



## Minutes of Meeting of November 2, 2011 Saratoga Fire Department

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

### Attendees

- John Glass, NU6P
- Yin Shih, N9YS
- Dan Sturges, W6DIV
- Kelly Johnson, N6KJ
- Don Steinbach, AE6PM
- Herman DeKruyff, KI6ETZ
- Axel Scheffler, KJ6EPH
- Betty Froess, W6BTY
- Ray Froess, W6ZF
- John Lampe KJ6JPS
- Walt Gyger, KJ6RNS
- Henry DeKruyff, KE6HOU
- Ron Keene, KJ6MNB
- Nancy Williamson, KJ6MNC
- Dave Ritchie, W6DR

### Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:35PM.

There were round table introductions.

### ***Old Business***

***Minutes.*** September/October minutes were not posted, approval deferred to next meeting.

### ***New Business***

***Treasurer's Report.*** Don Steinbach, AE6PM, as SARA Treasurer reported the current bank balance .

***Weekly SARA Net Status.*** Don Steinbach, AE6PM reported 12, 17, 19, 21 check-ins on the 2M net in the recent 4 weeks. SARA also continued a 10 meter net held after the 2 meter net on 28.400 MHz USB, with 3-4 participants typical.

***Halloween Caper.*** Many SARA hams covered Saratoga schools for the evening; Betty, W6BTY, was ride-along with a Sheriff patrol car; John, NU6P, was net control. Uneventful, except Betty got to ride along with the Sheriff to a "man with a gun" incident.

**Program Chair's Report.** John Glass, NU6P, reported that the December meeting speaker is unscheduled. Possible talk from Larry Carr or Kelly Johnson.

**EC Report.** Don Steinbach, AE6PM, reported two events, the first on Friday 10/28 and the second on Saturday 10/29. Friday 10/28, the city requested EOC radios to be activated for an EOC-EOC (Cupertino, Los Gatos, Saratoga) exercise. Comm operations included the Saratoga EOC radio, amateur voice radio as well as packet radio. There was short notice for this event which suggests we're not on some notification list. Don also found some issues with headset connectivity that needs to be discussed and possibly resolved. On Saturday, there was a planned Saratoga emcomm exercise. The scenario was a 7.2 mag earthquake. The EOC was activated by Rob Vance, N6ROB; hams responded; comm. coverage was generally satisfactory. One issue identified was that the Saratoga retirement community, Fatima village and the sub-acute hospital, were off the air until late in the exercise. There may be a need to discuss immediate dispatch to these sites as they are higher at-risk populations.

**Provision of Equipment.** Chuck Wilson, N6MUJ, is a ham at the Fatima Village and the only ham there. His radio is non-functional, but he would be a useful ham on site in the event of a Saratoga emergency. A motion was made to provide up to \$150 to buy him a replacement HT radio; the motion was approved.

**Tech License class.** There have been additional requests for the SARA Tech licensing class, possibly to be scheduled at the end of January, the location would be Wilcox HS in Santa Clara.

**Elections.** The following slate was nominated and elected:

- John Glass, NU6P, President
- John Lampe, KJ6JPS, Vice-President (Program Chair)
- Ray Froess, W6ZF, Secretary
- Don Steinbach, AE6PM, Treasurer
- Dave Ritchie, W6DR, Director
- Dan Sturges, W6DIV, Director

**Program: "Sea Witch - Radio Control Boat".** The presenter was John Lampe, KJ6JPS. John presented a detailed view of a radio controlled sailing yacht, including servos, linkages, mechanics, and so on. Additional technology components of the project include GPS tracking, video camera, and a heads-up-display video visor. The Sea Witch is essentially a remotely piloted drone. The Sea Witch represents a four year construction project by John, and is still a work in progress.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.