



THE WATT



CALVERT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
February 2013

ASSOCIATION QSO

Seventeen CARA members attended the February 7th CARA general meeting including a quest Jim KA3GZQ, who submitted a membership application at the end of the meeting. Club Treasure Dick W3RBR reported that the paper work for CARA nonprofit application has been submitted adding that it will be several weeks before it's status is known. RACES Officer Bill Hackett N3XMZ reported that the Calvert Health Department will purchase ham radio gear and will be installing it soon. ARES EC Dennis N3QHC reported ARES net control to be rotated through members to allow members to become familiar with being a net control. Peter KB3SXC won the 50/50 and kindly donated his winnings to the club treasury.

Following the break club members were given a presentation on Radio Direction Finding and Fox Hunting by Shawn – N3AE. Ron WA4PRR and Brian KB3WFV demonstrated a hand held beam antenna and a fox hunt transmitter. After the presentation 13 CARA members signed up for the Fox Hunt Antenna Building project.

The meeting wrapped up with Dave N3TZO being nominated as Field Day Coordinator and Wayne N1WR volunteering by email for the Lighthouse committee.

Volunteers are Needed!

Committees are now forming for CARA events. It is the dedication of CARA members who work on these committees that continue to make CARA one of the best amateur radio clubs in Southern Maryland.

Help plan these events and volunteer to join a committee today.

Contact any CARA board member to join an event committee.

Thank you for supporting the Calvert Amateur Radio Association.

Please remember that membership renewals are due. If you have not sent in your dues please bring them to the March 7th meeting. If you know of someone that may be interested in CARA please encourage them to join CARA.

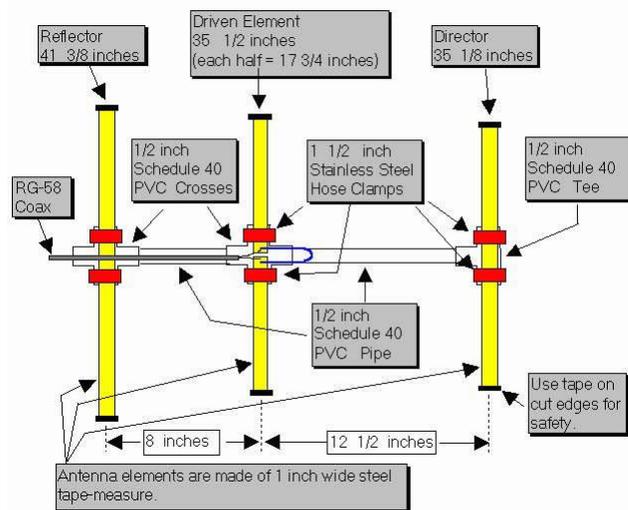
The next general meeting will be held March 7th 2013 at 7:30pm at the County Services Building in Prince Fredrick.

Be sure to check out the CARA website at www.k3cal.org or keep an eye on the newsletter and an ear on the repeater for more information

73 – KB3WFV

Fox Hunt Antenna Project –

If you signed up for or are interested in the Fox Hunt Tape Measure Beam Project be sure to attend the Antenna Building meeting.



**Saturday March 2nd
2:00pm until 5:00PM
Mount Hope
Community Center**



All of the materials to build the antenna will be provided for you. Please bring a \$10.00 donation and your HT. If your HT does not have a BNC connector on it be sure to bring an adaptor to fit your radio to a BNC connector. By the end of the meeting you will be able to test the antenna out by trying to locate the fox transmitter that will be hidden somewhere on the Mt Hope property.

AS AN ADDED BONUS

The CARA HF station will be open to anyone wishing to operate K3CAL in the ARRL International DX contest.

Hope to see you there
KB3WFV

CQ CQ CQ – CARA news and announcements

- The time has come for membership renewals. Membership renewals/registration forms have been sent out by e-mail. Please be sure to fill out the forms and send in your club dues. Don't have the forms ? You can find the membership application forms and more information about a CARA membership on the CARA web site or click on the link provided for you here: [K3CAL Join CARA](#)
- Be sure to join the CARA net every Monday night @ 7:00 pm on the 146.985 repeater, negative offset with a 156.7 PL.
- CARA breakfast meetings are held every third Saturday of the month. At Dream Weavers in Prince Fredrick
- The next Association general meeting will be held March 7th 2013 @ 7:30 pm at The County Services Building in Prince Fredrick Maryland.
- Up Coming CARA Events

March 2nd Fox Hunt Antenna Build
May 4th CARA First Annual Fox Hunt
June 22 - 23 Field Day
Aug 10 - 11 Maryland QSO Party
Aug 17 -18 ILLW Lighthouse weekend

On The Air – All you have to do is listen

The amateur radio bands are a wonderful source of entertainment, information and sometimes even just pure amazement.

