

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

Amateur Radio Emergency Services

7/10/23 2300Z

Members present: KB2SKP-Chris, AC3CU-Neil, AC3FE-John, KC3RWE-Brad, N2OMC-Rob, KC3PFF-Shawn, W3OST-Rick

Chris opened the meeting at 2300Z with some announcements and general observations. Last week we went over antennas that could be used. This was brought about due to Chris losing his G5RV antenna, and his procuring a new folded dipole. It worked very good during the 13 Colonies exercise. Tonight we will talk about power supplies, especially portable power supplies. We operated field day on batteries and had no problems. He has a couple of bioenno batteries which worked real good. There is a weight difference between the lead acid and the bioenno, with the bioenno being lighter. This is a plus for backpacking or POTA work. He also has another power supply that outputs AC as well has some USB ports. The current output for the AC may not run high power. Power poles have become a popular device to use for getting power to radios. They are easy to make up and use. You just plug into another power pole on the power supply to pick off the power for your radio. There is a standard for making up power poles. Looking into the end of the power poles, the 'red' connector should be on your left. The connectors will also connect to each other so you will have a complete connector, positive and negative as a single connector, thereby making it even easier to use. You can get different color shells, to identify different power sources so as not to be confused. There are also several other manufacturers that make portable power units, and some are quite cheap. Don't sacrifice performance for a cheap unit, as it may fail when you need it most.

Neil didn't have a lot to say tonight. He does have power poles on his FT-991A and they work real good. They were easy to put together. I am looking to get a solar panel and some distribution devices in the near future.

John has a new portable and it seems to be working very good. He has received some power supplies from overseas distributors, but the wiring may not be sufficient for use with some high outputs. You need to make sure that the wire size will carry the current that you need. He is still working on his digital radio operations.

Brad successfully passed his extra class license. Congratulations! Now you can get on all frequencies and modes. He believes that he has some power poles on his radio.

Shawn is on his portable and using a roll up J-pole antenna tonight,

and he is loud and clear. He has also picked up some inexpensive batteries. He has one for 10A output and is using it on his FTM-300. Since his battery is lighter, it is great for portable use.

Rob is sitting on his porch using a lead acid battery tonight. Everything is working real good. He uses some J-poles for antennas for portable work and back packing. He is considering getting a LiPo battery to go with his back packing adventurers.

Rick is still putting his portable equipment together. He is thinking on getting a lithium battery.

Jim has been using batteries for some time now. He has had no problems with his operations. He has a West Mountain Rig runner for distribution of power. He recently brought a Dakota Lithium battery but hasn't used it enough to draw conclusions on it.

Chris mentioned that next Monday is our in-person meeting at the Museum at 2300Z. We can continue our discussion on batteries then. Jim Montgomery will be coming down to give us a talk on the up coming Sept. set. He also mention that there is a MDC winlink check in on Wednesday. He encourages all who can to precipitate in the check in.

Chris closed the net at 2349Z.