

Sussex Amateur Radio Association

Minutes

March 17, 2016

Sussex Pines C.C., Georgetown, DE

Meals were served prior to the meeting.

FCC testing was held prior to the meeting.

24 people are listed on the meeting sign-in sheet.

Secretary Herb Quick, KF3BT presided, and called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Presentation

Eric Hudson, WG3J, assisted by Jamie Ashton, W3UC, gave a presentation on the N1MM Plus logging software.

Eric discussed operation of the program, editing information, logs, and rig modes via N1MM. He also gave some software related contesting tips to the membership.

N1MM Plus is a free program, and does not require a heavy duty computer. It works well with windows XP and Windows 7. Networking was refined in N1MM Plus.

The program offers rig control and a host of contesting features.

Questions were taken from the membership.

Search N1MM Plus (full install) to download the program.

President's Report - None

Vice President's Report - None

Secretary's Report – Herb Quick

Minutes from the February 25, 2016 meeting was distributed via email and is posted on the website. Herb moved for acceptance of the minutes.

Action: Motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

FCC Testing - Herb Quick

Four applicants sat for their tests tonight.

Pass rate was 100%.

- Two new Generals – Raymond Payne (KC3GOQ) and Denny Myers (KF5FHO)
- One new Extra – Robert Young (KC3GOT)
- One new ham passed all three exams. Donald Bowling was granted Extra Class privileges.

Website – Herb Quick

The SARA website, www.sussexamateurradio.com, received 11,395 visits in the calendar year 2015.

As of Wednesday, March 16, 2016, the SARA website received 2898 visits for calendar year 2016. This visitor rate is higher than that of 2015.

A hamfest banner was placed on QRZ.com, and runs from February 16 through April 16, 2016. As of Wednesday, March 16, 2016, the QRZ hamfest banner was viewed 649,455 times, and was clicked 1,369 times.

The official hamfest website, www.radioelectronicsEXPO.com, showed a spike in volume on October 2, 2015. The original hamfest, dated, October 3, was postponed, due to a hurricane, until April 16, 2016. Website activity dropped off after October 2, and has been steadily increasing in anticipation of the April 16 event, but at rates lower than pre-October 2015. This is not likely a problem, as we've likely achieved some saturation in our hamfest market area. Hits are now averaging 20-25 views daily.

Treasurer's Report – Ray Deskins

The Treasurer's report was distributed to the membership via email.

Ray moved for acceptance of the report.

Action: Motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Repeater Committee – John Low

Internet access is now available at the Millsboro repeater site. SARA can now move to install a Radio Messaging Service (RMS) node and Echolink.

Action: Bill Duveneck (KB3KYH) moved authorization of funding, not to exceed \$800.00, for Radio Messaging Service (RMS) installation at the Millsboro repeater site.

Motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Hamfest – Vic Gumper

Discussed:

- The next meeting of the Hamfest Committee is April 6, 2016 at Sussex Tech High School.
- An email blast requesting help for the hamfest is to be sent out soon.
- Discussion:
 - The hamfest event will last until approximately 3:00 P.M. on April 16, 2016.
 - The largest vendors signed up at this time are RF Connections and Ham Radio Outlet (HRO).

ARRL – Bill Duveneck

Discussed:

- Norm Fusaro (ARRL) will speak on National Parks on the Air at this year's hamfest.
- Amateur Radio Parity Act – Efforts related to this legislation are moving along. If you have not already contacted your U.S. Senators, please do so, and encourage them to support the Act.

ARES – Bill Duveneck

- The Ocean to Bay Bike event is in some conflict with the April 16, 2016 hamfest. ARES needs additional people to serve as communicators for the event. Contact Chuck Betyeman able to participate at the bike event, or the bike event *and* the hamfest.

RACES – John Ferguson

- Next month's RACES meeting will be held in the conference room of the Sussex County Complex West, and not at the EOC. The presentation is an FBI program on domestic terrorism awareness. See www.sussexcountyraces.com for program information.
- Classes and study groups for EC001 and EC016 are being developed.

PIO – No report

Old Business – None

New Business

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing alleviates some of the increased cost of meeting at Sussex Pines C.C.

Donald Bowling, an FCC testing applicant and visitor from Newsoms, VA, drew the ticket from the drum. Tonight's prize was \$57.00.

Jack Upchurch, KC3FKS won the 50/50.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Herb Quick, KF3BT

Secretary