

## **SARA Club meeting notes: 2 Feb 2013**

1. The meeting was called to order at 0905 by Ron Hill, president. There were no minutes read from the meeting of 17 Jan 2013. Ron had comments on the passing of WN4Q, Bob Hertz. He will be missed in the amateur radio and emergency service community. SARA Club prayers and condolences go out to Bob's family and associates.

Two guests were present for the meeting; John White, a prospective licensee, and Austin, KK4NWX from Statesboro. Guests are always welcome. Please continue to invite guests.

2. Unofficial treasury report: \$777.19 for SARA Club: \$1142.52 for the Hamfest fund. Please pay all dues and remind those members absent from the meetings to pay their dues promptly.
3. The antenna workshop is scheduled for 16 Feb. Meet at Bevricks for breakfast at 0800, and then proceeds to Metter airport for the workshop. The workshop will be held in one of the airport hangars - hangar number unknown at this time. Parts for the project are estimated to cost approx. \$44.00 for two antennas; one each - 144 MHz and 440 Mhz. Russ Dees priced parts from Lowe's. Dimensions and parts list are posted on SARA website.
4. There is a Technicians Class HAM CRAM scheduled for 23 Feb. HAM CRAM will be held at Bevricks from 0830 to approx 1530. Testing for Technicians Class will follow the HAM CRAM. A follow-up class for beginner amateur radio operation will be held a week or two later. This class will be to guide new operators in proper radio procedure and operating fundamentals.
5. The club is in need of additional Volunteer Examiners (VE) to assist with our licensing efforts. The ARRL web site has information and downloads for those amateur operators interested in becoming VEs.

6. The SARA Club encourages those with long-time amateur radio experience to become mentors (Elmers) for our new members. Elmers can also assist other radio operators with their questions or problems that can, and always do, arise.
7. The local ARES Net test will be held Tuesday, 5 Feb at 1900 hours. Initial frequency will be the SARA repeater of 146.715 then move to 146.520 simplex. This test will precede the regular Tuesday night 1930 hour SARA 2 meter net.
8. The monthly ARES net test will be held the first Thursday of each month at 2000 hours on the Twin City repeater 147.000. The initial test will be on Thursday, 7 Feb at 2000 hours with N4SFU, Ron as the net control. All SARA ARES members are encouraged to participate.
9. Ron Hill gave an excellent demonstration of the ECHO-Link system. He used his smart phone to connect with, and hold a QSO with KG4PXG in Camden County. The Twin City repeater 147.000 is linked to the ECHO-Link network. Interested members are encouraged to use this mode of communications.
10. Ham fest door prizes and planning for the event was briefly discussed.
11. James Lamb announced the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Metter will have an emergency shelter operations training class Thursday, 5 Feb at 1800 hours. If anyone is interested in the program, come to the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church for the training.
12. The meeting adjourned at 1010.