

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

1/15/24 0000Z

Members present: KB2SKP-Chris, AC3CU-Neil, N3AK-Jon, AC3FE-John, N2OMC-Rob, KC3WBR-Robert, KB1YZ-Jim, W3OST-Rick, KC3QQD-Erik, KF4AH-Andrew, KC3TIA-Dave, KC3WIX-Dave

Chris opened the net at 0000Z. We didn't have a topic for tonight, so Chris started by talking about the bunker. Chris and several others went to the bunker and cleaned and set up the bunker for operations. There is still some work to be done. We need to have the HF radio on the air. Chris is going to get with Gene to get the HF antenna reinstalled with the tuner. We may need to have a cable run into the bunker if there is not one already in place. Chris then asked a question to the group, what kind of software will we need for operations? Software for programming radios and logging and for other programs.

Neil I have used Motorola radio software quite extensively in the past. I still have software on a computer for Motorola radios, although the versions are old. I have N3FJP software for logging presently and have RT software for some of my radios. Chris says that there are some XTS radios that appear to be workable. There is also three battery boxes at the bunker that appear to be working.

Dave uses mostly MAC and has very little windows knowledge. He suggests that we use Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePo4) batteries. He was wondering what kind of budget that we have. Chris said that we don't have a budget, just trying to use what we have. We must work up a white paper detailing what we need and how we will use it and maybe we can get some county help.

John doesn't have any input for the software.

Rob doesn't think that he has any more to input on this. He was sorry that he couldn't make it last Saturday.

Robert uses an app on his phone for logging. He is not well versed on a lot of software.

Erik checked in with an announcement that Calvert just activated snow advisory for the county.

Jim said that when you buy a signal-link, you get a disc with software on it for various free programs.

Rick doesn't have a whole lot of experience with software. He uses Ham RS for logging.

Jon made a suggest that we design a system that we want to use and then go out and procure the items that we need. He says that you need to keep the lithium batteries charged to 70 to 80 percent of their capacity for longer use. He didn't have any

additional input on the software. Chris asked how you figure the charge on a battery? Jon says that a lot of charging systems have means to track the input and output of the batteries.

Dave says that there is a battery monitor that tracks the amount of charge that is put in to the amount used.

John had a question as to how much of a charge should you have on a battery?

Andrew just checked in.

David just checked in.

Chris closed the net at 0054Z.