**Calvert Amateur Radio Association**

**14 Nov 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

The Board Meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by President Brian Kress, KB3WFV. Present were: Vice President Erik Johnson KC3QQD, Treasurer Richard Ratcliffe W3RBR, Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE, Director Dave Weaver W3PQS. Also attending were members Andy KC3WRX, Lisa Kress, Kim K3OCM, and Bill N3XMZ.

**President** –

* The October Board minutes (Revision 2) were approved.
* Requested feedback on any spelling errors on documents he sends or posts to the web site or Facebook so they can be corrected.
* Proposed reimbursing Kim, K3OCM, for the very nice badges he has procured for CARA members. The Board agreed.
* Plan on reserving Brooms Island again for Field Day but if something better comes up we can switch. New plans for the antennas include the use of combiners and band pass filters to allow more than one station (each on separate bands) to share the same antenna. Brian is currently footing the bill for the combiners and band pass filters.
* Presented the proposed 2025 budget to the Board. The Board recommended adjusting the budget for CARA badges to $300.00. With that change, the Board agreed to submit the budget for membership vote, including the badge reimbursement line item.
* Recommended donating $100.00 to the Brooms Island Community Center for our past use of their facility for Field Day. The Board concurred.
* Discussed efforts to get CARA members involved in Parks on the Air (POTA) by trying to activate a number of parks in Calvert County over the next year. Several CARA members are already enthusiastic POTA operators and can help new comers to the activity.
* Reminder that the CARA Holiday Party / 70th CARA anniversary is set for Dec 7, 3-7pm at Bulrushes in Prince Frederick. Looking for ideas to make it a nice function. Club funded but looking for member support too in the form of $10.00 tickets. So far about 18 of the available 50 tickets have been taken.
* Requested reimbursement for items purchased to prepare the Yaesu HT for the successful raffle in September, along with other parts for future raffle of a FT-897. Items purchased are:
  + Yaesu wall charger for raffled radio.
  + Yaesu Battery for raffled radio.
  + Yaesu power cord for raffled radio.
  + Yaesu microphone for radio to be raffled.
  + Metal enclosures for Repeater ADR's.
  + Roll of raffle tickets.
  + Club information cards.

The total is $288.75.

* Suggested we check the available CARA equipment inventory for functional scanners, program them with local repeater and other frequencies, and take to the Calvert Education STEM event (likely in February). The scanners could be offered to young people, either for a small donation, on loan, or just raffled away. This may spark some interest in amateur radio.
* Brian suggested we hold the Maryland QSO party at his house. That worked out very well last year.

**Vice President** –

* Nothing new to report.

**Treasurer** –

* CARA has $5917.01 in the bank as of Oct 31, 2024. A Certificate of Deposit (approximate value of $3,083) was renewed at a rate of 4.1%

**Secretary**-

* The items disposed of at the SMCARA hamfest on Oct 12 brought in $111.00. A check was sent to the Treasurer.

**Director** –

* Dave and W3RBR could still use some additional help with the holiday party setup and decorations. Also, all members are asked to forward any CARA related pictures and videos to W3PQS so he can prepare something nice for the party.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:22pm

**General Membership Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm.

Present were:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Brian KB3WFV | Erik KC3QQD | Tom KC3YZZ | Dave W3PQS |
| Bill N3XMZ | Kim K3OCM | Phil NO3N | Dave KC3RWT |
| Nigel G0JKN | Peter N3PH | Daire AC3KX | Todd W3EME |
| Drew KN4VWB | Andy KC3WRX | Richard W3RBR | Shawn N3AE |
| Shorty KC3ZPC |  |  |  |

* Minutes for October 2024 were approved.
* Welcome to new members:
  + Tom, KC3YZZ (voted in at the meeting)

**President**

* Presented the 2025 budget, which was approved at the meeting by membership vote.
* Election of 2025 Officers was held at the November meeting. With the candidates being unopposed, an open vote was taken. The 2025 officers are:
  + President – Brian Kress KB3WFV
  + Vice President – Erik Johnson KC3QQD
  + Treasurer – Andy Charland KC3WRX
  + Secretary – Shawn Donley N3AE
  + Director – Dave Weaver W3PQS
* Gave a brief review of RACES, ARES and our linked repeater system for the benefit of new operators.
* Voted in a new member, Tom, KC3YZZ. Welcome Tom!

**Vice President** – No new inputs.

**Treasurer -** CARA has $5917.01 in the bank as of Oct 31, 2024. A Certificate of Deposit (approximate value of $3,083) was renewed.

**Secretary –** No new inputs.

**Director** - Dave, W3PQS, enjoyed participating in the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on Nov 2nd. Looking for CARA related pictures and videos for the holiday (and CARA anniversary) party.

**RACES** – Bill, N3XMZ, showed the membership the defective antennas that were removed and replaced with new on the Lusby tower. The antennas had a combination of bent and loose radials, plus the fasteners that hold the antennas and connectors to the mount were either loose or missing. The new replacement antennas (also Diamond X300NA’s) along with their new jumper cables are working well. The feedlines and antennas were tested using professional equipment. The sweep files are available.

**ARES/ Skywarn** – Andy, KC3WRX, gave a quick summary of the SET which he supported by operating from the EOC. Requested that participants provide notes on the operation to share at the next AUXCOMM meeting (Nov 21). Dave, W3PQS, added some thoughts about past SET exercises and the interesting scenarios involved. There’s a virtual class on winter weather being offered on Dec 5th. See <https://www.weather.gov/lwx/SKYWARN> December 7th is also Skywarn appreciation day the the NWS Sterling VA office.

**Misc –**

Dave KC3RWT, Kim K3OCM and Peter N3PH volunteered to be on the CARA Audit Committee for 2025. The Audit Committee will report their report findings at the spring 2025 General Meeting.

K3OCM won the 50-50 and donated the entire amount ($50) to CARA. Thanks Kim!

Breakfast this Saturday at the Wagon Wheel in Churchton

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm

Click on the embedded pdf file below to see 2025 budget.

