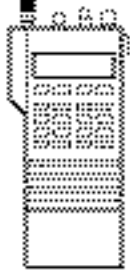


Columbia Amateur Radio Association Newsletter



November 1999

**Hot
Tips**



November Meeting

Maryland State
Patrol
Elections

Proposed By-Law Changes

The proposed elimination of term limits for Secretary and Treasurer and proposed change to make the mailed newsletter an extra charge will be voted at the November meeting.

ARRL Membership

CARA can get a rebate if you renew your league membership through the Club. – Page 2

RACES News

Page 2



Amateur Radio and Public Service Part III Amateur Radio and the MSP With Lt. Gardner Waterloo Barracks Commander

This will be Lt. Gardner's introduction to amateur radio and our ability to contribute to public service. He wants to have an informal brainstorming session with us to explore areas where we can form a partnership with the Maryland State Patrol. Areas to be discussed will include support in the event of major incidents, mass casualty communications, accident reporting, and the like.

Lt. Gardner is a 23 year veteran of the MSP. Prior to taking command of the Waterloo Barracks, he was in charge of security for the state legislature in Annapolis.

CARA elections will be held just prior to Lt. Gardner's presentation.

ARRL rebates for CARA

CARA is an ARRL affiliated club. This means that at least 50% of the CARA are also members of ARRL. We keep this relationship because of the benefits the ARRL provides to us as amateurs and as a ham club. Each year we are able to insure our hamfest and club equipment at favorable rates through the ARRL. We advertise our hamfest through the ARRL network. Bill Howard (WB3V), ARRL MD/DC Section Manager, and Herb Turnbull (W3ABC) ARRL Vice President, are members of our club and receive our newsletter. ARRL also provides books and prizes for the hamfest and sets a table each year to talk to members. ARRL members also get a subscription to QST, the Official Journal of ARRL. Being linked to them helps us a lot.

Another way they are willing to help is to provide rebates to the club for any new or renewing members. ARRL will rebate \$5.00 for every new member and \$2.00 for any renewing member who registers through the club. There are reduced rates if you are under 21 or over 65, and the club still gets the full rebate. If you want to join ARRL, think about doing it through CARA and keep a bit of your donation right here at home. Please help us keep this partnership working. If you want to know more about how to take advantage of the club rebate program, give Tim Titus (W1TRT) a call at 410-730-8420 or e-mail him at W1TRT@aol.com.

Don't forget to vote this month!

ARES / RACES News

Thanks for volunteering to assist us in the October 1999 RACES on 12 October. Stations participating in the COMEX in the field were: Dave Anderson, WA3WZX; Alan Chedester, N3AC; Jim Pilotte, N3ZPL; Tim Titus, W1TRT, and Ken Williams, W3CCI. At the EOC were Ed Wallace, K3EF; Raphael LaRocca, KB3EAF; Ray Deskins, WB3GNO and RO Mike, WA1QAA. Ed served as our Net Control Station (NCS) for our local RACES Network, Mike monitored the Central (MD) Region RACES Net.

Three of our volunteers in the October COMEX have joined Howard County (HOWA) RACES since the last club meeting. These are Jim Pilotte, Ray Deskins, and Raphael LaRocca.

The shelter locations surveyed in the exercise were: Glenelg High School (HS), Glenwood Middle School (MS), Bushy Rd Elementary School (ES), Oakland Mills HS, Hammond HS, Atholton HS, Wilde Lake HS and Elkridge ES. Fire Stations included were Stations 1 (Elkridge Volunteer Fire Department), 3 (West Friendship Volunteer Fire Department), 4 (Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company), 6 (Savage Volunteer Fire Company), 7 (Banneker Road), 9 (Tamar Drive), 10 (Old Columbia Road), and 11 (Scaggsville Road).

Fire Stations and shelters selected for our survey were primarily those at further distance from the EOC, and which we had not included in previous fire equipment dispatches. Typically longer distances equate to lower signal levels at the receiving station than do shorter distances. Also,

intervening terrain between transmitter and receiver may pose additional difficulties. In addition, this exercise familiarized us with station and shelter locations in some of our county's extremities.