One such amazing story came from a QSO overheard late one night on HF. W9EVT George Ulm of Washington Island, WI has an amazing collections of amateur radio equipment



George's QRZ page is loaded with photo's offering a small glimpse of his vast collection. He seems to have a complete selection of every piece of ham gear available. Sets of Yaseu, Heathkit and others are displayed in his shack. George even has what looks like a complete working Collins Station.

Looking through the photos it is obvious the passion for the amateur radio hobby that George has. The best part about this passion is that he is willing to share.



George not only maintains the collection of amateur radios that you see in the photos but he also operates Greengate Farm Country Rentals. Rental cottages located on the Island farm are available for vacation goers. All of the cottages on the farm are within a short walk to one of the world's largest collection of working amateur radio gear.

An article here in the WATT simply does not do George or his collection any justice at all. So be sure to check out his QRZ web page at <http://qrz.com/db/w9evt> and the Greengate Farm website at http://greengate-wibb.com/?page_id=5 .

73 – KB3WV

ARES REPORT – Dennis Bowling - N3QHC



The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

The Following are notes on the ARES meeting from Dennis

CALV ARES MEETING

February 19, 2013 at the Phillips House

- ATTENDED BY: N3XMZ, KB3RAN, N3AE, KB3SXB, K3UGA, KG1L, N3QHC
- TIME: 7:30PM to 10:35PM; Total Time: 3H5M
- DISCUSSION
 1. **REQUIRED COMPLETION: NIMS-100** > Two or three meetings set aside to teach NIMS-100.
 - Can be done online
<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is100b.asp>
 - NIMS-200, NIM-700 are required must we are focusing on one course at a time for now.
 2. Best Practices for TO-GO Kits (24 and 72 Hours). Have everyone bring in their TO-GO Kit to share Best Practices, i.e., see what someone has in their TO-GO Kit to improve on yours.
 3. [The ARRL Emergency Communication Library v. 1.0](#) Chapter 8, Public Service
 4. Anderson Power Pole Connectors are the standard connectors for all ARES and R.A.C.E.S. groups. Your equipment SHOULD have these.
 - List of ARES groups that have adopted this connector:
<http://www.powerwerx.com/registry.asp>.
 - Anderson Power Products Web Site:
<http://www.andersonpower.com/>.
 - Technical Data: <http://www.powerwerx.com/techdata.asp>.
 - Most common size: 30 A
Ratings of the 30 amp pin and body:
600 volts operating
2200 volts stand-off
0.0006 ohms average contact resistance (27 millivolts at 45 amps)
12-16 gauge wire
 - Details of how to assemble:
<http://www.westmountainradio.com/supportrr.htm>.
 5. **ACTION ITEM: R.A.C.E.S. Badges > Pictures will be taken the afternoon of the 26TH and 28TH of February Between 1pm and 4pm both days.**
 6. **Be sure all your equipment is labelled with your ID, i.e., callsign, name or etc.** Many times during an exercise or

activation one may be require to move. Those at a site will pack up your equipment but they need to know whose equipment they have packed up.

