

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

Amateur Radio Emergency Services

5/20/24

2300Z

Members present: KB2SKP-Chris, N3AK-Jon, AC3CU-Neil, AC3FE-John, KC3RWE-Brad, W3OST-rick, KB1YZ-Jim, KC3UYF-Tracey, KC3QNJ-Don, KC3WBR-Robert

Chris opened the meeting at 2300Z talking about the upcoming weather. He thinks that Maryland may be due for a bad weather event. He says to keep your batteries charged up and your go kit ready.

Chris mentioned that the Calvex exercise is coming up and we should see what we can do to support it. He also said that there had been no movement on the RACES question. We still have to get a letter written and presented to the county. We are still not sure on how the county would use us. There are various situations that we could be used. We need to get some paper maps to use in the event that the wi-fi and internet goes down, we could then find our way around. Jon mentioned that we could make up a "j-pole", and place it on a pole that could be attached to a backpack or to a vehicle to get some height and extend range. There is also an antenna that collapses down to 17 inches and extends upward 3 or 4 feet high. It would fit in your backpack and attached to the radio.

Jon mentioned that we could use breakfast with hams and meet at the museum afterwards for some projects or exercises. We had started to do this but it got waylaid and never got off. He said that maybe we could also use the trailer, set it up somewhere, and see how far away from the trailer we could communicate with it. We need to see how far south we could communicate with the trailer.

Chris asked what would be our next exercise? We could use the trailer as a base and have people go out and see how far away they could get and still communicate with the trailer. This merges with the idea that Jon had and we could maybe do more with it. We could be looking at the middle of July to have such an exercise.

Chris closed the meeting at 0026Z.