

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

7/9/24 2300Z

Members present: KB2SKP-Chris, AC3CU-Neil, AC3FE-John, W3OST-Rick, KB1YZ-Jim, KC3WOA-Abe

Chris opened the net at 2300z and asked if anyone had any formal message traffic for the net, there was none. He then asked if anyone had any announcements for the net and there were none. Chris mentioned that hurricane Beryl had made landfall in Texas and has been downgraded to a tropical storm. We should have no effects from it. Chris mentioned that we need to be aware of the weather for changes.

During the hams for breakfast, Jon brought up the need for a familiarization run with the trailer and thought that July 20, would be a good date. This would be just a familiarization exercise and not a complete setup. We could do this at the hospital parking lot or some other place that has the space available.

Chris said that he has been investigating VarAC and thinks that we could use it in our toolbox. He said it doesn't look complicated and the developer has some videos on it. He said it is faster than Winlink.

Chris has put of a new antenna for the KB2SKP-12 Winlink node and hopes that everyone can hit it.

He has found the map place that Tracey found, and the maps are pretty good. They are around \$29.00. They can be found at "Marketmaps.com".

Gene has the 146.35 repeater at his house and is going to take it to Hollywood tower and remove the DMR repeater there. Soon it will be back in service for us to use.

Pete went to the museum and checked out the long wire antenna that is on the roof; it is good, and he place a radio on it and made a contact using that antenna. We just need to get the room set up for use. It is small so a lot of people can't use it at the same time.

Neil has been playing with VarAC on VHF, but hasn't been able to hit any repeaters. Chris said that KB3KOW has one on 145.75, there is another on 145.09 and KB4BJB has one also. I will have to try them. I am up for the trailer fam this month. Hopefully I will be able to make it.

John said that Piney Point has had a little rain. He doesn't have much else to report. He thinks that we need to have the trailer fam.

Rick is doing good. He will be out of town on the 20th, for the trailer fam this time but hopes to catch the next one. He said that his brother has been trying to get him to try VarAC, but he is not quite there yet. Chris said

that it is not real hard to figure out.

Jim said has been listening. He is up for the trailer fam. He missed the hams with breakfast due to prior commencements. Jim made a clean sweep of the 13 colonies using CW.

Chris mentioned that FEMA and the Red Cross both have apps that you can put on your phones. He said that you can configure it to your preferences.

Jim on a recheck, said that he would like to pick up a few of the splices. Chris said they are Waygo fasteners and he would post a link.

Chris closed the net at 2344Z.