**Calvert Amateur Radio Association**

**13 Mar 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

The Board Meeting was called to order at 6:50pm by President, Brian Kress, KB3WFV. Attending were Vice President, Erik Johnson, KB3QQD, Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE, and Treasurer Lisa Kress. Also attending were members Andy, KC3WRX A few other members arrived well into the Board meeting and are not listed here.

**Summary** –

* The President and Treasurer moved the MCA grant funds ($11,000.00) to a money market at Truist Bank with a variable rate currently at 3.66%. Planning on adding the Secretary to signature authority at our banks to provide backup to President and Treasurer.
* Approved the January and February Board minutes
* Recent equipment donations by W3ERD … after discussion, the Board decided to identify the value of the equipment by searching on eBay, QTH.com and other amateur radio sites. The list of 57 items was broken into five groups to share the task by .KB3WFV, Lisa, N3AE, KC3QQD and KC3WRX. After obtaining the values, the gear will be offered to CARA members for some fraction (TBD) of the identified cost. First come, first served with the equipment in as-is condition.
	+ 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 was held on Feb. 22, 2025, at Calvert High School from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. CARA was there with both a VHF and HF station. A number of students and their families stopped by to learn about amateur radio and make a contact or two. Five scanners were raffled off (at no cost) to lucky winners. We had a signup list for those interested in amateur radio and/or electronics classes. Need to follow-up with those expressing interest,

With no further business, the Board 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 | Drew KN4VWB |
| Mark KC3VNH | Ed WB6NCO | Tim WA7TOF | Kim K3OCM (Zoom |

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

**President**

* Our first CARA POTA event will be at Calvert Cliffs State Park on April 6th.starting around 9am. Please come and learn about Parks on the Air.
* NVIS Day is April 26th. KC3WRX has arranged for space at Ward Park in front of the old farm house. Bring your own chairs and refreshments. NVIS day is sponsored by Ohio ARES to encourage use of Near Vertical Incidence antennas for 80M and 40M communications by using the ionosphere directly overhead to refract/reflect signals back towards their point of origin and a roughly a 300+ mile radius around that point.
* The Board is working on a plan to dispose of equipment recently donated by W3ERD’s family. Most of this gear is rather old, vintage 1970’s and 80’s, and probably has not seen power in ten years.

**Vice President** –

* Erik mentioned amateur radio to a Girl Scout leader at one of the many cookie sales tables around the county. They are interested in learning more. The idea was raised to invite troops to our Field Day and using that experience to secure merit badges. Erik has also made a contact with the local Civil Air Patrol. CARA had made some inroads with the Civil Air Patrol previously but it didn’t pan out after their local squadron leader was promoted to another position.

**Treasurer –**

* Lisa reported the following as of February 28th 2025
	+ Income $320.20
	+ Paid Out $29.40
	+ CARA Checking Account Balance $16,280.02
	+ Certified Deposit $3,128.34
	+ As of March 06th
	+ Renewed CD for 8 months at 3.93 %
	+ Opened Money Market at Truist Bank
	+ Transferred $11,000.00 (MCA grant),  at 3.66% variable

**Secretary**

* Reminder about digital mode practice on Wednesday’s at 5pm. We use the repeater system for coordination. Plans for march 19 are to practice MT63-2000L again. In the future we’ll try VARA FM.
* Odenton Hamfest is April 27th. See <https://sites.google.com/view/marylandmobileers/hamfest>

**Director** - No new inputs

**RACES** – No report

**ARES/ Skywarn**

* Andy, KC3WRX, reports that Skywarn is still trying to organize some virtual training but has faced new setbacks due to employees taking the early retirement offer. Andy will give a Skywarn presentation at our next meeting on April 10th

**Field Day**

* The President has reserved Brooms Island Community Center 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. Thanks again to the members below who have volunteered to plan Field Day for CARA.
	+ Nigel, G0JKN
	+ Todd, W3EME
	+ Shorty, KC3ZPC
	+ Dave, W3PQS
	+ Andy, KC3WRX

**Misc**

* The Radio Shack in Prince Frederick is closing.

The 50-50 pot was $33.00. Daire, AC3KX, was the lucky winner AGAIN and donated the entire pot to CARA. Thanks Daire!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm and turned over to Andy, WA4BRX, for an excellent presentation on his POTA activation in Hawaii. The presentation was very informative and hopefully we can post it on our web site soon.