARA contact for this event.

August 16, 2015 — Rookie Roundup is a contest for amateurs licensed for 3 years or less. The contest runs three times a year in April, August, and December. The August contest starts at 10 a.m. local time (DST) and runs for 6 hours. It uses RTTY only. Rookies can contact anyone but old-timers can only contact rookies. Registration begins August 9. Go to www.B4H.net/arrlar.

September 25-26 — Countdown to W4DXCC/Ham Radio Bootcamp, Pigeon Forge, TN. For further info go to W4DXCC.com. Send inquiries via email to info@W4DXCC.com.



Club Officers

President	Bob Sheskin
N3PPH	president@k3cal.org
Vice-Pres.	Eric Christensen
WG3K	vicepresident@k3cal.org
Secretary	Ron Byzet
WA4PRR	secretary@k3cal.org
Treasurer	Dick Ratcliffe
W3RBR	treasurer@k3cal.org
Director	Dave Hardy
KB3RAN	director@k3cal.org

Home-Brew Connectors for CATV Cable

Ron Byzet / WA4PRR

Connectors for the 1/2-inch CATV hardline cable are expensive and difficult to obtain from commercial sources. Because this cable is free and very low loss, it is great cable for VHF and UHF stations. The impedance mismatch between the 75-Ohm cable and 50-Ohm equipment results in about a 1.2:1 SWR. This loss is more than compensated for by the lower loss of the line.

A very simple home-made connector can be made using a 1/2-inch brass compression fitting and a flange type N or UHF connector. Also needed is a short piece of hobby brass tubing which will fit over the center conductor of the cable and the coaxial connector center pin.

To begin construction, the coaxial connector must be prepared. The first step is to drive the connector barrel from the flange. Most of these connectors are a press-fit into the flange and can be separated by using a vice to support the connector flange and a small socket wrench socket and a hammer to drive the barrel from the flange. Next, the center pin must be removed from the connector body without damaging the pin or insulation. This can usually be accomplished by gently tapping on the center pin from the rear with a small hammer. The pin will exit from the insulation in one piece. This completes the connector preparation. (You can discard the flange, it will not be used.)

Next, the 1/2-inch dual compression fitting must be prepared to accept the connector body. On one of the compression nuts, slightly enlarge the 1/2-inch hole with a file so that the connector body just press fits into the compression nut. Using a propane torch, solder the connector body to the compression nut. Do not overheat the insulation inside the connector body!

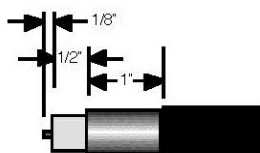
Next, the cable must be prepared to accept the connector. A properly prepared cable is shown below. Remember not to damage the copper coating on the outside of the inner conductor when removing the insulation. A tubing cutter can be used to cut through the aluminum outer conductor of the cable. The center insulation will expand slightly and may have to be trimmed to fit into the compression fitting body. Use a razor blade to trim the foam.

Cut a 1/4-inch piece of hobby brass tubing and use it to connect the center pin and the center conductor of the cable. Solder the center pin and brass to the center conductor using a soldering iron. During final assembly, if the center pin is properly positioned, it will seat to the correct depth when the compression nut/connector body assembly is screwed onto the body of the fitting.

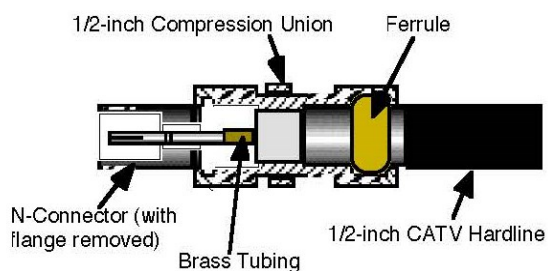
Before assembling the compression ferrule and nut to the cable, coat the exposed aluminum shield with an anti-ox compound to prevent corrosion caused by two dissimilar metals in contact. (This compound can be found in most hardware stores.) Assemble the nut and ferrule on the cable and tighten the nut onto the compression fitting body. Next, align the center pin with the connector body and screw on the connector / compression nut until the nut seats. The center pin is not at the correct depth, it must be re-soldered inside the brass tubing until it seats at the correct depth. This completes the assembly of the connector.

This connector has proven to be a simple, yet inexpensive way to use CATV cable in a ham installation. I am presently using this connector on my 6-Meter antenna feedline with very good results.

I want to thank Chuck / N3WZR for the idea of using a compression fitting as a connector body.



Preparation of Cable



1/2" Hardline Connector Details



The real Ron Byzet Through The Looking Glass at Field Day 2015

Shawn, N3AE, and the Minions!



Steve, N3IPN, took these photos of Shawn, N3AE, with his rented lift, installing his new Optibeam antenna on top of his new tower on July 27. A small but fearless group of minions helped with the installation.



