

## ST. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

ARES meeting 4/11/23 2300Z

Members present: KB2SKP-Chris, KC3PFF-Shawn, AC3CU-Neil, N2OMC-Rob, N3AK-Jon, KB1YZ-Jim, W3OST-Rick, KC3UCB-Anthony, ACEFE-John

Chris opened the meeting at 2300Z with a recap on the storm that we had and the impromptu activation of the ARES net because of it. Chris set out a group email concerning the event. Members came up on the 147.39MHz frequency and passed storm related events to everyone. Chris mentioned that he is going to experience with different apps for texting traffic during weather events. One app was "whats" it, where you can text and send photos and documents.

Shawn – offered up a recap of the Saturday POTA event that he held at Newtown Neck state park. Everyone that came out had a great time. He learned that we could not put long wires into the trees and the closeness of the stations caused quite a bit of interference between the stations. We could plan another event for later when it is warmer. Shawn mentioned that he has used the app and it isn't hard to use.

Rob – had a good time at the POTA meet. He hasn't been a fan of computer logging in parks and such, but Shawn showed him that he was using an IPAD, and he was impressed. Thinking about using an similar device in the future.

Jon – Missed the POTA. He has used slack and some other similar messaging apps and has heard of the whats it app but never used it.

Neil – missed the POTA and had a great experience on the weather event and the radio traffic.

Jim – had lots of fun at the POTA and activated the park while he was there. Looking forward for the next one.

Rick – had a great time at the POTA and activated the park also. He got to see several station setups and the power supplies that they used.

Anthony – has used "group-meet" and it isn't hard to use.

John – has used the whats it app also. Looking forward for the next POTA.

Chris had some questions for the group; Do you want or not want your phone number published within the group? If you don't let Chris know. He also asked, is there a better day or time for the ARES net to meet? Let Chris know via email. He is planning on an exercise for the group, to exercise the emergency procedures and check out our capabilities in case such an event takes place. He also mentioned that the whats it app or another app, as during an severe lightning event, you may not want to use your base radio. He also said that he is going to look into a way to get mre up to date space weather, for better predicions for DX.

The meeting was closed at 2350Z.