

# **Calvert Amateur Radio Association**

## **9 Apr 2026 Meeting Minutes**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

The Board Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by President, Brian Kress, KB3WFV. Officers present were: Erik Johnson KC3QQD (Vice-President), Lisa Kress (Treasurer), Dave Weaver W3PQS (Director) and Shawn Donley N3AE (Secretary). Members present were Andy KC3WRX, Nigel G0JKN, Kim K3OCM and Johnathan, N5WTA.

### **Misc:**

- The Mach Board minutes were approved.
- Erik, KC3QQD, requested reimbursement for the Zoom account in the amount of \$164.70. The Board approved.

### **President:**

- Brian's home address is the address used for CARA's non-profit status paperwork.
- The bill for the Post Office box is due by the end of April. Cost is \$188.00 per year. We need to keep the PO Box address for the FCC, etc.
- Brian discovered that Zoom offers a reduced rate of \$85 per year for non-profits. He will pursue getting an account for CARA and set this up so administration can be moved between individuals.
- Trash or Treasure sale set for Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> at Mt Hope. Free admission. The big room has been secured. Attendees must come in through the front door but the doors in the room leading to the outside can be used for exiting. Table rentals are also available for \$10.00. With limited parking at Mt Hope, carpooling is recommended. The Park and Ride nearby can be used but no transportation will be provided by CARA. Lisa and Christina will handle cash collections. N3AE and W3PQS will man the storage room and make decisions on pricing (i.e. which table an item will go on).
- Decision made to include the old TK880 link radios in the Trash or Treasure event. The gin pole will be retained by CARA.
- The old 70cm dipole array from the Prince Frederick tower is currently on the list for Trash or Treasure but during the previous meeting we decided to test it first, which has not happened yet.
- CARA is raffling off a Yaesu FT891 HF + 50 MHz All Mode Mobile Transceiver With MH-31A8J Mic, AND a LDG Z100 A Automatic Antenna Tuner. Tickets are \$10.00 See [www.k3cal.club](http://www.k3cal.club) for details and ticket purchase. This item has a reserve; Raffle will not be drawn until the reserve is met.

### **Vice-President:**

- Erik is preparing grant applications to several organizations.

### **Secretary:**

- No new inputs.

**Director:**

- Dave, W3PQS, reported that his 6M repeater is back on the air with a new single receive site located on the State Highway tower in Prince Frederick.

**Treasurer:**

CARA account balances as of March 31st 2026 are below. A full summary of activity for March 2026 is at the end of these minutes.

\$ 4,301.50 PNC Checking  
\$ 3,270.99 PNC Certified Deposit  
\$ 11,246.89 Truist Money Market

**Repeater Discussion:**

- W3SMM recommended relocation of the repeaters to a more central location in the county. This isn't possible as all our repeater antennas and feedlines are the property of Calvert County, not CARA. Not to mention the expense for relocation (climbers, etc)
- N3AE suggested getting some VOIP equipment to link the Sunderland and Lusby repeaters before making a decision to purchase new repeaters. No action was taken since the price of this gear was unknown.
- K3OCM recommended that the E-Pipe connection between the Sunderland and Lusby tower shelters be verified as functional ASAP. Note: Subsequent to the meeting, Johnathan W5WTA successfully installed some temporary gear at both sites to verify the link is alive and functioning. Thanks Johnathan!

**AUXCOMM:**

- N3AE reminded everyone about plans for NVIS Day on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Board meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

## **General Membership Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 7:41pm

Present were:

Brian KB3WFV	Erik KC3QQD	Shawn N3AE	Dave W3PQS
Lisa Kress	Nigel G0JKN	Peter N3PH	<u>Nick WB2ASR</u>
Daire AC3KX	Ron WSIT671	Kim K3OCM	<u>Tom AA3SC</u>
Andy KC3WRX	Johnathan W5WTA	Dwight KD3CZT (zoom)	<u>Joe KD3BLI (zoom)</u>
Melvin KC3TAT (zoom)	Phil NO3N (zoom)		

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

- Members voted to approve the March 2026 minutes and this month's Treasurer's report.

