

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

minutes for January 26, 2023

Members and guests present:

N3AK-Jon, AC3CU-Neil, W3GYT-Walt, WA3UMY-Pete, KC3RWE-Brad,
N5TB-Tony, KB1YZ-Jim, W1JD-JD Delancy, KF7AWC-Rachel, WB3KAS-Jim
Jim, WB3KAS is the Prince Georges County Emergency Coordinator

The meeting was opened at 7:30P.M., by Jon, N3AK, President of the association. He didn't have any specific club announcements at this time. He announced that Erik, KC3QQD, may give a presentation on POTA for our February meeting. Due to covid spreading again, the February meeting will be on zoom and possible an in person meeting in March. STEAM was brought up, as it is in March, so we will be needing people to participate. The club has been invited to have a display designed to attract younger people to get interested in electronics and science, showing what a person can do. Winter field day is January 28-29, the club doesn't have a formal set up for this, but encourages everyone to participate if possible. He also brought up that our present trustees are living outside St. Mary's County, that in itself is not a problem. He feels that it would be better if we had a locally living person to be trustee. This person would hold the license for the repeater and monitor the station to ensure that there were no unusual audio problems develop, etc, in-appropriate language or other such occurrence, they would be in a position to take the repeater off line for a time. Tony-N5TB, said that he would do that, as he always listens to the repeater.

The president then asked for reports from the board members.

Brad-Treasurer reported that there have been no changes in the current balance in our account.

There is money for doing association projects. No additional dues were presented. This being the year is half gone, membership will be reduced by 50% for new members. Jon wanted to know if there was a published list of membership. Walt said that there is a list on she web site under club executive committee and membership. (SMCARA > Club Executive Committee and Members List)

Pete-Vice President- Said that the museum was inquiring if we are going to participate in the STEAM fest? Jon said that he had already sent in the application for it. Pete said that the museum wanted simple projects to interest young people. He reported that N3SAH-Bob Lane, is unable to utilize his amateur equipment and is donating it to the club for use. Pete said that we could set up a loaner program for new hams and new hams to the county, to allow them to get on the air with a working radio. The time limit would be approximately 2 months for the use, which would allow them to acquire their own equipment. He gave us an update on the repeater. Pete, Rachel and Chris, went to the site and found that the controller has hiccupped and reset it. They then checked out the repeater and found that everything was working good. He also gave Rachel a rundown on how the repeater works and how everything is connected. Rachel said that her and Chris would be able to respond to check out the repeater if a problem comes up. Pete is going to get them access to be able to accomplish this. He also said, that any member of the club could request to go and see the repeater, just get in touch with Pete and he will arrange it.

Walt-W3GYT, mentioned the pancake breakfast at Little Flower school on 29 Jan at 7:00 A.M., lasting until 10:00A.M.. Rachel and Chris said that anyone is welcome to come and join the breakfast, and donations would be welcome to benefit the school. He also brought up a kit building project for the club. This is a project that club membership would get kits and we would get together and build them. These would be simple projects to put together. Procurement of the kits is to be discussed at the first meeting. Ham breakfast would be on the second Saturday of February 11, and after the breakfast, we would then meet at the museum to discuss and decide upon what project to start with and procurement. It was proposed that this would continue to be the pattern, have a ham breakfast and then meet at the museum for projects.

Opened discussion to the rest of the net

Rachel_KF7AWC, mentioned she would like to build a 10-meter dipole kit, there is one for about \$35.00 and change.

Jim-KB1YZ, mentioned that for summer field day, if possible, could we do it again at the Sotterley Plantation. Pete said that he would contact the managers to find out availability.

Jim-WB3KAS, the Prince Georges County AARL Emergency Coordinator, brought up that the ST. Mary's hospital is one of five county hospitals, that will be conducting an exercise in May in conjunction with ARES. They are going to try something different this year, that is to start at 3:00P.M. and end around 900P.M., instead of starting at the usual 8:00A.M., as the late shifts at the hospitals never really get to participate in the exercise. They don't know how this will work, but are hoping we get good results and information on changes that may have to be made for future exercises. As everyone knows, emergencies, outages and other major disasters don't have a time to happen. They are looking for clubs to participate in this exercise.

Chris-KB2SKP, brought up that cables need to be pulled into the club operating position. This will also mean that connectors will have to be put on with other item following that need to be accomplished. He wants to get the Echolink, placed in the museum, so it has a permanent home and good backup power facilities. This will require a work party, most likely on a Saturday for approximately 2 hours of work. He reported that he is the ARES coordinator for the club and ARES meeting will start again, maybe on Mondays instead of Thursdays. He is still working out details for this.

Jon ended the meeting at 8:38P.M.