

CARS CLUB MEETING (07/02/18)

Minutes

Meeting called to order at _1932_____ Attendees: Members = 19 Visitors = 5 Total =24

- 1) Call to Order & Introductions
- 2) Previous club meeting minutes: Jun 4th minutes read and accepted by membership.
 - a. Question about ARRL membership. How do members apply for ARRL through CARS?

Committee Reports:

CARES – Van Rowe (KM4KBS) – Chesapeake EC

- Working with Steve Nowak and John Roberts (ARES District EC) on is a new website development for things related to Amateur Radio in the Tidewater area. We will have one local website to list all the local Ham Radio Clubs, the weekly & monthly Nets dates / time / frequency / pl tones, any Exam Session Classes or Test Session announcements and other Ham Radio related public service events with pointers to links to each Clubs or ARES Website and event details. If anyone has any additional thoughts or inputs they are welcomed. I still need to contact all the area clubs to ask them to help participate whenever they are hosting an event. We are trying to create a website that we can keep people informed or updated with any local repeater changes from the Hampton Roads / Tidewater area and a good way to send new people interested in Ham Radio for programming new radios with local repeater info. If you want to help with this please contact me, **KM4KBS@gmail.com**
 - Ham Radio Tide Water Area Website: <https://hamradiotidewater.wordpress.com/>
- Good News: Steve Nowak (KE8YN) has officially been appointed to the Chesapeake City Local Emergency Planning Committee and will be having more involvement with the city in that aspect. Congratulations Steve! We hope this will be helpful in getting the city more on board with emergency preparedness and the importance of Ham Radio and the ARES team.
- Next EmComm Meeting is Saturday July 14th @ 9:00am
- At the Jun 9th EMCOM meeting all shelter radios checked good and inventoried. They are ready to go back to emergency storage. However, we will keep radio #9 in shop for training.
- **One note:** each radio storage box includes a CD for a laptop. Therefore, if an operator was to bring personnel laptop to shelter, it could be used for logging activities, or references to useful information. However, many newer laptops don't have a CD drive. A possible solution is to move files to a small flash drive and have one drive for each shelter location. Perhaps files loaded on flash drive files can also be kept on CARS server to enable updating.
- **Fema held a Webinar in Jun and Van participated and has additional notes.**

Treasurer's Report (Jeff – KM4ALL):

- Club in good financial standing.
- Budget on track
- Good estimates of Field Day costs....

Communications Report & Repeater Status (Bill – N3WM):

Repeaters in good shape. Bower hill tower climb is on hold until next month. Digital Fusion repeater on 145.15 PL tone 103.5.

- Visit in Bowers hill and Fusion system is up and running.
- Repeaters 82 and 440 are up and running
- Need to update shelter radios with new Virginia beach frequency and new tone.

IT/ Web services

Web services:

- Website news
- Reflector
- New pictures and video of field day on the site
- Van KM4KBS is working out the bugs in this but he has created an account with **Broadcastify.com** and registered himself (KM4KBS) as a broadcaster for the club's repeater on 146.820 mhz. He reports:
 - *"I am still working on cleaning up the noise on the feed but it is currently online with about a 20-30 sec delay from the internet. I am using a scanner to feed into a spare pc and uploading into the Broadcastify.com service using the software package. I have already mentioned this to Mike and Keith, once we test it for a week or so we can look at adding a "Listen Now" button / link on the club's website for people to listen to the Nets or other transmissions over the repeater online if they are not in the listening area."*
 - *Broadcastify Website: 146.82 Repeater Feed (30 sec delay)*
<https://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/28511>

IT:

- Hot spot in the club.
- Access policy in work.
- During Field Day the server and raspberry pie displays used for logging contacts worked great.