### **President:**

- The May 16 Trash or Treasure event is on. See the Board minutes for details. Everything goes "As-Is." No returns. No refunds.
- Don't forget to purchase a raffle ticket for the Yaesu FT-891 at k3cal.club
- Zoom offers an account for ½ price for non-profits. Brian will pursue getting an account for CARA.
- Audit Committee – The paperwork is ready and was given to G0JKN who is leading the audit committee (G0JKN, KC3YZZ, KC3VNH).
- Brian will provide G0JKN with names of Calvert officers to invite to Field Day.

### **New Members:**

- We have had an influx of new members recently. The President has compiled an updated list which has been emailed to the membership. We currently are at 54 members.

### **Treasurer:**

- See the Board Minutes for the Treasurer's report.

### **Director:**

- Dave, W3PQS, reported that his 6M repeater is back on the air with a new single receive site located on the State Highway tower in Prince Frederick. The transmitter is still on the hospital roof. The repeater output is on 53.170 with an input on 52.170 using a PL of 100Hz.

## Repeater:

- The current Yaesu DR-1X repeaters at Sunderland and Lusby are 15 years old and showing their age. Recently the system failed during a storm event, affecting Skywarn. The Sunderland site may have some interference sources and there is a concern that a new repeater system could face similar issues. However, since the 70cm RF link between the sites has been disabled, the system seems to be more stable. The proposed new Kenwood repeaters will link through the network E-Pipe provided by the county and would not rely on the 70cm RF links. The proposed new system would be commercial grade Kenwood NXR-1700 (VHF) and NXR-1800 (UHF) repeaters. Two internet switches will also be required. The estimated cost for the new gear is \$6000.00.
- KC3WRX made a motion to purchase the two new repeaters and W3PQS seconded the motion. A vote of the membership present was in favor and the motion to purchase the repeaters and internet switches was approved.
- Donations to cover the cost of the new repeater system are encouraged. See <https://www.k3cal.club/donate.html> to make a donation.

## Youth Outreach:

- Nick, WB2ASR, met with Lisa Grenis from the Calvert School Board and the principal of Calvert Elementary, Dr. Christina Harris. Planning for an event focused at introducing younger students (10 year old) to basic radio. Possibly an event tracking a satellite. Timeline might be the current school year but more likely next year. G0JKN suggested setting up a Discord channel for education. The suggestion was well received by membership and W5WTA agreed to set it up.

## Field Day Plans:

- Nigel, G0JKN, is leading the Field Day planning this year which will be at Brooms Island Community Center, 4080 School Road, Broomes Island on June 27-28. The 80/40 dipole from last year will be used. A new 20/15/10 dipole may be made. Like last year, combiners and bandpass filters will be used. We will have one radio per band and possibly a GoTo station. The antenna location will be behind the baseball backstop. Some related actions:
  - Need a volunteer to update our amateur radio poster boards.
  - G0JKN will order some Field Day packages from ARRL
  - G0JKN will provide a Starlink hot spot.
  - KB3WFV will invite Calvert government officials
  - KC3QQD will post announcements on Bay Net, etc
  - G0JKN to contact W3RBR about availability of generators and his portable mast. W5WTA has a quiet Honda generator if needed.

**AUXCOMM/Skywarn:**

- N3AE reminded everyone about our Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) Day plans on April 25<sup>th</sup>. We will have stations set up across the county and near the EOC in the parking lot just beyond the road down to the EOC.

**Misc:**

- The 50-50 was won by Erik, KC3QQD who donated all of his cut, resulting in \$45.00 going to the CARA treasury.
- With no further business or discussion, motion was made and seconded to adjourn at approximately 9:00 pm.

9:41 PM  
04/14/26  
Accrual Basis

Calvert Amateur Radio Association  
**Profit & Loss**  
March 2026

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	<u>Mar 26</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Dues	770.00
Donations	320.00
Square Fees Collected	<u>34.52</u>
Total Income	<u>1,124.52</u>
Gross Profit	1,124.52
Expense	
Operating Expenditures	
Website	29.95
Bank Service Charges	
Square Fees Paid	<u>32.41</u>
Total Bank Service Charges	<u>32.41</u>
Total Operating Expenditures	<u>62.36</u>
Total Expense	<u>62.36</u>
Net Ordinary Income	1,062.16
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Interest Income	<u>14.85</u>
Total Other Income	<u>14.85</u>
Net Other Income	<u>14.85</u>
Net Income	<u><u>1,077.01</u></u>