

Saratoga Amateur Radio Association

146.655 Mhz, -, 114.8 Hz

assisting the City of Saratoga
affiliated with the Amateur Radio Relay League
part of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service
and the Silicon Valley Emergency Communication System



Minutes of Meeting of February 1, 2012

Saratoga Fire Department

The Minutes were respectfully submitted by Ray Froess, W6ZF, Secretary

Attendees:

- Art Brookman, KJ6GMI
- Fabrizio Corno, KG6UOH
- Henry De Kruffyff, KE6HOU
- Herman De Kruffyff, KI6ETZ
- Donna Dittrick, KJ6LLP
- Ray Froess, W6ZF
- Bryan Giberson, KI6LIX
- John Glass, NU6P
- Morris Jones, AD6ZH
- Madelyn Lipford, KI6QXK
- Tony Loeb, AB6Q
- Donald North, AK6DN
- Bill Parsons, AF6AE
- Yin Shih, N9YS
- Walter Spector, W6WS
- Don Steinbach, AE6PM
- Dan Sturges, W6DIV
- Nancy Williamson, KJ6MNC
- Jim Yoke, KI6HKZ

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by John Glass, President. He introduced the officers and then attendees introduced themselves around the room.

Old Business:

Minutes: The January minutes will be posted on the website shortly.

Web Site: Christina Sands will update the website and Yahoo Group with the changes Ray emailed to John Glass. Christina asked that the club find a webmaster for future maintenance.

New Business:

Board Meeting: The board met on January 25. Minutes will be posted on the website shortly. John briefly described the EOC antennas. Don requested approval to purchase the components. A motion was made and passed for approximately \$75. John reported that the board proposed a mailing to new Saratoga hams, inviting them to meetings and to join the club. He's is working to get the labels. At the board meeting we discussed additional ways of increasing club visibility in the community. Attendees agreed to continue this discussion after the evening's presentation.

Treasurer's Report: Don reported the income, expense, and balance.

Net Check-ins: Don reported the number of check ins for the SARA Sunday 9 pm net as 13, 9, 16, 19, and 18.

Communications Drill: The Santa Clara County ARES/RACES quarterly emergency drill was held Saturday January 21 from 2-4 pm. About 12 Saratoga hams participated. It was later discovered that the SARA repeater had switched to emergency power due to a power failure at the City. It had operated during the exercise for a total of 55 hours before automatically shutting down for low battery voltage. To indicate battery operation, a Morse Code "b" will be added to the courtesy tone when on battery power.

City Emergency Activity: Jim Yoke reported that another CERT Academy is being scheduled. There will be a City-wide emergency exercise on a Saturday in October with planning commencing in June. He is currently update emergency plans for Saratoga, Cupertino, and Los Gatos and will work with the club as ham communications is very important.

Presentation: Don's topic, "Increasing the range of your HT" drew a record number of attendees to the meeting. He demonstrated many different antennas supplied by attendees.

Increasing Club Visibility: The attendees continued the earlier discussion of increasing club visibility. It was generally agreed not to make changes to Field Day but to have other events. Some events considered conflicted with other events. The discussion concluded with the possibility of having a demonstration/information table at the Rotary Art Show or Saratoga's Independence Day. John and Tony will investigate obtaining permission.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned about 9:30 pm.