Old Business:

- Field Day was June 23-24@ Deep Creek Locks Park
 - Field Day lessons learned:
 - **The event went very well, 4 operators on 4 radios on all the time from 2PM on Saturday to 10AM on Sunday!**
 - **Total contacts: CW 174; Phone 348; Digital 176 results in a total **1048 QSO points****
 - Food was good too.
 - **Network logging with Raspberry CPU and central server worked very well.** One lesson learned: need to Velcro raspberry to back of displays, server worked great. Need to incorporate digital contact logging into server.
 - **Some new people were a little reluctant to get on the radio**, though they were very interested in observing the communications.
 - **More people participated** (about 30 members) this year as compared to other years. Need to have sign in log to have better idea of who participated next year.
 - **Need to consider buying headsets, however** need to make sure both the operator and the logger can hear and also the spectators and observers. It is a team sport.
 - **Need band pass filters.** With all the radio antennas near other antennas, filters are even more important to prevent EMI across bands into other radios.
 - Failure of windom 160 vertical radiator. It can be repaired. Glade we had a spare.
 - Need role of electrical tape to tape up barrel connectors on long lines going from antennas to radios.
 - **Need to work 80m and 40m at night.**
 - **40m mag loop worked very well.** Perhaps surprising due to the high Q.
 - **6 meters and 2 meters worked well.**
 - No mayor, he was on travel out of town, maybe we should have tried to get other city council personnel to attend.
 - **Good interest from other people in the park.** We did not bring membership forms found some latter. We did have brochures etc to show off club and Amateur radio.
 - **Need to inform the Park Ranges** to let them know we have a permit to be in the park. Good to have the permit at the site. We do this same for the Chesapeake Police.
 - Regarding facility perhaps we can request Steve to casually mention in the LEPC that the #1 Shelter at Deep Creek Lock Park is in serious need of repairs so that we can stage our emergency preparedness drill there next year? It may not be usable next year due to four rotted through holes in the overhead that results in water leaks through the roof.

- **We should give recognition to John Fitzgerald KX4GI for volunteering to do the grilling. Thank you, John, the burgers were awesome, cooked to perfection.**
 - **Funding for event was very well estimated, actual expenses were very close to the budget.**
 - **Keith did an awesome job on Field Day pictures in the video.**
 - **Next field day is Jun 29nd and 30 2019—can't wait!**
 - Need lights for night work
 - Need to fix Kenwood radio
 - Feel free to submit comments for improvements.
 - Need sign by Route 17 and get more signs.
- Club Shack Days / Digital Modes Presentations. (No Presentation in July)
 - Volunteers are needed for additional Club Presentations (Contact Van Rowe at KM4KBS@gmail.com)
 - Any volunteers to give a WinLink Express presentation? Possible that Ira Swarts is expert on Winlink??
 - Plans for next tower climb to check antennas and connections. Saturdays don't work due to Farmer's Market. Postponed into fall season; after Farmer's Market is over.
 - General License Training: July 28-Aug 18 (Schedule attached)
 - CARS will be holding a General license class starting on Saturday afternoon, July 28, and continuing for the next three Tuesday and Thursday evenings. There will be an exam Saturday afternoon, August 18.
 - This presumes there will be at least five students for the class. If we are unable to come up with the five students, the class will be postponed until there is more interest in it.
 - Schedule attached for the class which also includes information about the study guide we will be using.
 - Paul will work with VBARC so they can advertise to their membership to increase class participation.
 - If you want to will attend this class, please let Paul K4PRB know so he can start counting noses.
 - Paul Buckwalter K4PRB
 - 238-2320 (home)
 - 630-4026 (cell)
 - paulbuckwalter@charter.net,

WRTC local time. 8pm July 14, 15th

- 50/50 Raffle—Bill Fairing won \$26.50
- Next Shack Day July 21st. Focus will be reorganizing the club house to open a workbench for project work.
- New Club Member Applications:
 - Mark Lamb KN4HJP—approved by the membership
- Next CARS General Club Meeting is Monday August 06, 2018

Meeting adjourned at: __2032__