The CARA Field Day of 2015

Well, the 2015 Field Day is now in our rearview mirror and we're not looking back at a fatal wreck! Despite my worrying, all the participants and contributors really put full effort into making my first coordination of a Field Day a great experience. I thank you all VERY MUCH!

We had 31 hams and visitors who signed in. We did have a few who came and went without signing in, but we do have photos of most everyone who was there, including my dog Taz and the photographer, Darwin Weigel, from the Calvert Recorder newspaper. I'm including a list of our attendees and contributors at the end of this article.



Richard, N3VKW, Host Extraordinaire!

Our first guest to sign in was Gary Heal, President of the Drum Point Property Owners' Association. Those who are involved with the Auxilliary Communications Service have met Gary before at our ACS meetings. Gary is also a certified tower climber and instructor. His experience with this began during his tour of Vietnam. We hope to have him give a presentation soon to CARA at one of our monthly meetings. Considering that we're currently looking into having another repeater installed on the State Highway Administration tower in Prince Frederick, his presentation couldn't come at a better time. His knowledge will give us all a clearer idea of what is involved with leaving the ground for the sake of better reception!!

Broomes Island Community Center was a great venue for Field Day. Many thanks again to Richard, N3VKW, for reserving the Center, opening it up, and notifying the neighbors of what we were doing. Besides the separate room for the radios and the other for relaxing and eating, we had the use of two kitchens and inside plumbing!! Very nice!! The large yard around the Center gave us the space we needed to erect several antennas. Steve, N3IPN, served as our antenna czar and directed the construction of an array of hex beams, dipoles, long wires, and Yagis. Unfortunately, the antennas had to come down temporarily when the storm hit the Island on Saturday afternoon. But they went back up even faster after the storm passed.

We were all extremely grateful for having that roof and the four walls to protect us from the wind and driving rain on Saturday.

Most of the properties on Broomes Island had pretty good size pools in their yards after the storm blew through. Dave, W3PQS, took great video of the rain and wind that swept through the Island, which he then posted on YouTube. He also had a really exacting computer app



Dave, W3PQS and Dick, W3RBR, begin the antenna setup.



that helped us follow the movement of the storm. Bill, N3XMZ, chose to do his interpretation of Toto and followed the storm in his truck. He witnessed the waterspout that went over the Chesapeake Bay. I heard that the waterspout actually sucked him up but then thought better and spit him back out.

Dave, N3TZO, served once again as our Master Power Supplier. His mastery of setting up and arranging his power supply board and con-

necting it with the required generator is pretty amazing. Dave also brought his son Michael who made contact with Bogota, Columbia. Go, Michael!! I see a CARA membership in your not-to-distant future!

Thanks to the art of intimidation and the threat of hunger, Amanda, KI4IWS, coordinated a super supply of food. We all heard the suggestion of Pot Luck, but until Amanda got the pots clanking from the volunteers we weren't sure what we'd be eating during Field Day. Richard, N3VKW, assured us that there was a convenience store down the road from the



Michael Moore



Center, but it turns out that we didn't need it. Except for one can of dog food. Yes, I actually forgot to bring food for my own baby!! But the food for the humans was great! We had our pick of cheese biscuits, mac and cheese, fancy baked beans, BBQ, cole slaw, hot dogs and buns, white chicken chili, breakfast casserole, "crack" candy, cake, and cookies. The rented popcorn machine and the big bowl of M&Ms were also a hit.

Sunday was the better day weather-wise, which was good because that's when the photographer from the Calvert Recorder showed up. Eric, WG3K (formerly W4OTN), hosted the photographer, explaining what Field Day was all about and giving a guided tour of our antenna field. Most of the hams stayed well into the afternoon making contacts and just enjoying the final hours of this annual event. But we finally started packing up and cleaning the Center. Richard, N3VKW, and Chip, K3AWD, were the driving force in cleaning up the Center and left it cleaner than when we first moved in!



Taz (obviously unplugged)

Field Day's attendees and contributors are as follows (by order of sign-in): Cammie Weaver, KA3RUR; Dick Terlisner, N3VKW; David Moore, N3TZO; Michael Moore; Brian Kress, KB3WFV; Ed Zumstein, WB6NCO; Chip Dahle, K3AWD; Bob Sheskin, N3PPH; Dave Weaver, W3PQS; Ron Byzet, WA4PRR; Karl Long, KG1L; Monica Noell, KC3DAS; Edwin Noell, KC3AEN; Taz Noell, BARK!; Shawn Donley, N3AE; Amanda Christensen, KI4IWS; Don Kirby, KR3A; Bob Balint, KF3AA; Marge Draper-Donley; Tom Rozenbroek, KB2BCG; Eric Christensen, WG3K; Harlan Christensen; Steve Hempling, N3IPN; Dick Ratcliffe, W3RBR; Miriam Ratcliffe, KC3ASQ; and Bill Hackett, N3XMZ. Contributing but not able to attend were Dave Hardy, KB3RAN; Chris Kirby; Terri Sheskin; Deborah Hempling; and Pat Terlisner. Thanks also to Darwin Weigel, the photographer for the Calvert Recorder and the Recorder itself for publishing those photos of CARA members working Field Day.

