

ST. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

2/5/24 0000Z

Members present: KB2SKP-Chris, AC3CU-Neil, N2OMC-Rob, KC3WIX-Dave,
AC3FE-John, KB1YZ-Jim

Chris opened the net at 0000Z. He had a summary of last weeks battery topic. Tonight, we are going to talk about off-grid communications. This is leaving a message to a non-ham through APRS message system. The APRS system has the capabilities of dropping a message in a box for later pickup. Chris has found some other applications that may be able to allow us to do this. He will post a link to a WIKI page for an app.

Neil hasn't tried to do any APRS yet. This would be a great thing to have in your bag in case of some problem. It would be nice to be able to get a message out to someone for help. I heard Chris loud and clear, but he didn't hear me.

Jon this is an interesting concept. I really like the idea. He could hear the 70cm repeater but couldn't access it.

Rob has tried to do APRS in the field. He was wondering if you could do APRS on HF. Chris said that there was none at this time. Rob is going to get a digi rig soon and hopes that it will work well.

Dave has a mobilinkd and a TNC, with blue tooth and it seems to work okay. He can communicate with the VHF repeaters.

John couldn't hit the 70cm repeater. He would like the capabilities to be able to this.

Jim has found that 30m is a good for HF on APRS. He has a lot of projects that he is working on.

Robert's delta loop is working good. It needs a little tweaking but not too much. He says that the preppers are using FT8 program to leave messages to be pickup later by leaving their radios on. It is not transmitting, just receiving. Chris says that we could look into this.

Andrew says in addition to the VHF repeaters in the area, there are also a few GMRS repeaters that are usable. These could be used to get messages out.

There being nothing else Chris closed the net at 0048Z.