

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association
2/23/23 7:30P.M.

Members present: WA3UMY-Pete, AC3CU-Neil, KF7AWC-Rachel, N3YWZ-Darryl, AC3FE-John, KC3RWE-Brad, W3OST-Rick, KC3QQD-Erik(our presenter), N3AK-Jon, W3GYT-Walt, KB3ZWM-Mike, KB1YZ-Jim, KC3PFF-Shawn, N2OMC-Rob

Jon opened the meeting at 7:30P.M., by introducing our speaker Erik, KC3QQD, from Calvert County, who is going to tell us how to get on Parks on the Air(POTA) tonight. KC3PFF-Shawn will narrate some of the slides.

Erik says that you can do POTA from any national/federal and state/provincial parks. You must follow some rules, but they aren't difficult to do. He received a lot of his information from Matt, N3NWB, who has a YouTube page. You can do this 24 hours a day seven days a week. You choose your own time. You must be aware that some parks close at dusk, and you would have to leave. You also need to be aware that some parks will not let you put anything into the ground or hang anything from trees. It doesn't require a lot of equipment, basically a battery, radio, antenna, logging software or paper to log QSOs on, and a park or trail. This is done mostly on HF, but 2-meters will also get you some good contacts. This was a very good presentation by Erik. Pete recorded the presentation for the association and it will be available through the association archives.

Jon then started the business meeting at 8:41P.M., it wasn't going to be lengthy due to the time. He wanted to go over trustees, field day discussions, STEAM participation and kit building. It was brought up that we need two trustees, one for the association repeater and another for the station that will be at the museum. We have some people that have already volunteered, but if anyone else would like to do this, just submit your name to Jon or Pete for consideration. There is no decision on who will be the trustee as of this date. Trustees do not have a lot to do, but they are responsible for the proper running of the stations and will reply to any correspondence that the FCC or ARRL require.

We want to present to the STEAM fest, something that hopefully will give a person the need to know more. Pete informed us that all the tables will be in the main hall this year, so getting an antenna outside will be a large problem, and we probably won't do any major transmitting. We need something simple, that will grab the attention of people, and isn't complicated. Some kits, putting connectors on cables, some simple solder techniques, or things along those lines. The museum wants the participants to set up 1 hour prior to the opening, which will be at 10:00A.M.

Brad presented a treasurer's report. We have \$3139.00 in our account presently. The dues will be coming up at the end of June for the next year. Those joining between now and then will be charged only half year. Pete and Walt are still going over the constitution and bylaws for the association and this will be part of that rewrite.

Jon brought up the need for a current inventory of equipment and other apparatus that the association holds. Pete informed us that an inventory was taken when Rob was president. Rob said that he would look in his records to see if he holds one. He came back and said that he had found an inventory and he emailed it to Pete and Jon. It was decided to go forward from this point.

When we have a ham breakfast on Saturdays, after the breakfast, we would then meet at the museum to start planning work times and finding out just what needs to be done. You do not need to attend the breakfast, just be at the museum at 10:00A.M., to meet the rest of the group if you want to participate.

It was also requested that we try and come up with ideas for events, or things of this nature, that the association membership could participate in. Things such as a POTA assembly with possible

food, or anything similar that the membership could participate in, to show the association is doing more than just meeting once a month. The more public that we can make these events, the more that the public see that the association is an integral part of the community. All ideas will be welcome and received for discussion.

Jon closed the meeting at 9:30P.M.