As I began this article I also end it with my great thanks to all of the participants and contributors for their efforts in making CARA's Field Day happen. You are the best!!



CARA's welcome sign—none the worse for wear despite the weather.



Even in the weather of the day, amateur radio still didn't fail!



CARA's inside display of what it is and what it does. Did it ever occur to you to run the cord UNDER the table?



More about amateur radio and cookies to welcome guests!



Harlan and Amanda, W14IWS, taking a break from the food duties and the radios. Wait—Harlan take a break? Never!!! That's why Mom needed the cot.



Eric, WG3K. Now is this a face for radio or what!?



Dave, W3PQS; and Brian, KB3WFV; working the GOTA station.



Cammie, KA3RUR; caught on camera. This woman is a notorious crack candy maker!! Yum!!



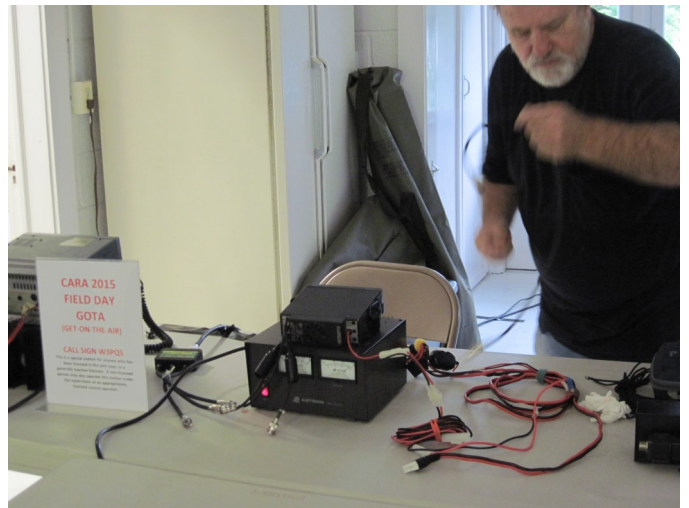
No, not an upside-down wrecked umbrella because of the weather. This is the infamous hex beam antenna.



Dave, W3PQS; Dick, W3RBR (partially hidden); Steve, N3IPN; and Miriam, KC3ASQ; relaxing and catching up at the dining table.



Tom, KB2BCG; with the latest in fashionable luggage for radios and accessories. Beats the hell out of an old cardboard box.



Dave, W3PQS; setting up the GOTA station. A couple of the guests who came worked this station for about 3 hours. Nice setup!!



Bob, N3PPH, and Dave, N3TZO, wiring the radio station room.



Ed, KC3AEN, looking for something to do or to eat.



Steve, N3IPN; Shawn, N3AE, Bob, KF3AA; Ed, KC3AEN; and Richard, W3VKW, at the GOTA station.



Steve, N3IPN, and Dave, N3TZO, at work in the antenna field outside the back door.



Karl, KG1L, with official ID badge. The Community Center WAS large enough to get lost in. NOT.



Eric, WG3K; Shawn, N3AE; and Ed, WB6NCO. "Eric, if you push that button, I swear I'm going to swat you!"



And I was afraid we wouldn't have enough food. I don't remember that table ever being empty of food or people! From left, Chip, K3AWD; Eric, WG3K; Bob, KF3AA; and partially hidden, Steve, N3IPN.



The King and Queen plotting at Field Day. OOoops!! I mean the President (Bob, N3PPH) and Vice President (Eric, WG3K) making big decisions. Yeah, right.



Chip, K3AWD; Tom, KB2BCG; and Dave, N3TZO; on the left side of the radio room. Dave's wonderful power supply station sits on the right in the photo.



Ron's, WA4PRR; tuner for his long wire antenna. The rest of the wire was strung out to the edge of the street in front of the Community Center. We don't need no stinkin' tower!!



At last, the lovely post-storm sky of Sunday morning shining through the hex beam antenna.



Eric, WG3K; with Darwin Weigel, the photographer from the Calvert County Recorder, on Sunday. His photos of CARA's Field Day were featured on the front page of the Wednesday, July 1, 2015, edition.

Pre-planning for an Emergency Response

Eric Christensen, WG3K

Pre-planning is one of the most important aspects of an emergency response. Without pre-planning you have no organized structure to underpin your response. An unfolding emergency is not the time to gather your thoughts on what you need to do.

