

SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2007

Meeting was held at Beebe Hospital

Called to order at 7:40P

President Joe Stormer (W3TL) opened with the pledge to the flag, then held a moment of silence for our silent keys, our fallen military men and women, as well as those who are still in harms way.

President Joe Stormer then introduced new members to the club, and informed us that we are now the largest amateur radio club in the state.

President Joe Stormer introduced, and informed the group that Steven Heder (KB3PIX) is our newest general ticket holder. Congratulations, and welcome Steve.

Guests for the evening included: Henry Evens from the Cape Gazette, Bill Colley from WGMD radio station, Chris Littleton (KB3NRE) student of Sussex Tech, and Mike Simpler, Communications Mgr. for Beebe Hospital.

Mike Simpler went on to explain that during Katrina's devastation, all communications failed except, Amateur Radio. He further stated that Beebe is dedicating a room and Amateur equipment funded and procured by DPH/DEMA, to help eliminate the possibility of a similar problem's here in Delaware.

Pat Ryan KW3Z (ARRL ARES Emergency Coordinator) was next with the evening program:

Hurricanes and Delmarva

Pat Ryan (KW3Z) presented charts and graphs, showing over 50 years of monitoring these storms. Charts showed wind speeds, rain amounts, flood damage, and wind forecasts, as they related to different category storms. He also stated that Delmarva has over 1.5 million people here during peak hurricane season. This couple with the fact that we have the 3rd worst evacuation plan in the NATION, is Not Good... Thanks Pat for a superb and informative presentation.

Business Meeting

Vice Pres. Bill Prettyman W3DR, stated that the Sussex Tech repeater is now up and running at a frequency of 145.310 w/no PL tone. The intent of this repeater is to give the students/Sussex Tech Amateur Radio Club members an opportunity to talk to each other, have nets and learn repeater procedures. Bill also thanked Chris Littleton from Sussex Tech Amateur Radio Club for attending the SARA meeting.

Bill also requested volunteers to start a scouting program to enlighten boys and girls about HAM radio. Chris Littleton (KB3NRE), a senior scout leader, along with Tony McClenny (N3ME) and Jerry Martin (KB3NZJ), all volunteered to get things started. Jim

Richardson (N3EZY) also voiced his interest, but noted his current health issues. Tony McClenny stated he would be most happy to help these scouts get their merit badges. This program if successful, could be a great source for potential new hams.

President Joe Stormer (W3TL) stated, that help is needed on Oct 10, 12, and 13th to man the light ship Overfalls. If you are interested in helping please contact him @ w3tl@arrl.net

Frank Filipkowski (AD3M), ARRL section manager, then reminded the group of the upcoming simulated emergency test (SET). The activity will take place on Sat. Oct 6 in Smyrna, and will be responding to a huge flooding situation affecting our coastline. Local, state, and county response plans will be tested as well. Please stay tuned and alert for particulars regarding the (SET) from Pat Ryan (KW3Z).

Frank Filipkowski (AD3M) also took the time to inform us of the ARRL position on using the airways to gather, and request support on political activities by individuals. To solicit votes or support for ones self is strictly against ARRL policy.

Pat Ryan (KW3Z) prior to departing early with a sore leg, stated that on Nov.10th at Sussex Tech, an ARECC Level 1 Course review and test would be given. Anyone interested or having questions should contact Pat Ryan @ kw3z@arrl.net or Bill Prettyman @ w3dr@arrl.net

Paul Ross (W3FIS), reported on our website news letter, stated that he needed more direction from the club as to how far he goes with same. The newsletter should be posted shortly on our website (www.sussexamateur.org).

Walt Palmer, Public Information Officer (W4ALT), Reported on the extremely small article in QST regarding the NARC/SARA field day. He stated that the issue would be resolved shortly and we are on top of the issue.

Tony McClenny (N3ME) reported that the web site is up and running. He also requested that the team from the Lighthouse expedition and Field Day event and officer's that receive QSL cards be sent to him, and he will return cards to them.

Marvin Stumbo (KB3HTE) reported that Rod Eikenberry has two repeaters in Seaford, which are back on the air again. The VHF 2 (meter) frequency is 146.715 with the PL 77. The UHF (70 centimeter) frequency is 442.950 and the PL is 156.7. All are invited to try and use.

Denny Karol (KB3MJ), Treasurer gave his treasure report. A motion was made to accept the report and accepted.

Denny went on to say that there was an issue one evening where foul language was used over the repeater recently. This is an FCC violation, and must be stopped, NOW. Please use good operating procedures when on the air, and report any future infractions to club officer's.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Jack Poore K3JP. Jack, being independently wealthy, promptly returned his winnings to the club...all kidding aside, thanks Jack.

President Joe then reported that new bylaws are being worked on. When they are completed, they will be turned over to the club to be voted on.

Next months meeting will be held at the Marvel Museum in Georgetown.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM 24 members and 3 guests attended.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Betyeman (W3DEL) Volunteer back up Secretary