

WATT'S WHAT

February 2017

Volume 10, Issue 1

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.**

Meetings held every first Thursday of each month at:

150 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

**(First level—County Services Plaza Building;
entrance is at the right side door if you are facing the building from Main Street)**

Next CARA meeting is March 2, 2017

CARA CLUB DATES and UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2017

February 21, 2017 – Auxcomm Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 150 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678. *(First level—County Services Plaza Building; entrance is at the right side door of the building if you are facing the building from Main Street.)*

March 2, 2017 – CARA Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 150 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 *(first level County Services Plaza Building)*

March 18, 2017 – Breakfast, 9:00 a.m., Traders Seafood-Steak-Ale Restaurant, 8132 Bayside Road, Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732, phone 301-855-0766

March 21, 2017 – Auxcomm Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 150 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

April 6, 2017 – CARA Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 150 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 *(This is also National Tartan Day, so wearing kilts to this meeting is de rigueur.)*

Anyone interested in ham radio is encouraged to join club members every Wednesday at noon at the Mount Hope Community Center, 104 Pushaw Station Road, Sunderland, MD 20689.

SAVE THESE DATES:

**The weekend of June 24 (Saturday) and June 25 (Sunday), 2017,
is the annual ARRL Field Day.**

EXTRA NEWS ON THE FEBRUARY 21, 2017, AUXCOMM MEETING

Auxcomm Director Shawn, N3AE, let me know that the current plan for this meeting is to help answer any questions and solve problems with member's efforts to get packet up and running. Folks can bring in hardware (TNC's cables, radios) for a bit of troubleshooting if needed.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A DOOR PRIZE!!!

Shawn plans to give away an AEA PK-232MXB TNC to some lucky attendee. Only request is that only folks currently without a TNC draw a ticket.

Thank you, Shawn, N3AE

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL RADIO AND TELEVISION MUSEUM

I had the opportunity to finally visit the National Capital Radio and Television Museum in Bowie, Maryland. Wish I'd gone sooner!

For a relatively small museum, it has a most impressive collection of every kind of radio, television, and other communication device throughout recent history. The museum volunteers have managed to fit the smallest radios on up through the largest televisions ever produced into their space. They have also set up interactive displays of radio devices, so it's not just a look and see experience. Be sure to play with the old battery tester that we used to see in stores.

Without telling my age, I instantly recognized the great floor model radios from the 1940's like the Philco my grandmother had in her dining room. Also saw several models of Admiral TVs, the likes of which our neighbor where I grew up used to sell and fix out of his garage store. But the real surprise for me was the great number of furniture designs used over the decades to hold the radio and TV components. Cabinets for both radios and TVs were elaborately carved from high quality woods and finished as very fine furniture. Don't miss the radio that looks like a baby grand piano! Many of these cabinets were extremely large and very heavy. A far cry from the great variety of transistor radios also displayed. Did you know that there is a Minion-designed transistor radio? Just from that, I can tell you that the museum's collection is not "static" but is very up-to-date and ever changing. They have a warehouse of donated items that they cannot display because of the limited space in the current museum. They do rotate displays.

As I entered the museum, which is an old 2-story farmhouse, I was met by one of the volunteer receptionists and a tour guide. The guide was very personable, thoroughly knew his material, and was glad to demonstrate the various pieces that still work beautifully. He

also took me down to the workshop that is on the grounds of the museum. I met two of the repairmen as well as the refinisher who work on all manner of radios to restore them to working condition. Needless to say, they have a full shop of projects, manuals, and parts. The men who make the repairs also teach classes on radio repair.

The museum also has a small library in its entrance. All the books in the library are for sale. I bought a book titled "TUBE, The Invention of Television," by authors David E. Fisher and Marshall Jon Fisher, copyright 1996. Since the books have been donated or acquired from previous owners, their prices are low. You won't be disappointed with the selection.

I hope you all can make the short trip to Bowie to visit this museum--soon. If you love communication electronics and history, you will definitely love this museum. The property is located at 2608 Mitchellville Road, Bowie, MD 20716-1392. More specifically, it is at the intersection of Mitchellville Road and Mount Oak Road. And it's painted a dark red—pretty hard to miss.

NCRTV website is www.ncrtv.org

Enjoy!
Monica, KC3DAS

TETLOW'S TERRIFIC TABLETOP TOURIST SPOT!

Thank you, Jim, K3UGA!!!



CARA CLUB MINUTES FROM JANUARY MEETING

NOTE TO ALL READERS:

So that members have the convenience of more than one source to review the minutes of the previous CARA Club meetings, I will be including those minutes into this and every future newsletter. You will still also be able to go to the CARA website to view those very same minutes.

Please understand that I may make changes to the minutes for reading ease and for better format into each newsletter. I will NOT be making ANY substance changes to the minutes. Changes may include type size, bolding, italics, and line or border spacing only.

Minutes presented in the newsletters will include only those that have been approved by majority member voting at the most recent meeting.

CARA Meeting Minutes – January 2017

The January, 2017 meeting was called to order by our Vice-President, Bill / N3XMZ at approximately 7:37 pm.