The survey indicated that three sites pose some degree of difficulty for RACES communications using typical amateur equipment. These sites are Fire Stations 10 and 11, and Hammond High School Shelter.

The following jurisdiction's EOCs were represented on our Central Region RACES Net during the COMEX: MEMA, Pikesville; Baltimore County; Baltimore City; Anne Arundel County; Montgomery County; Prince Georges County; Laurel General Hospital; Kent County; St. Marys County; Charles County; Frederick County; and National Institutes of Health.

Howard County has prepared a map of the county with all streets indexed. It is rather new, and is available at the George Howard Building and at the Howard County Office of Tourism located behind the Post Office on Main Street in Ellicott City. The cost is \$2.00, and is well worth the investment for us in emergency and public service communications.

All RACES/ARES members and other licensed amateurs interested in emergency or public service communications are invited to join our RACES/ARES net the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 1930 hours local time on the 147.135 repeater. RACES Communications Exercises (COMEXs) are held on the second Tuesday of the month from 1930 to 2030 hours local time. If you would like to participate with us in the COMEXs, please

contact Mike/WA1QAA on the net, by email at bamcc@erols.com, or by landline at 410-799-0403. We look forward to the presence of your station in our nets, exercises, and activations.

73, Mike/WA1QAA

From The Prez...

The Tech crew has spent many hours working on the 448.275 repeater. I suspect they will be asking for flight pay since they are working at the 1150-foot level! Seriously, they have really worked hard to get the system working under some very interesting work situations (height, massive rf, etc.) They deserve a big thanks from all members. When you see them or talk to them, please don't forget to say "thanks".

Elections are due at the next meeting. Please be there to cast your vote. I suspect that the ballot will be listed somewhere else in this bulletin.

In past years, CARA has held a dinner in January for the purpose of inducting the new officers and also a chance to "get together". Last year, there seemed to be very little interest on a meal so we just had "coffee and cake". Please think about whether you would like to have a dinner or not. This takes some planning and if the membership wants and will support a dinner, please let the officers know. The Board of Directors can then decide what to do in January.

If you are a committee chair, the Treasurer will be asking for you budget requests soon. When you submit a budget request, remember that our financial resources come from the hamfest and the last one was a little lean, profit wise. The scholarship gets first chance at funds. From there on, each committee gets their chance. Fortunately, the Tech Committee has already planned for the future in past budgets and purchases so their requests should not be too overpowering and others will have a crack at some funds.

Please, if you plan to attend the monthly breakfast get-together on the second Saturday of the month, please give me a call at 410-465-2421 or an e-mail at rscarburgh@aol.com to let me know that you will attend. This way, I have an idea of how many will be there so I can notify the restaurant in advance and they will have enough tables reserved for us.

That's all for now.

Bob Scarburgh, KC3EV

Repeater News

After battling a broken duplexer tuning capacitor and a bad fuse holder, we seem to have 449.475/R- up and running in its final configuration on the WBFF tower!

The new eight-bay dipole antenna has made a major improvement in coverage. We have had reports of hand-held access in Washington, DC and mobile coverage into Charles Town, WV, and points south. We are definitely interested in learning more

about its coverage. Reports should be sent to W8AJR.

Special thanks go to Harvey, KC4JR, for arranging the site and to Don, W4VQA, for yeoman work in troubleshooting the duplexer and getting everything tuned!

Antenna Supplies

We have antenna wire and feedline left over from our antenna building program and are making available to the members at cost. Contact Dave Prestel, (W8AJR) at (410) 203-9432 or dprestel@sprintmail.com.

