

Minutes for: Sussex Amateur Radio Association Meeting

Date: October 17, 2024 Time: 1830

Meeting was held at Mulligan's Pointe, Georgetown, DE. N3RP, Paul Ross called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm welcoming those present. Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. And then attendees introduced themselves.

Speaker this month was Roy Collins, KB3LFR, is an engineer with DP&L, who explained that he was presenting information as a ham radio operator and NOT a representative of any utility company. He answered "What is the Grid? And Can it Go Down? The presentation was thorough and interesting from start to finish. Roy fielded a number of thoughtful question.

Herb Quick(W3BQ) gave his report on testing. There was one new Tech, one new General and one advance to Extra. The Section Manage and Sussex E.C. were not in attendance, and there was no representative from AUXCOMM. All of these entities do have a column in this month's newsletter and you can read what they would have reported there.

N3RP relayed questions he had received from members: What time is the RagChew on Saturday's? Answer it used to be 8PM but at the request of a representative of the local fusion community, it was changed to 7PM. This causes a few issues for regular participants: NTS and not finished with dinner etc that early. Please check in at 7:00 as you are able.

Eric (WG3J) reported on the Fox Hunt. The food was GREAT. We did 3 hunts two before lunch and one after. Herb(W3BQ) took home the fox and Jess (KC3ZIY) won the after-lunch hunt. Jamie(W3UC) proposed and then made a motion that the club buy its own "Fox", WG3J seconded the motion that we purchase and the membership voted to make the purchase. Treasurer, Rick Long, N3RTL, asked for a maximum amount and the membership agree to limit the purchase to \$150.

NEW BUSINESS:

Question for discussion: How long will the repeaters continue to operate? Question for discussion: How long will the repeaters continue to operate? At the .090 repeater site there is a generator and two propane tanks to keep them running quite a while. The estimate is 60 hours. At the .015 there is a generator but no propane due to delivery problems at the site so it will not be in operation.

Question for discussion: A member asked, "In the event of an emergency or SHTF event, what should members do?" The first suggestion was to join ARES or AUXCOMM and learn in detail and the general answer is to monitor .090 for additional information as it pertains to the event. Eric(W3GJ) said he will monitor 1900 and the HF emergency net operates at 3.905 at 6:30pm. The time will change to 5:30pm when daylight savings goes into effect.

Question: Is there still a plan to provide a contact list for club members. Answer: Yes, it is in the process of proofreading.

Question: Who takes care of the website. Answer: Herb (W3BQ) does the data entry. Anyone with changes should email SussexDeRadio@gmail.com and Paul N3RP will provide the info to Herb.

Question: How many members does SARA have. Answer from Membership chairman is 86.

Jack (K8UYC), chairman of the Young Ham initiative, has received a couple of good leads for groups to approach about young hams training program. He suggests that since ARRL will provide a radio to new hams under 18. Can the club provide a radio to a new accompanying adult? The answer was yes with an amount to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Question from KC3MVS, Pete: He is unable to contact 449.825 via the internet. Jamie will check the connection by re-booting.

Eric (W3GJ) has a CW zoom class beginning soon. Anyone wishing to attend email him at AA3J@yahoo.com. And in two weeks there is a big contest weekend. Anyone who would like to come down (Pittsville) and see HF contests in action – again email Eric at AA3J@yahoo.com. Eric suggests new CW operators should learn to DECODE before attempting to send CW. If you can find a Morse tutor it is the best tool for learning. Eric has a couple that he will sell at a good price. They are hard to find and when he sees one for sale, he buys it.

Club is looking for Christmas/ Holiday party planners. AND Officer candidates for 2025.

50-50 drawing number was drawn by our guest KB3LFR. Number 659431 and won by Jack Magar (K8UYC).

Ended at 8:45 pm

Submitted on behalf of Secretary.