



AMATEUR RADIO

Public Service ♦ Education ♦ Technology ♦ Enjoyment

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association
supporting Ham Radio in southern Maryland for over 50 years



September 2009 SMCARA Newsletter

The monthly SMCARA Club Meeting was held on the 27th and opened by club president Pete Butt.

The participating club members meeting numbers have been pretty close the past three months.

- September – 20
- August – 21
- July - 25

The jump in the July meeting was tied to the special guest presentation on Earth-Moon-Earth communications by Fletcher Veitch (K3JYD) and Martin Berkofsky (KC3RE)

Past Month Meeting Update

Past business (August, 2009) discussed included the following:

Current Club Events

The following events have been scheduled:

Museum Tower Installation

– The goal is to install a tower for the Museum Amateur Radio installation, the goal is to have a Tri-band antenna available and to clean up around the Museum grounds. Pete Butt (WA3UMY) is scheduling the installation.

New club Treasurer - Lee Jamison (N8HTG) was recently elected as the new SMCARA Treasurer. We have transferred full management of the club bank accounts and Lee is activity requesting members "contribute" dues for the new year.

Members can pay during a club meeting or can send a check to the Association's PO Box.

The current funds in the SMCARA account total \$2,173, plus the donation from Garner of \$1,000. Additional dues were paid during the meeting.

Pete identified several bills due to be paid related to the June 2009 Field Day.

One of the first activities that Lee addressed was to bring the club back into the ARRL fold by re-

registering the club, we are now displayed on an ARRL Maryland/DC club search, go to the ARRL web site: <http://www.arrl.org/> click on the Club link under the heading and search for the club by state or zip code.

Repeater Status – 146.640 – Tom Clarke (W4OKW) and Pete Butt have spent many hours testing the existing MSR-2000 repeater modules but have not identified a specific fix. They have narrowed down to a section, but are not sure at this time if the module can be repaired.



SMCARA Club President Pete Butt (WA3UMY)

Museum Brick – The club had agreed to purchase a Naval Air Museum brick in the memory of Warren Dean, KW3N who was a charter member of the SMCARA when it was formed over 50 years ago.

During the past meeting it was agreed to purchase an additional "Brick" for \$100 in the name of the past Club Treasurer Charles

'Garner' Hayden (W3SI). Lee Jamison (N8HTG) and Walt Rupp (W3GYT) will arrange for the transaction.

Club Swap Meet – The club agreed to hold a public swap meet during the scheduled October 22nd meeting. The swap meet will start at 6 PM through 8 PM, tables will be available.



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Current Club Events

Add Club Call Sign – W3SI – It was agreed by the club to honor the memory of the past Club Treasurer Charles ‘Garner’ Hayden by transferring his call sign for use by the club. Gene Talley (N3NO) will arrange the transfer.

“Show and Tell” - During the meeting we had several members talk about items that they felt

would be of interest to the group.

Pete Butt (W3UMY) discussed the WA1FFL “Ladder-Loc” that he was using to manage a 450 ohm ladder cable. For \$13 this looks like a great method to manage your cable.

Ron Surfield (NA6RS) discussed and displayed two items, one is

his portable FT-817 ND radio and antenna in its travel case. The second item was a Mead mySKY which is a hand held device used to guide you through the night sky.

Current Member Station

This month's Member - “BOZ”

My home station consists of a Kenwood TS-2000 for two through 160 Meters. I use a Diamond X-50 vertical mounted in the attic for 2 meters and 70 centimeters.

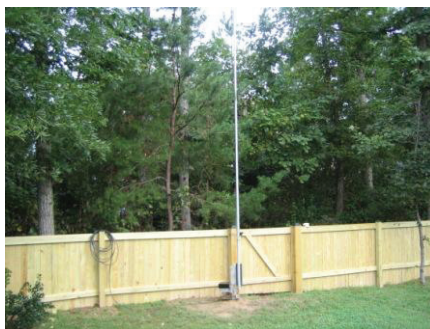


For HF I use a G5RV with a MFJ 994B tuner or a DX Engineering 43 Foot vertical with MFJ tuner mounted at base of the antenna (see pictures).

