

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

Amateur Radio Emergency Services

2/19/24

0000Z

Members present: KB2SKP-Chris, AC3CU-Neil, KC3WIX-Dave, KC3UCB-Anthony, KC3UYF-Tracey, KC3QNJ-Dave

Chris opened the meeting at 0000Z. The EOC bunker is cleaned up and planning on a visit next week. The coaxes that are inside the bunker are labeled and we need to find the other end and label it. There are several Toughbook laptops in the bunker and they are mostly working and usable.

Chris is looking to get a Volunteer Examiner program started, along with JD Delancy. He sent a notice to the groups.io stating how to get involved. This is something that is needed in southern Maryland. Presently there are no VE's listed in southern Maryland.

There is no RACES in the county. Chris is going to try and get more information about this, so that we would be in a better position to help the county emergency services and local government. Chris is encouraging everyone to take the ICS courses, that can be found on the internet. We would need this training so that we can understand how the government agencies interact during an emergency. RACES deals with federal entities as well as local governments, while ARES works with EMS, hospitals and other local emergency personnel.

Chris is asking for people to come up with ideas for some for summer events. These could be a fox hunt or just go somewhere and practice setting up an emergency site. He is also looking to start APRS capabilities so that we can be more familiar with the operation of APRS. A lot of APRS repeater sites have been set up as digipeaters. This allows messages to be sent to more stations for delivery.

Chris closed the meeting at 0100Z.