Pre-planning helps to prevent forgetting all the myriad steps in your emergency response plans. Pre-planning is the guide that captures the practiced coordination and the gear you should have assembled to be ready with your response. But pre-planning is not just the guide you will rely on for a local or non-local emergency. This guide will also provide the response you have in place for your own home. You cannot worry about the safety of your own loved ones and your home while you are trying to respond to an emergency that is affecting others and is outside your own immediate environment. You need to make sure that your family and your home are prepared ahead of time to be able to handle the serious problems that a wide-spread emergency can present.

Your Own Home Response

You can properly respond to an emergency incident in your community if you have covered the needs of your own family and home. Some families have special needs, but *all* families have needs that have to be included in pre-planning. You can properly address your family's needs before a disaster scenario by making sure you have covered at least the following:

- A communications contact plan for all members of your family. Each member should know who is supposed to contact them, and they in turn should be given a designated member for them to contact. This should be your own personal COOP Plan.
- An evacuation location or designated place for all of your family members to meet as soon as it is safe for them to do so.
- Enough food, water, daily medications, and first-aid items to live comfortably for 3 to 7 days.
- A list of items you would need if your family is evacuated, especially for an indefinite time.

Check for additional resources that are available at [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

Non-local Incident Response

Training is the second most important aspect of pre-planning. Once you have a plan in place, you need to train to that plan. The training phase is the time to find out where problems may arise. Responding to an actual emergency is NOT the time to find out where mistakes will emerge from your plan. Training should also include communications with pre-identified agencies who are the first-line responders and coordinators of any variety of emergency. And this is also where you want to make sure that your ham radio contribution is truly ready to assist when needed.

Do you have a checklist for you individual radio, accessories, and personal items you would need in responding to any kind of emergency? The least amount of time you should plan for is 24 hours. The most amount of time could be days or weeks or more. Do you have an adequate stand-alone power source that will keep you up and running for a long time? What radios would you bring? How will you transport them? Make sure you have a contingency plan for antennas. Make sure you have a variety of antenna connectors—odd and not--just so you can get your messages out. If you don't have a compatible connection to the antennas on site of the disaster, you won't be able to work those critical emergency communications. You might as well be a dead cell phone.

On the human side, do you have adequate food and water and daily medications? What will you sleep on and what will you use for toiletries? Sanitation and personal grooming items are important in keeping you clean and healthy and on the job. Do you have first-aid items that will last, particularly if you have to share them? An extra pair of glasses? Think of responding to an emergency with your radio the same way you would supply yourself and your rig for a deep-woods camping trip. Don't pack only for the radio. You need to pack for yourself or you might end up being a casualty yourself. Make that list and check it twice. And don't depend on the agencies working the emergency to provide personal comfort and food and water. They'll need their supplies for the victims of the disaster.

Be ready, be organized, be well-trained, and be the emergency support communications that amateur radio operators practice to be. Think about what you would do and how you would operate in a flood and landslide. How would you operate in a sizable earthquake? How about a nuclear accident? How about a hurricane or tornado? In your lifetime, you would probably never be called on to operate a radio station in most of these disasters. But to be on the best side of pre-planning, you would still want to prepare for that one time when you would be called up. Being ready for anything is the foundation for the existence of amateur radio.

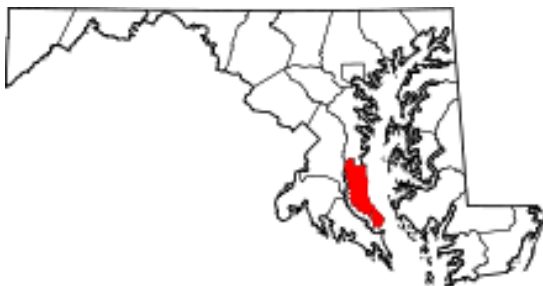
Your Knowledge Response

When you pre-plan you will know from the beginning:

- where to check in and with whom;
- what frequency or frequencies to operate on for talk-in or resource management;
- how long approximately you'll be needed;
- what resources, specifically, you'll need; and,
- whether you'll be using the ICS 205 form.

The Unexpected Response

Pre-planning is absolutely necessary to be prepared for any kind of disaster or emergency. But don't become so locked into your checklists and your assumptions that you become unprepared for the unexpected. Pre-planning also needs to be flexible. Follow your guides, instructions, and checklists, but leave a "space" between the lines. That's where you'll be inserting "well, I never saw that coming!"



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 Steve Hempling, N3IPN; Eric Christensen, WG3K; Ed Noell, KC3AEN; and Richard Terlisner, N3VKW for becoming Extras! And a big thanks is also in order for Shawn Donley, N3AE, for being such a great teacher of the Extra class!

For the great Field Day video created by Dave, W3PQS, click on the link below.

<https://youtu.be/RAzzluVJlI8>

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).*

Field Day is June 25-26, 2016. Save those dates!

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