7. Everyone need to understand the MDC Emergency Response Plan and how we fit into the Plan.
8. Acquisition of a trailer for CERTS many be happening? If so, CALV **ARES/R.A.C.E.S.** will see if they can be included using trailer.
9. CB, FRS and GMRS radios will be used by communities along Route 4. Most if not all of these communities have hams living there. These hams can rely messages to and from EOC if needed.
 - **Action Item:** Find out status of local GMRS repeaters
10. The fox hunting program by CARA can be used in EmComms looking for transmitters from jammers as at the Pentagon in 2001 operation. Or locating transmitter of a down aircraft.
11. APRS at MHCC site would be advantageous for **ARES/R.A.C.E.S.** for messaging, location of resources.
 - Calvert County Health Department, CCHD, has ordered a Kenwood TM-710 radio among other related ham radio equipment.
 - APRS can be used to track medical deliveries such as medicines; tracking 4-wheel drive vehicles driving hospital staff to and from the hospital during weather events such as snow storm. APRS can be used for bus evacuations if ever a need arises. The list of what APRS can do goes on & on.
 - <http://aprs.fi/#!lat=38.51850&lng=-76.59210> Example of APRS map.
 - Can be used in direction finding events.
 - CALV ARES will participate in CCHD Drills as they occur.
12. CALV ARES Nets: Like to have all Stations participate being NCS. One never knows when they may be in the best position to be the NCS so this will be good opportunity to train everyone to be a NCS. Perhaps have members be NCS for half the Net.
13. Need to correct current SITREP and ICS-213 forms to latest versions. Then pass at least two SITREP or ICS-213 messages on our weekly Net.
 - Training at ARES Meeting will be done before implementing this on weekly Net.
14. **Action Item:** KG1L gave EC corrections to be made on Frequency List, TAB 10, and page 7 of the OIB.

15. **Action Item:** Need to add an Updated Document Page in OIB that lists current updated pages in binder so one knows if they have the latest and correct information.
16. Need a CALV ARES website to show interested parties what our organization is doing. Local jurisdictions do not have the manpower to do PS and are always seeking help, ARESMAT, from neighboring jurisdictions. Having our own website would promote our efforts to PS and EmComms.
17. Embroidering work can be done by Dave/KB3RAN family member. Hats, jackets or etc.
18. **After Action Reports**, AAR, must be done after PS & EmComms to improve on our efficiency and preparedness.
19. Need greater participation of Stations. We barely had enough people for Sandy Activation.
20. Question asked: Is there a way to monitor digital and voice at same time. Yes, use TNC/MIC SWITCH, TNC2/1278:
<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-1272M>
21. Upcoming Events:
 - March 1: **EC/RO** attending CCARC meeting to discuss Girl Scout event held, May 4, in Hughesville. Anyone is welcome to attend.
 - Early March: Jim/WB3KAS, **MDC SEC**, is in process of writing Health Department and Hospital Exercise. He needs to know if Simplex works to CMH and CCHD from PRGE and CHAS.
 - May 4, tentative, Walk-for-Babies, Solomons Island
 - May 5, CCARC, Walk-for Babies in CHAS.
 - Early May: MS Cycle Event in PGRE. Last year N3IDX & N3QHC participate.
 - Future PS events should be done in SIMPLEX mode according to Jim, **MDC SEC**. When Hurricane Sandy struck NJ & NY, many areas were without power and repeaters for weeks. Hams had to operate weeks in this condition. It is better to exercise in Simplex mode which represents worst situation to prepare if the repeater is non-operating.
 - All PS events require **High Visibility Green Safety Vest** MUST BE WORN for safety reasons.
<http://www.arrl.org/shop/search.php?mode=search&page=1>
*Green is the required color – Maryland State Law.
22. **Action Item:** The following Stations are not registered on the CALV ARES Reflector for email. Please send

n3qhc@verizon.net an email if you want to be put on reflector to receive email.

- Also, please send me an email if you are receiving emails and would like to be taken off the reflector.

Bill - N3XMZ
Chris - KB3TBA
Dave - W3PQS
Elaine - N3PQW
John - N3EDD
Steve -N3BPM
Steve - N3IDX
Wayne -N1WR

23. This seems like a lot of things CALV ARES will be doing. However, our strategy is KISS. We are actually going to concentrate on one subject at a time. PS events are the best ways to acquire EmComms knowledge. Even if one does not have the necessary equipment to use, one can help those that do.

**The Amateur Radio Emergency Services Coordinator (EC)
for Calvert County is:
Dennis Bowling - N3QHC**

For more information about ARES contact Dennis Bowling at <mailto:n3qhc@verizon.net> or visit <http://www.arrl.org/ares>

SKYWARN – Jack KB3WUM



Many Americans feel the effects of severe weather every year. To obtain critical weather information, NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, established SKYWARN

SKYWARN is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

Hello XYLs and OM,

Seems to me that SKYWARN is not very present in the Southern Maryland community. My best guess is that not too many fokes, myself included, are familiar with the program. So in an attempt to educate myself with the program(s). I went online to the National Weather Service site, <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/>, and started learning. Here is what I would like to share with anyone else that may be curious about it.

