

CARA MEETING MINUTES
MAY 3, 2018
Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center
Dares Beach Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Meeting called to order at about 7:40 p.m. by President Dave Hardy, KB3RAN

Members present: Dave Hardy (KB3RAN), Dick Ratcliffe (W3RBR), Don Kirby (KR3A), Bob Balint (KF3AA), Steve Hempling (N3IPN), Ed Noell (KC3EN), Monica Noell (KC3DAS)

Nonmembers present: Pamela Saalbach (KC3LCX)

Minutes from April 2018 Meeting: Because of Ron Byzet's illness and surgery, Dave, KB3RAN, asked Peter Holt, KB3SXB, to take the minutes at the April meeting. Dave has since transcribed Peter's notes and has sent the minutes by email to the members.. He will be also be posting them on the CARA website (both doc. and pdf. formats). Dave did provide a copy of the minutes for review by the attendees at this May meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Information about Ron Byzet, WA4PRR: Ron is out of the hospital after successful surgery but is now in a rehab hospital. Club sent Get Well card to him. Updates have come from Ron's son Andy (WA4BRX). Andy will keep club informed as often as possible.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's: Spent money on new fee for club post office box. The fee is now \$70.00 up from \$46.00 per month. The question was asked whether the size of the box has increased, which it has not.

Current club treasury balance is \$4,995.98

Discussion by treasurer included a notation about paying for club membership through PayPal. Please notify Dick, W3RBR, if you pay for your membership through PayPal so he does not overlook this method of payment.

Dick and Dave have made purchases through Amazon.Smile. The reason for this is if you buy online, you can make a contribution to CARA by going to Smile.Amazon.com. The club gets just under 1 percent of anything you buy

through Smile.Amazon.com. Your Prime Membership still applies even when you buy through Smile.Amazon.com.

Repeater:

Dave, KB3RAN, has asked Dave Weaver, W3PQS, to rejoin the Repeater Committee/Working Group to which Dave has agreed. Bill Hackett, N3XMZ, is still in charge of the Repeater Comm.

Currently one of the club's repeaters is at Ron Byzet's house and needs to be picked up for use. Steve, N3IPN, is going to contact Ron's son to get this repeater. Steve will also send Ron a note as a courtesy to let him know that this is being done.

Board Meeting: Discussion at Board Meeting held on May 1, 2018, was about the club wanting to keep repeaters. Question was asked whether CARA has Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Calvert County regarding CARA's support of the County if the County agrees to support the club. In other words, what formal connection does CARA have with Calvert County. Discussion at the previous AUXCOMM meeting was the club operating independent of the County. It was offered that the club should be able to operate independently and keep the repeaters operating.

Statements from members at this current May 3 club meeting were that we need to have our own communications capability, hence repeaters. Although a motion was put on the table, it was agreed that no motion was needed to keep what we have but to try and make the club's system better. Dave, KB3RAN, also wants to get a copy of the repeater book. Steve has the online version and will sent that to Dave. Monica asked whether we can get the paper version of book from Ron also, which Steve will do (see Repeater Committee report above).

Field Day: Monica, KC3DAS, is once again heading the Field Day event. Field Day is June 23 and 24, 2018, and will be held at Broomes' Island with Richard Terlisner, AE3DT, as the point of contact for this community center. Dave, KB3RAN, will be posting CARA's information and location for Field Day to ARRL. Dave will also not be attending Field Day because he will be out of town.

Invitee Letters: Dick, W3RBR, has received some of the invitee letters returned by the Post Office because of a problem with the addresses. Addresses that were used for mail are apparently okay for physically visiting one of these invitees' offices but not for postal delivery. Dave said that he used the same addresses that have been used in past years. Dick says that the problem seems to be addresses that are not sent to the proper post office box numbers.

State Senator Steve Waugh has sent word that he will be attending our Field Day.

Generator: Dave asked about the generator that was donated to the club by Tom, KB2BCG. It is currently stored in Ed's and Monica's garage. Dick asked Ed whether he had started it and Ed replied that he had not. Ed says the generator is bone dry, and he needs to make sure the carburetor is working and the oil is good. He will also check the spark plugs, etc. The generator has been sitting unused for quite a while so Dave wanted to go over the generator with Ed (as time permitted). Ed will probably do the work himself. Otherwise, Monica said that we can rent the 2kW Honda quiet generator from Jim's Aire as we have the past 2 years.. Dave and Ed also talked about installing a muffler on the generator to make it run quietly.

Ed and Monica are also storing Jerry Cans that Tom donated. Those can also be used as needed.

Safety Officer and Other Needed Equipment: Ed, KC3EN was asked and volunteered to be Safety Officer and will also provide computers. Steve, N3IPN, and Bob, KF3AA, will bring the laptops from the radio shack at Mount Hope and any other equipment as needed from the shack. Ed has the Field Day software but said that Jim Tetlow also has it. Steve will once again be in charge of the antennas. Ed will also bring the power supply that was built for club use.

