MDC Section News July 2024

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\*MDC SECTION OPEN POSITIONS

The following positions are available on the MDC Section Staff:

Emergency coordinator in the following Counties:

Baltimore /Kent/ Queen Anne/ Somerset/ Talbot

Technical Specialists for the Maryland Hospital Program

Local Government Liaisons

Public Information Officer

Technical Specialist - Website Developer (Wordpress)

For more information, please send an email to me at ab3wg@arrl.org

\* MDC SECTION-WIDE ECHOLINK NET

This month’s MDC Section wide EchoLink net will be held on Friday July 19 2024 at 8:00 PM ET on the EchoLink WASH\_DC Node 6154. The MDC Section EchoLink net is always held on the third Friday evening of every month at 8:00 PM eastern local time. EchoLink Link Repeaters for Net If you would like to join in on RF the following repeaters are linked.

- KA2JAI-R to Millersville repeater 146.805- PL107.2

- WB3GXW-R, 147.225(+), PL156.7 Hz, Calverton, MD

- W3FDK-R, 146.73(-), PL141.3 Hz, Frederick, MD

- K3CAL-R, 146.985(-), PL156.7, Sunderland, MD

- K3ERA-R, 145.230(-), PL110.9, District Heights, MD

- W3SMD-L, 147.51, Simplex, St Mary's County, MD

- WA3DZD-R Maryland FM Association

Repeater owners are encouraged to join our MDC Section EchoLink Net group and link your repeater - TU! Everyone is encouraged to join in and give any updates on what is happening in your part of the ARRL Maryland-DC Section. You may download the free software from: http://echolink.org/register\_data.jsp or your App Store online. Thanks John Creel WB3GXW for making the WASH\_DC EchoLink server and his WB3GXW-R repeater available for the EchoLink nets.

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\*\* SECTION MANAGERS NOTES

Field Day – This year I decided to visit clubs on the eastern shore. I visited the Kent, Queen Anne, and Easton clubs. I was very impressed with the setups and equipment these clubs had, especially given the 100 degree heat. My hope is that you will share lessons learned with local club members and fellow hams.

Staff Meetings – We have had a busy week, our section manager staff meeting on the 16th and our first series of MDC staff meetings on the 17th. Lots of good information came out of these meetings, I look forward to continuing our progress.

ARRL - Lotw is back in service, as is the ARRL learning Center. The July board meeting is the 19th and 20th. My .org address is now working again ([ab3wg@arrl.org](mailto:ab3wg@arrl.org)). However, the database for EC’s reporting ARES activities is still not available, nor is section wide email.

Let's continue working and learning together.

Tu es 73,

Chris Van Winkle AB3WG

Maryland / DC Section Manager, ARRL

240-755-4257

AB3WG@ARRL.ORG

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\* DIVISION NEWS

Our Division Director Bob Famiglio K3RF and Vice Director Marty Pittinger KB3MXM held a division section manager meeting at the end of June. It was great to meet the other section managers in the division and hear about the kinds of things they are doing. Many of us spoke about similar issues, and my hope is that both Bob and Marty came away with good input for the upcoming board meeting. Thanks to both for holding this meeting and we look forward to meeting with you both again soon.

Please visit the Atlantic Division website atldiv.org

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\* UPCOMING HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

10/06/2024 - CARA Fest 2024

Location: West Friendship, MD

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Columbia Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://www.carafest.org>

10/12/2024 - SMCARA Tailgate Fest (**not yet Approved**)

Location: Hollywood, MD

Sponsor: St Mary’s County Amateur Radio Association

Website: http://Public@smcara.groups.io

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\* EXAMS ACTIVITIES OPPORTUNITIES & SPECIAL EVENTS

Please send me your upcoming ARC events, suggestions and comments. You may view upcoming Hamfests here: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>. I plan to attend your ARRL Maryland-DC Section events.

FCC AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS:

VEC website or Laurel VEC for details.

https://larc-vec.org/home.php

Laurel VEC License Exam Search: https://larc-vec.org

Test Dates in Essex:

Sept.21st

Nov.16th

Contact Pat Stone [AC3F@arrl.net](mailto:AC3F@arrl.net) for more information.

NET CONTROL OPERATORS NEEDED:

Baltimore Traffic Net - Contact Baltimore Traffic Net Manager, Don N3FQC [N3FQC@ARRL.net](mailto:N3FQC@ARRL.net)

MDC Section Nets:

Baltimore Traffic Net - 146.670 tone 107.2 Daily 18:30 more information at https://www.baltimoretraffic.net/

Maryland Emergency Phone Net - 3820 / 1920 & 7243 kHz LSB Daily 1800L

Maryland Delaware DC - MDD meets daily at 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM local time on 3.557 MHz. CW

Maryland Slow Net - MSN meets daily at 7:30 PM Eastern Time on 3563 KHZ. CW

HF Hospital Net - The HF Hospital Net is held on the Wednesday following the third Monday of every month. Start time is 1900L on 3820kHz

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\* SKYWARN REPORT AI0K

Historically July and August are when we have the most severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. We've already had numerous severe weather events throughout the National Weather Service Baltimore/Washington office with several SKYWARN activations. And now we have hot weather and droughts, but thunderstorms are in the forecast for the next several days. Some of these storms will probably be severe and SKYWARN may again be activated. Please be aware of the weather around you. When a severe thunderstorm warning is issued for your area, check your local SKYWARN net to see what's happening. The Baltimore/Washington NWS Weather Forecasting Office warning area includes all of Maryland west of the Chesapeake Bay up to and including Cecil County. In this area you can find your net frequency and more information on our website https://www.wx4lwx.us. Those on the Eastern Shore will have to check the NWS office for your area.