WHAT IS SKYWARN®?

SKYWARN® is a national network of volunteer severe weather spotters. The spotters are trained by local National Weather Service Forecast Offices on how to spot severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail and flooding. In some parts of the country, spotters also report snowfall and ice accumulation.

WHO ARE OUR SPOTTERS?

Our volunteers are people who either have a strong interest in weather or are public service oriented such as amateur radio operators, REACT members, or emergency response personnel. Our spotters are all ages beginning as young as 14 and range well into retirement age. We have farmers, pilots, engineers, housewives, lawyers, television cameramen, teachers, students, firemen, and more. Our volunteers are truly diverse but with a common interest in weather and a strong desire to help their community.

HOW DOES SKYWARN® WORK?

When hazardous weather occurs such as severe thunderstorms, floods, tornadoes, snow and ice storms, our volunteers report what is happening at their location. They are asked to report whenever certain criteria are met such as when one inch of rain has fallen, four inches of snow is on the ground, a thunderstorm is producing hail, or trees have been blown down. Reports arrive at our office via the telephone, fax, internet, and amateur radio. The reports are

combined with radar and satellite data to determine what the storms will do next. Spotters provide the "ground-truth" to our forecasters. Radar may tell us that heavy snow is falling, but it can not tell us how much snow is on the ground or if rain is mixing with the snow. Spotters do. The reports are used by forecasters to send out public statements, warnings and advisories, and short-term forecasts. These products reach the public through the internet, NOAA Weather Radio , the media and other commercial services. Skywarn® reports also go into "Storm Data", which is an official publication that documents severe weather across the country. "Storm Data" can be used to create a severe weather climatology (or history) of a local county or city. Storm Data is published (electronic and hard copy versions) by the National Climatic Data Center

HOW DOES THE SKYWARN® AMATEUR RADIO NET WORK?

Two-thirds of our volunteers are licensed amateur radio operators. Amateur radio plays a big role in the SKYWARN® program. During severe weather, amateur radio volunteers man a radio station at our office. They talk to our spotters in the particular area that a storm is hitting and request information needed by the forecasters such as hail size or rainfall accumulation. Large storms such as hurricanes can knock out phone service. Skywarn® Amateur radio volunteers help us when there are communications outages so that we can continue to receive weather reports and feed warnings and other critical information out to communities.

Now for those that do not have any SKYWARN training, or need a refresher, the next Basic 1 spotters class in our area is going to be held on Apr. 23 at 7:00 PM at
Calvert Courthouse Square
205 Main Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

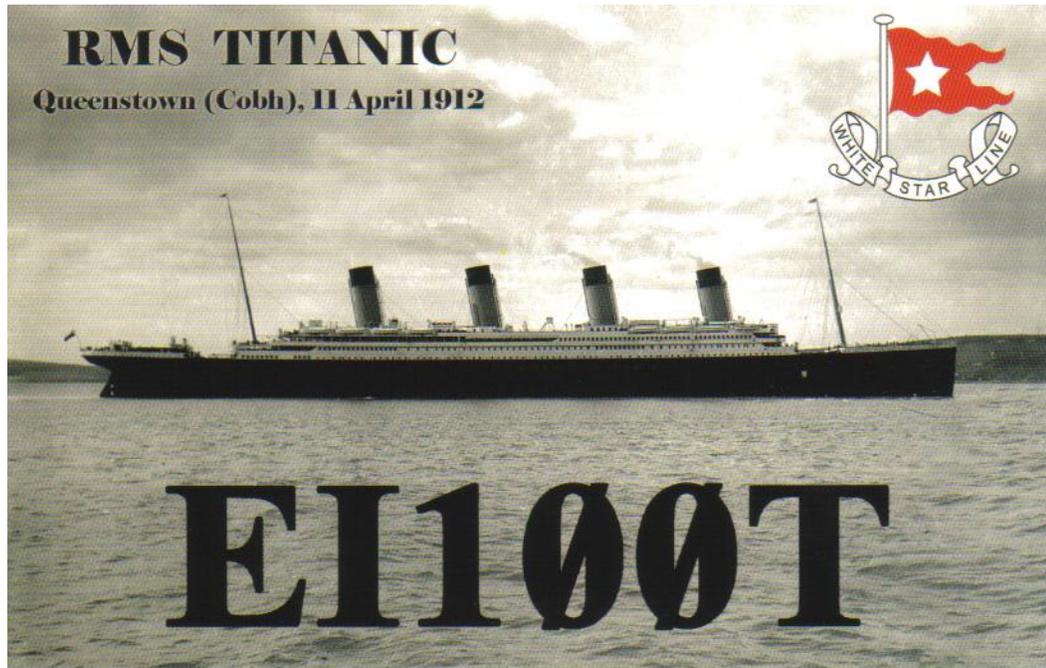
Now all *People are required to pre-register for all classes.* This is necessary to control class size, as there is limited space. If you register for a class and can not make it, please notify them so they can make your spot available. All training classes and Skywarn® membership are free. For registration procedures contact Kim Gott at 410-535-1600 x 2638.

