

Saratoga Amateur Radio Association

146.655 Mhz, -, 114.8 Hz

assisting the City of Saratoga
affiliated with the Amateur Radio Relay League
part of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service
and the Silicon Valley Emergency Communication System



Minutes of Meeting of

March 5, 2008

Location: Saratoga Fire Department

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Don Steinbach, Secretary.

Attendees:

- Christina Sand, KG6ORH
- Yin Shih, N9YS
- Rob Vance, N6ROB
- John Glass, NU6P
- Fabrizio Corno, KG6UOH
- Don Steinbach, AE6PM
- Mark Bohrer, KI6KQD
- Joe Talaich, N6IWJ
- Or Schwartz, KI6NZB

The meeting, having been duly noticed, began at approximately 7:40 pm and was called to order by John Glass, Vice President. There were introductions around the table and those present introduced themselves.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

Treasurer's Report.

- Fabrizio reported that only 10 members have paid their 2008 dues. Don Steinbach and Joe Talaich paid their dues at the meeting after the report, raising the total to 12. Fabrizio will send a reminder to those who have probably forgotten to pay.
- The checking account is in order, with two checks outstanding. One of those is for the Secretary of State filing fee. Christina believes this check should have cleared by now and will investigate.

Secretary's Report.

- The February minutes have been posted on the web site. The minutes were approved by the members

Emergency Coordinator Report.

- No report

Emergency Services Report.

- No report

Repeater

- Echolink and IRLP service has been restored. Thanks go to Rob Vance, John Glass, Yin Shih, Christina Sand and Don Steinbach. The HandiHams made extensive use of this capability while they were at the camp in Cupertino. Rob spent many hours building, installing modifying and adjusting the equipment at both ends of the link. As a result of his efforts the system is stable and the audio quality is excellent.
- Thanks to Rob and John, we have ARRL Audio News at the end of the Monday night 2-meter net once again.

Ham Class

- A Technician ham radio class is planned for May 17, 2008 at West Valley College. The intent is to create new ham radio operators from recent CERT graduates. Course development has been started by Don Steinbach. SARA members interested in participating are: Rob Vance, Yin Shih, Christina Sand, Or Schwartz, Fabrizio Corno and Joe Talaich. A planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12th, at 1900.

EOC Support

- Christina checked into the EOC-to-EOC net this morning. Saratoga was heard "loud and clear."
- Christina stated that she and Scott Peterson would cover the net next month as well.

Program.

- Tonight's speaker was Don Steinbach, AE6PM. The topic was a homebuilt boost voltage regulator capable of maintaining 13 Vdc at up to 25 A from a battery power source as low as 10 Vdc. Most of our 100 watt transceivers are spec'd to operate from a nominal 13.8 Vdc source, such as in an automobile with the engine running, and 12 Vdc is out of spec. A fully-charged lead-acid battery measures 12.6 Vdc open circuit, so there is little margin as the battery discharges. The circuit is based on an article in the November 2004 QST.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.