450 Twinlead	\$.19/foot
Stranded Cu Wire	\$.15/foot
RG/8X Coax	\$.16/foot
PL-259 w/adaptor	\$ 1.50 each

If you want to build your own J-pole antenna, of the type that we built at the meeting, the directions, courtesy of Alan, N3AC, are available on request

Dave Prestel, W8AJR

Help Wanted

CARA is looking for a few good folks to fill committee chairmanships. If you can spare a couple of hours a month, please consider volunteering. The following positions are open:

**Publicity
Youth Committee**

Contact Bob Scarburgh, KC3EV

Club Information

Repeaters (K3CUJ)

147.135 / R+ Net repeater. CTCSS: 156.7 Hz
147.39 / R+ Open autopatch ("*" to activate, "#" to clear) and direct dial 911
448.275 / R- CTCSS: 156.7 Hz
449.475 / R- Autopatch and direct dial 911

Mailing Addresses

Club Business

CARA
P.O. Box 911
Columbia, MD 21044
CARA@QSL.net

Newsletter

c/o Dave Prestel W8AJR
10160 Tanfield Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042
dprestel@sprintmail.com

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Activities

Club meeting: the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. , Rm 401, Gateway Center, on Columbia Gateway Drive, off of Rt. 175, near I-95. Monitor net repeater for directions.

On-the-air net: Net repeater at 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday except for meeting night.

On-the-air RACES / ARES net: Net repeater at 7:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month.

On-the-air RACES exercise: Net repeater at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday each month.

CARA breakfast: 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month, at Jilly's Restaurant in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center. If you wish to attend, contact Bob Scarborough (KC3EV).

Executive board meeting: Held monthly. Contact Bob Scarborough (KC3EV) for the time and place. All members are welcome.

CARA on the World Wide Web: Visit us at <http://www.qsl.net/cara/> for the latest "hot tips" and electronic edition of the newsletter.

Officers and Chairpersons

Officers:

President.....Bob Scarborough.....KC3EV.....H: 410-465-2421rscarburgh@aol.com
Vice-presidentDave PrestelW8AJRH: 410-203-9432dprestel@sprintmail.com
Secretary.....Dan Goulette.....N3LDC.....H: 410-796-2587danjanis@connext.net
Treasurer.....John Pinkston.....W3GJNH: 410-531-3450jpinksto@erols.com
Member-at-largeTim TitusW1TRTH: 410-730-8420w1trt@aol.com
Past President.....Larry RussoK3TFUH: 301-725-2840lrusso@erols.com
TrusteeAlan Chedester.....N3AC.....H: 301-596-6543alanc1@juno.com

Committee Chairpersons:

ElmersJohn Pinkston.....W3GJNH: 410-531-3450jpinksto@erols.com
Field Day.....Alan Chedester.....N3AC.....H: 301-596-6543alanc1@juno.com
John Pinkston.....W3GJNH: 410-531-3450jpinksto@erols.com
FAR RepTim TitusW1TRTH: 410-730-8420w1trt@aol.com
HamfestDave PrestelW8AJRH: 410-203-9432dprestel@sprintmail.com
NewsletterDave PrestelW8AJRH: 410-203-9432dprestel@sprintmail.com
PublicityVacant
SocialGloria Goldman.....H: 410-997-3838artg@home.com
Technical.....Dave PrestelW8AJRH: 410-203-9432dprestel@sprintmail.com
T-MARC Rep.....Dave PrestelW8AJRH: 410-203-9432dprestel@sprintmail.com
VE Testing.....Bob Scarborough.....KC3EV.....H: 410-465-2421rscarburgh@aol.com
Youth Education.....Dave Anderson.....WA3WZX.....H: 410-465-8557dranderson@juno.com
Youth Group.....Vacant

ARES / RACES:

ARESEd WallaceK3EFH: 410-465-0042k3ef@aol.com
RACESMike Carr.....WA1QAA.....H: 410-799-0403bamcc@erols.com

CARA's December, 1999 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <i>Happy Chanukkah</i>
5	6	7 ARES / RACES Net CARA net	8	9	10	11 Breakfast at Jilly's Restaurant
12	13	14 RACES COMEX CARA net	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 ARES / RACES Net CARA net	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas
26	27	28 No CARA meeting	29	30	31	
		Dates to Remember: Remember: No CARA meeting in December!				

Columbia Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 911
Columbia, MD 21044

First Class Mail

- Meeting -

November 23, 1999
7:30 PM

Room 401
Gateway Center
6751 Gateway Center Drive