I have not yet arranged all of the vertical antenna ground radials

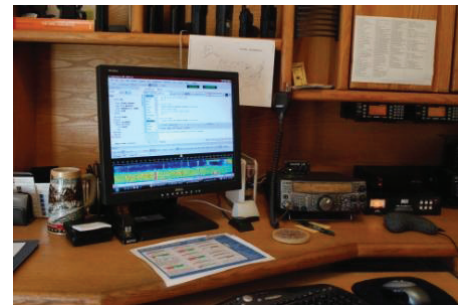


but hope to do so this fall.



I have WAS in BPSK 31, RTTY and SSB with these antennas.

You can usually find me on 20, 40 and 80 meters chasing DX or the occasional contest. I am particularly fond of PSK 31 and RTTY.



I also monitor the Saint Mary's County GMRS repeaters (WQJZ355) in addition to scanning the VHF / UHF public safety bands.

73 DE KG3BOZ



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Club Member Activity

Hams Donate Emergency Radio Station

The Patuxent River Naval Air Museum has been the recipient of a radio display and emergency communications center. The display was constructed from recently donated high frequency and very high frequency radios used at NAWC AD. The St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association installed the interactive communications display that can serve as both a teaching tool and alternate emergency operations center for St. Mary's County.

The theme of this display is "From Spark to Space". The first long distance radio signals were transmitted by Guglielmo Marconi from a spark gap transmitter located in Poldhu, Cornwall and received in St. John's, Newfoundland, a distance of 2100 miles, thus the "Spark" in the theme. The "Space" part of the theme denotes receiving and transmitting radio signals to and from and object in space. Future plans for this display are to provide communications between the International Space Station (ISS) and schools in St. Mary's County. All of the Astronauts aboard the ISS are licensed

radio amateurs.

At pre scheduled times, the astronauts communicate with school children around the world. They answer questions about life aboard the ISS. The call sign of the Museum radio station is K3NHK. The last three letters (NHK) are the ones used as the Morse code for the Patuxent River Naval Air Station very low frequency radio identifier.

A diverse group of technically trained and publicly minded amateurs cooperated to assemble the radio console and transmitting and receiving equipment into a viable museum display. The high frequency radio is a Rockwell-Collins 380 transceiver that served for many years as the main shore side radio as part of the Military Affiliated Radio System (MARS) operated from the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. The MARS system provided ship to shore communications between the sailors afloat and families ashore.

Included in the "Spark to Space" display are two computer driven displays. One has a picture of the location of the ISS with respect to its position over the earth and the other display provides

a continuous video program explaining the uses of and facts about the ham radio hobby. Any licensed amateur radio operator is invited to come in to the museum during its hours of operation and use the high frequency transmitting and receiving equipment to make contact with other radio amateurs all around the world.

Walter Rupp W3GYT

This article was printed in the summer 2009 Quarterly Newsletter of the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum Association, Inc.

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio association meets once a month, normally on the fourth Thursday of the month.

The museum is located just north of Gate #1 of the Naval Air Station Patuxent River at the intersection of MD Route 235 and Pegg Road (north-bound side of Rt. 235). Click [[here](#)] for the museum web site which contains detailed driving directions and other information where our meetings are held.



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Club Calendar Information

Event Schedule – 2009

Please go to the SMCARA website for current and updated activities!

- 26 September Museum Tower Working Party
- 10 October Museum Tower Working Party 10 AM
- 17 October Scout Jamboree Support (Ed Pratt/kc0wkk)
- 22 October Swap Meet at the Museum (6-8 PM)

Club Contact Information

Club Contact Information

President	Pete Butt	WA3UMY	E-mail - petebutt@comfac.com
Vice President	Tom Clarke	W4OKW	E-mail - w4okw@md.metrocast.net
Secretary	Walt LeFave	N3ILS	E-mail - vjet@aol.com
Treasurer	Lee Jamison	N8HTG	----
Web site	Ed Pratt	KC0WKX	E-mail - kc0wkk@tannercreek.com
Repeater Trustee	Bob Carter	W5BTC	E-mail - dc2light@md.metrocast.net

Club Web site: <http://www.qsl.net/smcara/>

Club Address: P.O. Box 186 Hollywood, MD 20636

Club Email Reflector : <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/smcara>

Club Meetings: Patuxent River Naval Air Museum Radio Club - K3NHK

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio association meets once a month, normally on the **fourth** Thursday of the month.

The museum is located just north of Gate #1 of the Naval Air Station Patuxent River at the intersection of MD Route 235 and Pegg Road (northbound side of Rt. 235). Click [<http://www.paxmuseum.com/>] for the museum web site which contains detailed driving directions and other information where our meetings are held.