

ST. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

9/11/23 2300Z

Membership: KB2SKP-Chris, AC3CU-Neil, KB1YZ-Jim, N2OMC_Rob,
KC3WBR-Robert, KC3RWE-Brad

Chris opened the meeting at 2300Z and asked if anyone had an formal traffic for the net? There was no traffic. He then asked if anyone had any announcements for the net? There were none. Chris then gave a run-down of the CALVEX. He was able to activate the EOC. He was able to program the radios and get them set up. He was able to send about fifteen messages through Winlink through the terminal at the EOC. Calvert was slow in starting the exercise, but finally kicked it off around 0900 local hours. Chris was not able to communicate with Calvert as there were no Calvert hams on the air. Chris is going to talk with Calvert to find out how we can set up communications, especially during an emergency. Chris along with Rob (N2OMC) and Bob (KB3KOW) in Charles county, with the help of Jeff (KB3SPH) in Prince George was able to establish communications. Chris also worked with Bob and was able to get VarAC working. It was a peer-to-peer chat. It worked very good and the communications was excellent. He also informed us that RadioMail app has some new updates that allow using the standard Winlink forms. Chris also is working to get access to the old EOC near the courthouse in Leonardtown. As there is no HF gear in the EOC, if necessary we could set up in the parking lot if there was an emergency in order to establish a communications net.

Jim was glad that Chris was able to use the EOC and get the equipment set up. He asked Chris if he had any trouble getting his HF radio set up for the use with VarAc? Chris said that he had some minor problems, but it didn't involve a lot of extra set up procedures. Jim said that he would try and do the same with his HF and see how it goes.

Neil was glad that the exercise went off, even though there was not a lot of communications. I was glad to be able to participate in the exercise. I am hoping to be able to participate in the SET coming up in October.

At this point, there was a lot of interference on the '.390 repeater, Chris has the net shift to the '.195 repeater in order to continue the net. The net then continued on the '.195 repeater.

Brad wasn't able to participate in the Calvex due to work. He went to Jeff and Pam's connector work shop. He learned quite a bit there. They started in using power poles and he was extremely interested in learning how to use

them. Jeff and Pam are thinking of having a class on making a battery box.

Rob was able to help Chris, Bob and Jeff on Saturday for the attempt to get Hf out of southern Maryland. The switching of the net frequencies tonight was a good exercise and was successful.

I was able to call Robert on the '.390 repeater and had him shift to the '.195 repeater.

Robert said that he was trying to get his cross band repeater system to work, which probably caused the interference. He thinks that his repeater is overheating. Chris said that it was entirely possible that was the cause. In cross band repeater system, there is a continuous keyed repeater to accomplish this. He suggested that a fan blowing on the repeater may put a stop to this. He was glad that Rober was experimenting with his radios in order to learn more uses and capabilities.

Chris closed the meeting at 2340Z.