

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association
5/25/2023 7:30 PM

Attendee's: N3AK-Jon, WA3UMY-Pete, W3GYT-Walt, AA3WS-Charles, K3WJX-Chuck, KF7AWC-Rachel, KB2SKP-Chris, KC3PFF-Shawn, W4NRG-Chris, KC3UCB-Anthony, KC3WBR-Rob, KB3SWS-Pam, KB3SPH-Jeff, N5TB-Tony, W3OST-Rick

This was an in-person meeting, starting at 7:30 PM in the Flight Technology Hall of the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum, and ending about 9 PM.

After the Pledge of Allegiance by the members and guests in attendance, we started with a demonstration from Charles (AA3WS) on techniques he uses to solder surface mount components. In real-time, Charles built a surface mount dummy load kit that was projected to a large screen. He demonstrated how easy it was to solder 15 surface-mount and 8 through-hole components. He showed many of the techniques he uses for soldering with an iron, his preferred method, set to approximately 700 degrees. This was a great demonstration and we thank him for sharing this with us. For anyone interested in the kit he used for the demonstration, it can be found at the Four State QRP Group (<http://www.4sqr.com/>) web site.

Following the demonstration, Tony (AA3TB) discussed plans for Field Day.

- The plan is to have three HF stations, with a team captain for each station responsible for its setup, and a GOTA station.
- We will be checking out all the coax and connectors at the next scheduled working party (details below)
- Rachel is the food coordinator, and she has asked that anyone with food allergies to contact her at kf7awc@arrl.net so she can make sure there is something for everyone.

Next Saturday (3 June) will be the monthly 'Breakfast with Hams' at iHOP starting at 8:30 AM. Walt will put out a reminder on the reflector. Contact Walt for a head count so he can guesstimate how many seats are needed. This is not required so please show up even if you don't contact Walt.

There will be working party after breakfast at the museum starting at 1000. The plan is to test the club's coax cable inventory in preparation for Field Day. Tony will pick up the cable to be tested from Pete (WA3UMY) a few days prior to the third of June.

Pete discussed thoughts of linking the 64 to the Potomac River Repeater Association (PRRA). He stated that it could be done but it would have to be an RF link as we have no internet connection at the site. The suggestion was to wait and see what the coverage of the new repeater being set up by N3KUN in Chaptico on the temporary builder's channel of 145.250 (-) and is planned to be linked to PRRA. Also mentioned that someone in Montross has been assigned a frequency pair for testing.

Reminder that there will be no club meeting in June due to the proximity to Field Day weekend.