

Sussex Amateur Radio Association

Minutes

May 17, 2018

Mulligan's Point C.C., Georgetown, DE

18 in attendance.

Meals were served prior to the meeting.

FCC Testing – 2 New Techs

President Del Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Introductions

Presentation

Jerry Simmonowitz, KB2GCG spoke about "FT8 and More".

Digital operating almost exclusively on FT8. This presentation is a practical operating guide, not a technical guide.

FT8 is not just a mode oar a singular program (WSJT-X). It's a set of tools. Also, it is not a low power mode.

FT8 can be run with a low cost computer, a sound card, and free or low-cost software.

WSJT-X has a variety of modes.

JT65 is used for EME.

JT9 is similar to JT65

Both have a 60 second transmit/receive timing.

FT8 is four times faster and a little less sensitive. Transmit/ Receive is 15 seconds, with a -24dB threshold.

FT8 works with a waterfall.

JT65, JT9, and PSK31 have all but disappeared.

The FT8 “Ecosystem

- Base tool: WSJT-X program
- Meinberg- critical for accurate timing.
- JT-Alert- a free option and supplemental program which is also a bridge to other logging programs.
- HRD- for rig control. This program is not free, and contains rig control and logging.
- PSK Reporter- a reporting website. It lets you know where your signals are being heard.
- QRZ- call sign lookup.
- Analyzer
- Bandconditions.com is an indicator of what’s happening on the bands.

There are hundreds of free tools out there.

Use the tools to understand the band picture, etc., and look at your ham radio as a system.

External sound card – Rig Blaster.

Software automates the QSO. It always operates split.

Planning Committee – Dell Palmer

Action needed to purchase radios for club use.

1 Yaesu FT450D

1 Yaesu FT87D (HF/UHF/VHF)

1 Yaesu FT7900 plus power supply

Total cost: \$1700.00

Motion to purchase radios was seconded and passed by the membership.

Field Day – Dell Palmer

The Field Day Committee is trying to work out a deal with Trap Pond State Park to have a no cost or reduced cost state park entry fee.

Secretary's Report – Herb Quick

Minutes of the April 19, 2018 meeting were distributed to the membership and posted on the SARA website. The membership moved for acceptance of the minutes. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report

The February Treasurer's report was distributed to the membership. The membership moved for acceptance of the report. Motion approved.

Repeater – John Low

No news.

John updated the automated club meeting announcements heard on the repeater.

RACES – John Ferguson

The next big event is the Ocean City Air Show. Contact John if you are interested in participating with the communications team.

Meeting at EOC (Georgetown) on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

50/50

\$40.00 to the winner

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Herb Quick, KF3BT

Secretary