

SARA Minutes for 16 June 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, welcomed all Members followed by an around-the-room introduction of Members. New Hams Ed Rollins and Ken Hooper were recognized. **Summer Field Day** is getting close. Dell, K3AXR, FD Chairman, briefly reviewed plans for the event. In addition to invited political figures, there are several other invited guests, including Lucy Carter, wife of Dallas Carter, W3PP, SK. Dallas' call will be used by SARA during this event and should draw a lot of attention in memory of Club Member Dallas. Jocelyn Quick will be providing cooking for the event and needs some help with that. We will be running three stations for a twenty-four hour period spanning noon Saturday to noon Sunday. A motion to provide up to \$300 for purchase of a canopy/tent was presented by KC2OCC and seconded by W3IOU was passed by the Members. W4ALT (absent) suggested that door prizes and a picnic for participating members be included as part of the Field Day activities. KB3KYH polled the Members for any interest, and there was none for this year's event. We still need more Members to operate during Field Day. In other Club activities, Jim Bowden reported to Bill, KB3KYH, the **grass cutting** has been working very well and he is pleased with the results so far. The grass cutting sign-up sheet was circulated among the Members present. The "**Hands Free**" **Mobile Communications Legislation** is still in the works. Senator Booth's amendment to exempt amateur radio operators from the restrictions of the Bill was modified with the words "during emergencies", which is not helping the Amateur community. This Bill passed the Senate, however Ruth Briggs King further amended it to exempt licensed amateur radio operators and encouraged all to participate in getting her bill passed. More on the final legislation will be available by the July Club meeting. The month of June was proclaimed **Amateur Radio Month** and Georgetown Council awarded a

certificate to this effect to the Club. The regular **440 SARA NET** is still being held on Thursday evenings at 9 pm.

Vice President's Report: Herb, KF3BT, mentioned that the SARA domains, website hosting plan, and website passwords were transferred to a Go Daddy account under SARA administrative control.

Secretary's Report: The May Minutes are now posted on the SARA web site. A motion to approve by KB3MJ was seconded by N3IOD and affirmed by the Members.

Treasurer's Report: Paul, W3FIS, read the Treasurer's Report. A motion to approve by N3ME was seconded by W3RMM and passed by the Members.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee Report: All supplies to replace the 2M repeater system are now in Club hands and it is estimated that it will take about thirty days for installation to be completed.

Mentoring: No Report

QSL: Tony, N3ME, reported that the QSL card returns are up-to-date.

PIO: KB3KYH mentioned that W4ALT (absent) is diligently working on media coverage of Field Day.

External entity reports:

ARRL: Frank, AD3M, mentioned that the Hands Free Bill, as presently amended, is a bad bill and recommended that we all support the revised bill initiated by Representative Ruth Briggs King. Additionally, Frank mentioned that there is an open position at the ARRL in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

ARES: KB3KYH reminded everyone that the regular **ARES nets** held on the first and third Sunday of each month on the 147.075 repeater have been moved to the first and third Thursday of each month at 8:00 pm. This schedule works better for most ARES members.

RACES Report: No report.

DARTT Report: Joe, W3TL reported that FCC License testing for Sussex Tech students scheduled for June 12th resulted in eight out of twenty-two students passing the requirements for the Tech License.

Sussex Tech Report: No report.

Past Presidents' Reports: None

Old Business: None.

New Business: KC2OCC ran a short auction of electronic parts in "**Mystery Boxes**" for the benefit of the Club. The parts were provided to the club courtesy of the Sussex Technical Amateur Radio Club.



[What's In The Mystery Box?](#)

Motion to adjourn by KB3NZJ was seconded by KF3BT and affirmed by the Members.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Len Hecker, K3LRH
Secretary

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Guest Speaker: Chief Warrant Officer John Dill, KB3PGK, presented a slide show entitled "U.S. Army Communications in Iraq". John is a member of the 261st Signal Brigade, Delaware Army National Guard. John's unit was the first Army National Guard communications unit to provide communications, IT and other technical communication services in the Iraq theatre. Stressing the importance of communication, his unit served on a one-year rotational deployment basis and he detailed the timeline requirements for training, etc. prior to and during deployment. The mission began at Ft. Bliss, moved to Kuwait and then to Iraq, replacing the 335th Signal command. The mission of his Brigade was to provide communications for the multi-national Corps in Iraq.

John showed several slides of the various non-classified operations, including several modes of operation, particularly the satellite systems for communication. This effort provided both strategic and tactical communication support. "Task Force Diamond", as it was called, required 100% up time. John also participated in teaching courses critical to the mission. The courses were taught at "Baghdad Signal University", otherwise known as "BSU". Particular challenges in the theater included weather, bandwidth limitations, weather, satellite stability and weather. Did I say weather? The temperatures ran as high as 147 degrees! Throughout the entire mission, John's Brigade accomplished 98.3 % communications reliability on a 24/7 basis. The only glitch was when one satellite developed a problem for a period of seven hours.

Additional slides were of some of the equipment used, "Camp Victory" located in Saddam Hussein's Palace, Saddam's brothers' palaces and the General's house. Looked like they ate well at the General's place!

KB3KYH and the members thanked John for a very interesting and informative presentation. Welcome home, John, and thanks for your service!

In concluding, John presented Bill, KB3KYH with a Warrant Officer Corps medallion, a very prized item.



Warrant Officer Corps Medallion.



Chief John Dill, KB3PGK, presents the Warrant Officer Corps medallion to SARA President Bill Duveneck, KB3KYH.

Photos courtesy of KF3BT.

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****** 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 June Minutes, please send your list to K3LRH@ARRL.NET by the end of June.)

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