**CARA BOARD MINUTES February 9, 2023**

**Attending: President Erik Johnson KC3QQD, Vice President Brian Kress KB3WFV (via Zoom), Treasurer Dick Ratcliffe W3RBR, Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE, Repeater Trustee Don Kirby KR3A, Dave W3PQS**

Meeting called to order 6:35pm

Our condolences go to Brian whose father passed away this week.

Budget discussion; the draft 2023 budget was based on the 2022 budget. There was a duplicate entry for repeater maintenance that was removed. After discussing a few items, the Board voted to propose the attached budget (see the Appendix) to the membership for a vote.

Treasurer’s Report: CARA’s bank balance is $5547.42.

Dave, W3PQS, was able to salvage the Diamond X510 dual band antenna from the old Mt. Hope tower. It appears to be in reasonably good shape. The other antenna the crew removed for us is NOT the old 2M repeater antenna. That antenna must have been removed earlier by another crew and its fate in unknown, probably trashed. The older Stationmaster antenna was still under the tower shelter but by now it too may be gone as the shelter was scheduled to be removed and the area turned into a parking lot.

The Maryland State Highway department has contacted Eric, WG3K, concerning CARA equipment at the Prince Frederick tower site. WG3K was involved in the original request to use this tower site for CARA. Eric in turn contacted N3AE who contacted W3PQS since Dave had the most recent contact with State Highway. Dave called the state POC. It turns out that paperwork for our equipment at the site was either lost or never filled out at State Highway’s end. All they needed was an answer to a few questions in order to get their files in order. N3AE responded with the following information to Mr. Willy Gayle <WGayle@mdot.maryland.gov>. The other numbered entries in the State form were not shared with us.

4. **What is the justification for entering into this agreement with the other parties?**

The antennas and equipment at the Prince Frederick site are used to support backup emergency communications for Calvert County under the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)

5. **Contact(s) for other parties:**

            NAME:  Shawn Donley

            TITLE:   Calvert Emergency Coordinator for the Maryland/DC section of ARES

            OFFICE: Calvert Amateur Radio Association, Inc

            ADDRESS:  PO Box 306, Huntingtown, MD 20639

            PHONE:  240-298-3115

            E-MAIL: n3ae@comcast.net  ;   board@k3cal.org

6. **Description of total project:**

          1.  VHF digipeater, nominal frequency of 145.750MHz, 20 watts, for digital packet message communications via the Winlink network

          2.  UHF Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) repeater, 441.3875MHz output, 446.3875MHz input,  20 watts for local and extended area voice

**Why an Agreement/MOU is needed**

Establish agreement for continued use of the Prince Frederick tower site for amateur radio backup communications in support of Calvert County emergency management via ARES and RACES.

**Benefit to enter this Agreement/MOU**

Provides means for trained amateur radio volunteers to provide backup emergency communications for local and state government.

Applications were received for several new members. Todd Brooks, W3EME and Mark Tomor, KC3VNH, have submitted applications and paid dues. Per our by-laws, KC3VNH, as a newly licensed amateur, does not need to pay his first year dues. Dave Armstrong, KC3TIA also plans to join but an application was not yet received.

The Board meeting closed at 7:25pm

**CARA MEMBERS MEETING Minutes February, 2023**

**Attending: President Erik Johnson KC3QQD, Vice President Brian Kress KB3WFV(via Zoom), Treasurer Dick Ratcliffe W3RBR, Director Dale Sollar KB3RKP (via Zoom), Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE, Repeater Trustee Don Kirby KR3A, Peter N3PH, Matt N3IVK (via Zoom), Bill N3XMZ (via Zoom), Bob N3PPH (via Zoom), Ed WB6NCO (via Zoom), Dick N3VKW (via Zoom), Shawn KE6YCO**

Meeting was called to order by President Erik Johnson at 7:35pm with Pledge of Allegiance. Since this was a Regular meeting, business was kept at a minimum but the Board did bring a “time critical” item (see the by-laws for Regular meetings), namely the budget, for a vote. The budget (see appendix) was voted on and approved.

New members: New members Todd, W3EME and Mark, KC3VNH were voted in as new members. Waiting on an application for Dave, KC3TIA.

Shawn, KE6YCO, volunteered to assist with securing Brooms Island for our 2023 field day. Shawn lives near by the facility and is on the community board. He is also interested in revitalizing CERT in Calvert county.

STEM Event: Calvert High is hosting a Science and Engineering EXPO on Feb 25. Andy, KC3WRX, has sent in an application for a table on amateur radio. N3AE will assist.

Nominating committee: If you wish to be on the CARA nominating committee, please contact Erik, KC3QQD.

50/50: Don, KR3A. won the 50/50 and donated $26.00 to CARA. Thanks Don.

Presentation: Erik, KC3QQD, gave a very interesting presentation on Parks on the Air (POTA). The amount of POTA activity has increased significantly in the last year. Hopefully Erik’s presentation will be added to our web site shortly.

Recognition: Dave, W3PQS, recommended CARA purchase a plaque for Bill, N3XMZ, in appreciation of his many years of dedicated service as CARA’s president. The membership unanimously voted in favor. However, it appears that the few plaque makers in Calvert are closed or temporarily closed so there will be some delay.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm

2023 Meeting Presentation Schedule

Feb - Parks on the Air - Erik - KC3QQD

Mar - POTA Antennas - Dale KC3RKP

April - Business Meeting

May - PSK - Dave KB3RAN

June - Open ...... Field Day Overview

July - Business Meeting

Aug - Open

Sept - Open

Oct - Business Meeting

Nov - Open - Elections

Events for 2023

Feb - OPEN

Mar - OPEN

April - NVIS Day - Dave KB3RAN - Shawn N3AE

May - OPEN

June - Field Day - Dale KC3RKP - Dave W3PQS

July - OPEN

Aug - MDC QSO Party - Andy KC3WRX

Aug - Lighthouse weekend

Sep - Fox Hunt followed by picnic

Oct - OPEN

Nov - OPEN

DEC - Christmas Party

**Appendix to Feb 9, 2023 Meeting**