And while we're discussing severe weather, hurricane season has started with a bang.. Hurricane Beryl is history after setting several records including the earliest major (Category 3+) in the Atlantic on record and the fastest to grow to Category 5. Fortunately, it missed us but caused significant wind damage and flooding in Texas. I'm bringing it up because the NWS has predicted this will be a very active and possibly record hurricane season. And as we've seen in the past, one or more may reach our area. If one does, your reports to the NWS will be critical.

>> I attended the SKYWARN Basics class in Westminster on July 11th, with a good turnout. It was good to get an eyeball with hams I've talked to on the radio. Always an enjoyable experience. There is a class in Garrett County scheduled for October 9th and I hope to meet more hams there.

>> We haven't had any hamfests (that I know of, anyway) for the last month but we will have a SKYWARN table at the Berryville, Va. hamfest on August 4th. If you're planning to attend, please stop by our table.

>> SKYWARN is one simplest yet arguably most important contributions you can make to your community. All you need to do is sit at your home and report what you see. Due to your report the NWS may issue a warning, potentially saving lives.

>> Jerry, AI0K

>> SKYWARN Amateur Radio Coordinator

>> National Weather Service Baltimore/Washington

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\*SECTION EMER COORDINATORS REPORT KG4WWH

League Reporting is not available at this time.

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\* MDC SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER'S REPORT W3YVQ

MDC NETS 2406:

**MEPN**/C2, MARYLAND EMERGENCY PHONE NET, 3820/2200Z-DY

Liaisons: 3RN2/WVA/DTN/MDD/BTN/DTS/WL2K/EL, LSB

MEPN 2406 W3YVQ QND/30 QNI/368 QTC/44 MINS/590

**BTN**/C4, BALTIMORE TRAFFIC NET, 146.67/107.2/1830L-DY

Liaisons: MEPN/MDD/DTS/WL2K, 6.805/107.2 bu1, 6.67S bu2

BTN 2406 N3FQC QND/30 QNI/264 QTC/46 MINS/531

**MDD**/C4, MARYLAND/DC/DELAWARE NET, 3557/1900L-2200L-DY

Liaisons: 3RN4/DTN/MEPN/BTN/MSN/DTS/WL2K, CW

MDD 2406 AA3SB QND/56 QNI/151 QTC/2 MINS/280

(Est. QNI, MINS; NO REPORT)

**MSN**, MARYLAND SLOW NET, 3563/1930L-DY TRAINING,

Liaisons: MDD, CW

MSN 2406 N3AEA QND/21 QNI/60 QTC/6 MINS/299

**PSHR** 2406: KK3F 160, NI2W 156, W3YVQ 127, WB3FTQ 75, KB3MXK 75;

**TFC** 2406: KK3F 729, WB3FTQ 84, W3YVQ 32, NI2W 21, KB3MXK 15.

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HF PROPAGATION JUN 2024

MEPN NVIS propagation (2130Z to about 2220Z) was poor in June due to the late-afternoon E and D layer absorption conditions, signals dipping down and becoming weaker temporarily some days around 2200Z, and a significant amount of solar activity which caused additional absorption. Solar cycle 25 continued in May with 3 X-class and 53 M-class x-ray flares with subsequent blackouts sub-solar, continental, and polar. High-energy particle arrivals from flare-related CMEs continued the absorption losses and even caused functional blackouts for hours and days in some instances. The story is not all bad, however. All the excitation of the F layers allowed for great band openings up through six meters after the periods of disruption. The afternoon MUF for 3,000KM at 2100Z was often above 25MHz. and 40M NVIS remained viable. Signals early and late on both MDD/4 and 3RN/4 were acceptable throughout the month. We are enjoying summer conditions with little QRN so far.

Stations may also use Echolink on the WB3GXW-L conference-server, if necessary. MEPN representatives check for Echolink check-ins starting at net call daily via the WB3GXW-L link node (or \*WASH\_DC\* conference-server backup). The conference-server is available for MEPN, MDD, BTN, MSN, and 3RN stations during periods of failed propagation. Sincere thanks to John, WB3GXW, and John, WA3MNN, for continuing to provide and maintain the WB3GXW-L conference-server we use daily.

DIGITAL MODES

ICS form email-formatted content (upper and lower case letters, figures, and standard email punctuation symbols), exported from FLmsg(tm) to a text file, may be attached to a Winlink Radio-email for transport to any legal client; and that file also may be copied and pasted into a legacy Radiogram as the text between the Breaks. This creates a Hybrid Radiogram which may be posted on the RRI/DTN for transport to any legal Radiogram addressee. The RRI/DTN accepts the email-formatted text in the Text-block which may be recovered by the addressee for delivery to a client via digital means. RRI/DTN and WL2K reps regularly attend the MEPN, BTN, and MDD nets. Emergency communicators, including ARES(r)/NTS/RACES and ARESMAT, will be using these modern digital modes to support served agencies and the public. Join up now - before the emergency happens.

MANNING

We continue to be in need of county liaisons on our nets to accept incoming welcoming Radiogram messages for newcomers for delivery by local hams who can help them get started. MEPN is looking for additional NCS stations and liaisons to MDD. MDD is in need of additional CW operators for daily NCSs and liaisons to the higher nets. Newcomers are welcome - we will train you on the job. The daily Maryland Slow Net (MSN, 3563, 1930L dy) can help you learn net and message skills on CW. The CW mode is used by both the NTS and RRI nets in the evening cycle. It is still a highly efficient and effective mode of messaging even after a century - and every message group is spelled out for you.

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Thanks to all the Section’s traffic-net NCS operators, RRI/DTN and WL2K stations, liaisons, and traffic handlers for the continuing effort to keep the nets running and traffic moving.

73, W3YVQ, MDC ASM, STM

w3yvq atsign arrl dot net

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\* TMARC Report

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