At the opening of the meeting, our presiding officer led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following 11 members were in attendance:

JANUARY MEETING ATTENDEES

Dick / W3RBR - Treasurer

Ron / WA4PRR - Secretary

Bill / N3XMZ - Vice-President

Steve / N3IPN / - Director

Bob / KF3AA

Monica / KC3DAS

Les / N3YR

John / N3EDD

Don / KR3A

Peter / KB3SXB

Shawn / N3AE

The minutes for the November 2016 meeting were approved as posted on the website.

Treasurer's Report:

General Fund Balance: \$ 3,716.92

The membership voted to accept the Treasurer's report.

Board Meeting: The CARA Board of Directors met on December 27, 2016 at the Prince Frederick I-Hop. The topics discussed were:

A.)

2017 Committee Members: To be posted on the website.

B.) 2017 Upcoming Events:

1.)

Technician Class: April – June

Location and time TBA

Steve Hempling N3IPN instructor

2.)

Historic Ships Weekend was 0000Z June 4 through 2359Z June 5, 2016. Am sending for 2017 dates.

3.)

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2017 is June 24-25. www.arrl.org/field-day

4.)

MD QSO Party will be 12-13 August 2017.

<http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/>

5.)

Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend

3rd Full Weekend in August since 1998

00.01UTC 19 August to 2400UTC 20 August 2017 (48 hours).

<http://lighthouse-weekend.international/>

6.)

CFC Bike Ride October

7.)

Holiday Party Mt Hope hall reserved for Dec 16. Location/date may change upon later determination.

8.)

Other suggested activities:

Radio/TV Museum at Bowie visit

Historical Radio Museum at Linthicum visit

NavAir Museum at Patuxent River Naval Air Station visit

C.)

Board Executive Session: The Board went into an Executive Session to discuss a written complaint against a member submitted to the board. Matter tabled. Letter to be sent to complainant.

Committee Reports:

Audit Committee:

The Audit Committee is awaiting the receipt of the books from our treasurer.

Repeater Committee:

A short repeater committee report was presented by members of the committee. A copy of the written report sent to the membership on the e-mail reflector. A copy is attached.

Old Business:

Code Of Civility:

The proposed By-Law changes to incorporate the Code Of Civility was presented.

Due to the timing of the distribution to the membership, the vote on the change will be done at our

next meeting.

— BREAK —

Station Committee:

A.)

The Station Committee consists of Don / KR3A, Shawn / N3AE, Steve / N3IPN, and Jim / K3UGA.

B.)

The station work accomplished:

1.) Added the CAT control to the Kenwood TS-440 and repaired the internal tuner.

2.) Reorganized storage of the equipment in the station.

3.) The Digipeater at Mt. Hope (K3CAL-1) is operational on an antenna mounted on the roof of the building.

4.)

K3 computer control not working. The interface cable was changed but the computer was bad.

5.)

The Echolink system was checked out by Steve / N3IPN. It is being installed at Peter's.

6.)

Access to the club station is not secure. There are several keys unaccounted for and may be in the hands of non-members. Actions to remedy this were discussed.

7.)

An assessment of the antennas at the club station antennas will be done sometime in the early spring. A discussion of what to do about the antennas was held.

New Business:

The PNC Bank will begin to charge fees for using our bank account. A discussion was held on finding a new banking institution that will not charge us excessive fees on our account.

Newsletter: Monica / KC3DAS agreed to edit a newsletter again. She will need input from the members to have enough material.

Technician Class:

A Technician Class will begin in March on Wednesdays for 10 weeks. The class will be held in the old SMECO building. A discussion on the class was held. A budget amendment was approved for the purchase of instructor's manuals not to exceed \$50.00.

Echolink:

Steve / N3IPN is working on an Echolink interface for the K3CAL repeater. He discussed what had been done and what was left to do.

The 50-50 Drawing was won by Les / N3YR. He kept \$ 10.00 and donated \$ 19.00 to the club.

Meeting was adjourned @ 9:15 PM.

**Calvert Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 306
Huntingtown, MD 20639**

We're on the Web:
www.k3cal.org

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.

TO CONTACT CARA CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2017:

President@k3cal.org: Dave Hardy, KB3RAN
VicePresident@k3cal.org: Bill Hackett, N3XMZ
Secretary@k3cal.org: Ron Byzet, WA3PRR
Treasurer@k3cal.org: Dick Ratcliffe, W3RBR
Director@k3cal.org: Jim Tetlow, K3UGA

CLUB COMINGS AND GOINGS

FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to the CARA newsletter. After a break in service, I'm back editing the CARA club newsletter. This is still YOUR newsletter. If you have stories or photos of your hobby that you would like to share with the club, please do so! I will keep covering all the CARA club events, but it's also nice to include your personal perspectives. Connecting through experiences is what makes CARA a real club.

If you are shy about your writing skills, I would be glad to help you write an article for the newsletter. But also, if you see an article in another source that you feel would be of interest to the members, please contact me about using it. I can contact the original source for you to obtain copyright permission.

Send articles, photos, personal triumphs, new additions, notable achievements, and such to me at mnoell1@verizon.net.

Thanks,
Monica, KC3DAS, Noell



Jim, K3UGA, sent this along with his table photo. It's not a real ham radio operator because this one has hair.

Thanks, Jim!!