Hope to see all of you there.
73- Jack KB3WUM

For more information about SKYWARN visit
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/skywarn/>or <http://skywarn.org/>

The Amateur Behind The Microphone –

An Interesting QSL Story – N3TZO



Special event station **EI100T** was operated throughout 2012 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of RMS Titanic and her only ever call to Queenstown (Cobh), Cork Harbour, Ireland. My contact with EI100T was made via Cormac Gebruers, and below is the story printed on the back of the EI100T QSL card. – N3TZO

*“The only visit by RMS Titanic to Queenstown (Cork Harbour) took place on Thursday April 11, 1912 during her maiden voyage. **Patrick Kidney** (1862-1920) was an official in the Queenstown Post Office at that time. His duties on the day of Titanic’s visit were to oversee the transfer of mails to and from the ship while she lay at anchor. Mails were critically important in those days as the primary means of long distance communication, radio still being in its infancy. Patrick Kidney was one of the last people to leave RMS Titanic as she weighed anchor to set sail from Queenstown on her fateful voyage. He is the Great Grandfather of Cormac Gebruers EI4HQ, the special event station coordinator.”*

The Blind Side – Stray RF and White Noise from KB3WFV

This month Judi XYL of Jack KB3WFV updates us on what her life is like living with a ham for a husband. I encourage all YL'S and XYL's to pass along their experiences. Who knows it there is enough response, perhaps this will become a regular feature in the newsletters. Enjoy 73 - KB3WFV

Recently my husband became very ill, at first I was quite concerned. Until I realized this particular disease is quite common this time of the year and only temporary. It is suffered only by ham radio operators but sweeps through their ranks locally like wild fire. Its known as, "Frostfest Fever". There is no known cure, only 11 month remissions leading right into another bought.

Symptoms include a sudden and irresistible urge to begin selling surplus materials, the gathering and counting of all loose change, at some really dark moments, dubious deals made in dark alleys for "quick sales" of electronic merchandise.

Those afflicted with only minor cases of Frostfest fever may only suffer from the need to make a wishlist that they pass on to a Ham who's suffering can only be relieved by an actual visit to Richmond International Raceway.

Having just returned from a long day at Frostfest, serving as only nurse, to my poor afflicted Ham, I must say that fevered scanning of tables, hunched backs to read the fronts of radios and what can only be called the "zombie walk of overload" are part of the treatment plan.

I have learned that my husband can speak blonde XYL fluently when describing what I should be looking for: phrases such as, "kind of like that finger puppet your niece has only shiny and bent over," were common to me. I learned that every single table and every single item must be looked at, priced, evaluated and mentally cataloged before you can even begin to pare down your choices. And you want to do that during the early bird portion. I learned that what appears to be two small black boxes about the size of half of a pair of shoes can easily weigh twenty pounds.....and that I can haul that around in a backpack without any assistance thank you very much.

Mostly I have learned that there are more illnesses to come, Hamfestitis is what I will call it from now on. I just learned of an event called Hamvention, which I assume is some sort of intervention for Ham Operators.....I can't wait for that one!

– Judi

Suggestion or comments for THE WATT
e-mail us at newsletter@k3cal.org

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