St. Augustine Amateur Radio Society

MEETING MINUTES

January 2, 2024

Regular meeting via Google Meets

John Albertson AK4N
David Crosby KO4KPU
Rick Hatton KK4GGL
Leo Kim KQ4HWF
Danny Miller KB8W
Doug Parmenter KK4FZT
Diane Rabideau Wise WA4ZDQ
Rick Reuther W2BFD
Larry Sapp WD8SEL
Bob Sileo N2PE
Frank Sileo N1PE
John Stahl WA2AAQ
Buddy Tison KK4RXC
Franco Venturi K4VZ
Linda Visman KN4KJC
Richard Visman NN2T
Richard Wallace KG6YEM
Allen Wyatt W4YO

Business portion of the Meeting

1) Bob Sileo called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm ET.
2) Bob led the pledge to the US flag.
3) New member recognition and Upgrades:
4) Approval of December 5, 2023, meeting minutes.
   Bob Sileo has distributed the draft minutes via email for review by club members. John Stahl moved to approve the minutes as written, Franco Venturi seconded. Motion made, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote of the members online.
5) Treasurer's report: No report was presented.
6) Upcoming Events:
   - The Florida DX association has invited club members to an online presentation concerning Small Team DXpedition and or Contesting in the Caribbean. Saturday January 27 at 6 pm.
   - Winter Field Day
     - January 27 and 28, 2024
     - Location to be determined (Bob is investigating Anastasia State Park)
     - Need an event Chairman.
7) DUES: It's that time of year. Dues may be mailed to the club PO Box, paid in person at the February meeting or via VENMO (@bobsileo) be sure to indicate SAARS 2024 dues in the comments.
8) Next Meeting.
   a) When: February 6, 2024, at 6:30 pm
   b) Location: North Florida Regional Airport Conference Center
   c) Program: Jay Garlitz, AA4FL North Florida DX association

9) Adjourn business meeting: Motion made by John Stahl , seconded by Allen Wyatti, and approved by the members online. Adjourned at 6:50 pm.

PROGRAM: Michael Walker VA3MW, Flex Radio

Intro: (Bob Silio)

Michael Walker, VA3MW

Mike, a seasoned technophile, obtained his amateur radio license in 1974 and has been enamored with technology ever since. His journey into the world of technology began with his first "real" job at IBM, where he worked on an impressive Tube computer. This extraordinary machine, with a staggering 64,000 tubes, was situated 600ft underground in NORAD during the height of the Cold War.

Throughout his career, Mike has explored various facets of amateur radio, including Repeaters, HF, HF Contesting, and Satellites, and currently, he is deeply engrossed in experimenting with EME digital modes and 10 GHz microwave technology. Additionally, he is an avid GA Pilot, combining his passion for aviation with his love for HF station integration and remote HF operation.

Currently, Mike serves as a valuable member of the Marketing and Education team at FlexRadio Systems, representing the company renowned for its cutting-edge FlexRadio technology. With his extensive knowledge and expertise in FlexRadio technology, he plays a vital role in promoting and educating others about the advanced capabilities of FlexRadio products.

For Mike, technology is not just a profession but also a deeply ingrained hobby that continually fascinates and drives him forward. His commitment to exploring the frontiers of technology remains unwavering, as he continues to push the boundaries of what is possible in the world of amateur radio.

Mikes presentation included an introduction to SDR (Software Defined Radios) and how they differed from the Superhet radios that dated back to the early part of the 20th century and have been the state of the art until relatively recently.

He explained some of the advantages of SDRs and in particular how the Flex brand of radios have such a high level of rejection of noise and strong near by signals. Flex radios have a relatively simple from panel and have the advantage of be “remote able”.

Of particular interest is the SCU or Spectral Capture Unit which is a fundamental component of FlexRadio’s software defined radios.

Also mentioned was the Controlled Envelop SSB which increases the SSB “talk power” by limiting envelope peaks in the modulator.

Mike Walkers program with a Q and A. This program was very well received.

The meeting concluded at about 8:10 pm.

Approved Feb 6, 2024