

ST. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

Amateur Radio Emergency Services

Members present: KB2SKP-Chris, AC3CU-Neil, N2OMC-Rob, KB1YZ-Jim
W3OST-Rick

Chris opened the meeting at 2300Z and asked if there was any formal traffic for the net. There was none and tonight there was no topic for discussion. We will be going over what we learned from the exercise. Chris reminded us that MD RACES will be conducting an exercise throughout Washington and Maryland on October 10, at 7:30PM local time. He said to participate if you can, however he hasn't been able to hit any of the repeaters they list. Chris also reported that Gene has gotten the HF antenna retrieved from the Alt EOC "Bunker". We will have HF capabilities there soon, though still working on getting access.

Neil wasn't able to participate in the exercise as I had a stomach problem. I am now getting a little better. Rob said he had a lot of fun doing the exercise even if they ended up in some sketchy neighborhoods. He was able to pinpoint the markers. He was glad that we were able to adapt to the conditions, change frequencies and had positive results doing so. Rob was happy that we got some simplex frequencies working. Jim says that he had a lot of fun driving around. He was able to get a Garmin GPS unit to work and was able to use it effectively. He and Rob were not able to see some of the actual markers due to tall grasses. Rick was not able to participate but was able to listen in on the frequencies. He also was able to use the APRS app on the computer to track the vehicles. Chris and Robert set up a command center in front of the Chesapeake building (across parking lot from the EOC) and operated successfully from there. Robert was able to get a QSY message out on the APRS network successfully. A lot of technology was able to be used effectively. Chris says that there are more exercises to come, so we will be able to continue to test and use all of our equipment/technology (both old and new).

Chris closed the meeting at 2328Z.