

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

2/26/24

0000Z

Members present: KB2SKP-Chris, AC3CU-Neil, AC3FE-John, KC3UYF-Tracey, KB1YZ-Jim, W3OST-Rick, N3AK-Jon, K3GGM-David, KC3QNJ-Donald, KF4AH-Andrew

Chris opened the meeting at 0001Z and asked for any formal traffic for the net or any announcements, there were none. He explained that there was an AT&T outage recently. It affected some areas and regions and didn't affect other places. It seemed to affect Australia and Europe but not South America or the USA. He then asked a question to the net, "what would you do if your phone didn't work".

Neil that is a good question. I would first check and see if my phone is still working and then would turn on the radios and see what I could learn from others.

Tracey I can always fall back on one of my radios. How would anyone get a hold of us? Chris has approached the EOC people about this and didn't really get any good answers. They weren't overall excited about this idea.

John has been traveling and doing all sorts of crazy things. The first thing that I would do, was to fill up my car with gas and then just sit back for a while and listen to find out what is happening. There is no need for all of us to go into a panic mode.

Jon it happened to me, my cell phone had signals but wouldn't make any calls. I had to reboot the phone and then it worked. We have to be careful about what we correlate an event to a particular cause. It may not be what is really taken place and could put you in a wrong place of action. He also related a problem that has recently come up with the DCS system. They have found a problem with the structure that with a simple command it would take down the entire DCS system. This would be a real disaster. Jon asked are there any frequencies both locally and nationwide that we could monitor to get information. Chris said that he didn't know of any. He recommends that you find a regular scheduled net and see if they have any information. He is thinking for the next session that we get Charles and Calvert county involved and see if we could come up with a tri-county emergency net to use.

Jim has been listening and browsing the internet and found some military nets on 163.5125, as well as local broadcast frequencies that would put out information. There are also some FEMA nets that can be tuned into for additional information. He has found that if you can't use your phone to

text, there are some programs available that will link to your provider and enable you to text to a phone number.

Dave has star link and some other backup programs that would be available. Then he realized what if the GPS system went down, that could possible affect the power grid and would be a major problem. Chris brought up that the GPS system has build in back up and system sensing programs that would be able to correct for this and maintain the stability of the power grid.

Rick actually was impacted by this outage. He was with his family and his phone wouldn't work, but his father and sisters still was working. They didn't figure out what took place. He said that he was able to switch to WiFi calling and could his phone would work. He would also go to his truck and turn on his radios to see what was happening on the airwaves.

Donald has been listening to the net and likes all the inputs that were presented. He would probably go visit the neighbors and see if they are having any problems. He would also turn on the local stations to see what they were saying.

Andrew was just enjoying the net. He said that it would probably be a good idea to listen to the weather stations, especially in the event of a weather event.

Chris closed the net at 0054Z.