

# SARA Minutes for July20, 2011 Approved

**Location:** Marvel Museum, Georgetown, DE

**Call to Order:** 7:30 PM

**Pledge to Flag**

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

## President's Comments and Upcoming Events:

Herb, KF3BT welcomed guests and requested around-the-room introductions. Special guests present at tonight's meeting: Bill Colley (WGMD), Rosalie Walls and Joe Hudson.

**Presentation of the Bill Leonard Award to Bill Colley:** Frank Filipkowski, AD3M, representing the ARRL, presented Bill Colley, WGMD radio talk show host, with the Bill Leonard National Professional Media Award sponsored by the ARRL. The Award was presented in recognition of Mr. Colley's contribution to amateur radio for his special program where he interviewed Past SARA President Bill Duveneck on several topics about amateur radio and how ham radio serves the local and national community in times of disasters as well as the hobby aspects of ham radio. The award was a plaque and \$250.00. Mr. Colley followed the presentation with several remarks and thanked the ARRL and SARA. In return, Mr. Colley very kindly contributed the monetary award to Sussex Tech Amateur Radio Club. **Bill Colley was nominated by Walt Palmer, W4ALT and Bill Duveneck, KB3KYH.**

**Presentation of Award to Joe Hudson:** Chuck, W3DEL, presented Joe Hudson with an award recognizing Joe as a great friend of SARA and ham radio. In particular Joe's support of the 2011 Hamfest. Joe briefly thanked SARA and commented that he believes SARA is a great organization and is very happy to participate. The award was a

diamond shaped 8 inch tall acrylic presentation piece, engraved with the SARA logo and a statement of the club's appreciation for his support.



Joe Hudson receives an award of appreciation  
from SARA Vice-President Chuck Betyeman, W3DEL  
Photo by KF3BT

In other remarks by Herb, the **Grass Cutting** schedule is circulating...please sign-up. Bill, KB3KYH, Frank, AD3M, and Herb recently met with Congressman John Carney to brief the congressman on U.S. Rep Peter King's Homeland Security Bill. The bill seeks to sell 440 MHz spectrum to finance other projects in the bill. The bill is opposed by the amateur radio community. Suggestions for **Future topics** for upcoming meetings were solicited. Initial suggestions included RTTY and JT65. If anyone has others, please email Herb. The **Audit Committee** plans to meet at Bill Hammond's house sometime during the week of July 25<sup>th</sup> or August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Meeting with TMARC, AARC and SARA:** Bill, W3DR, John, K3JL, Denny, KB3MJ and Chuck, W3DEL, Bill, KB3KYH, and Herb, KF3BT met in Denton this month to discuss the continued issues with interference caused by the AARC repeater with the KB3BHL repeater and initial comments were that the meeting was productive. Several options were presented. Herb reviewed the options as follows:

1. Return AARC .075 repeater to Millersville, leave the link up and see if there is a lessening of interference with SARA repeater. **A viable option which might be worth exploring. If relocation stops the interference, then we've received**

valuable data. However, this option could represent a major effort that does not solve the problem.

2. AARC explores 145.17 shared-unprotected repeater pair (short term) and searches for abandoned repeater pairs. AARC coordinates an abandoned repeater pair (long term). A viable option. The unprotected repeater pair is a short term option for AARC. AARC should search for an abandoned repeater frequency as a long term solution.
3. AARC replaces their 147.075 repeater with a 70 cm (440) repeater that can be linked to their 147.105 machine. A viable option.
4. AARC reduces power output and the corresponding effect on SARA is monitored A viable option which should be explored, but may not be a solution to the interference problem.
5. Encourage mutual assistance between SARA and AARC. Viable, however, this is a collegiality issue and should definitely be on the table. It is not a solution to the repeater interference.
6. AARC goes directly to the 1MHz split pair of 147.43 in /146.43 out. This option is seen as the most viable and most realistic option. It is a true win-win, and we believe that AARC will have no interference to or from their system. By using the 1 MHz split, AARC can increase its ERP without de-sensing their receiver. Also, if AARC elects to increase power levels, it will not create a problem with SARA, and can be done without the retuning of duplexers.

Some discussion followed the presented options. Our choice was sent to Dave Preston (TMARC) today. Another meeting with TMARC is planned.

**Vice President's Report:** No additional comments.

**Treasurer's Report:** No report.

**Secretary's Report:** K3LRH mentioned that the April, May and June minutes are now posted on the SARA web page. A motion to approve by Joe, W3TL was seconded by Gerry, W3AUS and passed by the Members' vote.

### **Reports from Committees and Entities:**

**Membership:** Joe W3TL reported that SARA currently is comprised of 93 Members.

**Field Day:** Dell, K3AXR, Chairman, reported that this year's FD was a fun event and the log will be submitted to the ARRL. Dell thanked all that participated.

**DARTT:** Joe, W3TL, reported that two tests were administered tonight. There is now one new ham and Evan moved up to *General Class*. Additionally, Joe mentioned that **Lighthouse/Lightship** weekend is the first weekend in August and he and others will be operating the club station KB3MIP. Chuck suggested that Membership cards be made up for Club Members.

**ARRL:** It has been a very active month for Frank, AD3M. He mentioned that he visited ten Field Day events in Delaware this year. He also sent a letter to Joe Thomas (Sussex County EOC) describing how ham radio can help with emergency communications when needed. Frank also sent a lengthy letter to Rep. John Carney voicing his and amateur radio's concern about H.R.607 and the potential loss of certain portions of the 440 MHz spectrum by auction for so-called "public safety" uses. Frank read the letter to the Members and submitted a copy to the Secretary for our files. Frank also submitted other documents for the files concerning this topic, including a letter from Richard Ross, publisher of CQ Magazine, to Rep. Peter King from Massapequa Park, NY. Finally, a memo from Justin Kates (DEMA) reported that he will leave Delaware on July 22<sup>nd</sup> to move to the position of Director of Emergency Management for the city of Nashua, NH.

**RACES.** Jay, K3BH, mentioned that the annual **Triathlon** in Bethany Beach will be held on September 24<sup>th</sup> and participants are sought to provide communication for this event.

**Sussex Tech:** Herb thanked Bill Colley for his donation of \$250 to the Sussex Tech Radio Club.

**ARES:** Mike, N3MRM, reported that Thursday August 3<sup>rd</sup> is "**Milton Night Out**" and he is looking for operators to participate in a ham radio demonstration in Milton.

**Past Presidents Reports:** None

**New Business:** Joe, KC2OCC, made a motion that a new **Member List** be made up. The motion was seconded by K3BH and passed by the Members' vote.

**Old Business:** Joe, KC2OCC, thanked all that participated in the **VFW Post 28 Bike Event**.

**QSL Cards:** QSL cards are up-to-date and Tony, N3ME, is still looking for ideas for a nicer Club QSL card. Please send your suggestions to Tony.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn by W3AUS was seconded by N3ME and approved by the Members. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Len Hecker, K3LRH  
Secretary