



THE WATT



CALVERT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
January 2013

ASSOCIATION QSO

January 3rd 2013 was the first general meeting of the Calvert Amateur Radio Association. CARA members met at the Calvert County Service building in Prince Fredrick and discussed plans for the upcoming year. CARA members have outlined a schedule of events for 2013.

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

Volunteers are needed! Committees are now forming for these events. Help plan these events and join a committee or volunteer to chair a committee. Contact any CARA board member to join an event committee. Thank you for supporting the Calvert Amateur Radio Association.

In other CARA news. CARA members Bob N3PPH, Bill N3XMZ, Dave W3PQS and Dave N3TZO met with Jake from Teltronic Tower to complete the installation of poly-phasers and grounding to the 146.985 repeater equipment. The transmit PL tone of 156.7 has been turned on. Those who wish to hear only the K3CAL repeater on the frequency of 146.985 can program their radio Tone Squelch feature for the PL tone and enjoy a quiet receive until K3CAL transmits. It is the dedication of CARA such as those who work on the repeater that continue to make CARA one of the best amateur radio clubs in Southern Maryland.

Please remember that membership renewals are due. If you have not sent in your dues please bring them to the February 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 Feb 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

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 Feb 7th 2013 @ 7:30 pm at The County Services Building in Prince Fredrick Maryland.
- Frostfest is fast approaching! On February 2, 2013 - Groundhog Day – Richmond Virginia. Doors will open at 7:30AM for everyone who has purchased a ticket online or via mail order before the day of the show! That's a full hour before General Admission starts! Plus, you'll be eligible for a special Early Bird Drawing for \$250 in Frostfest Buck\$, being held at 8:20AM just for YOU! For more information visit <http://www.frostfest.com>!

On The Air – CARA plans a Fox Hunt

Radio Direction Finding commonly called Fox Hunting is the amateur radio version of hide and seek. A transmitter is hidden in a location that amateur radio operators have to locate using a receiver. The complexity of the equipment used in a fox hunt can vary from a simple transmitter tracked with an HT to a transmitter that is able to vary output signal wattage and direction and tracked with a Doppler system.

This year CARA members are working on exciting projects related to fox hunting. Plans are coming together to have an antenna building project. CARA

members will have an opportunity to actually build a tape measure beam for themselves and use it in an upcoming CARA sponsored fox hunt.

CARA members Shawn N3AE, Ron WA4PRR and Brian KB3WFV have researched and built a prototype fox hunt antenna. The 3 element beam is made from PVC pipe and sections of tape measure. Its design is optimized for finding hidden transmitters. This unofficial fox hunt committee has also been working on building a fox hunt transmitter.

Initial results are really good. The antenna is very simple to build and can easily connect to a HT. During trail runs the antenna connected to a HT allowed the radio operator to locate the direction a transmitting signal was coming from.



The un-official Fox Hunt Committee will have a demonstration of the Fox hunt antenna and a fox hunt transmitter at the February 7th CARA general meeting. The demonstration will coincide with a presentation on basic fox hunting technics and a discussion on how to build the 3 element tape measure beam. CARA members who are interested in building the tape measure beam can sign up at the February 7th meeting.

On Saturday May 4th CARA members can put their antennas to a test. CARA is sponsoring the 1ST annual CARA Fox Hunt. A fox hunt transmitter will be hidden somewhere in Calvert County and participants using their antennas and skills learned at the meetings will have to locate the transmitter. Details about the event will be announced at the February meeting.

For more information on the Tape measure beam that CARA plans to build check out this website.

http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm

Would you like to see a video on fox hunting? Check out episode number 82 of Ham Nation. At about 12 minutes 20 seconds into the video is a segment on fox hunt. Click here

<http://twit.tv/show/ham-nation/82>

73 - KB3WFV

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



The WATT is currently seeking individuals to collect and create articles for the ARES section of the CARA newsletter. Interested persons should contact the editor at KB3WFV@yahoo.com

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

RACES Report – Bill Hackett – N3MXZ



The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a standby radio service provided for in Part 97.407 of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations. It consists of only those amateur radio operators who have previously registered with State and local governments to provide or supplement communications during emergencies where normal communication systems have sustained damage.

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service Officer (RO)
for Calvert County is Bill Hackett N3MXZ

The WATT is currently seeking individuals to collect and create articles for the RACES section of the CARA newsletter. Interested persons should contact the editor at KB3WFV@yahoo.com



For more information about RACES contact Bill Hackett at n3xmz.md@gmail.com or visit <http://www.usraces.org/>

SKYWARN



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.



The WATT is currently seeking individuals to collect and create articles for the SKYWARN section of the CARA newsletter. Interested persons should contact the editor at KB3WFV@yahoo.com

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

The Amateur Behind The Microphone –

CARA and its members are getting noticed in the Amateur Radio world. Recently an ARES RACES group in the state of California asked for and received permission to use the K3CAL Repeater Rules and Etiquette Document in an upcoming class for new hams. The document created by past CARA board members describes the commonly accepted practices of starting a QSO and interrupting a QSO already in progress. You can view the document here.

<http://www.k3cal.org/files/Repeater%20Rules.pdf>

Jerry Hammons W6GCL of the California ARES/RACES group thanked the Calvert Amateur Radio Association for the use of the information saying “I am sure there are several ideas that can be developed from reviewing your club web page. You guys do a great job!”



In other CARA related sightings. The picture on the left was found in the Maryland Mobile Amateur Radio Club (MMARC) Newsletter. The photo of CARA Secretary Bob N3PPH and CARA Vice President Brain KB3WFV was taken at the MMARC Hamfest in Odenton held last year in February of 2012. It just goes to show that you never know where CARA may pop up.

The Blind Side – Stray RF and White Noise from KB3WFV

In honor of Valentine’s Day, this month the Blind Side will share a very short love story. Like most love stories, two strangers meet each other by chance and fall in love. This story has the same basic storyline with a ham related twist. Thanks Dennis N3QHC for passing this along.

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn’t much, but the reception was excellent.

Happy Valentine’s Day
73 - KB3WFV

Suggestion or comments for THE WATT

e-mail us at newsletter@k3cal.org

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