**Calvert Amateur Radio Association**

**8 May & 12 June 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**Special Note on May Meeting**

The May 2025 general meeting was devoted to a Skywarn Basics class taught by the NWS virtually over the internet. A very brief Board meeting was held and the following information was provided:

Treasurer’s report (balances as of 30Apr2025):

Checking $4,981.70

CD $3,159.10

Truist Bank MM $11,055.31 (MCA Grant)

Bulrushes Café confirmed on Dec 13 for the CARA holiday party.

**June Board of Directors Meeting**

The Board Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by President Brian Kress. See the attendance table below under the General Membership Meeting.

**Actions:** –

Minutes from the April Board meeting approved.

Bill, N3RY, was approved for CARA membership. Welcome Bill !

**President/Treasurer:**

* After the May meeting, additional discussions between Calvert Emergency Management and Calvert Parks & recreation resulted in permission to use the Mt Hope Community Center free of charge. This includes holding a sale of surplus equipment. July 12 or July 19 was suggested for the sale. The President will check with Mt. Hope on the best date and time while considering the limited parking available at Mt Hope. Announcements to CARA and other local clubs will include a recommendation to car pool to help with the parking situation.
* The Board meeting was purposely held short to use the remaining time for final Field Day planning.

No further business, meeting adjourned at 6:41

**June General Membership Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm.

Present were:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Brian KB3WFV | Erik KC3QQD | Dave W3PQS | Richard W3RBR |
| Ed WB6NCO | Nigel G0JKN | Daire AC3KX (Zoom) | Phil NO3N |
| Lisa Kress | Shawn N3AE | Joe Mandile | Shorty KC3ZPC |
| Tim WA7TOF | Bob N3PPH | Andy KC3WRX | Mike AL3G |

* The General Meeting’s main focus was on Field Day preparations. No treasurer’s report was given.
* Approved the April Minutes (May meeting was a Skywarn class)
* The County monitors our repeater during bad weather & Skywarn. Please keep the communications as professional as possible.
* Food for Field Day will be pot luck. The following members offered to bring:
  + KC3WRX – Sausage/Brats
  + W3PQS – Spaghetti Casserole
  + Marge – Lemon Bars
  + KC3ZPC – Wings
  + WB6NCO – Chips
  + KC3QQD – Ice Cream
  + N3AE – Hot Dog Buns
  + AE3DT - Breakfast on Sunday
* Field Day setup will begin around 8:30 am on June 28 at the Brooms Island Community Center, 4080 School Rd, Broomes Island, MD 20615. Google Map link:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/7SA7P5w6JwW2Ruvy8>

The community center is available to us for the entire weekend including overnight on Saturday.

* The antenna plan is to use a set of fan dipoles, one set for 80M and 40M, the other set for 20M, 15M and 10M, with the feed points mounted on the same mast with the two dipole sets at right angles to each other. Two feedlines will enter the building where they will feed a pair of VA6AM triplexers and then onto individual band pass filters for 80M, 40M, 20M, 15M and 10M. **EACH STATION POSITION IS THEREFORE DEDICATED TO ONE AND ONLY ONE BAND.**  Members are welcome to bring their own radios but keep them on the band associated with that station’s filter. CARA is not responsible if you break your radio trying to operate it on a different band than the station position’s filter.
* Please, don’t bring unplanned pop-up stations or antennas other than those on filters or we’ll suffer inter-station interference. Exception is VHF/UHF gear.
* Field Day entries are classified according to the maximum number of ***simultaneously*** transmitted signals. One GOTA and one VHF/UHF station doesn’t count. While we should be capable of operating 5 HF bands simultaneously, we have yet to decide on our entrance category, e.g. 3A, 4A or 5A. But once that decision is made, it can’t be changed for the duration of Field Day.
* G0JKN has put the N3FJP field day logging software on several laptops (one for each station plus spares) which will be networked by hard wire CAT6.
* Transceivers:
  + G0JKN bringing two Kenwood TM-450S HF transceivers with built-in antenna tuners, associated microphones and two power supplies.
  + KC3WRX bringing one HF transceiver, microphone, and power supply
  + N3AE bringing a FT-897, microphone, LDG tuner and power supply
  + KC3QQD bringing one HF transceiver, microphone, and power supply
  + CARA’s Elecraft K3, microphone, and LDG tuner – still need a power supply
* Generator:
  + W3RBR bringing a quiet Honda 1.5KW generator plus gasoline
* Antenna Mast(s) (planning on only one HF mast but maybe another for VHF/UHF)
  + CARA’s aluminum pole mast with guy lines and guy rings (no tripod)
  + W3RBR – one or more aluminum pole masts with tripods, guy wires and guy rings.
* Misc
  + N3AE bringing a paddle with an electronic keyer and another separate paddle
  + N3AE bringing some ropes, sling shot and tennis ball launcher (to use if needed)
  + N3AE and W3PQS will bring items from CARA storage including Field Day displays.
* All
  + All operators are encouraged to bring their own earphones with adapters to fit both ¼ inch and 1/8 inch jacks. Operating with earphones is highly recommended since all stations are in the same room.
* Eyeball QSO’s
  + The community center building has two large rooms. We ask that all eyeball QSO’s and food consumption **NOT** be held in the room housing the operating stations.
* 50/50 brought in $37.00, half to the winner and half to the club, Shawn N3AE was the winner, his share was donated back to the club.
* With no further business or discussion, motion was made and seconded to adjourn at around 8:35pm