

SARA Minutes for 17 March 2010 Approved

Call to Order: 7:30 PM

Location: Marvel Museum, Georgetown, DE

Pledge to Flag

Moment of Silence for fallen protectors of our country, community and silent keys.

President's Welcome, Comments and Upcoming Events: Bill, KB3KYH, mentioned that Tony, N3ME is home from the hospital and is on the road to recovery. Also, 2010 **Club Dues** are now being accepted by Paul, W3FIS. Bill also thanked Herb, KF3BT for filling in for him during his extended vacation trip to warmer climes. There will be a **special event station** set up at Ft Miles on April 24th. Willie, W3IOU, is Chairman for the event. Walt, W4ALT mentioned that the Club has been given approval to use the W3D special event call sign. This event will be in concert with the Nanticoke and LARS and SARA clubs. Additionally, there is a possibility that the Ft. Miles Historical Society may have an information table set up at the Hamfest on April 17th. A quick show of hands indicated that about sixteen SARA Members are interested in participating in the event. There is also the possibility of a Civil War re-enactment at the Marvel site in either May or September. Summer Field Day will be at the Marvel site on the last full weekend in June. **Grass cutting** season at our meeting place is almost upon us. We need all Members that are capable to participate to help out. KB3KYH mentioned that Ross, N3NXR, did a fine job of leading this effort last year, however, Ross will not be available in this capacity this year. We need someone to coordinate this project. W4ALT mentioned that Delaware has proclaimed June as Amateur Radio Month.

Vice President's Report: Nothing additional to report.

Secretary's Report: The February Minutes are now posted on the SARA web site. A motion to approve by W3TL was seconded by W4ALT and

affirmed by the Members. K3LRH reminded all about the new "**Equipment for Sale**" section at the end of each monthly Minutes. Listings should be sent to K3LRH@ARRL.NET by the end of each month for inclusion in that month's minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Paul, W3FIS, read the report and reiterated that he is now accepting 2010 SARA dues. If there is any question about your dues status, please check with Paul. Motion to accept the report by N3NXR, seconded by WA3GS was affirmed by the Members.

Hamfest Update/Status Report: Chuck, W3DEL, Chairman for this major event, mentioned that plans are moving along nicely and raffle ticket sales are brisk. Chuck also thanked Joe Hudson for his corporate contribution. Herb, KF3BT, reported that web site tracking is showing a lot of hits since February. Jack, K3JP, said the several vendors have been signed-on and more are expected. KB3KYH has lined-up speakers, and W4ALT is working on getting media coverage, including WBOC and WGMD, along with newspaper coverage. Walt also mentioned that a Face Book page is now set-up and running. Joe, KC2OCC, is contacting potential suppliers requesting equipment donations for door prizes. Joe needs two people to help him with this project. Lunch will be included in the admission price again this year.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee Report: John, K3JL, reported that the 2M power supply issue has been repaired and also that we need a new battery backup.

Membership: W3TL, no report.

Grass Cutting: see President's remarks, above.

Mentoring: N3IOD is helping another ham getting his antenna system operational.

External entity reports:

ARRL: Frank, AD3M, reported on the status of HR-2160 /S-1755 regarding HOA antenna restrictions for ham radio stations used for emergency

purposes. There is also a blanket Hospital Waiver being drafted for the purpose of emergency communications by Ham station operation in area Hospitals. AD3M, W4ALT and W3IOU participated in a "surprise" on-the-air drill at a recent meeting New York. Delaware had a total of fifteen HF contacts during the thirty-minute drill.

ARES: KB3KYH mentioned that there would be a meeting sometime in April for ARES Members. W4ALT displayed samples of bright yellow "ARES" high-visibility vests that are now available for purchase by members who are active in ARES events where it would be desirable to wear such vests. See Walt if you are interested.

RACES Report: Cliff, KB3PML, reported that Sussex County RACES has established an informal working arrangement with the Pittsburgh, PA EOC. Cliff also reminded all that the RACES radio room in the Sussex County EOC is open (Open Operator Night) to Members every Wednesday evening between 6:30 and 9:30. Please make arrangements with Cliff. A new 2M digital net is being started also.

DARTT Report: FCC License testing for the month of April will be held at the Hamfest on April 17th.

Sussex Tech Report: Herb, KF3BT, reported that he has drafted a congratulatory letter from SARA to Dr. A.J. Lathbury, Asst. Superintendent of Sussex Tech School District. Dr. Lathbury will begin his tenure as Superintendent, replacing Dr. Patrick Savini in Fall of 2010. Dr. Lathbury has been a supporter of our Hamfests since they began, and we wish to continue our relationship with him.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Motion to adjourn by W3TL was seconded by KB3NZJ and affirmed by the Members.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Len Hecker, K3LRH
Secretary

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Guest Speaker: Paul, W3FIS, gave a very interesting talk and power point presentation on "Extreme QRP" utilizing a beacon system called WSPRNET. This system utilizes a computer tracking whereby a QRP signal (generally less than one watt) is tracked, reported and plotted on a world map via the program by other operators who "hear" the sender's QRP signal. This is accomplished by automatically transmitting the operator's call sign via computer control over a period of time and interval set up by the operator. To learn more about this process, simply Google WSPRNET, download the free software, get an account and begin to experiment. The signals take very little bandwidth, only 6 Hz!

The Members thanks Paul for his informative presentation.

****** Equipment for Sale: ******

(This section is open to all SARA Members. If you have items for sale and would like them published at the end of the January Minutes, please send your list to K3LRH@ARRL.NET by the end of January.)

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