

Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

ARES Net

3/20/23 2300Z

Members present: KB2SKP-Chris, AC3CU-Neil, KC3RWE-Brad, W3OST-Rick, AC3FE-John, KB1YZ-Jim, KC0WKX-Ed, KB3HAM-Eddie, KC3UCB-Anthony

Chris opened the meeting at 2300Z. Went over a few topics for discussion and some direction that we may want to proceed to. He has been in contact with the St. Mary's county emergency people to find out about the emergency shelters. The ones we will probably use for now are the Medstar parking lot at the hospital, Chopticon High School, Great Mills High School, and possibly the fire department areas. Nothing has been finalized at this time as we are still gathering information.

We are looking to do some exercises in the near future. These will be to meet and go over programming of radios in the field. There may be a time that we have to use another frequency to communicate with each other as well as other entities. We will also be exploring APRS, the fusion mode GM and other digital modes that may get through atmospheric disturbances when AM or FM may not work. We are going to explore setting up a Digipeater and possible a RMS gateway for winlink when there is no internet availability.

We went down the check in list and everyone reported what they would be able to deploy to the field with. Most of the members have portables, dual-band, for VHF, and some had mobile installations in their vehicles of HF, VHF, as well as APRS capabilities. We will be trying to set up some simplex frequencies and move around the county to check on how well we can communicate.

Chris has meet with Gene Talley concerning the county communication back bone. He says that they will probably not utilize us as a back up to their systems. Their system is fairly robust and covers the county well. We could be useful as a means for welfare checks and other related but not emergency communications. This would enable them to concentrate on the emergency response.

There are other organizations that we could support, churches, marathons and other such activities where communications would play a big part. Chris is going to be looking into these as well as any other avenues that may exist.

Jim, KB1YZ has agreed to be the northern contact point for possible relay of traffic. Anthony has agreed to be the medical liaison for the group. We still are looking for a southern contact point.

The meeting was closed at 2343Z.