

Minutes of SARA CLUB Meeting of 19 September 2013

The meeting was called to order at 1900 hours at Bevricks in Metter by Club President, Ron Hill N4SFU. There were 13 members and TWO visitors present, Norm (AB9FC) and Suzy (KB9WRB) Shppenhorst. They are recent arrivals to the Bullock County area arriving from Indianapolis, IN. They gave a short description of how they came to move to our area of Southeast Georgia. Welcome Norm and Suzy. We hope to see you at future SARA Club activities.

No financial report was given. There were no SARA Club transactions reported. The SARA Club balance is the same as last meeting: SARA Club \$852.99. Ham Fest fund has a balance of \$1143.62.

Minutes of the 7 September meeting were read and approved.

Old Business:

1. The UPS system under consideration for purchase was further researched by John Smoyer Jr. Even though the price has been reduced, customer reviews indicated this unit to be unreliable. Ron Hill and John Smoyer are looking for another reliable UPS system at a reasonable cost. More details will be disclosed at the next SARA Club meeting.
2. There has been no further action at this time on the repair of the UHF link radios. Ron Hill will address this at the next SARA Club Meeting. Donations toward the UPS system purchase/upgrade and UHF radio repairs will be accepted and greatly appreciated!
3. The SARA Club Family Day will be held Saturday, 12 October at the Oasis. Motion made seconded and carried for the date. Events planned are a possible fox hunt, cookout, fishing, family games, and good fellowship. The club has plates, cups, plastic utensils and napkins. Membership agreed that a menu of hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and assorted condiments will be served. Further menu items will be discussed at the next meeting. (John will bring his famous lemonade)

4. SARA Net and Linked ARES Net will continue to operate on scheduled dates. However, links to Augusta and Glenville will not be functioning at this time. Please try to join the nets on Tuesdays and 1930 and Thursdays at 2000, both nets meet on the Twin City repeater - 147.000 PL 156.7.
(NO MORE LIGHTNING STRIKES, PLEASE:)
5. Net activity is holding steady at about 12-14 check-ins per session. Special thanks to John Corley, KB2YBS, for jumping in and taking over net control in absence of scheduled controllers. All members are encouraged to participate in both the SARA 2 Meter Net on Tuesdays at 1930 hours (147.000 PL 156.7) and the LINKED ARES Net on Thursdays at 2000 hours (147.000 PL 156.7). The first Tuesday of the month there is a local ARES test net starting on the SARA repeater (146.715 PL 88.5) then switching to simplex operation on 146.520. All members are again encouraged to participate in order to test our emergency communications capabilities.

New Business:

1. The net control volunteer roster was passed around for September - December. There are no scheduled net operations scheduled during the holiday period 24 Dec - 6 Jan, unless there is an emergency situation declared. Net activity will commence on Tuesday, 7 Jan 2014.
2. On 5 October, there will be a statewide Simulated Emergency Test (SET). Digital modes will be tested. For details, visit **GAARES.ORG and click on 2013 SET Plan (September 18 version)**. Contact Russ Dees, KJ4VIG or Leon Curry W4TYM for more information on local participation in this SET.

Presentation: There was no formal presentation. The scheduled presentation on the SARA Web Site will be presented at the first Saturday SARA Club meeting on 5 October.

There was a discussion period addressing vertical antennas. The discussion highlighted the need to operate the Eagle One 40M vertical antenna with a 4:1 balun coil and a suitable tuner to operate on frequencies other than 40M. Also, a suitable radial system is required for optimum performance.

The next SARA Club meeting will be the first Saturday meeting on 5 October at BEVRICKS in Metter. The meeting will be 0800 to eat and 0900 to meet. For VEC testing information, contact Ron Hill, Leon Curry or Russ Dees.

The meeting adjourned at 2005 hours.

ANDY COOK

WB4AZJ Secretary