**Calvert Amateur Radio Association**

**13 Feb 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

The Board Meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by President, Brian Kress, KB3WFV. Attending were Vice President, Erik Johnson, KB3QQD, Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE, and Director Dave Weaver W3PQS. Also attending were members Lisa Kress, Andy, KC3WRX, and via Zoom, Bill W3SI and Kim, K3OCM. A few other members arrived well into the Board meeting and are not listed here.

**President** –

* Brian attended the license testing session at the Anne Arundel club to see how it was run and discuss some options for testing in Calvert County. Two options presented themselves:
	+ Local testing, requiring a CARA Team Lead along with 3 to 4 Volunteer Examiners from CARA (all under the Laurel VEC). Minimum of three test sessions per year.
	+ The Anne Arundel testing team would be willing to travel to Calvert and run a test session if enough advance notice was provided.
* STEM Event
	+ The 12th Annual Science and Engineering EXPO will be held on Feb. 22, 2025, at Calvert High School from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. CARA will be there operating both HF/VHF stations as an ARRL Special Event under the club callsign, K3CAL. Several CARA members have volunteered to help. The President reminded the volunteers that we are guests at the school and need to focus on the students and parents coming to the event rather than clustering and having a bull session. Andy, KC3WRX, is in charge of CARA’s participation and scheduling volunteers during the event period. No more than 4 volunteers are needed at the same time.

**Vice-President**

* Erik prepared a presentation about Parks on the Air (POTA) to give at the General Meeting.

**Secretary**

* The secretary requested that the grant funds be tracked separately from other CARA funds to provide clear traceability on grant expenditures.

**Treasurer**

* The Treasurer, KC3WRX, formally submitted his resignation from the Treasurer position owing to other time commitments. He provided the latest financial data to the President before the meeting. CARA has $15,912.39 as of Jan 31, of which $11,000.00 is the grant award from Mobile Communications America. During January, $912.63 was added to the CARA account and $200.99 used to pay expenses, leaving the balance stated above.

**Director** –

* Nothing to report

**Misc**

* The Board directed the President to find a good local bank money market account for the $11,000.00 MCA grant money. The Board also directed the President to renew our Certificate of Deposit (comes due in March) at the best rate and with a longer term (suggested 6 to 8 months).
* The Board will meet at noon on March 1st at KB3WFV’s QTH to discuss how to best employ the MCA grant money for amateur radio public outreach in the county.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:29pm

**General Membership Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Brian KB3WFV | Erik KC3QQD | Dave W3PQS | Shawn N3AE |
| Andy KC3WRX | Peter N3PH | Daire AC3KX | Dale N3ILH |
| Lisa Kress | Andy WA4BRX | Nigel G0JKN | Shorty KC3ZPC |
| Mark KC3VNH | Tom KC3YZZ | Scott W3JSH (Zoom) | Todd W3EME |
| Bill W3SI (Zoom) | Kim K3OCM (Zoom) | Phil NO3N (Zoom) | Scott W3GTR (Zoom) |
| Drew KN4VWB (Zoom) |  |  |  |

Please see Board minutes for information that was repeated during the General Meeting

**President**

* The first CARA POTA event will be at Calvert Cliffs State Park on April 6th. The intent of this event is to come and see how experienced POTA operators set up and run their station. At later events, members will be encouraged to bring their own gear and set up.
* The President is investigation ways to possibly secure weather stations for members so they can better participate in Skywarn and weather reporting to the NWS.

**Vice President** –

* Erik gave a great presentation on POTA, explaining how to register on the POTA site, submit logs, etc. Andy, WA4BRX, showed the group his POTA equipment including some interesting portable antennas. Andy will be presenting more on POTA at a future meeting.

**Treasurer –**

* Our Treasurer, Andy, KC3WRX, had submitted his resignation prior to the meeting. Per the CARA bylaws to fill an officer vacancy, the floor was open for nominations for the position of Treasurer. Lisa Kress was nominated, With no other nominations, the membership present unanimously voted in favor for Lisa as Treasurer. Congratulations Lisa.

**Secretary**

* Based on a quick web search, it looks like the next “NVIS Day” event will be April 26, 2025. NVIS Day is sponsored by Ohio ARES. CARA has participated in past years by setting up in a local park for the event.

**Director** - No new inputs

**RACES** – No report

**ARES/ Skywarn**

* Andy, KC3WRX, reports that Skywarn is still trying to organize some virtual training.

**Field Day**

* Unless a better venue can be found, CARA will once again be at Brooms Island for the 2025 Field Day. The President took an action to reserve the venue for June 28-29. KB3WFV has arranged to bring bandpass filters and combiners so antennas can be shared among transceivers. Members are encouraged to bring their own familiar gear to use but remember that each operation position will be dedicated to the one band only associated with the bandpass filter installed at that position.
* Our 2025 budget for activities, including but not limited to Field Day, is $400.00
* Thanks to the following members who have volunteered to organize Field Day this year:
	+ Nigel, G0JKN
	+ Todd, W3EME
	+ Shorty, KC3ZPC
	+ Dave, W3PQS
	+ Andy, KC3WRX

The 50-50 pot was $42.00. Daire, AC3KX, was the lucky winner and donated the entire pot to CARA. Thanks Daire!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm