

**Minutes of the Sussex Amateur Radio Association**  
**Meeting**  
**May 18, 2011**

Call To Order

Herb KF3BT called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Following the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence, he welcomed all the attendees.

President's Report

Len K3LRH, Secretary, and Chuck W3DEL, Vice President, are unable to attend this meeting. Bill KB3KYH volunteered to take the minutes.

Herb noted that Dennis K3DJS of Sussex Technical High School had recently expressed interest in getting mentoring support for his electronics students from SARA. Herb explained that over the past several years Bill W3DR, Tom WA3CDV, and himself had been acting as mentors to the Sussex Tech ham club and in the past two years the club had not been active. He said that he would engage Dennis to determine the requirements and the structure for mentoring for the next academic year.

Herb announced that the June meeting would be mostly a program meeting, with the exception of last minute field day items and any other pressing business. One of the June programs will be a presentation by Nathan Truitt, a Sussex Tech student, on repeater distance and performance calculations. Herb asked for recommendations on other topics that would be of interest. Bill KB3KYH suggested that Tony N3ME be invited to give a talk on his recent DX vacation in Barbados. He also suggested a program on amateur radio satellite operations or on 6-meter operations. Paul W3FIS offered to present a program on repeaters at the July meeting.

Next Herb reported that he had e-mailed the president of the Ann Arundel Radio Club (AARC) requesting that AARC turn off their repeater link in the event of an emergency in Delaware. This was in response to a decision made at the April SARA meeting. He noted that this was a temporary measure and that a final resolution to the interference problem would be discussed during W3DR's repeater committee report.

Secretary's Report

No report due to the absence of the Secretary.

Treasurer's Report

Paul W3FIS reported that the Ham Fest was very successful in adding to the clubs treasury. He also said that he would be updating SARA's insurance coverage and requested that Bill W3DR provide a list of repeater property that needed to be insured. Following some discussion, Bill W3DR said the Repeater Committee would develop the list to include a recommendation on adding the 220 repeater to the

coverage. The 220 machine was removed from the policy approximately two years ago to conserve funding. The club's financial position at this time would allow for the coverage.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by John K3BH; second by Dell K3AXR. Approved/passed by voice vote.

### Hamfest Report

Jerry KB3TXP said that everything was complete on the hamfest to include his final report. Herb congratulated Jerry for a job well done. All agreed.

### Field Day

Dell K3AXR reported that the Field Day committee is in place and that arrangements have been made for nearly all of the equipment and food. This year the focus will be a field day fun. In keeping with this, the activities will take place in the museum's air conditioned Barrel Barn with all of the stations operating on commercial power. We will have three HF stations. A Get On The Air (GOTA) position is under consideration. Dell reminded everyone that field day is on June 25 and 26 with set-up on Friday, June 24. He encouraged everyone take some time to come out and enjoy the ham radio camaraderie. Contact Dell to let him know that you would like to operate or help the committee, or if you have any questions about field day.

### Repeater Committee

Discussion.

W3DR next reported on the repeater upgrade initiative. He recommended that the next activity focus on replacement of the 2 meter antenna, hardline, and associated hardware. Several comments and questions were addressed. John K3JL noted that the present 2 meter antenna was installed in 1980 and had probably long outlived a normal life cycle. Discussions also addressed the 440 and 220 antennas.

Following more discussion Jerry KB3TXP moved that the Repeater Committee present a proposal for consideration at the June meeting detailing the components and total price estimate of an overall upgrade to include the two meter antenna, hardline, hardware, and installation as well as a cost estimate for the replacement of the 220 and 440 antennas. Motion seconded by Paul W3FIS. Passed by voice vote.

### Membership

Bill KB3KYH reported that on the recommendation of Jamie KB3QLK the club is now presenting an "invitation to join" packet to all hams who pass tests at the SARA meetings. Herb handed out the first two packets tonight.

### ARES

Bill KB3KYH reminded everyone of the ARES net on May 19 and the ARES meeting on May 25. He also discussed ARES participation in the Red Cross drill on June 11.

#### RACES

Jay K3BH summarized RACES participation in 911 Day at the EOC. Attendees were area 5<sup>th</sup> graders, many of whom made radio contacts with Len K3LRH and Paula KB3TCH. He said the next RACES event was "Touch A Truck" at Seaford on May 21. RACES will be giving ham radio demonstrations as part of the event.

#### Past Presidents Report (s)

None

#### Old Business

None

#### New Business/Open Discussion

None

#### Adjournment

There being no further business, Herb adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

*Submitted by Bill Duveneck KB3KYH*

*May 19, 2011*