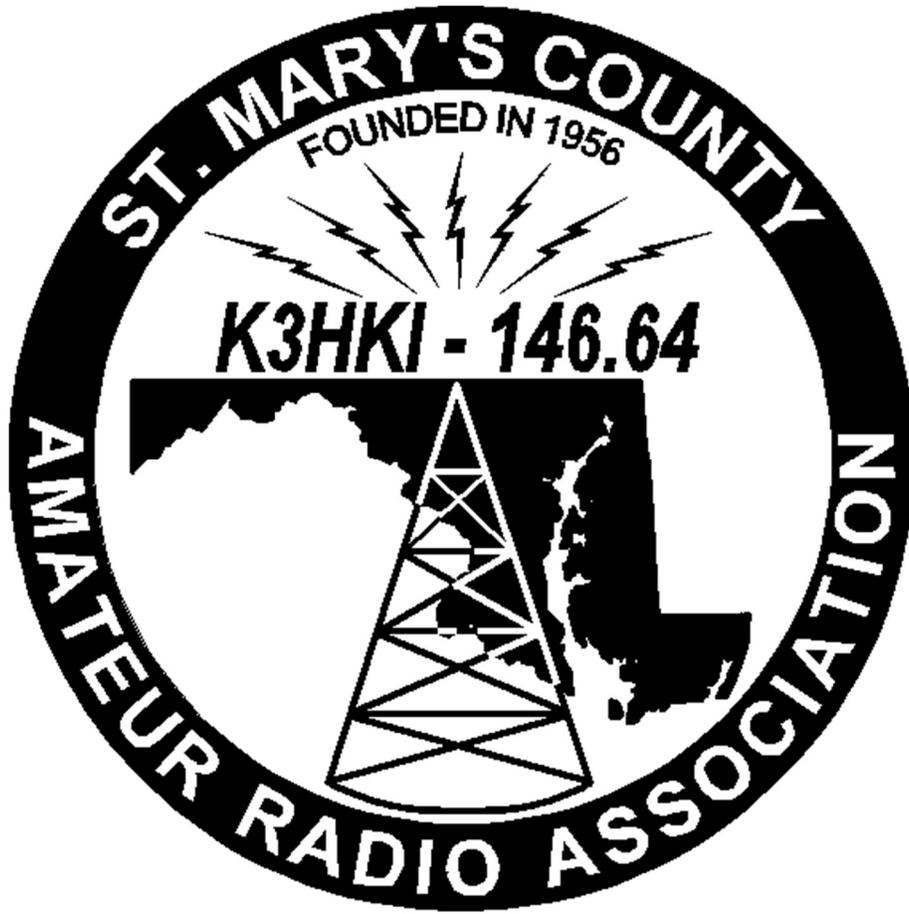


SMCORA Meeting minutes for July 2017.



The association provided grilled hotdogs and other refreshments to the membership before the meeting started.

Meeting was called to order by Vice president N1LID Richard Bozovich at 1930.

The meeting attendance was 23.

The following SMCARA officers were present:

Vice President Richard Bozovich (N1LID)

Treasurer Rene Ramirez (W3BNY)

Secretary June Entzi (KC3GYL)

The following members and visitors were in attendance:

KB3ZWM Mike

KH6CUJ Les

KC3FHO (Also M1WPB) Brian

KB3WYU Mark

N3YUG Jason

KB3WJM Robert

KD3CQ Dan

K3WJX Chuck

K3IH Gary

KC3ERI Chris

KB4YFK John

KB1YZ Jim

W3GYT Walt

N4PPG Grant

KC0ODK Lawrence

WA3CCL Harry

KA3WAP Steve

N3NV Jim

WA3UMY Pete

W4OKW Tom

Pledge of Allegiance lead by N1LID Richard Bozovich

Members asked if anyone else would like to participate in 50/50 drawing, if so, see KB3ZWM Mike.

Members were reminded to see W3BNY Rene to pay dues at close of meeting.

N1LID read list of members nominated for club officers:

KC3GYL June Entzi President

KA3WAP Steve Dagey Vice-president

W3GYT Walt Rupp Secretary

W3BNY Rene Ramirez Treasurer

N1LLID read list of electronic votes. (see attached form) Grant N4PPG made motion to proceed with election by acclamation (per Roberts Rules of order) since only one nomination per office was received. Motion was seconded and approved by membership, no one opposed.

Saint Mary's County Amateur Radio Association (SMCARA)

Monthly Treasurers Report Date submitted: July 27, 2017

SMCARA membership dues received: 23

ARRL Memberships/renewals received: 1

Prior Balance on deposit (PNC): \$4,212.03

Two deposits: \$609.00

Bills/Disbursements: 6 for \$952.54

(Check 2013) 137.90 Tom Clarke Repeater parts

(Check 2014) 95.40 Tom Shelton Member of the year plaque

(Check 2015) 250.00 Tom Clarke Field Day Tent

(Check 2016) 222.24 June Entzi Field Day Food

(Check 2017) 47.00 ARRL (June Entzi membership dues)

(ECH Transfer) 200.00 Club Insurance

Total on deposit (PNC): \$3,631.00

Current petty cash on hand: \$100.00

Grand total: \$3,731.00

Report submitted and certified be true and complete to the best of my knowledge:

_____ (Signature/Date)

Rene J. Ramirez ARS W3BNY, Treasurer.

