

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

December 3, 2008

Location: Saratoga Fire Department

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Don Steinbach, Secretary.

Attendees:

- John Glass, NU6P
- Fabrizio Corno, KG6UOH
- Betty Froes, KI6TSB
- Ray Froess, KI6PNO
- Don Steinbach, AE6PM
- Christina Sand, WO1NDR
- Byron Beck, KG6UOB (Guest)
- Joe Talaich, N6IWJ
- Tony Loeb, AB6Q

The meeting, having been duly noticed, began at 7:35 p.m. and was called to order by John Glass, Vice President. There were introductions around the room.

Old Business:

Halloween Caper

- John Glass reported that there was some difficulty copying Yin, who was riding with the Sheriff, during the Halloween Caper. John suggested that next year the person use an external antenna. Christina volunteered to provide same.

New Business:

Treasurer's Report.

- The current bank balance is unchanged from last month.
- Refund checks for the Technician license class have been written and signed, and all but two mailed.

Secretary's Report.

- Approval of the November minutes was deferred to the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

Emergency Coordinator Report.

- Don Steinbach (AEC) reminded the group of the following upcoming events:
 - February 21, 2009 Technician license class at the Red Cross.
 - March 21, 2009 CERT/SARA exercise.
 - May 16, 2009 Technician license class at West Valley College.
- Don Steinbach expressed concern that there is a CERT communications plan that involves SARA, but that there doesn't appear to be a plan for SARA emergency communications. He doesn't know if that's true or not since he hasn't been associated with SARA for very long.
 - Christina Sand and John Glass stated that the only plans they know of are one created by Lou DeGive and a later revision by Don Anastasia. Both are likely to be out of date. A copy of Cupertino CARES Standard Operating Procedures is also available.
 - John Glass stated that this would be a good project for next year.
 - Don Steinbach stated that this plan needs to be in place before the March 21 CERT/SARA exercise.

- Don Steinbach volunteered for, and accepted the action to, create a draft communications plan for SARA before 3/21/2009.
- Christina Sand and the group set about identifying the differences between ARES, RACES and ACS:
 - ARES and RACES are made up of licensed amateur radio operators. ACS is open to anyone interested in communications, no license required.
 - ARES is sponsored by the ARRL. RACES and ACS are sponsored by a government entity (city, county, etc.).
 - ARES and RACES are national in scope. ACS is California-only.
 - ARES requires no activation. RACES and ACS are activated by a government entity.
 - ARES provides no insurance. RACES and ACS provides insurance for registered Disaster Service Workers once activated.
 - ARES requires no training. RACES training (ICS 100, 200 & NIMS (ICS 700)) is required by the Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-5. SEMS training is required by the California Implementation Guidelines for the National Incident Management System.
 - The FCC imposes limitations on the use of amateur radio for RACES training. The ACS has no such restrictions
- Byron Beck pointed out that there is also a REACT organization
 - Consists primarily of CB, FRS, GMRS and MURS users.
- John Glass suggested that each member or potential responder be given a notebook that contains at least the following:
 - A copy of the “plan”.
 - Telephone numbers.
 - Members
 - Emergency contacts (police, fire, etc.)
 - Pertinent details of schools or other areas where an individual might be sent to assist.
 - List of local simplex and repeater frequencies.
 - Message forms.
 - Area map(s).
 - Glossary/list of acronyms.
 - Copies of incident management procedures
- Don Steinbach attended a Tuesday and Saturday session of the current CERT Academy to explain the CERT radio communications concept as part of Jim Yoke’s CERT organization presentation. Several of the students have, or plan to get, an amateur radio license.
 - Don stated in our meeting that as part of our planning we need to assimilate these (as well as past) CERT-motivated licensees into our communications plan so that we don’t inadvertently create SUVs instead of active and productive ham radio communicators.

Emergency Services Report.

- No report.

EOC Support.

- Don Steinbach checked into the EOC-to-EOC net this morning. Saratoga was heard “loud and clear.”

Program.

- Don Steinbach showed the hardware for some current and future electronic construction projects he is working on. Most are based on recent articles in QST, QEX and Nuts and Volts. Projects included a PIC-based TNC, Precision (0.01%) 5V voltage reference, -10 dBm rf power reference, three-position remote antenna switch, battery voltage boost regulator, microprocessor-based PSK meter, hybrid cascode IF amplifier, rubidium oscillator frequency standard, 1-60 MHz direct digital synthesizer module, several Elecraft modules and a PCB etching system.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACS	Auxiliary Communications Service
AEC	Assistant Emergency Coordinator
ARES	Amateur Radio Emergency Service
ARRL	American Radio Relay League
CARES	Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service

CB	Citizen Band
CERT	Community Emergency Response System
dBm	Decibels referenced to 1 milliwatt
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FRS	Family Radio Service
GMRS	General Mobile Radio Service
IF	Intermediate frequency
mHz	Megahertz
MURS	Multi-Use Radio Service
NIMS	National Incident Management System
PCB	Printed circuit board
PIC	Programmable Interface Controller or Programmable Intelligent Computer
PSK	Phase-shift keying
QEX	A magazine published by the ARRL
QST	A magazine published by the ARRL
RACES	Radio Amateurs in Civil Emergency Service
REACT	Radio Emergency Associated Communication Teams
SARA	Saratoga Amateur Radio Association
SEMS	Standardized Emergency Management System
SUV	Spontaneous Untrained Volunteer
TNC	Terminal Node Controller
V	Volts