



Minutes of Meeting of September 7, 2011 Saratoga Fire Department

The Minutes were respectfully submitted by Yin Shih, N9YS, Secretary

Attendees

- Yin Shih, N9YS
- Dan Sturges, W6DIV
- Axel Scheffler, KJ6EPH
- Herman DeKruyff, KI6ETZ
- Don Steinbach, AE6PM
- George Gadd, KG6PHK
- John Hulme, KJ6GMR
- Ray Froess, W6ZF
- Art Brookman, KJ6GMI
- Donna Dittrich, KJ6LLP
- Don North, AK6DN
- Henry DeKruyff, KE6HOU
- Ron Keene, KJ6MNB
- Nancy Williamson, KJ6MNC
- Jim Yoke, KI6HKZ
- Joe Talaich, N6IWJ
- Dave Ritchie, W6DR
- Tony Loeb, AB6Q

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:38PM.

There were round table introductions.

Old Business

Minutes. June minutes were posted on the club website. The minutes were approved (subject to a callsign correction.)

DSW Registration. Jim Yoke, KI6HKZ, reported that two dates were offered in June, but that more dates will be planned as needed. However, Jana Rinaldi the previous registrar is no longer with City, and any new schedule will be pending the assignment of a new responsible person.

June 4 Tech Class. Don Steinbach, AE6PM, reported that a class was given to a group consisting of Los Gatos DART and multiple Boy Scout troops. The DART group had 9 pass and 3 fail; while the scouts had 8 pass and 10 fail. Prior pass rates have been 90-95%. There was a discussion regarding the lower pass rate rate. Jim Yoke had encouraged scouts to participate as part of an effort to increase their participation in emergency readiness. We may need a targeted course for younger candidates. Jim will

assess this need and reconnect with Tech class tutors to discuss possible adaptation to a younger group.

New Business

Treasurer's Report. Don Steinbach, AE6PM, as SARA Treasurer reported our current balance. Reimbursements for expenditures for the Tech class (food and books) were approved.

Weekly SARA Net Status. Don Steinbach, AE6PM, reported that check-in rates remain high, typically 13-15 per week. Don also reported that AD6ZH, AE6PM, AK6DN, N6MUJ, W6BTY and W6ZF have each checked-in over 100 times.

Program Chair's Report. John Glass, NU6P, reported that Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT (Asst Director of ARRL Pacific Division) will be presenting a virtual tour of ARRL HQ for the club's October meeting.

Emergency Coordinator Report. Jim Yoke, KI6HKZ, announced there will be a City of Saratoga Emergency Preparedness Exercise on October 22nd. He expects this to be a fairly involved exercise. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate if you can.

Field Day 2011 Summary. Yin Shih, N9YS, reported that FD results were distributed on the club email reflector in July. There was a brief summary of events and results. Dan Sturges, W6DIV, reported he had photos of the event to share with the club; time for the slide show will be added to the October meeting agenda.

Halloween Caper. Yin Shih, N9YS, summarized the purpose and organization of the Halloween Caper for new members and requested that the event be added to the October meeting agenda. In particular, the club needs a volunteer to step forward and act as coordinator/organizer.

Additional Announcements. John Glass, NU6P, announced that the ARRL Pacific Division conference, Pacificon, will be held at the Santa Clara Marriott from October 14-16. Yin Shih, N9YS, announced that the California QSO Party (CQP) will be held October 1-2. CQP is an HF contest where California is the "dx". Details for interested participants are at www.cqp.org.

Program: "T6PSE - the greatest DXpedition that never was". The presenter was Dave Ritchie, W6DR. Dave summarized the intended plans for a dxpedition to Afghanistan (callsign to be T6PSE), the challenges and troubles that were encountered and the specific events that led to its cancellation.

Special Discussion: "SARA's Future Field Day Options". The discussion leader was Tony Loeb, AB6Q. Tony summarized his belief that ham radio is a "person-person" activity and his concern that Field Day at Castle Rock is not accessible to the general public and so is not a good "person-person" site. There was an open discussion. After a

number of suggestions and concerns were discussed, it was proposed that this discussion be added to the agenda of one or more future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.