



Minutes of Meeting of May 6, 2009
Saratoga Fire Department

The Minutes were respectfully submitted by Rob Vance, acting Secretary

Attendees:

- Don Steinbach, AE6PM
- John Glass, NU6P
- Rob Vance, N6ROB
- Tom Carney, K6EU
- Betty Froess, W4BTY
- Ray Froess, W6ZF
- Jim Yoke, KI6HKZ
- Fabrizio Corno, KG6UOH
- Joe Talaich, N6IWJ
- Yin Shih, N9YS
- Rob Moore (tested to Extra but has not yet received his call sign)
- Kelly Johnson, N6KJ
- Tony Loeb, AB6Q
- Mark Bohrer, KI6KQD

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

Old Business:

Technician License Class/Exam

- The Technician License Class planned for May 16 for the community and for the graduates of the next CERT class has fewer than 3 people interested in attending. The class conflicts with the last day of the CERT class, instead of being the week after. There are approximately 12 students in the CERT class. Jim Yoke indicates none have expressed an interest in amateur radio licenses but he has not asked. Rob Vance suggested that it may be more economically feasible to cancel the class and direct any people interested in a license to the regular licensing exam session held by Morris Jones' group. The issue was tabled.

New Business:

Announcements of General Interest:

- The DeAnza Electronics Flea Market is May 9th at DeAnza College.
- The Stanford Powwow is May 8th through 10th at Stanford University.
- The Silicon Valley VE Group will be conducting license exam sessions the first and third Saturday of every month at the Saratoga Fire Station for the rest of the year.

Minutes

- Approval of the meeting minutes for March and April was deferred to the next meeting.

Correspondence:

- Don Steinbach reported that he updated our Affiliated Club Detail Record with the ARRL; the changes were very minor as Christina had updated them a year or so ago.

Treasurer

- Yin Shih reported the bank account balance as of March 2009. Ray Rogoway has requested a reimbursement for the Red Cross Class; the matter was not brought forward for a vote since Ray was not present.

EC Report

- The EOC-to-EOC radio test was conducted on May 6, 2009 and the test was successful.
- The May 3rd SARA Net had 16 check-ins; a record from recent memory. Check-ins included Suzanne, KI6EUM, from Palo Alto, a recently licensed ham who participated in our CERT/RACES Drill on April 4th.
- The quarterly County/City Drill for April 18th was cancelled by Larry Carr; however, SARA conducted a local drill anyway. Yin Shih and Don Steinbach coordinated the effort and did a great job. Many new hams participated. We learned that the EOC 2M radio station is receiving a very high level of RFI and thus prevents simplex communications to the field in any form. Next County/City Quarterly Drill will be July 18th, 2009.
- There will be a County CERT drill at Moffett on May 30th, 2009.
- Jim Yoke and Rob Vance reported on the CERT/RACES drill conducted on April 18th in Saratoga. In summary, the drill was successful in that everyone learned a lot about field operations including both the CERT and RACES volunteers. Rob Vance suggested that we have the drills twice a year if possible.
- Rob Vance reported that we have received permission from the Fire Chief to put two additional antennas on the roof of the Saratoga Fire Station. Jim will transfer that permission to someone in the fire house to assure us access to the roof so we can begin putting the mounts on the roof. We need to acquire antennas and a modest amount of coax.

Field Day 2009

- Our usual Field Day leader was not present (Dave Ritchie, W6DR) so Rob Vance acted in his place.
 - We agreed to do a 2A class entry.
 - We spent time explaining the subtleties to some of the newer hams.
 - We discussed using two KT-34's this year as the 2 element SteppIR is not available.
 - Kelly's LPT tower is available as usual.
 - Dave's trailer is available as usual.
 - Christina's tent is available.
 - John Glass suggested we investigate the cost of renting an RV as it provides a kitchen, bathroom, sleeping quarters and/or operating position. Tony Loeb agreed to inquire about the cost.
 - Details on who/when/where the refurbishment of John's KT-34 would take place were not resolved.
- The following have signed-up as coordinators for the FD operation in 2009:
 - Tom Carney - VHF/UHF (same as last year)
 - Dave Ritchie - HF1 (Same as last year)
 - Kelly Johnson - HF2 (Same as last year)
 - Yin Shih - Site coordination w/CDF, etc.
- Open Items:
 - Toilet/tables/chair coordinator
 - GOTA coordinator

- Kitchen coordinator

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.