Monica has a printed copy of the ARRL Rules for Field Day and will be issuing the Field Day Checklist again this year to organize the contributions, participants, admin requirements, etc. Don, KR3A, will be lending his large coffee pot. Monica and Dave talked about not printing too many ARRL Posters because they are becoming more difficult to post. The reason is that too many commercial establishments no longer accept posters from organizations. Monica did note that she will be posting the ARRL Field Day poster in the Prince Frederick Library display that she assembled and will be on display through May and June.

Ed will be doing the Field Day logging report and sending it to ARRL as he did last year. We had three computers last year for the logging, but one did not work. Bob, KF3AA, will bring his digital station if he is able to attend Field Day.

If you have questions about Field Day, please contact Monica through the club email address or at KC3DAS@comcast.net.

BREAK at about 8:15 p.m. Coffee supplied by Don, KR3A. Cookies supplied by Dave, KB3RAN.

DRAWING for 50-50 was won by Monica. Total pot was \$25.00 which was put back into the club treasury. Monica received the proper accounting receipt for \$12.50 from Dick, W3RBR, the club treasurer.

Meeting resumed about 8:30 p.m.

Operation Searchlight: Dave, KB3RAN, followed up from the last club meeting on the topic of 162 MHz transponders for those who have autism. Dave was at the County Commissioners' meeting a few weeks ago which was also Autism Awareness Day. The Deputy Sheriffs of Calvert County presented a program in which they discussed researching transponder equipment and developing direction-finding training to search for wandering autistic people.

The actual transponder could be a bracelet or ankle bracelet or some other form of tracker. Some sheriffs cruisers are already equipped with antennas to do the direction finding. Dave talked to the deputy about offering assistance to this program as a club function. The deputy was interested about having civilians volunteer, but he and Dave have had no further contact since the commissioners' meeting. Dave would like to have the deputy do a presentation for the club on this topic.

AUXCOMM Meeting Held April 25, 2018: Dave talked about the Auxcomm meeting held at 3Brothers Restaurant in Prince Frederick because Shawn was not able to attend this May 3 CARA club meeting. He said that 10 people attended and they discussed alternative communications with 10m and 6m depending on antenna availability. Next night (April 26) after this Auxcomm meeting, they had a net on 10m. Shows promise that 10m and 6m can be used in lieu of 2m. Discussion followed about who had what in antennas.

NVIS Antenna Day was a bust according to Dave. He said that 20m was dead, but he heard Shawn just fine on 80m. No one else participated.

Station Report--Spool of Hardline and Cleaning of the Station: Bob, KF3AA, said that Bill Hackett was going to ask Monica if she had room at her house for the spool of hardline. Bill has not made contact with Monica. But during discussion at this May meeting, Ed and Monica agreed to store the spool of hardline at their home again. The spool is currently stored at the station on one of its flat ends and needs to be stored on its curved side to prevent permanent damage.

The spool of hardline was purchased originally to be used by the club for repeaters but also to be sold to members. As the members present discussed the need for the hardline, they estimated that about 150 feet has been used for previous repeater work. There is about 350 feet remaining part of which will be needed for future installation on the new antenna towers being built by Calvert County. The number of feet needed for the antenna work had not been specifically determined as of this meeting. The members discussed what could be done with the remaining hardline once the installation is complete. Some suggested that the hardline be sold to CARA members for about \$1.00 per foot and \$1.50 per foot to nonmembers. It was also suggested that the hardline be offered to CARA members first and then to other Maryland ham clubs at a slightly higher price than the \$1.50. No decisions have been made and this topic is up for further discussion in coming meetings. No motions were made either regarding the hardline.

Bob said that the station is not being used very much and needs to be cleaned out and cleaned up. Should be cleaned in the next couple of months.

QSO Party for 2018: Dave, KB3RAN, suggested sending out an email to hold the Maryland QSO party at the station this summer (August 11 and 12).

CARA/Ham Radio Library Display at Prince Frederick Library: Monica and Ed have set up the display in the large cabinet at the Prince Frederick Library. The display will be in the cabinet for the full months of May and June. Members are urged to go see it.

CARA/Ham Radio Library Display at Solomons Library: Scheduled to be installed by Monica for the full month of June. She has made a second set of display materials for Solomons.

May 19 Club Breakfast and Dinners: Breakfast is scheduled every third Saturday of the month. This month (May 19) the breakfast will be at 9 a.m. at Dreamweaver in Prince Frederick. We expect to hear from Marge Draper-Donley about this breakfast. There was very little interest for the dinners.

Meeting adjourned at about 9:15 p.m.