

CARA Meeting Minutes - October, 2017

The October, 2017 CARA Business Meeting was called to order by our President, Dave / KB3RAN at approximately 7:30 pm. There were 10 members in attendance.

OCTOBER MEETING ATTENDEES			
Dave / KB3RAN - President	Ron / WA4PRR - Secretary	Steve / N3IPN - Director	Tom / KB2BCG
Ed / KC3EN	Monica / KC3DAS	Peter / KB3SXB	Bob / KF3AA
Dan / WW3N *	Don / KR3A		* New Member

Our president led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the meeting.

Mini SET: A test of simplex communications between the Calvert County Health Department, the Huntingtown High School (shelter site), and the Drum Point EOC was held on our meeting night. Several members were absent due to this test.

Upcoming Activities: The following activities are being supported:

- A.)** Simulated Emergency Test: This test is a primarily Eastern Shore test of Winlink communications. Shawn / N3AE can be contacted if you wish to help.
- B.)** CFC Bike Race: The bike race will be supported this weekend by members.
- C.)** PRAD: Support will be provided by Dave / KB3RAN, Peter / KB3SXB, and Bill / N3XMZ. If you wish to help, contact Dave / KC3RAN.

Solomons Library Display: Monica / KC3DAS reported on the CARA Ham Radio display at the Solomons Library. The display board was completely refurbished and the display looks great! The members are urged to drop in and take a look.

CARA Dinners: Club dinner get togethers are being planned for Friday evenings. Some locations suggested are: Ledo's, Mexico Restaurant, Brick, and Adam's Rib were suggested as potential locations. Keep an eye on the website and e-mail for where we will be.

CARA Holiday Party: Our annual Holiday Party will be held on December 16th at the Mt. Hope Community Center. It will be a pot luck party. Steve / N3IPN will be compiling a list of food for the event. Jim and Wanda Montgomery will be at our Holiday Party with reports on their Alaska trip and the MD SET exercise.

Board Meeting: It is reported that the Board discussed:

- A.)** CARA Business Cards - to be ordered.
- B.)** Officer Nominations for 2018 - Steve / N3IPN reported on the lack of success of

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the nominating activities. Dick / W3RBR; Ron / WA4PRR, and Bill / N3XMZ volunteered to run for their current positions for next year. Dave / KB3RAN will run for the Director position. A nomination for President is needed.

- C.)** Updates to the CARA QRZ and Facebook pages were discussed.
- D.)** A short discussion on repeater usage and plans for the Mt. Hope move was held.
- E.)** The PRAD and CFC Bike Race support was discussed.
- F.)** The upcoming Holiday Party was discussed.
- G.)** Bill / N3XMZ reported on the recent CALVEX exercise.

Repeater Committee: Ron / WA4PRR and Steve / N3IPN led a short discussion of plans for the repeater move to the new Mt. Hope shelter and tower. The Prince Frederick repeater will be used to fine tune the controller software update and performance. The DR-1 will be installed in the place of the DR-1X and controller during the software development period.

A discussion was held as to the recovery of the current Mt. Hope antennas and feedline for possible re-use at another site. The old Super Stationmaster antenna stored at Mt. Hope will also be salvaged and refurbished.

Station Committee: A discussion on the need for a station cleanup was led by Don / KR3A. The old Motorola repeater spares and the leftover roll of 1/2" heliax cable (and some other stuff) are taking up valuable space in the club station room. It was suggested that the old Motorola machines be disposed of by selling them.

Old Business:

CARA Business Cards: 500 new CARA business cards were ordered following the Board Meeting. There is a space for contact information on the reverse side. The cards will be distributed at the next meeting.

New Business:

CARA Facebook and QRZ Pages: K3CAL Calvert Amateur Radio Association Facebook page is alive and well and it is updated on a regular basis by Dave / KB3RAN.

The Calvert Amateur Radio Association Facebook page is not being updated. (Note the slight name difference.) The CARA one has old info and typos and stuff. I hope to get the owner to remove it.

The K3CAL qrz.com page needs updating. Our new meeting location and the 444.95 MHz repeater should be added. Other changes are also needed.

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Audit Committee: The 2017 Audit committee will be empaneled at the November meeting. Peter / KB3SXB has volunteered so far. We need two more volunteers for the committee. **NOTE:** No current officer may be on the Audit Committee.

CARA HF Net: it was proposed that CARA hold an HF Net on Monday nights following our regular CARA 2 Meter Net. We will try 7.236 MHz (approx.) for an 40 Meter Net on October 9th. Other frequencies will be tried, including 10 Meters, so that Technician operators may participate.

Nominating Committee: The following have agreed to run for 2018 officers:

President: Dave Hardy / KB3RAN

Vice President: Bill Hackett / N3XMZ

Treasurer: Dick Ratcliffe / W3RBR

Secretary: Ron Byzet / WA4PRR

Board Member: Steve Hempling / N3IPN

No additional nominations have been received. It was moved and seconded that the above slate be accepted. The motion passed.

--- BREAK ---

Cookie Monster: Next month's Cookie Monster will be Monica / KC3DAS.

50/50 Drawing: The 50/50 Drawing was won by Monica / KC3DAS. Monica donated all of her \$10.00 winnings to the club treasury for a total of \$20.00. Thanks, Monica!

New Member: Dan Flynn / WW3N has joined CARA. Dan holds an Extra Class License. He was voted in unanimously.

Program: Members brought in projects to share with our members.

- A.)** Tom / KB2BCG brought in several Raspberry Pie projects to share, such as a Pie-based TNC. He also had several examples of displays and Raspberry Pie accessories. Tom has offered to assist with Pie-based club projects as time allows. Ant ideas for club projects?
- B.)** Ed / KC3EN shared his Pie-based computer that is part of his portable packet system.
- C.)** Ron / WA4PRR brought in his NooElec based SDR receiver system which covers 100KHz through 1200 MHz+. The receiver features a custom designed RF switching PC board which allows separate HF and VHF-UHF antenna connections and the use of an internal +5 VDC power source for the HF Up-

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converter.

- D.)** Dave / KB3RAN brought his portable HF antennas that he uses when operating portable when away from home. His antennas are very well suited to emergency communications.
- E.)** Dan / WW3N shared a web-based repeater directory that can be accessed while on the road by cell phone.

It was moved and seconded that future CARA meetings will be held at the Harriet Brown Community Center (old SMECO building). The motion passed unanimously by vote of the members present.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 pm.