Announcements:

Club inventory still needs to be done.

Criteria:

Must be a member in good standing

Must have the ability to gain access to the base

Cannot be a current association officer

N1LID volunteered to help with the inventory. Two other members are needed. Please contact Tom Clarke W4OKW or Richard Bozovich N1LID if you can help with this item so we can complete the inventory.

N1LID proposed the purchase of a new gas grill. The motion was seconded, and carried. The club president will move forward on the purchase of a new grill not to exceed \$130.00.

W3BNY Rene started discussion of purchasing Military antenna tower (Rocket Launcher) from Gene Talley. Gene would provide all manuals and training for the use and assembly of the tower. Only those properly trained would be allowed to assemble and break down the tower to limit any incidents from happening. Clubs price would be \$1700.00. It was suggested that the club pay for half and the membership donate half to cover the cost. Proposal was tabled for further discussion at a later date with other cost for other items on the agenda.

W4OKW Tom Clark spoke about the current status and future status of the 64 repeater. See attached document with all the pertinent information. A suggestion of taking the already earmarked \$500 and put in a separate fund that could be added to for repeater upgrades and/or purchase of new items.

K3WJX Chuck Gantz spoke about plans for 2017 Tailgate. See attached flyer for information. Volunteers still are needed, so please contact Chuck to see what is needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2035

The K3HKI repeater is located on a 150 foot Navy owned tower several miles south of NAS Pax in Hermanville. We share the tower with some UHF transmitters that support flight testing at the base and enjoy shelter, emergency backup power, and no electric bills.

The repeater is a Motorola MICOR continuous duty commercial repeater with a 6 cavity duplexer that allows the simultaneous use of one antenna for both transmission and reception. The antenna is a Phelps-Dodge Super Stationmaster and is fed with 7/8 inch Andrew hardline.

The transmitter is rated at 100 watts continuous duty and we decrease it to 75 watts for longevity purposes. The controller is a CAT-300 with the phone patch disabled. The repeater may be controlled via the input frequency or a 70CM link. The telephone line to the site was destroyed several years ago by a lightning strike and never replaced. The club elected not to spend the money to get Verizon to run a new "twisted pair" to the site, as cell phones have relegated amateur phone patches to the dustbin of history!

The repeater is over 25 years old and we do have some spare parts in the event of a failure of a major component, such as the Tx, RX, Power Amp, or power supply. The controller is of a similar vintage, however both are working well. A backup repeater consisting of a Kenwood TKR-750 repeater (owned by W4OKW) and a CAT-250 controller is available in the event of an unreparable failure of the main repeater. The backup repeater is 25 watts, so the range will be down a bit from the main unit. Occasionally I bring the backup repeater up for test and you can recognize the backup as it has no "squelch tail beep". The tone of the CW identifier is also different.

Last year the club voted to purchase a new controller for the repeater. In discussing this among the repeater tech committee, it was determined that purchasing a new controller (approx \$600) would not buy us any expanded capabilities at this time. I propose that we defer the purchase of a new controller and commit the funds to a repeater improvement fund to be established.

I recommend that the club establish a "Repeater Fund" starting with the \$500 voted for the new controller as seed money. Periodic and regular additions to the fund can be made from a percentage of the dues, as well as donations and income from club activities such as the 50-50, and the Tailgate Fest. The details can be determined by the executive committee and voted on by the membership.

Long range plan.

The repeater fund should be used to fund the long range improvements to the system, along with dedicated individual donations and special fund raisers. These suggestions are not original and are based (copied from!) on proven, current state of the art engineering. In view of the current condition of the repeater, the following is for consideration (in order of priority):

1. Implement a 70CM link. This will require obtaining a 70CM transceiver and installing an antenna at the Hermanville site. The previous antenna was removed by the Navy tower crew due to a misunderstanding. The 70CM transceiver went back to its owner when the previous GE system failed. Estimated cost is about \$300.

2. Purchase an updated repeater, such as one of the BridgeCom BCR-40V series (Approx \$ 1K). This will be a 25 watt repeater, although it can be lowered to provide required drive level for an external amplifier. The Yaesu repeaters have issues with PA reliability and problems with interfacing an external controller. The Kenwood receive sensitivity is relatively poor at .25 uVolt and the PA will overheat and fail if run at full (50 watt) power.

3. Purchase a commercial 10 watt in/ 100 watt out continuous duty repeater amplifier such as one of the Henry amplifiers. Estimated cost is about \$ 700. A heavy duty power supply will be needed, approximately \$ 200.

4. Obtain an updated controller, if and when the repeater has access to the internet. Currently internet access is not available at Hermanville. The new CAT-800 controller has many new features including internet interface, a third port, and easier programming.

5. Way out on the horizon. If we lose access to the Hermanville site and have to move, a new antenna and feedline would be needed. Estimated cost is about \$ 1K.

6. In the event of a direct lightning strike, a new duplexer could be required. This could be in the \$ 1-2 K range. n.b., the current installation incorporates commercial lightning protection devices and grounding, however Lightning doesn't always follow the rules!

Tom Clarke, W4OKW