

The SARA Ham club met at Bevricks Restaurant 15 March 2012. Pres. Jim, N4MOC presided. We had a total of 19 hams present, including 3 visitors: from the Statesboro STARS club: Russ, KA4ZPV, Casey (BSC) from Portal; and our speaker, Steve Weil, KE4WI from Vidalia.

Minutes of Saturday 3 March were read out loud and approved. Treasurer John, KJ4YEK reported \$829.35 total presently, with \$740.35 reported on previous bank statement. Some additional hamfest collections are NOT included in the \$829.35 total as of today.

Membership Dues for additional hams in a member's family is \$12.00 each as per the Constitution.

Steve Weil, KE4WI, presented an interesting discussion and whiteboard diagrams and data of PSK 31. He had obviously spent much time preparing this well presented program. He explained PSK 31 is used on HF mostly, is extremely efficient with low power required, and extremely narrow band widths used (31 cycles wide). Requires a signal link device to couple computer to radio transceiver. He noted the quad shift as well as "0 to 1" shift back and forth that allowed for 16 different signals to be sent in that narrow band width. Also, Digipan and FLdigi are free programs downloadable from internet to set up your rig for PSK31

Russ, KA4ZPV announced several STARS members are ill, and in the event of a real disaster he would appreciate assistance from the SARA club. All present at the meeting agreed we would provide mutual assistance to each other in any scenario requiring radio amateurs to assist.

Casey, BSC from Portal, noted a SET would be planned for near future in the STARS club.

Hamfest news: Chairpersons, members of committees not assigned yet. Anticipate your assignment next meeting.

The August issue of QST, mailed in July, will contain info re the SARA Hamfest in Swainsboro on 25 August 2012.

It is already on ARRL hamfest list as "Southeast ARA".

A VE test session will be held. Numerous pamphlets, certificates, gifts from ARRL will be given away. Local businesses in Swainsboro, the chamber of commerce, etc are being solicited for donations, gifts, discounts, etc.

The chief of police, mayor, council will be informed in detail of our hamfest plans.

Russ, KJ4VIG distributed hamburger samples which we all enjoyed tasting....VERY GOOD!! They are precooked, ready for the grill. We will be selling burgers, chips, drinks at the hamfest.

Next meeting is First Saturday Breakfast at Bevricks on 7 April 2012.

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