**CARA BOARD MINUTES August 10, 2023**

**Board Members Attending: President Erik Johnson KC3QQD, Vice President Brian Kress KB3WFV (via Zoom), Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE. Members attending: Dave W3PQS, Andy KC3WRX**

Meeting called to order 6:36pm

The Board approved the July minutes.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer was not able to make the meeting but emailed that we had $5048.14 in our bank account. Recent checks include $144.20 for the previous president’s thank-you plaque and $74.95 for Field Day generator rental.

Per the bylaws, both the president and treasurer should have signature authority for the bank account. Erik needs to be put on the account in place of our past president.

The Board recommended that a portion of our bank balance, as much as 50%, be invested in either a higher yield account or a 6 month CD rather than sitting in a low yield account.

N3AE was tasked to contact N3XMZ to see what the status is for repair of antennas at Lusby and possibly Mt. Hope.

There was a discussion on rolling back our meetings to in-person only in order to improve member involvement and comradery. However, it was recognized that some members would benefit from Zoom access due to health conditions or travel. The secretary was tasked to poll the membership about the meeting format moving ahead.

There’s interest by several members in putting up a Winlink 2M or 70cm gateway in the county. Need some members to step up and work on this project. There’s also interest in APRS. N3AE believes we can set up one of the RACES radios as an APRS digipeater and will look further into feasibility.

The Board voted to proceed giving the repeater Skywarn message control codes to Skywarn net control operators in the adjacent counties served by our repeater during Skywarn activation. These individuals will be asked not to provide these codes to other parties without approval of our Skywarn coordinator, KC3WRX.

No new applications for membership were received.

The Board meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

**CARA MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES August 10, 2023**

**Attending: President Erik Johnson KC3QQD, Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE, Dave W3PQS, Peter N3PH, Andy KC3WRX, Dale KC3RKP, Mark KC3VNH, Jim WB3KAS, Wanda KA3AHI**

**Via Zoom: Vice President Brian Kress KB3WFV, Matt N3IVK, Dave KC3RWT,**

The meeting was called to order by President Erik Johnson at 7:30pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

New members: No new applications were received last month. CARA members are encouraged to invite people that may be interested in becoming amateur radio operators and possibly CARA members to our meetings.

The membership voted to approve the July minutes.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer was not able to make the meeting but emailed that we had $5048.14 in our bank account at the end of July.

Repeater Status – At the time of the meeting, there was no update regarding fixing the several antenna problems at the Lusby site and Mt Hope site that was reported on last month. N3AE was able to get the cross-band repeater working again at the Barstow shelter. For reasons unknown, it had changed frequencies and swapped the right and left side setups. It is now ready to relay Skywarn reports to the main Skywarn repeater in Bluemont, VA.

The AUXCOMM meeting for July 19 was cancelled and replaced with a request that members attend the public meeting that evening on the Calvert All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. N3AE and KC3WRX attended. Calvert citizens are encouraged to submit comments by **August 24** on the draft plan available at https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/3053/Hazard-Mitigation Calvert AUXCOMM members are strongly encouraged to review the plans and submit comments. The August 16 AUXCOMM meeting will focus on helping members resolve any Winlink hardware and software problems.

The fox hunt planned for September needs some volunteers to decide where the hunt should be and where to have a picnic afterwards. We also need to locate some fox equipment. There are a couple of “tape measure” 2M Yagi’s at Mt Hope which can be used to locate the fox.

The nominating committee is reminded that they need to submit a slate of nominations to the membership by October 1st.

Jim, WB3KAS, our MDC Section Emergency Coordinator, presented the draft plan for this October’s Simulated Emergency Test. We hope to post Jim’s presentation on the Calvert AUXCOMM site soon. The plan revolves around teams of three finding and photographing National Geodetic Survey Markers in their respective counties. There’s a marker locator at <https://geodesy.noaa.gov/NGSDataExplorer/>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm

2023 Meeting Presentation Schedule

Sept - Open

Oct - Business Meeting

Nov - Open - Elections

Events for 2023

Aug 19 - Lighthouse weekend

Sep - Fox Hunt followed by picnic

Oct - OPEN

Nov - OPEN

DEC - Christmas Party