

SMCARA Meeting minutes January 23, 2020

The SMCARA meeting was held in the Technology Hall of the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum.

Members signed in. Sixteen members and guests were in attendance.

Mike Souders, KB3ZWM was not available for the sale 50/50 raffle tickets. He was conducting a test session for new or upgrading hams.

The SMCARA Secretary Jayne McNutt, W4VJU, was not in attendance so the minutes were taken by the Treasurer Walt Rupp, W3GYT.

The Club president, Rob Hoyt N2OMC called the meeting to order at 1935 hrs EST and asked for all in attendance to give their Pledge of Allegiance to the Stars and Stripes.

With a short introduction, the president turned the meeting over to the guest presenters Jim Montgomery WB3KAS and Wanda Montgomery KA3AHI who give an overview of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) program and its connection with St. Mary's County Hospital.

The presentation outlined their efforts to get our local hospital up and running with ARES and Winlink. The purpose of ARES is to provide message handling for the hospital in and out of the county and to coordinate information flow with the five counties that make up Maryland Region V. The counties are St. Mary's, Calvert, Charles, Prince George, and Montgomery. The ARES net does not originate messages but is operational to send and receive email messages. Jim and Wanda called for volunteers to support this worthy cause from SMCARA members.

A meeting on the net is scheduled for 2/6/'2020. ARES operations are from St. Mary's County Hospital. The nets are held on the Leonardtown repeater, 147.390 (PL: 123.0)

The President then asked for a short introduction to be made by each member present by giving their name and call sign and some gave a description of their amateur radio interests.

The president then continued by leading a call for ideas from the club members to provide thoughts and ideas for the year 2020.

Topics included :

- Speakers and activities i.e. SMECO Power Safety presentation
- Winter field Day Saturday 1/25/2020 operation at the PRNAM from 1100 to 1700
- Fox Hunt Sunday 5/3/2020
- Summer field day June 27 and 28 Tony Barrett N5TB
- Echo Link Installation on K3HKI Tom Clarke W4OKW, Pete Butt WA3UMY
- Testing sessions Once a quarter Mike Sounders KB3ZWM
- Radio Trailer refurbishment. Gene Talley N3NO for recommendations
- Club equipment inventory materials and equipment Volunteers Required

The president called for the Treasurer's report. Two transactions were noted by the treasurer. The first was for SMCARA renewals and the second was a disbursement for the Christmas raffle prizes. The SMCARA bank account balance is available from the Treasurer upon request by any member.

Old business None.

The Association President adjourned the meeting at 2045 hrs local.

Respectfully submitted, Walter Rupp, W3GYT, acting Secretary